

### **Editors' Remark**

Professor Joseph Kestin, Senior Editor of the Journal of Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamics since 1976, died on March 16th, 1993. It was Joseph Kestin's explicit wish to publish his lecture on internal variables – given at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin on occasion of G.A. Maugin's stay in Berlin – in that journal he worked for so a long time as an editor. Since July 1988 – it was the year Joseph Kestin organized a course on “Internal Variables in Thermodynamics and Continuum Mechanics” at the International Centre for Mechanical Sciences in Udine – we had vivid and sometimes also controversial discussions on this topic. Starting out with P.W. Bridgeman's concept Joseph Kestin's aim was to connect the notion of the internal variable to that of the accompanying process, especially to an accompanying equilibrium state. The question then arises: Including internal variables what are the independent variables in equilibrium? The answers are different and depend on what special equilibrium is considered. Therefore, we both agreed to publish Kestin's lecture in which he discusses the basis and the consequences of the formalism known in the literature as the method of local equilibrium, and that one of us (W.M.) should give a comment on topics which also can be discussed from another point of view.

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