

Booklet - A. L. A. 1938-39

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1938/39

For release Monday afternoon, June 19

FIFTY OUTSTANDING RELIGIOUS BOOKS

The report of the Book Selection Committee of the Religious Books Section of the American Library Association given below covers religious publications for the period June 1, 1938, to May 31, 1939. The Committee, which represents religious thought as expressed through three avenues--Catholicism, Judaism and Protestantism--is composed of:

- Miss Julia H. Killian, Librarian, Santa Maria Library, College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey, chairman;
- Dr. Harvie Branscomb, Director of Libraries, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina;
- Dr. Charles Stedman Macfarland, Secretary Emeritus, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America;
- Dr. John Alexander Mackay, President, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey;
- Rabbi Samuel S. Mayerberg, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, Kansas City, Missouri;
- Reverend Raymond P. Nichols, S.J., Seattle College, Seattle, Washington.

The following fifty titles, of one hundred and eleven books considered received three or more committee votes:

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- Filson, Floyd V. *Origins of the Gospels.* N.Y. Abingdon 1938 \$2.00
Has considerable homiletic value, as the author seeks the practical bearing as well as the results of forceful criticism. Dr. MacFarland
- Golding, Louis. *In the Steps of Moses the Conqueror* N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$2.50
An interesting volume in fiction form describing the life of Arabs and Jews in Palestine today. Golding maintains a high standard in his writings. Dr. Mayerberg

- Goodspeed, E. J. The Apocrypha. Chicago, Univ. of Chicago Press. 1938 \$3.00
Places in hands of the interested layman a convenient form of the literature which grew up around the gospels in the early Church.
Rev. Nichols
- Historical Atlas of the Holy Land. N.Y. Rand, McNally 1938 \$1.00
An unusually well arranged atlas. Dr. MacFarland
- North, E. M. ed. Book of a Thousand Tongues. N.Y. Harper 1938 \$2.50
This is a very unusual volume that has excerpts from the various bible translations among the peoples of the world. It is interesting for exhibition purposes and for examination by biblical students. Its value depends upon its uniqueness. Dr. Mayerberg
- Parsons, E. W. Religion of the New Testament. N.Y. Harpers 1939 \$2.50
An interpretation of the New Testament in terms of the varieties of religion that it reveals. Dr. Branscomb
- Stewart, George. God in Our Street N.Y. Abingdon 1939 \$2.00
A simplification of the Doctrine of the Trinity, helpful to the common man or woman. Dr. MacFarland

BIOGRAPHY

- Horner, H. H. Growth of Lincoln's Faith N.Y. Abingdon 1939 \$1.50
This volume has great merit because of its simple style and the arrangement of material which proves that Abraham Lincoln, while not affiliated with any church, was deeply religious and relied upon his spiritual faith in every crisis of his life. Dr. Mayerberg
- James, P. W. George W. Truett N.Y. Macmillan 1939 \$2.50
A deserved tribute to one of the best loved and influential Christian ministers in our time. Dr. Mackay
- This volume is a popular biography of one of the most influential leaders in American Christianity in the last four decades. Though not a critical study, it supplies the factual data which will be needed in any study of a great Baptist leader. Dr. Branscomb
- McConnell, F. J. John Wesley N.Y. Abingdon 1939 \$3.00
An important contribution to the understanding of the famous founder of Methodism by the leading American Methodist. Dr. Mackay
- Williamson, C. C. Great Catholics N.Y. Macmillan 1939 \$2.50
Especially valuable because it contains biography of modern notable Catholics in fields of science and sociology. Rev. Nichols

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

- Angus, Samuel. Essential Christianity N.Y. Macmillan 1939 \$2.00
A fresh study of what is essential in Christianity by one of the outstanding scholars and liberal leaders of Australian Christianity.
Dr. Branscomb

- Berdyaeu, Nicholas. Solitude and Society N.Y. Scribner 1938 \$3.00
A plea in part, for philosophy, and for its reunion with theology. One way of interpreting "the Existential philosophy" in religion. Dr. MacFarland
- Berdyaeu believes that the discovery of the subjective attitude is illustrative of the best in modern thought. The tragic element in human life is made the basis for belief, and on the basis of this tragedy, a system is developed. Solitude is the essence of the human being; in this solitude man discovers himself and his relation to God. Dr. Mayerberg
- Black, Hugh. Christ of Caesar N.Y. Revell 1938 \$2.00
An historical appraisal of the foundation of democracy. Well developed thesis that true Christianity must be foundation for democracy. Rev. Nichols
- Bonnell, J. S. Pastoral Psychiatry N.Y. Harper 1938 \$2.50
A fascinating discussion of the "cure of souls" by one of the most successful American pastors. Dr. Mackay
- Brown, W. A. Case for Theology in the University. Chicago, U. of Chicago press 1938 \$1.50
An essay in answer to President Hutchins assumption that theology can no longer unify the various phases of modern university thought. President Hutchins writes a preface for the volume in which he says that this is precisely the kind of book that I had hoped my writings might provoke. Dr. Branscomb
- Burt, E. A. Types of Religious Philosophy N.Y. Harper 1939 \$3.00
An analysis, presenting comparisons and contrasts between types of philosophy in an entirely objective manner. Dr. MacFarland
- Dickie, E. P. Revelation and Response N.Y. Scribner 1938 \$2.50
For those who believe in plenary revelation, Dr. Dickie's book will prove a well written and scholarly presentation of the subject which will prove a source of strength to the convictions in the matter. From the literary viewpoint it has especial merit. Dr. Mayerberg
- Gilson, E.H. Reason and revelation in the Middle Ages. N.Y. Scribner 1938 \$1.50
A brief but illuminating description of the harmony between reason and revelation as established by medieval thinkers. Rev. Nichols
- Greenwood, W. O. Biology and Christian belief. N.Y. Macmillan 1939 \$1.75
A most valuable study of the insufficiency of mechanistic interpretation of life. Dr. Mackay
A brief coordination of latest scientific findings with traditional Christian belief. Good. Rev. Nichols
- Hopwood, P. G. S. Testament of Faith N.Y. Macmillan, 1939 \$2.00
This book offers a first-class apologetics for the validity of religious faith. Dr. Mackay
- Horton, W. M. Contemporary Continental Theology N.Y. Harper 1938 \$2.00
A brief and simple survey of theological ideas which have become influential as the result of the present day of crisis. Dr. MacFarland

- Kennedy, John. God Whom We Ignore. N.Y. Macmillan. 1938 \$2.00
The author considers many reasons why men do not worship and the various physical distractions that turn men away from spiritual expression. He points out the duty and the task of ministry in their endeavor to bring men to God. The format of the book is interesting and the style is simple. The volume is an expression of a deeply religious man which will receive an echo from similar spirits. Dr. Mayerberg
- Link, H. C. Rediscovery of Man N. Y. Macmillan 1938 \$1.75
A study of the essential factors entering in the development of personality and a vigorous defense of the importance of self-responsibility and self-determinism in protest against many current tendencies. Dr. Branscomb
- Maritain, Jacques. True Humanism. N.Y. Scribner, 1938 \$3.50
This is an admirable discussion of the whole problem of the relationship between Christianity on the one hand and history, civilization and culture on the other. Dr. Mackay
- Richards, G. W. Creative controversies in Christianity N.Y. Revell 1938 \$1.50
This volume is a compilation of the "James Sprunt" lectures of 1938. It is liberally supplied with footnotes and is a clear deliniation of the development that has come in Christianity through honest discussion of controversial points of theologies as they clash with the dictates of philosophic systems. Dr. Mayerberg
- Stuart, Mrs. Grace. Achievement of personality in the light of psychology and religion N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$1.75
An exceedingly clear and cogent statement concerning the importance of religion in the attainment of true personality. Dr. Mackay
- Whale, John Seldon. Right to Believe. N.Y. Scribner 1938 \$1.25
This is a fascinating series of studies on religious topics by the outstanding British preacher. Dr. Mackay

HISTORICAL

- Braden, C. The World's Religion. Cokesbury. Nashville 1939 \$1.50
A brief account of the great religious groups in the world today; purely objective -- handy. Rev. Nichols
- Flew, R. Newton. Jesus and His Church N.Y. Abingdon 1938 \$2.00
A reverent and scholarly study of one of the most living contemporary themes, the origin of the Church and its relationship to Jesus Christ. Dr. Mackay
Deals with a subject of contemporary significance, although it goes too far in its view that Jesus established "the Church." Dr. MacFarland
Through a rapid survey of church history, the author reaches the conclusions that Jesus created a new church with a radically changed ideology as contrasted with other forms of religious expression. To Christians it will bring strength; to others it will produce controversy. Dr. Mayerberg

- Frey, Arthur. Cross and Swastika N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$2.50
The best discussion in small compass of the origin and issues of the religious conflict in Germany. Dr. Mackay
- Latourette, Kenneth S. History of the Expansion of Christianity N.Y. Harpers 1938 \$3.50
The expansion of Christianity from 500 to 1500. Dr. MacFarland
- Dodd, C. H. History and the Gospel N.Y. Scribners 1938 \$2.00
Develops a new approach to the New Testament which has to do with events in which the whole meaning of history is revealed, reverting back to the interpretation of the early Christians and reversing the later results of liberal historical criticism. Dr. MacFarland
- Lietzmann, Hans Founding of the Church Universal N.Y. Scribners 1938 \$4.00
This volume is the clearest exposition on the development of the church with its techniques and philosophies that I have yet seen. It is invaluable to students of church history. The descriptions of the men who developed the church creeds is illuminating. Dr. Mayerberg
- Moffat, James First Five Centuries of the Church Nashville. Cokesbury 1938 \$2.00
An excellent brief account of historical progress of Christianity--pedagogical in presentation. Excellent for students. Rev. Nichols
- Piper, Otto God in History N.Y. Macmillan 1939 \$2.00
Very interesting philosophy of historical Christianity. Brought up to date by keen analysis of conflict between secular, state and all Christianity. Short Protestant viewpoint helpful to all. Rev. Nichols
- Quick, O. C. Doctrines of the Creed N.Y. Scribners 1938 \$3.75
The volume contains a clear analysis of the fundamental Christian creeds. It is historically considered and the source from which the creeds are delivered are presented clearly. Dr. Mayerberg
- Robinson, H. W. History of Israel N.Y. Scribners 1938 \$2.25
A brief but comprehensive study of the history and significance of the Jewish people. Dr. Mackay
- White, H. V. A working faith for the world N.Y. Harpers 1939 \$2.00
It is the author's contention that Christianity, rid of some of its medieval accretions can prove a faith dynamic for the world. The book extorts as well as it explains. Christian theologians will find controversial passages but will like the sincerity of the author. Dr. Mayerberg
- Wood, H. G. Did Christ Really Live N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$1.75
A book in which the contention that Jesus never lived is dealt with in a popular and decisive way.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

- Scott-Craig, T. S. K. Christian Attitude to Peace and War N.Y. Scribner 1938 \$1.75

This is a brief and very able discussion of diverse types of Christian attitude to the problem of war and peace. Dr. Mackay

Sheen, Fulton J. Liberty, Equality and Fraternity N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$2.00
Liberty, unrestrained, permits capitalism to flourish with its evils. Communism speaks in the name of equality and destroys liberty. Catholicism answers that a reconstruction of the social order must begin with fraternity. Society must be organized not in terms of rites but in terms of functions. It is a choice between the clenched fists of Communism or the folded hand of Catholicism to readjust the evils of capitalism.
Dr. Mayerberg

Stamp, S. J. Christianity and Economics N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$2.00
The views of a Christian layman on the place of the minister, the Christian and the Church, rather conservative, finding the main point to be an approach to the motives of individuals. Dr. MacFarland

Sir Josiah is both a leader of British economic thought and an active lay-leader of the non-conformist religious organizations. His treatment of religion and economics is fresh, vital and wisely balanced throughout.
Dr. Branscomb

DEVOTIONAL

Borden, Lucille P. Once in Palestine N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$1.50
A beautiful paraphrase of the gospels on Mary's life. An elaboration and imaginative development of the history of man's life. Rev. Nichols

Hill, C. M. World's Great Religious Poetry N.Y. Macmillan 1938 \$1.70
An unusually well selected and complete anthology of religious verse.
Dr. Mackay

Kagawa, Toyohiko Meditations on the Holy Spirit Nashville Cokesbury 1938
Of especial value in its indication of the way in which a Japanese mind comprehends Christian faith.

Kierkegaard, Soren. Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing N.Y. Harper 1938 \$2.00
This book is really a meditation beautifully translated by Douglas V. Steere. Though devotional literature will not usually be bought by libraries, the volume is of importance as making available to English readers further knowledge of the thought of one of the influential theological figures of the last century. Dr. Branscomb

VARIA

Maus, Cynthia P. Christ and the Fine Arts N.Y. Harper 1938 \$3.95
Life of Christ with pictures from many of the masters. Filled with "selections". Valuable in any library, especially useful to the youth. Some good matter for retreats. Rev. Nichols

Slater, J. R. Recent Literature and Religion N.Y. Harper 1938 \$2.00
An interesting survey of the attitude towards religion of recent scientist, philosophers, and men of letters. Dr. Mackay

EDUCATIONAL

Perkins, Jeanette. Children's Worship in the Church School N.Y. Harper 1939
\$2.00

A superb book which fulfills its purpose. Any church school can profit
by its material. Dr. Mayerberg.