



Sir John Templeton
November 29, 1912–July 8, 2008

Sir John Templeton: Member and Patron of ASA

Robert L. Herrmann



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On July 8, 2008, the world of finance marked the passing of one of its great leaders, Sir John Marks Templeton. He was 95, a well-deserved age for someone who had lived his life in moderation and discipline, yet became one of the most successful practitioners of Wall Street. Indeed, when he retired in 1992, he sold his various management funds to Franklin Resources of San Mateo, California, for \$22 billion.

At that time, Sir John turned all his energies to the discovery and development of spiritual wealth. He argued that he had spent most of his career enriching people financially; now it was time to make them wealthy spiritually. He had already inaugurated the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, beginning in 1972 with Mother Theresa as first recipient of a cash gift exceeding the Nobel Prize. Perhaps of most interest to ASA members, many of the recipients have been scientists with a keen interest in the interplay between science and religion. They include Nobel laureate physicist Charles Townes, co-inventor of the laser, who is a member of our Advisory Board, and biologist Sir Alister Hardy, knighted for his extensive study of North Sea whales and director of an

Oxford research center on religious experience. Also receiving the Prize was physical biochemist and theologian the Rev. Canon Arthur Peacocke, who did early work on the physical chemistry of DNA. He studied theology at the University of Birmingham and was ordained as a worker-priest. In 1986, he founded the Society of Ordained Scientists to further the science-theology dialogue. In the 1990s, he ably directed the European section of the Science-Religion Course Program which I administered for the John Templeton Foundation.

The eight other outstanding scientists who received the Prize were physicist-cosmologist Paul Davies; physicists Freeman Dyson, Ian Barbour, George

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Robert L. Herrmann is a retired biochemist who formerly served as the executive director of the American Scientific Affiliation. A graduate of Purdue University, he earned a PhD in biochemistry at Michigan State University and was a Damon Runyon Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before joining the faculty of the Boston University School of Medicine. He also has been professor and chair of biochemistry at Oral Roberts University Schools of Medicine and Dentistry.

Bob is the author of over 100 articles and chapters and five books, many of which address questions at the interface between science and faith. He is co-author with John Marks Templeton of *The God Who Would be Known* (1989) and *Is God the Only Reality?* (1994), and the author of *Sir John Templeton: From Wall Street to Humility Theology* (1998). He recently edited *Expanding Humanity's Vision of God: New Thoughts on Science and Religion*.

In Memoriam

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Ellis, Sir John Polkinghorne, and Carl Fredrich von Weizsäcker; biologist Charles Birch; and mathematician John Barrow. Of these, Sir John Polkinghorne is arguably the most prominent, having established a worldwide reputation in quantum physics as Chair of Mathematical Physics at the University of Cambridge. Then, after resigning to take Holy Orders in the Anglican Church and serving as a parish priest for seven years, he was welcomed back to Cambridge as President of Queens' College. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society.

John Templeton's fascination with science as an entree to theological truth began at an early age. Back in Winchester, Tennessee, as a young boy, he and his older brother Harvey were introduced to the world of ideas by their mother, Vella, who had been blessed with advanced study in mathematics, Greek, and Latin at Winchester Normal College. She shared her love of learning by arranging two trips to Florida during winter vacations and two camping-out motor trips, one to the Northeast and the other to California. In each case, Vella arranged extensive visits to museums and libraries, allowing scarcely a minute to be wasted.

At home the boys got two old cars and combined parts to make one that would run. Years later his brother Harvey became a racer with a Ford Formula 4 and made a good friend of actor and fellow-racer Paul Newman. John also collected butterflies, a hobby which has continued throughout his life. The halls and offices at his headquarters at Lyford Cay in Nassau, Bahamas, are beautifully decorated with some of his trophies.

Still at home, John decided to try to go to Yale. Although he was at the top of his class at Central High School in Winchester, the idea was very challenging; no one had ever gotten into Yale University from Winchester. Perhaps part of the reason was the requirements of the College Entrance Examination Board. Entrance requirements included a minimum of four years of Latin, four years of English, and four years of mathematics. John's high school offered only three years of math, so the principal agreed to offer solid geometry and trigonometry as a fourth-year class, provided John would teach the class and recruit eight friends so that the class would meet state requirements. The principal set the examinations and graded them, and all John's students passed.

John's years at Yale were equally successful, and he went on from there to England as a Rhodes scholar, taking a degree in Law at Oxford. There was no business program at Oxford, which John would have preferred, but years later as a very successful investor, he funded a business school in the University which was named Templeton College in honor of his parents, Harvey and Vella Templeton.

John's mother was also a strong influence in his spiritual education. She was active in the local Presbyterian church, and during a period of spiritual growth, he took on the role of Sunday School Superintendent. Vella was also enamored with the fledgling Unity School of Christianity, which emphasized "thought control," the ability to discipline yourself and to focus your mind on things that are positive and productive and in tune with the great divine principles of the universe. This led to freedom for John to make virtually all his own decisions, and he thrived in this climate of trust.

As he moved through the study of economics and law, he continued to build principles of thrift and discipline which enabled him to succeed in spite of the unfavorable economic times that he encountered in the 1930s. He had married a girl from Tennessee, Judith Dudley Folk, and together they began a pattern of saving in which they pledged half of their income to the church and to investment. This led to a pattern of bargain hunting, budget control, and careful investment that became the foundation for his wealth. Sadly, Judith was killed in a traffic accident during a trip to Bermuda, and John had the burden of grief and the full care of their three children at an early time in his career.

Ultimate fame and success came when he moved his investment funds to Nassau, in the Bahamas, and built a powerful and gifted group of co-workers who could function, as he said, away from the influences of Wall Street, and where decisions could be made more thoughtfully and less impulsively.

Many of our readers may be unaware of the various ways that Sir John has supported our organization over the years. When I became Executive Director in 1981, we faced a debt of \$60,000, largely because of a failed advertising campaign to recruit new subscribers for our journal. At the time, I went to some of our wealthy members for help; John Templeton was sympathetic but not interested in investing in what looked like another nonprofit

organization with a chronic negative balance. As it turned out, the rank and file rose to the challenge, and we were soon out of debt.

In the interim, John Templeton expressed interest in working with us on a new campaign for the journal. Eventually, after several proposals from us, during which time I recognized his keen insights into financial management, we were granted a budget for a new program which helped to support the journal and, with a 15% overhead, the ASA as well. Thus began a relationship between ourselves and John Templeton of an extensive lecture program in universities, seminaries, and churches all over North America and Europe. Dozens of our members presented on science-religion themes. This program

continued throughout the tenure of Executive Director Don Munro. Today, with Randy Isaac at the helm, the ASA continues to receive support for various programs from the Templeton Foundation.

In conclusion, I will miss Sir John Templeton for so many reasons beyond his generosity to those of us who have worked with him over the years. We have seen his testimony to the love of God as expressed in his own gentle and humble spirit. We applaud his desire that all of humanity would be involved in the discovery of more spiritual realities. We will miss him!

We extend condolences to his family for which he has for so many years been shepherd and counselor.

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Note from the Editor

I am pleased to present a graphical “annual” report to readers of *PSCF*. This report covers activities from September 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008.

Statistics: September 1, 2007–July 31, 2008

Articles and Communications	Total Submitted	Accepted	Pending	Rejected	Submitted by ASA members	Accepted from ASA members
Apologetics	1 (1.8%)			1	0	0
Biotechnology	5 (9.1%)			5	3	0
Computers/AI	1 (1.8%)	1			1	1
Design/ID	7 (12.7%)		4	3	3	0
Environment	2 (3.6%)	2			2	2
Evolution	5 (9.1%)	1		4	1	0
Mathematics	1 (1.8%)			1	1	0
Medicine	2 (3.6%)			2	0	0
Sci/Rel/HOS	8 (14.5%)	2		6	4	1
Social Sciences	2 (3.6%)		1	1	0	0
Technology/Engr	2 (3.6%)	2			1	1
Theology	1 (1.8%)	1			1	1
Scripture/Science	9 (16.4%)	2	1	6	4	2
YEC/Flood	3 (5.5%)	1	1	1	2	1
Author Exchange	2 (3.6%)	2			2	2
Early Career	2 (3.6%)	2			2	2
Essay Review	1 (1.8%)	1			1	1
Interview	1 (1.8%)	1			1	1
Totals	55	18 (32.7%)	7 (12.7%)	30 (54.5%)	29 (52.7%)	15 (27.3%)

Looking forward to 2008–2009,

Arie Leegwater, *Editor*