



MARS HILL AUDIO

Journal

Volume

111

A bimonthly audio magazine
of contemporary culture
& Christian conviction

September/October 2011

Journal 111

more on

Christianity & American History

John Fea's *Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? A Historical Introduction** (2011) is published by Westminster/John Knox Press. Ross Douthat's *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics** (2012) is published by Free Press. John Fea is also the author of *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in Early America** (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008). Fea was (with Jay Green and Eric Miller) the co-editor of *Confessing History: Explorations in Christian Faith and the Historian's Vocation** (Notre Dame, 2010). This volume contains essays by each of the editors (listeners may remember Eric Miller from volumes 77 and 103 as the biographer of Christopher Lasch), as well as by Thomas Albert Howard ("Virtue Ethics and Historical Inquiry: The Case of Prudence"), Mark R. Schwehn ("Faith Seeking Historical Understanding"), Christopher Shannon ("After Monographs: A Critique of Christian Scholarship as Professional Practice"), Lendol Calder ("For Teachers to Live, Professors Must Die: A Sermon on the Mount"), and Wilfred M. McClay ("The Christian Historian and the Idea of Progress"). John Fea recommends a number of books for further reading in his own book; here are some of them: Patricia Bonomi, *Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America* (Oxford, 1986, updated 2003); Jay P. Dolan, *The American Catholic Experience: A History from Colonial Times to the Present** (Notre Dame, 1992); Daniel Dreisbach, Mark David Hall, and Jeffrey Morrison, eds., *The Forgotten Founders on Religion and Public Life* (Notre Dame, 2009); Steven M. Dworkin, *The Unvarnished Doctrine: Locke, Liberalism, and the American Revolution** (Duke, 1994); Edwin Gaustad, *Roger Williams** (Oxford, 2005); Edwin Gaustad, *Sworn on the Altar of God: A Religious Biography of Thomas Jefferson** (Eerdmans, 1996); David D. Hall, *Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England** (Harvard, 1990); Robert T. Handy, *A Christian America: Protestant Hopes and Historical Realities* (Oxford, 1984, updated 1996); Nathan O. Hatch, *The Democratization of American Christianity** (Yale, 1991); Stephen R. Haynes, *Noah's Curse: The Biblical Justification of American Slavery** (Oxford, 2002); David L. Holmes, *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers** (Oxford, 2006); James H. Huston, ed., *The Founders on Religion** (Princeton, 2005); Thomas S. Kidd, *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution** (Basic, 2010); George M. Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture: The Shaping of Twentieth-Century Evangelicalism, 1870-1925** (Oxford, 1980, 2006); Mark A. Noll, *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln** (Oxford, 2002);

Disc 1

- 1 **Introduction**
- 2 **Siva Vaidhyanathan**, on why trusting Google to organize the world's knowledge is an odd (and dangerous) thing to do
- 3 **John Fea**, on the history of the idea of America as a Christian nation and on how the Founders were—as statesmen—less interested in the truth of religion than in its political utility
- 4 **Ross Douthat**, on how commitment to historical Christian orthodoxy has eroded among American religious institutions since the 1960s

Disc 2

- 1 **Ian Ker**, on why G. K. Chesterton deserves wider recognition as a significant literary critic
- 2 **Larry Woiwode**, on how his decision to become a writer grew out of a desire to make connections with other people
- 3 **Dana Gioia**, on the remarkable life of poet John Donne, and how his spiritual and intellectual struggles created the conditions for his unique poetic voice

Mark A. Noll, *Christians in the American Revolution* (Eerdmans, 1977; Regent College, 2006); Mark A. Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis** (University of North Carolina Press, 2006); Mark A. Noll, Nathan O. Hatch, and George M. Marsden, *The Search for Christian America** (Second edition, Helmers & Howard, 1989); Gary Scott Smith, *Faith and the Presidency: From George Washington to George W. Bush** (Oxford, 2006); Harry S. Stout, *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War** (Viking, 2006); and Mary V. Thomson, "In the Hands of Good Providence": *Religion in the Life of George Washington** (Univ. of Virginia Press, 2008).

more on

John Donne

Dana Gioia's essay on John Donne is included in a Trinity Forum Reading called *Sacred and Profane Love: The Poetry of John Donne* (2011) which is available online at www.TheTrinityForum.org. During our feature, mention was made of David L. Edwards's *John Donne: Man of Flesh and Spirit* (Eerdmans, 2001). John Stubbs's *John Donne; the Reformed Soul** (Norton, 2006) was praised on its publication as a penetrating account of Donne's life in the context of post-Reformation England.

Other Works Mentioned

Siva Vaidhyanathan's *The Googlization of Everything (And Why We Should Worry)** (2011) is published by the University of California Press. Ian Ker's *G. K. Chesterton: A Biography** (2011) is published by Oxford University Press. Larry Woiwode's *Words Made Fresh: Essays on Literature and Culture** (2011) is published by Crossway.

The **MARS HILL AUDIO** Journal is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The Journal is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

If you would like more information about our work, please request a free catalog by calling 800.331.6407, consulting our website at marshillaudio.org, or writing to P. O. Box 7826, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7826.

Sound.
Thinking.



MARS HILL AUDIO