

20. Haydon, A. Eustice, *Biography of the Gods* (The Macmillan Company 1948)

This is a book that I found a useful reminder that it is not my generation that began to call into question its inherited religious assumptions. Haydon does a nice job reminding us that the Gods of humanity change continually as humanity itself changes with space and time and as histories are revised and reinterpreted. He says what Freke and Gandy does, to a degree, when he suggests that it was Paul who took Jesus and planted him into the Godhead, thus leading the development of the Trinity out of the necessity of there having to be just One God (p. 258).

He also notes that there was a dual strain of insight into the nature of God in Christianity, the unknowable God of the mystics and the practical God of "practical religion" (p. 266) Haydon brings in what was borrowed from Jewish and pagan traditions in a polite way to remind the reader that there was a context for the development of the Christian idea just as Freke and Gandy do. But he doesn't do what Freke and Gandy do, which is to say that that context was everything, Christianity was simply an unnatural extrusion into a separate religion, seemingly new in the world, created by denying and manipulating away the obvious elements belying its being just another syncretistic increment in religious development solidly based in Jewish-pagan-Gnostic tradition.