

Volume

# 143

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### Modernity, the self, and sex

Mark Regnerus's *Cheap Sex: The Transformation of Men, Marriage, and Monogamy*\* (2017) is published by Oxford University Press. His earlier book, *Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marrying*\* (2011), was co-written with Jeremy Uecker and was published by Oxford. Anthony Giddens's *The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love & Eroticism in Modern Societies*\* (1992) was published by Stanford University Press. Regnerus writes that his own book is, in a sense, a book about Giddens's book. See also Giddens's *Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the Late Modern Age*\* (Stanford, 1991), in which Giddens develops the distinctively modern experience of a "pure relationship," a relationship "in which external criteria have become dissolved: the relationship exists solely for whatever rewards that relationship as such can deliver." Margaret Archer's observations about *Homo inconstans* — serially reinvented man — is from her article "'Caritas in Veritate' and Social Love," published in *International Journal of Public Theology* 5 (2011). Archer argues that defective models of personal identity have dominated social theory since the Enlightenment, but that the centrality of love in Catholic social teaching offers an alternative understanding of human identity.

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### Walker Percy

Jessica Hooten Wilson's *Reading Walker Percy's Novels*\* (2018) is published by LSU Press. *Walker Percy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and the Search for Influence*\* (2017) is published by Ohio State University Press. *Giving the Devil His Due: Demonic Authority in the Fiction of Flannery O'Connor and Fyodor Dostoevsky*\* (2017) is published by Wipf & Stock. Walker Percy's *Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self-Help Book*\* (1983) is currently available in paperback from Picador, as are Percy's *The Message in the Bottle: How Queer Man Is, How Queer Language Is, and What One Has to Do with the Other*\* (1975), *Signposts in A Strange Land*\* (1991), and all six of his novels. Note also: Jay Tolson, *Pilgrim in the Ruins: A Life of Walker Percy* (Simon and Schuster, 1992); Patrick Samway, *Walker Percy: A Life* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997); and Carl Elliott, *The Last Physician: Walker Percy and the Moral Life of Medicine*\* (Duke University Press, 1999). John F. Desmond's article, "Walker Percy and Suicide" published in 2005 in *Modern*

### Part 1

#### 1 Introduction

- 2 **Mark Regnerus**, on the effects of social changes in modernity on sexual behavior
- 3 **Jessica Hooten Wilson**, on the influence of Dostoevsky on Walker Percy's convictions and his approach to writing
- 4 **John Henry Crosby**, on the heroic witness borne by Dietrich von Hildebrand (1889-1977) in his philosophical writings and his battle against Nazism

### Part 2

- 1 **John F. Crosby**, on the influence of the schools of phenomenology and personalism in the thought of Dietrich von Hildebrand
- 2 **Wynand de Beer**, on lessons from Hellenic cosmology about the metaphysical questions raised by organic diversity and change
- 3 **Sørina Higgins**, on the perennial appeal of the stories inspired by the figure of King Arthur, especially in the work of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and Owen Barfield

\*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 143 is January/February 2018. It was published May 2019.

Age, is available as a MARS HILL AUDIO Reprint from our website. *The American Conservative* website currently features Ralph C. Wood's article about *Love in the Ruins*: "Walker Percy's Funny and Frightening Prophecy." See also Wood's "States of Despair: Walker Percy and the Malaise of the Modern Self" at the ABC Religion and Ethics site.

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### Evolution and metaphysics

Wynand de Beer's *From Logos to Bios: Evolutionary Theory in Light of Plato, Aristotle, and Neoplatonism*\* (2018) is published by Angelico Press. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson's *On Growth and Form*,\* originally published in 1917, is available in an abridged edition from Dover Publications. Étienne Gilson's *From Aristotle to Darwin and Back Again: A Journey in Final Causality, Species and Evolution*\* (1971) is available from Ignatius Press. See also Marjorie Grene and David Depew, *The Philosophy of Biology: An Episodic History*\* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) and *Patterns in Nature: Why the Natural World Looks the Way It Does*\* (University of Chicago Press, 2016).

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### Other books mentioned

Dietrich von Hildebrand's *My Battle against Hitler: Defiance in the Shadow of the Third Reich*\* (2014) was published by Image. Books by Hildebrand published by the Hildebrand Project currently include *The Art of Living\**, *In Defense of Purity\**, *Aesthetics\** (volumes 1 and 2), and *Liturgy and Personality\**. Sørina Higgins's *The Inklings and King Arthur*\* (2017) is published by Apocryphile 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).

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