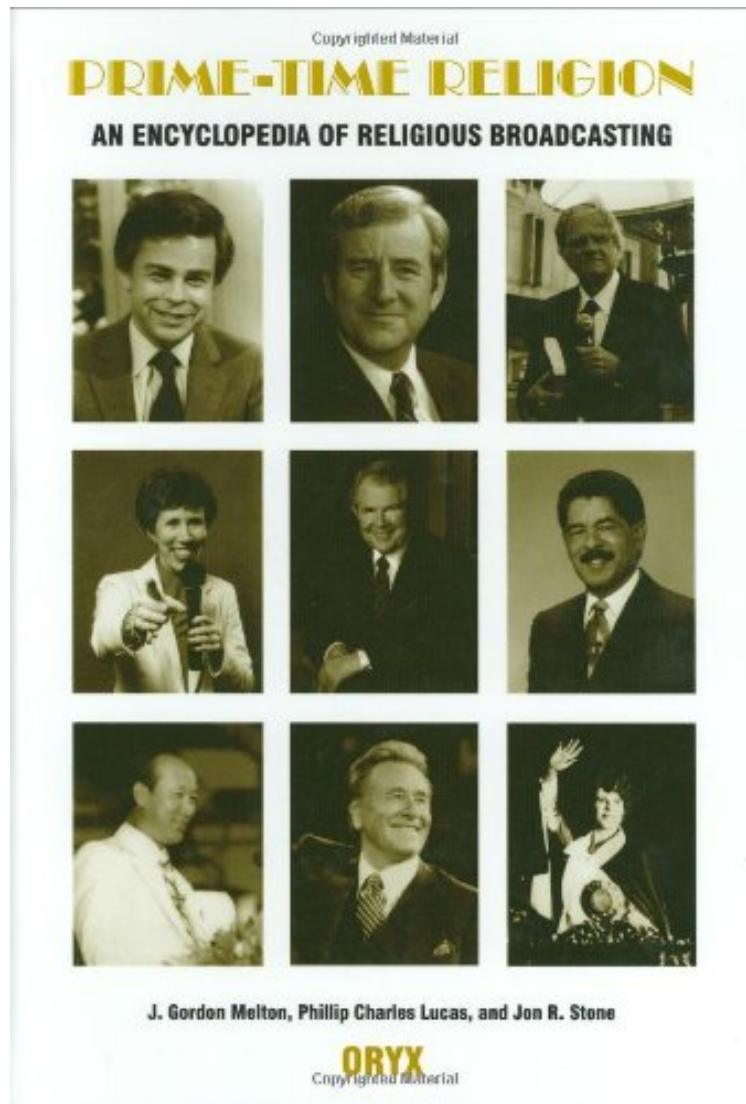


[Download] Prime-Time Religion: An Encyclopedia of Religious Broadcasting

Prime-Time Religion: An Encyclopedia of Religious Broadcasting

Jon R. Stone

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Jon R. Stone : Prime-Time Religion: An Encyclopedia of Religious Broadcasting before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prime-Time Religion: An Encyclopedia of Religious Broadcasting:

Introducing the first authoritative guide to cover every aspect of religious broadcasting from its inception in 1921 to the present. Prime Time Religion contains over 430 entries chosen for their historical importance, national or

international impact, exemplary nature, and longevity in the field of religious broadcasting. The book covers all religious groups who have turned to radio and television to promote their messages.

From Booklist The Board's review of media historian Hal Erickson's *Religious Radio and Television in the United States, 1921-1991* [RBB F 15 93] characterized the collection of 400 profiles of persons, programs, and organizations in the first 70 years of religious broadcasting as "a unique and entertaining work that will be welcome in libraries serving patrons with religious or communications interests." Now J. Gordon Melton--well known to reference personnel for his *Encyclopedia of American Religions*, *Directory of Religious Organizations in the United States*, and *Religious Leaders of America* and two colleagues have compiled a similar volume of more than 400 objective entries on primarily U.S. personalities, programs, and organizations from 1921 to the present, but also including a few of foreign origin. The entry on Bill Bright (Campus Crusade for Christ) is current to May_ 1996; the entry for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association cites four 1995 events. Not surprisingly, Erickson and Melton include many entries in common (e.g., Bakker, Jim; Peale, Norman V.; Bishop Sheen; "Hour of Decision" ; "The Lutheran Hour" ; Vision Interfaith Satellite Network; Christian Broadcasting Network). On the other hand, only Erickson has entries for the Moody Bible Institute and "Highway to Heaven" (a Catholic radio show); only Melton includes Far East Broadcasting Company and Vatican Radio. Both titles have an introductory chapter providing a history of the development of religious broadcasting, and both have numerous cross-references. The selected bibliography in Erickson lists scholarly and popular books and articles; that in Melton emphasizes scholarly titles. While no entries in Erickson have bibliographies or include illustrations, most in Melton include a bibliography, and many include photos of the personalities. Entries in both volumes vary greatly in length, with those in Melton often longer than those in Erickson, particularly for the best-known persons. Only Erickson identifies selected program categories--Salvation Army programs, Mennonite broadcasts, children's programs, etc. Melton concludes with five appendixes, the first three of which list the founders, chairpersons, and hall-of-fame inductees of the National Religious Broadcasters. The fourth and fifth appendixes describe the Blease amendment to the Dill Radio Control Bill of 1926 (which led to the creation of the Federal Radio Commission) and "Sustaining Time," the free airtime allotted to religious broadcasters. *Prime-Time Religion* is a valuable, carefully researched complement to Erickson's *Religious Radio and Television in the United States* for libraries that need additional coverage of this topic. ... "this compendium, the first encyclopedia treatment of the epic, is one that serious scholars as well as curious readers will appreciate.... *Prime-Time Religion* helps to track the continuing cultural and political effects that faith-based belief systems have on the American social fabric.... In addition to its research potential, this guide-book, together with local television or radio listings, will help earnest faith-seekers find desired programs."-ARBA "Recommended for academic libraries supporting religion and communication programs."-CHOICE... "a useful source for information on religious broadcasters and programs."-Communication Booknotes Quarterly... "a well-researched, well-written, and interesting work, recommended for academic and public libraries."-Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion... "future researchers will find this assemblage of organizational profiles, biographies, and bibliographies an invaluable resource."-Booklist/ Reference Books Bulletin "Prime-Time Religion is a valuable, carefully researched complement to Erickson's *Religious Radio and Television in the United States* for libraries that need additional coverage of this topic."-Insights? Recommended for academic libraries supporting religion and communication programs.?-CHOICE?... a useful source for information on religious broadcasters and programs.?-Communication Booknotes Quarterly?... a well-researched, well-written, and interesting work, recommended for academic and public libraries.?-Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion?... future researchers will find this assemblage of organizational profiles, biographies, and bibliographies an invaluable resource.?-Booklist/ Reference Books Bulletin? Prime-Time Religion is a valuable, carefully researched complement to Erickson's *Religious Radio and Television in the United States* for libraries that need additional coverage of this topic.?-Insights?... this compendium, the first encyclopedia treatment of the epic, is one that serious scholars as well as curious readers will appreciate.... *Prime-Time Religion* helps to track the continuing cultural and political effects that faith-based belief systems have on the American social fabric.... In addition to its research potential, this guide-book, together with local television or radio listings, will help earnest faith-seekers find desired programs."-ARBA About the Author J. Gordon Melton is director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion in Santa Barbara, CA, and the author of more than 40 books on American and world religion. Phillip Charles Lucas, PhD, teaches American religion at Stetson University in Deland, FL. His monograph, *The Odyssey of a New Religion: The Holy Order of MANS* from New Age

to Orthodoxy was published in 1995. Jon R. Stone, PhD, is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion and university lecturer in the English Writing Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. His published works include *A Guide to the End of the World: Popular Eschatology in America*; *Latin for the Illiterati*; and *On the Boundaries of American Evangelicalism: The Postwar Evangelical Coalition*.