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FOREWORD

To begin with, the journal is pleased with, and grateful to, Wim Decock and Drew McGinnis for their demanding but welcome role as Guest Editors of this Special Issue, successfully discharged. Drew McGinnis liaised seamlessly with both the *RRR* editorial team and the publishers and so in an exemplary fashion. The Issue's theme of aspects of Reformation thinking on matters of economics, wealth and property recalls not only contemporary Anabaptist challenges, but the very long history of various Christian approaches to the debate – going back to Clement of Alexandria's tract in the second century AD: *The Rich Man's Salvation*.

Next, we greatly regret very much to note the passing away in Geneva last June of **Irena Dorota Backus** (1950–2019). She was an early member of the newly founded Society of Reformation Studies at the time, contributed three articles to *RRR*'s initial volumes, and served later as a valuable, highly efficacious and fearless member of the Editorial Board. We have heard indirectly that elsewhere a festschrift was published and presented to her early this year; this will complement the *RRR* Issue produced in her Honour previously: *RRR* 19, no. 1 (2017).

And then, this journal and its **Douglas Murray Prize** adjudication panel (independent of the editorial team) is pleased, in accord with the prize criteria and eligibility, to announce the winner of the prize (£1000) for 2018:

This is KIRK SUMMERS, of the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA.

The prize is for his article in *RRR* 20, no. 2 (2018): 134-154, entitled: "Reformation Humanism: Reading the Classics in New Theology". The panel was composed of Paul Ayris (London), David Bagchi (Hull), and Luka Ilić (Mainz); to them we give many thanks for carrying out such an arduous and delicate exercise. Extracts from some of their comments on the article are:

An original thesis ... how on a doctrinal basis (the Fall) Calvin legitimized the reading of pagan authors in education.

A very impressive contribution to Reformation and Renaissance study in the specific sense.

The article is very well written and well argued.

A thoroughly convincing essay

Lastly, this is to intimate that I am retiring from the editorship of the journal, after having performed the task for a dozen years – best described as a highly illuminating and fast

learning experience in the academic, technical, and especially human spheres. It also involved a pilgrimage to the sites of five different publishers until finally (we hope) adopted by Routledge. We are delighted that my successor appointed by the Society will be the gifted Simon Burton, previously in Warsaw but now at New College in Edinburgh University, happily not far from Glasgow. Simon is already well known in the subject area, and already has experience of *RRR* as a guest editor, article-contributor, and occasional peer reviewer. After the next issue, *RRR* 22.1 (2020), which will be edited by us jointly in a transition process, he will be solely in charge.

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