

## MAJOR THEOLOGICAL REFERENCE RESOURCES: 1990

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The purpose of commenting on major religious and theological reference books published during 1990 is to alert librarians as to their availability and, perhaps, to assist with acquisition decisions. The following titles would be appropriate, some essential, for most theological libraries. Inclusions are limited to English language items. The difference in prices between an American and English imprint may be considerable. Where there are two imprints the less expensive option (at mid-December rates of exchange) is cited.

### Biblical Studies:

If the Bible, in some sense, is admissible as a reference work, one of the highlights of the year was the publication of a new translation, the *NRSV*, copyrighted in 1989 but issued in 1990.

1. *The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books: New Revised Standard Version*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1989. 996,298, 284p. 0 19 528330 9; US\$19.95.

The *RSV New Testament* was published some forty years ago with the Old Testament being added four years later and this translation has been regarded increasingly as the authoritative version for scholarly work. Now, from all appearances and from a number of perceptive reviews, it can be anticipated that the *NRSV* will be a worthy successor. Bruce Metzger, writing on behalf of the ecumenical committee of translators, states that this version was intended 'for use in public reading and congregational worship, as well as in private study, instruction and meditation'.

Various publishers offer the *NRSV* with or without the Apocrypha and in a variety of styles and price ranges. Nelson insists on the red-letter New

Testament! For library purposes, however, I would recommend this Oxford University Press product.

2. *The Catholic study Bible: the New American Bible*. Edited by Donald Senior et al. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1990. 577,1174,477p. O 19 528389 9; US\$29.95.

This title is included not for the particular translation (*NAB* Old Testament, 1970; New Testament revised, 1978) but for the articles and reading guides which accompany it and which take up some 577 pages. This material, contributed by well-known American Catholic biblical scholars, is attractively presented and intended to provide Catholics with an up-to-date and self-contained study system. In a review in *The Tablet* (September 9, 1990) Henry Wansbrough concluded that 'for its price the instruction and assistance to the studious reader are unequalled'.

3. *Exegetical dictionary of the New Testament*. Edited by Horst Balz and Gerhard Schneider. Volume 1: Aaron - Enoch. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1990. 463p. O 8028 2409 9; US\$39.95.

This is the first volume of a projected three volume translation of *Exegetisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament* (Lfrg. 1-9, 1978-1980) which appeared in three volumes (1980-1983). *EDNT* provides a complete English dictionary of New Testament Greek and an extensive guide to the context, usage and theological significance of words. There is a well-developed cross-referencing structure and the major entries have bibliographies. Here is an international, non-denominational work which reflects recent exegetical studies and so effectively updates, augments and corrects the aging Kittel *TWNT*. An essential resource.

4. *A Dictionary of biblical interpretation*. Edited by R.J. Coggins and J.L. Houlden. New York: Trinity Press International, 1990. 751 p. O 334 00294 X; US\$49.95.

Not the usual resource on the contents of the Bible but rather a guide to the history of biblical interpretation, ancient and modern, prepared by a team of distinguished scholars. The entries on biblical books, events and characters explore the history of the ways in which these have been interpreted. The various types of biblical criticism, the periods, schools, movements and leading exponents receive attention. There are also

generous entries on the Bible in art, music and poetry. Technical terms, some recently introduced, are defined and every conceivable critical stance - Alexandrian, black Christian, feminist, Jewish, Marxist, Reformation, structuralist - is represented. Most entries conclude with brief bibliographies and there is a scriptural and general index. Once again, an essential tool (and a good read).

### Church History

5. *The Oxford illustrated history of Christianity*. Edited by John McManners. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1990. 724p. 0 19 822928 3; US\$45.00 (US\$39.95 until December 31, 1990.)

Admittedly a doubtful inclusion but only because this handsome volume is most likely to be found in the general collection. It is, however, a superb gathering of authoritative essays with 350 illustrations and 32 full-colour plates. The volume includes maps, a chronology and a detailed index. There is an annotated bibliography which could function as a most useful check list for theological libraries.

6. *Decrees of the ecumenical councils*. Edited by Norman P. Tanner. 2 vols. Washington, DC: Georgetown Univ. Press, 1990. 1135,1135;203p. 0 87840 490 2 (set); US\$195.00. (US\$156.00 until December 31, 1990.)

This monumental work gathers all the decrees of the twenty councils, from Nicaea I to Vatican II, with the original text(s) and a facing English translation. The text is taken from the third edition of *Conciliorum Oecumenicorum Decreta*, edited by G. Alberigo and others. (1973). The new translations have been prepared by a team of Jesuits in the British Isles. For each council there is a brief introduction, a bibliography and explanatory footnotes. There is a chronology and, most usefully, indexes of scriptural passages, councils, the Roman magisterium, the Fathers and the early church, canon law, proper names, authors and, finally, subjects. This is the most comprehensive guide to the texts of the councils and libraries will find it to be an indispensable resource.

7. *Encyclopedia of early Christianity*. Edited by Everett Ferguson. (Garland reference library of the humanities; vol. 846) New York: Garland Publishing, 1990. 983p. 0 8240 5745 7; US\$95.00.

Within the period from the time of Jesus to approximately A.D.600, some 970 entries cover persons (including relatively obscure figures), places, works, doctrines, practices, art, architecture, liturgics, heresies and schisms. Leading scholars of the patristic period, for example Baur, Harnack, Migne, Quasten, are also featured. The signed entries, from ecumenically representative scholars, conclude with bibliographies of primary and secondary materials. A chronology, black and white illustrations, clear map work are also useful ingredients as is the detailed index with its intensive cross-referencing. For the patristic period this volume could effectively update the *Oxford dictionary of the Christian church* (2nd ed., 1974) and provide a more comprehensive coverage of the period.

#### **Christian Worship:**

8. *A Bibliography of Christian worship*. Edited by Bard Thompson. (ATLA bibliography series, 25) Metuchen, New Jersey: American Theological Library Association/ Scarecrow Press, 1989. 786p. 0 8108 2154 0; US\$79.50.

Included here because publication was delayed until early 1990, this massive bibliography of books and articles on worship is the most comprehensive tool available in this field. It covers worship and liturgy in the Christian traditions, developments from the early church to the Eastern and Latin churches, the elements of the Mass, the contributions of the Reformers and so on to worship in contemporary denominations and ecumenical communities. There are sections entitled Word and Sacraments, the Daily Office and the Church Year, Worship and the Arts and, finally, Church Music and Hymnology. The detailed table of contents provides a subject guide to the work and there are author/editor, denomination and organization indexes. A most valuable resource for studies in the history and expressions of worship.

9. *New dictionary of sacramental worship*. Edited by Peter E. Fink. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 1990. 1352p. 0 8146 5788 5; US\$69.50.

This volume is intended to reflect and support the ongoing task of liturgical reform and renewal, particularly as it has been informed by the vision which was framed by Vatican II. Most of the contributors are from the Latin rite but almost all the sacramental churches and their perspectives are represented. The dictionary is structured as a theological and pastoral resource and entries cover the wide range of activities constitutive of a sacramental church. Cross-referencing and bibliographies are useful aids as is the topical index which arranges all major entries under seven headings: the worshipping church; the heritage of the church; the sacramental life of the church; the praying church; the church and the arts; the reflecting church; and the pastoral mission of the church. The volume is a companion to *The New dictionary of theology*, edited by Komonchak et al. (Glazier, 1987), and will prove just as useful.

#### **Religious Education:**

10. *Harper's encyclopedia of religious education*. Edited by Iris V. Cully and Kendig Brubaker Cully. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1990. 717p. 0 00 606165 6; US\$34.95.

The two editors, long recognised as authorities in this field, enlisted 270 experts to present articles on educational theory and practice, teaching methodologies, biblical, theological and liturgical aspects and contemporary social issues, all within the context of religious education. There are biographies of key educationalists, ancient and modern, and overviews of the educational process in various religions, church denominations and regions of the world ('Australia' - Denham Grierson; 'New Zealand' - B.Keith Rowe). Interspersed are essays on a range of topics such as adolescence, art, the Bible, child development, music, theology and education. The work more than updates *The Westminster dictionary of Christian education*, edited by Kendig Cully (1963) and is more comprehensive than the quite valuable *Dictionary of religious*

*education*, edited by John Sutcliffe (1984). This is certainly a major text for courses and a reference tool for teachers.

### **Pastoral Care:**

11. *Dictionary of pastoral care and counseling*. Edited by Rodney J. Hunter. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990. 1346p. 0 687 10761 X; US\$59.95.

A volume of authoritative information, for research and practice, on all aspects of pastoral care and counseling. Over 1,200 signed entries, from a highly-qualified, interfaith assembly of practitioners and scholars, provide coverage of the history and personalities of the field, behavioural theories and patterns, biblical insights and theological implications, materials on situational matters and particular needs. Denominational perspectives, ecumenical relationships and Jewish concerns receive attention. This extraordinary array of material, well-supported by bibliographies and cross-referencing, comprises the most comprehensive resource in this field.

### **Australiana:**

12. Bentley, Peter, Blombery, Tricia and Hughes, Philip J. *A yearbook for Australian Churches, 1991*. Hawthorn, Victoria: Christian Research Association, 1990. 236p. 1 875223 04 5 (ISSN 1035-8137); Aus\$16.00.

The first issue of this *Yearbook* marks the beginning of what promises to become a standard and most useful reference resource. The Christian Research Association, with its experience in gathering data and providing analysis and commentary, has produced a valuable guide to the Australian religious scene. There is a directory of ecumenical organizations, Christian churches, other religious groups and religious publishers. Following is a diary of religious events of 1989-1990, reflections from certain Australian church leaders on their own denominations, statistics, several research reports and a selective bibliography of religious books.

Finally there is an ecumenical calendar and lectionary and a listing of the major celebrations of other faiths. The whole work is well-indexed. All this augurs well for an increasingly useful annual.

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## THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY OXFORD

Lynn Pryor

Can you imagine a basement covering perhaps three acres, crammed full of books stored in movable stacks? Can you picture a library with millions of items, most of which have been catalogued in large ledgers by author entry only? Sound archaic? Can you conceive of a staff of 35 cataloguers to handle the 97,500 book and pamphlet accessions per year, not to mention the 224,500 periodical accessions? These are just some of the mind-boggling facts I discovered on the occasion of my visit to the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

As a visiting overseas librarian I had enquired about the possibility of seeing more of the library than the average tourist who paid for a guided tour. The result was a personal conducted tour, lasting two hours, in the company of the Assistant Secretary of the Library, Mr W.H. Crenell, who, I was to discover, has been employed at the Bodleian since 1957. What better guide could I have anticipated? On the day appointed this gentleman proceeded to introduce me, at a casual and quiet pace as if nothing else was scheduled for the day, to the fascinating history and the day-to-day operations of the library, which is the hub of this world-famous centre of learning.

The Bodleian Library is one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and in England is second in size only to the British Library. The natural place to