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Annotated Bibliography for Major Paper #2

Hall, Alfred Rupert. *Isaac Newton: Eighteenth Century Perspectives*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1999. Print.

*Isaac Newton: Eighteenth Century Perspectives* is a compilation of biographies of Isaac Newton, including thorough commentaries by the Newtonian scholar, Rupert Hall. It incorporates five biographies: the first work on Newton every published (Paolo Frisi's 1778 biography) and others by Fontenelle, Thomas Birch, Charles Hutton, and John Conduitt. Through analyzing the biographies, Hall aims to capture the perspective on Newton recently after his death, which he claims to be flourished since it was understood during this time period that biographies "should not be a true picture but should be written to do good" (8). Thus, there is a bias towards glorifying and idealizing Newton, refraining from the later condemnation of Newton's Unitarianism. Since the book is the first volume to collect biographies of Newton, it appeals and is directed towards historians of science, other Newtonian scholars, and others with interest in Isaac Newton.

Rupert Hall is an expert on Newton, having edited a collection of his correspondences and unpublished scientific papers. Therefore, his commentaries provide valuable insight into how accurately the biographies depict Newton's life and background information about the authors and their relations with Newton. Through the notes, I understand how glorified his life was and avoid adopting false images of Newton that are prevalent. This insight will provide evidence for my central idea of how Newton's religious influences have been undermined due to his large contribution to the sciences. The 'heroification' of Newton's image began soon after he died with the biographies that are included in this book. I am able to use the source to further strengthens my idea, by allowing me to make a minor claim of how the initial omittance of Newton's religious affiliations and inflation of his scientific discoveries has led to the current masking of his theological influence on his works.

Ravilious, Kate. "Isaac Newton: Who He Was, Why Google Apples Are Falling." *National Geographic: Daily News*. Nationalgeographic.com, 4 Jan. 2010. Web. 13 Feb. 2014.

The article briefly summarizes Isaac Newton's life, providing for and answering those who question "why Google apples are falling." Thus, it seeks to point out why Google has made a tribute to Isaac Newton and why he is an important figure. Topics from his early childhood life and education to his scientific discoveries and laws of motion are covered. Though the substance of the article is true, it provides simply a surface view of Newton. Since it simply aims to provide an overview, the article includes the highlights of Newton's life, which prevents it from explaining his motives for studies (i.e. theological) and further detail on how his earlier life contributed to his religious views. Also, since it is concise and notes only the major facts about Newton, the information simply confirms my existing knowledge.

However, it is important evidence for my paper. It provides an insight into how outsiders, non-Newtonian scholars or people with interest in history of science, view Sir Isaac Newton---how he is depicted to the mainstream public. Note that many people view Google. The fact that Google decided to remember Newton by the falling apple demonstrates that Newton has been captured by the image of the falling apple, regardless of whether people may understand its significance or the true character behind the phenomena. This supports my claim that Newton has been described with a focus on his sciences with little concern for his personal, philosophical, and theological life and influences in history. It could also be used as another evidence of how this portion of his life has been neglected in the presentation of Newton's life.

Snobelen, Stephen D. "The Theology of Isaac Newton's Principia Mathematica: A Preliminary Survey." *Neue Zeitschrift Für Systematische Theologie Und Religionsphilosohie* 52.4 (2010): 377-412. *Academic Search Complete.* Web. 13 Feb. 2014.

Stephen Snobelen, in his review article of the *Principia Mathematica* by Isaac Newton, claims that theology was an important---and influential---factor in Newton's works, though an initial, brief reading of the *Principia* may not suggest it. He argues his claim using evidence from Newton's private manuscripts which indicates that more theology exists in the three editions of *Principia* than a simple read would imply. It is provided as a response to those who do not acknowledge the theological influence in Newton's works; therefore it is intended toward this academic audience. However, it can also be useful for those who are curious of how the works may indicate Newton's religious ideas. I have not read the *Principia*; I only knew from a few readings that Newton was influenced by his theology. Therefore, the analysis of the paper gave insight into the ideas of Newton and how it relates to theology. It challenged my previous thought that his scientific laws and theories were purely scientific, that they did not involve religion.

Stephen Snobelen is a professor of history of science and technology. He mainly studies science and religion, specifically Isaac Newton's theological and prophetic writings. Therefore, he is biased towards arguing that Newton's writings have religious influences. However, because he is well-informed in this topic, the argument is reputable and acceptable. This paper's central claim can be used in my paper to support that Newton's work was truly influenced by theology and that it was an important part of his scientific discoveries, thus supporting my argument that a major part of Newton's identity and purpose as a scientist has been covered and neglected due to his scientific advances and society's reluctance to relate science and religion.