

## Editorial *Farewell*

After a little less than fourteen years of uninterrupted service as the executive editor of the *Journal of Markets & Morality*, I am retiring from my editorial responsibilities with the journal. Although I will no longer manage journal submissions and plan future issues, I will continue to serve on the executive editorial board and to assist my able colleague and successor, Jordan Ballor, with a new symposium on the theology of work and economics that will become a regular feature in the spring issue. I will now serve Acton as director of its educational programs and also continue in my previous academic role as senior research scholar in theology. Jordan's leadership of the journal begins with the current issue. I have every confidence that he will not only continue to find and publish leading authors concerned with the relationship between economics and religion but also that he will significantly expand the digital reach of the journal into new venues, platforms, and devices. This growth opportunity is invigorating, and Jordan is the right person to expand the footprint of the journal as a premiere peer-reviewed interdisciplinary publication, offering the latest scholarship, symposia, controversies, translations, and book reviews.

One of the most enriching aspects of my work on the journal over the years has been to see its growth from just an idea in 1997 to its current status as a leading interdisciplinary journal. I think it is possible to divide the history of the journal into three distinct phases: 1997–1999, 1999–2002, and 2002 to present. The first phase can be called the founding era (1997–1999). In the early years, as you might imagine, we offered only a handful of articles, usually written by people we knew or who had found us, a controversy on a question of general interest,

and a few book reviews. Shortly after the publication of our first issue (vol. 1, no. 1) in the spring of 1998, Sir John Templeton of The Templeton Foundation obtained a copy of the issue and read it cover to cover. He liked what he read so much that he purchased two-year subscriptions for each professor listed in the Templeton Honor Roll (over 150). This incredible affirmation fueled several initiatives that significantly helped to boost the reputation and the expansion of the journal.

The second phase of the journal's history (2000–2002) was the time when a good deal of institutionalization took place. We significantly expanded the editorial board, started the process of applying to several prestigious databases to index journal content, and began to increase our international and domestic paid subscriptions. This was a period of major growth.

The defining elements of the third phase (2002 to present) are highly visible design, content, and delivery innovations through the Internet. In 2002, we significantly redesigned the external and internal design of the journal to its current form. At that time, we began to include fine artwork in the cover design, as well as to significantly increase the number of articles published per issue. We completely overhauled our book review section and identified three subdisciplines that we would attempt to monitor judiciously. Kevin Schmiesing, our book review editor, has done an impressive job of managing this large and somewhat unwieldy area. He has built a database of over two hundred active book reviewers. Thank you, Kevin, for your tireless work! During this time, we also added an occasional symposium section and a regular *Scholia* section that features translations of seminal economic and theological treatises from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 2008, we added a new occasional section called *Status Quaestionis* that features translations of important contemporary (nineteenth- and twentieth-century) works in Christian social thought from significant ecumenical voices.

This brings me to today. In its lifespan thus far, the *Journal of Markets & Morality* has generated a tremendous amount of intellectual content that readers from a variety of backgrounds have found worthwhile and that has formed a cornerstone of the Acton Institute's commitment to pursuing a society characterized by freedom and virtue. Yet, with each new issue, that stockpile of content grows higher and higher until the old risks being lost in light of the new. The current challenge is not only to keep quality high but also to deliver content in new and innovative ways. This challenge is one that Jordan Ballor will face with grace and wisdom.

Farewell

Before concluding and bidding farewell, I want to take a moment and express my deep gratitude to Jan Ortiz and Judy Schafer, without whom this journal would not have been successful. Jan and Judy are as much the face of this publication as I or anyone else has ever been, and I think it is a fitting tribute to say that I could not have served successfully in my capacity as editor without their competent and diligent assistance. Thank you, ladies!

—Stephen J. Grabill, Ph.D.  
Editor emeritus