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Jean Hering on Eidos, Gegenstand and Methexis: Phenomenological Adventures and Misadventures of “Participation” (I)

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The aim of the present paper is twofold. On the one hand, it intends to briefly pave the way for a future exploration of the language and conceptuality of “participation” in the phenomenological movement. On the other hand, it aims at providing an analysis of the manner in which Jean Hering, a former Göttingen student of Husserl’s, resorts to the notion of *methexis* in his 1921 *Bemerkungen über das Wesen, die Wesenheit und die Idee* to explain the relation between individual objects and what he calls *eide* and thereby account for the possibility of “individual essences”. As we shall see, it is precisely the comprehension of the way he employs such a notion that will help us shed light on his ontology, notably on his understanding of the ontological status of individual objects.