

How God Makes the World a Better Place will likely find its best use in less formal, small group studies. Its clarity and ease of comprehension could help adherents in local churches and societies of the Wesleyan tradition to better understand the founding of their own theological, doctrinal, and practical traditions.

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Abraham Kuyper: An Annotated Bibliography, 1857–2010
Tjitze Kuipers
Barend Meijer (Editor)
Clifford Anderson with Dagmare Houniet (Translators)
Foreword by George Harinck
Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2011 (756 pages)

This annotated bibliography contains a vast amount of information that will be essential for all future Kuyper research. It lists all of Abraham Kuyper's printed publications, with full bibliographical details, and adds a brief description of each. The volume also includes all posthumous publications as well as reprints. In addition, it covers all of the translations that have been made over the years (an exhaustive list in itself). One qualification was unavoidable: *all* here means "all retrievable." Thanks to the generous selection criteria, every item is found here that was ever authored by Kuyper, published or unpublished, if it is extant *in print*, and (of course) if the collectors had it in their possession or were able either to hunt it down or stumble upon it.

The stage is set in a foreword by George Harinck who explains the vital role and ir-repressible urge that publishing—going public—played in the life of this prolific author. Next comes a preface by the translator who reviews the decade-long process behind the finished product. The reader is then treated to a recitation of acknowledgments by the original collector and compiler and an introduction explaining what selection criteria were applied and where items can be found if not already located in the library of Princeton Theological Seminary. An indispensable guide then explicates how the various technical aspects of each descriptor have to be interpreted. Two separate keys to abbreviations are then followed by a six-page chronological outline of Kuyper's life and work, ending in an impressive list of translations of his works in fifteen different languages (75 titles in English alone).

After these seven preliminaries, we get to the heart of the book on page 19: almost 700 pages that list and describe in chronological order the 230-odd publications written by Kuyper. Astonishingly, counted among these 230 publications—besides many pamphlets and smaller monographs, book reviews, letters to editors and telegrams—are no less than five works that consist of three or four volumes each. Regrettably, the bibliography lacks an index of all the titles.

The descriptors of each item are given in minute detail. They list the full title of the original (with an English translation), the size, edition, page numbers, publisher, physical details of the binding, original price, and exact location if appearing as part of a book or periodical. These details are further expanded by very informative notes about the occasion of the publication and supplemented by brief summaries of the subject matter.

Following the bibliography proper, we are given, starting on page 713, five appendixes containing indexes, a list of catalogs and bibliographies, sheet music featuring Kuyper texts, a bilingual list of organizations and institutions, and a list of periodicals. The volume closes with an index of names.

The above enumeration of the volume's contents indicates that this bibliography has been prepared according to the highest professional standards applicable to a work of this kind. The result is an extremely helpful guide in dating Kuyper's numerous publications, in identifying a sometimes-chaotic publication history of rival editions and successive publishing houses, and above all in indicating the subject matter treated each time.

It should be noted that the earlier, Dutch-language bibliography by J. C. Rullmann, which appeared in three volumes between 1923 and 1940, retains its own value. Although it incorporates a minimum of bibliographic data, it sometimes cites copiously from contemporary reviews and other reactions to Kuyper's works. Often it reproduces the integral text of a few of the smaller, more obscure works—a short address by Kuyper, his reply to a critical review, and the like. These features continue to yield useful information on background and context and are both illuminating and at times unexpectedly entertaining.

I take it to be a reviewer's mandate to note any errors or omissions that might misinform or confuse readers. In checking my own collection, plus notes taken over many years, I could detect only one or two (presumably unintended) omissions—and that not for lack of trying! For example, at first I looked in vain for the 343-page *Tekst-register* [index of biblical references] compiled by A. Rolloos and H. Hasper Jr. and published in 1906 by Van Der Want in Amersfoort and simultaneously by B. Sevensma in Grand Rapids. It is a volume that I think would be helpful to students of Kuyper (even if Kuyper's exegesis reputedly leaves a lot to be desired at times). Admittedly, this particular index is a borderline case, which teeters on the edge of legitimate inclusion in a bibliography of works by Kuyper himself. Nevertheless, the present volume turns out, to my delight, to have included this work after all in Appendix 1 (714). Another borderline case is the "Method of Study" that Professor Kuyper composed for the theology students of the Free University and that circulated among them (in an "unofficial" version perhaps) in the years after 1890 (it is reproduced *in extenso* in Rullmann 2:263–72). Finally, Winckel's early biography of Kuyper that is mentioned under 1919.¹² also had a North American edition that could have been mentioned for the sake of completeness; it was a separate imprint "voor Amerika en Canada" published by Eerdmans–Sevensma of Grand Rapids.

Some surprises are in store even for one engaged in a casual perusal of the tome. For example, we learn that the famous Stone Lectures on Calvinism have been published in three different versions, not counting the Dutch version overseen by Kuyper himself and the "Princeton text" overseen by Professor B. B. Warfield (i.e., the printed sheets from

which Kuyper presented the lectures at Princeton). The convoluted history of the various English texts is set forth in meticulous detail (290–92); it is a bit of detective work that suggests to me that one ought to consider the 1899 Dutch edition of the Stone Lectures the proper *authorial* one, even if the “Princeton text” is the only *authentic* one. Meanwhile, it was the Dutch text that served as the basis of a German and a Hungarian translation, even as Eerdmans’ English edition of 1931 went through as many as eighteen reprints for a total press run of 30,000 copies. It was this English edition that between 1932 and 2006 spawned translations into Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Chinese.

No doubt, other readers will run into surprises of their own. One story (fully documented here) that did not surprise me can be traced through the history of the fifty meditations on “Women in the Old Testament” that appeared in the *Amsterdamsche Kerkbode* between 1890 and 1893. Ever since they were collected in a single volume in 1897, it has seen press runs of over several hundred thousand. After partial translations into English appeared between 1901 and 1908 by the indefatigable J. H. de Vries, the first complete translation was made in 1933 by Calvin College student Henry Zylstra and published by Zondervan; its most recent reprint is the fifty-first, dated 2002. Over the years, this popular gem has been translated into Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Figures such as these virtually put that book, as an avid Kuyper scholar suggested to me years ago, in the class of world literature.

The well-known *Dictaten* are rightly included in the main body of the bibliography. When Kuyper was a professor at the Free University from 1880 to 1901, one of his best-attended courses was the one in dogmatic theology. The lecturer had the foresight to conscript one of the students for the (no doubt honorific) task of taking careful notes, especially of the introduction of each topic that the lecturer gave at dictation speed. These notes were “privately” published in ten volumes under the collective title of *Dictaten dogmatiek*. Two decades later, they were reprinted in five volumes by Kok of Kampen and Sevensma of Grand Rapids.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Tjitze Kuipers for his persistence as a collector over many years; to Barend Meijer for the initial editing of the descriptors; and to Clifford Anderson, assisted by Dagmare Houniet, for all the translation work required for fine-tuning and completing an immense and painstaking task. The fruit of their labors is a treasure trove that will remain the standard guide to Kuyper’s printed works.

The purchase price of the volume (\$297.00 or €217.00) will not deter the more devoted students of Kuyper. Every self-respecting academic library ought to acquire this indispensable reference work.

—Harry Van Dyke
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