

The Dick B. Historical Collections

The Biblical Resources of Early A.A.'s Successful Program

Preliminary Announcement

A.A.'s co-founder Dr. Bob frequently said that early A.A. was a Christian Fellowship. He carefully emphasized that A.A.'s basic ideas came from study of the Bible and that these ideas were implemented in "A First Century Christian Fellowship," of which A.A. was an integral part in its formative years. The author's extensive research over the past nine years has established that pioneer AAs drew the principles and practices of their highly successful program from six major Biblical resources. The specific Biblical ideas taken from these sources were later embodied in A.A.'s basic text *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in its Twelve Steps, and in its Fellowship. Those six sources were (1) The Bible. (2) Quiet Time and the daily devotionals. (3) The teachings of the Reverend Samuel M. Shoemaker, Jr.. (4) The life-changing program of the Oxford Group. (5) The details recorded by Co-founder Dr. Bob's wife in *Anne Smith's Journal, 1933-1939*. (6) The Christian literature early AAs read for spiritual growth.

The Dick B. Historical Collections represent the most comprehensive, and the author believes, the only complete and comprehensive body of resource materials showing the origin and nature of the early A.A. program and its Biblical sources and practices. These materials are vitally important today because the story of early A.A., the Bible, and the reliance upon the power of God have slipped between the cracks in the last 65 years of the Twelve Step recovery movement. The facts concerning A.A.'s heart have been replaced with such terms as "higher power," "spiritual but not religious," and the acceptability of total unbelief.

The collections will certainly continue to grow as new donors are located and participate. Eventually, the author, Dick B., hopes to see the collections, properly cataloged and explained, in a permanent facility, free, open to all, and unconditionally accessible. The objective will be to make these historical materials available for examination, reading, study, research, publication, dissemination, and copying. Today, there are too many "archives," "libraries," "museums," and other repositories in the Twelve Step arena which restrict or impede or edit or just plain exclude examination of books, articles, pamphlets, manuscripts, correspondence, tapes, and other evidence which should be open to all.

The following are and will constitute The Dick B. Historical Collections:

1. Dick B.'s own materials used in his research, writings, and evaluations, including:

Books, Pamphlets, Articles, and Archival materials collected and used by author Dick B. in his nine years of research and fourteen published books and in connection with his talks in panels, seminars, A.A. conferences, radio and TV appearances. These items are currently being checked for accuracy and for cataloging purposes.

Alcoholics Anonymous

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2. The Collection from James D. and Eleanor Forde Newton

James Draper Newton (now in his late nineties) and Eleanor Napier Forde Newton (who just had her 100th birthday) still live in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida. Both have a connection with the Oxford Group that goes back to the early 1920's. Each was a friend of Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, founder of the Oxford Group. Each was a friend of the Rev. Samuel M. Shoemaker, Jr., who was rector of Calvary Church in New York. It was at Calvary House, adjacent to Shoemaker's church, that many Oxford Group meetings attended by Bill and Lois Wilson were held. It was there that there was the virtual Oxford Group headquarters in the United States, and where Frank Buchman lived when in the United States. Jim Newton will be remembered as the man who befriended Russell Firestone, introduced him to Oxford Group ideas, and met with Russell and Sam Shoemaker to bring about Russell's recovery from alcoholism. Eleanor Forde Newton wrote one of the earliest Oxford Group pamphlets, *The Guidance of God*, about 1928. She and Jim worked for and with Buchman and Shoemaker on Oxford Group teams and outreach for many years. They have generously made their own Oxford Group library available for The Dick B. Collection. The material is immensely valuable because it illustrates what Oxford Group people, active in the 1920's and 1930's (when the seeds of A.A. were sown) considered to be important books about the group and its work.

Note: This collection is currently being assembled, catalogued, and unpacked. The list below is as it was prepared and provided by the Newtons' assistant as the collection was turned over to Dick B. in Florida in July, 1999. The complete list will be itemized and presented on this site shortly:

JDN/EFN BOOKS ON THE OXFORD GROUP

TITLE AUTHOR

Conversion of the Church Sam Shoemaker
Faith to Move Nations Dr. J. B. Belk
For Sinners Only A. J. Russell
God Who Speaks Burnett Hillman Streeter
Guidance of God Eleanor Napier Forde (Newton)
I Always Wanted Adventure Eleanor Napier Forde (Newton)
Life Began Yesterday Stephen Foot
Life Changers Harold Begbie
Philosophy of Courage Philip Leon
Remaking the World Frank Buchman
Soul Surgery H. A. Walter
Victorious Life Howard Blake
What is the Oxford Group? L. W. Grensted (sic)
World that Works George West

JDN/EFN BOOKS ON MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

TITLE AUTHOR

All the Paths Are Peace Michael Henderson
All Things Are Possible Kay Linburg
America Needs an Ideology Campbell & Howard
American Proposition Francis Bradley
Best of Friends Alan Thornhill
Beyond Violence Agnes Leakey Hofmyer
Cast Out Your Nets Garth Lean
Chou En Lai John McCook Roots
Climbing Turns Patrick Foss
Columbia Juliet Boobyer
Crowning Experience James Hardiman
Design for Dedication Peter Howard
Discovering Moral Re-Armament Rex Dilly

Dose of My Own Medicine Paul Campbell
Experiencing Pasadena Denise Woods
Experiment with God Gosta Ekmar
Flying Norsemen Leif Hovelsen
Footprints Michael Barrett
For God Alone John Tyndale-Biscoe
For Tomorrow, Yes Blair
Forgiving Factor Michael Henderson
Forty Five years with Philips Frederick Philips
Frank Buchman As I Knew Him Bunny Austin
Frank Buchman By his friends
Frank Buchman's Secret Peter Howard
Free Woman Claire Evans
God Calling A. J. Russell (sic)
God Can be Real Edward Perry
Good God it Works Garth Lean
Hit Hard and Enjoy It Dickie Dodds
Hope for Today Marsh & Elliott
Horizons of Hope John G. Pibram
Hour of the Helicopter K. D. Belden
Hurdles & Jumping Frances McCall
I Am Not Alone John Hogan
I Choose Sarah Lawrence Slattery
Innocent Men Peter Howard
Iraqi Statesman Harry Almond
Japan's Deciding Decade Basil Entwistle
John Riffe of the Steelworkers William Grogan
Life & Times of G. Cecil Morrison Autobiography
Lionheart Dennis Foss
Listen for a Change Anjenet Campbell
Listening Ear Paul Tornier
Making Cities Work Basil Entwistle
Man & Structures Jens J. Wilhelmsen
Man of Many Loves Paul Petrocokino
Mission Dimension of Statecraft Six Scholars
Modern Prophetic Voices R. C. Mowat
Modernizing America Belk/Howard et. al.
Moving the Mountain Ronald Mann
MRA Vital to the Future Publication
MRA What is It? Entwistle/McCook Roots
Muslim Mind Chris Waddy
My Search for Faith Lucille Tretheway Libby
Mystery of Human Experience Rodney Usher-Wilson
Never Lose my Vision Claire Jaeger
New Man for the New World Paul Petrocokino
Niels' Legacy Ely
Now I Call Him Brother Alec Smith
On History's Coat Tails Michael Henderson
One Fight More Alan Thornhill
Out Every Night Leif Hovelsen
Pamphlets (Various about 50) Various
Paul Hogue Meta Hogue

Personal Story David Carey
Peter Howard-Life & Letters Anne Wolrige Gordon
Philadelphia Rebel Clare Jaeger
Poems Hanford Twitchell
Preview of the New World 1939-1946- LARGE BOOK
Reaching the Millions New World News
Rediscovering Freedom John Lester & Pierre Spoerri
Reflections of M.R.A. K. D. Belden
Return of the Indian Spirit The Johnsons
Shoot a Line Dennis Foss, with Basil Entwistle
Spin a Good Yarn W. Farra Vickers
Spiritual Forces International Politics R. C. Mowat
Step Ahead of Disaster Von Teuber, with Basil Entwistle
Streams Mark Guldseth
Suicide of Adoration R. N. Usher-Wilson
Thankful at Every Turns Paul Gundersen
To Phyl with Love Bunny Austin
Unbeatable Breed Bob Lowery
Way to Go Howard Blake
Which Way Cambodia Friends of MRA
Who Dare to Live Frederick Watt
Window Signe Lund Strong
World at the Turning Charles Piguet Michel Sentis
World My Country Marjorie Proctor

JDN/EFN BOOKS ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

TITLE AUTHOR

A.A. and M.R.A. T. Willard Hunter
Alcoholics Anonymous [Basic Text]
Anne Smith's Spiritual Workbook Dick B.
Dr. Bob and His Library Dick B.
Dr. Bob's Library Dick B.
Lois Remembers Wife of Co-Founder
New Wine Mel B.
Anne Smith's Journal Dick B.
Pass It On Story of Bill Wilson (sic)
Stairway to Serenity/11th Step Homer P.
Turning it Over Homer P.
Twelve Steps to A.A. Hazelden
Understanding Alcoholism LeClair Bissell
Akron Genesis of A.A. Dick B.
Back to Basics Wally P.
Courage to Change Sam Shoemaker [Dick B. & Bill P.]
Design for Living Dick B.
Good Morning Dick B.
Good Book and the Big Book Dick B.
Is There Life after Sobriety Mel B.
New Light on Alcoholism Dick B.
One Day at a Time Al-Anon
Oxford Group and A.A. Dick B.
Turning Point Dick B. (audiobook and softcover)

3. The Collection from the Rev. T. Willard Hunter

T. Willard Hunter is an ordained minister who also completed Harvard Law School training, and spent much of the later 1930's working on Oxford Group matters with Sam Shoemaker and Frank Buchman. Willard Hunter has spoken and written extensively on the Oxford Group, and on its relation to Alcoholics Anonymous. Many of his ideas have been incorporated in A.A. Conference Approved literature as well as other books about the Oxford Group and A.A. Willard is a long-time friend of Jim and Eleanor Newton. He has written the Foreword to Dick B.'s *The Oxford Group & Alcoholics Anonymous*, appeared on the platform with Dick B., and continues to this day his interest in the history of the Oxford Group and of A.A. He has generously committed his Oxford Group books to The Dick B. Collections.

Note: Willard Hunter's books are in transit and will soon be assembled, listed, cataloged, and placed in The Dick B. Collections.

4. The Dennis C. collection..

Dennis C. is an archivist and historian whose roots and friendships go back to Dr. Bob's daughter, A.A. archivists, one of the earliest A.A. staff writers, and the managers of The Wilson House, the archivist at Stepping Stones, and the archivist at Dr. Bob's Home. Dennis has spent many years gathering manuscripts and books on the spiritual roots of A.A. Some of this was in company with Dick B. Dennis's collection of over 125 books is in transit