
June Gutmanis's anthology of Hawaiian prayers has proved itself a popular and accessible source for students and the general public. The prayers are grouped by subject or field and are provided with short introductions and occasional notes. The orthography of the texts is irregular even in the glossary (pp. 115f.); the texts of the prayers follow the original sources (p. ix). Gutmanis does not know the Hawaiian language, so she is dependent for her understanding on her secondary sources.

The most valuable items of the anthology are the previously unpublished materials from Gutmanis's collection of prayers, translations, and interpretations by informants, collected or made for the most part by Theodore Kelsey (an annotated list of informants is provided, pp. 117-20). Although Kelsey published little, he was a tireless recorder of materials from a wide variety of informants, and collections amassed by him can be found in the State Archives of Hawai'i (Theodore Kelsey Collection M-86; 10.75 linear feet of records, 540 numbered folders) and the Archives of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum (Kelsey Collection; approximately one cubic foot, ethnographic and language notes, family letters, stories and chants). Kelsey was particularly interested in the interpretation of major chants, and the opinions expressed by his informants are major evidence of the views held by knowledgeable Hawaiians about their own culture in the first half of this century. The scholarly publication of this material would be a worthwhile project.

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