We are told in Stephen Prothero's book, *Religious Literacy* (2007) that Americans are "both deeply religious and profoundly ignorant about religion" (1). His goal as author and teacher in Religious Studies is to help his compatriots gain knowledge about the "religious terms, symbols, images, beliefs, practices, scriptures, heroes, themes, and stories that are employed in American public life" (13), so as to "help citizens participate fully in social, political, and economic life in a nation and a world in which religion matters" (15). Among the "villains" (89) responsible for American ignorance about religion, Prothero accuses "the media" (126) for coverage of religion that is "superficial, oscillating back and forth between exposés of religious hypocrites and fluff pieces on exotic faiths" (126-7).

I doubt that this characterization is true in regard to *The New York Times*. If we were to read everything about religion in the *Times*, would we remain ignorant of religion? I think not. The question is: what would we learn? In order to answer that query, I have sought to peruse everything in the *Times* about "religion" (variously conceived) from 1970 to the shadow of 9/11/2001.

Over the past three decades, while earning a Ph.D. in the History and Literature of Religion and then teaching History and Religion at several colleges (I am currently the Charles A. Dana Professor of the Humanities at Colgate University), my daily routine has included research (more than just casual reading) in *The New York Times* for all manner of religion coverage. I now have in my office almost six file drawers, filled with *Times* clippings -- close to 15,000 items -- about religion and related matters, dating from 1970 until 9/11/2001. Another two drawers are filled with religion articles in the *Times* from 9/12/01 to the present.

I am posting the articles, 1970-2001, on the following pages, for use by anyone interested in religion. If you find errors in my references, or if you wish to inform me of articles I have missed, please contact me (cvecsey@mail.colgate.edu) and I shall make the changes.

My thanks to Colgate students Josephine Miller and Annastasia Ataku, who helped prepare this document.


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