

Volume

# 147

A bimonthly audio magazine  
of contemporary culture  
& Christian conviction

Journal 147  
Published June 2020

more on

## Localism

*Localism in the Mass Age: A Front Porch Republic Manifesto\** (2018) is published by Cascade Books. The co-editors are Mark T. Mitchell and Jason Peters. Mitchell was a guest on volume 146 of the *Journal*. He wrote the Preface to this present anthology, as well as an essay titled “Work, Death, and the Romantic Agrarian,” with practical advice (and sobering warnings) to (sub)urbanites who find the lure of a rural life attractive. In addition to the essay “The Orphans of Success and the Longing for Home,” Jason Peters also wrote the book’s Afterword, which is an admonishment to be hopeful in the midst of troubled times.

A number of contributors to *Localism in the Mass Age* have been guests on the *Journal*. Here are some excerpts from their essays:

- In John Médaille’s “The Quest for the Common Good: Political Economy on the Front Porch,” we read: “The 19th century knew nothing of ‘economics’; it knew only *political economy*. Political economy assumes that every actual economy is embedded within a network of laws, property rights, social expectations, concepts of justice, and a notion of the common good, and that no actual economy can be understood apart from these things, which are the ordinary considerations of any humane science.”
- R. J. Snell, in “‘A New Magnetic North’: 39 Theses on Education,” writes: “Education as *practiced* by Plato is dialogical, communal, and centered on conversation as the means by which loves are re-formed. . . . Education is not merely cognitive, but includes a form of life, a way of living, and such a form requires the ordering of persons within an ordered polis.”
- In his essay, “Art, Beauty, and Communal Life,” James Matthew Wilson summarizes some of the concerns of two great early-twentieth-century localists: G. K. Chesterton and John Crowe Ransom. “What Chesterton and Ransom saw that few of us do today is that the desire to share truths and goods with others like us finds its realization in the communal contemplation of art. For there, beauty, which some philosophers call the synthesis of truth and goodness, or truth-experienced-as-good, becomes an object around which we gather in a moment not only of stillness or silence but of stasis. Such literary localists provided an image of what peace may look like in this world; only a society that finds its fulfillment gathered into communities of delight over something properly delightful can be a happy one.”

## Disc 1

### 1 Introduction

- 2 **Jared Staudt**, on the role of beer and brewing in the culture of early and medieval monastic life, a model for imagining Christian cultural formation
- 3 **Jason Peters**, on defining localism, dealing with discontent, and the virtues of nostalgia
- 4 **D. C. Schindler**, on the classical and Christian understanding of the transcendentals

## Disc 2

- 1 **Craig Gay**, on the importance of a theology of personhood in responding to the dehumanizing effects of technology
- 2 **Mary Hirschfeld**, on the differences between modern economic “rationality” and the economic understanding of Thomas Aquinas
- 3 **Patrick Samway**, on the fruitful relationship between Flannery O’Connor and her editor, Robert Giroux

• Christine Rosen’s essay reflects on “Technology, Mobility and Community.” “We mobile citizens wielding our smartphones might think of ourselves as members of a vast virtual community, connected wherever we go and flush with useful information. But the companies that sell us this mobility and control this information see us first and foremost as *consumers* — moving targets whose behavior and buying habits can and should be tracked at a granular level.”

• Mark Shiffman’s contribution is “Imagination and Memory Deformed: The Gnostic Resentment of Embodied Life and Its Limits.” “The sexual revolution . . . presents itself as a celebration of the body when in fact it represents an insistence upon the absolute demands of the will to use and abuse the body as it wishes. Its justification for treating the body arbitrarily is strengthened by the second wave of modern Gnosticism: the scientific objectification of nature.”

more on

## Other books mentioned

R. Jared Staudt’s *The Beer Option: Brewing a Catholic Culture Yesterday and Today\** (2018) is published by Angelico Press. D. C. Schindler’s *Love and the Postmodern Predicament: Rediscovering the Real in Beauty, Goodness, and Truth\** (2018) is published by Cascade Books. Craig Gay’s *Modern Technology and the Human Future: A Christian Appraisal\** (2018) is published by InterVarsity Press. Mary Hirschfeld’s *Aquinas and the Market: Toward a Humane Economy\** (2018) is published by Harvard University Press. Patrick Samway’s *Flannery O’Connor and Robert Giroux: A Publishing Partnership\** (2018) is published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

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, consult our website at [marshillaudio.org](http://marshillaudio.org).

Sound.  
Thinking.