



## **Florence Nightingale's Spiritual Journey: Biblical Annotations, Sermons and Journal Notes: Collected Works of Florence Nightingale, Volume 2**

*From Wilfrid Laurier University Press*

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**Florence Nightingale** (1820-1910) is widely known as the heroine of the Crimean War and the founder of the modern profession of nursing. She was also a scholar and political activist who wrote and worked assiduously on many reform causes for more than forty years.

This series will confirm Nightingale as an important and significant nineteenth-century scholar and illustrate how she integrated her scholarship with political activism. Indispensable to scholars, and accessible and revealing to the general reader, it will show there is much more to know about Florence Nightingale than the “lady with the lamp.”

Although a life-long member of the Church of England, Nightingale has been described as both a Unitarian and a significant nineteenth-century mystic. Volume 2 begins with an introduction to the beliefs, influences and practices of this complex person. The second and largest part of this volume consists of Nightingale's biblical annotations, made at various stages of her life (some dated, some not). The third part of volume 2 contains her journal notes, including her diary for 1877, which is published here for the first time. Much of this material is highly personal, even confessional in nature. Some of it is profoundly moving and will serve to show the complexity and power of Nightingale's faith.

Currently, Volumes 1 to 11 are available in e-book version by subscription or from university and college libraries through the following vendors: Canadian Electronic Library, Ebrary, MyiLibrary, and Netlibrary.



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- Sales Rank: #6874522 in Books
- Published on: 2002-02-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.41" w x 6.45" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 598 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

“The Nightingale project ranks with both the Gladstone diaries and the Disraeli letters as a major undertaking in the field of Victorian-era scholarship, and therefore is of surpassing value to historians of the period, as well as to general readers.” (C. Brad Faught *Anglican and Episcopal History*, Vol. 81 (1), March 2012)

“The details and explications of her views...are presented in carefully annotated and insightful editorial discussions....[These volumes] provide a more complete understanding of this complex woman, extending our appreciation of her much beyond the ‘The Lady with the Lamp’ legend.... The product of rigorous scholarship, of meticulous historical research--and a labour of love.” (*Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, Volume 21/1, 2004)

“The *Collected Works* will allow us to see for the first time the full complexity of this extraordinary and multifaceted woman. It will be a tool of enormous value not only to Nightgale scholars and biographers, but also to historians of a wide variety of aspects of Victorian society: war, the army, public health nursing, religion, India, women's issues and so on.” (Mark Bostridge *Times Literary Supplement*, January 10, 2003)

“The *Collected Works of Florence Nightingale* is an extremely ambitious project that is a great service to scholarship. Every general academic library should own the complete set. It pulls together material that has been hitherto diffused across more than 150 collections, some of them private ones, in places ranging from Germany to India and Japan, as well as numerous English-speaking countries.” (Timothy Larsen *Books and Culture*, November/December 2008)

“[I]t is clear that this is an academic project of the highest importance and integrity. It will have an impact on the work of scholars far beyond the immediate field of health history. Nightingale's interests were wide-ranging and her correspondence included some of the leading thinkers of her day....The editing of these volumes is exemplary. Every reference has been followed up, including the identification of minor *dramatis personae*. Important personalities are accorded short biographies. On every page there are biblical allusions, which are faithfully identified. Each thematic section has an introductory essay and these are amplified by a full outline of Nightingale's life and thought in volume 1. This project makes a major contribution to scholarship which will be of permanent value.” (Helen Mathers, University of Sheffield)

### **About the Author**

**Lynn McDonald**, director of the *Collected Works of Florence Nightingale*, is university professor emerita at the University of Guelph. She is an environmentalist, a former member of parliament, a former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and a long-time activist on women's issues. She has an honorary doctorate from York University.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Alice Christensen:**

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