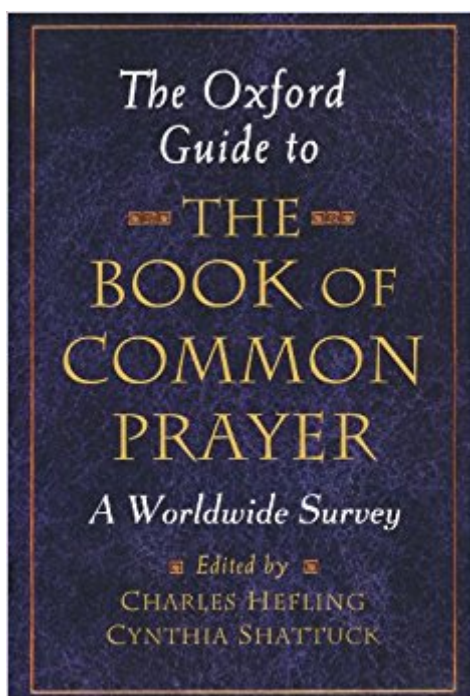


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# The Oxford Guide To The Book Of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey



## Synopsis

The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer is the first comprehensive guide to the history and usage of the original Book of Common Prayer and its variations. Expert contributors from around the world and from every major denomination offer an unparalleled view of The Book of Common Prayer and its influence. The Oxford Guide to Common Prayer is more than simply a history: it describes how Anglican churches at all points of the compass have developed their own Prayer Books and adapted the time-honored Anglican liturgies to their diverse local cultures. The Guide examines how the same texts - Daily Prayers, the Eucharist, Marriage and Funerals, and many others - in dozens of editions now in use throughout the world, both resemble and differ from one another. A brief look at "electronic Prayer Books" also offers a unique and exciting modern perspective. The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer offers a fascinating journey through the history and development of a classic of world literature from its origins in the 16th century to the modern day. Oxford is pleased to offer The Book of Common Prayer in a variety of formats and prices to match readers' needs and budgets - perfect for study or gift-giving. Visit our website to order your copy today.\* A comprehensive survey of the rich history of the original Book of Common Prayer and all of its varied descendents. \* Explains, characterizes, and illustrates the dozens of Prayer Book versions in current use throughout the world. \* Lays out a path that will enable any reader, Anglican or not, to learn why the BCP is a classic of liturgy and literature.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This new reference work, edited by Boston College professor Hefling and Church Publishing v-p Shattuck, traces the many revisions that the Anglican Book of Common Prayer has undergone and examines the sundry versions of the prayer book used in different countries. (After the American Revolution, for example, Episcopalians in the new United States omitted the prayers for the British king.) Varied liturgies for weddings, argues Gillian Varcoe, show how Anglicans in different times and places responded to culturally specific pressures and changing social understandings about marriage. Throughout, the contributors underscore that "Anglicans do their theology in the context of worship." Given the current energy swirling around the concept of a worldwide Anglican communion, and the West's increased attention to churches in the southern hemisphere, the essays on prayer books in Africa and Asia are especially welcome. Concluding pieces hazard some guesses—sometimes a tad whimsically—about the future of common prayer. What do technological changes mean for the prayer book? Word processors have allowed churches to produce Sunday bulletins, rendering actual books unnecessary. Maybe one day soon, Sunday worshippers will read the liturgy from Palm Pilots or BlackBerry devices. This rich volume is sure to become the definitive source for studies of the Book of Common Prayer. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"It is well conceived physically, graced with both illustrations of historic prayer books and text boxes from the liturgies being discussed, which are a significant help to the reader. This authoritative guide to the Book of Common Prayer as it once was and has now become will well serve anyone interested in Anglicanism or the prayer book tradition." --Christian Century

"To understand the phenomenon of Anglicanism we need to understand the Prayer Book -- in its original setting and in its many transformations. I cannot think of a better and more comprehensive resource than this collection of expert discussions in helping us learn more of what Anglicanism has given to the literary heritage of Christianity and culture alike." --from the Foreword by the Most Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

"Monumental and magnificent! This Guide makes clear why the Book of Common Prayer is both a religious and a literary masterpiece. To say any less than that of this volume would be to misrepresent it; to say more would be to diminish its stature." --Phyllis Tickle

"Through the beauty of language, the Book of Common Prayer has nurtured a spirituality that has defined our very unity of faith and worship. The Oxford Guide is both timely and welcome. It takes us to the root of our common life and gives us a living word as we learn about liturgy,

language, culture, tradition, and revision. I heartily commend it." --The Most Reverend Andrew S. Hutchinson, Archbishop and Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada"While the essays vary in length, all are thorough. The general quality of the writing and editing has made every page worth reading. It is a book that both teaches well and reads well." --Richard J. Anderson in *Historiographer*

This is an excellent history of the BCP and includes an overview of the history behind the revisions. It also gives a good background on various Prayer Books found throughout the Anglican Communion.

This is the classic, and it is a thorough examination of prayer books throughout the Anglican Communion. A must-have reference for those seeking in-depth knowledge of their prayer book or a comparison among prayer books.

This is a very ambitious project and you get a bargain for your buck. The print is small and there is a lot of information packed into these fine print pages, but I was disappointed by the lack of detail concerning the Prayer Books of 1549, 1552, 1559, 1604 and 1662. I would have preferred some indepth discussions of the significant theological developments in these versions before launching into the variations of the BCP in the worldwide Anglican communion.

This is a wonderful (if now somewhat dated by a few years--Prayer Book revision does go on) reference work about the history of the Prayer Book and about editions thereof. Reading it has expanded greatly my knowledge of my chosen religious tradition and of my denomination's siblings around the world.

Excellent purchase. Arrived on time, and it's a fantastic resource when studying the Common Book of Prayer. I am so glad I bought it.

From one Book of Common Prayer to many over five centuries, this text provides an outstanding and excellent analysis of the historical and functional evolution of the current Books of Common Prayer currently in use. This Oxford Guide stands out as a primary reference for all. Richard W. Wheeler

The book itself is wonderful on its own on content but the one I received was just perfect, just like

the ad. Loved it and the vendor.

Nearly everything a scholar or common reader could possibly want to know, priced as a thought it were a paperback remainder.

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