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Foreword

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Interest in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) has grown exponentially since the 1979 publication of Ernest Kurtz's *Not-God: A History of Alcoholics Anonymous*. Such interest has been expressed through the formation of AA History Lovers, innumerable academic conferences and papers on the history of A.A. and through the growing number of biographies on key figures within the early history of A.A. A notable contribution within these new resources is Mitchell K.'s *How it Worked: The Story of Clarence H. Snyder and the Early Days of Alcoholics Anonymous in Cleveland, Ohio*, first published in 1999. It is with deep pleasure that I welcome readers to this new edition of *How it Worked*.

Much of the attention paid to the early A.A. history has focused on A.A.'s two cofounders and the critical milestones in A.A. history that unfolded in Akron and New York City. Mitchell K.'s retells the A.A. story through a Cleveland lens and through the personal biography of Clarence Snyder, a central figure in the history of A.A. *How It Worked* will find appreciative readers among A.A. members and others interested in the

history of A.A. and the broader arena of addiction recovery in the United States. With all that has been written on A.A. in recent decades from a distanced vantage point, it is good to have an insider's fresh account of A.A.'s early years and its coming of age. When future texts are written on the history of A.A., *How it Worked* will provide important details not previously available to historians, but this book's greatest contribution will remain the engaging story of how one of A.A.'s most enigmatic characters found and maintained his sobriety within Alcoholics Anonymous and through that experience helped create a fellowship whose reach now encircles the globe.

William White

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