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NOTES AND NEWS

Forthcoming Special Issues

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

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

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

*Seminars*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 Instituut's conference and about submitting paper proposals, see website: <http://www.ktu.nl/thomas>

Announcements

The Morris Institute for Human Values in Wilmington, NC, is seeking to appoint one or more Speaking Fellows to assist in its mission of bringing

ancient wisdom into modern life. We currently have four fellows and are looking for philosophers of any age who have a passion for bringing powerful ideas into the broader culture. Institute Fellowship is a status that brings with it occasional writing duties and speaking responsibilities to clients of the Institute. Fellows typically remain in their home institutions and travel to Morris Institute functions. We are seeking exceptional, practical philosophers with serious academic credentials who are lively, energetic, funny, and wise, and yet almost too humble to admit all this. Duties can involve speaking to large groups of business people or leading small discussions of top executives on retreat. Compensation for keynote speeches can range from one to five thousand dollars for an hour. Weekend retreats as a whole fall into the same range. Applicants must operate at the level of the best award winning classroom teachers nationwide. Backgrounds in moral philosophy or history are helpful but not necessary. Presentation topics often include ethics, decision making, leadership, success, happiness, and aligned issues. To apply, send a letter of interest (maximum two pages) describing your desire to serve the institute and the nation as a public philosopher, a one page bio or abbreviated academic vita, and a video tape of one of your talks to a group of people, preferably not a classroom lecture, unless it is incredibly good. After a review of these materials, applicants may be asked to submit letters of recommendation at a second level of consideration. Applications are accepted year round. Appointments are extremely highly selective and are made only when the right candidate is found. To get a feel for what the Institute does, visit our website <www.MorrisInstitute.com>. Address applications for fellowship status to Tom Morris, Chairman, and mail to: Morris Institute for Human Values, 1213 Culbreth Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405.

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