

THE NEW-THOUGHT MOVEMENT

Compiled by

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Overview

The New Thought movement appeared in the late 19th and early 20th century, and was an informal collection of organizations, authors, philosophers, and individuals who shared a common set of metaphysical beliefs concerning the Law of Attraction, creative visualization, the power of the subconscious mind, personal power, healing, life force, and transformation, etc.

Central to New Thought belief is the principle of the universe being pervaded and upheld by an infinite source of power and available energy; and, as a consequence, the individual can create their own reality, and 'attract' what they want', using visualisations, affirmations, meditation, and prayer, etc.

Christological Flavour

Some of the early New Thought groups had strong Christian foundations and referred to the Bible as their foundation material. Consequently, the Law of Attraction was presented in Christian terminology and examples. However, this should not put off the modern eclectic person as the Christological references can be readily translated into the more general and universal terms, which are used in later and contemporary works.

Many early New Thought proponents, as is the case today, emphasise the Law of Attraction coupled with the transforming ability of the individual's subconscious mind, and have based their practical systems thereon.

In 1926, in his New Thought book, *The Secret of the Ages*, Robert Collier wrote:

'ALL over the world, sick, weak and devitalized men and women are searching for health and strength. By the hundreds of thousands, they drag their weary and aching boxes around, or languish on sick beds, waiting for someone to bring health to them corked up in a bottle.

'But real, lasting health was never found in pill boxes or medicine bottles. There is one method--and only one--by which it can be gained and kept.

'That method is by using the power of the Subconscious, Mind.'

Although the New Thought movement had no single origin, Phineas Parkhurst Quimby (1802-1866), is considered by many authorities to be the earliest identifiable proponent. *The Quimby Manuscripts*, published in 1921, are still used today as a foundation of New Thought philosophy.

However, the earliest proponent of positive visualization is Henry Wood, who published his, *Ideal Suggestion Through Mental Photography*, in 1895.

Today, New Thought continues to flourish, and is reflected in popular works such as Ronda Buryne's *The Secret*.

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CMG Vintage Archive

In the CMG Vintage Archive, works of specific interest (dates of works in brackets) by the following authors have been collected:

Franklin, Benjamin (c. 1757)
Evans, Warren Felt (c. 1869)
Barnum, P T (c. 1880) (This has been added for interest)
Wood, Henry (c. 1895)
Trine, Ralph Waldo (c. 1896)
Murphy, Dr Joseph (1898 - 1981)
Trine, Ralph Waldo (c. 1899, c. 1910)
Atkinson, William Walker (c. 1900, c. 1906, c. 1908)
Dey, Frederick Van Rensselaer (c. 1900)
Dumont, Theron Q. (c. 1900, c. 1913, c. 1918)
Marden, Orison Swett, (c. 1901, c. 1908, c. 1917)
Allen, James (c. 1902, c. 1909, c. 1911, c. 1913)
MacLelland, Bruce (c. 1904)
Troward, Thomas (c. 1904, c. 1921)
Crane, Aaron Martin (c. 1906)
Beals, Edward E (c. 1907)
Mulford, Prentice (c. 1908)
Wattles, Wallace D (*c. 1908, c. 1911) (*one of the writers who inspired Rhonda Byrne, author of 'The Secret')
Westall, Laura M (c. 1908)
Larson, Christian D (c. 1909, c. 1910, c. 1912)
Hara, O Hashnu (c. 1910)
Bennett, Arnold (c. 1911)
Larsen, Christian D (c. 1912)
Conwell, Russell H (c. 1915)
Tashi, Yoritomo (c. 1916)
Austin, B. F (c. 1918)
Haanel, Charles F (c. 1918)
Holmes, Ernest Shurtleff (c. 1919)
Hamblin, Henry Thomas (c. 1920, c. 1923)
Behrend, Genevieve (c. 1921, c. 1929)
Quimby, Phineas Parkhurst (c. 1921) (considered by many to be the earliest identifiable proponent of 'New Thought')
Wilmans, Helen (c. 1921)
Boyd, Thomas Parker (c.1922)
Coué, Emile (c. 1922)
Shinn, Florence Scovel (*c. 1925, c. 1928, c. 1941) (*reflected in Rhonda Byrne's book, 'The Secret')
Collier, Robert (c. 1926)
Jarrett, R H (c. 1926)
Hill, Napoleon (c. 1937)

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