

PREFACE

The characteristics of this lexicon may first be defined negatively. There are other dictionaries, e.g. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, ed. F. L. Cross, reprinted 1963, which contain liturgical references amongst others; this one is entirely confined to matters of worship. There are other dictionaries, e.g. *Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie*, eds. F. Cabrol and H. Leclercq, 1907–53, which are restricted in the period with which they deal; this one is not confined to any one period. There are dictionaries, e.g. *The Prayer Book Dictionary*, eds. G. Hardford and M. Stevenson, 1912, which are devoted to one Church only; this attempts to be ecumenical. Nevertheless to cite these exhaustive works is not to invite comparison, for this select lexicon does not pretend to be complete; it is intended as a handy reference book more like the *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* than its larger brothers. The entries selected are those which the student of liturgy is likely to encounter most frequently. In many instances a simple definition is all that is needed and all that is given; but in other cases a description of the object or action defined and a brief history of it is provided.

Bibliographical references are given for the main items, and a special feature, when a liturgical document is concerned, is the listing of original texts and, where readily available, of translations together with critical studies if there are any directly bearing upon the subject. Cross-references are indicated by an asterisk.

The execution and completion of this work would have been quite impossible without the encouragement and assistance of my co-editor of the Ecumenical Studies in Worship, the Rev. A. Raymond George, who has generously put at my disposal his extensive liturgical knowledge and has saved me repeatedly from perpetrating errors; if any remain I must alone bear the responsibility. I also wish to express my appreciation of the help given to me by my colleagues in the University Library at Birmingham; they have been tireless in obtaining works of reference for me. In this connexion I am happy to express my gratitude also to the many Church bodies that have most generously donated to the library service-books which have proved an invaluable source of material.

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