



Volume 59 | Issue 2

Article 23

2016

Collier's "Choosing courage: Inspiring stories of what it means to be a hero" (Book Review)

Leslie R. Starasta
Lincoln Christian University

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 [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>



Part of the [Other American Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Starasta, Leslie R. (2016) "Collier's "Choosing courage: Inspiring stories of what it means to be a hero" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59: Iss. 2, Article 23.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1108>

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.

labeling Lewis as a ‘public intellectual’ who was known to offer “grandiose claims that appeal to universal human experience” (p. 2). Lewis wrote during a unique time at the cusp of the major changes that ushered in the religionless ideals of communism and post-modern thinking. Yet this work argues that Lewis struggled with the direct confrontation of those hostile elements of culture later on in his life. The argument made here is that this shift changed the tone of his apologetic from his earlier to his later works. Joeckel also addresses the development of Lewis’ reputation from his own writings in his time and how that has developed with the interpretation and analysis that has followed in the decades since. He delves heavily into analyzing Lewis’ culture as well as the content of some specific works as a contrast and comparison. A decent case for many of the arguments presented. Since it is not a true biography, it does come across as a bit disconnected at times. Not a stand out work, but might be of some interest for readers of Lewis looking for a non-biographical analysis of the man in his culture.

Reviewer

Mark Hanson, Maranatha Baptist University

Collier, P. (2015). *Choosing courage: Inspiring stories of what it means to be a hero*. New York: Artisan Books. 224 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 9781579655969

Choosing Courage is a compilation of stories about individuals who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for displaying bravery in military conflict. The book is divided into sections for each military conflict from World War II to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as a section on “Heroism in Civilian Life.” The accounts provide a realistic view of the horrors of war. Author Peter Collier does an excellent job of providing sufficient background information on each medal recipient so that the individual is shown as the guy next door who then goes on to do amazing acts of bravery. Collier also includes inserts which provide additional information about each specific conflict and the enemy the U.S. was fighting.

While very engaging to read, *Choosing Courage* is aimed for a juvenile audience ages 10 and up although students in junior high or high school will most benefit from the book. Although juveniles are the primary target, the book is written in such a way as to be utilized in numerous situations. Teachers will find this volume an excellent addition to a history class as it provides such detail about the reality of war. Ministers or other public speakers may find this volume a treasure trove of illustrations for sermons or speeches. Individuals of any ages who are interested in history or the military will find this work very enjoyable. *Choosing Courage* is

highly recommended for school and public libraries serving a young adult audience. Academic libraries may find it a helpful resource especially for degrees in education and possibly as a resource for public speakers.

Reviewer

Leslie R. Starasta, Lincoln Christian University

Blumell, L.H., & Wayment, T.A. (Eds.). (2015). *Christian Oxyrhynchus: Texts, documents, and sources*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press. 756 pp. \$89.95. ISBN 9781602585393

Christian Oxyrhynchus is an edited collection of archaeological fragments discovered while working the ancient site of Oxyrhynchus (Pemje) in upper Egypt. Oxyrhynchus is a well-established archaeological site which has had several seasons of intense effort by several teams of archaeologists from several academic centers. The archaeological work and translation efforts of the works discovered are published in many different journals with *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri (P.Oxy.)* and *Papiri della Societa Italiana (PSI)* being the major ones. An online site devoted to this work is: <http://www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/POxy/>. The major contribution of Blumell and Wayment is assembling the 162 fragments discovered at Oxyrhynchus which deal with Christianity in one volume and compiling entries for each fragment listing the relevant publications which address that item regardless of the source in which it is found. In this they have done scholars of early Christianity a tremendous favor. Each entry also includes a brief commentary which gives approximate dates for the fragment, an original language reconstruction of the fragment, and relevant physical details about it. They also note important controversies regarding the fragment and attempt to locate that particular fragment within the much larger body of scholarship on its content.

Few of the fragments discussed have any large impact on the understanding of Christianity today, but the collection as a whole provides a snapshot of early Christianity. Much as the Qumran discovery provides a picture of religious activity in one location over a brief period of time, these discoveries provide a glimpse at what Coptic Christianity looked like in a moderately important part of upper Egypt in the second to the fourth century.

As the editors note: “6000 documentary texts and just over 3000 literary fragments” had been published from Oxyrhynchus at the time they completed this book (6). Obviously the 162 fragments published in this book are just a small portion of these almost 10,000 items which give a much more complete understanding of life at Oxyrhynchus during this period. These 162 fragments are important for giving some idea of the relevance of Christianity to this region at this time, allowing us to partially