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Edited by Michael Scott, Michael J. Collins

# The Christian Literary Imagination

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

*“The Christian Literary Imagination” is a labor of love and a timely gift to the humanities. For some, these rich essays will renew a tradition. For others, the good of literature itself will be affirmed.*

**Lee Oser**

Professor of English  
The College of the Holy Cross

## Summary

What is the Christian literary imagination? That question was put to the writers who have contributed to this collection of essays. They were asked, in answering it, to choose and write about a work of literature that seemed to them to illustrate one of the varied ways in which the Christian imagination sees the world, to define by example the meaning of the term. A variety of beliefs (or indeed unbeliefs) are expressed by the contributors and authors they selected to discuss. But what the essays have in common is an inquiry into the nature of belief and the means by which the reader’s imagination can itself be stirred through the work of the author under discussion.

The book is structured chronologically, with essays on literature ranging from Anglo-Saxon England to 21st-Century America, but the contributors show a freedom of movement and reference across the centuries in their essays, sometimes deliberately juxtaposing the historical with the contemporary. What emerges from the collection is a shared inquiry into the enduring Christian vision of God’s engagement with the world.

## About the editors

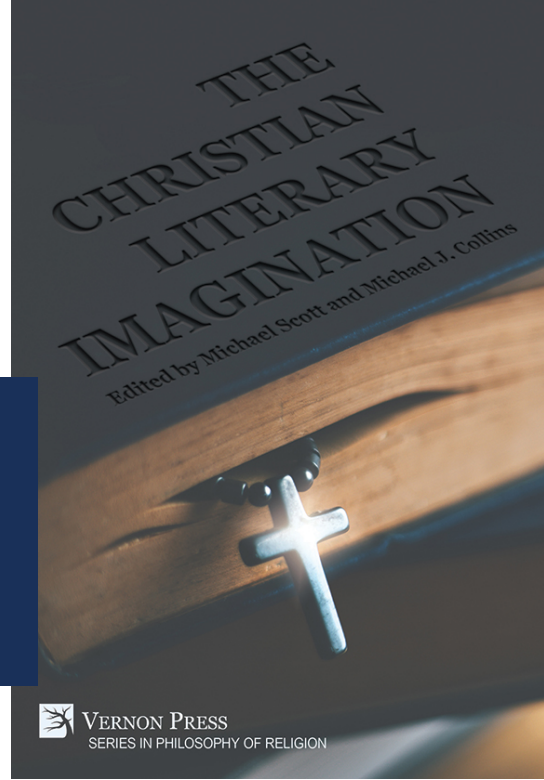
**Michael Scott** is Fellow and Senior Dean at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, and is Senior Advisor to the President and Director of The Future of the Humanities Project at Georgetown University, Washington DC. He was the Founding Vice Chancellor of Wrexham Glyndwr University, Wales, where he is Emeritus Professor of English and Theatre Studies and was previously Head of the School of Arts and Humanities and Pro Vice Chancellor of De Montfort University, Leicester, England. He was the founding and general editor of the ‘Text and Performance Series’ and ‘The Critics Debate Series.’ His books include ‘John Marston’s Plays: Theme Structure and Performance’; ‘Renaissance Drama and A Modern Audience’; ‘Shakespeare and the Modern Dramatist’; ‘Harold Pinter: A Collection of Critical Essays’ (ed); ‘Talking Shakespeare’ (ed with Deborah Cartmell); ‘Shakespeare’s Comedies: All That Matters’; ‘Shakespeare’s Tragedies: All That Matters’ and ‘Shakespeare: A Complete Introduction.’ He has also written two novels: ‘Hamlet and the Psychotherapist: A Novel’ and ‘The Scottish King, Macbeth and the Psychotherapist: A Novel.’

**Michael J. Collins** is Professor of English and Dean Emeritus at Georgetown University and an Honorary Fellow of Wrexham Glyndwr University. He is the editor (with Francis J Ambrosio) of ‘Text and Teaching: The Search for Human Excellence’ and (with Michael Scott) of ‘Christian Shakespeare: Question Mark.’ He has taught modern British literature at Georgetown and has published frequently on modern British poets and playwrights. He received the Bunn Award for Outstanding Teaching from Georgetown College in 2006.

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