

FIDES ET HUMILITAS:
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Editorial:
Scholars in Dialogue: A Banquet of Interdisciplinary Influence

The temptation towards disciplinary isolation in academic study is great. Conferences encourage it. Journals perpetuate it. Seminars solidify it. This potential *siloed* image may lead others to overt specialization allowing little to no influence from other disciplines. While the rich topics of discussion may flow like an aromatic wine, too often the rich flavors become relegated to a single region.

Christoph Markschies, in recent times, offers helpful comments on an 18th century scholar and the importance of interdisciplinary studies.

Who is only an expert in Chemistry knows nothing about Chemistry. Which means whoever is only a member of the society of the study of the Pseudepigrapha knows nearly nothing about the Pseudepigrapha.¹

Whether in the field of Jewish backgrounds, New Testament literature, or early Christian theology, students and scholars are tempted to speak only to their own tribes and use their own language. If Markschies's sentiment carries any validity, then those, who spade solely from their own garden, may know very little of horticulture by neglecting the blossoms from their neighbor's patch of scholarship.

¹ Timothy Michael Law and Christoph Markschies, "Coffee Table Talk with Christoph Markschies," *Marginalia Review of Books*, 29 April 2014, accessed 13 July 2015 <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/coffee-with-christoph-markschies/>.

The goal of the Center for Ancient Christian Studies and *Fides et Humiltas* is to soften such walls of isolation and to listen to those in other sectors of scholarly disciplines. Our desire is to foster conversation and community around a common era while allowing various voices of scholarship to have a place at the table. We hope to offer the wines of scholarship from various regions and varietals gathering at the *same* table to share in the fellowship of the *same* meal. While topics of conversations may vary, and disagreements are certain to occur, our hope is to offer a rich and lively table where many may gather to enjoy the bountiful harvest of ancient Christian studies.

To this end, we offer a “Scholars in Dialogue” segment for this issue. We’ve gathered a host of premier scholars in the field of ancient Christian studies around the table. We’ve asked each one to reflect on how their discipline can aid and be aided by other disciplines. This dialogue represents years of reflection within respective fields of ancient Christian studies, and these scholars were kind enough to provide their insights for our readers. New Testament scholars offer perspectives on how patristic and Jewish background scholars might provide works to aid in New Testament study. Patristic and Jewish background scholars offer insight to the trends within their respective fields. All scholars provide helpful dialogue for any reader interested in the field.

The banquet abounds in other ways with this Summer 2015 issue of *Fides et Humiltas*. Set before you are two articles on exegetical themes in early Christian literature. One article explores Melito of Sardis’s relation of the church to Israel in his *Peri Pascha*. The other gives helpful reflection upon faith and works in *1 Clement*. Along with the main course of articles and the special selection of “Scholars in Dialogue,” readers will discover rich morsels of reviewed books

ranging from works on Irenaeus, Santa Claus, William Perkins, and Codex Alexandrinus—a true smorgasbord indeed!

We're delighted to offer you this Summer 2015 issue of *Fides et Humilitas*. We trust you will be enriched and we are sure that you will find something here to suit your palette. Cheers and bon appétit!

Coleman M. Ford

Shawn J. Wilhite

Editors-in-Chief