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## IN MEMORIAM

### Jaakko Hintikka

(1929. – 2015.)

It is said that great men live forever. This most certainly applies to professor Hintikka, who was indeed a man of such kind. That is why it could be said that August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 marked the end of an era. On that day, after a shorter illness, Jaakko Hintikka, a world renowned Finnish philosopher, died at the age of 86. He was best known for his contributions to philosophical disciplines such as logic, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, epistemology, philosophy of mathematics and some other related areas. Specifically, his contributions include tree methods, possible-world semantics of modal logic, epistemic logic, IF-logic, game-theoretical semantics, interrogative model of inquiry and much more. He also wrote extensively about philosophers such as Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Peirce, Frege and Wittgenstein. His works include over 40 books, some of which are *Knowledge and Belief* (1962), *Models for Modalities* (1969), *Investigating Wittgenstein* (1986, co-authored with Merrill B. Hintikka), *The Principles of Mathematics Revisited* (1996) and *Socratic Epistemology* (2007). Besides this, he wrote several hundred scientific articles dealing with almost every philosophical discipline.

He studied philosophy at the University of Helsinki, where he earned a doctoral degree in 1953. After that he worked at Harvard University, University of Helsinki, Stanford University, Florida State University and Boston University, until his retirement in 2014. He was the Editor in Chief of the journal *Synthese* from 1965 to 2002.

Even though he was a pioneer in many branches of his interest, he never neglected the role of tradition in philosophy, as he even named his method of investigative inquiry *Socratic*. This is one of the places where his greatness could be best observed, because he did not choose to ignore the philosophical tradition and concentrate only on novel problems and their solutions. In fact, many of his solutions to philosophical

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problems echoed with connections to philosophical tradition. His figure should be a signpost for all who deal with philosophy, showing that the subject matter that one does is not that important, as long as the work being done is on the highest possible level.

MATE PENAVAL