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Resource Reviews

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The Christian Librarian R E V I E W S

Media and Religion in American History, edited by Wm. David Sloan, Northport, AL: Vision Press, 2000. 293 pp. \$24.95; ISBN 1-885219-14-8

Reviewed by Phyllis E. Fox, Head, Media Services, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California.

Hostile media attitudes toward religion have caused the two to be antagonistic and become adversaries filled with distrust for each other. However, contrary to the contemporary situation, this was not always the case. According to editor Wm. David Sloan and the other contributing authors, religion played a prominent role throughout the history of journalism and mass media and each enjoyed a positive and supportive relationship to the other.

From the beginning, religious leaders in America recognized the importance of printing. Religion was at the forefront, encouraging the publication of newspapers and continued its influence on publishing for hundreds of years.

This scholarly work includes eighteen chapters by some of the leading experts in journalism and mass media history, which focus mainly on the relationship of Christianity to the media. David Copeland, whose chapter on *Religion and Colonial Newspapers*, has authored numerous articles on journalism and media history. David Paul Nord, who also contributed to this book, is professor of Journalism and American Studies at Indiana University and author of several articles on the history of American journalism and religion publishing.

Some of the chapters discuss evangelism and its role in the origin of printing; the early development of newspapers in Colonial times; the beginnings of the Black Press; Jewish contribution to the media; the founding of The Christian Science Monitor; and Evangelical publishing.

The editor, Wm. David Sloan is the founder of the American Journalism History Association and has written eighteen other books in the field of history and the media.

Thousands of books and articles that have been written about the history of mass communication, very few of these have paid attention to the contribution of religion to mass media (viii).

This book would be a good addition to any library, and I would especially recommend this book to academic libraries that support journalism and/or mass communications disciplines in their institutions.

that particular approach to Revelation.

The reader is expected to know terminology of eschatology and of hermeneutics.

This book is highly recommended. #

Four Views on the Book of Revelation, C. Marvin Pate, General Editor. Grand Rapids, Michigan : Zondervan PublishingHouse, 1998. 378 p. \$16.99. ISBN 0-310210-80-1.

Reviewed by Michael Bain, Library Director, Atlanta Christian College, Atlanta, Georgia.

This book serves a useful purpose very well. Four views on the book of Revelation are presented by four different authors, one of whom is C. Marvin Pate who also serves as the author of the Introduction to Revelation. Pate's introduction leads us through genre, authorship and other such matters to a survey of leading interpretations of Revelation. For each interpretation Pate covers "its distinction; its origin; the time frame it presumes for the prophecies in Revelation; the structure that results for the book; and the philosophy of history operative in the approach." His survey is a helpful and insightful preparation for the four essays.

The four views of the book of Revelation and their authors are "A Preterist View of Revelation," by Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr.; "An Idealist View of Revelation," by Sam Hamstra, Jr.; "A Progressive Dispensationalist View of Revelation," by C. Marvin Pate; and "A Classical Dispensationalist View of Revelation," by Robert L. Thomas.

Each author writes as an adherent of the view presented. Some write in comparison and contrast to other views; others write a more self-contained essay. Each author does a creditable job of presenting not only pertinent data but of engaging the reader with the mindset associated with WANTED: Book Reviewers

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