
Elizabeth Pearson
Montreat College

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit http://www.acl.org/

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol58/iss2/24

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Pearson, Library Director, Montreat College, Montreat, NC

Convictional Civility is a festschrift to honor David S. Dockery who served as president of Union University from 1996 to 2014 and who is a well-respected Christian studies professor and biblical scholar. The editors are leaders in Christian higher education. The book contains reflections on themes associated with Dockery and summarizes his ongoing legacy.

The first part consists of essays by ten Christian leaders and former students on the theme of “convictional civility.” This phrase, first used by Dockery, reflects the expectation that followers of Christ are to show Christian virtues through civility and Christian values through conviction. In the foreword, Carla D. Sanderson defines convictional civility as “a lifestyle of bearing witness for Christ and of contributing to the common good” (p. vii). The second part of the book contains tributes to Dockery that acknowledge his influence on his colleagues and students.

The introduction offers a summary of Dockery’s scholarly writing and theological positions, noting that he navigated difficult doctrines and denominational controversy during the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention. James Leo Garrett, Dockery’s mentor, summarizes Dockery’s many contributions in biblical hermeneutics and the doctrine of scripture. Timothy George recounts his collaborative work with Dockery and Dockery’s leadership as a bridge builder among Southern Baptists. Millard Erickson outlines political and religious obstacles to civility and proposes steps toward civility as a way to engage culture. R. Albert Mohler, Jr. reflects on the need for Christians to clarify their convictions in the face of increasing pluralism and relativism and within a secular intellectual climate. Robert Smith discusses the challenge the Apostle Paul undertook in his ministry of proclamation and witness. Gene Fant addresses the theme of leadership, understood as obedience to a calling, as evidenced through Dockery’s example. Hunter Baker discusses the value of faith in developing a government based on freedom and recognizes Dockery’s work in promoting the renewal of Christian colleges and universities. Autumn Alcott Ridenhour identifies theological identity and engagement with community and culture as concepts that comprise convictional civility. C. Ben Mitchell addresses convictional civility as it relates to a free market in healthcare with reference to recent controversies and healthcare workers’ rights of conscience.
The book concludes with a list of Dockery’s professional achievements from 1984 to 2014, including publications, presentations, research and leadership activities.

These essays will have particular appeal for leaders in Christian higher education for whom Dockery’s leadership provides a model for Christian cultural engagement. This book is recommended for seminary and academic libraries.

---

**Cosmas of Prague: Narrative, Classicism, Politics,**

*Reviewed by Mary Ann Buhler, Director of Library Services,*
*Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, KS*

Since I had been to Prague a couple of times, *Cosmas of Prague* caught my eye. What I did not realize, however, is that it is a detailed analysis of a medieval book, *Chronica Boermorum* (*The Chronicle of the Czechs*). Written in Latin by Cosmas, an elderly Czech secular canon in the Prague cathedral chapter, it is actually three books that detail Czech history from its first inhabitants, to their conversion to Christianity, to events contemporary with the author in 1125. This is the only account of the eleventh and twelfth century Czech history that has been found.

The author performed her research and wrote her book while on sabbatical from the University of Oregon. One of the main reasons for her tackling this project was that until then no book in the English language had been written to analyze Cosmas’ work. Some of the areas that she tackled were Cosmas’ treatment of politics, power, and the role of women in the church. Included in some of the stories that she examines are quotes from the books that she translated from the original Latin.

This is a very specialized book that would not fit in every library. A large academic library that had a copy of Cosmas’ books would definitely benefit by having a copy of Ms. Wolverton’s analysis. She appears to have done her research very well, but without Cosmas’ books it is not of much value except to pique a person’s interest in the original.