

The Mysterious
Lost Transcripts
*of the Woman Who Knew
the Secrets of the Universe*

**The Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler
Investigative Panel**

**A NOVEL OF HISTORICAL FICTION
LARRY MULLINS**

The Mysterious Lost Transcripts
of the Woman Who Knew
the Secrets of the Universe

**The Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler
Investigative Panel**

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WEBSITE:

www.LenaSadlerLostTranscripts.com

To
Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler
and the members of the
Investigative Panel,
wherever they may be.

CONTENTS

PREFACE	<i>i</i>
FOREWORD	<i>iii</i>
THE DISTINGUISHED PANEL	<i>xv</i>
TRUTH, BEAUTY, and GOODNESS	1
TRANSCRIPT ONE	
<i>Note Regarding the Panel</i>	3
<i>A Confrontation of Values</i>	5
<i>A New Model of Humankind</i>	17
TRANSCRIPT TWO	
<i>The Unfailing Mantra</i>	45
<i>The Five Principles of Ultimate Being</i>	59
BIBLIOGRAPHY	107
THANK YOU	111
OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST	112

PREFACE

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS OF THE DR. LENA Celestia Sadler Investigative Panel are a work of historical fiction. The philosophical positions of the members of the Panel, with the exception of Lena Sadler herself, were adapted from their actual writings. In some cases artistic license was employed for continuity of narrative. Although the members of the panel and Lena Sadler herself were real people, Dr. Kenneth Neil Brooks is a fictional character. Regarding Lena Sadler, she was a passionate advocate of the Urantia Papers, yet she left no philosophical writings of her own. Lena's positions in the transcripts were derived directly from her beloved Urantia Papers. These papers were published in book form in 1955 as *The Urantia Book*. This remarkable publication has never been promoted, yet it remains in print, with over 700,000 English language copies having been sold. It has been translated into several languages.

Larry Mullins



Dr. Lena Celestia Kellogg Sadler

FOREWORD

by Dr. Kenneth Neil Brooks

I had never heard of her either.

In fact, I had to go to Wikipedia to find out if she ever really existed. What I discovered was unexpected.

Lena Celestia Kellogg Sadler, 1875-1939, was an American physician, surgeon, obstetrician, and author who was a leader in addressing women's health issues. Her biographical summary discloses that she became a medical doctor at a time when this was a remarkable achievement for a female. She had an impressive career as an activist who diligently worked to recognize the contributions of women as professionals in the medical and scientific fields. Lena's husband, Dr. William S. Sadler, was a prominent psychiatrist and medical doctor. However, there was nothing in the page of Wikipedia information to explain the mysterious

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS

Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler (June 9, 1875 - August 8, 1939) was an American physician, surgeon, and obstetrician, as well as a prominent leader in women's health issues. Lena was an attending obstetrician at Columbus Hospital and Children's Memorial Hospital, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association, Medical Women's International Association, Associate Director, Chicago Institute of Research & Diagnosis; one of the founders of the American Medical Women's Association, (President 1934, Secretary 1925-1926), Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs (Chairperson of Child Welfare 1925), State of Illinois Department of Public Health and Child Welfare (Chairperson 1926), Chicago Council of Medical Woman (President 1929, 1930, Secretary 1924-1925), Chicago Medical Society, Illinois State Medical Society, Chicago Medical Women's Club, Chicago Woman's Club, Chicago Chapter of the American Federation of Soroptimists and the Lakeview Women's Club.

After completing her literary education, Lena taught for two years, and then took up the nursing profession. It was while engaged in professional studies as a nurse that she met her husband, William S. Sadler, and they married in 1897. After their marriage, the active interest they both had taken in health matters turned their attention toward the profession of medicine. They pursued their medical studies together, and graduated with equal honors at the American Medical Missionary College (Illinois State University) in 1906. Their only son was born in 1907, named William S. Sadler, Jr. She was one of many activists who diligently worked to recognize the contributions of women as professionals in the medical and scientific fields. For twenty years Lena and her husband, William worked in rescue mission work for the Seventh-day Adventist Missions in Chicago and San Francisco. Lena concentrated on ministering to women detained in the Chicago jails. Chautauqua Annual Series 1915: Lena and her family toured on the Redpath Chautauqua Circuit annually, lecturing on health. **Dr Lena called together the first group of friends at their home that eventually became known as the Forum, the group that asked questions in response to papers read to them, which eventuated in the papers of The Urantia Book.**

During the 1920s, she prepared a history of medical women in Illinois, and directed the survey of the mid-wives of Chicago under the auspices of the Chicago Health Department. As Chairman of Child Welfare of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs in 1925 and 1926, she was instrumental in bring (*sic*) about working cooperation between four great organizations of the state - the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois State Dental Society, the State Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Federation Women's Clubs—in a united health project for the state. As State Chairman of Public Health and Child Welfare, she stressed public health for adults as well as for children. Lena Sadler traveled to Paris for post graduate studies in 1928. **Published works:** Dr. Sadler authored *How to Feed the Baby*, and co-authored a number of books, notably, *How to Reduce and How to Gain*, and *The Mother and Her Child*. She contributed numerous health articles to the leading magazines.

The above material was extracted from Dr. Lena Sadler's Wikipedia entry (www.wikipedia.com). The only possible link to the mysterious transcripts is presented in the second paragraph above, (emphasis mine).

FOREWORD

transcripts that had chanced to come into my possession. Only one line in her biography gave me a possible clue: “*Dr. Lena called together the first group of friends at their home that eventually became known as the Forum, the group that asked questions in response to papers read to them, which eventuated in the papers of The Urantia Book.*”

This comment stimulated more questions than it provided answers. How did the “Forum” result in the publication of *The Urantia Book*?* Intrigued, I found a copy of *The Urantia Book*, which was first published in 1955. To my surprise, it is still in print. *The Urantia Book* is a massive publication of over 2,000 pages. It purports itself to be a revelation of epochal magnitude, the first epochal revelation since Jesus walked the earth. Enough already, I thought.

I hesitate to attempt to summarize its contents. In time I figured out *The Urantia Book* is not really religion, nor science, nor philosophy. It is an attempt to synthesize existing knowledge of these disciplines into a seamless whole. I can only say that *The Urantia Book* is either what it says it is or a hoax of some kind. But, to my knowledge, no one profited from it. And, the most perplexing question of all for me remains: *who wrote it and why?*

I have since learned that no one knows for sure *who* wrote it. The origin of *The Urantia Book* is what its

* Curious readers can learn more at www.urantiaBookHistory.com.

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS

adherents call a spiritual mystery. The jury is still out on *why* it was written.

Two Students Bring Me the Transcripts

According to the two University of Florida students who brought *The Lost Transcripts of the Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler Investigative Panel* to my attention, the transcripts were downloaded from the internet. I tend to accept their claim, because these individuals obviously did not fully appreciate the content of the transcripts, nor did they seem capable of fabricating them.

The young man explained that he stumbled across a website containing “*The Lost Transcripts of the Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler Investigative Panel!*” He decided to download them to impress his girlfriend, who is majoring in psychology and philosophy. The young lady told me that she was puzzled by several aspects of the material. She was not comfortable showing the transcripts to her professors. Knowing that I have spent a large portion of my life studying consciousness, third-force psychology, and the concept of *Being* values, the couple eventually brought the material to me for my examination. The young man informed me that he was no longer able to find the website he had used to download the transcripts, that it had somehow been taken down.

At first it appeared to me that *The Lost Transcripts of the Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler Investigative Panel* were simply a clumsy practical joke of some kind. They obviously could

FOREWORD



SADLER, WILLIAM SAMUEL: Psychiatrist, born: Spencer Indiana, June 14, 1875, son of Samuel Calvin and Sarah Isabel (Wilson) Sadler. Education: Battle Creek (MI) College; Cooper Medical College; University of Chicago, M.D.; American Medical Missionary College; University of Illinois, 1906. Studied in Europe with Freud, 1911. Married Lena C. Kellogg, M.D. of Paris, Illinois, December 3, 1897. Children: Willus Kellogg (deceased); William Samuel Sadler, Jr. Practiced in Chicago since 1906. Formerly Professor Post-Graduate, Medical School of

Chicago; professor-lecturer, pastoral psychology, Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Director and Chief Psychiatrist Chicago Institute of Research and Diagnosis, 1906; attending psychiatrist, Columbus Hospital North Side Rest Home; consulting psychiatrist, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI. Fellow, American College of Surgeons; A.M.A., A.A.A.S., American Psychiatric Association. Member, American Psychopathological Association; Illinois State Medical Society; Chicago Medical Society of Mental Hygiene; Chicago Society for Personality Study. Republican, Protestant. Author: *The Psychology of Faith and Fear*, 1912, 9th edition, 1925; *Worry & Nervousness*, 1913; *Quest for Happiness*, 1926; *The truth About Heredity*, 1927; *The Truth About Mind Cure*, 1928; *The Mind at Mischief*, 1929; *Piloting Modern Youth* (with wife) 1931; *Theory & Practice of Psychology*, 1936; *Psychiatric Nursing*, (with wife) 1937; *Living a Sane Sex Life*, (with wife) 1938; *Problems with the Pre-School Child* (with wife) 1940; 15 other books on psychology and mental hygiene; also health articles in magazines and articles on mental hygiene and psychiatry. Lecturer on psychiatry and other subjects. Home Office: 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois.

The "Who's Who" entry of Dr. William S. Sadler, husband of Dr. Lena Celestia Sadler. Although he is generally given credit for being the primary protagonist behind *The Urantia Book*, it was Dr. Lena Sadler who was its primary sustaining and devoted champion.

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS

not have been recorded in real time, because not all the members of the panel were contemporaries. Moreover, there are references to events that took place, and documents that had emerged, sometime after the deaths of some members of the Panel. For these reasons I remain convinced that the transcripts were crafted and set down recently by a single individual. This conclusion would be sufficient reason to dismiss the documents entirely as pure fantasy. However, because of their revolutionary content, I find myself unable to do so.

The transcripts were obviously developed by a person or individuals who had not only thoroughly researched Lena Sadler's work and her relation to *The Urantia Book*, they were also familiar with the varied and unique philosophical and scientific positions of the members of the panel. Yet, there are far more compelling reasons that have driven me to make this material available to the scientific, philosophical and religious mainstream.

I Consult an Expert on Philosophy

The more I studied and researched the information presented in these transcripts, the more persuaded I became that I needed to consult with a high level philosopher about the material. I spent several days with such an expert in Boston. His initial reaction was like mine; he expected to dispose of this nonsense quickly. After three days of studying *The Urantia Book* and the transcripts, the expert (whom I shall call Sam) arranged a meeting with me.

Sam greeted me with a big grin. After a few light-hearted formalities, Sam gave me his opinion:

“Ken, this was quite a challenge. You wanted me to evaluate these ‘transcripts,’ and also a two thousand-plus page tome titled *The Urantia Book*. Three days was not enough time. Even so, I did my best. Let’s talk about the transcripts first. I found them interesting, especially when I realized that the author was not claiming to communicate with the dead. Rather, he had researched and used the actual writings of the supposed ‘participants’ for their responses in Dr. Lena’s symposium. This gave the transcripts a ring of authenticity.

“Though the transcripts are obviously fiction, they are intriguing—and perhaps instructive—fiction, at least as far as the philosophical positions of Mortimer Adler, Bertrand Russell, Abraham Maslow and Viktor Frankl are concerned. I was less familiar with those of the rest of the panel, but based upon the limited research I was able to do, their perspectives were also expressed with reasonable validity. Regarding the philosophy of Lena Celestia Sadler, by using a search engine I was able to determine that Lena’s positions came directly from *The Urantia Book*.

“*The Urantia Book* itself is too large to evaluate comprehensively in such a short time. I determined that *The Urantia Book* categorically states that the dead do not return to earth. So, there is no inference that the transcripts were the product of some occult seance or channelling process. This I

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS

found acceptable. However, unfortunately the more radical philosophical positions that the book proffers are inadequately supported. These theories too often fly in the face of scientific principles and current secular academic knowledge.”

“But please,” I replied, “just give me your dispassionate philosophical opinion in specific terms.”

“Sure. Let me offer one example. By definition the spiritual domain and the material domain are on different planes of existence and cannot interrelate. This is a generally accepted philosophical principle. For that reason, the attempt to synthesize science and religion, as *The Urantia Book* does, just won’t work.”

“Yes Sam, I understand that is the generally accepted philosophical position. However, *The Urantia Book* claims that there is an intervening domain that somehow combines characteristics of the material plane and the spiritual realms. So to speak, like a woven fabric, the warp being material and the woof being spiritual. Or, maybe the other way around. Lena Sadler restates this concept in the transcripts.”

Sam laughed at this. “Ken, they are just making up a solution out of thin air. Philosophy would be easy if we could just make stuff up to solve perplexing problems. Theologians too often skate over, with outrageous alacrity, scientific discoveries that are indisputable.” Sam chuckled again.

“Well Sam, while you are at it, don’t forget scientists who ignore philosophical principles with equally blissful

FOREWORD

indifference. Of course I understand these conflicts. And there is no way of proving *The Urantia Book's* theory regarding the interrelation of matter and spirit. There are many examples in *The Urantia Book* of solutions to philosophical questions that have never been solved. I believe you will agree that very few people even know such questions exist. *The Urantia Book* and the transcripts address many of these, including quantum physics mysteries such as the emergence of matter from nothing and the terrestrial escape of human personality at death.”

Sam stared at me silently for a few moments. “So what? If all a philosopher needed to do is make up solutions, as I said, philosophy would be simple. And, as you point out, most people, even many scholars, have no idea these problems exist.”

“Sam, that is my point. *The Urantia Book* and the transcripts address these philosophical problems. Made up nonsense or not, only a philosopher would be aware of these issues enough to write about them. That can be explained, perhaps, by suggesting a rogue philosopher wrote them for his own amusement. Yet even a scientist would not know for certain about the validity of continental drift, especially back in 1955, when *The Urantia Book* was first published.* And only a theologian with scientific and philosophical training

*Mark A. S. McMenamin (a paleontologist and professor of geology at Mount Holyoke College), *The Garden of Ediacara: Discovering the First Complex Life* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), 173-7, for a scientific evaluation of *The Urantia Book's* presentation of continental land drift.

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS

could propose a means of terrestrial escape that is consistent with the underlying premises of the entire book. *The Urantia Book* is flawlessly consistent.”

Sam was briefly silent. “So a scientist, a philosopher and a theologian got together and devised this entire deception.”

“But why, Sam?”

“I don’t know. It was a scam of some kind. A practical joke, maybe.”

“So two prominent doctors risk their reputations to play a practical joke. On who? It makes no sense.”

“The only alternative is untenable. Do you believe *The Urantia Book* had some kind of miraculous origin? That some kind of higher celestial intelligences materialized it?”

“Sam, you know we both agree that perhaps the worst reason to believe any information or any publication is because someone claims it had some kind of miraculous origin. Any material like this must be judged by its content. And Sam, just think. What if it is true?”

This comment startled Sam. After a few moments he said, “Ken, don’t go there. Whatever you do, don’t go there. Do you have any idea of the implications? Aristotle separated the disciplines into logic-tight compartments, and they have worked reasonably well for over 2,000 years.”

“Yes, Sam. And, as you know, many great minds have challenged this Aristotelian dogma. Abraham Maslow, Viktor

Frankl, Buckminster Fuller, Mortimer Adler, Paul Stathern ...”

Sam put his hand up. “Ok. Give me some time to think about this.”

As of this writing, Sam is still thinking about it. It is my hope that Sam, or someone of his caliber, can offer proof, once and for all, that *The Urantia Book* is either a fraud or a revelation. If the latter, it could eventually challenge many of the assumptions of modern civilization.

Dr. Lena Sadler and The Urantia Book

Meanwhile, I learned more about Dr. Lena, as she was known in the Forum. The process that eventuated in the printing of the text of *The Urantia Book* took place over a period of nearly fifty years.* It began circa 1911 and ended with its publication in 1955. Although her husband, Dr. William S. Sadler, is generally given credit for being the protagonist behind *The Urantia Book*, the truth is that it was Dr. Lena who was its primary sustaining and devoted champion until her death in 1939. Few readers of *The Urantia Book* even mention her existence. Dr. Lena was a believer from the beginning, and she convinced her husband to continue with the project in spite of his doubts.

The equally mysterious story of how the text of the

*James R. Lewis and Olav Hammer, ed., *The Invention of Sacred Tradition* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 199-212.

THE LOST TRANSCRIPTS

Urantia Papers themselves came into being is a story for another day.

Dr. Lena's prodigious knowledge of the Urantia Papers and her spiritual fragrance are evident throughout the "Lost Transcripts." I believe the reader will find them at least entertaining.

And perhaps the reader may even dare to imagine:
"What if this is true?"

Dr. Kenneth Neil Brooks

THE DISTINGUISHED PANEL

LENA CELESTIA SADLER

Chair

ABRAHAM MASLOW

MORTIMER ADLER

SIR JAMES JEANS

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

ARTHUR ASHE

VIKTOR FRANKL

WILLIAM WALKER ATKINSON

(aka Yogi Ramacharaka)

BERTRAND RUSSELL

MOTHER TERESA



LENA CELESTIA SADLER
1875 - 1939, Chairperson. “Dr. Lena”
was a physician, surgeon, obstetrician,
lecturer, author, and a leader in
women’s health issues.

Before becoming a medical doctor, she was a public school teacher and a trained nurse. For twenty years Lena and her husband, Dr. William Sadler, worked in rescue missions in Chicago and San Francisco. Lena concentrated on ministering to women detained in the Chicago jails. Later in life Lena became a leading activist who lectured and diligently worked toward recognizing the contributions of women as professionals in the medical and scientific fields. She was an associate professor of Physiologic Therapeutics in The Post Graduate Medical School of Chicago, an associate director of the Chicago Institute of Physiologic Therapeutics, a fellow of the American Medical Association, and a specialist in diseases of women and children. Dr. Lena called together the first group of friends at her home that became known as the Forum, the group that asked questions in response to papers read to them, which eventuated in the papers which were published in 1955 as *The Urantia Book*.



ABRAHAM MASLOW, 1908 - 1970.

Known as the father of the “third force” in psychology, usually referred to as Humanistic Psychology and distinguished from the Freudian or Behaviorist schools. His legacy of work extends much further than

his commonly recognized pyramid of the Hierarchy of Needs including Self-Actualization. Dr. Maslow's most challenging concept has been virtually ignored: His proposal for a "fourth force" in psychology, the Psychology of Transcendence. He insisted that values should be the domain of science as well as religion. The Psychology of Transcendence proposed to embrace a science of MetaValues and metamotivation, the essential targets for discussion by the Investigative Panel.



MORTIMER J. ADLER, 1902 - 2001. This modern philosopher has made a permanent mark on American culture. Beginning in 1930, Adler began promoting "Great Books," encouraging a liberal arts education through an understanding of great works of philosophy, literature, history, science, and religion. A prolific writer, Adler authored over fifty books and achieved remarkable popularity among laypersons who sought knowledge about the classic philosophical foundations of civilization. Adler eventually became Chairman of the Board of Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica and Editor in Chief of the *Great Books of the Western World* and *The Syntopicon: An Index to the Great Ideas*. He declared that all of us are philosophers, and we should learn to think in a disciplined, focused manner toward making our lives expressions of the true, the beautiful, and the good.



SIR JAMES JEANS, 1877 - 1946.

A scientist-philosopher, professor of applied mathematics at Cambridge and Princeton Universities, and author. Jeans made important contributions to quantum theory, the theory of gases, and stellar evolution.

Although a professed agnostic, Jeans' views often transcended the logic-tight barriers between science and philosophy. In his book *Physics and Philosophy* he wrote: "Science usually advances by a succession of small steps, through a fog in which even a keen-sighted explorer can seldom see more than a few paces ahead. Occasionally the fog lifts, an eminence is gained, and a wider stretch of territory can be surveyed—sometimes with startling results. A whole science may then seem to undergo a kaleidoscopic rearrangement, fragments of knowledge being found to fit together in a hitherto unsuspected manner. Sometimes the shock of readjustment may spread to other sciences, sometimes it may divert the whole current of human thought."

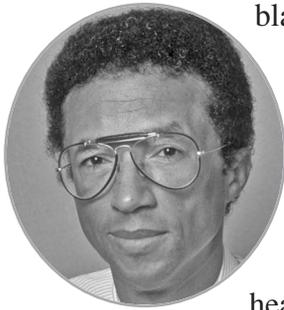


SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 1820 - 1906.

Born in Adams, Massachusetts, Anthony was one of history's foremost social reformers and women's suffrage leaders. Early in her life she was active in the temperance and anti-slavery movements. She is less known today for her spontaneous and incisive wit and

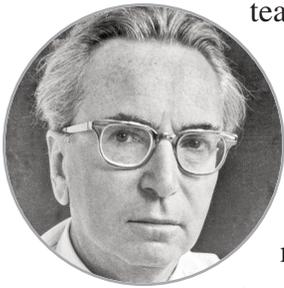
brilliant skills at debate. She began to champion women's rights in 1854 and was active until her death in 1906. Regarding her mission to achieve women's suffrage, the final words Anthony uttered to a public audience were: "Failure is impossible." Nearly fifteen years later, on the 100TH anniversary of her birth, 26 million women in America became eligible to vote. Ms. Anthony's social compassion, rhetorical skills and visionary gifts make her a valuable asset to the panel.

ARTHUR ASHE, 1943 - 1993. Arthur Ashe became the first black player to win the men's singles at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, and the Australian Open. Always an activist, Ashe's causes were shaped by both his personal story and his health. In 1979, he retired from competition after suffering a heart attack, and wrote a history of African-American athletes: *A Hard Road to Glory*, 1988. He also served as national campaign chairman of the American Heart Association. Ashe was plagued with health issues over the last 14 years of his life. After undergoing two bypass operations, in 1988 he underwent emergency brain surgery after experiencing paralysis of his right arm. A biopsy taken during a hospital stay revealed that Ashe had AIDS. Doctors soon figured out that Ashe had become positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, from a transfusion of bad blood during his second heart operation. In 1992, Ashe made his story public. Free from the burden of trying to hide his condition, Ashe passionately committed to the work of raising



awareness about the disease. He delivered a speech at the United Nations and started a new foundation dedicated to the prevention and cure of AIDS. He continued to work to educate the public about AIDS, even as his health began to deteriorate. He finally succumbed to it in 1993.

VIKTOR FRANKL, 1895 - 1997. Psychiatrist, philosopher,



teacher, and author, Frankl was one of the great minds and human spirits of the 20th century. Frankl established a new school of psychiatry, which he termed Logotherapy, or “healing through meaning.” He is universally acclaimed for

his book: *Man’s Search for Meaning*, which

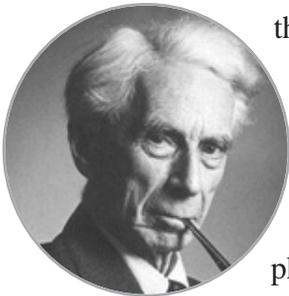
has been hailed as one of the ten most influential books in America. Frankl wrote 31 books which have been translated into 24 languages. But his achievements did not come easily. In 1942 Frankl and his wife Tilly were brutally plucked out of their home in Vienna and shipped in a cattle car into the Nazi death camp machine. Tilly would perish in Auschwitz, but Viktor Frankl managed to survive. Frankl demonstrated the power of the human will to propose a higher meaning to living under the most dire of conditions. He was able to transcend and prevail under one of history’s most devastating manifestations of organized evil. Frankl’s triumph against immense odds and his passionate commitment to higher values are the essential components he brings to this panel.



**WILLIAM WALKER ATKINSON, aka
Yogi Ramacharaka, 1862 - 1932.**

Atkinson was an attorney, merchant, publisher, and author. He is also known to have been the author of the pseudonymous works attributed to Theron Q. Dumont and Yogi Ramacharaka. Due in part to Atkinson's intense personal secrecy and extensive use of pseudonyms, he is now largely forgotten, despite having obtained mention in past editions of *Who's Who in America*, *Religious Leaders of America*, and several similar publications—and having written more than 100 books in the last 30 years of his life. His works have remained in print more or less continuously since 1900. While he gained much material success in his profession as a lawyer, the stress and over-strain eventually took its toll, and he experienced a complete physical and mental breakdown as well as financial disaster. He looked for healing and in the late 1880s he found it, attributing the restoration of his health, mental vigor and material prosperity to the application of the principles of New Thought.

BERTRAND RUSSELL, 1872 - 1970. British philosopher, mathematician, and historian. Considered one of the founders of analytic philosophy and one of the 20th century's premier logicians. Russell's work has had a considerable influence on logic, mathematics, linguistics, and philosophy, especially the philosophy of language, epistemology and



metaphysics. Russell was a prominent anti-war critic and championed free trade. He went to prison for his pacifism during World War I. Later, he campaigned against Adolf Hitler, Stalin, and America's involvement in the Vietnam War. Russell was an outspoken proponent of nuclear disarmament. In 1950, Russell was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, in recognition of his varied and significant writings in which he advocated humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought. An avid agnostic, Russell was noted for stating "*No one can sit at the bedside of a dying child and still believe in God.*"

MOTHER TERESA, 1910 - 1997. Originally Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa may be the most qualified representative



of spiritual perspectives on the panel. Born in Skopje, Yugoslavia, she went to India in 1928 as a teacher. She took her final vows as a nun in 1937, and rose to become principal of the school where she taught. In 1948, she left the convent to work alone in the slums of Calcutta. After taking medical training in Paris, Mother Teresa returned to Calcutta to open her first school for destitute children. Gradually, other nuns joined her. Her sisterhood, the Missionaries of Charity, started in 1950. By 2012 the Missionaries of Charity had grown to include over 4,500 sisters who serve 133 countries. They run hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis; soup kitchens; dispensaries and mobile clinics; children's and family counselling programs; orphanages; and schools. Members of the Missionaries

of Charity adhere to the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, and the fourth vow, to give “wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor.” Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Although many regard her as a spiritual genius, Mother Teresa’s personality seemed to function with clarity and humility and was not burdened with the egoism and fanaticism that is too often associated with gifted spiritual leaders.