

Artisan of Christian Unity between North and East: Nathan Söderblom. His correspondence with Orthodox personalities (1896-1931), Macarie Drăgoi (ed.), Felicitas, Stockholm, 2014, 560 p.

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Thanks to the efforts of Macarie Drăgoi, the Romanian orthodox bishop of Northern Europe, the correspondence of Nathan Söderblom – the Lutheran Archbishop of Sweden (1913-1931) and Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 1930 – reveals his pioneering struggle to establish an inter-Christian dialogue at the beginning of the twentieth century. The Lutheran Archbishop represents one of the most important personalities involved in the creation of bonds of trust, respect, and friendship between divided Christians, and his correspondence proves extremely valuable for the better understanding of the history of ecumenical dialogue.

The volume is even more valuable since Archbishop Nathan Söderblom has been already acknowledged as an important architect of dialogue aimed at re-establishing Christian unity based on initiatives that could promote common religious values despite denominational differences. His overwhelming contribution is illustrated in the fact that he achieved dialogue through practical collaboration, in accordance with the Church's mission when facing the reality and challenges of society (p. 10).

This dialogue took place in the atmosphere dominated by the idealism prevalent after 1918, when political-diplomatic and ecclesiastical European circles tried to found grand projects. A direct result of this most interesting ecumenical initiative was the organising of the Ecumenical Conference in Stockholm, held from August 15 to 30, 1925, which was attended by 680 delegates from 37 countries, representing various churches, denominations and Christian communities.

In order to prepare for this Ecumenical Conference Archbishop Nathan Söderblom began an extensive correspondence with the main leaders of these communities. The volume edited by Macarie Drăgoi brings to our attention the exchange of letters with the Orthodox Churches, a correspondence which continued until Söderblom's death. Through reading these letters one obtains

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