

## Editor's Introduction

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One of the particular gifts that Christians can bring to the practice of economics is a long memory. Our traditions reach back thousands of years. We have habits and rituals that connect us to believers in past centuries, on different continents, in very different economies. The long memory of these traditions can encourage us to reach outside the conventional thinking of the moment, holding ideas up to the light of many centuries of thinkers. Perhaps this is why the study of history, and of ethics, both seem over-represented among my Christian colleagues.

In this issue, we celebrate this long history of Christian thinking about economics. The article by Walker Wright gives a fresh look at some of the most important Biblical passages about economics. His argument about the important differences between modern and ancient economies will aid scholars of biblical interpretation and economic history. In a similar vein, our symposium on Mary Hirschfeld's excellent book, *Aquinas and the Market: Toward a Humane Economy*, puts a spotlight on an older vision of economic life. Rather than publishing a traditional informative book review, I invited a collection of economists to read her book and dive critically into her argument. Hirschfeld then graciously responded to the symposium in her own short essay. The result is a probing discussion of some of the most important arguments about Christian theology and economics that have been published in recent memory.

Finally, we also added a rare feature to this issue. A group from Hope College visited Lord Brian Griffiths in London last May. Brian is an impressive figure in the world of Christian thinking about economics, particularly in the UK. After giving an address to our students, he sat down for an interview with a few faculty. We have printed a transcript of that conversation with Griffiths, and in doing so we have tried to capture the wide range of his background and interests. Furthermore, Lord Griffiths was interested in contributing a written version of his address from that day to the journal, to pair with the interview. Given the recent election in the UK and the continued uncertainty about the impact of

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the UK exit from the European Union, Griffiths' description of the larger forces at play is both timely and fascinating.

We round out the issue with a collection of book reviews, which give a taste of the important work being done across the economics profession. On behalf of the other editors of the journal, I hope you find this issue edifying and challenging. ■