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## News And Notes: Volume 17.1

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### *Forthcoming Special Issues*

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.

Topic: "Wittgensteinianism and Religion"  
Date: October 2001  
Advisory Editor: D. Z. Phillips  
Deadline for submission: January 1, 2001

Philosophy of religion in the twentieth century has been significantly influenced by the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein. The journal will devote a special issue to this topic on the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Papers are invited on the impact of Wittgenstein and Wittgensteinianism on philosophy of religion, theology and religious studies, on the relation of Wittgensteinianism to other movements in the philosophy of religion, or on specific topics in the Wittgensteinian tradition.

Topic: God and Freedom  
Date: October 2002  
Advisory Editor: John Martin Fischer  
Deadline for Submission: January 1, 2002

The cluster of topics pertaining to God and freedom has been of great interest to philosophers throughout the history of philosophy, as well as currently. Papers for this issue of the journal could explore historical treatments of the issues; alternatively, they could take an ahistorical, analytic approach. Perhaps the most salient question is whether God's omniscience is compatible with human freedom. Authors could explore different conceptions of God's knowledge, including temporal and atemporal conceptions, and conceptions on which God is said to have beliefs and those on which God is not construed

as having beliefs. If God is thought to have beliefs, how are these belief-states similar to (and different from) human belief-states? Also, papers could investigate more and less "robust" views about the range of God's knowledge of future events. Similarly, submissions might consider different conceptions of human freedom and how they relate to God's omniscience; for example, some philosophers have argued that whereas God's foreknowledge rules out human freedom in the sense that involves alternative possibilities, it does not rule out a different sort of freedom (that does not involve alternative possibilities). In addition to these topics, submissions could address other related questions, including, "Does God have freedom (and in what sense)?" and "What is the relation between God's freedom and human freedom? (Are they similar or different? Is human freedom rooted in God's freedom and, if so, how? Does God's freedom limit human freedom? And so on.)"

Topic: Augustine

Date: October 2003

Advisory Editor: Gareth B. Matthews

Deadline for submission: January 1, 2003

Augustine is widely recognized to have set the terms of debate on several of the most philosophically contentious issues in Christian thought, including the problem of evil and the problem of God's foreknowledge and human free will. His discussion of time in the *Confessions* and some of his views on language have received considerable philosophical scrutiny. Commentators have disagreed among themselves about whether Augustine invented the notion of the will, and if so, why, and whether doing so was a good thing. Augustine's anti-Pelagian views have been claimed by some to be philosophically problematic and, by others, to be morally offensive. Contributions are invited on any of these topics, as well as on topics that have been relatively neglected by philosophers, such as Augustine's Biblical hermeneutics and his views on science and religion.

### Conferences

#### Gifford Bequest International Conference: "Natural Theology: Problems and Prospects"

Date: May 26-29, 2000

Place: Aberdeen, Scotland

Sponsored by the Gifford Lectureship Committees of the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews.

For over 100 years the Gifford Lectures have acted as an important stimulus to philosophy and natural theology. The four Gifford Lectureship Committees now wish to provide an international forum for advancing the enterprise of natural theology. Natural theology is understood

broadly as the search for knowledge of God without appeal to revelation. Topics include, but are not limited to, the nature of God, arguments for the existence of God, and miracles.

#### Featured Speakers and Their Topics:

RICHARD SWINBURNE (author of *The Existence of God*):

Current Prospects for Natural Theology

ELEONORE STUMP (Gifford Lecturer in 2002, University of Aberdeen):

Metaphysics, Personal Identity, and the Incarnation

PAUL DAVIES (author of *God and the New Physics*):

Physical and Cosmological Evidence of Design

MICHAEL BEHE (author of *Darwin's Black Box*):

Biochemical Evidence of Design

Go to [www.abdn.ac.uk/philosophy/phildept.htm](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/philosophy/phildept.htm) after August 1 for more information about the conference. Queries should be directed to Neil A. Manson at the above address, at [n.manson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:n.manson@abdn.ac.uk), or by calling or faxing 1224-272-366.

#### The Open Book and Scholarship — International Conference and Workshops

Date: August 16-19, 2000

Place: Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada

Submission Deadline: February 15, 2000 (abstracts); June 15, 2000 (accepted papers)

Confirmed speakers to date include Mary B. Hesse (Cambridge University, UK), Susan vanZanten Gallagher (Seattle Pacific University), Roy Clouser (Trenton State College), and David Lyle Jeffrey (University of Ottawa).

#### **Objectives:**

- To encourage reflection on the hermeneutical issues involved in the interpretation and understanding of natural and social reality and literary texts.
- To address specific hermeneutical issues in the disciplines, such as the influence of post-modernism and post-colonialism in literary interpretation, understanding nature, contextualization of the Gospel, etc.
- To reflect on hermeneutical issues involved in the understanding of Scripture in general and more specifically as it relates to the development of Christian Scholarship.
- To interact with eminent scholars involved in the Consultation on: "Philosophy of Language and the Crisis in Biblical Hermeneutics" meeting simultaneously with the proposed Conference.

**Workshops:**

- Workshop #1: Metaphor and Analogy, Creativity and the Disciplines
- Workshop #2: Metaphor in Scripture, Science and Religion
- Workshop #3: Christian Scholarship in the New Millennium (A special Workshop for graduate students)
- Workshop #4: Biblical Paradigms in Post-Colonial Literature
- Workshop #5: The Bible and Literature
- Workshop #6: Literature and Faith: The Christian Writer
- Workshop #7: Performing Scripture: Theatre as a Hermeneutical Tool
- Workshop #8: Contextualization and Ethics
- Workshop #9: Is Science Immune to Religion? (There is no call for papers as the participants and speakers are being determined by the Pascal Centre.)
- Workshop #10: The Open Book, Dooyeweerd and the Disciplines
- Workshop #11: Reformulating the Role of Scripture and Scholarship

Workshop Paper Proposal: Proposal should consist of the title, the workshop to which the submission applies, the author's name and address, and the abstract (of no more than 250 words) consisting of the argument of the paper. Each contributor should prepare for a 20-30 minute presentation. Please forward paper proposals to: Dr. M. Elaine Botha, Vice-President (Academic), Redeemer College, 777 Garner Rd. East, Ancaster, ON, Canada L9K 1J4; [ebotha@redeemer.on.ca](mailto:ebotha@redeemer.on.ca)

Requested complete papers are to be submitted to Elisabeth Di Francesco ([edifran@redeemer.on.ca](mailto:edifran@redeemer.on.ca)) by June 15, 2000. (See address above).

*Seminars*Language, Truth, and Postmodern Culture: Heidegger, Rorty, and Derrida

Date: June 12-30, 2000

Place: Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto

Application Deadline: March 1, 2000

The Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto and the Calvin College Department of Philosophy announce a collaborative seminar in Toronto, June 12-30, 2000. This seminar addresses central texts by Martin Heidegger, Richard Rorty, Jacques Derrida in order to understand their challenges to traditional philosophy and their implications for religion, culture, and faith-oriented scholarship. Seminar leaders are Hendrik Hart, Professor of Systematic Philosophy, ICS; James Olthuis, Professor of Philosophical Theology, ICS, and Lambert Zuidervaart, Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College. Applicants must be college or university faculty or be enrolled in a graduate program. Graduate course credit is available. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2000. For more information contact:

Donna Kruihof, Secretary  
Department of Philosophy  
Calvin College  
3201 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
e-mail: kruido@calvin.edu o fax: 616-957-8505

### Thomas Institute Conference

Date: December 14-16, 2000  
Place: Utrecht, the Netherlands

The Thomas Instituut of the Catholic Theological University at Utrecht announces a conference to explore the rich variety of theological and philosophical positions that are inspired by the thought of Thomas Aquinas. Main speakers are Prof. Thomas O'Meara OP (University of Notre Dame) and Prof. Fergus Kerr OP (Oxford University). For more information about the Thomas Instuut's conference and about submitting paper proposals, see website: <http://www.ktu.nl/thomas>

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