

CATALOG OF MAJOR
WRITINGS BY LOYD
FUESTON

Catalog of Major Writings by Loyd Fueston

Loyd L. Fueston, Jr.

Published by Loyd L. Fueston, Jr.

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1 Copyright Issues

To See a World in a Grain of Sand [?] and *The Peace of Christ* [?] are published by Wipf & Stock (see <http://www.wipfandstock.com>) under a traditional copyright. All of the other writings discussed in this catalog are released, as of January of 2015 or earlier as noted in the particular book. For copyrighting, I use Version 3.0 or later of the Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works license as written and published by Creative Commons Corporation. This license can be found at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>.

2 Writings by Loyd Fueston

2.1 Overview of Writings by Loyd Fueston

My work is of a whole though I've been told that my writing style, at least for fiction, changes a lot to fit the story I'm telling. I think I tend to write theological and metaphysical works, and the occasional political piece, in the style of a story-telling philosopher such as Plato or Nietzsche. I also write novels in the style of a philosophical novelist, such as Melville, or a theological novelist, such as Flannery O'Connor. Those novels are an integral part of the development of my worldview, my understanding of the Creator and His Creation, including that unique part of Creation—man.

2.2 Novels

Novels as Part of My Mission

Consistent with my view of the unity of human knowledge, at least true knowledge, I consider my fictions to be part of the same effort as my non-fictions. I've made six novels available for free download under a Creative Commons non-derivatives license.

The Open Independence of the Seas

The Open Independence of the Seas can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/open.pdf>.

This novel is the second that I wrote but the oldest of my novels which still exists (substantially finished in 1999 or thereabouts). I trashed my first novel and have started to rewrite it. In any case, *The Open Independence of the Seas* [?] is an early and perhaps sometimes successful effort to unleash

my language to speak more truly of the world in terms of our modern knowledge of empirical bits and pieces of the world.

The Open Independence of the Seas [?] is the story of a young man who is trying to make sense of the stories of a grandfather who built churches and hospitals in Africa as well as missile-launching systems in America, a dead cousin who was more than half Nigerian and also more than half Welsh, a long-dead grandmother who had a reputation as being a nervy biologist, a 400-pound man who liked to sit on other people's faces, a 400-pound gorilla who was far gentler, a wise killer, a world devastated by nuclear war, and various other creatures. The protagonist, presenting himself as being borderline autistic, particularly struggles with the science-tinged poetry of that dead cousin who had made himself aware of the forwards and introductory chapters of many classics in science and mathematics.

Safe Harbours and Open Seas

Safe Harbours and Open Seas can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/safe.pdf>.

I wrote the first version of *Safe Harbours and Open Seas* [?] more than ten years ago. I believe the current version was finished about seven or eight years ago, though I did reformat it and also made some minor edits just before making it available for download in August of 2011. It's another novel about the conflicts in modern men because of our inability—so far—to deal with modern empirical knowledge and with the complexity of life in modern human communities. This novel is a comedy. Even a meta-comedy in a manner of speaking.

It's closely related to *The Open Independence of the Seas* [?] which I made available for download in September of 2010.

Safe Harbours and Open Seas [?] was written after the publishing industry showed no interest whatsoever in *The Open Independence of the Seas* [?]. Some chapters in *Safe Harbours and Open Seas* [?] are copied over from an early version of that other novel. *Safe Harbours and Open Seas* looks at a conflict between one author who is trying to make sense of God's Creation, both science and human history and another author who has a literalistic and superficial understanding of modern empirical knowledge. The first author, Parnell Lopez, is one of the main characters, and narrator, of *The Open Independence of the Seas* [?].

Corporate Sex

Corporate Sex can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/corpsex.pdf>.

Corporate Sex [?] was named *Unleashed Desires* when I submitted it to publishers and agents during the late 1990s going into the post-9/11 period. It is about the mating rituals and forms of reproduction that take place in the New York City financial districts. This is one of several novels where the main character(s) came to life before I began writing the book. Mary Pride was born more or less fully mature as I walked some quiet streets in the town where I grew up—Ludlow, MA—a year or more before I could get the plot straight.

The Modern Critic

The Modern Critic [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/critic.pdf>

In 2012, I uploaded the novel, *The Modern Critic* [?]. This book was 99% complete ten years ago but I'd been procrastinating on the publication because I thought I might expand it substantially. That expansion now seems unnecessary and even esthetically unappealing. The book was complete after I added a few comments to fill in as little information as is necessary about some characters who chased or escaped each other out of the pages of the novel discussed above: *Corporate Sex* [?].

Anyone who reads this book could probably guess the truth: I wrote it in a good-natured phase of my state of despair at discovering that books requiring good reading skills and active minds don't appeal at all to the editors of the American publishing industry. In this, the denizens of that industry seem to be in front of the herd, not leading but going along in front.

The Modern Critic [?] is some non-essential middle to my novel *Corporate Sex* [?], a tale of courting behavior on Wall Street, though this book is about a literary world which is rarely visited these days by the sorts who are successful on Wall Street or Avenue of the Americas.

A Man for Every Purpose

A Man for Every Purpose [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/aman.pdf>

A Man For Every Purpose [?] is a tale of a man who fragments when he is not able to deal with some of the problems in his life. It is told from the point of view of that character. One of my motivations in writing this tale is to show that true and moral fantasy has more to do with human perceptions than with magical events. Nothing impossible occurs in this novel but the telling of the possible events twists them and colors them in strange ways.

In any case, the fragmented protagonist is us as we go about our lives in this modern world. As was true of Mary Pride from *Corporate Sex* [?], Milt Jackson came to life well before I knew what he would do. In fact, I ran through several possible plots while Milt stayed pretty much the same.

The Hermit of Turkey Hill

The Hermit of Turkey Hill [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/hermit.pdf>

The Hermit of Turkey Hill [?] is a story based upon a friendship, of sorts, that my grandfather, Charlie Milroy, had with a man who was the gentler sort of sociopath. The man lived in Ludlow for 35 years or so and spoke so few words that people weren't sure where he was from. I changed the name of the town, changed the name of the police chief—my grandfather, and made up a number of characters and little events to flesh out the few facts I knew about this story.

Gathering the Silence

Gathering the Silence [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/silence.pdf>

Gathering the Silence [?] is the first volume of a modern conversion story, that of a young man who finds himself on the path to becoming a Christian thinker and author. The story runs parallel to mine but is much different at times, elaborated in a way to make things clear as they were to me after years of contemplation. I am currently planning on writing

another two volumes to complete the story, perhaps one to be published toward the end of 2015 and one toward the end of 2016.

The Simple Life

The Simple Life[?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/simple.pdf>

It's the story of some men and women and children gathering together in New England to form a community and take care of the vulnerable and the abandoned. After they start to form that community, the climate turned a little ice-age cold. Many have moved down to sunnier regions.

Adam Smith? The Invisible Hand? This is a concrete world which resists too consistent an application of abstractions...

Maybe we just need better abstractions or better ways of applying the ones we already have?

In any case, something invisible is working. Sometimes building and nurturing. Sometimes smashing.

A Stranger in a Land of Strangers

Gathering the Silence, a novel described above, began a fictionalized, spiritual biography of someone much like me in some ways, very different in others. This novel, *A Stranger in a Land of Strangers*, continues that spiritual biography—if that be the proper term.

In the announcement of the availability of *A Stranger in a Land of Strangers* on my blog, I wrote:

This is what I wrote about that earlier novel in the announcement of the availability of the first edition:

In a sense this is both my latest and my first novel. It's about the fifth version of what started out as a straightforward fictional telling of my spiritual life, climaxing in my entry into the Catholic Church. Now, it's the first half of a story about the conversion of a man into a Christian author and its not nearly so straightforward.

The story continues with a certain success—though not of the financial sort—in the conversion of the protagonist to Christian author. There is serious regression in the more important religious conversion, though there are hints the two conversions are intertwined and, perhaps, ultimately one.

The Christian author might pull himself along on a spiritual recovery?

Who yet knows?

2.3 Nonfiction Books

To See a World in a Grain of Sand

To See a World in a Grain of Sand [?] can be purchased at *Wipf & Stock* which has a website at <http://www.wipfandstock.com> or at many internet booksellers.

In 2006, my first published book appeared due to the kindly intervention of the theologian Stanley Hauerwas and the generosity of Jon Stock at *Wipf & Stock*, a republisher of Christian works of merit and a first publisher of works marketed in the academic community. That book was *To See a World in a Grain of Sand* [?] as described at http://loydfueston.com/?page_id=17. Only a paltry number of copies have been sold.

The synopsis for that book, printed on the back-cover, is:

With some modifications, certain insights of St. Thomas Aquinas can be used to make good sense of this dynamic universe of evolving things. These foundational insights cover the nature of human knowledge and the importance of acts-of-being.

The human mind is formed by interaction with God's effects in His Creation and this interaction takes place during three billion years of evolution and also during the lifetime of an individual human being. Creation is a manifestation of thoughts which God wishes to share with us.

God Himself is His own Act-of-being or the Supreme Act-of-being while all the underlying stuff of created things is ever and continuously brought into existence by God's acts-of-being. Complex things and living beings are brought into existence by

acts-of-being best described as parts of a story being told by God. Even metaphysical and mathematical truths are better described as being facts created by the same God who created things. God is the source of all being and all truths.

The Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ [?] can be purchased at *Wipf & Stock* which has a website at <http://www.wipfandstock.com> or at many internet booksellers.

My second published book about struggling through a difficult period, *The Peace of Christ* [?] as described at http://loydfueston.com/?page_id=89 did no better than *To See a World in a Grain of Sand* [?].

The synopsis for that second book, printed on the back-cover, is:

This universe is a battleground where forces of order and disorder struggle. We can eat or be eaten but even if we survive the struggle between predator and prey, we have to face floods and hurricanes, asteroids and volcanoes. True peace is possible even on this battleground because of Christ's victory on the Cross. This true peace can be understood when given its proper name: the Peace of Christ. We can understand better when we pray to God, when we read the Bible, and when we worship Him. We should pray, asking for God's help and praying the Psalms. We should sit quietly, letting ourselves become better aware of God's Presence and learning how to pray along with God, to listen along with God, to think along with God. We should read the Bible, the word of God as recorded by His prophets and evangelists. We should worship God at least once a week, preferably participating in the Eucharistic Rite, eating the Body of Christ and drinking His Blood as He commanded for the sake of our salvation (John 6:53). In various ways, we should allow God to fill us up with His Son that we might become Christ-like persons. Only in that Christ-like state can we obtain true peace.

Four Kinds of Knowledge

Four Kinds of Knowledge [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston/downloads/know.pdf>.

I set out on a different path and published my next book, *Four Kinds of Knowledge* [?], on the Internet intending to allow personal use though I reserved derivative rights. This book is a discussion of human knowledge and a denial of the ‘problem’ of human knowledge usually studied under the name of ‘epistemology’, a branch of philosophy forbidden to those who accept the claim of St. Thomas Aquinas that things are true. We know what we know by actively perceiving what lies around us and what is happening in our own bodies and we know truly when we know in such a way as to respond properly to the truth that is in the world. This way of putting it points to the similar views of the pragmatists who would be nearly Thomists in my updated sense, existentialist and relationalist as well as trusting reality, if only they were willing to admit our knowledge is local knowledge of a world, indeed, of a Creation.

In any case, I claim that human knowledge of all being is of two kinds though we can best see in terms of the four kinds in the full title of the book: revealed knowledge, speculative knowledge, scientific empirical knowledge, practical empirical knowledge. The two kinds of knowledge beneath this framework are knowledge of God in His necessary being and knowledge of God in His freely chosen role as Creator of a **specific** Creation.

Human Rights: An Evolutionary and Christian Perspective

Human Rights: An Evolutionary and Christian Perspective [?], can be downloaded from <http://loydfueston/downloads/rights.pdf>.

This book is an expanded and radically revised version of an article I’d written to deny the metaphysical status of human rights. The book argues that rights have been unfolding in history as a result of human communities developing as part of the Body of Christ in this mortal realm. Rights have some sort of absolute sense only in this Christian context and I think some have suspected that something like this is true given the close relationship between Christian civilization in the West and the type of human rights found in the *Declaration of Independence* or the writings of John Locke.

Justice: The First Step Towards God

Justice: The First Step Towards God [?] is a short article which can be downloaded from <http://loydfueston/downloads/rights.pdf>.

The article begins:

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that justice is the first step towards true religion. In Chapters 119 and 120 of *Summa Contra Gentiles, Book Three: Providence*, Aquinas speaks in terms of the service we owe and uses terminology appropriate to the well-ordered societies of the Medieval Age. The discussion is solid but somewhat distant to modern human beings with our poorly founded and abstract systems of political and moral thought.

In some way, anyone who will be able to enjoy sharing God's life has to at least render God the justice of acknowledging Him as our Maker. From that point, we need to develop a true sense of life, we need to learn how to live by actively engaging God through His Creation, a Creation which includes churches and synagogues, prayer groups and bible-study groups, but also includes many other thoughts of God manifested as forests and lakes, human technology and human arts and letters. Let us prepare for Heaven by responding actively to God's Creation so that we shape ourselves to encapsulate the thoughts He manifested in created being of all sorts.

A More Exact Understanding of Human Being

A More Exact Understanding of Human Being [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/human-being.pdf>.

In this book, *A More Exact Understanding of Human Being* [?], I claim that: To the extent we human beings are truly images of God, we are encapsulations of the thoughts manifested in Creation by God in His freely chosen role as Creator.

There is more to a human being than mind and all that more contributes greatly to human understandings of Creation. Moreover, mind contributes to all that we place in the realms of heart and of hands. But heart contributes to mind and hands. Moreover, hands contribute to mind and heart. Man is a creature who thinks and feels and acts and needs to be understood in such terms. I first sought to understand the human mind as it tries to understand Creation and years ago wrote a sketch of this book which contained the following paragraph.

The human mind is an entity which is shaped in response to our environments, to the world at a higher level, or even to

Creation as a whole. In this way of thought, a human mind is an encapsulation of reality so far as we actively perceive it and actively respond to it. When we realize this is the nature of our minds, we can better develop them and we can begin to see that relationships, such as those which largely make up our minds, is primary over stuff. Relationships make stuff and shape stuff. God's love creates contingent being and His love continues to shape being right to the concrete realm of things. We can play our role in shaping that concrete realm of things with our active love and our other forms of relationships, some of which shape entities of God's Creation into evil forms.

What I said about thinking in that early version of the book can be said also about human feelings and acts. A more complete understanding of reality comes from considering human nature in light of those three aspects: mind, heart, and hands. We need thought both practical and abstract, feelings which are properly disciplined for the moral ordering of our lives, and actions toward an ordered life and an ordered relationship with the physical realms of Creation. Mind, heart, and hands.

The Shape of Reality

The Shape of Reality: Restoring Our Faith in the Unity, Coherence, and Completeness of Creation [?] can be downloaded at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/shape.pdf>.

2.4 Collections of Writings from Weblogs

I've released five editions in book-form of lightly edited versions of the essays I've posted on my two blogs since 2006: primarily *Acts of Being* [?] at <http://loydfueston.com/> but there are a fair number of essays from my inactive blog *To See a World in a Grain of Sand* [?] at <http://loydf.wordpress.com/>. That book, *Acts of Being: Selected Weblog Writings From 2006 to 2014* [?], is available for free download at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/acts.pdf>. It's large and contains about 560 chapters counting front matter. I'll be releasing another update at the end of 2015.

Here is the text from the Preface for the Fifth Edition published in January of 2015:

I've added another 30 or so chapters to this Eighth Edition. All but this chapter are reformatted essays from my writings during 2017 which were published on my active weblog, *Acts Of Being* at <http://loydfueston.com/>.

In 2017, I continued to work—very fitfully—on the next novel in the series which started with *Gathering the Silence* [?], a story of a conversion to being an author on top of a conversion to Sacramental Christianity. This second novel, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, was put to the side due to various personal issues in the second half of 2016. I hope to finish *Stranger in a Strange Land* by July or so. I've also begun to work on other mothballed novels and seem to have little or no interest in working on a nonfiction book. I'll continue writing shorter nonfiction pieces for my blog.

Enjoy.

I thought to make it easier for others to dig into my writings by making them available in smaller groups, with themes which would sometimes correspond to the seven parts in *Acts of Being*:

1. *Making Peace With Empirical Reality*,
2. *The Human Mind as a Re-creation of God's Creation*,
3. *Love and Stuff*,
4. *What is a Universe?*,
5. *Freedom and Structure in Human Life*,
6. *The Narrative We Know as a World*, and
7. *What Means It All?*.

As of the beginning of 2015, I've published two samplers:

1. *A Modern View of Creation: Making Peace with Empirical Reality* [?] downloadable at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/acts-emp.pdf>, and

2. *A Modern View of Creation: The Human Mind* [?] downloadable at <http://loydfueston.com/downloads/acts-mind.pdf>.

These samplers don't seem to have drawn much interest and I probably won't release any more.

2.5 Other Writings to Come

My general plan is to return to writing novels in 2018 and to get back to reading serious materials in mathematics and physics to see what might result.

In my opinion, we can't move forward in developing better and richer understandings of God in His role as Creator, of His manifested thoughts (Creation), or of man in particular until we have a body of words and concepts which are drawn from current understandings of Creation as we can perceive and explore it. In other words, we have to rely on the Creator's thoughts as we can discover them in Creation; our imaginations are simply not powerful enough to match what God has actually done.

Any understandings we can develop from our explorations of Creation would have to be in the form of a narrative which is an image of God's story, the story which is this world. Homer and the great lyric poets of ancient Greece are said to have blazed the paths followed by the ancient Greek scientists and philosophers. We also need poets and novelists to do this sort of work though I suspect they would nowadays have to follow Einstein and Darwin, if only to catch up.

3 Why Should We Care About These Sorts of Thoughts?

It's hard for a thinker to truly understand his own thoughts, if those thoughts are rich and complex. Mine are and I'm more self-aware than most prior thinkers just because I was born in the modern age when literate men are aware of their historical context and their own selves, sometimes to a painful degree. Even those modern men not highly literate have – until recently – had some awareness of history, if only that of their country of residence or of origin.

Something has gone wrong. The ongoing and intensifying problems being endured by the West and all parts of the world intertwined with our political and economic systems aren't just technical problems resulting from mistakes of political technicians or financial regulators. These problems were predicted decades ago, or even centuries ago, by the deeper thinkers of various beliefs. In these pages are references to some of those thinkers: Alexis de Tocqueville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Hermann Melville, Albert Jay Nock, Garet Garret, Hannah Arendt, Jacques Barzun, and Flannery O'Connor. All of those writers, and many others, saw moral weaknesses in the moral character of modern Americans and others of the West and also what might be classified as structural weaknesses in the political and economic systems of the West. Garet Garret also saw (circa 1950) a certain irrationality which led Americans to invade and conquer various countries without even profiting from those imperialistic activities – though certainly some individuals and corporations have always profited from those invasions and general troublemaking by the American government. Jacques Barzun, in *From Dawn to Decadence: 1500 to the Present* [?], narrated these past five centuries in the West using the theme of decreasing standards of literacy – which certainly implies decreasing standards of abstract reasoning

and maybe other forms of reasoning. Partly for those intellectual reasons, we are in a state of total moral disorder.

Those who saw the loss of respect for the “permanent things” knew something had gone wrong generations ago, starting perhaps with Edmund Burke and with the Catholic Right circa 1800, all of them fearing that the French Revolution’s blood-letting might prove to be a sign of the true nature of modernity. In evaluating these claims and trying to understand from our position 200 years later, we should remember that blood-letting is also a part of the story God is telling, the blood-letting of biological evolution and that of human history and pre-history.

I’m a soft and overly gentle man of the modern West and I fear the suffering which might be coming down upon us in this period of great change which is opening up. It seems likely to me that Jacques Barzun’s highly qualified prediction of a century of stupidity and poverty and violence might well come true – see the aforementioned *From Dawn to Decadence: 1500 to the Present* [?]. Professor Barzun went on to predict that a new dawn would come when some poorly educated young man would find a store of the old books, old learning, and be fascinated. He would realize, in my words, there is something interesting in that old learning and worth the struggle to master.

I look at our current situation and our possible oncoming disaster this way:

Why not cut out the century and get right to an intellectual recovery?

We must be able to derive some good from our historical awareness and self-awareness and we might have a chance if a substantial number of young men and young women were to join in the effort to found a new Christian civilization or perhaps a new phase of Western Civilization. After all, we still have something of forward momentum though it seems at times we’re mostly sliding back down some hill into a more brutal and more impoverished form of barbarism. Yet, we still hold on tight to our computers and still put some tax moneys into the maintenance of dusty and ill-frequented library stacks of those old books as well as a healthy number of new books worth the effort to read. Still yet again, those libraries are purging books and putting up banks of computer monitors and racks of DVDs.

A recovery while we still have the keys to those libraries, even if we don't often enter the stacks of books, would be radically different from a recovery from a standstill. Mostly, it might eliminate some of those decades of ignorance and suffering. If we play our cards right, I suspect those who live a couple generations from now might realize that this period of suffering was actually a rebirth. Yes, I suspect that something wonderful will be born in a process as painful as so many births are. Can we minimize the period of pain and be holding the cleaned-up, screaming baby soon?

Maybe.

By the grace of God and by some of my own actions, I've been put in a situation where I have an eclectic store of knowledge along with the feisty and sometimes obnoxious attitude of a creative thinker who feels himself called into the breach, in a manner of speaking.

And so I'm putting together this strangest of books – a collection of writings from a blog or weblog, a form of publication used by most for works as ephemeral as those hardcopy books which appear on the best-seller lists of our dumbed-down, but still prestigious, newspapers and magazines. I'm confident that these writings speak of the truths God manifested in this world, and speak in such a manner as to help us shape our minds in preparation for sharing the life of God.

Part I
Appendices

Colophon

This book was typeset using the LaTeX typesetting system created by Leslie Lamport and the memoir class written by Peter Wilson.

The LaTeX typesetting system is a set of macro commands using the TeX typesetting system written by Donald Knuth. The body text is set 10/12pt on a 33pc measure with

Computer Modern Roman designed by Donald Knuth. Other fonts include Sans, Smallcaps, Italic, Slanted and Typewriter, all from Knuth's Computer Modern family.

