



Volume

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### The virtues of manual competence

Matthew Crawford's *The World Beyond Your Head: On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction*\* is published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Crawford's 2009 book, *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work*\* was published by Penguin. The original essay on which the first book was based was published in the Summer 2006 issue of *The New Atlantis*; a free pdf copy of that article is available at [thenewatlantis.com](http://thenewatlantis.com). The virtues of craftsmanship and the threats to craftsmanship from economic pressures are discussed in Richard Sennett's *The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism*\* (Norton, 1998) and *The Craftsman*\* (Yale University Press, 2009).

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### Augusto Del Noce

Augusto Del Noce's *The Crisis of Modernity*\* (2014), edited and translated by Carlo Lancellotti was published by McGill-Queen's University Press. The Winter 1998 issue of *Communio* included an article by Giuseppe Riconda entitled "Augusto Del Noce: Between Thomism and Religious Existentialism." The website, [voegelinview.com](http://voegelinview.com), features an essay by Bjorn Thomassen and Rosario Forlenza that compares Del Noce's thinking with that of Eric Voegelin. An article by Massimo Borghesi, "Augusto Del Noce: Non-Manichean Thinking," can be found at the *30Days* website ([30giorni.it](http://30giorni.it)).

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### Philology

James Turner's *Philology: The Forgotten Origins of the Modern Humanities*\* (2014) is published by Princeton University Press. Turner's earlier book (mentioned by Ken Myers during the interview) *Without God, Without Creed: The Origins of Unbelief in America*\* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985), is something of a philological study: the history of how, in a relatively short amount of time in the mid-nineteenth century, atheism went from being an unimaginable option to becoming an intellectually attractive position for many educated Americans.

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### Dante's *Divine Comedy*

Rod Dreher's *How Dante Can Save Your Life: The Life-Changing Wisdom of History's Greatest Poem*\* (2015) is published by Regan Arts. Dreher recommends the translation of the *Commedia* by Robert and Jean Hollander. He also strongly commends the lectures on Dante by Ronald Herzman and William Cook, available from [TheGreatCourses.com](http://TheGreatCourses.com). (Also of note are the lectures by Timothy Shutt, produced by Recorded Books.) Dreher

## Part 1

### 1 Introduction

- 2 **Matthew Crawford**, on how the manipulation of our attention by mediated experiences is dehumanizing, and how we can "reclaim the real" through skillful engagement with the physical world
- 3 **Carlo Lancellotti**, on the twentieth-century Italian philosopher Augusto Del Noce and his insightful reflection on the interaction between the history of ideas and the history of facts
- 4 **James Turner**, on the history of philology, the great-granddaddy of all of the humanistic arts

## Part 2

- 1 **Rod Dreher**, on how his struggles with familial tensions were illuminated and spiritually confronted by Dante's *Divine Comedy*
- 2 **Mark Evan Bonds**, on the history of the idea of "absolute music," the notion that musical meaning is entirely self-contained
- 3 **Jeremy Beer**, on Booth Tarkington's apprehension about the new religion of growth and speed in early twentieth-century America

\*An asterisk means that the book is in print; if you wish to purchase it from our friends at Eighth Day Books, call 1.800.841.2541.

The issue date for Volume 128 is July/August 2015. It was published December 2015.

also recommends Prue Shaw's *Reading Dante: From Here to Eternity*\* (Liveright Publishing Company, 2014) and A. N. Wilson's *Dante in Love*\* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2011).

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### Absolute Music

Mark Evan Bonds's *Absolute Music: The History of an Idea*\* (2014) is published by Oxford University Press. Bonds's textbook *A History of Music in Western Culture* (3rd edition, 2010) is published by Prentice Hall Press. Daniel K. L. Chua's *Absolute Music and the Construction of Meaning*\* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) studies how certain ideas in philosophy, theology and the sciences affect the meaning and, indeed, the existence of instrumental music. An essay by Chua is included in the anthology, *Resonant Witness: Conversations between Music and Theology*\* (Eerdmans, 2011), a book edited by Jeremy Begbie and Steven Guthrie. There, Chua argues: "If music is an integral part of what it means to be human, then it ought to reflect something of the image of God in which we are made." Chua suggests an approach to musical meaning that perceives its *rationality in relationality*.

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### Booth Tarkington

*America Moved: Booth Tarkington's Memoirs of Time and Place, 1869-1928*\* (2015), edited by Jeremy Beer, is published by Front Porch Republic Books. *The Magnificent Ambersons* is available in several editions, including the *Modern Library 100 Best Novels* series. Tarkington's other novels include *Alice Adams* (1921), for which Tarkington received another Pulitzer Prize, and *Seventeen* (1916).

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