

## CRITICAL BOOK REVIEWS

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*Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, by Angelo Di Berardino, ed. 2nd ed., 3 volumes. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014. cvi pp. + 2,876 pp. + 75 pp. list of articles. ISBN 978-0-8308-2943-9. Hardcover, US\$450.00.

Angelo Di Barardino is professor of patrology at the Augustinian Patristic Institute (Augustinianum) in Rome. He was one of the world's leading specialists in the early church so it is only fitting that he would update this critically acclaimed reference set. The previous edition, published in 1992 in two volumes, contains a veritable "who's who" list of specialists on the early Christian church.

Scholars will quickly observe that most of the articles are the same. This is due in part to the high caliber of scholarship. In some cases authors have updated articles, and for those authors who are deceased, only the bibliography was updated. The major difference is the addition of 600 new entries.

Readers will also notice that the format is smaller. Presumably this is to make room for the additional articles now expanded into three vol-

umes. Unfortunately it appears that there was no longer room for the synoptic table, which perhaps should have remained. Perhaps the most glaring deletion is the absence of 44 color maps and 320 black and white illustrations. It would have been worth expanding the set into four volumes to retain this table along with the maps and illustrations. Personally, I will have to keep both sets in my library.

As someone who teaches the history of Christianity, including es on early Christianity, this is a major reference work that every theological or research library should own. At the same time librarians should be careful not to discard the previous edition too quickly as it still will serve a useful purpose.

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*The Lord's Watchman: A Life of Edward Irving (1792-1834)*, by Tim Grass. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2012. xv pp. + 303 pp. + 11 pp. appendix + 34 pp. bibliography + 8 pp. index. ISBN 978-1-8422-7426-2. Softcover US\$25.00.

This volume is the first major biography of Edward Irving in three decades as part of a lifelong interest by Tim Grass about Edward Irving, a controversial Scottish preacher. The title "The Lord's Watchman" is a biblical reference to Ezekiel 33, a text that Irving felt aptly depicted his life. Irving is convinced that the Lord called him to warn the church of danger.

Chapters one to three (pp. 1-15) describe Edward Irving's family background, early life, personal spiritual background, formative years, and education. As an Arts student, Irving desired to become a minister. He earned his degree in the Arts in 1809 at Edinburgh, but never gave up the dream of becoming a minister so he took up religious studies while working part time.

Chapters four to six (pp. 16-50) record Irving's work experience. First, Irving taught at Haddington and tutored Jane Welsh, a figure who later was an important link later on his life. While waiting for a call to the ministry he served as a school teacher in Kirkcaldy from 1812 to 1818. A particular highlight from this stage of his life was an encounter with Thomas Carlyle, a teacher at a rival school who in turn became one of his closest friends. During his time in Kirkcaldy, he befriended John Martin, an evangelical minister, whose daughter Isabella later became his wife.

Irving left Kirkcaldy for Edinburgh to improve his prospects for a call to the ministry. Occasionally he was invited to preach at various churches,