Harry G. Johnson was born in Toronto and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1943 at the age of twenty. After a period of university teaching and military service in Canada, he came to Cambridge to take another B.A. in 1947. This was followed by M.A.s in each of the next two years at Toronto and Harvard respectively, before returning to be a fellow at King's College, Cambridge. His trans-Atlantic journeying was well under way! He taught in Cambridge until taking up a chair in economics at the University of Manchester in 1956. He went west again in 1959, to take up a chair at the University of Chicago (where he remained until his death). In the previous year a collection of published papers had been re-published in book form (Johnson, 1958a) and had earned him a doctorate from Harvard. He was by now a dominant figure in the discipline on both sides of the Atlantic and remained so throughout the 1960s and until his untimely death.

Harry Johnson was a man of prodigious energy. He was a prolific writer of economic literature producing over five hundred papers, one hundred and fifty book reviews, thirty-five books and pamphlets, and hundreds of newspaper articles. He was an editor or co-editor at various times of the Journal of Political Economy, Journal of International Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Economica and The Manchester School. He travelled widely to conferences and lectures. Indeed between 1966–77 he commuted continuously between the USA and Europe – holding simultaneously chairs at the University of Chicago and the LSE (between 1966–74) and then the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva (between 1976–77).

Johnson never became an elder statesman of the discipline, but nonetheless received honorary degrees from seven British and
Canadian universities, served as Vice-President of the American Economic Association in 1976 and was made Distinguished Fellow of the same Association in 1977. We may ponder on what might have been, but he paid the price for a frantic energy (fuelled by alcohol and wood-carving). So prodigious was the volume of his writing, that his articles continued to appear years after his death.¹ Or as Blaug poignantly puts it, 'conveying the uncanny impression that he was still hard at it in Heaven' (Blaug, 1985, p. 101).

Given this productivity, and in wide-ranging topics, it would be unreasonable to attempt to survey all of Johnson’s writings and to give equal attention to all areas. The result would be inadequate. Some selectivity, specialisation and arbitrariness is inevitable. I have decided therefore to offer perspectives on Johnson the trade economist, Johnson the international monetary economist, Johnson the macroeconomist and Johnson the development economist. These headings constitute the four main sections of this essay. These are clearly overlapping sets. The schema offers, however, a means of coping with a vast range of publications² and is not dissimilar from categorisations of Johnson’s work employed by other reviewers.³ Each section will attempt to review simultaneously theoretical and policy aspects of Johnson’s work. (I trust that this is Johnsonian in spirit!)

**On international trade**

Johnson was an internationalist in several senses. He was internationally renowned, he was cosmopolitan and anti-nationalism and he contributed to the full range of topics in international economics. Although neither perfectly discriminating nor exhaustive, four topics deserve to be highlighted: the theory of trade, growth and distribution, the theory and political economy of tariffs, the analysis of international monetary problems and the monetary approach to the balance of payments. The first two of these are topics in international trade theory, while the other two are the material of international monetary economics and will be dealt with in the next section.

*Trade, growth and distribution*

Most of the contributions in the pure theory of international trade were early vintage Johnson. They demonstrate rather more concern