

## **The reason for being: Ted Beverley Collection**

Sometimes only in retrospect does it become clear why something developed the way it did. This is the case with my collection of books, articles, and vhs and dvd collection. I started out wanting to find answers to questions I had about history, philosophy, Christianity, science and religion, literature, and the culture developing around me. Gradually it became clear there is a deep inter linkage between these broad subjects. For example to understand Christian theology one needs to know not only the biblical text but also the philosophy used in a particular theology. So for Augustine it is Plato; for Aquinas it is Aristotle; for Luther it is Ockham's nominalism.

Within Christianity there are books in the collection dealing with history, theology, Mesopotamian thought and culture, Old Testament commentary and studies, Second Temple Judaism (about 500 BC to 70 AD), Qumran writings, New Testament commentaries and..studies. On the New Testament era are books dealing with the historical Jesus and Christ of faith issue, Paul's letters, theology and controversies on his work and books on eschatology.

Each period in Christian history is covered: early church (about 90 to 600 AD), Medieval (600 to 1500) Reformation (1500 to 1600), Protestantism from 1600 to present. Works by major theologians from these periods along with studies on them: many church fathers of early church, medieval theologians like Anselm, Aquinas, and reformation theologians Luther, Calvin and on down to 20th century theologians like Tillich, Pannenberg, Barth, Bonhoefer, Norman Geisler, Helmut Thielicke, Thomas Oden and others.

Christian and western non-Christian philosophers' works and studies are covered. On the Christian philosophers are Gilson, Maritain, Alvin Plantinga, Geisler, Kierkegaard, Longan, Non-Christian philosophers are Plato, Aristotle, Plotinius, Spinoza, Hume, Leibniz, Reid, Locke, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Heidegger, Lowith, Hannah Arendt, and Satre,

There is a generous collection of histories of philosophy by Gilson, Copleston, Routledge Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Anthony Kenny,

Many western philosophers are covered, sometimes all their works are available but certainly the major works are available in the collection. Following each philosopher's works are studies dealing with major themes in their writings and some have biographies on them. also there works covering the theological aspects or implications their work has had.

History makes up a large selection of books. All major eras of western history are covered with the most books devoted to the 19th and 20th centuries. This is because the ideas of the 19th century were turned into the realities of the 20th century: often horrible realities like experimentation on humans, the holocaust and the devastation wrought by two world wars. Two of the worse forms of government arose from 19th century ideas: Nazism and communism, both variants of socialism. A number of books seeks to explain why and how these movements developed but most of the history books explore the grave problems arising from nazism. This is because Hitler and his regime created the greatest moral crisis of western civilization affecting Christianity, philosophy, ethics, culture: a crisis we still have not fully overcome and who's trends have taken on new life in early 21st century.

This leads us directly into the next major subject area covered in the collection: science: its main divisions of physics and biology, its philosophical foundations and philosophical implications; its philosophy of science as foundations for science; science and religion; and its role in evolution, creationism, and intelligent design. This brings us back to Nazism's use of evolutionary theory, evolutionary ethics, eugenics (founded by Darwin's cousin Francis Galton), and euthanasia came to be fused with 19th century racism and anti semitism to create the

conditions for Nazi holocaust, death of handicapped, and other racially so called inferiors. Unhappily some of these movements have made a comeback under different names: eugenics is gene therapy, or genetic engineering, or transhuman to use a postmodern term. Euthanasia is called merciful death, death with dignity, compassionate release from excessive suffering. Several excellent authors in the collection on these issues are Richard Weikart in his *Evolutionary Ethics: from Darwin to Hitler, Hitler's Ethics, Hitler's Religion* (best English study), and *Death of Humanity* (an examination of the collapse of western ethics in the French enlightenment down to current trends). Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, and George Mosse.

The fifth and last major subject area is literature which has links to the previous four major subjects dealt with in this collection. Literature from the Ancient Near East, Canaanite, Egyptian, Greek and Roman to early Christian, medieval, reformation writings. In the 20th century there are a large number of science fiction works, as well as Russian works by Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Books by H. G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, Jules Verne, Arthur Conan Doyle, C. S. Lewis, Tolkein, brothers Grimm, George McDonald, and Chesterton are well represented.