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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 1998
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.

Topic: Kant's Philosophy of Religion
 Date: October 2000
 Advisory Editor: Philip L. Quinn
 Submission Deadline: January 1, 2000

This special issue is intended to contribute to the ongoing project of assessing Kant's controversial legacy to philosophy of religion. It includes his criticism of the arguments of traditional natural theology, his attempt to justify moral faith in God, freedom and immortality, and his efforts to reconstruct various distinctively Christian doctrines, such as original sin and atonement within the limits of reason. Submissions for the special issue could explicate and critically examine one or more of these parts of the Kantian legacy. They could compare Kant's philosophy of religion with the philosophical theology of his illustrious predecessors (e.g., Leibniz) or the religious thought of his distinguished successors (e.g., Hegel or Kierkegaard). Or they could discuss the significance of Kant's work for philosophy of religion today.

II. Calls for Papers

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

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.

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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 disciplines 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 (one available) 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. An 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 an \$11,000 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 (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.

E-mail questions to cprelig.1@nd.edu.

The deadline for Extraordinary Fellowship and Distinguished Scholar Fellowship applications for 1998-99 is December 1, 1997; for all other Fellowships, April 1, 1998.

Keep in Touch with SCP Electronically

To obtain the most current information on the Society of Christian Philosophers, including conferences and announcements, check SCP's webpage at URL:

<http://www.siu.edu/departments/cola/philos/SCP>

To subscribe to an SCP discussion group, send e-mail to "majordomo@calvin.edu" with the words "subscribe scp" (w/o quotes) in the message body (not the subject). Those interested in receiving a digest of postings just once per day should type in the message body: "subscribe scp-digest" (w/o quotes).