

A Review of *A History of the Urantia Papers* Review by Dick Bain

Larry Mullins has crafted a valuable resource for anyone interested in the origin of the Urantia Papers. The second edition of *A History of the Urantia Papers* is well written and was well researched by Mullins. The Urantia Papers he refers to were received over several years in the 1930's by a group of people known as the Contact Commission. The Papers were later combined with an index and published in 1955 as the *Urantia Book*.

While Mullins' stated objective was to provide a history of the Papers and not of the persons involved with the Papers, it is obviously impossible to discuss the papers without mentioning the people involved. He covers not just the origin of the Urantia Papers and eventual printing of the *Urantia Book*, but also discusses some of the pivotal people connected with the Papers and some events that shaped that community right to the present day. One of the pivotal persons was Dr. William Sadler, one of the six people on the Contact Commission who received the papers. Another is Dr. Meredith Sprunger, who became influential in the community of Urantians soon after the publication of the book and provided much information for Mullins' book. Mullins also covers several major events in the history of the Urantian community such as the split between Urantia Foundation and Urantia Brotherhood, the Vern Grimsley affair, and Martin Gardner's book, *Urantia-The Great Cult Mystery*, where Gardner attempted to discredit the Urantia Book and the associated community.

Mullins is obviously a believer in the veracity of the Papers and in their supermortal origin as is evident from his writing, so some may claim that his book is biased. But in the opinion of this reviewer, Mullins has been very objective about the events and people involved with the appearance and history of the Urantia Papers.