

# THE FWNS REPORTER & MESSENGER

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## **Journal Postponed Indefinitely**

*Intellectus ante Fidem* seemed to have everything in its favor. As a journal devoted primarily to a philosophical, non-dogmatic approach to the study of religion, it was current. In its aim to promote Francis William Newman studies, the range of prospective topics was diverse. The journal welcomed scholarly articles regarding all facets of Professor Newman's work—whether religious, philosophical, historical, political, literary, philological, mathematical, or dietary. We had an accomplished and reputable editorial staff, including Professors David Kovacs, Clinton Machann, Michael Mack, William S. Peterson, and Stephen Prickett. With the Graduate-Student Essay Contest, we provided pecuniary incentives for prospective contributors. We had a publisher and were prepared to launch the inaugural issue as early as this past September. In order to make our purpose and presence known, we had pamphlets printed and distributed to appropriate academic departments at universities across the United States, Canada, and England. Yet, the interest simply was not there.

This does not mean that the FWNS has given up its plans for the publication of a periodical; but, it does mean that we do not yet have a feasible blueprint for such a publication.

## **Winner of the FWNS Graduate-Student Essay Contest**

The FWNS awarded the first-place prize of \$150 to Sharin Schroeder of the University of Minnesota for her essay "Translating Homer under the Articles: The Iliad and Religious and Literary Authority."

Synopsis: "Francis William Newman was a key figure in shaping nineteenth-century views on textual criticism. He particularly influenced literary critics' understandings of the relationships between belief, miracle, and fantasy. Newman's position on the relationship between authority and credulity led to his most famous critical debate, his reply to Matthew Arnold's dogmatic criticisms of Newman's 1856 translation of the Iliad. The Iliad is a text full of fantastic elements, indeed, of religious elements that have lost their authority. Arnold, however, denigrates

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Newman's translation by refusing to grant critical authority to Newman. By insisting that the only literary experts are those Oxbridge faculty who have signed the Anglican Thirty-Nine Articles, Arnold put the critical debate firmly in the theological realm."

**A History of the Hebrew Monarchy:  
with Afterthoughts**

Although the entire critical edition of *The Works of Francis William Newman on Religion* is available for individuals and institutions through the Philosophy Documentation Center, the first volume, *A History of the Hebrew Monarchy; with Afterthoughts*, is now also available to e-book readers through Amazon.com. This edition of the first volume also includes a new Editor's Introduction. All of the critical notes are preserved through hypertext links, and the page numbers of the critical edition are unobtrusively included in order to facilitate citation.

Whether additional volumes of the critical edition are to be made available in this format will be determined based upon apparent demand.

**Critical and Explanatory Notes to  
*The Works of Francis William  
Newman on Religion***

One of the purposes of the FWNS is to eliminate the need for redundant research. Without a central database of scholarly notes, each successive researcher is forced to spend valuable time in search of information that has already been found by others. In keeping with our objective, a new section is being created on the website of the FWNS.

This section, which may be quite substantial at times, will be devoted to providing critical and explanatory notes to correspond directly with volume, section, and line numbers in the critical edition. It will also be a venue for making inquiry of readers in regard to sources of quotations, bibliographical information, the identity of persons or organizations referred to, or any other ambiguous references made within the context of any of the works included in the *Works*.

In order to facilitate inquiries and contributions, a bulletin board will be joined to this section of the FWNS website. All notes and queries submitted by readers that are, afterwards, added to the Critical and Explanatory Notes will be followed by the name and place or institution of the contributor.

**The FWNS Research Library**

We are proud to announce that our Research Library now includes over 600 catalogued entries and continues to expand. As far as is possible, while observing copyright restrictions, it is our object to provide an indispensable database for all persons conducting research on Francis William Newman.

**FWN's Morning Prayers**

Francis Newman's *Morning Prayers in the Household of a Believer in God*, out of print for a full century, is currently being prepared as an e-text for Kindle users, with a new Introduction. This devotional aid, suitable for use by pure Theists, should be available by June. In the meantime, please see the random-prayer edition on our website.

**New Book**

The President of the FWNS, Tod E. Jones, has written a little book currently being published by Xlibris Books. It will shortly be available from their website and through Barnes and Noble.

Written to a recent convert to Evangelical Christianity, *Letters from a Theist* addresses issues including the self-identification of Jesus, the honorific claims made about him by early Christians, the meaning of discipleship, the peculiarities of his message, as well as its truthfulness and moral value. While controversial and direct in tone, the Letters uphold the integrity of the intellectual, moral, and spiritual life of the believer in God.

