

# **THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE LITURGY**

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The early history of the liturgy by J. H. Srawley

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**J. H. SRAWLEY**

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# THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE LITURGY

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## NOTE BY THE EDITORS

THE purpose of *The Cambridge Handbooks of Liturgical Study* is to offer to students who are entering upon the study of Liturgies such help as may enable them to proceed with advantage to the use of the larger and more technical works upon the subject which are already at their service.

The series will treat of the history and rationale of the several rites and ceremonies which have found a place in Christian worship, with some account of the ancient liturgical books in which they are contained. Attention will also be called to the importance which liturgical forms possess as expressions of Christian conceptions and beliefs.

Each volume will provide a list or lists of the books in which the study of its subject may be pursued, and will contain a table of Contents and an Index.

The editors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed in the several volumes of the series. While offering suggestions on points of detail, they have left each writer to treat his subject in his own way, regard being had to the general plan and purpose of the series.

H. B. S.

J. H. S.

## PREFACE

THE present handbook is intended to set before beginners in the study of the early liturgy the main factors in the history of its development. It makes no pretension to completeness, nor has it been found possible, within the limits of space available, to treat in detail many of the perplexing problems which meet the student in this field of study. My object has been to select from the mass of materials accumulated in the larger works which are available those facts in the evidence which seemed to be of crucial importance, and to reserve judgement where the evidence seemed inconclusive. Many theories (*e.g.* with regard to the Roman Canon) have been passed over without detailed discussion, as it seemed better to put the young student in possession of the main facts, before introducing him to the various conjectural reconstructions of the history which have been put forward in recent times.

My debt to the larger and more important works of reference is indicated in the Bibliography and notes. I owe much to Mr Brightman's *Liturgies Eastern and Western* and to the contributions to the subject of the early liturgy in the *Journal of Theological Studies* and elsewhere from the pen of Mr Edmund Bishop. To the latter I am indebted for help of a more personal kind. He generously undertook to



read through the manuscript of the present book, and has offered many criticisms of its general method and treatment, as well as detailed suggestions with regard to the contents of the first six chapters. The help thus given has been a stimulus to my own studies, and I can only express the hope that the final form of the book will shew that it has borne fruit. From Dr Swete, my co-editor in the present series, and from Dr W. H. Frere, of Mirfield, I have received help of various kinds. The Rev. G. H. Clayton, Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge, has kindly assisted me in the reading of the proofs. Lastly, my best thanks are due to the workmen and staff of the Cambridge University Press.

J. H. S.

*Easter, 1913.*

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