Summary of articles

Informational rents in interbank competition, by Paolo G. Garella

The present paper develops a two-period, simple model of inter-bank competition based on the idea that banks can partially control the behaviour of borrowers. The control effort by one bank over its customers is not observable by competitor banks. It is shown that the equilibrium behaviour of banks is characterised by a distorted incentive to exert the control effort. A second implication of the model is that unexpected tight-ening of the interest rate policy by the Central Bank increases the banks' liabilities and thereby influences their loan policy. It is also shown that the returns from control are lower if banks expect that the economy be hit by a negative shock.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers: D82, G21, G38.

L'altruisme dans le modèle à générations imbriquées,
by Jean-Pierre Vidal

This paper provides a presentation of alternative altruistic speci-fications in overlapping generations models and focuses on competitive equilibrium efficiency and Barro's neutrality. The literature is divided in two streams. The first one follows Barro's seminal contribution and assumes that the utility of an altruistic agent depends on his own life cycle utility and on the attainable utility of his immediate descendants (and/or ascendants). The second one — refered to as *ad hoc* altruism — does not fulfil the Barro's definition and assumes that the utility of an altruistic agent depends directly on the life cycle utilities of his descen-dants. Thus, two mutually exclusive alternatives prevail. In the first, one uses Barro's definition of altruism and debt neutrality is not guar-anteed. In the second, one uses *ad hoc* altruism and debt neutrality always results.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers: D10, D90, E60.

Économie de crédit : le problème de la stabilité, by Jean-Baptiste Ferrari

In the 1960's, the study of the stability, when exchanges are made aloof from equilibrium (Hahn-Negishi) has later been usefully completed by the fact of taking currency into account (Arrow-Hahn). Yet, its inser-tion into the model, starting from a constraint of a monetary transac-tion associed with a supply of exogenous currency in given quantities, is not completely convincing. In particular, it does not allow to exam-ine the possible consequences of households involved in debts on the stability of equilibrium. Such is the question we studied, joining inside

125

currency with the initial endowments of agent goods. Starting from a "non-tâtonnement" model, we point out that quasi-stability and global stability are submitted in such case to more restrictive conditions. The convergence of exchange process leading to one or several values of adherence implies indeed that a precise rule connected with the issue of currency or with the determination of the debt interest rate should be applied. As far as the unicity of optimal allocations is concerned, it can only be checked so far as the currency issued during the process of convergence is entirely destroyed at the time when competitive equilibrium is reached.

Journal of Economic Literature classification number: E50.

Le prix des titres comme véhicule de l'information : une approche en équilibre général, by Hubert Stahn

In this paper I introduce asymetric information in a general equilibrium model characterized by uncertainty and the existence of incomplete financial markets. This model of one good and S states of nature is associated with the concept of equilibrium with rational expectations; and we show that there exists a generic class of economies for which the equilibrium price in the financial markets is perfectly revealing of the information asymmetries. From that point of view, the model follows the ideas of Radner[1968] yet makes use of the recent developements in the theory of incomplete markets.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers: G14, D5.

La mobilité géographique des diplômes de l'enseignement supérieur français : processus de double sélection et fonction de gains, by Mohamed Kriaa and Jean Michel Plassard

Despite his stakes, college graduates' geographic mobility remains a somewhat unexplored empirical field. This study investigates the income effect in the mobility process. Choices of localisations are apprehended both in the perspective of formal education mobility and of job mobility. A double selection process together with wages function allow us analysing the existing relation between the two relevant types of mobility and investigating the wage differential status. The empirical base of this paper is a survey conducted by the "Centre d'Etude et de Recherche sur l'Emploi et la Qualification" in 1984–1987 on french college graduates.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers: J61, J64.