

A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY: BOOKS ON LUTHER APPEARING IN AMERICA DURING 1983 AND 1984

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In the immediately preceding article, we have already noted a number of titles that have appeared during the Luther quincentennial year or are appearing during the current year. A few further works bear mention at this point. To a considerable extent, in that earlier discussion we have taken note of *books*, rather than the massive periodical literature that has been appearing. The discussion below will be even more restrictive, in that except for the introductory remarks in the next section, our focus will be *exclusively on books* on Luther—books, moreover, that have appeared or are appearing *in America* during the limited period of 1983 *through the winter of 1984/85*.

1. Introduction: Bibliographical Tools

As a preliminary statement, it should be mentioned that during 1983 numerous journals and also magazines of a popular nature, including church papers representing many denominations, carried one or more articles in honor of Martin Luther on the quincentennial anniversary of his birth. Luther was indeed celebrated across both interdisciplinary and interdenominational lines. Some journals aside from those devoted specifically to Luther studies (such as the *Luther-Jahrbuch*) have devoted a whole issue or a substantial portion of an issue to Luther (for instance, the current number of *AUSS*; and also the entire Autumn number of *His Dominion* [vol. 10, no. 1, Oct. 1983], a bulletin of the Canadian Theological Seminary in Regina, Saskatchewan. Moreover, various serials have provided bibliographical updates on Luther and Luther studies. These updates may range from extensive surveys to short book notices or to the review of but a few titles.

One of the more comprehensive studies of this sort is that by Egil Grisli, "Luther in Review: Approaches in Major Studies; a Bibliographical Perspective," in *Word and World* 3 (Fall 1983): 435-447. The headings for this literature review are "Present Roman Catholic Assessments," "Luther and His Medieval Heritage," "Luther as Theologian," and "Luther on Particular Doctrines and Issues" (the last category being subdivided into various specific topics, such as "Faith and Justification," "The Church," "The Lord's Supper," and others). The treatment given to the various titles mentioned in this bibliographical essay is extremely brief, at times becoming merely a sequential listing of the works and their publication data; but the comprehensiveness in noting such a great number of major publications throughout a fairly wide range of topics of current interest marks Grisli's treatment as a significant and very useful one. His coverage through 1981 is extensive, with some references to works appearing in 1982, and there are even at least two or three references to 1983 publications. Another review article that treats recent Luther literature may be mentioned here, though it is fairly short: James M. Stayer, "Luther Studies and Reformation Studies," in *Canadian Journal of History* 17 (Dec. 1982): 499-505.

For information concerning works on Luther published prior to 1983, numerous bibliographical essays and bibliographical updates that have appeared are useful. A most helpful introduction to a number of current issues in Luther research, with emphasis on resources, is a chapter by Mark U. Edwards, Jr., "Martin Luther," in Steven Ozment, ed., *Reformation Europe: A Guide to Research* (St. Louis, Mo.: Center for Reformation Research, 1982), pp. 59-83. In addition to an excellent preliminary discussion, Edwards provides (in the general style of the volume) a bibliographical listing. This furnishes information on significant productions under four headings: "Research Aids," "Literature Reviews," "Literature Reviews: Catholic Luther Research," and "Issues in Luther Research." The entries that identify important literature reviews total 48 for the general section and 22 for the "Catholic-Luther-Research" section—a truly comprehensive survey! One valuable title I would add to Edwards's list is the extensive bibliographical essay by Harold J. Grimm that covers exceptionally well the four decades between 1920 and 1960: "Luther Research Since 1920," in *Journal of Modern History* 32 (1960): 105-118.

Annual updates, as Edwards has pointed out, appear in the *Luther-Jahrbuch* and in the *Literature Review* Supplement to the *Archive for Reformation History*. The former is a journal totally devoted to Luther studies, and each year provides a truly comprehensive review of the literature from mainly the year or two earlier. The second annual update covers Reformation studies broadly, but includes a section on "Luther." In the 1983 issue there are some seventy-four entries in this "Luther" section, with major publications frequently receiving rather extensive summaries of their contents.

In addition to these sources, it should be mentioned that the tri-annual publication by the American Historical Association entitled *Recently Published Articles* frequently includes notice of articles on Luther. The publication surveys an astoundingly large number of journals both here and in many countries abroad, and is quite current in its presentations. The Luther articles are generally to be found in a subsection entitled "Germany: 1500 to 1648," within a larger section bearing the caption "Germany, Austria, and Switzerland."

Another helpful tool, especially useful for locating recent articles, book reviews, and contributions to symposia, is the American Theological Library Association publication of February 1982 entitled *Luther and Lutheranism: A Bibliography Selected from the ATLA Religion Data Base*. It lists articles and book reviews since 1949, and *Festschriften* essays from 1960 to 1969, followed up by the broader category of multi-authored works from 1970 to the present.

In the following two sections of this article, we will note some of the more significant *books* on Luther that have appeared in America during 1983 and/or are scheduled to appear in 1984 (or even by the winter of 1984/85). This rather stringent limitation is imposed by space restrictions, and should not obscure the fact that some exceedingly important publications on Luther appeared in 1982 as anticipatory of the Luther Jubilee, and thus in a sense also celebrated this event, even though somewhat in advance. Moreover, the Luther literature appearing abroad during 1983-84 is massive and impressive; but except for the references to such literature in the preceding article, we must desist from entering upon a consideration of it at this time. This literature will be duly noted in upcoming issues of annual Luther bibliographies, such as those mentioned above; and a few of the more prominent works may possibly find book reviews devoted to them in upcoming issues of *AUSS*.

For convenience, the first subsection below lists titles referred to in the immediately preceding article. The reference in parentheses following each entry is to the section in that article where the particular title is mentioned. The second subsection below takes the form of a brief review article on several other publications that are worthy of note.

2. Titles Mentioned in the Immediately Preceding Article

The simple bibliographical entries given here are provided alphabetically by author. For further information about these works, see the preceding article (the sections indicated within parentheses).

Bornkamm, Heinrich. *Luther in Mid-Career: 1521-1530*. Ed. by Karin Bornkamm, and trans. from the German by E. Theodore Bachmann. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983. (See sect. 2.)

Edwards, Mark U., Jr. *Luther's Last Battles: Politics and Polemics, 1531-46*. Ithaca, N.Y., and London, Eng.: Cornell University Press, 1983. (See sects. 2 and 3.)

Edwards, Mark, and George H. Tavard. *Luther: A Reformer for the Churches—An Ecumenical Study Guide*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983. (See sect. 4.)

Manns, Peter. *An Illustrated Biography, New Popular Edition*. New York: Crossroad, 1983. (See sect. 4.)

Manns, Peter, and Harding Meyer, eds., in collaboration with Carter Lindberg and Harry McSorley. *Luther's Ecumenical Significance: An Interconfessional Consultation*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983. (See sect. 4.)

Oberman, Heiko A. *The Roots of Anti-Semitism: In the Age of Renaissance and Reformation*. Trans. from the German by James I. Porter. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984. (See sect. 3.)

Wicks, Jared. *Luther and His Spiritual Legacy*. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier, 1983. (See sect. 4.)

3. *Other Titles*

This subsection will mention a sampling of books that have appeared in America in 1983 or are to appear no later than the winter of 1984/85. These works vary from new publications, to English translations, to one case of a reprint of an earlier English edition.

Source Materials

With regard to primary *source materials*, in late 1983 the Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, Michigan, republished, in eight volumes, the Lenker edition of *Sermons of Martin Luther*. These extensive materials had originally appeared between 1904 and 1909 as part of the Lenker *Standard Edition of Luther's Works*. It is indeed gratifying to have the 175 sermons in this edition in print again, inasmuch as very few of the sermons represented herein appear in other English translations—none, e.g., in the Philadelphia Edition, and only seven in the American Edition.

Another title of 1983 that sets forth *compilations* of certain types of Luther materials is *The Martin Luther Easter Book*, translated and arranged by Roland H. Bainton and published by Fortress Press in Philadelphia. It presents, in narrative form, statements by Luther concerning Holy Week, the Lord's Supper, the arrest and trial of Jesus, his crucifixion, and his resurrection.

Reformation Art

Portrayal of the *artistic side* of the Lutheran Reformation has been another highlight of the Luther Year. Bainton's work that has just been mentioned enhances the text by inclusion of woodcuts by Luther's contemporary, Virgil Solis—a procedure not uncommon in publications by Bainton.

The title by Peter Manns listed in the immediately preceding subsection of this bibliographical survey is, of course, basically a book of pictures, as is its more elaborate predecessor of 1982. (Concerning Manns, see the discussion on pp. 148–149, above.)

A further title of somewhat similar nature is Dietrich Steinwede, *Reformation: A Picture Story of Martin Luther*, published by Fortress Press. It contains some 97 pictures and illustrations relating to the principal places, personalities, and events surrounding Luther's career and the progress of the Reformation. There is succinct textual commentary accompanying the pictures.

Biographical Treatments

Two *biographical treatments* of 1983 deserve mention here: Eric W. Gritsch, *Martin—God's Court Jester: Luther in Retrospect*, published by Fortress Press in Philadelphia; and George Wolfgang Forell, *The Luther Legacy: An Introduction to Luther's Life and Thought for Today*, published by the Augsburg Publishing House in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Gritsch's is a full-scale biography of some 300 pages that captures both the man himself and his theological contributions, and treats the Reformer's sense of humor in a captivating manner. It is carefully documented throughout and contains a useful bibliography, plus a chronological appendix that parallels Luther's life with events of the times.

Forell's *Luther Legacy* is a short popular work of 79 pages (in paperback) which in its first eight chapters touches on "The Setting of Luther's Life" and then surveys some of the high points in the Reformer's career up to his stay in the Wartburg Castle in 1521–22. The succeeding chapters are more topical than biographical—though chap. 9, "Conflict and Controversy," does, in a very sketchy fashion and without chronological perspective, deal with Luther in relationship to the Peasants' Revolt and to the Jews. The final chapters, 10–12, deal briefly with "Word and Sacrament," "Faith Active in Love," and "The Legacy."

English Translations of Recent German Works

Two fairly recent significant German works are scheduled for publication in English translation by the *winter of 1984/85*, both by Fortress Press. These are Martin Brecht, *Martin Luther: Sein Weg zur Reformation* (Stuttgart, 1981), to appear under the title *Luther: His Way to Reformation*; and Bernhard Lohse, *Martin Luther: Eine Einführung in sein Leben und sein Werk* (München, 1981), to appear under the English title *Luther: An Introduction to His Life and His Work*. (The exact English titles are perhaps tentative at the time of this present writing, but the works will be easily recognizable if there is any alteration in the specific wording.)

Luther as a Preacher

Luther's sermons and *Luther as a preacher* constitute a subject field in Luther studies that has seen growing interest. Luther indeed

prepared sermons that were to be model sermons for preachers of his own day, and his sermons are instructive for the same purpose in our day. This, incidentally, is another benefit of having the Lenker edition, mentioned earlier, in print again.

To close this bibliographical review I should like to call attention to a handy little volume on Luther as a preacher which was published in 1983 by the Augsburg Publishing House: Fred W. Meuser, *Luther the Preacher*. In paperback edition of but 94 pages, Meuser surveys (in three chapters) Luther's passion for preaching, his style of preaching, and his gift for preaching. The second chapter, on "Luther's Style of Preaching," includes discussion of Luther's sermon preparation and his preaching method, and it also investigates the question of what Luther was like in the pulpit. The final chapter provides a number of illuminating samples from Luther sermons. The book is decidedly popular in form, but contains substantial documentation (provided in endnotes). It represents the published form of Meuser's Hein Lectures of 1983 (the C. C. Hein Memorial Lectures are an annual lectureship instituted by the American Lutheran Church in honor of its first president).