

# From The Editor

---

This issue of Tripod introduces our readers to two of Taiwan's leading philosophers: Thaddeus Hang, who is Chairman of the Philosophy Department of Zhengzhi University, and Peter Wu, who holds the same office at Taiwan's National University. Both scholars have a lot in common. Both are well-versed in contemporary and traditional schools of Western philosophy, and the history of their development and present situation. And at the same time then bring to the philosophical enterprise a like mastery of Chinese philosophical thought, both ancient and modern. It is this Chinese perspective that adds weight and substance to their reflections, as well as their passionate conviction that philosophy - that often neglected "Queen of Sciences" - has a central role to play in the progress of society and the future destiny of mankind.

Professor Hang challenges the Marxian premise that philosophical thought is merely a product of social relationships and argues for an interaction that restores to philosophy its independent and spontaneous role. He tests his hypothesis against the background of two critical periods in Chinese history...one ancient and one from the recent past. "The Interaction of Social Relationships and Philosophical Thought" is a thought--provoking article on the need of philosophy to recapture the initiative in explaining man to man.

The social responsibility of philosophers is the main burden of Professor Wu in his article "Contemporary Philosophy and Social Concern". Faulting modern philosophy for abandoning society in its flight into the arcane and obscure regions of contemporary epistemology and metaphysics, he calls for its return to the real world of social turmoil and distress. He views the present preoccupation with purely material values as the "primitive" stage of a new world culture, and underlines the need for a commitment of philosophers to the social ordering of things to lead this new culture into a higher phase. He also shows the place of religion in the on-going evolution of society.

Regular readers of Tripod will remember our special issue on the Bible and the plethora of styles of reading that have emerged from the present renaissance in Biblical studies. A fine example of the psychoanalytic approach comes to us from A. Uleyn, a professor of Psychology at Belgium's Louvain University. "A Psychoanalytical Reading of the Parable of the Good Samaritan" offers new insights into one of the key parables of the New Testament.

For fans of China missionary history, Joseph Au's notes on the often forgotten and neglected pioneer missionary Matthew Ripa will provide interesting reading. Father Au is a professor of Sacred Scripture at Taiwan's Pius X seminary, and he has made a careful study of this priest and artist who had a great influence on cartography during the early Qing dynasty, completely re-mapping the extent and boundaries of the Chinese Empire.

We close this issue with two brief reports: first, a look at the newly established Catholic Intellectuals Society of Shanghai, and second, the recent publication of regulations concerning the administration of the Sacraments and re-adjustment of Diocesan boundaries within the Chinese Catholic Church.

### CALLING ALL AUTHORS !

*If you would like to contribute a manuscript to TRIPOD, the following guidelines may be of use:*

*1. TRIPOD'S focus is Christianity and China. Articles relating to this field are most welcome. Our more specific emphasis is on religion and morality, Church history - events and personalities, philosophical and theological approaches to the East - West dialogue, and the exchange of research materials among China study groups.*

*2. We encourage a wide variety of literary forms: dissertations, China travel reports, critical reviews of books and the arts, pictorial essays and personal comment.*

*3. The ideal length of an article is about two to three thousand words. If in English, please type and double space. If in Chinese, please use Chinese manuscript paper.*

*4. Submitted manuscripts will be returned at the request of the author.*

*5. Also upon the authors request, the final English and Chinese versions will be returned for comment and correction before publication.*

*6. The authors of published material will receive, in addition to five complimentary copies of the issue in which the work appears, a one year free subscription to TRIPOD.*

*7. Please submit all manuscripts to: The Editor, TRIPOD, Holy Spirit Study Centre, 6, Welfare Road, Aberdeen, HONG KONG.*