New Blackfriars

A Monthly Review

April 1971 25p

Against 'Enlightenment'David Holbrook

Faith and Revolution
Terry Eagleton

Plus c'a change—Plus c'est la même chose Bede Bailey, O.P.

Beowulf and the Limits of Literature: 1
Eric John

The Experience of Group Prayer
Simon Tugwell, O.P.

Interchurch Marriages
Martin Reardon

In this issue

David Holbrook

argues that what is wrong with the 'enlightened' and indiscriminately permissive attitude to sexual morals is not that it is self-indulgent but that it ignores and frustrates man's primary need—which is not in the will-to-pleasure but in the will-to-meaning. 'The whole key to the disorders of our age is to be found in the yearning for meaning in their lives, which people do not find satisfied in our kind of society. But while sexual "freedom" seems to offer a meaning, it has, at the same time, come to defeat those who seek it in sexual activity.'

Terry Eagleton

discusses what, as a matter of praxis, should distinguish the Christian revolutionary from the Marxist; he suggests that the answer lies in a certainty about the future and in an attitude towards death.

Bede Bailey, O.P.

has been looking at the figures to check on whether we live in a time when unusually large numbers of men are leaving the priesthood (at least the English Dominican priesthood). He looks at the particular case of Fr Rudolph Suffield, O.P., in 1870 and asks whether times have changed much.

Eric John

takes a new look at *Beowulf* and decides that much theorizing about it—particularly the view that it is a deeply Christian poem—depends on ignoring the historical conditions from which it emerged. (We hate to divide an article in two but this one was too long for one issue but too good not to print.)

Simon Tugwell, O.P.

describes what a group prayer meeting is actually like and interprets the experience in terms of trinitarian theology.

Martin Reardon

gives an Anglican welcome to the new *Directory* on interchurch marriages and makes some suggestions for further development.



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New Blackfriars incorporates *Blackfriars* and *Life of the Spirit*. Literary communications and books for review should be addressed to The Editor at Blackfriars, Oxford (Tel. 0865-57607).

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