

Summer 2017

## Books in Little: A Literate Lawyer

*Of Bees and Boys: Lines from a Southern Lawyer*

by Allen Mendenhall.  
Red Dirt Press, 2017.  
Paperback, 76 pages, \$12.95.



JASON JEWELL

“Are Lawyers Illiterate?” asks Allen Mendenhall in the title of one of the essays making up this collection of material previously published in various outlets. Regular readers of the *University Bookman* know that the answer is an emphatic “no,” at least in the case of Mendenhall himself. This young southern lawyer has established himself as a first-rate prose stylist, not least in the many reviews he has contributed to this publication over the years.

The topics of the nine essays in this collection range from reminiscences of warring against bees as a child and the battling of cancer in young adulthood to interpretations of Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the implications of the “digital footprint” for scholarly research. Most are autobiographical, but they never descend into navel-gazing; pieces that begin in a lighthearted, innocent manner end as sober reflections on the nature of manhood or what it means to come to grips with one’s own mortality.

*Bookman* readers will especially appreciate the final essay, “To Educate in the Permanent Things,” which effectively channels the spirit of Russell Kirk and urges us not to put our hopes for educational reform in top-down programs originating in Washington, D.C. Rather, each one of us in our respective roles — “a homeschooling parent, a public school teacher, the leader of a local book club, or simply a curious-minded autodidact” — can take up the great texts and explore the permanent things ourselves and with those in our circle of influence.

William Bernhardt of “Ben Kincaid” fame contributed the foreword to this volume, and I can think of no better words than his by way of recommendation: “This is a book for everyone who likes to think, who wants to contemplate the

The ... conservative is concerned, first of all, for the regeneration of spirit and character—with the perennial problem of the inner order of the soul, the restoration of the ethical understanding, and the religious sanction upon which any life worth living is founded. This is conservatism at its highest.

Russell Kirk

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S H A R E



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M O R E F R O M



The Book Doesn't Change, But the Reader Does  
Gerald J. Russello

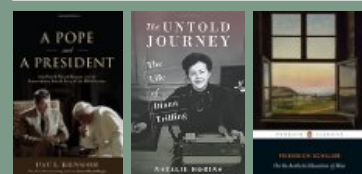
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Carl Rollyson

Schiller and the Two Drives of the Person  
Pedro Blas González



N E W S

🚩 We are pleased to announce the release of *The University Bookman on Edmund Burke*, now available for Kindle. Collecting 21 reviews, essays, and interviews from the *Bookman* on the life and thought of Edmund Burke, this book is only \$2.99, and purchases support our ongoing work to provide an imaginative defense of the Permanent Things. (3 Mar 2015)

O T H E R S I T E S

great questions of life, and most happily, for people who like to read.”

Jason Jewell is a professor of humanities at Faulkner University. He blogs at the Western Tradition.

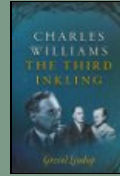
Posted: August 27, 2017 in Books in Little.

Did you see this one?

### The Many Dimensions of Charles Williams

Adam Schwartz

Spring 2016



- The Imaginative Conservative
- Arts & Letters Daily
- First Things
- Manhattan Institute
- City Journal
- National Review
- The Heritage Foundation
- Ethics and Public Policy Center
- Books & Culture
- The New Atlantis
- The New Criterion (and blog)
- Intercollegiate Studies Institute
- First Principles Journal
- The Acton Institute
- The New Inquiry
- Image
- Good Letters Blog
- The American Spectator
- The American Conservative
- Front Porch Republic
- Anamnesis Journal
- The City (from HBU)
- Lapham's Quarterly
- Bookworm from KCRW
- G. K. Chesterton Institute
- The Catholic Thing
- What's Wrong with the World?
- The Western Confucian
- The Tocqueville Forum
- National Humanities Institute
- The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College
- Ricochet
- Chronicles
- Arion
- Via Meadia at The American Interest
- The Distributist Review
- Journal of Catholic Legal Studies
- The Library of Law and Liberty
- Huron County Extract
- The Academy of Philosophy and Letters
- Southern Literary Review
- The Dorchester Review
- The Independent Institute
- C.S. Lewis Society of California
- Crisis Magazine
- Liberty Island
- The New York C. S. Lewis Society
- Starting Points Journal

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- Yale University Press
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