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Phillips' "Dictionary of Debate and Public Speaking" (Book Review)

Gary Fitsimmons
Bryan College

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This life is preparation for the afterlife and receiving punishment or reward on the Day of Judgment. Familiar terms are jostled, for example, heaven and hell, mercy and grace, salvation, limbo, the eschaton, a good death, soul sleeping, angels and demons, meaning of death and life, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. Muslims have perpetuated death and burial preparations as handed down from Muhammad through fourteen centuries. It would not be a shock to realize that cremation is considered a cardinal sin to Muslims, while it is becoming more acceptable to Christians. Islamic terrorists are not the only ones who think that the West has slipped away from spiritual moorings. Both religions claim to champion life despite their being categorized otherwise. Rowan Williams offers a balanced critique of the book’s first part in “Reflections” (pp. 117–121). David Marshall addresses some underlying concerns in his summary (pp. 231–239), especially about salvation and inspiration of scripture.

Academic libraries and those institutions with emphasis on comparative religions should acquire this book (and the entire history of eleven seminars). Endnotes are helpful; the index lists key names, subjects, Bible and Qur’an passages. It is also available as a paperback or an ebook.

Dictionary of Debate and Public Speaking,

Reviewed by Gary Fitsimmons, Director of Library Services, Bryan College, Dayton, TN

A highly accessible reference work, this volume falls somewhere between a pocket guide to parliamentary procedure and an encyclopedia of debate and public speaking. The 165 pages (over 500 entries) of terms include concrete examples of how each term would be specifically used and which major debate format employs the term. The extensive appendix includes a synopsis of the history, structure, features, judging, etc. of the major debate formats, treating those of different countries separately. Also included are a list of abbreviations and acronyms and a thematic index, arranging the covered terms by the debate format in which they would be used, which is a great tool for quickly becoming familiar with the terminology of a specific format. Author Leslie Phillips has taught high school and College debate for over 30 years, has co-authored the textbook Basic Debate, and is a recipient of the Six Diamond award from the National Speech and Debate Association.