

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE ARCHITECTURES OF
EUROPEAN RELIGIONS**

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An introduction to the architectures of European religions by B. Stoughton Holbourn

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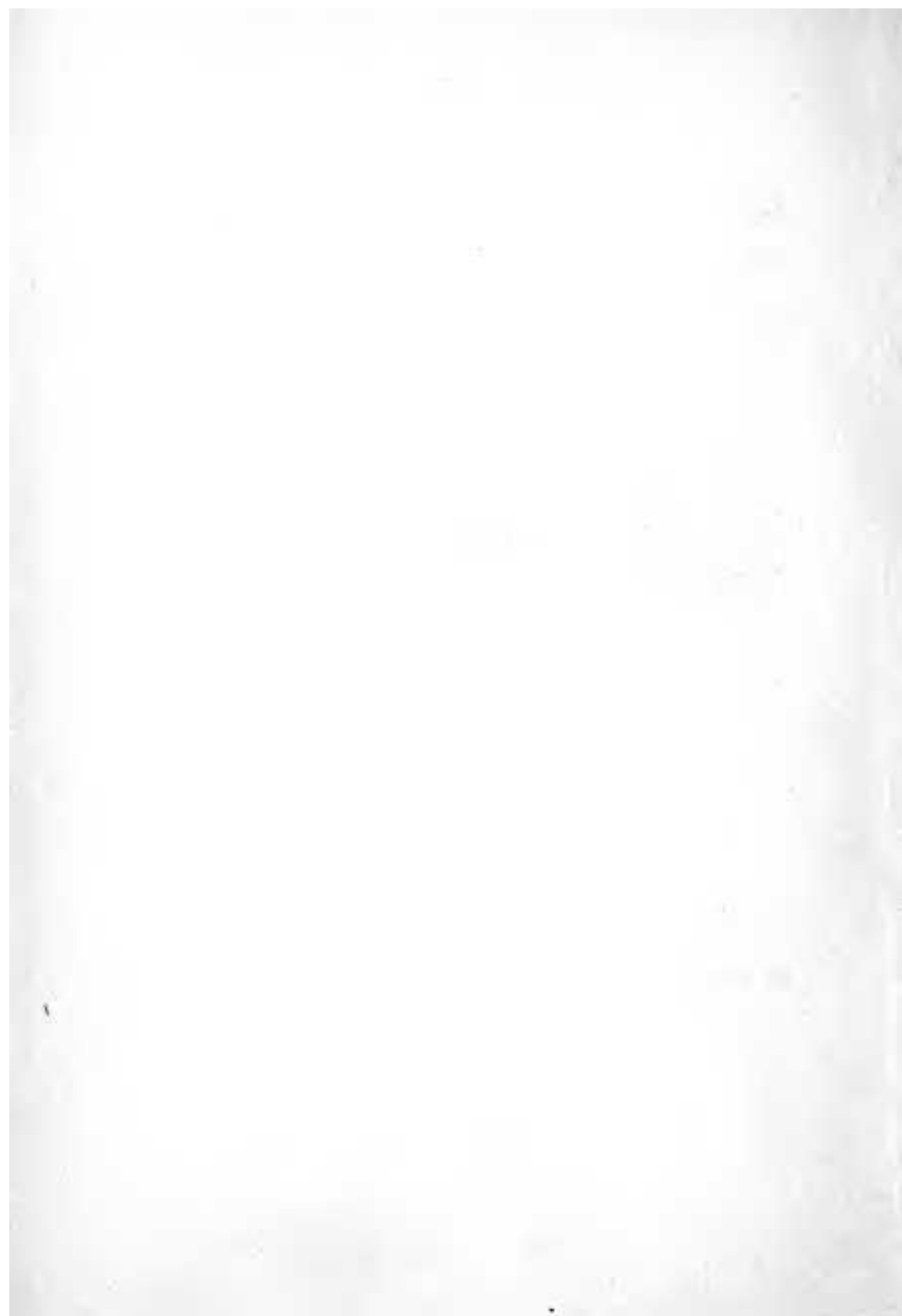
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PREFACE

IN lecturing to students upon the subject of architecture, the author has been led to suppose that there is some need for the issue, at a moderate price, of an introductory survey of the development of European architecture. It has been suggested to him that his recent work upon the architectures of European religions would be acceptable in book form, as such an introduction, both for the student and the general reader.

Although civil and domestic work are of vast importance in the history of architecture, their omission makes it possible to reduce the size of the book, and yet give a tolerably complete view of the nature of the several styles. For it is true to say that in the case of architecture, as of everything else, man has generally given his best in the service of religion. Neither can it be gainsaid that this theme has its own peculiar interest.

For this reason Roman architecture scarcely takes the position that it deserves; yet it seemed desirable not to include in the present edition more additional matter than was necessary. In