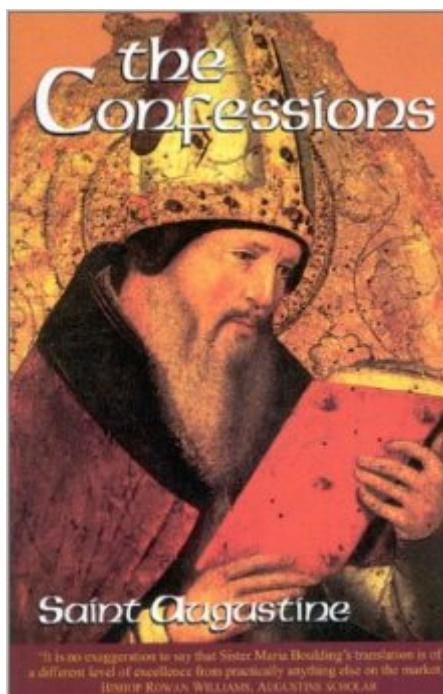


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# **The Confessions: (Vol. I/1) Revised, (The Works Of Saint Augustine: A Translation For The 21st Century) (The Works Of Saint Augustine: A Translation For The 21st Century, Vol. 1)**



## Synopsis

The Confessions of Saint Augustine is considered the all time number one Christian classic. It is an extended poetic, passionate, intimate prayer. Augustine was probably forty-three when he began this endeavor. He had been a baptized Catholic for ten years, a priest for six, and a bishop for only two. His pre-baptismal life raised questions in the community. Was his conversion genuine? The first hearers were captivated, as many millions have been over the following sixteen centuries. His experience of God speaks to us across time with little need of transpositions. This new translation masterfully captures his experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fresh and wonderful translation of this Christian classic. Sr Boulding is herself a fine poet capable of touching turns of phrase such as, [Book I,5]"Who will grant me to find peace in you? Who will grant me this grace, that you would come into my heart and inebriate it, enabling me to forget the evils that beset me and embrace me my only good?"Albert Outler (no mean wroughter of words himself) translates this passage in this way,"Who shall bring me to rest in thee? Who will send thee into my heart so to overwhelm it that my sins shall be blotted out and I may embrace thee, my only good?"The loss of the "thees" are of course helpful to the modern reader, but the use of "that you would come into my heart and inebriate it," is just, well, stunning.One final comparison with Outler in the well-known passage in book ten:Outler: "Belatedly I loved thee, O Beauty so ancient and so

new, belatedly I loved thee. For see, thou wast within and I was without, and I sought thee out there. Unlovely, I rushed heedlessly among the lovely things thou hast made. Thou wast with me, but I was not with thee."Boulding: "Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new. Late have I loved you! Lo, you were within, but I outside, seeking there for you, and upon the shapely things you have made, I rushed headlong. I, mishappen."Both use Augustine's marvelous play on the words "formosa" and "deformis" But Sr. Boulding's choice of shapely and misshapen retains Augustine's intentions and poetic voice, it seems to me. This is a lovely work.

This Christian classic has touched me deeply. I read it the first time right after college, but recently picked it up again (thirty years later). I didn't remember a thing from the first reading.... I've been a Christian for many years, but find that this book is so fresh, with insights that are truly amazing. For this new read, I bought two different translations so that I could read both and compare when the meaning seemed obscure. I highly recommend the translation by Maria Boulding. It does a great job of staying true to his meaning, while expressing things in a way that speaks to the modern mind.

THIS IS NOT THE STUDY EDITION THAT IS ADVERTISED BUT INSTEAD HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF ALL CRITICAL NOTES. There are two editions of this book. This edition is a trade paperback with no notes. The critical edition is much larger (due to notes and a much larger font) and is much, much better. I highly recommend this translation but the notes are important also. To get the critical edition search the following - ISBN-13: 978-1565480841. It costs about 2x as much but is worth every penny. The Confessions are great and the critical edition of this book makes it much more accessible.

This translation is used as the basis for the excellent teaching company course on St Augustine. I first read the confessions from my Harvard Classics. The reviewed translation was far better and every page has footnote references to scriptures quoted by St. Augustine. I was very pleased!

Five stars for this translation. The language is still stately but not pointlessly so, and generally it is pretty smooth and readable. I couldn't get more than ten pages in with the other translations I looked at. The book itself is also five stars. Humility is probably the most notable quality I get from Augustine, and in most traditions that seems to be the highest of virtues. Sometimes his abstractions are a chore to get through, but rather than attempting to understand them, simply looking into his deeply inquiring mind I believe gives the reader the most value, and I hope it would

encourage readers to deeply inquire as did the great saint himself. This is indeed one of the more important books to read, and we are given a great account of how Augustine observed and revealed his human nature and his own wretchedness. The honesty of the account is remarkable, and should hopefully inspire his readers to be just as sincere.

Extremely thorough work by a translator, Sister Maria Boulding, with a rich feeling for words. The textual notes amaze the reader with the extent of Augustine's familiarity with biblical and classical Latin literature. Of course, the translator had to match this in order to provide the notes, which are very easy to reference as one reads the Kindle edition. The first nine books give an account of Augustine's life. It is important however to read as well his philosophical thoughts on Memory, Time and Eternity, Heaven and Earth and Days of Creation. These make it very clear that he was not afraid of asking difficult questions. They show his ability to move between literal and allegorical modes. They also reveal how he faces his critics without attacking their dignity even though they may have attacked his. Augustine's legendary wrestling with his sexual urges looks like small beer in this age of internet porn, but it is testimony to the effect of persistent mindfulness and reaching out which eventually place repetitively troubling and possibly compulsive behavior at a remove that allows for increasing freedom to choose. This is a translation that merits more than one reading.

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