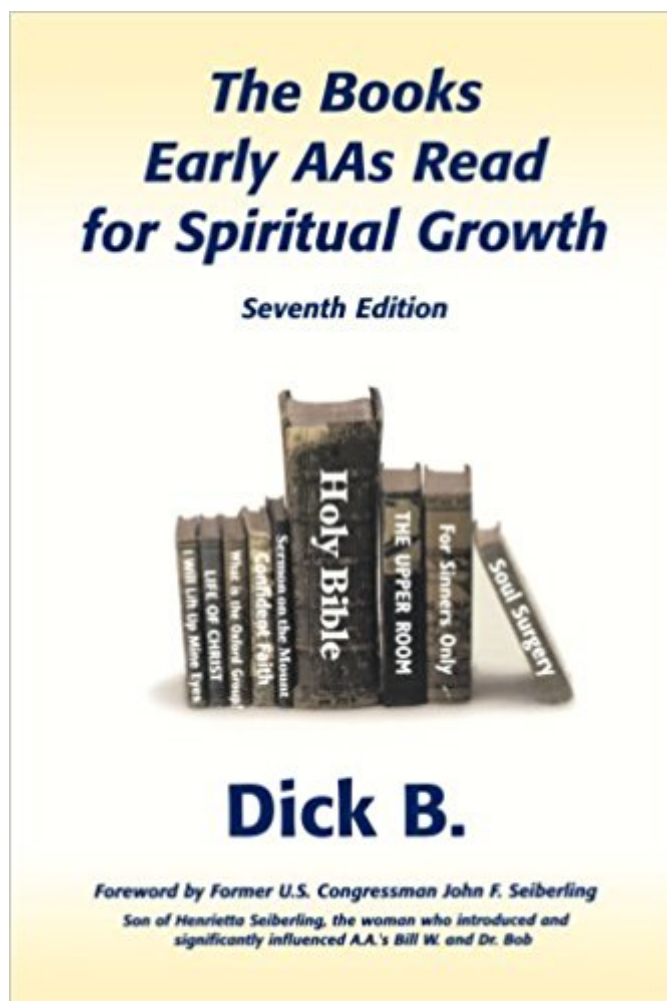


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The Books Early AAs Read For Spiritual Growth, 7th Edition



Synopsis

There have been a number of limited publications of books believed to be those that early AAs read. However, the first question is whether a listing of books will be helpful today to those who want to recover and be cured of alcoholism. The fact is that early A.A. had a documented 75% to 93% success rate among seemingly hopeless medically incurable real alcoholics who went to any lengths to establish a relationship and fellowship with their Creator. One of their major spiritual tools consisted of the large number of specific Christian books and articles they read in their effort to learn about God, about His son Jesus Christ, about the Bible, and about how to pray and lead a life based on cardinal Christian teachings. Several different people were advising them as to books to be studied. First, of course, was Dr. Bob Smith. And this title covers the books he read, studied, recommended, and circulated. Second, his wife Anne Ripley Smith kept a journal of the books read and those she recommended. These also are covered. Then there were the lay leaders of the early Christian fellowship--Henrietta Seiberling and T. Henry Williams and his wife Clarace. The books they read, discussed, and recommended are listed. So too those studied by Clarence Snyder, who had such great success helping alcoholics in Cleveland and then for many years thereafter. Also, there were the daily devotionals in common use--the Upper Room, The Runner's Bible, Oswald Chambers' My Utmost for His Highest, the E. Stanley Jones devotionals--Abundant Living and Victorious Living. Glenn Clark produced devotionals that were used, as did Emmet Fox, Harry Emerson Fosdick, and many others. This title covers them all. It offers many choices to those who want to acquire and study the religious literature that was so much a part of the early pioneer prayer, Bible study, quiet time, and reading life. You will find the book, now in its 7th edition, a real guide to what you can read today for recovery, following the same path the highly successful early pioneers followed in Akron.

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Customer Reviews

The passage of time and the volume of sales have justified this 7th edition. More and more books have come to the author's attention as his research has continued. More and more books have become available through book searches. And more and more 12 Step Fellowship members and others have begun collecting, using, studying, and growing spiritually from reading the wonderful books A.A. pioneers read. The sources are documented. And former U.S. Congressman John F. Seiberling, who attended the early meetings as the son of A.A.'s woman leader (non-alcoholic), and who helped provide some of the books has written a foreword to this edition. It is an invaluable reference resource and offers a specific set of reading materials for those wanting to grow spiritually by reading the Bible, Christian classics, life of Jesus Christ, prayer, healing, love, life-changing, fellowship, witnessing, and forgiveness literature which helped A.A. pioneers to get well and stay well.

The more I find and study the early literature from St. Augustine to The Upper Room, I see what I missed when I first came to A.A. The program, in the early days, was not about meetings or drunk-a-logs or psychobabble. It was about God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the gift of Holy Spirit, prayer, healing, forgiveness, love, guidance, and all the rest. You can only see the depth and value if you read the books that early AAs read. They recovered!

Good value

Good read

This used book arrived in very good condition - excellent for the price. The book content delivers what the book blurbs promised and more. Very useful to this old-time long time stepper. Never too old, never too young to find this book useful. I now keep it with my Big Book and my 12 & 12 etc.

Great info about what early AA's read.

The Big Book suggests that there are many helpful books that can be read in connection with the Eleventh Step. And early AAs read all kinds of literature, which is covered in this guide. Their books were those on Quiet Time, prayer, healing, love, forgiveness, daily devotionals, the Oxford Group, and New Thought writers like Fox, Drummond, Clark, etc. Dick plumbed the sources from Dr. Bob's Library, Anne Smith's Journal, That Amazing Grace (what Clarence Snyder had in his library, Henrietta B. Seiberling (what her children told him about her library), the books T. Henry Williams read, all the Sam Shoemaker articles and books, and the immense number of Oxford Group books Dick collected. Here is a concise description of the books you will find helpful to your spiritual growth, just as I have. And see Dr. Bob and His Library, Anne Smith's Journal, That Amazing Grace, DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers, AA The Way It Began by Pittman, New Light on Alcoholism, and The Oxford Group and Alcoholics Anonymous

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