



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 44, Folder 5, Religious education and prejudice, 1969.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PREJUDICE

Completed Research

1. The Dropsie College Study of Jewish Textbooks Sponsored by The American Jewish Committee.

A quantitative analysis of 200 teaching materials conducted at Dropsie College by Bernard D. Weinryb and Daniel Garnick. The investigation attempted to determine the extent of both intergroup and intragroup content and to determine whether prejudice was found in the materials. The findings indicated that (a) Jewish religious textbooks are more introverted than Christian texts (b) Jewish materials tend to avoid doctrinal comparisons with Christianity and discuss non-Jews in terms of ethnic and national rather than religious identity (c) Jewish texts tend to be more critical of other Jewish groups than of Christians.

A summary of the findings has been published in mimeographed form by the American Jewish Committee under the title, Jewish School Textbooks and Intergroup Relations, New York, November 1965.

2. The St. Louis University Study of Roman Catholic Religious Textbooks Sponsored by The American Jewish Committee.

A three year quantitative study of sixty-five religious textbooks most widely used in United States parochial school systems. The research was conducted at St. Louis University by Sister Rose Albert Thering O.P. and was supervised by Rev. Trafford P. Maher S.J. The investigation revealed (a) Catholic religious texts are overwhelmingly positive in their references toward racial and ethnic groups (b) General intergroup teachings which refer to "all men" are also overwhelmingly positive (c) Negative and distorted statements are found to be more prevalent in references to Protestants, Jews and other specific non-Catholic religious groups.

The study was prepared as a doctoral dissertation under the title, Potential in Religious Textbooks for Developing a Realistic Self-Concept, St. Louis University, 1959.

(The American Jewish Committee plans to publish in 1970 a summary of the findings of this research and of the investigations of Literature Textbooks and Social Studies Textbooks conducted at St. Louis University. This summary is currently being prepared by Rev. John Pawlikowski, O.S.M.)

3. The Yale Study of Protestant Church School Textbooks Sponsored by The American Jewish Committee.

A seven year study of one hundred and twenty thousand Protestant church school lessons conducted by Bernhard E. Olson at the Yale Divinity School. The research, based on the concept of

ethnocentrism identified four major faith perspectives (liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, classical conservatism, fundamentalism) for intensive analysis. The investigation was aimed at determining how various non-Christian religious groups as well as ethnic and national groups were portrayed in Protestant texts. In addition the study wished to determine how Protestant groups viewed each other. The findings indicated that liberal and neo-orthodox materials stood high on the anti-ethnocentric scale, the fundamentalist group measured zero while the conservative publisher stood medium low on the negative part of the scale.

The investigation was prepared as a doctoral dissertation under the title, The Victims and the Oppressors: Yale University, 1959. The dissertation in revised form was published under the title Faith and Prejudice, New Haven 1963.

4. Study of French Language Roman Catholic Religious Literature
Sponsored by the Socio-Religious Research Center of Louvain University and the American Jewish Committee.

A detailed analysis of the Jewish content of seventy-nine volumes used in secondary schools in the Roman Catholic school systems of the following countries; France, Belgium, French speaking Switzerland, French speaking Canada. The research was conducted by Marie-Therese Delmer, Jacques Dumont, Genevieve Lemercinier and Rafaella Notre under the supervision of Canon Francois Houtart and Canon Jean Giglet. The analysis was quantitative, in that it measured the proportion of space allocated to Jews and qualitative, in that it showed the favorable, unfavorable or neutral use of the attention devoted to Jews and Judaism. In addition, the researchers provide an analysis, in historical context, of how theological theories of the Passion came to be adopted and perpetuated. The study revealed (a) No deliberate intention to show Jews in a negative manner in present-day French language catechetical teaching (b) While the presentation of Judaism is far from being always pejorative, positive allusions most often refer to events in secular or religious history prior to Christ. (c) Most of the accounts implicate all the Jews of Jesus' time in the Passion yet few link Jews of today with the event. (d) The central point in the image of the Jews is incredulity, this is a stereotype with a long tradition. Thus the Jews in the catechism are anachronisms set forth as the antithesis of what Christians are and should be.

The findings of the study have been published and are available under the title Les Juifs Dans La Catechese, Centre De Recherches Socio-Religieuses, Louvain 1969.

5. Study of Italian and Spanish Religious Textbooks Sponsored by Free International University of Social Studies Pro Deo and The American Jewish Committee

An analysis of one hundred forty two Italian textbooks and one hundred fifteen Italian textbooks published between 1940 and 1964. The research was conducted by Professors Otto Klineberg, Tullio Tentori, Franco Crespi and Vincenzo Filippone at the Leonard M. Sperry Center for Intergroup Cooperation of the Pro Deo University. The aim of the research was to discover whether the texts contained any prejudicial attitudes (favorable or unfavorable) toward relations with other religious groups. Four categories of classification were employed in the investigation. (Negative, positive, negative-positive, indifferent). The researchers concluded, "when we look at the results of our analysis, both quantitatively and qualitatively we are struck by the large amount of hostility, not only against Jews but against other groups as well, in both the Italian and Spanish samples." The researchers point out however that the very existence of positive references (slightly higher in the Spanish sample than the Italian) indicates that "writers could find pleasant things to say about other groups if they were so disposed, without sacrificing anything of what, from their own religious standpoint, they would regard as the truth."

The study has been published under the title, Religion and Prejudice: A Content Analysis of Catholic Religious Textbooks in Italy and Spain with a Foreward by Augustino Cardinal Bea, Rome 1968.

6. Joint Protestant Textbook Study Sponsored by The American Jewish Committee and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

A content analysis of the church school publications of twelve American Protestant denominational and independent groups. The research, conducted by Gerald Strober, had a three fold objective. To measure the impact of the Yale investigation, to discern and evaluate the intergroup, specifically Jewish content of currently published curricula and to examine curricula in the light of events such as Vatican II, the spread of Jewish-Christian dialogue and the Arab-Israel political crisis. The investigation confirmed the hypothesis that certain Biblical and historical themes are problematic and offer the potential of fostering negative attitudes concerning Jews, Jewish religion and Jewish experience. The treatment of these themes (Judaism, the Pharisees, Jewish rejection of Jesus as Messiah, the crucifixion) by conservative groups is likely to be negative although there are lessons which modify this general tendency. The findings also indicated that subjects such as Vatican II, Jewish-Christian relations and Arab-Israeli relations are not important concerns to those involved in Protestant curriculum development. In addition there appears to be an increasing interest on the part of

Protestant publishers in discussion of prejudice and prejudice exploration.

The findings of this investigation will be available in the fall of 1969 from the American Jewish Committee.



Activity in ProgressAustria

A textbook commission was appointed in 1967 by the Archdiocese of Vienna and the Committee for Christian-Jewish Coordination. This commission was directed by Dr. Kurt Schubert, head of the Institute for Judaica at Vienna State University. The commission has drawn up suggestions for the elimination of negative references in religious textbooks to Jews, Protestants, other religions and atheists.

In 1967 a Memorandum stating that a legitimate presentation of Judaism forms an integral part of Christian catechetics was presented to Franz Cardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna. This Memorandum was divided into the following parts; (a) the unabolished covenant (b) the Christian contradiction (c) practical indications for catechetics (d) a position taken with regard to religion texts diffused throughout Austria.

The Committee for Christian-Jewish coordination has commissioned Rev. C. Thoma, Assistant Professor of Judaica, University of Vienna, to rework the Memorandum and broaden its scope, so that it may serve as a supplement to official religion textbooks. This document will be published in 1969 under the title, Judentum und christliche Katechese, Klosterneuburger and Stuttgarter Bibleverlag.

Argentina

Catechesis Episcopa Commission is working on changes to be introduced in religious textbooks in accordance with the resolutions of Vatican II.

Atlanta

A joint study of textbooks used in the Roman Catholic schools of Atlanta, Georgia, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the American Jewish Committee is currently in progress. The analysis is conducted by an interfaith committee in accordance with Guidelines for Catholic-Jewish Relations published by the United States Catholic Bishops Conference. As of February 1969 two high school religion texts were analysed. The committee states that almost all the anti-Semitic passages noted in the two books resulted from unconscious presuppositions or inadequate biblical scholarship. The committee forwards copies of its findings to the publisher and author of the works analysed.

This type of project may be replicated in other United States

dioceses. Father Edward Flannery, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has recently forwarded materials dealing with the Atlanta project and textbook evaluation to diocesan secretariats for Catholic-Jewish Relations.

American Jewish Committee

The Interreligious Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee has undertaken a program of implementation of the Yale study and the recently completed investigation of Protestant materials conducted by Mr. Gerald S. Strober. Mr. Strober is currently serving as Consultant in Religious Curricula to the American Jewish Committee. In this capacity he meets with Protestant publishers and editorial personnel, reviews manuscripts and acts as a resource person to Protestant interdenominational and denominational bodies. One important phase of his work involves the implementation of a series of guidelines developed during the course of his investigation. These guidelines deal with crucial Biblical and historical themes in the Jewish-Christian relationship. At present several Protestant denominations are using the guidelines as they develop curricula.



Books

Demann, Paul,

La catechese Chretienne et Le Peuple de la Bible
Paris 1952

An analysis of French catechetical materials by a Roman Catholic priest strongly influenced by the work of Jules Isaac. This pioneering study stressed the importance of a balanced portrait of Judaism in the catechism, since it is there that students often encounter Jewish religion and life for the first time.

Eakin, Mildred Moody and Eakin, Frank,

Sunday School Fights Prejudice, New York 1953

Summary of a study of American Protestant church school materials used in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The investigation was concerned, with references which tended toward "betterment or worsening of Jewish-Gentile, Negro-white relations. The authors suggested that the Sunday school was making efforts to combat intergroup prejudice.

Glock, Charles Y., and Stark, Rodney,

Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism, New York 1966

Summary of a survey research examination of the nature and extent of the relationship between anti-Semitism, Christian beliefs and the teachings of the Christian church conducted at the University of California, Berkeley, under a grant from the Anti-Defamation League. The research centered around questionnaires completed by three thousand persons in the Northern California area. The authors interpret their findings to indicate a process which begins with orthodoxy, moves to particularism, then to religious hostility, finally culminating in a secular anti-Semitism. Their conclusions concerning the relationship of particularism and religious orthodoxy to prejudice are presented as a challenge to the churches.

Kuppers, E.,

Gottes Volk, Frankfurt/Main 1962

Aid for teachers of religion in Sunday School in their treatment of Jewish life. Includes important pertinent documents.

Olson, Bernhard E.,
Faith and Prejudice, New Haven, Conn. 1963

A summary of the findings of the author's
Yale Divinity School investigation of
Protestant church school textbooks. Major
statistical tables are included.



Pamphlet^s

Heller, Bernard,
With Malice Toward None
New York, The Synagogue Council of America, 1943

Dr. Heller, consultant to the Synagogue Council Textbook Commission describes the attempts of official Protestant, Catholic and Jewish bodies to examine their own materials from an intergroup perspective.

El Problema de los Prejuicios en la Educacion Religiosa
New York and Buenos Aires, AJC, July 1964
8 p

A summary of the investigation conducted at St. Louis University by Sister Rose Albert Thering.

Mimeo Report^s

Council of Christians and Jews
"Report of a Conference on a Survey of Religious Textbooks"
(London, October 9-10, 1954)

A summary of discussions dealing with the treatment of religious groups in scripture textbooks and the problems which developed from their treatment.

Loyola University, (New Orleans, La.)
"Intergroup Content in Religious Teaching Materials" September 1963

Lectures and workshop conclusions based on the findings of the Yale, St. Louis and Dropsie investigations.

"A Study of Protestant Church School Literature Used in 1950-1951
From the Point of View of Jewish Protestant and Negro White Relations"
New York, AJC 1952

Part I Elementary Division 152 p.
Part II Intermediate-Senior Division 93 p.
Part III Young People-Adult Division 48 p.

Hunter, David R.

"A Consideration of Efforts to Eliminate Unconscious anti-Semitism in Christian Religious Teaching in the U.S.A.

WCC Consultation May 27-30, 1969

Summary of the work of Bernhard E. Olson and Gerald Strober in Protestant textbook evaluation and implementation.

Mimeo Report^s - continued

Weinryb, Bernard and Garnick, Daniel,
"Jewish School Textbooks and Intergroup Relations"
New York, AJC 1965 59 p.

The Dropsie College study of Jewish Textbooks.



ARTICLES

*Arnold, James, "Religious Textbooks, Primers in Biogotry"
Ave Maria Oct. 10, 1964

17

A general description of Yale and Dropsie investigations, specific description of St. Louis study with recommendations for implementation of St. Louis findings.

Bernards, Solomon S. "Theological Education for a Pluralistic Society:
what we teach about each other"
Encounter, Summer 1964

A lecture presented at the Indiana School of Religion. Stressing the need for Christian theological education to change its image of Jews and Judaism.

Borowitz, Eugene, "Christkillers no more: Jewish education and the
Second Vatican Council" Religious Education
September 1966

The author suggests that the efforts of Vatican II will have little influence upon formal Jewish education but may well effect the informal education of Jews in terms of traditional Christian anti-Semitism.

Brown, James "Christian Teaching and Anti-Semitism" Commentary,
December 1957, p. 494-501

Surveys results of major textbook studies in the United States as well as the work of Father Demann. The author suggests that Christian preoccupation with the Jewish heritage of Christianity can prepare the way for a more favorable Christian attitude toward Jews and Judaism.

Clinchy, Everett, "The Borderland of Prejudice" Christian Century,
May 14, 1930.

A description of a survey of Protestant Sunday school materials conducted by the author and Paul A. Reynolds.

Cohen, Henry, "Prejudice Reduction in Religious Education" Religious Education Sept.-Oct. 1964

The author suggests that the more effective the technique of reducing prejudice, the more difficult is its implementation within the existing framework of religious institutions.

Eakin, Frank, "What Christians Teach About Jews" Christian Century, September 18, 1935

Material based on Drew studies of Protestant textbooks.

Eisenberg, Howard and Arlene, "Our Built-in Prejudice" Cosmopolitan Dec. 1964, p. 38-45

A popular treatment of Yale and St. Louis studies with mention of the work of Jules Isaac and individuals in the United States involved in interreligious relations.

Epstein, Jack, "Roots of Religious Prejudice" Journal of Ecumenical Studies, Fall 1968

The author states that statistically, anti-Jewish references are prevalent in the New Testament. He calls for better translations of the New Testament text and suggests that Jewish scholars could aid in the translation process.

Eyerly, Jane, "Prejudice in Religious Textbooks," St. Louis University Magazine, June 1965

Description of Sister Rose Albert Thering's study with recommendations for change by Father Trafford P. Maher, S.J.

Brother Frederick, "Ecumenical Fairness in Religious Textbooks" Ave Maria, Nov. 13, 1965

The author describes his role as consultant in the development of a high school textbook series.

Frisch, Ephraim, "Judaism, Distortion and Reality" Journal of Bible and Religion, Jan. 1955, p. 38-41

A discussion of actions Jews and Christians can take to correct distortions in their teaching about other groups.

Gilbert, Arthur "World Council of Churches and Jewish Religious Education" Religious Education, Sept. 1966

The author, while recognizing ambivalences in the relationship asks that Jewish education be concerned with the activities of the World Council of Churches and with the ecumenical movement in general.

Koenig, Robert "Christian Education and Anti-Semitism" Social Action,
Nov. 1960

*Maher, Trafford, P. "The Catholic School Curriculum and Intergroup
Relations" Religious Education, March-April 1960,
p. 117-121

A summary of the findings of the St. Louis University
textbook investigation.

Reprinted by American Jewish Committee as part of
symposium on Intergroup Relations in Religious
Textbooks.

Neidhart, Walter "The Fight Against anti-Semitism in Christian Education"
Ecumenical Review, Oct. 1962

*Discussion of European activity in
improving Jewish image in Christian
education. Author also gives helpful
practical information on dealing
with New Testament passages.*

*Olson, Bernhard E. "In the church's closet..."
"Anti-Semitism: a lively skeleton" Christian
Advocate, April 22, 1965

Discussion of Christian teaching and its effects upon
Jewish existence.

*Olson, Bernhard E. "Some relations of faith to prejudice" Information
Service (Department of Research, National Council
of Churches) December 8, 1965

Reprint of a paper delivered at the American
Catholic Sociological Society. Discussion of
ethnocentrism and the author's view that nationalism
and racism are the real religions of many Americans.

- *Olson, Bernhard E. "Intergroup Relations in Protestant Teaching Materials" Religious Education, March-April 1960, p. 123-138

A summary of the findings of the author's Yale study of Protestant church school texts.
Reprinted by American Jewish Committee as part of symposium on Intergroup Relations in Religious Textbooks.

- *Olson, Bernhard E. "The Crucifixion, The Jew and the Christian" Religious Education, July-August 1963, p. 331-341

Summary of findings of Yale study on responsibility for the crucifixion with stress on the historical involvement of Jews and gentiles.

- *Olson, Bernhard E. "Christian Education and the image of the Pharisees" Religious Education, Nov.-Dec. 1960

Summary of the portrayal of the Pharisees in Protestant texts based on findings of the Yale study. Includes analysis of how Christians can improve a basically negative portrait.

- *Perlmutter, Philip "The Teaching of Jewish-Christian Relations: A demonstration project" Religious Education Nov.-Dec. 1967

Summary of a four session seminar on teaching Jewish-Christian relations. Subjects included: Prejudice and Discrimination, Religious Education and the Problems of Prejudice.

- *Pike, James A. "The Roots of Bias: are they found in our churches and their teaching?" Look, March 14, 1961

A popular discussion of the Yale study.

- Ryan, Carl J. "Does our teaching of Religion Produce Anti-Semitism?" Journal of Religious Instruction, Feb. 1946

Results of a "brief test on the passion and death of our Lord" administered to eighth grade pupils in the Cincinnati archdiocese.

Spoerl, Dorothy "Some Aspects of Prejudice as Affected by Religion and Education" Journal of Social Psychology, 1951 33 p. 69-76

Strommen, Merton P. "Religious Education and the Problems of Prejudice" Religious Education, January 1967

A significant review article of Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism with comparison findings of a youth study conducted by the author.

Streiker, Lowell, D. "Religious Education and the Jewish People" Christian Century, Feb. 8, 1967

The author asks for significant changes in Christian teaching about Jews and Judaism. He also suggests that Christians in an effort to become better acquainted with Jewish life, become members of Jewish congregations.

*Tanenbaum, Marc H. "An Ecumenical Re-examination of Christian-Jewish Relations" Sister Formation Bulletin, Vol. X No. 4, 1964

A lecture given at the Sister Formation Workshop at Marquette University. Stress is on the St. Louis University textbook study and the statement of Francis Cardinal Spellman on anti-Semitism.

Thering, Sister Rose Albert "Religious Prejudice, religious education and ecumenism" Religious Education, March 1967

Report of a seminar on religious prejudice conducted at the annual meeting of the Religious Education Association, November 1966. Recommendations include, ecumenical preparation of church histories and a national study on religious prejudice every ten years.

Thoma, C and others, "Religion texts revised" Sidic, Vol. II no. 1 1968,
p. 18-20

Comments on revision of Italian texts, new French
and Canadian catechisms, work on a supplement to
the Austrian catechism.

"Some 'negative distorted' attitudes found in Catholic
Religious Textbooks" U S Catholic, July 1964

*Weinryb, Bernard D. "Intergroup Content in Jewish Religious Textbooks"
Religious Education, March-April 1960

Summary of the findings of the Dropsie study of Jewish
texts. Reprinted by American Jewish Committee as
part of symposium on Intergroup Relations in Religious
Textbooks.

