

Memories of Raymond E. Brown by Edwin D. Freed, formerly Emeritus Professor of Religion at Gettysburg College

“Besides those persons mentioned others of the SNTS have influenced me and enhanced my career. Soon after beginning my teaching career, I read a paper as part of a panel on the New Testament Canon at Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York. One of the other two members of the panel was Professor Robert Funk of the University of Montana, and the other was a professor from Germany, whose name I have forgotten. After the meeting, my seatmate in the taxi on the way to the railroad station was Raymond E. Brown, who had attended the panel and whom I had not met before. A few days later Professor Myers, who had been a classmate of Brown at The John Hopkins University, told me that Brown told him about the panel and that ‘Freed’s paper was like a breath of fresh air.’

Brown was beginning his career as a professor at a small Catholic school near Baltimore, and he invited Jakie and me to attend a lecture he was sponsoring. That was the beginning of a friendship that lasted until Brown died. Brown was the Professor of New Testament at Union Theological Seminary in New York for a long time. Along with my professors at Harvard, he was an inspiring influence on my life. We wrote to each other and exchanged our articles. Brown was the foremost scholar on the birth of Jesus, and I had the honor of his reading the whole manuscript for my little book on *The Stories of Jesus’ Birth: A Critical Introduction*” (Excerpted from *From Small Town Boy to Biblical Scholar: Edwin Dreesse Freed: An Autobiography: With Ann Freed: A Life of Friendships*, ed., Jane S. Kessler, printed locally, 2014) 141-142.