

## About The Social Contract

*The English philosopher John Locke, whose thinking helped inspire the American revolution, said that society should be governed by an understood set of values he termed "the social contract." Under the social contract, governments have obligations to their citizens, and citizens have responsibilities to society.*

*Most great public issues are basically moral and ethical ones. What is the right thing to do? How do we decide what we think is right? When "rights" collide, which ones take precedence? The concept of the social contract helps us sort out the difficult issues confronting American society today and helps us find balance.*

*Each quarter, **The Social Contract** journal examines trends, events and ideas that could unravel America's delicate social fabric. Key topics addressed by this journal:*

- *Human population issues, including absolute size, rate of growth and distribution. Do cherished American ideals prosper or suffer through further population growth?*
- *Immigration issues. In order to best facilitate meeting the highest goals of the American people, (1) how many immigrants should we admit? (2) who should be admitted, and (3) how can we humanely enforce the rules?*
- *Language, assimilation, culture and national unity considerations. What are the shared values necessary to the maintenance of our social contract?*
- *The balance of individual rights and civic responsibilities. Since the previous issues are so often framed in terms of rights, what are the balancing obligations?*
- *Other nations' efforts at guarding or creating their own social contracts. What practical insight can be gained from observing the failures and successes in nation-building by other societies?*

*The Social Contract explores these complex and interrelated issues with articles varying greatly in outlook and philosophy in the attempt to further vigorous public debate.*



# The Devil Knows Latin

*Why America Needs the  
Classical Tradition*

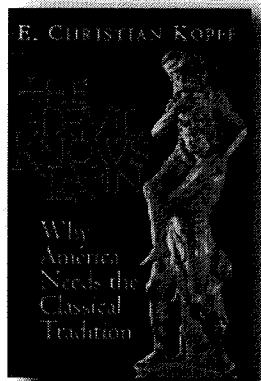
by E. Christian Kopff

"Kopff is a distinguished teacher and an independent thinker—vital, though rare, qualities these days in classics' eleventh hour."

—Victor David Hanson,  
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"E. Christian Kopff cuts to the heart of the Culture Wars. Drawing on a wellspring of sources—from Aristotle to Tolkien, *The Republic* to *High Noon*—Kopff champions tradition and the 'Permanent things' and highlights the cost of our cultural amnesia. His value is not in telling us what we should know but in reminding us of what we forget at our peril."

—Theodore Pappas, Executive  
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