

HOW E. G. WHITE COMPILATIONS ARE MADE

Example: The Science Book

Question is sometimes raised as to who compiles the E. G. White books. There are some who feel that the compiler's name should be included in an introductory statement in each E. G. White compilation.

Let me just explain how these compilations are prepared. Let's take the compilation on science, which we hope will be published about 15 months from now. A good 15 years ago, Elder D. A. Delafield was asked by Elder Arthur White to prepare a compilation on Mrs. White's statements on science. This was to take the place of M. E. Cady's book called "The Principles of True Science," which has long been out of print. Our science teachers were calling for something that they could use as a reference work in their classes.

Elder Delafield spent many months in developing what he thought was a good book. The manuscript was sent to the Pacific Press, where it was not appreciated as much as it was in the White Estate. The book editor there, Richard Utt, sent it back to the White Estate with a letter to the effect that nutrition was not science, and we had included nutrition in the book; therefore the compilation was unacceptable in the form in which we submitted it. He said, in effect, to take out all the nutrition in the book and then let him look at it again.

This apparently discouraged Elder Delafield and the others here in the office. Probably they did not have more time to give to it just then, and they turned their attention to other things. So the manuscript simply lay without any attention for many years.

Then about five or six years ago it was resurrected. We asked Elder Robert Leo Odom to do what he could with it. He spent a number of months, and many, many hours, in working it over, reorganizing it, adding and subtracting material. Finally, he thought it was ready and he sent it to us. We had a number of copies duplicated and asked several of our science teachers to look it over and give us their suggestions. These teachers included Dr. Robert Brown, Dr.

Richard Coffin, and the academy science teacher at Berrien Springs. I have forgotten his name just now. After these criticisms were received, we waited until Dr. Brown could give full attention to the book, since he was about to retire from administrative responsibilities at the Geoscience Research Institute.

In his first months of retirement, Dr. Brown spent much of his time in going over this manuscript. When he had finished his work, I looked it over and found a number of duplications which I felt should be avoided. We then sent it to Dr. Erwin Gane at Pacific Union College and asked him to look it over critically, make suggestions for the removal of duplication, and any other criticisms he might have to offer. Dr. Gane spent a couple of months on it and then returned it to us with six typewritten pages of suggestions.

We sent the manuscript back to Dr. Brown and he looked it through once more. Now we have Mrs. Dorothy Christman going through it to check every reference to be sure they are correct, and also to be sure that everything is copied word-for-word from the manuscripts or books.

The White Estate Board of Trustees spent a weekend largely in discussion of this manuscript at our Board Consultation last February. We talked about certain statements that Mrs. White had made which seem not to be corroborated by modern science. We discussed what we ought to do with these statements and decided that we would include them all; in one or two cases we felt we might have a footnote.

Warren Johns has just finished a concordance study of all of Mrs. White's statements on the 4000-year and 6000-year statements and given them to me. This will again make some changes necessary in the book, since we want all of these statements in it. Warren has discovered a number of statements that we did not know about before.

As I mentioned, I have gone through the manuscript myself, and I will go through it once more when Mrs. Christman finishes her work, and before we send it on to the publisher.

Now, I really do not think it would be wise to write this all out and put it in the introduction to the science book. As you can see, the science book does not have a compiler. There are many people who have worked on it, and to say that it is the work of any one or two people would certainly give a wrong impression. It has been prepared by the White Estate and that is the most accurate statement we can make. The preparation of the science book is not unique. Most of the other E. G. White books that are published go through a similar process.--
Robert W. Olson Letter to Hedy Jemison.

White Estate
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