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Introduction

Douglas Firth Anderson

Northwestern College - Orange City, firth@nwcsiowa.edu

Greta Breukelman Grond

Northwestern College - Orange City, ggrond@nwcsiowa.edu

Sara R. Huyser

Northwestern College - Orange City, sara.huyser@nwcsiowa.edu

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In the concluding section of philosopher Donald Wacome’s article “Deeper into Superficiality” in this issue of the *Northwestern Review*, he reminds us that “We are God’s, not gods.” We should know this, he argues, from aspects of contemporary science which make clear that we are contingent instead of necessary parts of the universe. Beyond Wacome’s argument, Christians should also know this from the Incarnation Christians confess especially during Advent and Epiphany:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness. (Phil. 2:5-7 NRSV)

Self-emptying, however, is not our default mode. In another of this issue’s pieces, Spanish-language professor and translator Diana Gonzalez notes in “Listening with Humility” that students who cultivate listening deepen the humility that in turn fosters cross-cultural engagement.

Humility need not erase exercising authority—or so it would seem for kings and others with political authority in this life. Historian Robert Winn in “Lessons from Lesser Kings” examines some monarchs discussed by the eighth-century Benedictine Bede. Irony helped Bede make sense of politics in early medieval England, as it also helps Winn make sense for us of Bede’s view of Christian kingship.

Humility is scarce in most commercial films on historical themes. Historian Michael Kugler makes this clear in his article, “Historical Movies, Historical Disciplines, and Getting What We Want and Deserve.” Focusing on Quentin Tarantino’s *Inglourious Basterds*, Kugler

argues that this moviemaker “points out the very questions that in fact preoccupy historians” by giving the audience what it wants rather than what actually happened.

Aspiring to be God’s eventually pervades what the available sources indicate about Hendrina Hospers. In ““Are you White or Dutch?”” historian Douglas Anderson pieces together what one co-worker termed Hospers’ “lowly service”: living as a Reformed Church in America missionary among Apaches, 1907-1946.

May one or more of the articles in this 4th issue/volume of the *Northwestern Review* be of help to you in making your way toward the Light made especially manifest during Epiphany.

Douglas Firth Anderson, co-editor
Greta Breukelman Grond, co-editor
Sara R. Huyser, associate editor