

## NOTES AND NEWS

*I. Forthcoming Special Issues*

Topic: Theological Contributions to Theodicy

Date: October 1996

Advisory Editor: Marilyn McCord Adams

Deadline for submission: January 1, 1996

The problem of evil, which has occupied so dominant a place on standard syllabi in philosophy of religion, finds its theological counter-part in soteriology, the doctrine about how God remedies what ails creation. Increased attention to historical and contemporary theological treatments of human and Divine relations to evil, should enable Christian philosophers to reappropriate our traditions as well as stimulate fresh thinking on these difficult and central problems.

Contributions to this special issue should focus on one or no more than a few past or contemporary theologians, and analyze the bearing of their positions on the problem of evil. It is expected that most authors will be Christian, although materials from other (particularly Jewish or Islamic) traditions can be helpful. Authors may be taken, not only from the ranks of systematic and philosophical theologians, but also from the company of spiritual and devotional writers. Preference will be given to papers on theologians and positions not already receiving wide attention in Society-of-Christian-Philosophers circles.

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*

### Society of Christian Philosophers — 1996 Eastern Regional Meeting

Date: April 12 – 14, 1996  
 Place: Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC  
 Submission Deadline: February 16, 1996

The 1996 Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers will be held at Salem College, located in the heart of the restored village of Old Salem. There will be three plenary sessions. The opening address will be given by Dr. Louis Mackey (Department of

Philosophy, The University of Texas at Austin) on Friday evening. In the second plenary session, Dr. Ulrike Wiethaus (Department of Humanities, Wake Forest University) will discuss interreligious aspects of feminist spirituality. The third plenary session, scheduled for Saturday evening, will consist of a panel discussion on the nature of mysticism from the perspectives of Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Hinduism. The participants are: Dr. David Halperin (Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Dr. Ulrike Wiethaus (Department of Humanities, Wake Forest University), and Dr. Chandana Chakrabarti (Department of Religious Studies, Elon College).

In addition to these keynote addresses, the conference includes concurrent sessions of submitted papers. Submissions on any topic of interest to Christian philosophers are invited. Papers must be limited to 10-15 pages (reading time of 30 minutes), prepared for blind reviewing, submitted in triplicate, and accompanied by an abstract of no more than 100 words. Only complete manuscripts will be considered. Volunteers to chair sessions are also needed. The **deadline** for submissions has been extended to **February 16, 1996**. Notification of acceptance will be mailed by **March 15, 1996**.

**Location:** All sessions and meals will be held on the campus of Salem College, 601 South Church Street, Winston-Salem, NC.

**Lodging:** Blocks of rooms are being held for participants at the Radisson Marquee Hotel. The rate for the conference is \$69. You must make your own reservations by calling the hotel directly (910-725-1234).

Papers and abstracts should be sent to: Dr. Tasha Rushing, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC 27108-0578. Telephone: 910-721-2727.

### 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 encouraged 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!

### 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.

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