

the *Chronicle* was sustained and its scope was widened to include republicanism, cooperative ideas, the International Working Men's Association, and women's rights. Freethought publishing was not a route to financial success, and it is thought she lost one thousand pounds through the venture. She was the first freethought publisher to give space to Karl MARX. She and the journal remained impartial during the dispute within the NATIONAL SECULAR SOCIETY (NSS) over the defense of the birth control pamphlet *The Fruits of Philosophy* (see BIRTH CONTROL AND UNBELIEF), and was neutral regarding the resistance to the authoritarianism of Bradlaugh.

Harriet Law was active in the national movement and was offered, but refused, the vice presidency of the NSS in 1867 and 1876. She was elected to the general council of the International Working Men's Association in 1867. In 1878 her health began to decline, and she was inactive in the movement for the rest of her life. While not an intellectual, she was according to Bradlaugh, "earnest [and] brusquely honest."

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JIM HERRICK

LEA, HENRY CHARLES (1825–1909), American historian, publisher, and philanthropist. Henry Lea was born into a Philadelphia book-publishing dynasty begun in colonial times by his maternal grandfather, Matthew Carey. He was privately tutored and did not attend college. During adolescence, and as a young man beginning his responsibilities at the publishing firm, Lea pursued varied literary and scientific interests as an autodidact. He published poetry, translations from ancient and modern languages, and empirical scientific papers.

At twenty-two, while convalescing from illness brought on by overwork, Lea read French court memoirs and was fascinated. He set out to write the history of the coercive aspects of the medieval church using an objective scientific methodology. Understanding the jurisprudence, economics, and geopolitics behind the events would benefit his study of that history, much as understanding physics and chemistry benefits the study of life sciences.

Lea developed a worldwide network of correspondents and booksellers for procuring all pertinent research materials. He bought or borrowed when possible, and

when necessary had archival materials copied out by paid copyists. From those resources grew Lea's massive fifty-year output of books and articles on such topics as the Inquisition (*A History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*, 1887; *Chapters from the Religious History of Spain Connected with the Inquisition*, 1890), priestly celibacy (*An Historical Sketch of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church*, 1867), priests as unpunished sex offenders (*Studies in Church History*, 1883), the prosecution of witches, demon exorcism, and the marketing of indulgences (*A History of Auricular Confession and Indulgences in the Latin Church*, 1896). They were groundbreaking works in their day and most are still a pleasure to read.

For Lea, rule by a monolithic prelacy exemplified the harm arising from religion. His writings reflected his apprehensions about an ascendant Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

Lea was a pillar of the Republican Party and the Union League. He took charge of local recruitment—including African Americans—for the Union army. "The Bible View of Slavery," a pamphlet by Bishop John Henry Hopkins, was seriously touted as justification for the Confederate cause: in 1863 Lea published a pseudonymous, albeit scripturally accurate, satire, "The Bible View of Polygamy," in response.

Lea's publishing interests—specializing increasingly in medical and scientific books—and his real estate holdings flourished. He was among the largest benefactors of institutions of learning, libraries, and hospitals in southeastern Pennsylvania. He was a high-profile opinion leader, exerting influence on a wide range of public policy matters.

Lea declared no religious stance of his own. No personal religious crisis shaped him. Among his forebears, diverse religious traditions—including Roman Catholicism—were represented. He did contribute financially to the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia, and its emeritus pastor gave his eulogy. Lea's library, papers, research materials, and the reassembled oak-paneled library room from his Walnut Street mansion are housed in the Van Pelt Library of the University of Pennsylvania.

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LEIBNIZ, GOTTFRIED WILHELM VON (1646–1716), French philosopher, mathematician and Enlightenment