

**Materials from  
Glenn Chesnut**

**September 2019**

**Special Collections**

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND  
FRANKLIN D. SCHURZ LIBRARY ARCHIVES**

1. Richmond Walker
2. Father Ralph Pfau and Father Ed Dowling
3. A.A. beginners lessons
4. The books from the old Akron 1942 reading list for beginning A.A. members
5. Early black A.A.
6. Non-theistic psychological/sociological explanations of how A.A. gets alcoholics sober
7. How A.A. came to Indiana
8. The founding of A.A. in the South Bend area by a man named Kenneth Merrill
9. The A.A. prison group at the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City
10. The AAHistoryLovers material
11. Nancy Moyer Olson and the Hughes Act
12. Glenn Chesnut's papers and articles
13. Copies of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous
14. Evangelical Christian background to the Oxford Group and early AA.
15. Sources of A.A. thought at its very beginning, in Akron, New York, and Cleveland
16. Books and research on philosophy, theology and God
17. OTHER BOOKS BY GLENN CHESNUT
18. BOOKS ON SPIRITUALITY
19. Works written by other people, incl. Arthur S. (Arlington TX), Mel Barger, Bob Pearson, John Stark, Bob Stonebraker, etc.
20. COPIES OF ALL BOOKS which Chesnut has written or edited
21. MISCELLANEOUS (incl. tape recordings which were transcribed in the books)
22. Class lectures

**The four top A.A. historians from A.A.'s second generation (1970–2010):**

- Ernest Kurtz (died recently, author of the major general history of A.A., etc.) — this list is the one which Kurtz, the acknowledged top A.A. historian, gave of those whom he regarded as “the top four.”
- Mel Barger (died recently, principal author of *Pass It On*, the official A.A. biography of A.A.'s founder Bill Wilson, etc.)
- **Glenn Chesnut**
- Arthur Sheehan, author of *A Narrative Timeline of AA History*, (this 134-page book is the basic research tool for historians searching for the most accurate dates and principal references in other major A.A. literature). Sheehan is also the principal author, with co-authors Glenn Chesnut and Tom Enger, of *Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Recovery Outcome Rates: Contemporary Myth and Misinterpretation*, generally accepted as the best and most scientific statistical figures assembled to date of AA success rates).

A **fifth historian** who must be mentioned, on the general history of addictions treatment:

- William L. White, author of *Slaying the Dragon: The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America*

For photographs of Kurtz, Barger, and White and a bit about their lives, see <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/morepix02.html> . For Sheehan, see photos five and six at <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/morepix01.html>

Ernest Kurtz, considered by all as the top A.A. historian (Ph.D. in American Studies from Harvard University), declared that, not only was Chesnut one of the four best AA historians in the world, but that **“Glenn Chesnut is the leading expert on spirituality among today’s AA historians.”**

It was Charles Bishop, Jr., the noted antiquarian book dealer and bibliographer, who assembled the collection of 15,000 books, pamphlets, and other printed materials published by and about the A.A. movement, which became the nucleus of the Chester H. Kirk Collection on Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous at Brown University (the well-known Ivy League university in Providence, Rhode Island): see <http://library.brown.edu/collections/kirk/>. And shortly before his death, Ernest Kurtz, the dean of A.A. historians, also gave his papers to the Chester H. Kirk Collection. Kurtz wanted Chesnut to donate his papers to the Kirk Collection, and Bishop would have supported this wholeheartedly. But Chesnut preferred to donate his materials to the Indiana University South Bend library’s Special Collections, as being better organized for the particular purposes of his materials and easier to use for future researchers.

- Chesnut’s *Changed by Grace* is on Bishop’s list of the Top Fifty Books published over the last century which are recommended in order to understand the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

- Swegan and Chesnut's *The Psychology of Alcoholism* is on Bishop's list of the Top Sixty-One Books published over the last century which are recommended in order to understand the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.
- Chesnut's *Father Dowling* book is on Bishop's list of the Top Hundred Books published over the last century which are recommended in order to understand the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

Glenn Chesnut's first book (*The First Christian Histories*) was first published in 1977. It drew so much scholarly notice that he was asked to publish a second edition — something that is almost never done in that field — in 1986. This edition, which has become a classic, is still in print now, over thirty years later.

Many of Chesnut's later books have been made available for downloading or reading online. His downloadable book on Father Dowling is being read by 11,000 people a year, and his book on Ralph Pfau by 4,600 people a year. His essay on "The God-Shaped Hole in the Human Soul" is being read by 15,000 people a year.

**Copies of all the books by Glenn F. Chesnut for the IUSB Library Archives:**

A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland 1938-1942  
 Heroes of Early Black AA: Their Stories and Their Messages  
 Father Ralph Pfau and the Golden Books  
 Father Ed Dowling: Bill Wilson's Sponsor  
 God and Spirituality: Philosophical Essays  
 Changed by grace: V.C. Kitchen, the Oxford Group, and A.A.  
 The factory owner & the convict: lives and teachings of the A.A. old timers  
 The St. Louis gambler & the railroad man: lives and teachings of the A.A. old timers  
 The higher power of the twelve-step program: for believers & non-believers  
 Images of Christ: an introduction to Christology  
 The first Christian histories: Eusebius, Socrates, Sozomen, Theodoret, and Evagrius

**Also copies of all the books edited by Glenn F. Chesnut**

Richard Dubiel, The road to fellowship : the role of the Emmanuel movement and the Jacoby Club  
 William Swegan, On the military firing line in the alcoholism treatment program  
 Nancy Moyer Olson, With a lot of help from our friends: the politics of alcoholism  
 Annette Smith, The social world of Alcoholics Anonymous: how it works  
 Ernest Kurtz, The Collected Ernie Kurtz  
 Ernest Kurtz, Shame and Guilt

**Bill Wilson****Richmond Walker****Ralph Pfau****Ed Webster**

## The Four Most-Published Early A.A. Authors

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**1. *Richmond Walker***, including photocopies of all his papers in the Florida A.A. archives, and the original copy of the diary he wrote during his trip to Europe.

Walker was the second most-published early A.A. author, over nine million copies of his little black book have been sold (only A.A. founder Bill Wilson published more). I am currently working on a book about Walker. He was brought up in the Boston area, in a very wealthy and important family. At the end of his life he moved down to Daytona Beach, Florida, where he wrote his most important work, *Twenty-Four Hours a Day*, in 1948.

In spite of Walker's importance, the only book length study of him at present is Damian McElrath, D.H.E., *Making the Little Black Book: Inside*

*the Working Manuscript of Twenty-Four Hours a Day*. The Hazelden Foundation published this in a limited edition (Center City, Minnesota: Hazelden, 2012) — none of the other Indiana University campuses has a copy. The copy I am donating is an extra one, given to me by Dr. McElrath.

It is very good for its purpose, but gives very little information about Walker's life, and almost nothing about the formative influences on him, such as the fact that (unlike Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob) he was more influenced by the Boston-based Emmanuel Movement and Jacoby Club than he was by the Oxford Group. McElrath's book also says nothing about the influence on Richmond Walker of the German nineteenth-century post-Kantian philosophy and theology which played such a major role in Walker's undergraduate training at Williams College.

I will include the manuscript copies of two hour-long papers which I have read on Walker at major national conferences: "Richmond Walker, Author of the Twenty-Four Hour Book," at the 8th National A.A. Archives Workshop, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, September 27, 2003; and "Richmond Walker and the 24-Hour-a-Day Book," at the National A.A. History Symposium in Sedona, Arizona, on April 28-30, 2017.

The "star" in my archival collection is a scrapbook and diary which Richmond Walker prepared after he and Mason Garfield made a six month trip abroad to Europe, Africa, and the Near East, the only known copy in existence. In the autobiographical memoir which Rich composed later in his life, he wrote that "I went to ... Williams College, where I was graduated in 1914. I finished my college work in three and a half years, and spent the last six months travelling abroad with Mason Garfield — we returned to Williamstown to receive our degrees on June 4, 1914." His friend Mason's father was Harry Garfield, the president of Williams College from 1908–1934, and Mason's grandfather was James A. Garfield, the 20th President of the United States. Rich's own family were close friends with two other presidential families: Theodore Roosevelt (26th President) and his family, and William Howard Taft (27th President) and his family.

Along with the diary, I have included a photocopy of it (to save further wear and tear on its pages). There is also a typescript of the diary in an MS Word document at <http://hindsfoot.org/rwdiary1.doc> .

There are a number of articles I have put together about Walker and his book, about 40% of the way down the page at <http://hindsfoot.org/>

archives.html — I am going to turn these into a format which can be printed out on paper, so they can be included in the archives.

I also have a set of photocopies of all of Richmond Walker's papers from the Florida A.A. Archives (it is a four or five-inch stack of paper). I am still working with them, but will give them to the IUSB Archives when I am finished.

Also a copy of a long autobiographical memoir which he wrote late in life (I will make a print-out of this from <http://hindsfoot.org/rwvt.html> ), and a copy of the only known recording of him speaking (along with a transcript of that talk).

Also a photo presenting a large family portrait of Richmond Walker and all his family, including other members who played major roles in his life history.

Richmond Walker finally became overwhelmed by the task of printing and distributing copies of *Twenty-four Hours a Day* from his home in Daytona Beach, Florida. In 1954, Patrick Butler at the Hazelden alcoholism treatment facility in Center City, Minnesota, offered to take over printing and distributing the book. Damian McElrath, *Hazelden: A Spiritual Odyssey* contains an excellent history of Hazelden at that period, along with some very excellent photographs of the treatment facility at that time, Patrick Butler, etc.

**Altogether, the materials I have collected on Walker will make this one of the three top archival collections on this very important figure**

(the other two collections being in the Florida A.A. Archives and in the archives at the Hazelden Foundation in Minnesota).

**THE UPPER ROOM** was the standard A.A. meditational book from A.A.'s founding in 1935 down to the appearance of Richmond Walker's *Twenty-Four Hour* book in 1948.

- The story of how *The Upper Room* was begun back in April 1935: Vicki L. Hines (Asst. Editor), "Into All the World ... Celebrating 70 Years of The Upper Room," *Upper Room* (March–April 2005) 40–42.

- Copies of *The Upper Room*, booklets containing daily devotional readings, published by the old southern Methodist church (the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) in Nashville, Tennessee, beginning in 1935. These were the readings used by most early A.A. members for their morning meditation and quiet time, all the way from the foundation of A.A. in 1935 down to the publication of A.A. member Richmond Walker's meditational book *Twenty-Four Hours a Day* in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1948. Walker's little black book then began to supplant *The*

*Upper Room* as the basis of A.A. meditational life. This representative collection has *Upper Room* pamphlets from 1938 and 1939 (also 1950 and 1953).

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**2. *Father Ralph Pfau:*** He was the third most published early A.A. author (only Bill Wilson the founder and Richmond Walker had more books out in print), and was the first Roman Catholic priest to get sober in A.A.

*He is our very own Indiana native son:* born in Indianapolis, educated at St. Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana, and served Catholic churches all over Indianapolis, as well as other towns in Indiana. After taking up full time A.A. work, he made his headquarters in three rooms at the Convent of the Good Shepherd in Indianapolis, with three nuns serving as his secretaries and assistants. Early A.A. people from the South Bend area traveled to attend his weekend A.A. spiritual retreats, and formed study groups to read his books.

In spite of his importance, my book on Father Pfau is the only major study of him, which means that it involves truly significant and ground-breaking research. See Glenn F. Chesnut, *Father Ralph Pfau and the Golden Books: The Path to Recovery from Alcoholism and Drug Addiction*, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2017).

My collection includes copies of the two *Look* magazines from March 4 and March 18, 1958, in which Father Pfau published his autobiography (along with digitized photographs from those two magazine articles). Also large 8 x 10 photos of Father Ralph made for me from the original negatives by the Indianapolis Archdiocesan Archives. Also photographs of — and books about — (a) St. Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary in southern Indiana (where he was educated), and (b) the small Catholic church in southern Indiana where he was once priest (now restored to its original condition). The books contain photographs of how both places looked back then.

My notes on my conversations with Father Ralph's niece (who served as his assistant in the running of the National Catholic Conference on Alcoholism, which he founded) and a video of his secretary speaking about her work with him.

Material from Juan Rodriguez in California, who has done extensive research on Father Ralph Pfau's influence on the Spanish-speaking world.

Copies of all fourteen of his Golden Books, and all three of his large hardcover books. Also his entire collection of recorded talks (originally on long-playing phonograph disks, but in my set they are on tape cassettes).

A handout which accompanied the paper which I read at the National Archives Workshop in Louisville, Kentucky on Sept. 27–30, 2001: “Ralph Pfau (Father John Doe) and the Golden Books.”

***Other Roman Catholic influences on early A.A., including Father Ed Dowling and Sister Ignatia:***

A copy of Glenn F. Chesnut, *Father Ed Dowling: Bill Wilson’s Sponsor*, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2015). The life and teaching of Father Ed Dowling, S.J., the Jesuit priest who served for twenty years as sponsor and spiritual guide to Bill Wilson, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Photocopies of numerous letters sent from Bill Wilson to Sister Ignatia, who ran the A.A.-oriented alcoholism treatment program at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, which most Akron alcoholics had to go through before they could join the first A.A. group, which was located in Akron, Ohio. Copied by Irish A.A. historian Fiona Dodd from the archives of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. This is at present the only known copy of the original material.

Sister M. Ignatia, C.S.A. (St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio), “The Care of Alcoholics: St. Thomas Hospital and A.A. Started a Movement Which Swept the Country,” *Hospital Progress: Official Journal of the Catholic Hospital Association* (October 1951).

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**3. A.A. BEGINNERS LESSONS:**

***Ed Webster and The Little Red Book:*** Webster (from the Nicollet group in Minneapolis), was the author of *The Little Red Book*, the classic early A.A. beginners book on the twelve steps (co-founder Dr. Bob Smith recommended it above all other beginners books). I am contributing a photocopy of the very rare first printing of the *Little Red Book*.

There is one copy of the first printing (1946) currently for sale by my good friend William H. Schaberg at Athena Rare Books for \$12,500, signed by A.A. co-founder Dr. Bob Smith. When Schaberg and I compared notes

while driving to the National A.A. History conference in Sedona in March 2017, it became clear that the photocopy I have is of that very copy. It was sent to me by the original discoverer of that copy of *The Little Red Book*, an A.A. archivist in Scottsdale, Arizona, named Jack Holub.

I had many long distance telephone conversations with Jack Holub. Since he was not skilled in computers, he used me and the Hindsfoot Foundation website as a conduit for letting the rest of the world know about his discoveries (Holub had also obtained Ed Webster's papers and knew more about Webster than anyone else in the world at that time). He wanted me to publicize his collection of Ed Webster's documents to the world, so that people could begin using them again in teaching A.A. beginners. See the Hindsfoot Foundation website at <http://hindsfoot.org/archives.html>.

***The Detroit Pamphlet*** (also called the Washington D.C. pamphlet, the Table Mate, and the Table Leader's Guide): Written in 1943, this was another important precursor to *The Little Red Book*. A pamphlet containing a set of four beginners lessons explaining the twelve steps — early A.A.'s most popular reader for conducting introductory lessons for brand-new beginners. Includes a copy of the version used in Seattle, Washington, where they called it "The Table Mate," and a copy of the Detroit version with type reset by Glenn Chesnut (used with great success for five years for South Bend beginners meetings which he eventually presided over — 80% long term success rate for those who attended regularly for a full year).

Wally Paton, *Back to Basics* (1997, 1998) — a copy for the archives — the textbook for what some regard as a sort of "cult" type movement within A.A. Makes heavy use of verbatim quotes from the Detroit pamphlet.

***The Akron Manual***: written by Evan Williams (at Dr. Bob's request) in the summer of 1942. Gives a detailed picture of how new members were introduced to the Alcoholics Anonymous program there in Akron, the birthplace of the A.A. movement, at the very beginning. For additional details, see Glenn F. Chesnut, *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland 1938-1942* (San Francisco and South Bend: Hindfoot Foundation, 2017).

The Akron pamphlets as they are currently being printed (not necessarily the same as the pamphlets that were published back in the summer of 1942). An important source for Chesnut's book on *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland*. For the original versions see <http://hindsfoot.org/archives.html>

The Cleveland pamphlet on *The Four Absolutes* (there is a section on the “four absolutes” in Chesnut’s book on *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland*).

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**4. A set of the books from the old Akron 1942 reading list for beginning A.A. members:** Emmet Fox, *Sermon on the Mount*; Henry Drummond, *The Greatest Thing in the World*; Ernest M. Ligon, *Psychology of Christian Personality*; James Allen, *As a Man Thinketh*; Winfred Rhoades, *The Self You Have to Live With*; E. Stanley Jones, *Abundant Living*; Bruce Barton, *The Man Nobody Knows*.

These books give a detailed picture of what early A.A.’s wanted beginners to read and know in 1942, in Akron, the original birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I will include a print-out of the detailed description of these books (34 pages long), which may be found in my recent book, see Glenn F. Chesnut, *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland 1938-1942* (San Francisco & South Bend: Hindsfoot Foundation, 1917), chapters 10-11, “The 1942 Reading List in the Akron Manual,” pp. 51-84.

NOTE: I still have these books in my library in California. I will need to package them up and send them to IUSB. Some of them are fairly rare and difficult to obtain.

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**5. Early black A.A.** People all over the country have been thanking me profusely for my book which just came out: *Heroes of Early Black AA: Their Stories and Their Messages* (San Francisco & South Bend, Hindsfoot Foundation, 2017). This is the first full-length book to give detailed accounts of early African-American members of A.A., told in their own words as much as possible, beginning in 1945 and continuing down to Joe McQuany — the most famous black figure in early A.A. history — who got sober in Little Rock in 1962 and recorded the first of the famous Joe and Charlie tapes in 1977 — the set of tape-recorded lessons on the Big Book which have now been listened to all over the world.

Includes my lengthy interview with South Bend native Jimmy Miller, the First Lady of Black A.A. (the first black woman to get long term sobriety in A.A.) telling how she and a young black man broke the color barrier in South Bend,

Indiana, by joining A.A. in 1948 (which was first published in my book called *The Factory Owner & the Convict* in 1996).

At first, factory owner Kenneth Merrill was one of the few South Bend A.A. leaders who would let black people attend A.A. meetings in their homes — Jimmy Miller was enormously grateful to him even years later, for that and also for the clarity with which Merrill was able to teach the program to beginners. See the detailed account of Ken’s life and work in my book *The Factory Owner and the Convict*.

In 2009, playwright Jackie Bendzinski in San Francisco (who had earned her degree in drama from the University of California at Berkeley) wrote, produced, and directed a play called *In Our Own Words: Pioneers of Alcoholics Anonymous*. Its fame spread, and it was performed twice (to huge standing room only audiences), as part of A.A.’s 75th anniversary celebration at the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio, Texas, in 2010. It was subsequently performed numerous other times in various cities in California and elsewhere. The play included verbatim, very moving recitations, by an excellent black actress, of some of my transcripts of Jimmy Miller speaking in my book *The Factory Owner and the Convict*.

Chesnut has in his collection a booklet containing the complete text of the play, plus a c.d. disk of one of its performances, which has a blurb from him on the front cover, where Chesnut says:

“‘A satisfying and effective dramatic presentation. The best play I have seen about early AA history!’ — Glenn C., AA historian and author of ‘The Factory Owner and the Convict.’”

Also a video of Jackie Bendzinski’s second play in this series, “Our Experience Has Taught Us, as performed at the Thick House Theater in San Francisco on Sept. 12–22, 2013.

## ***6. Non-theistic psychological and sociological explanations of how A.A. gets alcoholics sober***

***William E. Swegan wrote the most detailed work*** coming from one of the small number of early A.A. leaders who were atheists or who stressed the psychological side of the program almost exclusively, *with me serving as the co-author of his major book.*

Swegan, a psychiatric social worker, set up the first officially sanctioned military alcoholism treatment center at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas, in 1953, teaming up with famous American psychiatrist Louis Jolyon “Jolly” West (who later became head of the Psychiatry Department at UCLA). Swegan’s method of alcoholism treatment was given further development in the mid 1960’s by Dr. Joseph J. Zuska and Dick Jewell at Long Beach Naval Station, and is called the Lackland-Long Beach Model. It was one of the three basic highly successful models of A.A.-based alcoholism treatment developed in the 1940’s and 50’s (the other two being Sister Ignatia’s religiously-based program at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, and the Minnesota Model which was connected with the Hazelden Treatment Center in Center City).

See William E. Swegan with Glenn F. Chesnut, Ph.D., *The Psychology of Alcoholism*, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2011; orig. pub. 2003). Swegan (who was a World War II veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor) was 85 when he and I finished this book, but his mind was still totally sharp and he had detailed material from his earlier years already in written form in his files.

Sgt. Bill, San Antonio, Texas [William E. Swegan], “Today Is the Day,” *AA Grapevine* (August 1954)

Sgt. Bill, San Antonio, Texas [William E. Swegan], “The Challenge of Normalcy,” *AA Grapevine* (November 1955)

Chart of the psychological process of becoming addicted, in “From Addiction to Recovery,” by William E. Swegan (2005).

In my collection, I also have a copy of the major journal article which Swegan published describing his Lackland treatment program back at that time, as well as a copy of an article he wrote in a periodical for people who work in treatment programs. Also some of his small pamphlets, booklets, and handouts.

I was also the editor of *Annette R. Smith, Ph.D., The Social World of Alcoholics Anonymous: How It Works* (2007), which Ernest Kurtz and I both regard as one of the best sociological explanations ever given for the success of Alcoholics Anonymous in stopping alcoholics from drinking.

Using qualitative field study, including participant observation and unstructured interviewing, this work focuses on Alcoholics Anonymous as a social world. The social organization of A.A. is linked to social world constructs, and aspects of A.A. social life, both formal and informal, are

described. It is suggested that success in A.A. is dependent on integration into the social world, and that there are variations in the interactional processes by which this is achieved.

Smith, who is an atheist, was made County Administrator of Alcoholism Services in San Diego, including managing the funding for the county's A.A. recovery homes. She saw at first-hand how well A.A. worked, and began taking notes and seeking a purely sociological explanation. After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego in 1991, she joined the faculty of the San Diego State University School of Social Work. In 2004, Smith received a lifetime achievement award from the San Diego Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the California Society for Clinical Social Work. She is now retired and living in Florida.

Chesnut's files include a copy of the journal article by Smith in *The Journal of Drug Issues* in 1993 (called "The Social Construction of Group Dependency in Alcoholics Anonymous") where she first laid out her central theories.

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**7. *How A.A. came to Indiana:*** detailed accounts of how A.A. was started in Evansville, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, and so on. This was assembled quite a few years ago, but it is still the best and fullest study of that subject. It is only available online at the Hindsfoot Foundation website at present, but I intend to prepare some careful printouts for the IUSB library archives (and perhaps even publish it as a printed book).

See <http://hindsfoot.org/nhome.html>

***Northern Indiana Archival Bulletin.*** Glenn Chesnut was Archivist for Northern Indiana A.A. Area 22 for a number of years, and from 1998–2000 was editor of this bulletin, to which he contributed a number of articles on early Indiana A.A. history (South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, and Goshen — including the work the South Bend people carried out in the Indiana state prison at nearby Michigan City — also places like Indianapolis, Evansville, etc., in other parts of both northern and southern Indiana).

Newspaper clipping — Bill Wilson's visit to speak in Evansville, IN on Oct. 29, 1941 — Bill singled out J. D. Holmes for praise (the man who founded the first A.A. group in Indiana, there in Evansville, on April 23, 1940, some eighteen months earlier).



A large photo of Ken Merrill (from his daughter).

A spiral-bound copy of the March 1996 draft version of the book.

The first printing of *The Factory Owner & the Convict* which was unveiled at the Michiana Regional A.A. Conference in 1996 (two-columns on 8½ by 11 inch paper, spiral binding).

Merrill's factory was regarded as one of the three best factories to work at in South Bend and Mishawaka. It was called the M. B. Skinner Company and was located at 3502 West Sample Street, where the low, tan brick building is still being used for manufacturing today. Merrill manufactured repair clamps and saddles (heavy special fittings) for steel and cast-iron pipe, selling principally to the gas, water and petroleum industries.

The second edition of *The Factory Owner & the Convict* was split into two volumes, where the second volume was published as Glenn Chesnut, *The St. Louis Gambler & the Railroad Man: Lives and Teachings of the A.A. Oldtimers*, Hindsfoot Foundation (New York: iUniverse, 2005; orig. pub. 1996).

***Plus other materials from early South Bend and Mishawaka A.A.***, including early group secretary's notes with names of group members from that time, etc.

A photograph of ***Harry Stevens***, the other major early South Bend A.A. leader, who acted as sponsor for the AA prison group which they formed at Indiana State Penitentiary in Michigan City. The first split in the South Bend A.A. occurred when one group continued to stick with founder Ken Merrill (who took a more psychological approach), while the break-away group centered on Harry Stevens (who took a more spiritual approach).

Notes on research, together with memoirs from three early South Bend A.A. members (including the Scotswoman Pat Wilkie, Bob Swanson, and Betty D.). Some of this material came in after *The Factory Owner & the Convict* was written.

Several file folders and envelopes containing material used in writing *The Factory Owner & the Convict*, pertaining to Brownie, Nick Kowalski's friend Molly Sullivan, etc. Also materials sent to Chesnut by two of Ken Merrill's children: his daughter Martha Pickrell, and his son who taught philosophy at Oberlin College. (Martha Pickrell was an affiliate faculty member at Indiana University South Bend, and did some impressive research on early Elkhart history.)

***Miscellaneous additional materials:***

“So You Can’t Stop Drinking?” article about A.A. written in the *Chicago Herald-American* by Elgar Brown in 1944, turned into an A.A. pamphlet. (There is another copy of it in the Kirk Collection at Brown University.) Important in understanding the context of early A.A. in South Bend, where the man who founded it in 1943, Ken Merrill (along with his wife) had been brought up in Chicago, and presumably continued to go back regularly to visit relatives.

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**9. The A.A. prison group at the Indiana State Penitentiary at Michigan City.**

This group and the one at San Quentin were the two best known early A.A. prison groups. The Michigan City prison group was formed under the sponsorship of the early South Bend A.A. group (factory owner Kenneth Merrill and other South Bend A.A. figures spent weeks prodding the warden until he finally gave in and let them visit and meet with prisoners).

In addition to prisoner Nick Kowalski’s description on tape of how the group was formed, **one of the major “stars” of this collection is a big scrapbook kept by one of the prisoners**, with letters from Bill W. (which can be worth thousands of dollars each) and so on.

A very good book could be written about the formation of the first A.A. prison groups. The first part of the book would be devoted to Warden Clinton T. Duffy and the A.A. group formed in San Quentin (on San Francisco Bay) in 1941 (the first A.A. prison group). Jackie Bendzinski, the San Francisco playwright, has already collected a good deal of material on the San Quentin group.

The second part of the book would then be devoted to Warden Alfred F. Dowd and the A.A. group formed at the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City in 1944, where we have convict Nick Kowalski’s detailed eye-witness descriptions in Chesnut’s *The Factory Owner & the Convict*, and **all the detailed information catalogued in this scrapbook** (including — at the end of the scrapbook — Warden Dowd’s article describing the Michigan City program which appeared in *Prison World* in 1952).

Nick Kowalski’s talk is transcribed as part of chapters 9–11 and 14–16 of Glenn Chesnut, *The Factory Owner & the Convict: Lives and Teachings of the A.A. Oldtimers*, Hindsfoot Foundation (New York: iUniverse, 2005; orig. pub. 1996), see Part III. “Nick K.’s Early Life: From the Orphanage to the Penitentiary” and Part V. “Nick K. and the A.A. Prison Group.”

Nick settled in South Bend after he was eventually released from prison, and became one of the major A.A. leaders in the Michiana area for many years afterwards.

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**10. *The AAHistoryLovers material*** — computer files from the years 2002–2012 in MS Word files (docx), text files (txt) and Microsoft Access database files (MDB).

The A.A. History Lovers was the leading international web group for the study of Alcoholics Anonymous history and archives. The group had over 2,500 members from all parts of the world including the United States, Canada, the U.K., Ireland, Mexico, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries, Australia, and India, to name just a few of these far flung lands. But the actual number of people who are affected by the web group was far higher. There were many who read the group's postings on a regular basis without having signed up on the membership list, since anyone who had a computer and access to the internet could read all the messages. Enrolling on the membership list was only necessary for posting messages. And many of the group's readers forwarded some of the postings on to their friends, or reprinted their contents in local AA newsletters, or put up copies on their own websites.

95% of the people who authored the best books on AA history were members of the AAHistoryLovers, as were 95% of the top archivists, rare book specialists and other historical researchers in the field. In addition, over the years, the Archivists at the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office in New York City were also regularly members of the AAHistoryLovers, although because of their position, they usually refrained from public comments on the postings.

The AAHistoryLovers therefore gained a reputation as the most dependable single source of historical information about AA. If you wanted to find out what the real experts said — the most knowledgeable and competent scholars and researchers in the field — the AAHistoryLovers would give you the best-documented and most up-to-date information known. And it was also one of the first places to publish news about newly discovered documents and facts, along with notices of the most recent publications on AA history.

Glenn F. Chesnut, *The History of the AA History Lovers* (57 pages), gives a detailed account of the early days of this webgroup under its first two moderators, Nancy Moyer Olson and Glenn Chesnut, and the principles by which the group

was guided. This story was interwoven in a variety of ways with the development of AA archival and historical endeavors, and with the development of AA itself, at the turn of the twenty-first century.

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers/>

<http://www.williamwhitepapers.com/pr/History%20of%20AA%20History%20Lovers%20Glenn%20Chestnut.pdf>

The collected messages of the AAHistoryLovers forms one of the largest single bodies of good AA historical material gathered in one place, an incredible accomplishment carried out by a number of the world's best AA historians. It provides one of the four top AA archival resources (the other three being the Archives at AA headquarters in New York City, the Archives at Stepping Stones (Bill Wilson's home at Katonah, NY), and the Chester H. Kirk Collection at the Brown University library.

As of 2012, historians were getting close to the end of the line, in terms of people who knew the original founders of AA at first hand. In fact, the AA History Lovers web group was started in large part as a last-ditch effort to glean as much information as possible from these people while we could still sit at their feet and listen to them talk, and ask questions. The next generation will be forced to rely solely on documents and audio recordings.

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**11. Nancy Moyer Olson and the Hughes Act.** Olson (September 18, 1929 – March 25, 2005), Senator Harold Hughes' aide in charge of alcohol-related legislation, tells the story of how she shepherded the Hughes Act through the U.S. Senate in her book, Nancy Moyer Olson, *With a Lot of Help from Our Friends: The Politics of Alcoholism*, edited and published by Glenn F. Chesnut, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2003).

The Hughes Act (the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act of 1970) was signed by President Nixon on December 31, 1970. It was one of the two most important pieces of U.S. alcoholism legislation of the twentieth century (and the other one, Prohibition, is usually regarded as having been a total failure). It created the NIAAA (the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) and provided the legal basis for the modern alcoholism treatment center.

*Nancy Moyer Olson founded the A.A. History Lovers web site in 2000–2002* and served as its principal moderator until her death in 2005. Three people were involved in making the major decisions for the web site at the beginning: Nancy Moyer Olson, Ernest Kurtz (A.A.'s greatest historian), and Glenn Chesnut worked together on the site until Nancy's death in 2005. At that point Chesnut took over the role of moderator, which he continued to fill until the end of 2016.

It is one of the four top A.A. archival sources, and treats numerous topics not covered in the other three major archives.

Nancy Moyer Olson asked Glenn Chesnut to be her spiritual director, a role he fulfilled all the way to her death in 2005.

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***NANCY MOYER-OLSON'S SHORTER WRITINGS:***

*Saint Horace? (Memories of Father McKenna)*

In late 1979, Nancy Olson began helping Father Horace McKenna S.J. run a "coffee shop" where he offered free coffee and cookies to the homeless after Sunday mass.

*Of Doves and Other Pigeons* (written about her experiences in 1982)

In despair at the political changes which took place in the U.S. Congress in the aftermath of Ronald Reagan's election as President in 1980, Nancy Olson dropped out of the political sphere, and eventually lived for several months in the winter of 1982 (beginning in January of that year) as a novice in a cloistered, contemplative monastery of nuns who based their spirituality on the writings of St. Francis de Sales (1567–1622).

*A Journal of My Journey with Saint Paul* (summer 1990)

*A Salesian Pilgrimage* (summer 1991)

*The Berrigan Experience (The Role of the Troublemaker in the Church)* (spring 1991)

*Our Own Kind* (July 1993)

*Goodnight, John (A Farewell to John McCormally)* (New Year's 1994)

*Masada* (January 1994)

*Nuna (A Memory of Unconditional Love)*

*In Memoriam: Mortimer J. Adler*, Dec. 28, 1902–June 28, 2001 (Nancy Olson was his personal secretary from 1951 to 1955)

The material in her file also contains some of Nancy Olson's notes and photos.

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## 12. Glenn Chesnut's papers and articles

Résumé (ten pages) covering the period from 1960 to 2017.

The early A.A. program regarded three parts of the New Testament as teaching some of its truly foundational beliefs: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the Apostle Paul's discussion of the nature of real love in 1 Corinthians 13, and the letter of James ("faith without works is dead," etc.).

The collection includes a copy of Glenn F. Chesnut, *The Sermon on the Mount: The Teaching of Jesus in Chapters 5–7 of the Gospel of Matthew*, a local photocopied edition published in 1994. This is the only commentary on the Sermon on the Mount by a major A.A. historian, and in particular, the only A.A. historian who has a doctorate from one of the great universities, concentrating on early Christianity and the world in which Jesus taught and worked. If time allows, this will be published as a printed book some time in 2018.

Plus the draft version of Chesnut's book on the Sermon on the Mount. Also Indiana University South Bend class handouts for the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, and the Parables of Jesus.

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Introduction to the New Testament* (1999) — a textbook on the New Testament which he wrote for his IUSB New Testament course one year. Important for understanding Chesnut's work on A.A. spirituality, along with his more general works on theology and philosophy. This was the definitive statement of how he interpreted the New Testament, which underlay a good deal of his thought. It was only available in a photocopied version, but like his work on *The Sermon on the Mount*, this could be published as a regular book.

Glenn F. Chesnut, "The Pattern of the Past: Augustine's Debate with Eusebius and Sallust," in John Deschner, Leroy T. Howe, and Klaus Penzel, eds., *Our Common History as Christians: Essays in Honor of Albert C. Outler* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1975), pp. 69-95.

Glenn F. Chesnut, "A Century of Patristic Studies 1888–1988," in Henry Warner Bowden (ed.), *A Century of Church History* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988), pp. 36–73.

**Oxford Group:** 28-page "Introduction" by Glenn F. Chesnut, Sept. 27, 2008, to the new online edition of Oxford Group author Philip Leon's *The Philosophy of Courage or the Oxford Group Way* (published in 1939 by Oxford University Press), <http://stepstudy.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/philosophyofcourage.pdf>

Leon's book was an important piece of Oxford Group literature which — since Alcoholics Anonymous started out in 1935 as part of the Oxford Group — makes this book very important for A.A. history as well.

**Oxford Group:** Glenn Chesnut wrote an article entitled “The Names of God,” in the magazine *STEPS: A Magazine of Hope and Healing for Christians in Recovery* (pub. by The National Association of Christians in Recovery, Brea, California, associated with Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California), Vol. 16, No. 4 (2007): 14-18.

Excerpted from Chapter 7 of Glenn F. Chesnut, *Changed by Grace: V. C. Kitchen, the Oxford Group, and A.A.* (2006). This is one of the major books describing how the Alcoholics Anonymous movement first emerged out of the evangelical organization called the Oxford Group in 1934–1939.

Glenn Chesnut, “Human Friendship as a Channel for Grace: Bill Wilson and Father Ed Dowling, S.J.,” *Human Development*, Vol. 39, Issue 2, Winter 2019, pp. 96–107.

**Texts for some of Chesnut's talks at conferences:**

“Humility,” at the Yokefellow Retreat in Defiance, Ohio, on Jan. 29, 2005.

“Writing Local A.A. History: Stories as the Vessels of Wisdom and Grace,” at the Eastern Pennsylvania History & Archives Conference on June 24, 2006.

“The A.A. Bill of Rights,” a talk given at the 2nd Annual Symposium held in eastern Indiana at Fort Wayne, Indiana on January 14, 2012. The other major speaker was Mel Barger, the principal author of the official A.A. biography of founder Bill Wilson. No one can be barred from attending A.A. meetings because of how low they have fallen, a total lack of money, psychological and emotional problems (even quite severe), being ex-convicts (or even incarcerated men and women in prison A.A. groups), being “fallen women,” because of their politics, or for being LGBT (gays, lesbians, etc.). Nor can anyone be compelled to belong to a specific religious denomination — even atheists and skeptics are welcome to attend and participate.

“Agapê Love as Welcome Home Love: Meetings at Dr. Bob's House,” talk given in Tacoma, Washington on May 4, 2019.

**Leads (30 to 50 minute autobiographical talks) given at AA meetings and state and national conferences:**

Notes for a number of these talks, including (for example) the leads given

- at the meeting held at Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhart, Indiana, on the evening of March 23, 1994,
- at the breakfast meeting held on the morning of April 24, 1994 at Eby Pines Campground (14583 State Road 120, Bristol, Indiana),
- and at the meeting held at St. Andrew's Church in Mishawaka, Indiana, on the evening of March 4, 2000.

**Also some of Chesnut's own personal papers and notes:**

Including lecture notes in important areas of history and theology which are related to his published books, and perhaps a few pieces of important personal correspondence. Includes:

Chesnut's doctoral thesis for Oxford University, finished in 1971 (after he had started teaching at Indiana University South Bend): *The Byzantine Church Historians from Eusebius to Evagrius: A Historiographical Study*. Published as *The First Christian Histories* in 1977, second revised edition in 1986, it is regarded as a classic work which is still in print today.

Chesnut's dossier for promotion to full professor at Indiana University South Bend. Contains copies of all his early published articles.

Chesnut's dossier for the Indiana University Distinguished Teaching Award (1987). Contains many letters from students.

Articles written by Chesnut when he was a graduate student at Southern Methodist University. Includes:

Glenn F. Chesnut, "Some Technical Terms in the Christological Writings of Severus of Antioch." He taught himself the ancient Syriac language (a dialect of Aramaic) so he could use the original Syriac manuscript of Severus' major work. This won a national competition for graduate student papers conducted by the American Society of Church History.

A paper comparing the concept of spiritual perfection in St. Thomas Aquinas (Roman Catholic theological standard, 1225–1274) and John Wesley (Methodist founder, 1703–1791). I was asked to read this paper to a joint assembly of all the faculty and all the graduate students at the seminary, the only time during that period when a student was asked to do anything like this.

Also Chesnut's senior thesis at the University of Louisville in 1960: "The Gamma-Irradiation-Induced Decomposition of Amides in Carbon Tetrachloride," which resulted in his first article published in a scholarly journal: Richard H.

Wiley, R. L. S. Patterson, G. F. Chesnut, and E. Grünhut, Department of Chemistry, University of Louisville (1964) The Gamma-Irradiation-Induced Decomposition of Amides in Carbon Tetrachloride. *Radiation Research*: June 1964, Vol. 22, No. 2, pp. 253-263.

See <http://www.rjournal.org/doi/abs/10.2307/3571657?code=rrs-site&journalCode=rare>

A copy of the *Perkins Journal* (Spring 1974, the theological journal of the School of Theology at Southern Methodist University) devoted to the life and work of Albert C. Outler, who was Chesnut's principal mentor during his four years as a student at the School of Theology. Plus an article describing the Special Collections section on Outler at the School of Theology's Bridwell Library. Also a copy of Chesnut's notes when attending Outler's lectures on *The Church of the Fathers* at the School of Theology. Extremely important for understanding the background to Chesnut's writings (many years later) on the Christian background of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

Chesnut's notes on Aaron T. Beck, *Cognitive Therapy and the Emotional Disorders*. Beck and Abraham Low were the two psychiatrists who developed modern cognitive psychology. Roman Catholic A.A. thinkers (like Father Pfau and Father Dowling) tended to be very hostile to Freudian and neo-Freudian systems, but very positively disposed to cognitive therapy (particularly Low's version).

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**13. Copies of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous:** The book entitled *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the basic description of the twelve-step method, is simply referred to as the "Big Book" in the A.A. program. The version currently in print is the fourth edition (published 2001). My collection has:

- *The Book That Started It All: The Original Working Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous* — a modern full-sized photographic reproduction of the original manuscript (the original itself sold for a million dollars at Sotheby's auction house in New York City several years ago).
- A first edition of the Big Book (copyright 1939), thirteenth printing (1950).

\*Although not a first printing of the first edition (which would sell for \$15,000 to \$50,000 to even \$100,000 depending on its condition) my copy of the first edition might sell for as much as \$550 to \$1,000 at a rare book dealer's shop and should probably be kept in your archives and not put out on your open shelves.

- A modern reproduction of the first printing of the first edition of the Big Book (complete with the “circus” cover).
- Two copies of the second edition of the Big Book (copyright 1955) — one copy is a ninth printing (1967) and the other is a sixteenth printing (1974).

With a few exceptions, the wording of the first 164 pages has remained completely unchanged. Heavy alterations have been made however, in the second, third, and fourth editions, to the extensive collection of personal stories that make up the last part of the book. This is an important part of the historical development of the A.A. movement during its first 70 years.

- A copy of the third edition of the Big Book (copyright 1976) — Frank Nyikos’ copy — Frank was one of the four people (basically the second in command) who ran the Hindsfoot Foundation, which published so many of my books — a large number of the tape recordings which were transcribed and later put in print or online were his careful transcriptions. *Heroes of Early Black A.A.* is dedicated to him and Raymond Irving, who has also signed this book, along with Glenn Chesnut.

***14. Evangelical Christian background to the Oxford Group and early Alcoholics Anonymous:*** Alcoholics Anonymous grew up out of the early twentieth century evangelical association called the Oxford Group, and that group in turn was an attempt to revitalize the classical Protestant evangelical movement which had been begun by Jonathan Edwards in colonial New England in 1734–37 (Edwards was the greatest philosophical theologian in American history) and by John Wesley in England in 1738–39 (Wesley taught New Testament, Greek, and Classics at Oxford University, and founded the Methodist Church, which is the second largest Protestant denomination in the United States).

It is therefore vital to know about Jonathan Edwards’ and John Wesley’s ideas in order to understand some of the most important foundational beliefs of the early Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

***(a) Jonathan Edwards***

***(b) John Wesley and the Methodist movement:***

The notes and handouts for the course which Glenn Chesnut taught to the Methodist students at the Associated Mennonite Seminary in Elkhart in the mid-1990’s. Also some of the notes for Chesnut’s lectures there. (Chesnut, who is an ordained United Methodist minister, did this as a favor for the local Methodists.)

Glenn F. Chesnut, *The Eightfold Path to Peace and Joy: John Wesley's Teaching on Spiritual Growth* (1991) — a book-length study of the theology of John Wesley, one of the two co-founders of the modern evangelical movement, and hence part of the “deep background” to Chesnut’s later studies of the Oxford Group and Alcoholics Anonymous. This could be published as a book.

Glenn F. Chesnut, “Methodists and Our Obsessions,” talk given in 1993.

***15. Sources of A.A. thought at its very beginning, in Akron, New York, and Cleveland:***

Glenn F. Chesnut, *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland 1938-1942* (San Francisco and South Bend: Hindfoot Foundation, August 2017).

- The first book to collect all this historical material in organized fashion in one place: how old-time A.A. meetings were conducted back in the early days (citing eyewitness accounts from the time) and what was being taught in Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in Akron and Cleveland during that formative period.
- In addition, in the last half of the book, sections on the four different spiritual traditions that early A.A. drew upon: (1) Oxford Group, (2) early American frontier revivalism, (3) Emmet Fox and New Thought, and (4) the classical Protestant liberalism of the Southern Methodist-published Upper Room with its emphasis upon the religion of the heart, the rejection of rigid doctrines and dogmas, a turning away from the world of soaring Gothic cathedrals and authoritarian religious leaders dressed in ornate robes, and the refusal to allow material wealth to contaminate the realm of the true spiritual life.

A copy of Mitchell K., *How It Worked: The Story of Clarence H. Snyder and the Early Days of Alcoholics Anonymous in Cleveland, Ohio* (1991, 1997). Best to keep this in the archives and not put it on the open library shelves. Out of print, fragile, and currently selling for \$120 to \$550 a copy. A major source for Chesnut’s book on *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland*.

Also a copy of a revised second edition of this work, edited by Glenn Chesnut, which unfortunately never got published because of problems with that particular publisher. I certainly hope that this revised edition ultimately sees the light of day.

Leslie B. Cole, *Rogers Burnham: The Original Man Behind Bill W.* (2011). Inscription to Glenn Chesnut. Should probably be kept in the library archives, might eventually be hard to replace if anything happened to it. The book’s importance lies in the details it gives about Bill Wilson (the founder of A.A.) and the family of his wife Lois Burnham Wilson. The Burnhams summered in the

same tiny town in Vermont where Bill Wilson was born and brought up — see second half of <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/morepix04.html>

Scholarly articles by Harry M. Tiebout, M.D., the psychiatrist in charge at Blythewood Sanitarium in Greenwich, Connecticut. Responsible for Mrs. Marty Mann getting sober (she was the founder of the National Council on Alcoholism, and the most famous woman in early A.A.). Tiebout then developed close links with AA founder Bill Wilson, and became one of the few psychiatrists who warmly supported the new AA movement when it first began.

### **16. Books and research on philosophy, theology and God:**

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Images of Christ: An Introduction to Christology* (San Francisco: Harper & Row/Seabury Press, 1984). Let's keep at least one clean, unmarked copy of this book in the Archives instead of out on the open shelves.

A book about various western ideas about who and what God is:

in 1984, as we have seen, Chesnut published *Images of Christ: An Introduction to Christology*. This book (an introduction to the various principal Christian theories about the person and work of Christ) had only taken him a year and a half or so to write. He decided in 1986 to write a similar book on the various principal Christian theories about who and what God was, believing that he could also whip this out in a year and a half or two.

Then, just for background he believed, he read through all of John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690), then all of Rudolf Otto's world-famous book, *The Idea of the Holy*, in the standard English translation (1923), but also in the German original (1917), where Chesnut suddenly became aware of all the technical German philosophical vocabulary hidden in the English translation.

Then Chesnut obtained a copy of Rudolf Otto's *The Philosophy of Religion Based on Kant and Fries* (the Eng. translation came out in 1931, but Otto wrote the German original quite a bit earlier in 1909). Chesnut was introduced here to the thought of the first major Kantian interpreter, Jakob Friederich Fries, who opened his eyes to an interpretation of Kant's philosophy which was very different from most modern interpretations. Fries was the one who gave Rudolf Otto the idea for writing his epoch-making work on *The Idea of the Holy*.

The combination of Locke, Kant, Fries, and Otto made Chesnut realize how difficult a task he had actually taken on, particularly given the disarray into which western philosophy had been thrown by the ideas presented in Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (1st ed. 1781, 2nd ed. 1787).

*The Names of God*: the first attempt to write that book. Around 1988, Chesnut attempted to start writing that book on the various western theories about who and what God was. In his notes, it was sometimes entitled *The Names of God*. When he sent the manuscript of this book to various publishers however, no one wanted to publish it as it was.

***The book that actually came out over twenty years later: Glenn F. Chesnut, God and Spirituality: Philosophical Essays (2010).*** This was a book on philosophical theology, which not only dealt with Locke, Kant, Fries, and Otto, but also showed how modern quantum theory (along with chaos theory and the idea of the butterfly effect), Jean Piaget's psychological researches, Gödel's Proof, and other modern theories can be used to explain the philosophical concept of God, human free will, and so on.

***WORK IN PROGRESS: Glenn F. Chesnut, Infinity and the Proofs for the Existence of God.*** This is a book on the history of the Five Proofs for the Existence of God which were first drawn up by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) in the High Middle Ages, together with a lengthy modern interpretation and defense of the proofs. First draft was written in 1998 and is basically complete; it ended up being set aside over and over while Chesnut worked on other projects, but he is back at work on this and expects to have it published in 2018.

Various notes taken over the years (going back to Chesnut's seminary days) which are relevant to this project.

Outlines of a book on "the aesthetics of A.A. and the Big Book" (Larry Willoughby's request), titled here *The Anonymous God*. This book was never actually written, although major portions of it showed up in books that were published later. My guess is that these notes were put together sometime between 1996 and 2001, when I changed strategies and wrote up some of this material in the book entitled *The Higher Power of the Twelve Step Program*.

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## **17. OTHER BOOKS BY GLENN CHESNUT:**

I would suggest that we keep a clean, unmarked copy in the Library Archives of both the first edition and the second edition, in addition to the copies which are put out on the open library shelves:

*Glenn F. Chesnut, The First Christian Histories: Eusebius, Socrates, Sozomen, Theodoret, and Evagrius* (Paris: Editions Beauchesne, 1977).

*Glenn F. Chesnut, The First Christian Histories: Eusebius, Socrates, Sozomen, Theodoret, and Evagrius, second edition, revised and enlarged* (Macon GA: Mercer University Press, 1986).

Let's also keep one clean, unmarked copy of this book in the Library Archives:

*Glenn F. Chesnut, Images of Christ: An Introduction to Christology* (San Francisco: Harper & Row/Seabury Press, 1984).

#### **18. BOOKS ON SPIRITUALITY:**

*Glenn F. Chesnut, The Higher Power of the Twelve-Step Program: For Believers & Non-Believers* (2001).

*Glenn F. Chesnut, God and Spirituality: Philosophical Essays* (2010).

*A blue notebook* (prepared a little after 1996) containing detailed organized notes from reading *The Factory Owner and the Convict*, in which Chesnut was looking for passages which spoke about the human condition, our hopes and fears, the nature of grace, and so on. These notes were background to some of his later writings, especially *The Higher Power* book (2001) and the *God and Spirituality* book (2010).

**19. Works written by other people, incl. Arthur S. (Arlington TX), Mel Barger, Bob Pearson, John Stark, Bob Stonebraker, etc.**

**Arthur S. (Arlington TX)**, major AA dates and (with Glenn Chesnut) AA success rate.

**Mel Barger:** the principal draft of the official AA biography of Bill Wilson prior to Catherine N.'s rewrite. Mel was one of the four top historians of AA's second generation. We can get the original, unedited results of his careful research from reading this unpublished manuscript.

In 1977, the decision was made to issue an official AA biography of Dr. Bob Smith (one of AA's two co-founders), and the job was assigned to Niles Peebles, a past trustee and general manager of AA's General Service Office in New York City, who had also been a writer for a large newspaper at one point in his life. After further editing by Janet C., it was published in 1980 as *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*. Niles Peebles then began work on an official AA biography of Bill Wilson (AA's other co-founder), but he soon felt overwhelmed, and then fell ill with cancer.

The job was then passed on to Mel Barger, a professional writer working in corporate relations in Toledo, Ohio, who had gotten sober in 1950 and had had numerous contacts with Bill when Mel was working on the *AA Grapevine* magazine. Mel was the principle author of the biography — it took him two years to produce a long, complete book.

But Catherine N. (a freelance writer in New York), was then brought in to spend a year and a half producing a massive rewrite. The finished book was published just before Christmas 1984 as *Pass It On: The Story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world*.

**Bob Pearson:** history of AA from 1955 to the present. Never published, but an important piece of historical research. Based on the materials in the Archives in AA's New York office, including all the letters back and forth to New York.

**John Stark (Fort Wayne, Indiana), known as "the Pirate"** in his early days, two books, both heavily edited by Glenn Chesnut: *The Little House on Genessee* (about the program he used to produce an impressive recovery rate in alcoholics and addicts) and *Tales from the Caribbean* (an only semi-fictional story of a man who based himself in the U.S. Virgin Islands and sailed all over the Caribbean). **Glenn Chesnut shows up as a semi-fictional character in this latter book.** Both are out of print now, and would be almost impossible to replace. Also a recording of John Stark speaking in Elkhart on April 26, 2008.

John had a half million dollar German-built yacht which he sailed around the Caribbean running contraband of various sorts from one country to another. After he got clean and sober in A.A., he started a group (meeting in the two-car garage and workshop at his home on Genessee Avenue in Fort Wayne) where he got at least two hundred people clean and sober before his death, specializing in ex-cons and people who had belonged to violent motorcycle gangs.

He asked Glenn Chesnut to serve as his spiritual guide after he came back from the Caribbean and settled in Fort Wayne, and John, along with Frank Nyikos in Fairmount, Indiana, and Bill Correll in Osceola, Indiana, met with Glenn once a week in Fairmount for five years, to study books on A.A. history and spirituality, and to serve as a governing board for the Hindsfoot Foundation (along with long-distance advice from Ernest Kurtz, the leading A.A. historian).

**Bob Stonebraker:** important historical research how AA came to Indiana.

**Jane S.**, author of *Q & A: Alcoholism and Sobriety, A Guidebook to Recovery* (2007), edited by Glenn Chesnut. How to manage being both an alcoholic and bipolar (manic depressive). Jane's husband (Jared Lobdell) is one of the best A.A. historians in the country.

A videotape of the episode of the History Detective which Chesnut researched.

I served as the research source for Episode 407 of the public television series called "The History Detective," about a letter someone discovered which had been written by Bill Wilson, the founder of AA. I was originally also supposed to go to New York and appear onscreen, giving part of the explanation, but I had to have surgery on my carotid artery, and they put the famous AA historian Mel Barger onscreen instead. March 2006.

The long documentary film on Bill Wilson's life for which Chesnut was one of the resource people:

A DVD disk of *Bill W.*, a documentary film about the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, produced and directed by Kevin Hanlon and Dan Carracino. I was used as a resource person by them, and interviewed by them on camera in Chicago on September 24, 2007. I had a bit part in the film, but got bumped out in the final cutting. I do have my name in the credits however! **Shown on national TV on PBS on September 29, 2016.** See <http://www.page124.com/> and <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/morepix03.html>

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**20. COPIES OF ALL BOOKS which Chesnut has written and published:**

- 2017 A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland  
 2017 Heroes of Early Black AA  
 2017 Father Ralph Pfau and the Golden Books  
 2015 Father Ed Dowling  
 2011 The Psychology of Alcoholism  
 2010 God and Spirituality  
 2006 Changed by Grace: V. C. Kitchen, the Oxford Group, and A.A.  
 2005 The Factory Owner & the Convict  
 2005 The St. Louis Gambler & the Railroad Man  
 2001 The Higher Power of the Twelve-Step Program  
 1986 The First Christian Histories, 2nd edition, revised and enlarged  
     We need to keep this hard cover copy of the 2nd edit. in the Archives section. This 2nd edit. was greatly revised and enlarged. (Incidentally, this particular copy came from the library of Ernest Kurtz, the most famous historian of AA's second generation.)  
 1984: Images of Christ: An Introduction to Christology  
 1977 The First Christian Histories, 1st edit., Éditions Beauchesne in Paris  
     We also need to keep this copy of the original 1st edition which was published in Paris by the major French scholarly publisher of works on theology and Christian history in 1977: there were notable changes made between the first and second editions.

**Or edited and published:**

- 2012 John Stark, Tales from the Caribbean  
 2012 John Stark, The Little House on Genessee  
 2008 Ernest Kurtz, The Collected Ernie Kurtz  
 2007 Annette R. Smith, Social World of Alcoholics Anonymous  
 2007 Ernest Kurtz, Shame & Guilt, 2nd ed.  
 2007 Jane S., Q & A: Alcoholism and Sobriety  
 2004 Mel B[arger], Three Recovery Classics  
 2004 Richard M. Dubiel, The Road to Fellowship  
 2003 Nancy Olson, With a Lot of Help from Our Friends

Copies of all of these have been placed in the Library Archives, and another copy of each of these books has been provided to put out on the open shelves.

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## **21. MISCELLANEOUS:**

The **TAPE RECORDINGS** which were transcribed for *The Factory Owner & the Convict*, *The St. Louis Gambler & the Railroad Man*, and *Heroes of Early Black AA*. Also tape recordings of Glenn Chesnut speaking, as well as some of the people who helped him so much in his research and publishing, such as above all Frank Nyikos and Submarine Bill Correll.

**Gary W. Neidhardt, *King Charles of New York City: How a Nineteenth Century Georgia Farm Boy Became a Manhattan-based Sovereign Authority on Alcohol and Drug Treatment* (2015).** The life and work of Charles Towns, who founded and ran Towns Hospital, a treatment center for alcoholics and drug addicts in New York City. Published in a very limited edition, copies of this are going to be rare and hard to obtain. Neidhardt is one of the four A.A. historians who formed a committee to run the AA History Lovers website after I retired from guiding it at the end of 2016.

References are made to the hospital and its treatment program in a number of things I have written, including particularly my book on Father Ed Dowling.

The historical importance of Towns Hospital: when Bill Wilson was in treatment there, on December 14, 1934 he had a vision of light, and never drank again. Instead, when he left the hospital, he founded the Alcoholics Anonymous program.

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## **22. CLASS LECTURES:**

### **Indiana University South Bend (1970-2003)**

#### **1st SET OF FILES**

Western Culture 1: Ancient, Greek, and Roman

Western Culture 2: Italian Renaissance, Reformation, 18th-century Enlightenment

#### **2nd SET OF FILES**

Ancient Civilization

Medieval Civilization

#### **3rd SET OF FILES**

Religion of Ancient Israel

Introduction to the New Testament

#### **4th SET OF FILES**

Advanced Greek History

Advanced Roman History

### **Boston University (1984-85)**

#### **5th SET OF FILES**

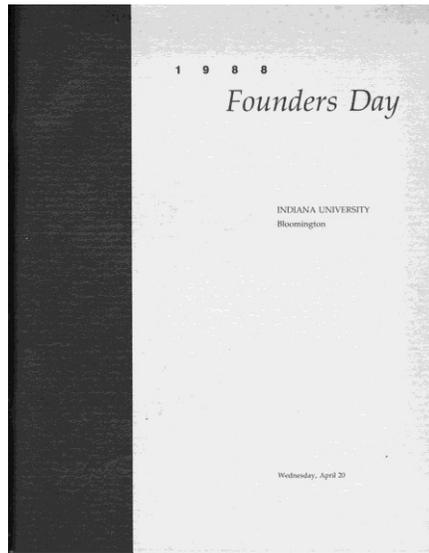
Graduate course on Patristics (Christian theology of the first six centuries A.D.)

First semester advanced undergraduate Roman history course

# Glenn Chesnut as Teacher

## Indiana University 1988 Distinguished Teaching Award The Herman Frederic Lieber Award

*Indiana University all-eight-campus convocation at  
Bloomington on Founders Day — April 20, 1988*



From the program for the awards ceremony:

GLENN F. CHESNUT, Professor of History (South Bend) (1970). B.S., University of Louisville, 1960; B.D., Southern Methodist University, 1964; Ph.D., Oxford University (England), 1971.

Glenn Chesnut's major strength as a teacher is his ability to "take our very best students, excite them about intellectual matters, and push them to discover their own strengths and capabilities," said the chair of the history department. And from a political science professor: "As a former Fulbright fellow, I have been very impressed with Glenn's achievement as Fulbright adviser for IU South Bend." He helped two students get Fulbright fellowships within a comparatively short time.

Chesnut is described as “a teacher who is able to do what only truly talented teachers can do, namely, bring out the very best in those he encounters in his classroom and his office.” Such praise comes not only from faculty colleagues, but from students, former students, and administrators.

Chesnut’s ability to get his students interested—one might even say inspired—in ancient history and religions is one of the qualities that makes him an outstanding teacher. Even those outside the field find his enthusiasm contagious.

A computer specialist called Chesnut’s classes “the most demanding and the most rewarding classes I have taken,” and a legal secretary noted, “I have often recommended Professor Chesnut’s classes to fellow students because of my admiration of his abilities as a teacher.” A minister from Ohio wrote, “On a personal level I found Dr. Chesnut to be available to his students, ready to listen, and truly interested in concerns that are of importance to his students.”

Academic awards and honors attest to Chesnut’s scholarship. These include a Fulbright fellowship, Dempster fellowship, Rockefeller doctoral fellowship, Prix de Rome in classics, and a special award from the American Society of Church History for the best book on church history written by a North American historian.

Chesnut’s area of expertise is ancient history: Greek, Roman, and ancient Near Eastern. He is the author of *The First Christian Histories: Eusebius, Socrates, Sozomen, Theodoret, and Evagrius* and *Images of Christ: An Introduction to Christology*.

### **Additional comments over the years: by students and fellow faculty**

A remark heard repeatedly over the years from numerous faculty members who had listened to parts of Chesnut’s lectures while passing through the halls outside his classroom: “It didn’t matter what level the course was supposed to be at, even when it was at the freshman level, he was always giving the students a graduate level lecture.”

And yet Chesnut’s courses were always attended by large numbers of students — he was one of the most popular teachers on the Indiana University campus (and likewise at the University of Virginia and at Boston University).

Remark made to Chesnut by a seasoned English professor who one year ended up attending a whole semester of Chesnut's course on Ancient Civilization (an introductory sophomore-level class on ancient Greek and Roman history and literature): "I can't understand how you do it. Your lectures are all at the graduate level, but when I look around, I can tell by the expressions on the students faces, that they are graspy7ing and understanding everything that you are saying."

A comment made by large numbers of students when they were remembering back, in later years, what their education had been like: "Chesnut was the best teacher I ever had."

### **A dialogue overheard in the student lounge**

A group of students were planning out what courses they would take for the next semester, and student number one said to student number two: "You want to be sure and take at least one course from Chesnut before you are out of here."

The second student responded: "Is he easy?"

Several other students laughed, and one said: "You will work twice as hard as you do on any other course here — but you will learn three times as much."

Student number two protested: "But the course he's teaching next semester is not on anything I would ever be interested in."

One of the other students responded: "Whatever the topic is, by the time Chesnut has finished with it, you will discover that it is one of the most interesting subjects you've ever studied."

And the other students all smiled and enthusiastically nodded their heads in agreement.