

Foreword

The main theme of this issue is “Spinoza as a Religious Philosopher: Between Radical Protestantism and Jewishness.” We are including papers and responses from a conference on that theme that was organized by the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTTC), co-sponsored by Emmanuel College, and held at Victoria University Chapel in October 2006.

In introducing these materials, Jonathan Seiling asks, “Why would Mennonites today host an event about Spinoza, a man widely considered the first secular Jew?” The answer “may be as intriguing for contemporary religion and philosophy as it is for historical research,” he says, noting that it was largely Dutch Mennonites who supported Spinoza after his excommunication. “While the engagement of certain Dutch Mennonites with Spinoza says something about Spinoza’s context,” Seiling writes, “it also says quite a bit about this strand of Dutch Mennonites, about whom we know far too little.”

A Reflection bearing on Jewish–Christian relations then follows, plus two full-length articles and an array of book reviews, several of which report on recent Spinoza studies.

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The Winter 2008 CGR will be a “Mennonite/s Writing” issue. As well as papers and presentations offered at a 2006 conference at Bluffton University, it will include “Confessions of a Reluctant Mennonite,” the 2007 Bechtel Lectures delivered by Sandra Birdsell at Conrad Grebel University College. Guest editor is Hildi Froese Tiessen. For the Spring 2008 issue we are collecting professional responses and academic reactions to “The Gospel or a Glock? Mennonites and the Police?,” an article in our Spring 2007 issue that has aroused widespread interest and comment.

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Please note that book reviews are regularly posted to the CGR website. And be sure to check out the back issues search tool there. Visit www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/academic/cgreview.

C. Arnold Snyder, *Academic Editor* Stephen A. Jones, *Managing Editor*