



PRINCETON
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

December 22, 1987

Dear Walt,

Your conversations with the editor at Wadsworth Press were very welcome news. It would be great to do an update of The Religious Personality. I've thought about it alot, but didn't think Wadsworth would be interested. I teach a course on autobiography at least every other year, so I think I've kept up pretty well on the literature. I know we would have to revise the book quite alot, but I don't think it would be all that difficult to do.

I think we could delete some or all of the following: Luis de Carvajel, Johann Goethe, August Strindberg and Andre Gide. I also think we should consider deleting the Nietzsche selection on the grounds that it is more likely than not written by someone else.

Worth adding in their place would be selections chosen from some of the following:

Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

C.S. Lewis, Surprised By Joy

John Bunyan, Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners

Leo Tolstoy, A Confession

Julian of Norwich, A Shewing of God's Love (14th Century woman)

Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe (14th Century woman)

Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl

Era Bell Thompson, American Daughter (a black woman raised in North Dakota)

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (black slave)

Thomas Merton, The Seven Storey Mountain

Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Autobiography

The ones that I think we should definitely add would be Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness, C.S. Lewis, Surprised By Joy, Leo Tolstoy, A Confession, Thomas Merton, The Seven Storey Mountain, and either Julian of Norwich or Margery Kempe. These are all viewed as classics and really ought to be in the book. (The chapter in Merton on the war death of his brother would be especially good in light of your interest in Vietnam.)

I assume that we would only have to pay for permissions on the new selections. If so, Tolstoy, Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe, Frederick Douglass, John Bunyan and Saint Therese of Lisieux wouldn't cost anything. I assume that Day, Lewis, Frank and Thompson would still cost something.

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I have all the books here so I could put together some selections over the next month or so and send them on to you.

I've been collecting books about autobiography (mainly literary criticism) for the past ten years or so, so it wouldn't be hard to add a bibliography on recommended books for those who want to study autobiography further, if the Press wanted this. There are probably 20-30 books now on autobiography as a subject of study.

I also think we would need to change the title of one of the self-types--the fraternal self--to something that was not so gender specific, like "The Related Self."

It would be great to get this project out within a year or so of the Augustine project I'm doing with Dittes. I'd really like to get moving on it and would do the bulk of the revising if that would suit you.

The past couple of weeks I've been working on a "Deadly Sins Scale," a questionnaire for people to take in order to determine what their worst sins are. I'm hoping to get a psychologist involved in the project, and to do a research study that would test denominational and family influences on the sins. The idea would be to determine whether certain denominations create awareness of certain sins or attract people who perceive themselves to have certain sins, and also to test the biblical idea that sins are passed from one generation to the next. I think the project has possibilities.

On the home front, John is back in town and we're planning the usual trip to Williamsburg for the Christmas Tree lighting and carol singing. But this time we plan to start driving south with the idea of doing some camping in Florida, if it's warm enough.

I hope that you have a great Christmas!

Love,

Don



PRINCETON
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

January 7, 1988

Dear Walt,

I've been doing some work on The Religious Personality and have come up with some new selections to replace de Carvajel, Goethe, Strindberg, Gide and Nietzsche. I'm enclosing a revised table of contents with the new figures included; also, the excerpts from the autobiographies. The new selections add five more women (one a black woman) and another black male. There are nine new selections in all. This may be too many, but each one has something going for it.

The ones that should not cost any money for permissions would be St. Therese of Lisieux, Frederick Douglass, Leo Tolstoy, Margery Kempe and possibly Era Bell Thompson. Those that are still under copyright are Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Annie Dillard and Rolly May. I've used new translations in some instances (e.g. Margery Kempe, St. Therese, Leo Tolstoy), but, if these proved costly, we could do what we did with Augustine--go to an old translation.

We have a graduate student here who is interested in autobiography and also happens to be our departmental assistant. I can put her to work in putting together the "suggestions for further reading" for each of these selections. This would leave just the introductions to the selections and the revisions of the general introduction necessitated by the changes in the selections.

I'm also enclosing a list indicating the copyright facts on each of the selections.

Let me know what you think!

Take care,

Don

PS I would be interested in knowing the name of the editor at Wadsworth. I'm wondering if they might be interested in the book on Augustine that I'm doing with Dittes? Or would this just confuse things to try to interest Wadsworth in another project?

PPS Assuming we would want to go with all of these new selections, I'd be willing to write the introductions for most of them, since I have the autobiographies. But would you want to do Thomas Merton?



WADSWORTH
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4 April 1988

Professor Walter H. Capps
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Dear Walter:

Thanks for your letter of 23 March. I am tempted to say "whoa" again, but am also willing to proceed on the revision of your religious personality text. It would help me to have an actual table of contents for the new edition, as well as a revised preface that reflects the basic ideas and the way they may have changed based on your (and the field's) current thinking on the subject. We might want to review these two documents, to determine what the response might be. In the best case, it could encourage you to press ahead; in a less favorable case, it might indicate that the project could be a chancy use of your time. Since the book went out of print due, if I have my facts right, to low sales, I think we'd want to check out the revision before you devote much time to it. We can of course also proceed by completing the manuscript, then reviewing it. To my way of thinking the preliminary investigation approach works better. What do you think?

I'd be delighted to talk to you about the project (and your Vietnam War anthology) anytime; in person in San Francisco would be preferable. I feel that we've ricocheted these ideas about up to now and would welcome a more measured and coherent discussion. I will be traveling through most of April but will be in town most of the time through early summer. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Fullerton
Religious Studies Editor

THE RELIGIOUS PERSONALITY

The Resigned Self

St. Augustine

Henne Hayyen

John Wesley

William Cowper

Carl G. Jung

Thomas Merton (new)

The Chastized Self

Peter Abelard

Jeanne Marie Guyon

Cotton Mather

St. Therese of Lisieux (new)

Frederick Douglass (new)

Elie Wiesel

The Relational Self

Benjamin Franklin

Leo Tolstoy (new)

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Black Elk

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Richard L. Rubenstein

Era Bell Thompson (new)

Malcolm X

The Aesthetic Self

Margery Kempe (new)

Soren Kierkegaard

Dorothy Day (new)

Paul Tillich

Annie Dillard (new)

Rollo May (new)

THE RELIGIOUS PERSONALITY

Thomas Merton, The Seven Storey Mountain. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1948. Copyright renewed by The Trustees of the Merton Legacy Trust.

St. Therese of Lisieux, The Autobiography, translated by John Beevers. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company Image Books, 1957. Alternative: The Life of St. Theresa of Jesus, translated by David Lewis (London: Thomas Baker, 1904).

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. New York: New American Library, 1969. No copyright.

Leo Tolstoy, A Confession, translated by Jane Kentish. New York: Viking Penguin Inc., 1987. (Translation first published in 1987). I can look for an alternative translation if necessary.

Era Bell Thompson, American Daughter. St Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1986. Copyright 1946 by The University of Chicago Press, reprinted 1986 by arrangement with The University of Chicago Press.

Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe, translated by B.A. Windeatt. New York: Viking Penguin Inc., 1985. Copyright of translation held by B.A. Windeatt. Various alternative translations not under copyright are available.

Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1952. Copyright held by Harper and Row.)

Annie Dillard, An American Childhood. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.

Rollo May, My Quest for Beauty. San Francisco: Saybrook Press, 1985.