

Drunkard's progress: narratives of addiction, despair, and recovery /

Crowley, John William (1945-)

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Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999

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Monografía

"Twelve-step" recovery programs for a wide variety of addictive behaviors have become tremendously popular in the 1990s. According to John W. Crowley, the origin of these movements--including Alcoholics Anonymous--lies in the Washingtonian Temperance Society, founded in Baltimore in the 1840s. In lectures, pamphlets, and books (most notably John B. Gough's Autobiography, published in 1845), recovering "drunkards" described their enslavement to and liberation from alcohol. Though widely circulated in their time, these influential temperance narratives have largely been forgotten. In Drunkard's Progress, Crowley presents a collection of revealing excerpts from these texts along with his own introductions. The tales, including "The Experience Meeting, " from T.S. Arthur's Six Nights with the Washingtonians (1842), and the autobiographical Narratives of Charles T. Woodman, A Reformed Inebriate (1843), still speak with surprising force to the miseries of drunkenness and the joys of deliverance. Contemporary readers familiar with twelve-step programs, Crowley notes, will feel a shock of recognition as they relate to the experience, strength, and hope of these oldtime--but nonetheless timely--narratives of addiction, despair, and recovery. -- Back cover

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Título: Drunkard's progress narratives of addiction, despair, and recovery edited by John W. Crowley

Editorial: Baltimore, Md. Johns Hopkins University Press 1999

Descripción física: 1 online resource (xiv, 202 pages) illustrations

Bibliografía: Includes bibliographical references (pages 199-202)

Contenido: "The experience meeting," from Six nights with the Washingtonians (1842) / T.S. Arthur -- from A long voyage in a leaky ship (1842) / [James Gale] -- Confessions of a female inebriate (1842) / [Isaac F. Shepard] -from Narrative of Charles T. Woodman, a reformed inebriate (1843) / Charles T. Woodman -- from Autobiography

of a reformed drunkard (1845) / [John Cotton Mather, pseudonym] -- from An autobiography by John B. Gough (1845) / John B Gough -- from The life and experience of A.V. Green (1848) / Andrus V. Green -- from Incidents in the life of George Haydock (1847) / George Haydock

Lengua: English

Copyright/Depósito Legal: 533426568 651698104 961596026 962654158 970729249 1007409891 1033579125 1053022640 1135457461 1154863355 1156929292 1162377496 1241811207

ISBN: 0801870216 electronic bk.) 9780801870217 electronic bk.) 0801860083 alk. paper) 9780801860089 alk. paper) 0801860075 pbk.;) alk. paper) 9780801860072 pbk.;) alk. paper)

Materia: Temperance Alcoholism Temperance Alcoholism Tempérance Alcoholism. SELF-HELP-Substance Abuse & Addictions- Alcoholism. Alcoholism. Temperance. Autobiografie. Alkoholismus. Anthologie. Alcoholisme. Drankbestrijding. Social Welfare & Social Work. Social Sciences. Substance Abuse.

Materia Geográfica: USA.

Autores: Crowley, John William (1945-) https://id.oclc.org/worldcat/entity/E39PBJwX8rDCwDwYGMPfGqgtKd

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Print version Drunkard's progress. Baltimore, Md. : Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999 0801860083 (DLC) 98008732

Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- informa@baratz.es