

# **The Question of the Gift**

Essays across disciplines

**Edited by Mark Osteen**

# Contents

<i>Notes on contributors</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi

<b>Introduction: questions of the gift</b>	1
--	---

MARK OSTEEN

## PART I

<b>Redefining reciprocity</b>	43
-------------------------------	----

<b>1 A free gift makes no friends</b>	45
---------------------------------------	----

JAMES LAIDLAW

<b>2 Unbalanced reciprocity: asymmetrical gift giving and social hierarchy in rural China</b>	67
---	----

YUNXIANG YAN

<b>3 Unpacking the gift: illiquid goods and empathetic dialogue</b>	85
---	----

LEE ANNE FENNELL

## PART II

<b>Kinship, generosity and gratitude: ethical foundations</b>	103
---	-----

<b>4 The patriarchal narratives of <i>Genesis</i> and the ethos of gift exchange</b>	105
--	-----

CHARLES H. HINNANT

<b>5 The ethics of generosity and friendship: Aristotle's gift to Nietzsche?</b>	118
--	-----

MARTHA KENDAL WOODRUFF

<b>6 Adam Smith and the debt of gratitude</b>	132
EUN KYUNG MIN	
<b>PART III</b>	
<b>The gift and artistic commerce</b>	147
<b>7 Catullus and the gift of sentiment in republican Rome</b>	149
JACQUI SADASHIGE	
<b>8 Gabriele D'Annunzio: the art of squandering and the economy of sacrifice</b>	172
NICOLETTA PIREDDU	
<b>9 Conrad's guilt-edged securities: "Karain: a memory" via Simmel and Benjamin</b>	191
ANTHONY FOTHERGILL	
<b>10 Formed by homages: H.D., Robert Duncan, and the poetics of the gift</b>	209
STEPHEN COLLIS	
<b>PART IV</b>	
<b>Posing new questions</b>	227
<b>11 Gift or commodity?</b>	229
MARK OSTEN	
<b>12 The ghost of the gift: the unlikelihood of economics</b>	248
ANTONIO CALLARI	
<b>13 Give the ghost a chance! A comrade's shadowy addendum</b>	266
JACK AMARIGLIO	
<b>14 The pleasures and pains of the gift</b>	280
ANDREW COWELL	
<i>Index</i>	299