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For Release Wednesday Afternoon, May 30, 1940

FIFTY OUTSTANDING RELIGIOUS BOOKS
(Published June 1, 1939-May 1, 1940)

The following members of the Book Selection Committee of the Religious Books Section of the American Library Association, representing the religious thought as expressed through Catholicism, Judaism, and Protestantism, announced the selection of the Fifty Outstanding Religious Books, submitted by the publishers and published from June 1, 1939 to May 1, 1940, at a meeting of the Religious Books Section held this morning during the sixty-second annual conference of the Association convening in Cincinnati, May 26 to June 1, 1940.

Julia H. Killian, Librarian, Santa Maria Library,
College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.,
chairman;
Dr. Kenneth S. Gapp, Librarian, Princeton Theological
Seminary, Princeton, N.J.;
Dr. Erdman Harris, Lecturer, Religious Education and
Psychology, Union Theological Seminary, New York City;
Dr. Halford E. Luccock, Professor, Homiletics, Yale
University Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.;
Rabbi Samuel S. Mayerberg, Linwood Blvd. and Flora
Ave., Kansas City, Mo.;
The Reverend Frank A. Mullin, Director of Libraries,
Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

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Asch, Shalom. The Nazarene. N.Y., Putnam, 1939. \$2.75.

An extremely interesting novel which gives a good portrayal of the Jewish background of the life of Christ.

Attwater, Donald. St. John Chrysostom. Milwaukee, Wis., Bruce, 1939. \$2.00

One of the most colorful of the early Christian Fathers, the "golden-mouthed" moralist, is here described by a scholar who is thoroughly at home in the Eastern Church. That familiarity has enabled the author to place the subject of his book in a prominent place against a background vividly described.

- Baillie, John. *Our Knowledge of God*. N.Y., Scribner, 1939, \$2.50
An excellent study in the field of the philosophy of religion. Scholarly and learned, it nevertheless treats primarily of current issues and focuses attention on vital aspects of man's knowledge of God. The presentation is clear and lucid, although content is somewhat difficult.
- Baldwin, A. G. *Drama of Our Religion*. N.Y., Oxford, 1939. \$1.80
This is an excellent volume somewhat of the text-book type, for the layman or intelligent young person, giving a readable account of the sweep and power of the Jewish-Christian tradition from the liberal Protestant point of view. There are included references to what was happening in other parts of the world parallel to the events in Palestine. Helpful topical bibliographies are supplied.
- Ballou, Robert, (ed). *Bible of the World*. N.Y., Viking, 1939. \$5.00
A wide selection of passages from the sacred books of the religions, well arranged to portray their distinctive beliefs. Indexed.
- Berdyaeff, Nicolas. *Spirit and Reality*. N.Y., Scribner, 1939. \$3.00
A difficult philosophic presentation of spirit and its objectification, with a penetrating discussion of its role in asceticism, the problem of evil, mysticism, and creative spirituality.
- Blanton, Margaret Gray. *Bernadette of Lourdes*. N.Y., Longmans, 1939. \$2.50
This work, written by a Protestant and the wife of a distinguished psychiatrist who is preparing a book on the cures of Lourdes, is an excellent account of the young saint by all the canons of human drama.
- Bro, Margueritte. *When Children Ask*. Chicago, Ill., Willett, 1940. \$2.00
Thoughtful, sensible, clear and honest answers to questions most often asked by children about religion, taking up questions about God, prayer, the church, immortality, marriage. Simply written and full of religious understanding and broad spirit.
- Bruehl, Charles. *Pope's Plan for Social Reconstruction*. N.Y., Devin-Adair, 1939. \$3.00

This book has the merit of bringing together in one constructive plan, a number of proposals to be found only in scattered works. The work in a very readable style, will be of service to the many students who are groping through the social problems of the day.
- Cohon, B. D. *The Prophets*. N.Y., Scribner, 1939. \$2.00
A prominent pastor and teacher, with a free use of quotations, gives in this work a popular treatment of a subject which has always had a distinctive appeal.
- Dakin, A. H. *Man the Measure*. Princeton, N. J., Princeton University Press, 1939. \$3.00

This is an essay in criticism of humanism as religion and will be read with interest by humanists, who will find in the book many interesting observations. Many will not agree, but most will read with interest.

Eddidin, Ben. M. Jewish Holidays and Festivals. Philadelphia, Pa., Hebrew Publishing Co., 1939

Treatment is new and the data is made accessible.

Eliot, T. S. Idea of a Christian Society. N.Y., Harcourt, 1940. \$1.50
A vigorous contention by one of the outstanding figures of modern English literature, poet and critic, that modern society has been guided by no real philosophy, and an argument that Christianity furnishes the only basis for a secure society. Brief and provocative, especially in its diagnosis of present ills.

Farrell, Walter. Companion to the Summa: Pursuit of Happiness, v. 3. N.Y., Sheed and Ward, 1940. \$3.50

Someone has referred to this author as a genial companion who clothes St. Thomas in modern English. He has succeeded, by using a style much akin to that of a good novelist, in showing how fascinating the science of theology can be. For those who like to come into contact with clear thoughts clearly expressed, this book will have a distinct appeal.

Filson, F. V. Pioneers in the Primitive Church. N.Y., Abingdon, 1940. \$3.00
Excellent biographical studies, giving the contemporary historical background. Written for popular reading. Moderately conservative in viewpoint.

Garrigou-Lagrange, Reginaldo. Predestination. St. Louis, Mo., Herder, 1939. \$2.00

An absorbing subject treated from the Catholic viewpoint along traditional lines by one who perhaps more than any other living scholar has devoted his studies to the mysteries of God's grace. His lengthy and careful studies, his exactness with terms and statements and arguments, together with his lucid style, have justified this present scholarly work for scholars.

Gilson, Etienne. Christianity and Philosophy. N.Y., Sheed and Ward, 1940. \$3.50

A series of lectures on Christian philosophy and the fundamental problems of the relationship between philosophy and Christianity. A good discussion of one of the most disputed issues in current theological thought.

Gilson, Etienne. Mystical Theology of St. Bernard. N.Y., Sheed & Ward, 1940. \$3.50

A careful scholar studies the mysticism of St. Bernard with the idea of correcting the partial, warped and conflicting views which have been enunciated from time to time. From the nature of the subject, which is extremely popular at the moment, the work is scholarly and will appeal chiefly to students of history and philosophy, but those who are interested will find in it a number of new and interesting conclusions.

Goodspeed, Edgar J. Christianity Goes to Press. N.Y. Macmillan, 1940. \$1.50
Short history of the publication of the Bible, popularly told, yet with sound scholarship. Particularly interesting for the author's theories of the publication of the Gospels and the Acts and the Epistles of Paul.

Goodspeed, Edgar J. Story of the Apocrypha. Chicago, Ill., Univ. of Chicago Press, 1939. \$2.00

The volume contains the most lucid and readable account of the contents, and the probable authorship and date, of the various apocryphal writings. It affords a splendid introduction to an inadequately known yet fascinating type of religious literature.

Goodykoontz, Colin. Home Missions on the American Frontier. Caldwell, Idaho, Caxton, 1939. \$3.50.

The missionary activities of Eastern Protestants, particularly of the Congregationalists and Presbyterians, in the West during the 19th century is presented from the point of view of a secular historian. Extensive use is made of manuscript sources, yet the book retains its interest and vitality.

Grant, Frederick C. Gospel of the Kingdom. N.Y., Macmillan, 1940. \$2.00
This book is a rare combination of genuine scholarship and vivid presentation. The author's thesis is that in interpreting Jesus' message about the Kingdom of God, modern scholars have too often emphasized the apocalyptic rather than the prophetic elements. This interpretation makes the gospel of Christ relevant to the struggle of those who believe in working to make this world a better place to live in without, however, robbing that gospel of its primarily religious emphasis.

Holt, Arthur E. This Nation Under God. Chicago, Ill., Willett, 1939. \$2.00
Forceful and interesting treatment of an important theme, the religious bases of democracy. Realistic treatment of the defects of democracy and the contribution Christianity may make to the creation of a genuine and effective democracy.

James, Fleming. Personalities of the Old Testament. N.Y., Scribner, 1939. \$3.00
Surely this is one of the finest books on the Old Testament to appear in recent years. Its six hundred pages are closely packed with information and insight on the principal prophetic and historical figures of the Jewish tradition, but the volume is written with an attractiveness and vividness which carries the reader along. The author wears his learning lightly, never ponderously.

Jones, Rufus. Flowering of Mysticism. N.Y., Macmillan, 1939. \$2.50
A life-long student of mysticism, and a charming writer, has here given an illuminating and scholarly account of the fourteenth century Friends of God in the Rhine Valley from Hildegard and the Gertrudes, Eckhart, Fauler, Suso to Ruysbroeck and Grotte. Not all who are interested in mysticism will follow the author in his observations on mysticism in general, but most will agree that his picture of a particular group is well done.

Jung, Leo. Judaism in a Changing World. N.Y., Oxford, 1939. \$3.00
Will prove popular among Zionists and conservative Jews.

Keny, Sir Frederic George. Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts. N.Y. Harper, 1940. \$3.00

An excellent description of the manuscripts, the transmission of the text, and the most important printed versions of the Bible. Well written and illustrated it definitely supersedes the earlier edition of 1895.

Latourette, K. S. History of the Expansion of Christianity: Three Centuries of Advance, 1500-1800. v.3. N.Y., Harper, 1939. \$3.50

This interesting and informative work of a distinguished scholar will appeal to any reader, interested in serious subjects. Long and extensive study has enabled the author to present an unusual amount of new information. The terse style has resulted in an admirable economy in handling the material.

Leon, Philip. The Philosophy of Courage. N.Y., Oxford, 1939. \$2.00
This work expounds, with a vivid enthusiasm, the philosophy underlying the Oxford group movement. The style is clear, the exposition is careful, the message is definite.

Ligon, Ernest M. Their Future is Now. N.Y., Macmillan, 1939. \$3.00
This is a book on character education written for teachers, parents, and leaders of youth. It sets forth the practical application of the Beatitudes to the problems of our day, and gives specific suggestions for those who are dealing with children in the nursery and on up through childhood and adolescence. With each copy comes a huge chart on "The Growth and Development of Christian Personality" which is highly controversial psychologically but bound to be suggestive and stimulating to anyone with educational responsibilities.

Love, Julian P. How to Read the Bible. N. Y., Macmillan, 1940. \$2.00
Well arranged, practical directions for reading and understanding the Bible.

Manson, Thomas, (ed.) A companion to the Bible. N.Y., Scribner, 1939. \$5.00
Outstanding scholars present in condensed form the essential facts regarding the Bible, the archaeology of Palestine, the history and religion of Israel and of the early church. A very useful and up-to-date handbook.

Maritain, Jacques. A Christian Looks at the Jewish Question. N.Y., Longmans, Green, 1939. \$1.00

Very valuable for creating understanding.

Maynard, Theodore. The Apostle of Charity. N.Y., Dial Press, 1939. \$3.00
This fascinating biography of a great social worker traces his career as a peasant, priest, slave, and apostle of charity. Although the author relies throughout on scholarly sources, the story is eminently timely, interesting and popular.

Micklem, Nathaniel. Socialism and the Roman Catholic Church. N.Y., Oxford, 1939. \$3.00

The essential nature of the conflict between the German State and the Catholic Church is analyzed. A detailed history of the conflict is given in chronological sequence to the end of 1938. Published for the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Miller, Perry. The New England Mind. N.Y., Macmillan, 1939. \$3.75

This is a solid, meaty, scholarly presentation of the Puritan mentality of 17th century New England, fascinatingly set forth. It describes in detail the views of the period on religion, Character, mind, nature, man, society, and the church. No more thorough piece of work on the subject has appeared to date.

Muste, A. J. Non-violence in an Agressive World. N.Y., Harper, 1940. \$2.00

This is an eloquent and well-illustrated presentation of an unpopular point of view, issued at a moment which appears to make it more unrealistic than it would have seemed a few years ago. No one concerned about the conflict of loyalties involved in the use of force and war can afford to neglect the issues so cogently presented, whether one agrees or not with the author's analysis.

Palmer, Robert. Catholics and Unbelievers. Princeton, N.J., Prin. Univ. Press., 1939. \$4.00

The outlook and ideas of the opponents of the 12th century philosophers are lucidly presented in relation to the popular attack upon traditional social and religious views. A distinct contribution to the understanding of the period which saw the rise of many modern ideals.

Pilcher, Charles Venn. Hereafter in Jewish and Christian Thoughts. N.Y., Macmillan, 1940, \$2.25

This volume is original in its approach and summarizes the essential elements in the historical consideration of life after death.

Raymond, Ernest. In the Steps of St. Francis. N.Y., Kinsey. 1939, \$2.75

Popular life of St. Francis, using a journey over the scenes which he touched as a thread on which to tell the story. Universal in its appeal, beautifully and movingly written.

Riddle, Donald. The Gospels. Chicago, Ill., University of Chicago Press. 1939. \$3.00

A most suggestive study of the early history of the Gospels which combines sociological interpretation with some of the results of form criticism. Popular in style.

Robinson, Henry. Suffering: Human and Divine. N.Y., Macmillan, 1939. \$2.00

A calm discussion leads to the view that the problem of suffering may be solved by a religious transformation in which the problem is surpassed.

Sherrill, Lewis. Opening Doors of Childhood. N.Y., Macmillan, 1939, \$1.75

This volume has a definite religious approach and a clear psychological basis. It is not unusual but will prove helpful to parents.

Stewart, G. S. Lower Levels of Prayer. N.Y., Macmillan, 1939. \$1.65.

The author is convinced that many people do not get what they should out of prayer because they are discouraged, by the claims of the mystics and the seers, from starting where they are on the "lower levels" and working upward to the higher experiences of the devotional life. With great practicality and helpfulness this book leads the way, and shows how anyone who is sincere may achieve a definite enrichment of spirit in prayer. A splendid volume for laymen and intelligent young people.

- Struzo, Luigi. Church and State. N.Y., Longman, Green, 1939. \$5.00
A monumental historical compendium of the history of the relations of Church and State to the present day written by a philosopher, theologian, sociologist and statesman who for two decades has been an active participant in the affairs which he so vividly describes.
- Trueblood, David, Knowledge of God. N.Y., Harper, 1939. \$2.00
The professor of philosophy of religion at Stanford University presents the view that religious knowledge is as valid as other kinds of knowledge and that it is in general subject to the same tests of validity. The point of view is clearly and effectively explained. Some Quaker testimony and much practical apologetic for the trustworthiness of religious experience are presented.
- Van Dusen, Henry P. For the Healing of the Nations. N.Y., Scribner, 1940. \$1.00
This is the most colorful and convincing brief presentation of the missionary cause to have been published in recent years. It has the flavor of a travel diary, but it is rooted in great doctrines of the Christian faith, and presented by a theologian whose enthusiasm for the world-wide aspects of the Church's mission has increased after first-hand contact with the workers in many countries.
- Vlastos, Gregory. Christian Faith and Democracy N.Y., Association Press, 1939. \$.50
This slender volume contains the most succinct defense of the year for the proposition that Christian Faith implies many of the characteristics of democracy at its best. The author does not maintain that democracy as we know it is a "Christian" form of government. His deeply religious insights lead him to recognize the inevitable tension between the divine challenge and the human compromise. But the book does set forth those points of similarity between the Christian view of nature of man and the democratic stress upon the importance of the individual.
- Wilder, Amos N. Spiritual Aspects of the New Poetry. N.Y., Harpers, 1940. \$2.50
A pioneer book in its field, in fact the only book. Valuable both for its sympathetic interpretation of modern poetry, American and British, and insight into contemporary religious problems.
- Winslow, Ola. Jonathan Edwards. N.Y., Macmillan, 1940. \$3.50.
While attention is centered mainly on Edwards as a person, sufficient reference to the background of his age is given to present a favorable and well-rounded portrayal of his life and work.