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NOTES AND NEWS

I. Forthcoming Special Issues

Topic: Philosophy of Religion and Jewish Religious Thought
Date: October 1997
Advisory Editor: Eleonore Stump
Deadline for submission: January 1, 1997

There was a period when philosophy of religion was focused only on a narrow range of topics thought to be philosophically respectable, such as analysis of religious language. In recent years, however, philosophy of religion has broadened greatly, to include philosophical consideration of any array of issues in theology and biblical studies. As the focus of philosophy of religion has widened, philosophers of religion have explored various periods of Christian tradition, including certain aspects of medieval philosophical theology and Calvinist philosophy. What has not received much attention so far by contemporary philosophers of religion is the rich philosophical and theological tradition of Judaism. Yet even a theologian so unsympathetic to pluralism as Thomas Aquinas thought he had a great deal to learn from the Jewish tradition available in his period. This issue therefore will be devoted to philosophy of religion and Jewish religious thought. Comparisons of Jewish and Christian views are welcomed, but not required. Historical study is encouraged as long as it contributes to consideration of philosophical issues.

Topic: Virtues and Virtue Theories from a Christian Perspective
Date: October 1988
Advisory Editor: Linda Zagzebski
Deadline for submission: January 1, 1998

Virtue theory has a long and important history in Christian philosophy and theories of this kind are lately attracting a lot of attention in Anglo-American ethics. Papers for this issue of the journal could draw on the historical tradition of Christian virtue theory, or they could apply a Christian viewpoint to recent work on virtue ethics outside the Christian tradition. Papers which concentrate on particular virtues, especially those which are distinctively Christian, are also welcome. The virtues discussed need not be limited to moral virtues, but may include religious virtues, intellectual virtues, or other excellences pertinent to Christian faith or practice.

Topic: Theistic Philosophy in Hinduism and Buddhism

Date: October 1999

Advisory Editor: Paul J. Griffiths

Submission Deadline: January 1, 1999

In spite of the renaissance in philosophy of religion since the 1970s, relatively little attention has yet been paid by philosophers writing English to the rich traditions of thought about God found in Hinduism and Buddhism. Christian philosophers should find these traditions of thought of considerable interest since they contain understandings of God, arguments about God's nature, and arguments for and against God's existence, that were elaborated quite independently of the sacred texts and philosophical traditions of the Abrahamic religions. The purpose of this issue is to explore contributions to philosophical discussion of God made by particular Hindu or Buddhist thinkers or schools. Papers from Christian philosophers assessing such contributions from a Christian viewpoint are welcome, as are papers from non-Christians, whether critical or supportive of the materials treated. In either case, the focus should be upon the philosophical issues raised by the materials treated.

II. Calls for Papers

Conference on Religious Pluralism: The Changing Face of North America

Date: October 11-12, 1996

Place: Aquinas College

Submission Deadline: May 15, 1996

The Interfaith dialogue Association, in cooperation with co-sponsors and participating organizations, announces our 6th annual conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We invite you to propose a short paper, panel presentation, or workshop related to the above theme. Clerics, community leaders, students, educators, and the general public are all encourage to submit proposals such as the following:

- What are the experiences of your (minority) religious tradition in North America?
- What impact does religious pluralism have on our families, education, towns, work places, or political system? What are the different approaches to pluralism?
- How is diversity in North America affecting our religious beliefs and experience?
- What conflicting religious ideologies, values or human service models have arisen because of religious diversity? Can we integrate them?
- Is the affirmation of common values — a "global ethic" — possible and desirable?

- How can we think about "interreligious community" despite religious diversity?

We are also inviting proposals that offer an introduction to your religious practice, combined with a group participation or performance experience such as music, prayer, dance, meditation or ritual. The activity may come from historic religious tradition or may be non-sectarian or multi-faith.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS:

Panels: 6-8 minutes each, followed by discussion;

Papers: 15 minutes (maximum), allotting time for dialogue;

Workshops: Approx. 1 hour; interacting with audience.

Note: IDA conference presenters are asked to register (at approx. \$25) and pay other expenses. (Some scholarships available.)

Submit 4 copies of your proposal to the address below with:

- 1) Cover page with your name, affiliation, summer address, telephone/fax/E-mail, title, and a 25-30 word description;
- 2) A summary of your proposal in 200-300 words.

Send proposals to Joel Beversluis at the address below. The committee will notify all applicants by June 30 after reviewing the proposals and working to shape a balanced and diverse program aligned with the theme. We encourage your participation!

43rd Annual Wheaton Philosophy Conference

Date: October 31-November 2, 1996

Place Wheaton College

Submission Deadline: June 1, 1996

The topic is "Religion and Morality." Keynote speaker is John Hare (Calvin College). Paper submissions are invited for the topical sessions, 20 minutes reading time, on any topic in the area of the relationship between religion and morality. Completed papers or abstracts are welcome. Please send submissions to the Wheaton Philosophy Department at the following address: Conference Submissions, Department of Philosophy, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL 60187. Phone: (708)752-5040. Fax: (708)752-5555. E-mail: dbfletch@david.wheaton.edu

Society of Christian Philosophers — Pacific Regional Meeting

Date: March 7-8, 1997

Place: Whittier College

Submission Deadline: November 15, 1996

The 1997 Pacific Regional Meeting will be held at Whittier College, located approximately 20 miles due east of downtown Los Angeles. Plenary speakers are Lynne Baker (University of Massachusetts at

Amherst), Joseph Runzo (Chapman University), and Richard Swinburne (Oriel College, Oxford).

Papers are invited on any topic of special interest to Christian philosophers. Length should not much exceed 30 minutes reading time. Two copies, suitable for blind review, should be submitted, along with a one-page abstract containing the author's name and affiliation as he or she would like it to appear on the program.

The Society of Christian Philosophers invites non-members who are interested in becoming further acquainted with the Society to participate in these meetings. The Society likewise welcomes participation of philosophers who do not share its Christian commitments but are interested in exploring the philosophical issues raised by the Christian faith.

Papers and abstracts, postmarked no later than November 15, 1996, should be sent to: David Hunt, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Whittier College, Whittier, CA 90608. Notification can be expected no later than January 10, 1997. Questions regarding local arrangements can be directed to Prof. Hunt by mail at the above address, by phone at (310)907-4280, or by e-mail at dhunt@whittier.edu.

Society of Christian Philosophers — Eastern Regional Meeting

Date: April 3-5, 1997

Place: University of Dayton

Submission Deadline: January 6, 1997

The Twenty-fourth Annual Richard R. Baker Philosophy Colloquium and the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers will hold a conference on "The Epistemic Subject." Major speakers will be Lorraine Code (York University) and Mary McClintock Fulkerson (Duke University). Possible topics include but are not limited to: how conceptualizations of knowledge are interconnected with conceptualizations of subjectivity and objectivity; the role of community in the conceptualization, formation and validation of knowledge; epistemic responsibility; the authority of the epistemic communities; and literature as a source of knowledge. Papers that relate current work in epistemology and communities to issues of religious faith or the formation of theological concepts are especially encouraged. Foundationalist and coherentist perspectives as well as communalist perspectives are welcome.

Papers addressing other issues of interest to Christian philosophers will also be considered for concurrent sessions. Presentation time is limited to twenty minutes. Send two copies of the completed paper and one copy of an abstract of 150 words or less to: Dr. Patricia A. Johnson, Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-1546. Announcement of the program will be by February 15, 1997.

Society of Christian Philosophers — 1997 Midwestern Regional Meeting

Date: April 10-12, 1997

Place: Calvin College

Submission Deadline: January 1, 1997

Keynote speakers are Hilary Putnam (Harvard University) and Alvin Plantinga (University of Notre Dame). Papers may be submitted for consideration on any topic. Papers should be approximately 10-12 pages long (reading time is about 20 minutes). Notification of acceptance by February 1, 1997. Contact: Dr. Kelly James Clark, Department of Philosophy, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. E-mail: kclark@calvin.edu

III. Conferences and Institutes

Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers 1996 Summer Seminar

Date: May 19-25, 1996

Place: Moreau Seminary, South Bend

Topic: Kierkegaard's *Postscript: Knowledge and Subjectivity*

Located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, this seminar will be led by C. Stephen Evans (William Spoelhop Scholar and Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College). Soren Kierkegaard's critique of absolute knowledge in *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* and its complicated relation to both modernity and post-modernity will be the topic.

Professor Evans will convene the seminar each morning and afternoon. Additional late morning sessions will be devoted to presentations or free-ranging discussions by participants.

Apply for the seminar by sending a statement of interest and current curriculum vita to Bob Kruschwitz, BAPT Secretary-Treasurer, Georgetown College, 400 E. College Street, Georgetown, KY 40324-1696. Please apply promptly since this seminar will be limited to 25 participants.

A seminar fee of \$230 (payable to BAPT) will cover all seminar expenses, including room, linen, and meals at Moreau Seminary from Sunday evening, May 19, through Saturday morning, May 25. Moreau Seminary invites participants to enjoy its grounds, library, and lounge. Participants will be responsible for travel expenses.

Interdisciplinary Conference on Naturalism, Theism and the Scientific Enterprise

Date: February 20-23, 1997

Place: University of Texas

Submission Deadline: Nov 1, 1996, for abstracts and January 15, 1997, for papers

Invited speakers include Michael Ruse (University of Guelph), Alvin Plantinga (University of Notre Dame), Frederick Grinnell (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center), and Phillip Johnson (Law School, UC-Berkeley). The conference is dedicated to fostering dialogue between naturalists and theists on the impact of social and philosophical predispositions on the development, interpretation and presentation of scientific knowledge. Our goal is to have a program balanced between defenders and critics of naturalism in science.

The conference is dedicated to fostering dialogue between naturalists and theists on the impact of social and philosophical predispositions on the development, interpretation and presentation of scientific knowledge. Our goal is to have a program balanced between defenders and critics of naturalism in science.

We encourage submissions from all of the natural sciences, as well as from philosophy, history and sociology of science. Suggested topics:

- Does the scientific method exclude appeals to supernatural agency?
- Is there a distinction between methodological and ontological naturalism?
- What do case studies in the history of science reveal about the role of naturalism or theism in advancing or retarding the progress of science?
- Does the plausibility of Darwinism and of naturalistic theories of the origin of life depend on a prior commitment to naturalism? Can the scientific merits of naturalistic and theistic explanations be compared?
- Can theistic (directed) evolution or the appeal to cosmic design be testable scientific hypotheses? If so, does the available evidence weigh for or against such conjectures?
- Is there a demarcation line between science and theology? Are "natural theology" and "theistic science" oxymorons?
- What social, political and educational factors influence the direction of research and the presentation of science to the public?

Abstracts should be less than 500 words and should be submitted electronically to Prof. Robert Koons (koons@phil.utexas.edu) in one of the following formats: RTF or ASCII; PostScript; LaTeX.

Deadlines: Nov 1 for submission of abstracts; Dec. 1 for notification of authors; Jan 15 for submission of full papers.

Abstracts, papers, and conference information will be posed on our web site: <http://www.dla.utexas.edu/depts/philosophy/faculty/koons/ntse/main.html>

Abstracts and inquiries can be sent to Prof. Robert Koons at: koons@phil.utexas.edu

Houghton Institute for Integrative Studies

Date: May 18- June 14, 1997

Place: Houghton College

Application Deadline: January 1, 1997

Houghton College is offering its second annual summer institute. This year the topic is "Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong." Scholars from different academic discipline will meet on campus and examine the influence of relativism and subjectivism on modern thought. Dr. Arthur F. Holmes, Emeritus Professor from the Department of Philosophy at Wheaton College, will act as senior scholar to moderate and facilitate discussion of pre-assigned readings. For additional information or an application, contact James A Marcum, Director, Houghton Institute for Integrative Studies, Houghton, NY 14744; E-mail: jmarcum@houghton.edu; Fax: (716) 567-9573; Phone: (716) 567-9296.

IV. Fellowships

Center for Philosophy of Religion Fellowships for 1997-98

The Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame announces four (possibly five) fellowships for the 1997-98 academic year. Our Postdoctoral Fellowships (two available) provide a stipend of \$30,000 (teaching one course each semester; otherwise \$25,000) and are offered to those whose tenure at the Center would allow them to grow and make progress in philosophy of religion and theistic philosophy, subsequently disseminating and expanding such work through their own teaching and writing. A Distinguished Scholar Fellowship (if funded) will offer a stipend of \$35,000 (teaching one course each semester; otherwise \$30,000) and is intended to provide time for reflection and writing for those whose work is in the forefront of current research in the philosophy of religion or in Christian philosophy. And Extraordinary Fellowship (one available) awards a \$30,000 stipend to a scholar who might not qualify for the fellowships described above, but who would benefit from a year at the Center — for example, foreign scholars or those outside the field of philosophy (e.g., theologians who want to enrich their understanding of philosophy of religion and theistic philosophy, humanists from other fields who could benefit by a deeper grasp of the sort of philosophy practiced at the Center, and scholars interested in a theistic approach to psychology, sociology, economics and other subjects.) Finally, a Visiting Graduate Fellowship (one available) provides \$10,000 stipend to a philosophy graduate student at another institution who is working on a dissertation in philosophy of religion or Christian philosophy and who would profit from spending a year at the Center.

Postdoctoral Fellows and Distinguished Scholar Fellows will ordinarily have opportunity to teach one class each semester. All Fellows will have access to many of the University's facilities (e.g., library and gymnasium), to the activities of the Philosophy Department (some seven of

whom take philosophy of religion as their primary area of interest and to the special activities of the Center (e.g., its weekly colloquia). Those with sabbatical support are welcome to apply. Applicants should see that the Center receives each of the following:

1. A complete curriculum vitae (or transcript, for the visiting graduate student applicants), which should include a list of publications and names of three people you will ask to send letters of recommendation on your behalf.
2. Three letters of recommendation.
3. A statement of no more than three pages (typed and double-spaced) describing the Fellowship for which you are applying and the project on which you would like to work while at the Center.
4. One published or unpublished paper.

All material should be sent to: Alvin Planting, Director, Center for Philosophy of Religion, 330 Decio Hall, P. O. Box 1068, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

The deadline for Extraordinary Fellowship and Distinguished Scholar Fellowship applications for 1997-98 is December 1, 1996; for all other Fellowships, April 1, 1997.

Hubert H. Humphrey Doctoral Fellowships in Arms Control, Nonproliferation and Disarmament

The 1997-98 Hubert H. Humphrey Doctoral Dissertation Program is sponsored by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA). Since 1979, this federal grant program has provided financial assistance to over 80 doctoral and law students who are completing research in the fields of nuclear and conventional arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament. The total grant is \$14,000, which includes \$6,000 for tuition and \$8,000 for the stipend.

The application deadline is March 15, 1997. For further information and application materials, call (202) 647-8090. Direct all correspondence to Hubert H. Humphrey Doctoral Fellowship Program, Office of Chief Science Advisor, Room 6643, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 320 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20451.