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BULLETIN

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THE THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIAN AND HIS COMMUNITY

Like the concentric circles of the assignment of Christ to the early disciples, the librarian’s communities of interest and responsibility are “both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The theological librarian’s “Jerusalem” is doubtless his own faculty and student body. Here is the first call upon him in the morning and the last call at night. He provides books for the reserve shelf and helps to stock the professors’ shelves before the term opens. After it closes he gathers in the volumes, many of them battered and worn, and with a real sense of satisfaction places them tenderly back on the shelf, or bundles them off to the bindery. The rush of locating materials for the special paper or thesis that must be in the hands of the professor by “T”-day finds him at the height of his service and joy. But along the way he has frequently been able to call the attention of a faculty member to a new book in his field and to provide a serious student with a selected classic for the nourishment of his soul. His support of the educational program of the school will usually determine the evaluation of his services at the end of the course.

While this service is primary, the theological librarian, like any other librarian, must not stop with his intramural influence. The city in which he resides, and the other librarians and institutions in his immediate area should enjoy his acquaintance and benefit from his labors. He should “pay his respects” to his colleagues, discuss their collections and special services, and perhaps work out a plan for cooperation in the subject coverage of the respective collections and in the kinds of service that each can expect from the other. Local pastors would frequently like to know that they would be as welcome to use the theological collection in their community as they are the public library, or to such an extent as the individual situation will warrant. Private book collectors should be visited. Booksellers and second-hand book dealers should know the seminary librarian by sight, and know something of the nature of his collection and his interests.

His “Samaria” would probably be the section of the country in which he finds himself, his state and surrounding states. If there is a state library association, he should be active in it. He should be alert to sectional divisions of the American Library Association, or other library associations to which he may belong. He may want to visit book fairs and rare book exhibits, art exhibits, and other cultural functions of major import. He will use the interlibrary loan facilities nearest to him whenever he can.

His “all the world” contacts may be fewer, but nonetheless important. His acquisitions will often come from afar—from abroad, in many instances. Theological librarians abroad can frequently answer that question that defies answer in America. Exchanges and exchange acquisition arrangements can often be worked out. “Hands across the sea” will greatly enrich any librarian.

Arnold D. Ehler
NEWS COLUMNS IN RELIGIOUS MAGAZINES

It has become quite popular for editors or other writers to cast a concerned eye at the news of the world which has religious or Biblical implications, and to select certain items for reproduction, with or without comment, in many of the religious periodicals of general interest.

This service may be performed with several ends in view. One is to bring before the general reader significant events that usually escape the small-town newspaper, and many times the metropolitan press as well. They are gleaned from many sources, but usually the compilers are persons who are in a position to see a great many publications, and who have a vigorous contemporary consciousness.

The number of these columns will undoubtedly surprise one who has not become aware of this current journalistic phenomenon, which has likely not come in for very much critical observation before. We leave it for a journalist to treat these as a type of feature column. The title and editor are listed as they appear in the magazine, and the name of the periodical, and its publishing address (or editorial address, if different) are given. The listing is in alphabetical order by the name of the magazine.


"The March of Events." "As seen by the editors." The Evangelical Christian, 366 Bay St., Toronto 1, Ont.

"God's Word in Man's World." Unsigned. The Gideon, 212 E. Superior St., Chicago 11, Ill.


"Current Events in the Light of the Bible." Wilber M. Smith's. Our Hope, P. O. Box 146, Waretown, N. J.


"In the Course of Human Events, Columns of Timely Comments." From a Vestry in Oak Park, Ill. by O. A. Geiseman. From an Office of Public Relations in New York by O. C. J. Hoffmann. This Day, Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.


In addition to these, there is one magazine that has several of these columns. The Prophetic Digest (Vol. II/III, 1950), published at Upper Darby, Pa. (P.O. Box 6), and edited by James F. Spink, F.R.G., F.V.I., until his passing on May 31, 1950, after a lengthy illness, conducts the following columns which can be classified with our group:

"What's News . . ." Conducted by Tom M. Olson, Editor of Now.

"Items of Interest." By R. J. McConnell.

"Prophetic Flashes," Conducted by Dr. Russell T. Smith.

"Around the World." By the Editor.

Es ist mit Büchern wie mit Spiegeln, wenn ein Affe hineinguckt, kann kein Apostel hinausschauen.—Lichtenberg.
A NOTABLE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS OF 225 YEARS AGO

BY WILBUR M. SMITH, D.D.

In spite of our greatly increased facilities for constructing adequate bibliographies, and though the last hundred years have seen such a vast outpouring of apologetic literature of great importance, yet there does not exist in the English language, compiled in this or any other generation, a bibliography of the defense of the Christian religion that can begin to compare in extent and comprehensiveness with the one published in Hamburg in 1725 by J. A. Fabricius. Because of a renewed interest at the present time in the study of apologetics, and because so many theses are being written in one area or another of this vast field, it would seem something more than a discussion of a merely antiquarian item to call attention to the treasures set forth in this volume.

The title of the work is as follows: DELECTUS ARGUMENTORUM ET SYLLABUS / SCRIPTORUM / QUI / VERITATEM RELIGIONIS/CHRISTIANAE / ADVERSUS / THEOS, EPICUREOS, DEISTAS SEU NATURALISTAS, IDOLOS / LATRAS, JUDEOS ET MUHAMMEDANOS / LUCUBRATIONIBUS SUIS ASSERERUNT. The imprint reads, HAMBURGI, / Sumtu THEODORI CHRISTOPHORI FELGINER, MDCC XXV. The volume consists of 755 numbered pages (8½ x 6½"), while the "Index Scriptorum" occupies twenty-nine unnumbered pages (57 columns), listing seventeen hundred names! The original vellum binding is intact.

This truly exhaustive work was written by Johann Albert Fabricius (1668-1736), who was the most gifted bibliographer of his generation. His Bibliotheca Graeca ran to fourteen volumes, and was continued by Harless, who added twelve more with an index. The list of his published writings extends to over 100 titles.

Fabricius was born in Leipzig, studied philosophy, medicine and theology there, and was appointed in 1699 Professor of Ethics and Rhetoric in the Gymnasium at Hamburg. From 1708-1711 he was also Rector of the Johanneum. He spent five years as librarian for J. F. Mayer. It is said that he possessed a private library of over 32,000 volumes.

The learned professor, whose work is written in Latin, has introduced titles of nearly all the important works in the entire gamut of apologetics that had appeared up to that time in Greek, Latin, German, French and English. Most of the more important works are analyzed and discussed; from some extended quotations are made. Often a bibliography of one particular subject will be preceded by an introductory survey of the older literature, and the more significant references to the subject in the writings of the church fathers and later theologians.

The volume opens (even before the table of contents is given) with a complete reprinting, in double-column pages, of Eusebius' great work, Demonstrationis Evangelicae. Approximately one-third of the entire volume is devoted to an exhaustive examination of the apologetic works of the church fathers down to Orosius, with minute details of each work referred to. In this part are to be found sections on works written in Greek by Jewish and Gentile writers whose statements support the truth of the Christian faith (e.g., Josephus and Plato), and a long discussion (pp. 151-178) of the lost writings of the Greek and Latin fathers.

The next six chapters (VII-XII, pp. 286-354) give the more important works written "against the atheists," chapter X, e.g., being devoted to the literature of "metaphysical arguments against atheism," including four pages of titles against the writings of Descartes!

A number of English works begin to appear in these chapters, e.g., a work published in 1660 by John Smith, Select Discourses Treating of the True Way or Method of Attaining to Divine Knowledge. Fabricius does not refer to the orig-
inal edition, but gives the titles of the chapters of the reprinted edition of 1673. Here are chapters on superstition, atheism, immortality, prophecy, and Christian conflicts with, and conquests over, Satan. The author is not mentioned in the Dictionary of National Biography, but according to Darling he was born in 1816 and died at the early age of thirty-five in 1652. Another work mentioned is The Unreasonableness of Atheism by Charles Wolseley (1630-1714), a friend of Cromwell, appointed by him in 1657, and a member of the House of Lords.

An indication of the contents of some of the more important remaining chapters will reveal the vast scope of Fabricius' labors.

XIII. Against Spinoza, and in Defense of the Mosaic Account of Creation.

XV. Origin of Evil (contains five pages of titles on the controversy that raged around the writings of Christian Wolff).

XVII. Divine Providence.

XVIII. Immortality of Man.

XX. Natural Theology.

XXII. Against Naturalism and Deism.

XXV. Divine Revelation (with such sub-divisions as Inspiration, Canon, Harmony, Prophecy).

XXX. Truth of the Christian Religion.

XXXI. Against the Jews (56 pages of titles of books against the Jews).

XXXV. The Superiority of the Christian Religion over all other Religions.

XXXVI. The Causes of Incredulity and Impiety.

XLIII. Miracles of Christ.

XLIV. Resurrection of Christ.

XLV. Resurrection of the Dead.

XLVI. End of the World and Final Judgments.

XLVII. The Rewards and Punishments of Eternity (nine pages on this restricted subject).

L. Writings Against Mohammedanism.

To test how thoroughly Fabricius had done his work, I compared the last eighty pages of the most comprehensive account of all the Christian apologetic literature written against the Jews, Adversus Judaeos by A. Lukyn Williams (Cambridge University Press, 1935), and discovered that of the Latin writers in this group, from Agobard, 824 A.D., to Nicolas de Lyra, 1347 A.D., Fabricius gives the titles of seven out of eight. The one he omits, Peter of Blois (A.D. 1200), was an archdeacon of London and Bath, of whom Dr. Williams says, he wrote "without, it is to be feared, one single new suggestion."

It would be a great boon to all theological students and historians of the Christian faith if we had a work of the same broad scope and thoroughness, bringing the bibliography of the increasingly important literature of apologetics down to our own hour of acknowledged crisis and opportunity as Christianity faces more powerful foes than have confronted her since the fall of paganism!

Little did our bibliographer of apologetics dream of the great conflicts that were soon to fall upon the Christian church. Voltaire was just beginning to write. The French Revolution and its rejection of religion would break before his century ended. In the following century the convulsive attacks of Paulus and Strauss, the great contemporary school of Biblical critics, and then in the middle of the century, Darwinian evolution would shake the faith of many to its foundations. Then came the withering blight of modernism, and in our own century, humanism and naturalism in new forms, stemming from the great advances in science, and now dialectic materialism as it is taught and enforced by Marxist Communism.

The volume is part of the Fyens Collection, which contains also Fabricius' Centifolii Lutherani, sive Notitiae Literariae Scriptorum Omnis Generis de B. D. Lutherano (Hamburg, 1730), 956 pp.; Codex Apocryphus Novi Testamenti (Hamburg, 1719), 970 pp.; and Salutaris Lux Evangelii toti orbi per Divinam Gratiam exoriens (1721), 796 pp., which is bound with the volume under discussion. The plate represents one of the greatest of Biblical apologetic themes, the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, by Fritzsch.
FIRST OF THE FTS BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

Last year a committee at Fuller Theological Seminary, consisting of the Chairman of the Library Committee, the Librarian and Dr. William Sanford LaSor, Associate Professor of Old Testament, launched a program for the publication of a series of bibliographies in many of the major fields of Christian thought. The first number has now appeared, *A Basic Semitic Bibliography (Annotated)*, by Dr. LaSor (Wheaton, Ill., Van Kampen Press, 1950. viii, 56 pp. $1.00).

Over three hundred different works in the entire field of Semitic studies published in English, French, German and Italian are here classified and annotated. After introductory sections, Dr. LaSor gives the principal modern literature for Akkadian, Arabic, Aramaic, Coptic, Hebrew, Hittite, Persian, Sumerian, Ugaritic, etc., with three pages listing the important periodicals in the field, and a list of book dealers specializing in Semitica.

As an example of the notations in this work, the following two may be quoted:

"Ember, Aaron, *Egypto-Semitic Studies, aus den Ueberresten des Originalmanuskripts hergestellt und nach alteren Arbeiten des Verfassers erganzt von Prada Belbuk, mit einem Vorwort von Kurt Sethe*. Leipzig: Alexander Kohut Memorial Foundation, Verlag Asia Major, G.M.B.H., 1930. xxv, 118 pp. (This little volume with a tragic history contains suggestions of value mixed with much that is worthless. Its author perished in his attempt to save it from fire that destroyed his home and was therefore unable to edit and polish the work.)"

"Chaine, M., *Grammaire ethiopienne*. Beirut: Imprimerie Catholique, 1907. ix, 308 pp. (Good chrestomathy, and fine pedagogic technique. The failure to include many prepositions and particles in the vocabulary (they are in the text) is unfortunate. I have seen a later reprint which has numerous typographical errors, hence my recommendation of the earlier printing.)"

Prefacing each division of the bibliography is a page regarding the present status of studies in that particular subject. Dr. LaSor has even been able to secure the titles from works that have not yet appeared, but will be published during the year 1950. Incidentally, the work is quite attractively printed.

The next bibliography is scheduled to appear sometime at the end of this year. It will be entitled, *A Bibliography of Christian Apologetics*, and is being compiled by Dr. Wilbur M. Smith. It will probably be a book of about 350 pages. Dr. Ehler is working on an exhaustive bibliography of revivals, which is scheduled to appear in 1951. Dr. Merrill C. Tenney, Dean of the Graduate School of Wheaton College, is at work on an extensive bibliography of the great subject of the resurrection of Christ. Dr. Carl F. H. Henry of the Fuller Seminary has been at work for some time on a compilation of works on the fundamental subject of epistemology and the problem of Christian knowledge.

CHRISTIAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

On April 20 at Clifton’s Pacific Seas Cafeteria in Los Angeles librarians representing nine Bible colleges and seminaries met for dinner and fellowship. Out of this meeting was born the Christian Librarians Association. As stated by the simple constitution adopted, its purpose is “to promote Christian fellowship and the exchange of ideas among librarians and their associates in the book field.”

The following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Alan Foote, Upland College; Vice President (Program Chairman), Dr. Arnold D. Ehler, Fuller Theological Seminary; Recording Secretary, Miss Geraldine Hess, Pacific Bible College; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth McCoy, Occidental College; and Treasurer, Mrs. Marion Miller, Southern California Bible College.

Other schools represented were Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Chapman University, George Pepperdine College, and LaVerne College.

"On all sides are we not driven to the conclusion that, of all things which man can do or make here below, by far the most momentous, wonderful and worthy are the things we call Books? Those poor bits of rag-paper with black ink on them; from the daily newspaper to the sacred Hebrew Book, what have they not done, what are they not doing?"

—Thomas Carlyle.
SOME FOREIGN

The Fuller Library has a number of interesting foreign bibliographical works, some of which are here brought to the attention of our colleagues.


*Philologie Classique et Archéologie*. Catalogue de Livres Anciens et Moderns. No. 50, Leyden, Burgersdijk & Niermans, 1912. 548 pp. There are 16,441 items of all publishers and periods with prices given. There are eight main divisions, including such subdivisions as Chronologie, Mythologie, Religion and Paléographie.

Georgius, Theophilus, *Allgemeines Europäisches Bücher-Lexicon*. Leipzig, in Verlegung Gotthilfft Theoph. Georgi, 1742. 4 vols. (Vol. 3 is missing in our set.) This will turn up authors and works not found in the usual places. Prices are given along with the usual bibliographic data.


*Catalogus van de Biblioteek der Vereenigde Doopsgezinde Gemeente te Amsterdam*. Eerste deel. Amsterdam, Roeloffzen & Hübner, 1885, 1888. 2 vols. This is, of course, heavy in Baptist literature.


NOTES AND QUERIES

21—JOURNALISM AND PUBLISHING FILE. In connection with the course in Religious Journalism, and for the use of students, alumni and local pastors, the Fuller Theological Seminary Library has set up a section on these matters in the vertical file. Folders containing samples and materials in the various phases of the subjects have already been set up with the following headings.

Anniversaries
Annual Reports
Baccalaureate Programs
Best Seller Publicity
Blotters
Broadsides
Building Programs
Campaigns
Cards
Church Bulletins
Church Pages
Church Periodicals
Church Pictures
Coin Devices
Color Printing
Commencement Programs
Conferences and Conventions
Easter Sunrise Services
Financial Appeals
Folding Techniques
Full Page Ads
Good Friday Services
Installation Services
Invitations
Lithographing
Ministers’ Conferences
Packet Assemblies
Photographic Outlays
Posters
Prayer Letters
Programs. Printed
Rallies
Religious Journalism
Revival Campaigns
Sunday School Conventions
Tickets
Tracts
Window Stickers
Writing Contests

Incidentally, we like best the folder No. K331 manufactured by Globe-Wernecke in Cincinnati, Ohio, and we get a special order of these in half cut, first position only. This makes a neat file, with the right hand side left open for alphabetical and divisional tabs. This is the strongest craft folder that we have seen, which is in lower price range.—A.E.

22—HOW TO READ A CATALOG. This is the title of an article by Barrows Mussey, Director of The Museum Society, Brattleboro, Vt., in the Antiquarian Bookman for September 4, 1948. It is most stimulating reading. Three rules are given: (1) Know what you want. "This is the law and the prophets . . . The only possible way to exist with old books is to by-pass what you don’t want . . . All great dealers and collectors have great memories." (2) Know your dealers. "Obviously you must know enough to discard the catalog of a dealer whose exclusive specialty you are not interested in . . . The dealer who specializes in your pet subject may be a worse problem, because he makes you pay heavily for the convenience of finding all your wants in one place." (3) Look around corners. "If you don’t see what you want, look for it. Give every catalog a chance unless you know positively that it’s hopeless . . . By knowing your wants you come to know all the different aspects from which they can be looked at. Railroads: see also author entries, Biography, Commerce, Economics, Engineering, Guidebooks, History, Industry, Locomotives, Periodicals, regional headings, Transportation, Travel, U. S. Government Documents, West, and individual railroads. Probably I’ve forgotten a few, but you see the point." Thank you, Mr. Mussey, for these helpful suggestions.—A. E.

23—MORE BOOK BULLETINS. As item 6 we listed a number of book bulletins of interest to religious libraries, which was supplemented in our issue No. 5 with an additional list append to the article on foreign purchasing books (pp. 5,4). The following have since come to our attention.

Catholic Book News. Apparently a monthly, published by Benziger Brothers, 26-28 Park Place, New York 7, N.Y. This is a copyright publication edited by Edward F. Smith. The issue at hand is Vol. LXII, No. 2, February, 1950. There is no masthead. It is a 64-page issue, with the first 30 pages taken up with articles and bibliography, while the remainder is a book catalog.


Duckett’s Register. News and Views of Catholic Books. Published by Duckett, the Catholic book Centr, 140 Strand, London, W.C.2. It is continuously paged, 20 pages per issue, and is a monthly. The U.S. subscription price is 60c per year. While it is primarily a house publicity organ, it is worthwhile for its varied articles on Catholic literature and its book reviews.

In Jewish Bookland, listed in our issue No. 3, has ceased as a separate publication and appears now as a supplement in the JW B Circle, published by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Living Catholic Authors. Formerly “Our Lady of Letters.” Official organ of the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors, Inc., 470 East Lockwood, Webster Groves 19, Mo. Published four times a year. $1.00 a year. A “newsy” news-sheet of Catholic authors and writing. The February, 1950, issue has 8 pages, but is not numbered.

Formative books in the history of thought are those that break the boundary lines of thought.—Max Lerner.