

## Call for Papers: Flagship Issue of *The Classical Connection*

### Overview of the journal:

We have launched our new journal, *The Classical Connection*, and are asking for contributions for our debut issue to be published by the end of this year. The underlying principle of the journal is that “The Great Conversation” is still occurring, and we can participate in it. We hope this is a two-way conversation, simultaneously asking, “What role should the premodern play in the post-postmodern era?” and “What insights do we have now that might speak toward the questions of the past?”

For example:

- Can current psychological studies give us insight into events of the past?
  - o What is the psyche? What is consciousness?
- Might Augustine have something useful to say about the free will debate?
- Why is the Battle of Salamis still useful for military study despite the technological disparity?

Though our perspective is Christian, and we believe that the story of the West is permanently intertwined with Christianity, we accept submissions on a range of topics, both secular and religious, regardless of belief system. Our goal is to facilitate robust, academically rigorous, useful conversation.

Outside of our content, we have some distinctives that separate us from other academic journals:

- **Unique style guide:** when one reads the academic work of Tolkien or Lewis, or anyone else from the mid-20th century or earlier, it’s clear that the rigid academic structure was less essential than the content itself. We hope to move back toward this and encourage accessible yet intelligent conversational prose. Please review our style guide before submission for further details.
- **Charitability:** We are not interested in publishing things that strip away meaning from the world rather than adding it. As such, there are many scholarly topics that would not be suitable for our journal. For example, the sort of literary criticism where the impression is given that the critic simply hates literature. Alternatively, any sort of inquiry that only focuses on the evils of a particular person, nation, or thought system without any sort of nuanced counterweight. In short, culture theorists say that we’re past the postmodern mockery and cynicism, so academia needs to begin to reflect that.
- **Streamlined Review:** Contributors to most special issues will be asked to review 1-2 other papers being published in that issue, with a 2-week turnaround time. We will also solicit from our network of reviewers to provide outside expertise as necessary along the same timeline. We don’t want the publication process to be delayed by the review process, and we’ve never gotten (or given) a review so comprehensive that it couldn’t have been done in 2 weeks.

- **Free to publish, free to view:** We are an institutionally funded open-access journal that does not charge a publication fee. Publication costs and viewing costs are academic barriers to entry that simply should not exist in the digital age.
- **Special issue only:** Currently, we are a special issue-only journal and do not accept open submissions. If you're interested in pitching a special issue and serving as a guest editor for it, please contact the managing editor Michael Barros at [m.barros@boiseclassicalacademy.com](mailto:m.barros@boiseclassicalacademy.com)

### **Information about the flagship issue:**

The theme of our flagship issue is "Christian Bogeymen," and the articles will explore the compatibility/relationship of various hot-button topics with Christianity. More precisely, this issue will investigate controversial topics that have either been claimed to be incompatible with Christianity or been used in polemics against Christianity. Topics like evolution, the Big Bang, and so on have become bogeymen to the Christian community when they need not be. These major topics, as well as many that are periphery to Christian thought, are what we're categorizing as "bogeymen" for this issue.

*Note: The goal is not for this to be an apologetic issue but rather a communique to the Christian community.*

Currently, we have commitments for the following topics:

- The history of the Big Bang theory and its compatibility with Christianity.
- The utility of contemporary Halloween celebrations.

Some other possible topics might be:

- Do Christians need to be comfortable with all Christian doctrine?
- How damning is the problem of evil?
- Can Christians celebrate Halloween?
- The history and development of Halloween.
- Why Christians can and should read pagan literature.
- Why Christians shouldn't get hung up on the evolution debate when reading Genesis.

Publication timeline:

*Note: This is an experimental issue that is also serving as a proof of concept for our board, so we've condensed the timeline. As a result, the peer review process will not be distributed. Instead, we'll use reviewers in our network who've already agreed. This means we will be rather limited on articles we can accept, so it'll have to be a first come, first served sort of thing.*

*We also have a Christmas issue planned with a longer deadline. Please check the website for more information.*

- Manuscripts (3,500-4,500 words) due Saturday, 14 October
- Papers returned with reviewer comments Friday, 20 October
- Revised papers due Friday, 27 October
- Final editorial review will take place on Sunday, 29 October
  - o Please check your e-mail that night just in case there are some last-minute changes
- Publication date: 31 October