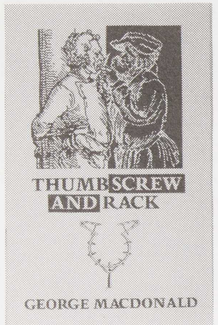


Thumbscrew and Rack

by George Macdonald

Did you ever wonder why throughout Western history people were so anxious to conform to religious dogma — even when it made no sense at all — when it told them black was white and up was down?

Part of the answer lies in "the iron arguments that Christians used," to quote Robert G. Ingersoll. The thumbscrew. The rack. The wheel. The cruel spider, meant for ripping off a woman's breast. These were compelling arguments indeed.

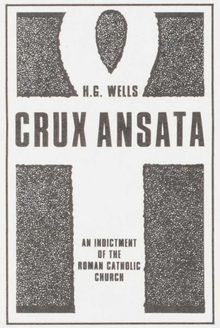
In this booklet, originally published circa 1904, George Macdonald describes them all. As you read through Macdonald's vivid descriptions of how these instruments were used, you will have a new understanding of how the church wielded its terror throughout its bloody history. This edition is heavily illustrated, and a look at these instruments of torture will help you realize how the church won the hearts of the people.

Appended to Macdonald's original essay is "Tools of Tyranny," a reprint of an article from the *American Atheist* magazine.

26 pages. Stapled. Stock #5232. $4.00.

H. G. Wells on the Roman Catholic church

Crux Ansata



H. G. Wells may be best-known today for his science fiction, but he was also an ardent foe of the Roman Catholic church. As he once put it, that church "stands for everything most hostile to the mental emancipation and stimulation of mankind." In *Crux Ansata*, he gives his reasons for that declaration. Though Wells writes from a distinctly religious position, the blows he strikes against the church he hates are telling. He may be sometimes over-forgiving of its lapses of taste, manners, and ethics, but he chronicles them nonetheless. The result is a readable overview of the intellectual and social forces which shaped the Roman Catholic church as we know it today — and the Protestant reaction to it.

160 pages. Paperback. Stock #5512. $7.50.

An Atheist Reports from India

by Margaret R. Bhatty

In the United States the forces of fundamentalism are screaming for "religious liberty" and the right not to be offended by facts or opposing viewpoints in any situation. In India, a nation in which the laws guarantee "freedom of religion," they have already won this perverse liberty.

Margaret Bhatty, teacher, mother, Atheist, Indian, reports on the jostling sects, each trying to gain ascendancy and adherents — all the while claiming that they are only exercising their freedom of religion.

267 pages. Paperback. Stock #5026. $9.00.

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The Great Infidels
by Robert G. Ingersoll

How often have you been asked, "What would the world be like without religion?" The great agnostic orator Robert Ingersoll answers this old chestnut by pointing to the lives of a few great — and nonreligious — men, including Julian, Bruno, Voltaire, Diderot, Hume, Spinoza, Paine, Franklin, and Jefferson.

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Why I Left the Roman Catholic Church

Two very different stories of leaving the Roman Catholic church are presented by Charles Davis, Britain's leading theologian, and Carolynne Simms, an ordinary Philadelphian. Together their two essays lend insights into the ethical and emotional quandaries which the Church of Rome creates for its members.

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by Rick B. A. Wise

Marxism has been criticized more vehemently and more emotionally for its stance on religion than for any other single issue. Yet one rarely hears from Karl Marx himself on this charged topic. Educator Rick B. A. Wise explores the religious position of one of the world's most influential thinkers.

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The X-Rated Bible

by Ben Edward Akerley

Is the Bible just another dirty book? Take a peek into it with the help of *The X-Rated Bible* and then judge for yourself.

Armed with direct quotes from the King James Bible, this work goes bravely where no minister would go — directly to the rape, incest, murder, adultery, husband-swapping, misogyny, and perversion with which the Christian Bible is filled. And its handy index will put the worst of the "good book" at your fingertips.

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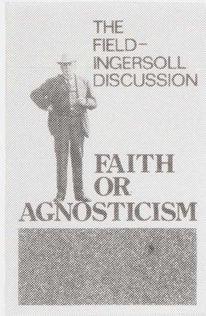
Faith or Agnosticism

What is the agnostic position?
The greatest agnostic orator spells it out.

The agnostic position is both much misunderstood and much maligned by advocates of religion. It was no different a century ago when a leading Presbyterian clergyman publicly debated America's most notorious unbeliever.

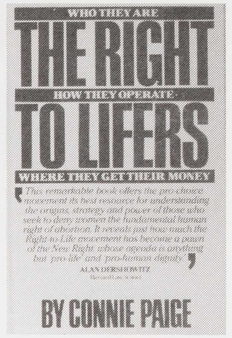


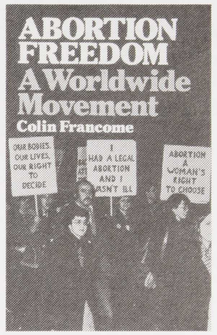
In 1888, the Rev. Henry M. Field, D.D. addressed an open letter to Robert G. Ingersoll in the popular magazine *North American Review*. His artful arguments were clearly meant to convert the man known as the Great Agnostic. Yet as his second open letter (written in response to Ingersoll's reply) demonstrates, it was the unbeliever who was doing the better job as evangelist.

In his two replies to Field, Robert G. Ingersoll meets the basic arguments for the existence of a god — and puts forth the arguments *against* the reality of such an entity. At the same time, he gives the positive philosophy of his nonbelief. As he puts it while discussing the family values of agnosticism, "the virtues are secular." Indeed, he contrasts how Christianity sells "crime on a credit," promising its believers that no matter how they sin against their fellow humans, they will be forgiven. Ingersoll throws the ugliest words of the Christian creed into the face of this apologist for Christ. He relentlessly explores the contradictions inherent in the Christian doctrine — while exposing to all the joyful outlook of agnosticism.

Throughout it all, Robert G. Ingersoll meets the rhetoric of religion with the clear, forceful logic of nonbelief. You'll find dozens of sentences and passages in his two letters to quote as you discuss religion with your intellectual friends and foes.

75 pages. Paperback. Stock #5168. $5.00.





Limited availability: two insightful books on a controversy that divides America

The Right to Lifers
by Connie Paige

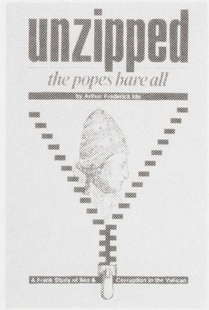
How did one of the most intimate decisions a woman can make become a political issue? Investigative reporter Connie Paige explores the germination of the right-to-life movement, with emphasis on its ties to the Roman Catholic church and the New Right. Though it was published in 1983, you will find her book to be an insightful look at how abortion was placed on our national agenda. A surprising appendix lists the corporations and foundations whose funding put it here.

286 pages. Hardback. Stock #5424. $14.50

Abortion Freedom: A Worldwide Movement
by Colin Francome

This detailed work outlines the ideas and strategies of opposing forces in the abortion controversy. Beginning with the nineteenth-century debates, the author records the gradual liberalism of abortion laws in forty countries. Paying particular attention to the West, he also chronicles the resistance to these changes.

241 pages. Paperback. Stock #5112. $10.95.



Unzipped: The Popes Bare All

If you think that all the popes have been good guys in white hats, you will be in for a big surprise when you dig into this remarkable expose by Arthur Frederick Ide. An ex-theologian and ex-Catholic, he brings the details of history to bear on the greed, perversions, and corruption of the popes of Rome. The book is liberally illustrated with scenes of tortures authorized by the "Vicars of Christ."

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