

Sources Chrétiennes

Sources Chrétiennes, published by Éditions du Cerf in Paris, is a bilingual collection of the most important texts from the first 1,400 years of the Church. Founded in Lyon in 1942 by Jean Daniélou, SJ, Henri de Lubac, SJ, and Claude Mondésert, SJ, the collection today numbers approximately 530 volumes and is edited by the Institut des Sources

Chrétiennes whose current director is Bernard Meunier. This institute is now affiliated with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

The first volume of the series was a translation by Jean Daniélou of Gregory of Nyssa's *Contemplation sur la vie de Moïse*, a subtle reminder of the Semitic origins of Christianity at a time of French occupation by an anti-Semitic regime.

The series consists principally of Greek and Latin early texts, although it also includes some eastern (Syriac, Armenian, and Coptic) texts along with some medieval works by authors such as Bernard of Clairvaux and Simeon the New Theologian. Greek authors include Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, John Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, and Theodoret of Cyr (sometimes rendered as Cyrrhus), among others. Representative Latin authors include Tertullian, Cyprian, Hilary of Poitiers, Ambrose, and Gregory the Great. The texts include apologetics, biblical commentary, sermons, treatises, letters, liturgies, poems and hymns, dialogues, ascetic writings, Church canons, and history.

The original text is on the left-hand page with a new French translation on the right. Some eastern texts (in Armenian, Syriac) are available only in translation. The critical apparatus, including introductions, notes, and indexes, helps scholars and the educated layperson to access Christian biblical, liturgical, and patristic sources.

Sources Chrésiennes also oversees the *Bibindex* project, an Index of Biblical Quotations and Allusions in Early Christian Literature. A parallel collection of the works of Philo of Alexandria has developed. A similar German bilingual collection, *Fontes Christiani*, is currently published by Brepols of Turnhout, Belgium.

See also Archives and Libraries; Bibliographies; Daniélou, Jean, Cardinal, SJ; France; Lubac, Henri de, Cardinal, SJ