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For release Sunday morning, June 22, 1941

FIFTY OUTSTANDING RELIGIOUS BOOKS
(Published May 1, 1940 - May 1, 1941)

The Religious Books Section of the American Library Association presented its annual selection of religious publications for the year, May 1940 to May 1941, at a meeting of the Association's sixty-third annual conference yesterday afternoon in Old South Church, Boston.

The books are representative of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant literature, and are chosen by a committee composed of members of the three faiths:

Julia Killian, Librarian, College of Saint Elizabeth,
Convent Station, New Jersey, chairman
Dr. Louis Finkelstein, President, Jewish Theological
Seminary, New York, New York
Dr. Kenneth Gapp, Librarian, Princeton Theological
Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey
Dr. Erdman Harris, Lecturer on Religious Education and
Psychology, Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York
Dr. Halford E. Luccock, Professor of Homiletics, Yale
University Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut
Dr. Frank A. Mullin, Director of Libraries, Catholic
University of America, Washington, D. C.

Albright, W. F. From the Stone Age to Christianity: Monotheism and the
Historical Process. Baltimore, John Hopkins Press, 1940. \$2.50.

An important contribution to biblical theology, philosophy of history, and archaeological method, which advances the date of the development of the idea of monotheism to the end of the second millennium B. C. The author was one time the director of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Jerusalem.

Aubrey, E. E. Man's Search for Himself. New York, Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1940. \$1.75.

This piercing analysis of the nature of man makes careful use of social science, psychology, and religion. The treatment is philosophic and somewhat condensed. It offers an excellent statement of the problems involved in the study of the individuality, social nature, integration, and freedom of the Christian man.

Bainton, R. H. The Church of Our Fathers. New York, Scribner, 1941. \$2.50.

The story of Christianity, told in simple and colorful language for children; profusely illustrated with line drawings of woodcuts taken from contemporary sources. This is a beautifully written book deserving of the highest recommendation. It is suitable for the home and for the public or church library.

Bein, Alex. Theodore Herzl. Jewish Publishing Society of America, New York 1940, \$3.00.

A moving biography of one of the truly great figures in the history of modern Judaism. Without making any attempt to present Herzl in superlatives, Bein depicts him as a man of deep conviction and immense power.

Bennett, John C. Christian Realism. New York, Scribner, 1941, \$2.00.

This book is one of the best Protestant estimates of the present religious situation in which man finds himself, set forth in crisp phraseology with crystal-clear illustrative material. It is written for the educated layman and average minister.

Bowie, W. R. The Bible. (The Hazen Books on Religion). New York Association Press. 1940. \$0.50

An attractive and neat survey of the meaning and place of the Bible for men today. It is wholly constructive and positive in its approach. The language is non-technical. The author is thoroughly at home with the results of modern scholarship, and he is remarkably clear in expression, easy to grasp, and always fundamental.

Cecil, Lord Edward Christian David. The Oxford Book of Christian Verse. New York, Oxford University Press, 1940. \$3.00.

Certainly a book to be recommended for all public libraries, and to be made as widely known as possible.

Coffin, H. S. Religion Yesterday and Today. New York Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1940. \$1.75.

This is a notable contribution to religious literature. Written with unusual vigor, the book gives expression to living faith. Doctor Coffin's volume is of particular value at the present time, as a guide for those who are confused regarding the vital issues of the day.

Davidson, H. M. Good Christian Men. New York, Scribner, 1940. \$2.00.

This is a group of biographical sketches of Christian leaders. It is popular in character and provides fascinating reading.

Dibelius, Martin. The Sermon on the Mount. New York, Scribner, 1940. \$1.50.

A consideration of the intent and purpose of the teachings of Jesus as these may be seen in the Sermon on the Mount. The author is an outstanding New Testament scholar. He argues that the purpose of the teachings of Jesus is to acquaint men with the will of God; that while men are not able to perform this will, they can be transformed by it. The intent is not so much that men "do something", as that they "be something." The substance of this book is important enough to appeal to all New Testament scholars. The presentation is simple enough to be comprehended by any intelligent reader.

Edwards, R. H. A Person-Minded Ministry. Nashville, Cokesbury, 1940. \$2.00.

This volume represents the distilled essence of the wisdom acquired by the author in a long life of thoughtful and helpful personal counseling. Primarily for ministers and workers, but to be recommended to anyone who is interested in the revitalizing of our religious life.

Elliott, H. S. Can Religious Education be Christian? New York, Macmillan, 1940. \$2.50.

For those interested in religious education, this is a book which includes a wide historical background, a careful investigation of the field at the present time, and a style which is interesting and stimulating.

Ellwood, C. A. World's Need of Christ. Abingdon-Cokesbury, New York, 1940. \$2.00.

Taking as his theme the necessity for the imitation of Christ in social relationships, the author, who is professor of Sociology at Duke University, forcefully presents the approach of Christianity to social problems, and pleads for the employment of Christian principles in the reconstruction of civilization.

Foote, H. W. Three Centuries of American Hymnody. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1940. \$4.00.

An excellent portrayal of the development of hymnody and hymn-books from the Bay psalm book to the twentieth century. Authoritative and indispensable for the study of American hymnology.

Hardy, E. R. Militant on Earth. New York, Oxford, 1940. \$3.00.

The book fills the real need for a one volume book on the history of the church which is broad in its inclusiveness and is written not for scholars but for the general reader.

Harkness, G. E. The Faith by Which the Church Lives. New York, Abingdon, 1940. \$1.50

A choice presentation of theological and ethical essays, originally given as lectures at DePauw University. They are popular in exposition, retaining the freshness and spontaneity of the spoken word. The discussion is throughout thoughtful and practical. This is one of the few books of theology suitable for lay readers. It is excellent for the public library. The viewpoint is that of a moderate liberal.

Haroutunian, Joseph. Wisdom and Folly in Religion. New York, Scribner, 1940. \$2.00.

A cogently written account of the inevitable tension in the religious mind between the real and the ideal, reason and revelation, by an author who has been profoundly affected by the contemporary rediscovery of the insights of classical theology.

Harris, Erdmann, Introduction to Youth. New York, Macmillan, 1940. \$1.75.

This is filled with more good sense and less mere sentiment than any book on the leadership of youth. It is interesting, practically helpful, and has genuinely valuable content.

Haydon, A. E. Biography of the Gods. New York, Macmillan, 1941. \$2.50

The gods of the living religions: Hindu, Buddhist, Mohammedan, Jewish, and Christian. The point of view is liberal, the treatment is objective.

Holt, A. E. Christian Roots of Democracy in America. New York, Friendship Press, 1941. \$1.00.

This is an incisive, popular and vividly illustrated account of the way in which the basic concepts of democracy and the essential elements of the democratic faith root back into our religious traditions. For the layman and young people rather than for the specialist.

Hopkins, C. H. Rise of the Social Gospel in American Protestantism, 1865-1915. (Yale studies in religious education, 14) New Haven, Yale Univ. press, 1940. \$3.00.

This detailed history of the social awakening of the churches makes a distinct contribution to the literature of the subject which hitherto has consisted mainly of interpretative studies. The activities of the outstanding leaders and organizations, as well as the extensive support of men of lesser importance, are well described. A supplementary bibliography of 1,500 items is in preparation.

Horton, W. M. Can Christianity Save Civilization? New York, Harper, 1940. \$2.00

An original and thoughtful discussion of the present situation.

Hurd, M. A. Portraits of Jesus in the New Testament. New York, Association Press, 1940. \$1.75.

An unusually fine presentation of the various pictures of Jesus in the Gospels and the Epistles, together with a few moving sermons, by a thoughtful and scholarly woman preacher, who was beloved by the people of her rural parishes.

Johnson, F. E. Social Gospel Re-examined. New York, Harper, 1940. \$2.00.

An attempt to reconcile the social gospel in its more fundamental aspects with the trends in current theological thinking in America, especially the trend toward the authoritarianism of Neo-orthodoxy. The author concludes that "a vigorous social ethic is vital to Christianity, while our liberal social Christianity needs to rediscover its roots in the historic Christian faith." The book is written with simplicity and is not difficult to read.

Jordan, W. K. Development of Religious Toleration in England. Attainment of the theory and accomodations in thought and institutions (1640-1660). Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1940. \$5.00.

The fourth and last volume of a work of outstanding scholarship, covering the period from the English Reformation to the Restoration in 1660.

Joy, C. R. (Comp). Harper's Topical Concordance. New York, Harper, 1940. 478 pp. \$3.95.

It is a useful piece of work. It is not a concordance in the sense that a reference is made to every place in the Bible where the work occurs. It really indexes ideas and gives the verses in the Bible which contain important thoughts upon the various topics. Unimportant material is excluded. It would prove quite useful in a public library.

Latourette, K. S. Anno Domini: Jesus, History and God. New York, Harper, 1940. 263pp. \$2.50.

A facile survey of the general influence of Jesus upon history from the beginning of the Christian era to the present time. The book is well written and interesting, and offers an entertaining interpretation of the development of Christian culture.

Latourette, K. S. Great Century, A. D. 1800 - A.D. 1914. New York, Harper, 1941. 524pp. \$3.50.

The fourth volume of the brilliant History of the Expansion of Christianity brings the narrative of events in Europe and the United States down to 1914. Two more volumes in the series will appear. Comprehensive, well documented, and remarkably interesting.

Leen, James. By Jacob's Well. New York, Kenedy, 1940. \$3.50.

This book is an excellent description of a religious experience which has lately become quite popular with members of many faiths-- the spiritual retreat. It deals with the fundamental truths of religion in an effort toward ultimate application.

Lewis, Edwin. Philosphy of the Christian Revelation. New York, Harper, 1940. 365pp. \$3.00.

A fresh interpretation of the place of revelation in Christianity, written from the point of view of Neo-supernaturalism. The nature of revelation, the problems arising from its relation to philosophical and scientific views, and its vitality in the modern world are well presented. Although constant reference is made to the views of philosophers, the book is interesting and not difficult to read.

Macintosh, D. C. Problem of Religious Knowledge. New York, Harper, 1940. \$3.50.

A technical and heavily documented study of the religious element in the theory of knowledge.

McGown, C. C. The Search for the Real Jesus. (International Library of Christian Knowledge) New York, Scribner, 1940. \$2.50.

There is a little too much minor detail for the average reader, but the value for the scholar is enhanced by it.

MacKay, J. A. A Preface to Christian Theology. New York, Macmillan, 1941. \$2.00.

This is probably the best short statement of the reverent religious realism now winning an increasing number of adherents among thoughtful Protestants. The style is clear and readable, the thought profound without being too involved. A book for all intelligent laymen.

McKenzie, J. K. Psychology, Psychotherapy and Evangelicalism. New York, Macmillan, 1941. \$2.75.

This is an exceptionally useful book. The author was one of the first to study the relation of psychotherapy to religion. In this volume he restricts his study to the psychology of one particular type of religious experience, that of the evangelical. After a short presentation of more general matter on the psychology of religion and its relation to religious experience and doctrine and on the meaning of evangelicalism, the author carefully studies the psychological features of evangelical experience and the place of conscience, the need for salvation, conversion, guilt, sin, and forgiveness. The last part of the book is devoted to suggestions regarding psychological approaches to evangelical doctrine, where the author's views are very tentative. The book is an important volume in the sphere of psychology of religion.

Maritain, Jacques. Scholasticism and Politics. New York, Macmillan, 1940. \$2.00.

A technical work, of the greatest value to students of religion. A philosopher analyzes the problems of the present day with marvelous freedom and penetration, keeping continually within the limits of the Thomist tradition.

May, Rollo. The Springs of Creative Living. New York, Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1940. \$2.00.

Very thoughtful and suggestive work in the field of the psychological aspect of character building. It is a valid and valuable work in a field that is crowded with charlatan stuff.

Morrison, C. C. What is Christianity? Chicago, Willett, Clark, 1940. \$3.00.

The Lyman Beecher Lectures delivered at Yale University by the Editor of the Christian Century. The author seeks to establish the essence of Christianity as residing in the prevailing opinion and practice of the existing or empirical church, which is composed of all of the followers of Christ in all lands. The argument is original, stimulating and provocative. This is an important book from the standpoint of the discussion which has issued from its publication, as well as for the position it assumes.

Niebuhr, H. R. Meaning of Revelation. New York, Macmillan, 1941. \$2.00.

This is without doubt one of the most significant and important statements of the central feature in orthodox or confessional theology which has come from the pen of any American scholar. It is a book with great depth and profound thinking, exhibiting a striking panorama of learning and thought. It bears throughout the marks of inner struggle and human sympathy. The language employed is beautiful and at times almost poetic.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. Christianity and Power Politics. Scribner, 1940. \$2.00.

This book should be included as giving Niebuhr's position in more than usual ease of reading. As a statement of the author's general outlook on present situations, the book rates a place in the public library.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. Nature and Destiny of Man; a Christian Interpretation. I. Human Nature. (Gifford Lectures). New York, Scribner, 1941. \$2.75.

The first series of the Gifford Lectures, which were given by one of America's most brilliant theologians. This series concerns itself with an analysis of the nature of man, and of its implications for religious faith and practice. This volume contains the clearest summary of the author's thinking to date. The book is for the scholar and the large library, rather than the popular reader.

Rall, H. F. Christianity: An Inquiry Into Its Nature and Truth. New York, Scribner, 1940. \$2.50.

This comprehensive statement of the foundation of religion and of the Christian faith will prove extremely useful in all libraries. Unusually clear and lucid, it covers the whole field of the philosophy of religion with reference to the historical, empirical, and rational elements of religion. The winner of the \$15,000 Bross Award.

Religions of Democracy; Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism in Creed and Life, by Louis Finklestein, J. Elliot Ross and W. A. Brown, New York, Devin-Adair, 1941. \$2.00.

The distinctive features of the three great religions of American life are presented with the purpose of developing deeper understanding between their adherents, and with the objective of furthering mutual cooperation in democratic life. Sponsored by the National Association of Jews and Christians.

Roman Catholic Church. Pope, 1939 - (Pius XII) Pope Speaks; the words of Pius XII. New York, Harcourt, 1940. \$3.50.

This collection of the encyclicals of Pope Pius XII is a "must" book for public libraries, both for reference and reading. It is obviously an indispensable work for all students of contemporary religion, and for readers who see the need for revitalized religion in our day.

Seabury, David. How Jesus Heals our Minds Today. Boston, Little, Brown, 1940. \$2.50.

Without pretending to be scholarly from the standpoint of Biblical criticism, this book by a consulting psychologist is a positive tonic to distressed and confused people, with many practical suggestions for the achievement of a mentally healthy attitude, definitely Christian in emphasis.

Sizoo, J. R. Not Alone, New York, Macmillan, 1940. \$1.75.

An inspirational volume, simply written, well illustrated, forthright and positive, with a message of courage and hope for the average Christian.