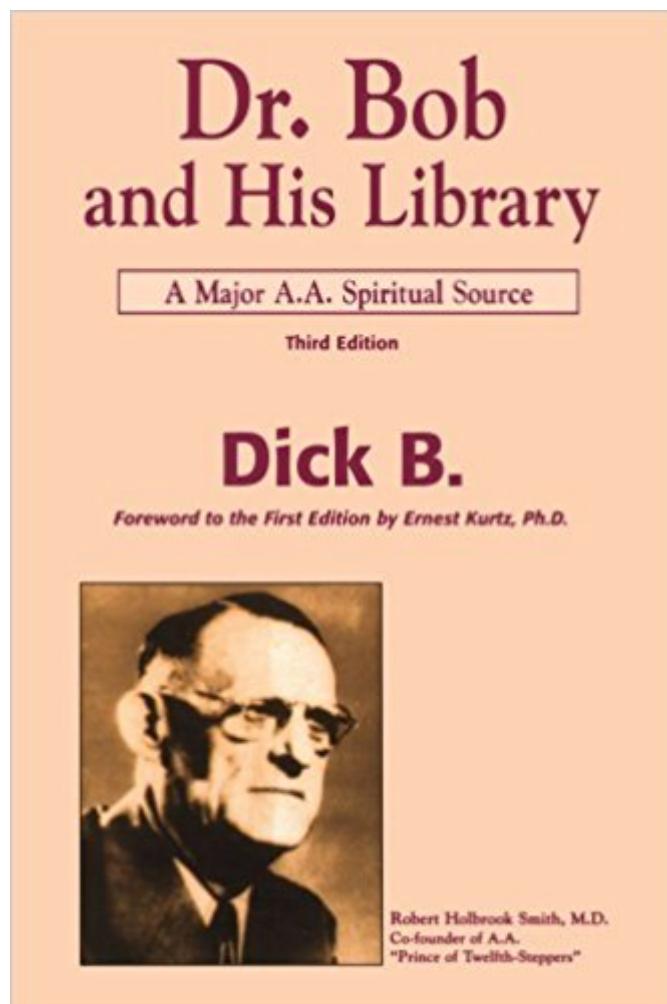


The book was found

# Dr. Bob And His Library: A Major A.A. Spiritual Source



## Synopsis

One of author Dick B.'s prized discoveries was the library of books A.A. co-founder Dr. Bob had read, studied, recommended, and circulated. Dick first found part of them in the home of Dr. Bob's surviving daughter Sue Smith Windows in Akron. Later he found most of the balance with Dr. Bob's son Smitty and his wife in Nocona, Texas. A.A. literature reported that the books had been given away on Dr. Bob's death. But that was not the case. Once the discovery was made, Dick checked out the details with the Smith children, and located other books that Dr. Bob had used. The importance of the find was that it illuminated the real Bible-based ideas and program of early A.A. This because Dr. Bob used the books and recommended them for use in recovery. Their scope is wide: Bible, prayer, Quiet Time, Jesus Christ, healing, the mind, psychology, devotionals, Oxford Group, William James, Carl Jung, Richard Peabody, Sam Shoemaker, New Thought, and much much more. There were hundreds in all. And Dick has taken this treasure trove of books, categorized them by subject, identified which were actually owned and still extant in possession of the relatives, and listed the source of others used. Those in the recovery movement who wonder what Bill Wilson meant when he wrote in the Big Book that there were many "helpful books" and that suggestions could be obtained from one's rabbi, minister, and priest will no longer wonder why Bill also wrote: Be quick to see where religious people are right. Make use of what they have to offer. A.A. never was a cloister which banned educational, psychological, religious, medical, or inspirational literature. Quite the contrary, pioneers did make use of what they had to offer. The Akron fellowship strongly recommended the use of "outside" literature. And Bill and Bob were still making that recommendation when they spoke together on the stage of the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles in March, 1948, before an audience of 4500 AAs and their families. Here's the place to find, read, and use the books the founders used as they achieved healing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dick B. is an author, historian, Bible student, recovered A.A., and active recovered member of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. He has sponsored more than 100 men in their recovery and devoted 18 years of his life to unearthing and reporting the long-ignored historical treasures of A.A. history. As of March, 2008, Dick had published 32 titles on early A.A. history and had been acclaimed by many as the leading A.A. historian. He still has several works in progress and speaks widely.

It is supportive to read about the books that helped Dr. Bob Smith and his wife Annie.

I was not prepared to review this book so I took no notes. I read this book but did not highlight anything of importance to me relating to AA history. There is information about The Bible and books Dr. Bob read related to the Bible and information about the Oxford Group. Dick B. does a good job of sharing the information.

This annotated bibliography gives a deeper insight into the spiritual worldview of Dr. Bob. The less-well-known co-founder of AA was a spiritual giant and this book helped me access some of his thinking by pointing me to the works that most influenced him directly.

Explains the spiritual life and source of Dr Bob co-founder of AA. Showed they had two programs of recovery; the New York program and the Akron Ohio program.

At the very beginning of his 17 years of research into the spiritual history and roots of Alcoholics Anonymous, Dick B. turned his attention to Akron. Why? Because A.A.'s own conference approved DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers opened the door to a good deal of history practically unknown in A.A. meetings and groups; and it erred in listing the books that Dr. Bob read and circulated indicating wrongly that they had been given away. The A.A. book also told little or nothing about Anne Smith's morning quiet times at the Smith home and nothing of the journal that she kept from

1933 to 1939 and used to teach Bill and Bob and also stimulate discussion at quiet times. Finally, the real Akron beginnings with Sam Shoemaker, Russell Firestone's miraculous cure from alcoholism, the roots of the Akron fellowship in United Christian Endeavor Society, and the real program itself as outlined by Frank Amos were not presented in full. Dick's first book and first edition of Dr. Bob's Library was written after Dick discovered from Dr. Bob's children, Sue Smith Windows and Robert R. Smith, that not only was Dr. Bob's Library still around, but that half of it was in Sue's attic in Akron and the other half was in Smitty's home in Nocona, Texas. Dick inspected them all, probably the first to see the whole group and study the individual items because each of the two children provided him with handwritten lists of the books so that he could track down the books and comment upon them. Dr. Bob's were of particular interest because they individually and in groups showed the various vital areas of interest to the pioneer AAs among whom they were circulated. Thus they covered alcoholism, Bible study, prayer, healing, love, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, studies of important Bible segments like the Sermon on the Mount and 1 Corinthians 13, the commentaries on these segments, the life-changing books (like those of Harold Begbie, Sam Shoemaker, and A.J. Russell), a Christian classic or two (like St. Augustine and Thomas a Kempis), many works by the top Christian writers of the day (such as Glenn Clark, Charles Sheldon, E. Stanley Jones, Oswald Chambers, Toyohiko Kagawa, the Unity leaders, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Norman Vincent Peale, Fulton Sheen, Emmet Fox, and many others), the writing of William James and Carl Jung, some of the Oxford Group literature, some of the Sam Shoemaker literature, and the devotionals like The Runner's Bible, The Upper Room, My Utmost for His Highest, and The Meaning of Prayer which were in daily use in Akron and, to a very limited degree, in New York. If you are going to learn and paint a picture of the real early A.A. and the Biblical origins of most of the principles practices it utilized, you need to see the scope of Dr. Bob's books, know that they were loaned out, know that they were background for the studies and meetings in the homes, and realize they covered all the rudiments of early A.A.'s Christian Fellowship and recovery program--abstinence, resisting temptation, acceptance of Christ, reliance on the Creator, elimination of sinful conduct, growth in fellowship with God and His son and other believers (through Bible studies, prayer meetings, morning devotions, seeking God's guidance, reading helpful literature, and engaging in religious and social comradeship and, if desired, attendance at church). The trio of Dick's earliest books--Dr. Bob's Library, Anne Smith's Journal, The Akron Genesis of Alcoholics Anonymous--show you an A.A. with a high success rate, an A.A. that relied on God, and A.A. in which members were cured, and a very simple program whose basic ideas were taken from the Bible. If you take this important first reading and then look at what has been discovered, you see the meat, the bones, and the

flavor of early A.A.'s simple program before there were any steps and before there was any basic text. You can also obtain and study the Akron AA pamphlets (4 in all that Dr. Bob caused to be published some 10 or 12 years later) that pointed to all the subjects, roots, principles, and standards that were so much a part of the Akron plan. This Dr. Bob book is a winner. Its content has never been even closely approximated in writings. It should be first on your march through history. And it will give you a perspective of words, phrases, language, and ideas that developed in early A.A. from 1935 through 1944.

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