

**THE ROMAN INDEX
OF
FORBIDDEN BOOKS**

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The Roman Index of Forbidden Books by Francis S. Betten

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FRANCIS S. BETTEN

**THE ROMAN INDEX
OF
FORBIDDEN BOOKS**

The Roman Index of Forbidden Books

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED FOR CATHOLIC
BOOKLOVERS AND STUDENTS

BY
FRANCIS S. BETTEN, S.J.

FIFTH EDITION

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NOTE

This short treatise was written for the benefit of those who cannot devote much time to the study of the Index. The following books will serve to obtain a more detailed information.

Rev. Timothy Hurley.— *A Commentary on the Present Index Legislation*. Dublin, Brown and Nolan. New York, Benziger Bros. \$1.25.

Rev. Arthur Vermeersch, S.J.— *De prohibitione et censura librorum*. St. Louis, B. Herder. \$0.85.

Rev. Jos. Hilgers, S.J.— *Der Index der verbotenen Bücher*. St. Louis, B. Herder, \$3.25.

Rev. Jos. Hilgers, S.J.— *The Roman Index and its Latest Historian. A Critical Review of "The Censorship of the Church of Rome" by George Haven*

NOTE

Putnam. Techny, Ill. Society of the Divine Word. 10 cents.

"*Censorship of Books*" and "*Prohibited Books*," articles by Rev. Jos. Hilgers, S.J., in the Catholic Encyclopedia.

An English translation of the Constitution "*Officiorum ac munerum*" is contained in *The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII*, with Preface by Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J. New York, Benziger Bros. \$2.00.

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A short summary of this book, entitled, "*Ten Elementary Questions Concerning the Roman Index of Forbidden Books*," is published by the Society of the Divine Word, Techny Ill. (5 cents.) It will be found serviceable for distribution in clubs and societies, for sale at the church doors, and for supplementing the religious instruction in the higher classes of educational institutions.

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SECTION I
COMMENTARY

1. **The Index.**

In 1901, a reviewer of the Roman Index of Forbidden Books opened his criticism by congratulating himself upon having before him a genuine copy of that book, of which, he says, only a very limited number were printed for the exclusive use of "the leaders of the Church." Owing to its scarcity, he thinks, the owner of the volume, which he had borrowed, must have paid at least two hundred dollars for it. He could have bought a brand new copy for \$2.25. The Index of which he speaks, issued by order of Leo XIII, in 1900, is for sale in this country by B. Herder, St. Louis, Mo. So