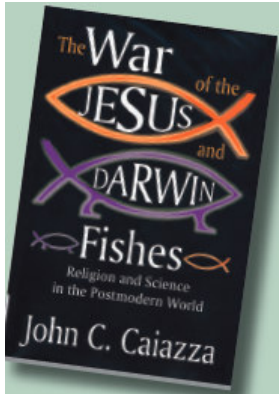


THE WAR OF THE JESUS AND DARWIN FISHES: RELIGION AND SCIENCE IN THE POSTMODERN WORLD

(A new book written by Dr. John C. Caiazza)

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Dr. JOHN C. CAIAZZA*, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and former Director of Financial Aid, has written a new book, *The War of the Jesus and Darwin Fishes: Religion and Science in the Postmodern World*. Published by Transaction Publishers, a social science publisher associated with Rutgers University. The book is available since June 2007 and may be ordered online. The chapter "Galileo's Enduring Career" appeared in the Fall 2005 issue of the Rivier Academic Journal. A description of the book and the publisher's copy are available on John's website, www.scienceandcivilization.com. ■

Book Description

This volume's title stems from an observable and seemingly amusing phenomenon--the placement of fish symbols on the rear of automobiles. There are two kinds: one a fish outline with a cross, exhibited by Christians; the other a fish outline filled with the word "evolution," with little legs attached underneath. These symbols manifest the cultural war between religion and science, a clash that draws from nineteenth-century conflicts over evolution roots in the Enlightenment.

Today's cultural environment is a result of the internationalization of communication, labor, money, and commerce. This global culture emphasizes tolerance and acceptance of all peoples and traditions, but it also demands a moral and intellectual relativism that rejects "master narratives," including religious tradition as well as scientific theory. In some respects, the postmodern environment is caused by science itself, by the development of postmodern science, its nineteenth-century adversarial stance toward religion now somewhat softened. Among new developments are the historical understanding of science, renewed appreciation of the troubled careers of scientists, and "God" talk among physicists and psychologists. Both science and religion are being overwhelmed by new levels of technology, which is becoming the premier element of contemporary culture.

The conflict between science and religion is being resolved in the form of a dynamic. Religion and science are both ways of giving moral and intellectual order to the universe, enabling mankind to cope with a chaotic universe and live well. Both religious critics and scientific researchers have attacked and analyzed pornography, which has become a prominent characteristic of our culture. Both share contemporary sensitivity to individual opinions and protection of the individual from social control. Both science and religion share a sense that postmodern culture lacks structure. Caiazza shows how renewed attention to religious and scientific insights can resolve longstanding conflicts, providing postmodern society with a vision of tolerable order. ■

* **JOHN C. CAIAZZA, Ph.D.**, joined the Rivier community in 2001 as Financial Aid Director. After graduating Boston College, he went to Boston University graduate school receiving his doctorate in the Philosophy of Science in 1972. Caiazza taught philosophy before turning to academic administration and over the years had numerous publications in the area of science and culture. Caiazza now teaches part-time at Rivier. He and his wife Jo, a teacher, live in Atkinson, NH.

****JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier's Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.