

American Theological Library Association *(ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection*

What is the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection?

The *American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monograph Collection* consists of two series presenting more than 29,000 titles focused on religion and theology. In its entirety, the collection is estimated to contain more than 10 million pages, representing a core collection for colleges and universities with programs in history, theology, religion, sociology, political science, and other disciplines. The collection contains books that were published worldwide, and features content in more than 50 languages including, but not limited to, German, French, Latin, and Dutch.

The two available series follow the segmentation outlined below.

- Series 1 consists of titles from the 13th Century through the 1893 World Parliament of Religions with the majority of titles from the 19th century.
- Series 2 consists of titles published from 1894 through 1923.

The bulk of the titles date from 1850 through 1923, a time of great doctrinal, social, and organizational turmoil and upheaval in American culture. This important collection is a vital resource for scholars seeking to understand religious thought and practice in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Not limited to sermons and religious treatises, this collection contains information on social, historical, and literary issues. Religion was a part of daily life, law, and politics for people throughout these centuries, and the contents of the *ATLA Historical Monograph Collection* reflect the greater culture and society as a whole. Philosophy and religion permeate these writings, sometimes in partnership, other times in opposition. ATLA includes legends, mythology, and supernatural beliefs, as well as cultural anthropology and archaeology through the eyes of missionaries, historians, and theologians. Literary scholars will find excellent examples of writing styles and vocabularies of the time, as well as cultural information to assist with in-depth literary analysis. This content will be of use across the liberal arts.

American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection material is presented through the **EBSCOhost Digital Archives Viewer**, an innovative, interactive, browser-based interface that enables scholars and students to interact with the material in new ways. The interface replicates the experience of browsing and reading original archival material while also allowing keyword searching (with accommodation for historical printing and font variations), manipulation of page views, note-taking capabilities, persistent links to individual pages, and various downloading options. The **Reference Shelf** feature provides contextual essays, terminology guides, and citation instructional assistance in a variety of styles. The contextual essays, written by experienced historians, provide overviews of important titles in the collection and connect them to broader themes in history.

American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1 (13th Century - 1893)

The *American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection: Series 1* presents more than 15,000 titles from the 13th Century through the 1893 World Parliament of Religions. This is the first of two monograph series to be offered by EBSCO Publishing from the ATLA's historical monograph archives. This database is a vast collection containing more than 5 million pages of content.

The collection represents a historical time period of great doctrinal, social, and organizational change. Since religion was such an integral part of the social, political, and economic fabric of life during the time

period, historians researching a wide range of areas will find invaluable material relevant to their work. The collection covers a wide range of material with unparalleled depth and breadth. It includes many volumes documenting the recovery of languages used during the biblical era and provides an in-depth view of the way that interest in, and knowledge of, biblical languages emerged during the nineteenth century, an important foundation for today's study and understanding of biblical languages. It also contains titles in Aramaic, Arabic, Greek, Hebrew and Syriac.

Included in this series are books about prayer, the history of prayer, explication of prayers, and similar titles. The database also contains volumes on devotional material, spiritualism, and the pursuit of holiness and sanctification. In addition, it includes a significant number of published works about the manuscripts in the collection, their discovery, and many manuscripts as they were later republished in book form. There are numerous biographies of great leaders of the Christian Church, from its early days (Augustine) to the time of the Reformation (Luther, Calvin, Wesley). A significant part of the collection represents topics ranging from the early, middle, and recent history of Christianity to Christian life and ethics, pastoral theology, and devotional literature. The collection includes the writings of major scholars and writers in Christian history, such as Augustine, Soren Kierkegaard, Adolf von Harnack, and more.

This series holds key documents that lay the foundation for the understanding of the Eastern religions in the Western world with the World Parliament of Religions in 1893. Researchers who want to study the impact of evolutionary theory on religious thought and practice will have a rich and comprehensive collection to explore.

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection: Series 2 (1894 - 1923)

The *American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs Collection: Series 2* contains more than 15,000 titles published from 1894 through 1923. It presents a comprehensive picture of the growing interest in and understanding of Eastern religions from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, and it highlights significant shifts in the religious identification of Americans, and of new interest in and experimentation with non-western religions. The collection offers a comprehensive view of the historical critical method, the foundation for all twentieth century biblical scholarship. In 1893, the World Parliament of Religions was held in Chicago, marking the first experience many westerners had with Eastern religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, and Ba'haism. Besides the English translations of their holy writings, commentaries, histories, and biographies, numerous volumes in the collection are written by Muslims to introduce Islam to the West, explaining its system of worship and law, providing biographical information about Muhammed, and outlining the history of Islam in the West.

In addition, the content in this series describes the evangelical movement of the late nineteenth century when a tremendous wave of Christian missionary activity swept across the United States. Numerous biographies of nineteenth century theologians provide perspective on how and why these religious leaders were valued, and collections of sermons capture the debates between science and religion.

This series offers content from unique books by and about women and the church. It also includes books about Native Americans and their religion and how they were perceived by the Puritans. Topics like Jewish laws, music, literature, and history are also covered in the collection.