



The Society of Christian Philosophers



Robert Audi, President • Kelly James Clark, Secretary/Treasurer • Spring 2002

Russia Symposium on the Trinity

From 6th to 9th June 2001 a joint symposium was held in Moscow on the doctrine of the Holy Trinity with 8 Anglo-American presenters, almost all of them SCP members and 10 Russian presenters nominated by the Theological Commission of the Russian Orthodox Church. There follows Mel Stewart's report on the symposium:

The Danilovsky Hotel, where the conference was held, is adjacent to the Danilov Monastery which is the headquarters of the Russian Orthodox Church, enclosed by high Kremlin-like walls dating back to the 13th century. The Monastery is a place of quiet refuge several miles from the noise and bustle of Red Square. It is a wonderful place for reflection and meditation.

The meetings began with an official greeting from Patriarch Alexsii 2nd, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, Head of the Russian Orthodox Church, which was read out for him by an Archbishop who represented him. Then there was a full length paper by Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk, who is one of the six permanent members of the synod, the governing body of the Russian Church, and Chairman of its Theological Commission.

The attendance at the meetings the first day ran 70+, far exceeding our initial expectations. Enthusiasm mounted as people began to fill the seats in the nicely appointed performing arts hall reserved for the meetings. On the stage, a long table with microphones was provided, and above it a huge banner with the inscription, "International Philosophy/Theology Conference on the Holy Trinity, June 6-9, 2001," in Russian.

The conference went extraordinarily well. The Russian Orthodox presenters showed a keen interest in the papers from the West, and responded with



Eleonore and Monica Stump, Mel Stewart

friendly and interested dialogue. The general atmosphere was in fact warm and enthusiastic. It was evident that our Russian hosts had taken care of every detail, with a concern to make us feel welcome and "at home." Each day, conference sessions lasted until 6:30-7:00pm and ended with a delightful banquet. These were times for friendly exchanges and relaxation. There were other times of informal exchange over refreshments at various break times through the day. Thursday evening included folk singers, and Friday evening everyone went to the ballet at the Bolshoi Theater. We were invited to attend the Saturday evening Vigil service in the newly rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Savior. The Patriarch presided over this service, and—it being the 10th anniversary of his election as Patriarch—large numbers of bishops participated. We were given seats in the special box, reserved in earlier days for the Tsar's family!

The overall response of the Theological Commission of the

Moscow Patriarchate was friendly, warm and positive from beginning to end. A special sense of affirmation came when Metropolitan Filaret agreed to the publication by the Patriarchate of a Russian version of the proceedings. Russian scholar, A. I. Kirlezjev served as the Russian editor and this Russian version has just been published. This was a positive posture toward our visit and the conference. The final session of the conference further confirmed their support of the symposium. Three or four speakers from significant institutions said how much they appreciated our approach to issues. Metropolitan Filaret made a concluding speech in which he expressed his wish for other exchanges to follow in the future.

Russian Participants

Hegumen Hilarion (Moscow Patriarchate): "The Trinitarian Teaching of St. Gregory Nazianzen"

~ continued on page 2



Conference Participants

Michail Gromov (Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Science): “Trinitarian Teaching in the Culture and the Art of Ancient Russia”

Nikolai Gavriushin (Moscow Theological Academy): “Doctrinal Meaning of the Holy Trinity Icons”

Igor Tsvetkov: “Hesychasm and Rublev’s icon of the Trinity: The Third face—the centre of the icon”

Vladimir Shokhin (Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Science): “Holy Trinity and non-Christian Triads: A Comparative Study”

Archimandrite Iannuariy (Ivliev), (St. Petersburg Theological Academy): “Elements of Triadology in New Testament Theology”

Archpriest Vladimir Fedorov (St. Petersburg Theological Academy): “The Trinitarian Perspective in the Mission of the Church in the 21st Century”

Alexander Kyrlezhev: “Social and Ethical Implications of Christian Doctrine of God as Trinity”

Alexei Fokin (St. Tikhon Theological Institute): “Trinitarian Teaching of St. Augustine in the Light of Orthodox Triadology of IV Centuries”

SCP Participants

Richard Swinburne (Oriental College, Oxford): “Modern Anglo-American Philosophy of Religion”

Dale Tuggy (SUNY-Fredonia): “Trinitarian Dilemma”

Stephen Davis (Claremont McKenna College): “Perichoretic Monotheism: a

Defence of a Social Theory of the Trinity”

Mel Stewart (University of St. Thomas): “Trinitarian Willings and Salvific Initiatives”

Peter Forrest (University of New England, Australia): “The Trinity and Personal Identity”

Eleonore Stump (St. Louis University): “Word and Trinity”

Charles Taliaferro (St. Olaf College): “The Trinity and Natural Reason: Lessons from Cambridge Platonists”

Kallistos Ware, Bishop of Diokleia (Pembroke College, Oxford): “The Holy Trinity: Paradigm of the Human Person”

This venue was much more than a formal and careful exchange of ideas on a scholarly level. There were impassioned responses to points made about God’s inner-Trinitarian love. Younger scholars raised difficult questions that resulted in greater understanding and appreciation of points of agreement, or of differing viewpoints. But there was not only interest in concept and argument, there was also devotion to the God professed; a kindness and bond that reflected Christ’s words when he said, “By love shall all know that you are my disciples.”

Genuine love flowed from person to person, notwithstanding conceptual variances, language barriers, and distinctly different traditions. There was a keen sense that was widely shared, that the Trinitarian God was at Danilov. This left us all with a wonderful sense of God’s presence. Praise God (slava Bogu).

Our many thanks to the various supporters of the conference: Salem Church; Paul and Shawn Sjolund Foundation; David and Jan Perry; Mark and Vida Maine, and other contributors who made these important meetings possible.

Addendum

“I endorse everything which Mel Stewart has written, and must express my great gratitude for all his work in raising money for the conference, without which it would certainly not have taken place. I must add my own great gratitude to Metropolitan Filaret who, despite many other commitments, not merely gave the opening address but came to most of the sessions and involved himself very much in the work of the conference. We have ideas for other future work translations, lectures, conferences—but it will need a lot of money; and I very much hope that if the Society wishes this work to go ahead, it will give serious attention to the issue of funding.

As our next project the SCP Outreach to Russia committee is organising a conference at Notre Dame University from Jan 30th to Feb 1st 2003 inclusive on “God and Physical Cosmology,” at which there will be 9 Anglo-American presenters, 7 of them SCP members and 2 professional cosmologists, and 6 presenters nominated by the Theological Commission of the Russian Orthodox Church.”

~ Richard Swinburne (Chair of the Outreach to Russia Committee)

Executive Committee Nominees

The candidates standing for election to the executive committee are listed below. You may vote for up to four on the ballot at the end of this newsletter.

Michael Beaty is Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Professor of Philosophy at Baylor University. His areas of interest include philosophy of religion, moral and social philosophy, the philosophy of education and Christianity and higher education. He is the editor of two books, *Christian Theism and the Problems of Philosophy* and *Christian Theism and Moral Philosophy*. Two books are forthcoming this academic year: *Cultivating Citizenship and Baylor University: At and Beyond the Crossroads*. He has published articles in *Southwest Philosophy Review*, *Philosophical Topics*, the *Christian Century*, *Perspectives on Religious Studies*, the *Review of Religious Research* and other journals. He is a member of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

Thomas O. Buford is the Louis G. Forgiore Professor of Philosophy at Furman University. He founded and edited *The Personalist Forum* and is the co-editor of *Personalism*. He is the author of *Personal Philosophy*, *Ambushed on the Road to Glory*, and *In Search of a Calling*. He is also the editor or co-editor of *Toward a Philosophy of Education*, *Essays on Other Minds*, *Contemporary Studies in Philosophical Idealism*, *What Really Matters*, and *Personalism Revisited: Proponents and Critics*. He has published in *The Review of Metaphysics*, *The Personalist*, *The Personalist Forum*, *Personalism*, and the *Southern Baptist Educator*. Along with Charles Conti of the University of Sussex, Brighton, England, he formed the Conference on Person. He is member of The First Baptist Church, Greenville.

Keith DeRose is Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. He received his BA from Calvin College and his PhD from UCLA, and taught at New York University and Rice University before coming to Yale. His main areas of research are epistemology, philosophy of language, and the history of early modern philosophy. His papers include "Can It Be That It Would Have Been Even Though It Might Not Have Been?", *Philosophical Perspectives*, 1999; "Conditional Assertions and 'Bisquit' Conditionals" (with Richard E.

Grandy), *Nous*, 1999; "Solving the Skeptical Problem," *Philosophical Review*, 1995; "Contextualism and Knowledge Attributions," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 1992; and "Reid's Anti-Sensationalism and His Realism," *Philosophical Review*, 1989.

Derk Pereboom is chair of the Philosophy Department at the University of Vermont. His research areas are in metaphysics, philosophy of mind, history of modern philosophy, and philosophy of religion. He has published articles on Kant's theory of mental representation, philosophy of mind, and free will and moral responsibility. His book, *Living Without Free Will*, recently appeared with Cambridge University Press.

Kate Rogers received her BA and MA from the University of Delaware and her PhD from the University of Notre Dame. She is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Delaware specializing in Medieval Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. She has authored three books and a number of articles. Her recent work includes *Perfect Being Theology* and "Does God Cause Sin?" forthcoming in *Faith and Philosophy* (the answer is NO!). She is a member of the American Catholic Philosophical Association and of the Board of Consultors of the Institute for Anselm Studies at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

James F. Sennett is professor of philosophy and interdisciplinary studies at Lincoln Christian College and Seminary in Lincoln, Illinois. He holds the M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Nebraska, the M.Div. from Lincoln Christian Seminary, and the B.A. from Atlanta Christian College. He has also done work as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the University of California-Berkeley and as a Pew Charitable Trusts Scholar

at Calvin College. Professor Sennett has published in philosophy of religion, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. He has written one book, *Modality, Probability, and Rationality: A Critical Examination of Alvin Plantinga's Philosophy*, and edited another, *The Analytical Theist: An Alvin Plantinga Reader*. He has published many articles in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Faith and Philosophy*, *Religious Studies*, and the *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*.

Charles Taliaferro, Ph.D. Brown, is professor of philosophy, St. Olaf College, the author of *Consciousness and the Mind of God*, *Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*, *Praying with C.S. Lewis*, and the co-editor of *Companion to Philosophy of Religion*. He is co-editing a collection of Cambridge Platonist writings for the Paulist Press and working on a narrative history of the emergence of modern philosophy of religion for Cambridge. He is a practicing Anglican and an associate of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, a monastic order.

Dean Zimmerman is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University. His interests include metaphysics, philosophy of religion, and early 20th century Anglo-American philosophy. He has published papers on universals and particulars, stuff and things, time and change, events and causation, and related matters. Contributions in philosophy of religion have concerned resurrection and divine eternity. He is a co-editor of two important resources for the study of metaphysics: *The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics*, with Michael Loux; and *Metaphysics: The Big Questions*, with Peter van Inwagen; and he is editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, an annual to begin publication in 2002.



Election Ballot

Executive Committee (vote for four):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Beaty | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas O. Buford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keith DeRose | <input type="checkbox"/> Derk Pereboom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Rogers | <input type="checkbox"/> James F. Sennett |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Taliaferro | <input type="checkbox"/> Dean Zimmerman |

Send your completed ballot by August 31, 2002 to: Kelly James Clark, Secretary-Treasurer, Society of Christian Philosophers, Department of Philosophy, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Announcements

Regional Meetings

Midwest Region

September 12-14, 2002

Indiana University in Bloomington, IN

Theme: "Persons and Free Will"

Keynote Speakers: Peter van Inwagen,

David Chalmers, John Hawthorne,

and Galen Strawson

<http://php.indiana.edu/~toconnor/conf.html>

Eastern Region

November 14-16, 2002

Messiah College in Grantham, PA

Theme: *Realism & Antirealism*

Plenary Speakers: William P. Alston,

John D. Caputo, Linda Zagzebski

The theme should be understood broadly to include all versions of the realism-antirealism debate.

Submissions related to the primary theme are encouraged, but papers are welcome on any topic of interest to Christian philosophers. Manuscripts, suitable for blind reviewing, with a

reading time of approximately 30 minutes, should be submitted, along with an abstract. Submission Deadline:

September 1, 2002. Please send paper and abstract to: cmiller2@messiah.edu (preferred) or Caleb Miller, Messiah College, PO Box 4101, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 19027.

Mountain-Plains Region

We have lost track of this Regional Committee. Any help in reconstructing it is welcome.

Other Events

The British Society for Philosophy of Religion and the Society of Christian Philosophers announce a **joint meeting** to be held 6-8 August 2003 at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford.

The general theme of the conference is Religion and Ethics. Members of both societies are encouraged to submit papers for this meeting. Papers will be reviewed by a committee made up of members of each society.

Submissions should be sent electronically by January 31, 2003 to Dr Mark Wynn at: M.R.Wynn@exeter.ac.uk
Keynote speakers will include Robert Audi and D.Z. Phillips.

Evangelical Philosophical Society National Conference

November 20-22, 2002, Toronto, Canada

Invited speakers: Harold Netland and Michael Bergmann

For more info, please e-mail philchristi@biola.edu

"Sharing Stories of Vocation: How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind, Enhance Our Scholarship, and Invigorate Our Classroom Teaching."

October 3-5, 2002

Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA

www.pepperdine.edu/centerfor-faithandlearning

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