

From the Editor

Ah those long, lazy relaxing days of summer, relief to tired minds and flagging spirits... Thus goes the myth of summertime which certainly doesn't apply to the offices of periodicals faced with August deadlines. So it is with the pride of survivors that we submit to our readers the latest issue of TRIPOD, along with the happy news that our Staff not only managed to endure Hong Kong's relentless heat and humidity, but also to come up with a clutch of articles that should appeal to the widest range of interests...a bit from the past, a bit from the present; something for philosophers, theologians, historians, even astrologers and other star gazers.

Leo Goodstadt starts us off with a portrait of China's new President, Li Xiannian, and offers reasons why such a man is uniquely qualified to fill this most important post at this most important time.

Peter Barry, in a departure from his usual China travel reports, brings to our attention the lively and vital debate currently raging in China among Party intellectuals about the relationship of Marxism to humanism. Implications for future Party policy, effecting those within and outside the Party, make this debate of singular interest to those probing China's present thaw and future possible directions.

A clear and concise summary of Process Theology by J. Van der Veken serves as a fine introduction not only to the basic concepts of Process Theology but also goes some distance in helping the outsider to appreciate what is happening inside modern theological circles at the present time.

For those who take the stars seriously, Angelo S. Lazzarotto has some support from the historical past. The restoration of Beijing Observatory provides the occasion for Angelo to delve into this most venerable institution's rich history where scholars from East and West worked side by side to achieve some remarkable results.

Our Guest Interview this issue is with Dr. Michael Lau who is the current curator of Fung Ping Shan Museum at the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Lau speaks of the place the Museum plays in the intellectual and artistic life of the community as well as offering some illuminating comments on the Museum's Nestorian Crosses...the world's largest collection.

So there you have TRIPOD's summer issue. Here's hoping you find a cool, quiet place in which to enjoy it.