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Wesleyan Holiness Studies Center

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Wesleyan/Holiness Studies Center
AT ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Bulletin

A Tribute to Kenneth E. Rowe

By Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.

No one knows more about American Methodist history and bibliography than Kenneth E. Rowe. He has served as the distinguished Methodist Librarian at Drew University since 1970. Since he has chosen to retire June 30, 2002, we take this opportunity to honor his contributions to all of us.

During his tenure at Drew, Rowe has introduced countless researchers to the vast literature produced by Methodists and their theological relatives. He has assisted innumerable scholars around the world who have benefited from his expertise and insights into theology of the Wesleys and the history of Methodism.

Rowe's long association with Drew University began as an undergraduate in 1955. There he completed his A.B. in 1959 prior to enrolling at the Yale University Divinity School from which he received his B.D. in 1962. He returned to Drew and completed his Ph.D. in 1969. Shortly thereafter, June 1970, came appointment as Drew's Methodist Research Librarian, a position which evolved over more than three decades under his leadership. While Drew's Methodist Librarian, he was instrumental in building one of the premier Methodist collections in the world.

In addition to honing his library skills at Drew, Rowe

also completed an M.L.S. degree at Rutgers in 1970 and was enrolled in the History of Books and Printing Program at Columbia University from 1981 to 1983.

Prior to employment at Drew, Ken was ordained deacon (1960) and elder (1962) in the Philadelphia (now Eastern Pennsylvania) Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. From 1962 to 1965 he was a campus minister in Philadelphia and has served on Annual Conference and denomina-

Student Association's Professor of the Year Award in 1990. A few months later he was recognized with Drew's Presidential Citation as the University's Scholar/Teacher of the Year. Any student who has sat in his classroom or heard his public lectures have appreciated his grasp of the subject, his straightforward delivery, and the humor with which his lectures are peppered.

Rowe has enriched the world of historical and theological scholarship with a number of important books,

A Bicentennial Historical Consultation, Perspectives on American Methodism: Interpretive Essays; United Methodism in America: A Compact History; and The Methodists. His most recent publication is *The Methodist Experience in America: A Sourcebook* (Abingdon, 2001), a collaborative work which includes a superb collection of primary source documents. Articles and essays from his pen have appeared in *Methodist History* and other periodicals and journals.

In the classroom as well as in his research and publications, Rowe has persistently called attention to the importance of placing Methodism in the wider context of national and world history. He has also reminded historians of the importance of the role of women and racial/ethnic minorities in denominational history. Furthermore, he has insisted on the study of primary sources as a basis for understanding and interpreting people, events, and organizations. His bibliographic work has effectively identified many of those sources.

Rowe has shared his expertise in many church and professional organizations. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, American Society of Church History, American Theological Library Association, Charles Wesley

Rowe has persistently called attention to the importance of placing Methodism in the wider context of national and world history.

tional committees and agencies.

Drew University wisely appointed Rowe to its teaching faculty in 1971. In addition to his library duties he was advanced from assistant to associate professor, then to full professor of church history in 1986. He has taught annually in the Theological School and in the graduate programs in Liturgical Studies and Wesley and Methodist Studies. His effectiveness in the classroom earned him the Graduate

essays, articles, and bibliographies. Among his published bibliographies are those on John Calvin, Martin Luther, Methodist women, and black Methodists. His work continues on the projected 20 - volume Methodist Union Catalogue, pre-1976 Imprints (Scarecrow Press) and United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies, a work which requires regular updates. Rowe is author, contributor and editor of several volumes, including, *Rethinking Methodist History* –

Recent Books on Wesleyan/Holiness Themes

- Abbott, Margery Post, Mary Ellen Chijioke, Pink Dandelion and John Oliver. *Historical Dictionary of the Friends (Quakers)*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2002. \$80.00.
- Bendroth, Margaret Lamberts and Virginia Lieson Brereton, eds. *Women and Twentieth Century Protestantism*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2002. \$19.95 (paper).
- Bennett, David. *The Altar Call: Its Origin and Present Usage*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2000. \$42.00.
- Bernard, David. *A History of Christian Doctrine, vol. 3: The Twentieth Century*. Hazelwood, MO: World Aflame Press, 1999.
- Burgess, Stanley, ed. *New International Dictionary of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. \$49.99.
- Callen, Barry. *Authentic Spirituality: Moving Beyond Mere Religion*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Casey, Michael W. and Douglas A. Foster, eds. *The Stone-Campbell Movement: An International Religious Tradition*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002.
- Cox, Leo George. *John Wesley's Concept of Sin*. Salem, OH: Schmul Publishing Co., 2002.
- Eason, Andrew Mark. *Women in God's Army: Gender and Equality in the Early Salvation Army*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2002. \$34.95.
- Goff, Jr. James R. *Close Harmony: A History of Southern Gospel*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. \$24.95.
- Goff, James R. and Grant Wacker, eds. *Portraits of a Generation: Early Pentecostal Leaders*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 2002. \$34.95.
- Jones, Charles Edwin. *Perfectionist Persuasion: The Holiness Movement in American Methodism*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1974. \$31.00. Reprint.
- Kay, William K. *Pentecostals in Britain*. Carisle, UK: Paternoster Press, 2000.
- King, W.L. *Autobiography of W.L. King: A Radical*. Craigville, WV: Voice of the Nazarene, 2002. Order from walter@ezla.net
- Larsen, Timothy. *Christabel Pankhurst: Fundamentalism and Feminism in Coalition*. Rochester, NY: Boydell & Brewer, 2002. \$72.00.
- Mulder, Philip N. *A Controversial Spirit: Evangelical Awakenings in the South*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. \$39.95.
- McGuire, Peter R. *The Fruits of the Vine: Methodism in the Southern Piedmont*. Boone, NC: Parkway Publishers, 2002. \$25.00.
- Moir, John S. *Christianity in Canada: Historical Essays by John S. Moir*. Gravelbourg, SK: Laverdure & Associates. \$14.95. Order from Laverdure & Associates, Box 246, Gravelbourg, SK S0H 1X0.
- Patzwald, Gari-Anne. *Waiting for Elijah: A History of the Meggiddo Mission*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002. \$30.00.
- Sernett, Milton C. *North Star Country: Upstate New York and the Crusade for African American Freedom*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2002. \$49.95.
- Stanley, Susie C. *Holy Boldness: Women Preacher's Autobiographies and the Sanctified Self*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002. \$35.00.
- Stone, Bryan P. and Thomas Jay Oord, eds. *Thy Nature and Thy Name is Holy: Wesleyan and Process Theology in Dialogue*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2001.
- Streiff, Patrick. *Reluctant Saint? A Theological Biography of John Fletcher*. Peterborough, UK: Epworth Press, 2001.
- Tucker, Karen Westerfield. *American Methodist Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. \$49.95.
- Weaver-Zercher, David, ed. *Minding the Church: Scholarship in the Anabaptist Tradition*. Telford, PA: Pandora Press, 2002. \$22.95. Essays in honor of E. Morris Sider.
- Wood, Laurence W. *The Meaning of Pentecost in Early Methodism: Rediscovering John Fletcher as John Wesley's Vindicator and Designated Successor*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2002. \$49.95.
- Yrigoyen, Charles, ed. *The Global Impact of the Wesleyan Traditions and Their Related Movements*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2002. \$75.00.

Initially, funding for the *Wesleyan Holiness Studies Center Bulletin* was provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts. We are sorry to say that this is no longer the case and it has become necessary for us to begin charging a fee to cover the cost of printing and postage. For a one year's subscription (two issues), the cost will be \$5.00, \$10.00 for two years, etc. If you wish to continue receiving the *Bulletin*, please return this portion of the newsletter to:

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Rowe, cont.

Society, Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Methodist Librarians' Fellowship, North American Academy of Liturgy, Order of St. Luke, Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological

Studies, Wesley Historical Society, and World Methodist Historical Society. He also serves on the Editorial Board of *Methodist History*.

Academic credentials, an outstanding publication record, and service to academia, church, and organiza-

tions tell us much about Kenneth E. Rowe. We who know him personally, however, also deeply appreciate him as a committed scholar/leader whose gifts have made an inestimable contribution not only to our research interests and pur-

suits, but also as Christian friend and colleague.

—Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.,
General Secretary
General Commission on
Archives and History
The United Methodist Church

Nathan O. Hatch & John H. Wigger (eds.), *Methodism and the Shaping of American Culture* (Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2001) ; 347 pages.

This collection of 10 uniformly excellent articles on American Methodism from 1770 to 1860 derived from a conference at Asbury Theological Seminary in 1994, but the papers have been updated to reflect the current state of Methodist historiography. The chapters are thematically related, but confine themselves to their own topics and avoid the repetition often associated with conference publications.

Nathan Hatch declares that Methodism became the largest and most influential religious movement in the period after the American Revolution and has "a central place in the shaping of American culture." In his opening article, he assesses why historians have not analyzed Methodism's creative influence and given it due credit. The remaining nine articles,

however, ably demonstrate that this dereliction has not been true for at least the last decade. Each opens an encyclopedia of issues and reflections on critical aspects of American Methodist history.

They deal with the geographic and numerical expansion of Methodism, the nature of the Methodist community and how it transformed its itinerancy and institutions to better serve American society. They study the experiences of Afro-Americans and women as both participants and leaders in the movement, and how their status was affected by notions of respectability. They address the strength and contribution of Methodism in the Upper South and New England. They also demonstrate the multitude of Methodist political and economic responses to the fundamental secular issues of the

period. Collectively, they analyze the essential historical questions of race, gender, class, politics and regionalism while reflecting Methodism's reaction to and influence on American culture. While none of the chapters provide all the answers, they stimulate vital debates.

They perhaps conclude that Methodists became quintessential Americans in their acceptance of change and their transformation into respectable, moralistic, essentially conservative individuals. Despite their economic, racial, ethnic and partisan diversity, they shared the American dreams of progress under a benevolent, "American" God.

My concerns center on the question: what was inherent in Methodism to respond as it did as opposed to an American response irrespective of specific

religious beliefs? For example, how could Methodists oppose, support, or, more generally, be indifferent to slavery? It appears that adaptability to changing local conditions was Methodism's greatest strength and greatest weakness? Perhaps a better awareness of Methodist actions elsewhere in the world would help clarify the uniquely Methodist contribution to the American scene.

Still, the collection supplies an excellent introduction to the major concerns of Methodist and broad American history during this period, and allows both the novice and the expert to delve into a multitude of complex issues. This fundamentally important book should be on every bookshelf.

*Reviewed by Neil Sample, author of
The Lord's Dominion: The
History of Canadian Methodism.*

B.L. Fisher Library Adds Paul E. Wagner Papers

A significant collection of archival papers documenting the ministry of Paul E. Wagner, Methodist evangelist and missionary to India and Nepal (1937-1976), have been added to the archives of the B. L. Fisher Library at Asbury. Wagner served as general Secretary of the United Christian Ashrams from 1976-1980. The papers include correspondence and subject files documenting Wagner's ministry. Wagner served as a district superintendent, building director, Director of Village Medical Service and All India Director of Stewardship. He often served as a government consultant on road construction projects, land reclamation and village economic uplift. Asbury Theological Seminary also has significant archival collections documenting the careers of India missionaries, E. A. Seamands and E. Stanley Jones and the related papers of the United Christian Ashrams.

The Wesleyan/Holiness Studies Center

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Two Significant Collections of Holiness Camp Meeting Sermons

Since the publication of *Radical Righteousness* Wally Thornton, Jr. has emerged as the principal authority on the Conservative (some of us prefer Radical) Holiness Movement. For those uninitiated in the mysteries of Wesleyan factionalism, these are the fellowship of Wesleyan denominations and independent churches that commonly supported the annual Inter-Church Holiness Convention (IHC) and a series of traditional Wesleyan schools, Hobe Sound Bible College, God's Bible School, etc, camp meetings and mission agencies. In many ways, Wally Thornton is the fitting, if slightly more scholarly successor to the late Harold E. Schmul long time leader of conservative Wesleyanism.

Since 1999, Thornton has edited two very significant collections of holiness sermons. The first *Sons of Thunder: Camp Meeting Sermons by Post-World War II Holiness Revivalists* (1999) is in this reviewer's view the most significant collection of writings from the key male evangelists of the Conservative Holiness Movement. Although Thornton includes such moderates as John R. Church, L. W. Sturk, Roy Nicholson and John Paul, the real significance of the collection are the sermons by evangelists active in IHC circles, such as Millard Downing, V. O. Agan, J. Wesley Adcock and Warren C. McIntire. Scholars will especially appreciate the biographical sketches of the evangelists whose sermons are included in the collection.

Thornton's second volume, *Lightening from the Past: Camp Meeting Sermons by Early Twentieth-Century Holiness Evangelists* (2001) is a collection of rare sermons by the great evangelists of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Holiness revival. Thornton's choice of evangelists is excellent including, John L. Brasher, the often ignored Pilgrim radical R. G. Finch, A. M. Hills, Bud Robinson, Joseph H. Smith, Beverly Carradine and H. C. Morrison. Especially notable are several sermons by Oswald Chambers that were original published in *God's Revivalist*. These books may be ordered from Schmul Publishing Company, P.O. Box 716, Salem, Ohio 44460. (Phone 1-800-772-6657 Reviewed by William Kostlevy.