

THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIANITY AND
LITERATURE
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2007
ARLINGTON HILTON, ARLINGTON, TEXAS

"ALARMING NECESSITIES": TASTE, READING, AND THEOLOGY

"[A]s the eye follows the outline, suddenly Napoleon himself emerges from this nothing, and now it is impossible to have him disappear again. Once the eye has seen him, it goes on seeing him with almost alarming necessity."
--Søren Kierkegaard on the painting *The Tomb of Napoleon*

Plenary Speakers:

Stephen Prickett is Director of the Armstrong Browning Library and Margaret Root Brown Professor for Browning Studies and Victorian Poetry, at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, as well as Regius Professor Emeritus of English Language and Literature, University of Glasgow, Scotland. His published works include *Romanticism and Religion: The Tradition of Coleridge and Wordsworth in the Victorian Church* (1976), *Victorian Fantasy* (1978), *The Romantics* (ed.) (1981), *Words and the Word: Language, Poetics and Biblical Interpretation* (1986), *Reading the Text: Biblical Criticism and Literary Theory* (ed.) 1991, and *Origins of Narrative: the Romantic Appropriation of the Bible* (1996).

Frank Burch Brown is Frederick Doyle Kershner Professor of Religion and the Arts at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis and Alexander Campbell Visiting Professor of Religion and the Arts, The University of Chicago Divinity School. He is author of four books, including *Religious Aesthetics* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1989) and *Good Taste, Bad Taste, and Christian Taste: Aesthetics in Religious Life* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2000). He is currently editing the 700-page *Oxford Handbook of Religion and the Arts*. A composer with twenty commissioned works to his credit, including a recently fulfilled commission from the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, he also directs degree programs in music and the arts for CTS.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Continental Breakfast and Registration 8:00a.m. - Foyer

Session 1: Catholic Ritual in Fiction Capitol Ballroom I 8:30-9:50 a.m.

Andrew Armond, Oklahoma Baptist University, Chair

Kyle Smith, Abilene Christian University

"'An Elevated Host Drenched in Blood': The Role of the Sun in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"

Clark Owen, University of Texas at Brownsville

"A Consideration of the Portrayal of Holy Communion in James Joyce's *Dubliners* and Rolando Hinojosa Smith's *The Valley*"

Mary Stripling, Dallas Baptist University

"'Though angel on the outward side': Sacrilege in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*"

Session 2: American Identities Capitol Ballroom II 8:30-9:50 a.m.

Rebecca Dark, Dallas Baptist University, Chair

Peggy Kulesz, University of Texas-Arlington

"Shaping American Identity with Religious Songs"

Linda Carroll, *Texas Wesleyan University*

"A Sentimental Journey into Death: Walker Percy's *Thanatos Syndrome*"

Susan Jeffers, *Abilene Christian University*

"Meditation Celestial & Terrestrial': Nature and Spirituality in Wallace Stevens' Poetry"

Session 3: Artifacts and Inspiration

Capitol Ballroom III 8:30-9:50 a.m.

Marshall Surratt, The Liberty School, Chair

Gary H. Wilson, *Texas Women's University*

"Exploring the Visible to Uncover the Invisible: A Rhetorical Analysis of Roman and Judeo-Christian Cultural Artifacts in Israel"

Pamela Herring, *University of Texas-Pan American*

"Michelangelo: His Inspiration for The David and Its Message for Us Today"

Brent Gibson, *University of Mary Hardin-Baylor*

"Sex, Language, and Violence in the Movies: An Analysis of Evangelical Responses to Contemporary Film"

Session 4: Aesthetic Inklings

Capitol Ballroom I 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Dr. Bill Epperson, Oral Roberts University, Chair

Michael Pueppke- *University of North Texas*

"Meditations on 'The World' in *Smith of Wooten Major* and *Till We Have Faces*"

Chris Willerton, *Abilene Christian University*

"Dorothy L. Sayers, the Trinity, and Readers' Tastes"

Session 5: Metaphor and Magic-- Theory I

Capitol Ballroom II 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Harvey Solganick, The College at Southwestern Baptist Theological, Chair

Marshall Surratt, *The Liberty School*

"Picturing Faith and Magical Realism--Buechner, Robinson, Endo"

Ian Curran, *Emory University*

"The Use of Metaphor in Christianity: A Reading of Soskice, McFague and Barfield"

Session 6: Tracing Patterns

Capitol Ballroom III 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Susan Jeffers, Abilene Christian University, Chair

Eileen Baland, *East Texas Baptist University*

"Elicitation and Discouragement: The Problem of The Passion in Poetic Expression"

Mimosa Stephenson, *University of Texas at Brownsville*

"Accounting for Taste: From Thomas Hardy to Robin Hardy"

11:00-11:30 am Break

11:30-12:30 p.m. -Capitol Ballroom, Plenary Address I
Stephen Prickett " SEEING WITH ALARMING NECESSITY: NARRATIVE,
THEOLOGY AND IRONY"

12:30-2:00 p.m. Lunch

Session 7: Responses to Dante & Damnation

Capitol Ballroom I 2:00-3:25 p.m.

Rose Johnson, Dallas Baptist University, Chair

Darren J. N. Middleton, Texas Christian University

"Sin, Forgiveness and Literature: Augustinian Themes in Paul Thigpen's My Visit To Hell"

Joe Christopher, Tarleton State University

"On the Structure and Imagery of Longfellow's 'Divina Commedia' Sonnets"

Shanna Early, Abilene Christian University

"Refined by Fire: the Role of Sin, Suffering, and Salvation in Joyce's *Portrait*"

Session 8: Taste and Faith --Theory II

Capitol Ballroom II 2:00-3:25 p.m.

Merle Gatewood, Oklahoma Christian University, Chair

Harvey Solganick, The College at Southwestern Baptist Theological

"Pursuing a Phenomenological Perspective of Aesthetic Theology: Aesthetic Experience and Aesthetic Studies of Faith as an Object d'Art"

Amber Dyer, University of Dallas

"Ike and Telemachus: The Role of the Mentor in the Refinement of Taste"

Mark Ray Schmidt, Liberty University

"The Thought Provoking Qualities of Biblical Narrative"

Session 9: Showing Hospitality: Teaching "the Other" at a Christian University

Capitol Ballroom II 2:00-3:25 p.m.

Mary Stripling, Dallas Baptist University, Chair

Nancy Shankle, Abilene Christian University

"Because of My Foreignness': Connecting to Others in Abraham Verghese's *My Own Country*"

William Carroll, Abilene Christian University

"The Horror, the Horror: Locating the Impulse for the Monstrous in Literature"

Steven Moore, Abilene Christian University

"Sitting Invisibility at the Table: Getting Students to See the Other while Teaching African-American Literature"

Session 10: Nineteenth-Century Voices

Capitol Ballroom I 3:30-4:20 p.m.

Elaine Hatcher, Dallas Baptist University, Chair

Deborah McCollister, Dallas Baptist University

"Dickens' *Life of Our Lord*: Private Manuscript as Illuminating Worldview"

Joyce Kerr Tarpley, Mountain View College

"Constancy: Fanny Price's Aesthetic Barometer in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*"

Claudia Ortega, *University of Texas at Brownsville*

"Narrow is the Road that Leads to Destruction: Life for Death in 'My Kinsman, Major Molineux'"

Session 11: Ethics in Aesthetics and Pedagogy--Theory III

Capitol Ballroom II 3:30-4:20 p.m.

Brent Gibson, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Chair

James Moore, *University of Dallas*

"Basil's 'Useful Lies': The Christianization of Homer in *Ad Adolescentes*"

Philip Mitchell, *Dallas Baptist University*

"Bridging the Two Cultures of C.P Snow: Rethinking the Individual and Community in English Pedagogy"

Jessica Hooten, *Baylor University*

"What is the *End* of Literary Criticism?"

4:30 Business Meeting- Capitol Ballroom III

Vans Leave at 5:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Dinner- Great Hall, Dallas Baptist University, Plenary Address II

Frank Burch Brown, "IS GOOD ART GOOD FOR CHRISTIANS? "

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m. - Foyer

Session 12: Humbling Lear & Richard Capitol Ballroom I 8:30-9:50 a.m.

Karen Youmans, Oklahoma Baptist University, Chair

Rose Johnson, *Dallas Baptist University*

"Saying and Knowing: The Emergence of Humility and Truth in Lear's Language"

Lauren King

"Idolization of Parts and the Doom of Nonsense: The Biblical Fall as Seen in *Paradise Lost* and *King Lear*"

Leigh Hickman, *Dallas Baptist University*

"Richard the Third Proves a Woman: Shakespeare's Demoniac Guidebook to Sex-Subordinating Girl Power and the Erotic Wicked Witch Syndrome"

Session 13: Epiphanies and Theisms Capitol Ballroom II 8:30-9:50 a.m.

Charles Pastoor, John Brown University, Chair

Amy Frazier, *University of Texas at Brownsville*

"The Pain from an Epiphany and the Loss of One's Innocence: Paralleling 20th and 21st Century Initiation Stories to the Fall"

Teresa Gibson, *University of Texas at Brownsville*

"Panentheism in William Wordsworth's 'Lines Composed a Few Miles about Tintern Abbey, on Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour, July 13, 1798'"

Caleb Holton, *East Central University, Arkansas*

"Father, Son, and Holy Nature: Reading Coleridge through the Church"

Session 14: Decoding the Christian in Medieval English Capitol Ballroom I 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Jessica Hooten, Baylor University, Chair

Rebecca Dark, *Dallas Baptist University*

"Exile and the Pagan: Voices in *Beowulf*"

Beverly Powell, *Dallas Baptist University*

"Spreading the Word: A Sociolinguistic Study of Benedictine Power in Anglo-Saxon Society"

Terri Vaughn, *University of Texas at Arlington*

"Images of Cupidity and Charity: Catalysts for Narrative Movement in *Piers Plowman* the C-Text"

Session 15: Recent Voices Capitol Ballroom II 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Chris Willerton, Abilene Christian University, Chair

Mary Ann Taylor, *Mountain View College*

"The Real Force of Beauty: Christianity and Its Imitators in Contemporary Science Fiction"

Heather Martin, Baylor University

"Christ Figures in the Poetry of Jack Clemo"

Charles Pastoor, John Brown University

"Divine Trickery and Forgiveness in Richard Russo's *Nobody's Fool*"

Session 16: Interactions with Twentieth-Century British Writers

Capitol Ballroom III 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Eileen Baland, East Texas Baptist University, Chair

Mark Hall, *Oral Roberts University*

"Longing for a Far-off Country: The Beauty of Heaven in Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams"

Christi Hemati, *Baylor University*

"Iris Murdoch and Søren Kierkegaard: Bradley Pearson as Immediate and Reflective Aesthete"

Leigh Pittenger, *Emory University*

"The Work of Metaphor in the Mora Imagination: A Comparative Study of Hannah Arendt and Iris Murdoch"

11:30-11:45 a.m. Break

11:45-12:45 p.m.

Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion: Aesthetics, Theology, and Criticism

Frank Burch Brown, Christian Theological Seminary, The University of Chicago Divinity School

Stephen Prickett, Baylor University

Nancy Shankle, Abilene Christian University

David Taylor, Arts Pastor- Hope Chapel, and the Resident Fellow and Arts Director for the Hill

Country Institute for Contemporary Christianity. Austin, TX

Karen Youmans, Oklahoma Baptist University