

## RESENSIES/REVIEWS

E.A. DREYER &amp; M.S. BURROWS

*Minding the Spirit. The study of Christian spirituality.*  
Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2005.

With the exception of the *Preface* and the *Afterword* to this volume, the 25 contributions sandwiched between these words are re-publications, namely of articles that appeared in the journal *Spiritus* and its precursor, the *Christian Spirituality Bulletin*. For study purposes, this book is excellent — both for undergraduate students and for scholars from other disciplines now entering the field of Spirituality and seeking an accessible orientation. For academics and advanced students, K Waaijman's *Spiritualiteit: Vormen, Grondslagen, Methoden*, translated as *Spirituality: Forms, Foundations, Methods*, is, however, recommended as the primary resource, with Dreyer & Burrows a valuable companion volume. The reason for this evaluation is twofold: Waaijman's monograph is by its very nature more systematic than could be expected from a collection of essays, and the monograph is more thoroughgoing. In addition, the more European approach provides a good counter-balance to the mostly North American authorship (with the exceptions of Sheldrake and Sobrino) to the Dreyer & Burrows volume.

The *Preface* offers the by now almost mandatory two opening remarks to any publication on Spirituality, on the recent growth in the interest in Spirituality and on the difficulties involved with defining this discipline. The *Afterword*, titled "Emerging issues and new trajectories in the study of Christian Spirituality", summarises recent broad developments in the field, of which scholars already active in the field of Spirituality would be cognisant. Personally, I had expected bolder pronouncements on where Spirituality scholarship may head in the next decade, particularly in a volume such as this, which indicates some important aspects of thinking on Spirituality during the period 1994 to 2004. Perhaps the relative youth of the discipline, as the editors acknowledge in the closing pages of the book, precludes such daring; perhaps the non-directive nature of the discipline itself, along with the typical American academic civility in this respect, amid, lastly, the growing interdisciplinary nature of this field of study, are contributory factors here. Perhaps, then, precisely this would lead readers to some groundbreaking thinking: where could Spirituality — while not neglecting its traditional enquiries! — seek its innovative passageways ...?

## Resensies/Reviews

The essays in *Minding the Spirit* vary quite dramatically — and are therefore in line with the general dynamics of writing on Spirituality — in scientific quality: some are highly referenced scholarly contributions, while others are more personally contemplative in nature.

The 25 chapters, divided into five parts, are:

Part 1: Spirituality as an academic discipline: foundations and methods

1. The study of Christian Spirituality: contours and dynamics of a discipline, by S.M. Schneiders.
2. The letter and the Spirit: Spirituality as an academic discipline, by B. McGinn.
3. Broadening the focus: context as a corrective lens in reading historical works in Spirituality, by W.H. Principe.
4. A Hermeneutical approach to the study of Christian Spirituality, by S.M. Schneiders.

Part 2: The self-implicating nature of the study of Spirituality

5. Spiritual discipline, discipline of Spirituality: revisiting questions of definition and method, by M. Frohlich.
6. The role of practice in the study of Christian Spirituality, by E. Liebert.
7. The cost of interpretation: sacred texts and ascetic practice in desert spirituality, by D. Burton-Christie.
8. Spider as metaphor: attending to the symbol-making process in the academic discipline of Spirituality, by B.C. Lane.
9. Why bodies matter: a sociological reflection on Spirituality and materiality; by M.B. McGuire.
10. The language of inner experience in Christian mysticism, by B. McGinn.

Part 3: Interpreting the tradition: historical and theological perspectives

11. The turn to Spirituality? The relationship between theology and Spirituality, by J.M. Ashley.
12. *Extra Arcam Noe*: Criteria for Christian Spirituality, by L.S. Cunningham.
13. Spirituality as a resource for theology: the Holy Spirit in Augustine, by E.A. Dreyer.
14. The Mozartian moment: reflections on Medieval mysticism, by B. Newman.
15. Words that reach into the silence: mystical languages of unsaying, by M.S. Burrows.
16. Lover without a name: Spirituality and constructive Christology today, by M. McIntosh.

Part 4: Spirituality and healing

17. Monseñor Romero, a Salvadoran and a Christian, by J. Sobrino.
18. An ecologically sensitive Spirituality, by T. Berry.
19. Reading from the underside of selfhood: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and spiritual formation, by L.E. Dahill.
20. Lourdes: a pilgrim after all, by E.A. Matter.
21. Christian Spirituality as a way of living publicly: dialectic of the mystical and prophetic, by P.F, Sheldrake.

Part 5: Spirituality and aesthetics

22. Beauty and terror, by D.E. Saliers.
23. "A wide and fleshly love": images, imagination, and the Study of Christian Spirituality, by W.M. Wright.
24. Sound Spirituality: on the formative expressive power of music for Christian spirituality, by D.E. Saliers.
25. "Raiding the inarticulate": mysticism, poetics, and the unlanguageable, by M.S. Burrows.

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