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Recollections of a Sectarian Realist

A Mennonite Life in the Twentieth Century

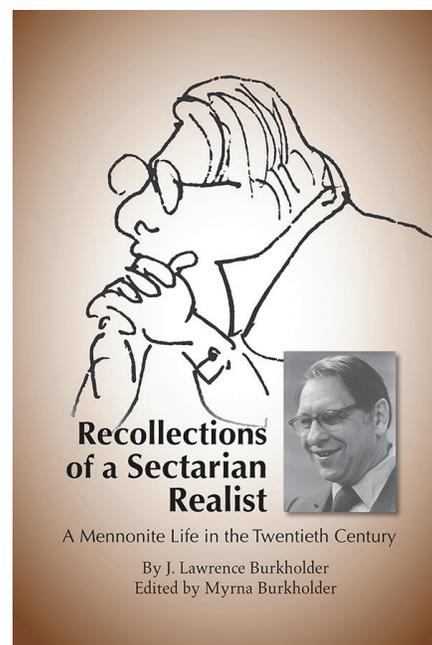
by J. Lawrence Burkholder

"Recollections of a Sectarian Realist is a captivating narrative of a young man's journey from a small town in Pennsylvania into the messy vortex of wartime relief in China, theological debates at Princeton and Harvard, the national struggle for racial justice, church politics at Goshen College, and virtually every significant global event of the late twentieth century. J. Lawrence Burkholder was anchored existentially in the idealism of Mennonite nonresistance as well as the complexities of a fallen world; inspired by the writings of Reinhold Niebuhr and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he struggled to make sense of both realities. Along the way, he introduced Mennonites to words such as *dialectic*, *tension*, *compromise*, *dilemma*, *responsibility*, and *paradox* that are now an unavoidable part of our moral lexicon. This memoir is a worthy tribute to Burkholder's courageous life and the profundity of his thought."

—John D. Roth, professor of history, Goshen College

"J. Lawrence Burkholder flew many different planes, between many different worlds. This narrative of a small-town boy 'dreamer' turned college president takes us through his experience as an American relief worker in India and China and a Mennonite theology professor at Harvard. Burkholder recalls with intelligence, faith, and good humor both the joy of soaring among these worlds and the reality of some rough landings." —Gayle Gerber Koontz, professor emerita of theology, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

*"A*lways more than a sectarian, J. Lawrence Burkholder enriched and extended Mennonite theological and ethical thinking, challenging the rigidity and self-satisfaction of some traditional thought and practices as well as the newer formulations of John H. Yoder. This volume, with its rich remembering and numerous insights, gives the church occasion to continue to wrestle with the insights he set before us." —John A. Lapp, dean, provost, and professor of history at Goshen College when J. Lawrence Burkholder was president



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