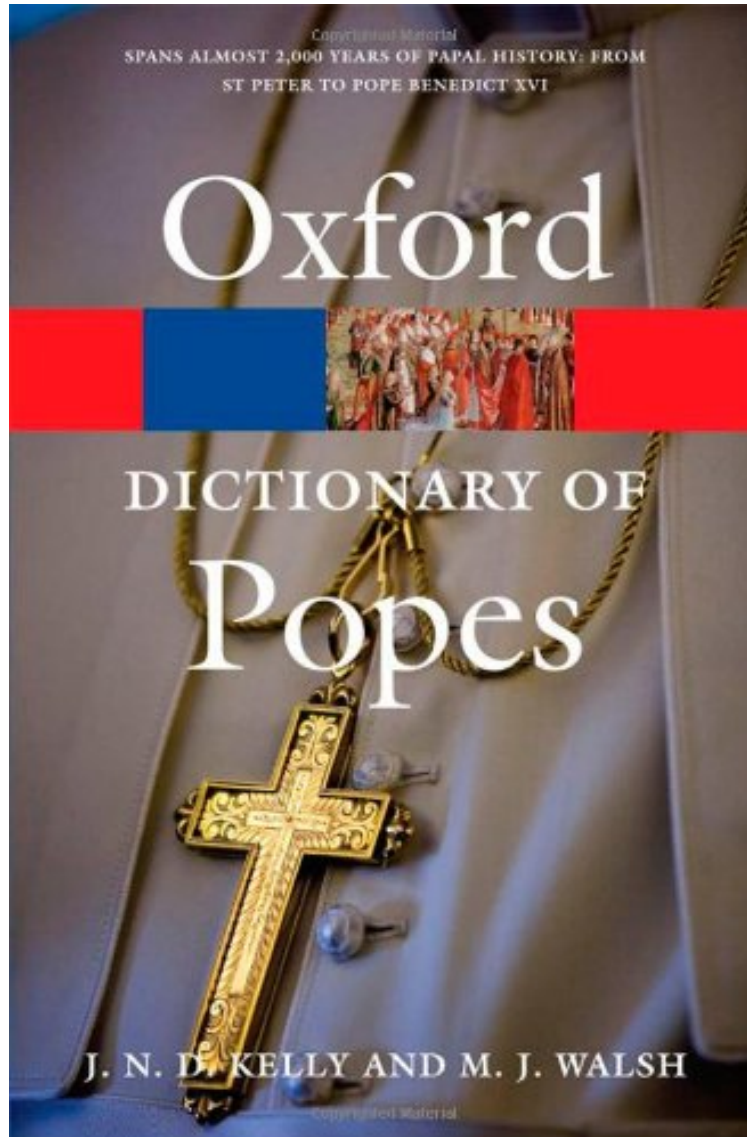


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A Dictionary of Popes (Oxford Quick Reference)

J. N. D. Kelly, Michael Walsh
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J. N. D. Kelly, Michael Walsh : A Dictionary of Popes (Oxford Quick Reference) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Popes (Oxford Quick Reference):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An excellent reference that lives up to the positive blurbs on its jacket. By nomobadges This is an excellent reference that, as stated by the New York Times on the jacket cover, is "very much a book to read or browse in as well as one to consult." This reader's 4-star rating is simply based on a preference for a larger font. But this is an excellent work that removes much of the mythical fog one can have about

the Roman Catholic Church. Much, much more than a simple timetable book, the concise, sequential biographical descriptions are wonderfully comprehensive. While each biography is interesting unto itself, the sequential nature of the entries provides the solid ground from which one can begin to grasp the complex and turbulent history of an organization whose founding concept was the offering of spiritual redemption. One does not read this book for homilies; one reads this book as a start to understanding the historical and current workings of a two-thousand-year-old religious organization that still has world-wide influence today. Clearly written, the endeavors, intrigues, aspirations, successes and sins of the leaders throughout the church's history are revealed in such a manner that believers, non-believers and any who are interested in human history will enjoy and find real value in this reference. A must for any library.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Who's Who in the Papacy By Robert V. Huber Whereas Oxford's compact Dictionary of Popes is small, with tiny print and little to attract the reader visually, it is seemingly complete. A sincere attempt has been made to include articles on EVERY pope who ever claimed that title (a controversial subject). Inclusiveness, however, results in the need to keep the articles short and so no one will gain great insight into any of these pontiffs' reigns or lives. On the other hand, the volume offers at least a thumbnail idea of who each pope was and a few highlights of his accomplishments.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You Can't Tell the Players Without a Program! By Tom S. Looking for the index of all the Popes? Look no further. Each page contains two columns of what you need to know for each Pope. Kelly is good enough to include some of the doctrinal and historical context with which to place each one too. This is a very handy reference. I've got mine next to my Maltin's movie guide. Two thumbs up!

This fascinating dictionary gives concise accounts of every officially recognized pope in history, from St Peter to Pope Benedict XVI, as well as all of their irregularly elected rivals, the so-called antipopes. Each pope and antipope's entry covers his family and social background and pre-papal career as well as his activities in office. Also, an appendix provides a detailed discussion and analysis of many topics including the theory that there has been a female pope. This new edition reflects the very latest in papal research and contains additional information in the further reading sections of each entry, making the book an even more useful starting place for research into specific pontiffs. Moreover, the entries are arranged chronologically, creating a continuous history of the papacy over almost 2,000 years. It reveals how, for much of that history, spiritual and temporal power has been inextricably mingled in the person of the pope. A fascinating read for students of theology and history, as well as the general reader with an interest in Christian history.

from previous edition: "invaluable and much needed" --Guardian "well-researched, extremely well written, and a delightful exercise in its own right...an entertaining read for those of any religion or of none" --Church Times "very much a book to read or browse in as well as one to consult" --New York Times "ought to be on the reference shelf of any civilized person of any faith or none...not merely a dictionary but an agreeable bedside read" --Hampstead and Highgate Express

About the Author J. N. D. Kelly was a former principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy. Michael Walsh has written extensively on the history of the Church.