

The Exchange Corner.

For Students of Augustinian History

It has always been a cause of regret among students of our history that they do not know enough about each other's work. So much help could be given, so much duplication be avoided, if each of us knew what others were doing. The Exchange Corner is intended as a clearing house for such information and we hope to get the cooperation necessary to make this column one of the most interesting in our magazine. I have been asked to begin this new feature with a report on a trip in the winter of 1954-55, in the course of which many of the scholars were contacted who have promised contributions for the jubilee volume to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the Great Union of 1256.

France

When I landed in Paris I was welcomed by Father EELCO YPMA, a hardworking young scholar of the Dutch Province. The development of our *Studium Generale* in Paris is the subject on which he is writing for a fellowship at the Etudes Supérieures. His careful scrutiny of documents has brought to light the first *ordo studiorum*, which had been overlooked by H. Denifle in his famous chartulary of the university of Paris, probably because the manuscript bore the familiar title *Mare Magnum*. It was, however, not the well-known collection of papal privileges but the new laws prescribed by the Prior General Thomas of Strassburg in 1345. Father Ypma will publish them in the jubilee book. Also in our Parisian house is Father MELCHIOR VERHEIJEN, professor at the Institut Catholique, who writes a great deal on the Rule of St. Augustine. His hypotheses regarding the *Regula Prima* oppose the views of Father WINFRIED HUEMPFNER, Fribourg, whose important study

on the Rule (from a philological standpoint) is practically completed, but not yet ready for the printer. Huempfner also has all the material for the biographies of our future saints PP. Pius Keller and Clement Fuhl.

Together with Father Ypma I paid a visit to ANDREW COMBES, the well-known scholar, who lives in Neuilly, a suburb of Paris. He graciously consented to contribute an article on Jacques Le Grand, one of the important Augustinians in French history.

Belgium

A side-trip to Louvain brought the first personal acquaintance with the editor of our magazine, Father NORBERT TEEUWEN and his ardent supporter Father Provincial J. CORNELISSEN. Their province is building at present a large church in Louvain and in coming years will add a scholasticate with an up-to-date library as well as new quarters for *Augustiniana*. Father Norbert has prepared a detailed catalogue of Belgian authors of our Order, containing over 2,000 titles, which he would like to publish during the jubilee year.

I am very sorry not to have met Father LÉON RENWART, S. J., whose work *Augustiniens du XVIII^e siècle et « nature pure »* (Paris 1948) is the first modern study on our leading theologians of that period. It would have been no doubt most enlightening to get a deeper insight into the problems involved and to converse on the many signs foreshadowing a theological controversy in Belgium, the leading figures of which seem to emerge more clearly with each new publication on « Jansenism ». If anyone is interested in continuing and expanding the work of Father Renwart he'll find many an interesting passage in the registers of the Prior General and the acts of the provincial chapters preserved in Rome. The *Angelica*, once « our » famous library, contains a vast amount of material on the defense of Augustinian Theology by Cardinal Noris and others. It is truly remarkable, how leading theologians from all parts of the Order rallied round this Cardinal to provide him with a continuous supply of fresh ammunition.

Germany

In Germany I had the misfortune to miss professors HEINRICH NEU and HUBERT JEDIN, the famous historian of the Council of Trent.

Professor Neu has promised to write on the theatre in our old Rhenish colleges somewhat on the line of the article which he published on the plays in our former monastery of Cologne. Anyone who knows of MSS or plays of this sort is kindly asked to write to him (20 Boch Str., Beuel am Rhein).

The greatest surprise of the whole trip was the news that the comparatively rich archives of the German Province were not lost during the destruction of Wuerzburg in 1945, but saved, because luckily they had been brought to another monastery. Amongst its most precious treasures is the oldest papal document for Germany, entitled *Religiosam vitam eligentibus*, dated December 9, 1255. This certainly speaks of the Order of St. Augustine and does not apply to the Williamites as Father Saturnino Lopez, our excellent historian of blessed memory, had supposed. Father ADOLAR ZUMKELLER has promised to give a detailed description of the contents of these archives for our jubilee volume. This will be a vital contribution, since these papers, though they are very important for the history of the Rheno-Suebian Province, are practically unknown to scholars.

Wuerzburg can be regarded as the birthplace of systematic critical research into our history. Father CLEMENT FUHL of holy memory favored it with every means at his disposal, though the poverty of the German Province at his time made such enterprise seem extravagant, if not imprudent. There were two underlying motivations for his course. One was the fervent recommendation of Cardinal Francis Ehrle to publish the manuscripts of our great medieval theologians, the other stemmed from his own experience. The poverty of our scholarship compared with that of the Jesuits — as he told me — had actually proved a real danger to his Augustinian vocation throughout his noviciate and part of the scholasticate. When he became provincial he strove to remedy the situation by giving a group of young men the best training available, took an unremitting interest in their progress and welcomed every publication with unfeigned joy. He followed the lead of the Franciscans at Quaracchi by founding a publishing house with its own printing press. This was to be staffed by our own lay-brothers and the resulting economies would make possible the planned editions. Father Clement's plans had already born their first fruits when the Nazis cut off vocations, forced the sale of the printing press and killed general interest in such research. The unfortunate

bombing of Wuerzburg destroyed not only the monastic library of 40.000 volumes among them many *Augustiniana* which can scarcely ever be replaced, but also the printed stock. Yet Father Clement did not fail, for the seed he planted still continues to grow. The series *Cassiciacum*, which will ever be a memorial to his scientific interests, has been resumed and the Augustinian Historical Institute in New York is only a continuation of his efforts.

In Munich I had the good fortune to spend some time with Dr. JOSEPH HEMMERLE, whose well-documented treatise on Nicholas of Laun, OSA is reviewed in this issue. He will give us a source-history of the Augustinian houses in present-day Bavaria. The Director General of the Bavarian State Archives kindly gave his consent to this work, which requires the temporary transfer of all Augustinian documents preserved in various parts of Bavaria. Dr. Hemmerle also showed me the first proofs of his edition of the documents of our former monastery in Munich, a work which is doubly welcome to us at a time when we are returning to that city after an exile of 150 years. He also showed me a so far 'forgotten' codex containing a list of all the manuscripts formerly in possession of our large library in Munich. Many of the MSS mentioned have now disappeared and therefore the publication of this catalogue would be desirable.

Austria

What Dr. Hemmerle promised to do for the Bavarian monasteries Dr. FREDERIC RENNHOFFER will undertake for Austria. He is one of the librarians at the Palatina, the world famous state library in Vienna, and author of a doctor thesis on the history of the Austins in Vienna, publication of which is planned for this year by the Augustinus Verlag, Wuerzburg, which gave us last year the magnificent edition of the history of Marienthal, the first Augustinian monastery on German soil. I passed some very happy hours in Dr. Rennhofer's house and my joy was greatly heightened, when he gave me a transcript of the documents for our former house in Vienna and acquainted me with his work on Xystus Schier, OSA. It is interesting to note, that Father Schier bequeathed all his MSS, more than 100 in number, to the Palatina. Only a few of them were published by his confrère M. Rosnak. Contained in these MSS is a tremendous wealth of Augustinian history, which

we hope will be made known by future publications of Dr. Rennhofer.

Switzerland

What Hemmerle and Rennhofer plan for Bavaria and Austria, will be done in like manner for Switzerland by Father VENANTIUS NOLTE, OSA, a few years ago prior in New York, and now prior in Fribourg. I have done so for the houses of the old province of Cologne. My article will appear in the next number of our *Analecta Augustiniana*.

Excellent work on our history in Switzerland had been done by Father BERNARDIN WILD, until his present occupation made further research impossible.

Rome

At St. Monica's in Rome we had long and sometimes lively discussions on the right place for our historical studies. Father AUGUSTINE TRAPPÉ, the assistant general, and Father DAVID GUTIERREZ, the present editor of our *Analecta*, want Rome to be headquarters with a well-trained staff of men from all sections of our Order; they pointed out that the richness of the archives of our Curia cannot be matched by any other Mendicant Order and yet the main group of documents, the registers of the priors general, called D-d has scarcely been touched. I proposed that each student of the International College interested in history should be given the registers of one general. The student would be charged with making an index of the events, endeavors, difficulties etc. during that generalate. If an index of names could be added, then this vast source for our history would quickly yield the desired information. How helpful just the record of names can be is shown by the catalogue of the first five D-d's made by Fathers IGNACE ARAMBURU, now the procurator general, and REINHOLD SCHRAML, now papal archiviste. It fills many trays in the study room of the archives. Father Schraml has also made a type-written catalogue of other sections of the archives. The German Province had hoped to publish his work on the Constitutions of our Order as its contribution to the jubilee, but his appointment as papal archiviste has indefinitely postponed this very important work.

Fathers Trappé and Gutierrez are very learned men in the fullest meaning of this word. The former has been assigned to head a committee for the worthy celebration of next year's jubilee, though his main forte is not the knowledge of our history but rather the works of our Holy Founder. Father Gutierrez is working on a study of our libraries up to the 16th century. He would welcome directives towards material little or not known to the general public.

Father Prosper Grech of the province of Malta called my attention to an excellent thesis written by P. Canisio, a Carmelite priest in India, on Jerome Seripando, without doubt the greatest of our Generals. It describes him as the first biblical theologian of modern times and clarifies his position on 'double justice'. Father Grech also told me repeatedly, that his Jesuit professor at the Gregoriana speaks almost daily with highest esteem of Seripando's exegetical ability.

Father ALBERICUS DE MEIJER of the Dutch Province, who is the librarian at St. Monica's, is copying for future publication all material on the English houses contained in the registers of the Generals until 1538. What seemed at first a minor task has developed into a time-consuming labor. But it is not wasted effort, for much new material such as no other Order possesses, will turn up and this new material is sure to clarify many historical points. Father Alberic also proved most helpful in getting many a valuable book for the Augustinian Historical Institute in New York.

A decision by our Father General ENGELBERT EBERHARD, whose lively interest in our history is evinced by his biographies of our saints, will greatly influence the development of our historical studies. He will permit the *Analecta* to be printed in the five most important modern languages: French, German, English, Italian and Spanish as well as Latin. His chief interest, however, is centered not so much on the publication of historical source material as in an up-to-date review of the present activities within the Order. The Oblates (O. M. I.) have such a magazine but they have to publish it in only two languages, while we should need at least five.

Ireland

At the Irish College in Rome I met again Father FRANCIS XAVIER MARTIN who was the first Augustinian of Ireland to obtain a scho-

larship on the European continent. At present he is preparing a book on Cardinal Giles of Viterbo as reformer of our Order. He wrote for his first thesis the history of the Capuchins in Ireland, an unpardonable sin in my eyes, since we scarcely have an inkling of our own Irish history. He promised to make amends in our jubilee volume ; only if he does, will he be forgiven. He informed me that he and P. Alberic de Meijer are going to edit all the references to Ireland for the years 1350-1625 from the D-d registers and that the *Archivium Hibernicum* has agreed to publish the contribution in the April issue of 1956. His work on Aegidius of Viterbo necessitated contact with Eugenio Massa, professor of literature in Rome, the most prolific writer on this famous Augustinian Cardinal. Massa is just publishing Egidio's *Sententiae ad mentem Platonis* and will also edit his much quoted *Historia XX saeculorum*.

Ireland has another promising historian in Father BENEDICT HACKETT. When I visited him in New Ross he lay sick abed and only reluctantly directed me towards his doctoral thesis (Cambridge University). No wonder it took him so long to write it because it fills two volumes of 400 typewritten pages each ! The work treats the literary work of William Flete, O. S. A. and his position in the life-work of St. Catherine of Siena. Formerly only two or three manuscripts of William were known, but Father Hackett discovered over fifty. In a very clear and spirited way he defends Flete against the conclusions offered in *English Austin Friars* by the very learned Jesuit Aubrey Gwynn. He shows that Flete was not subject to St. Catherine like her other followers but her leader and he was right rather than St. Catherine. The second volume gives us the remaining writings of Flete and assigns him the proper place in English religious life. We can only urge and plead that the book will be printed ; it certainly deserves it.

The third Irish scholar whom I had the pleasure to meet (not to mention here Father Gwynn, S. J., with whom I had a very enjoyable visit) was Father NICHOLAS TONER who teaches in our house of studies at Raheny near Dublin. His thesis written in 1948 on *Original sin and justification in Augustinus Favaroni of Rome* is yet unpublished. To my knowledge he is the only man within the Order who gives a regular course on Augustinian history, a subject which should be taught in every province.

This sudden blooming of Augustinian research in Ireland,

where until now no outstanding historian of our Order had been recorded, is due in good part to the new provincial Father NICHOLAS P. DUFFNER. During his twelve years as novice master he tried to fill his charges with a deep love of our Order and one of his means was the study of Irish Augustinian history. He promised — as did the provincials of Belgium and Holland — a full report on the new Augustinian missions in Africa.

Netherlands

No matter how highly we speak of other provinces, none seems to match the Dutch Province in its love of St. Augustine, thought its members did no more than resume their great tradition inherited from men like Christian Lupus, Desirant and others, when they decided to give to the world a *Thesaurus linguae Augustiniana*. The undertaking will take decades to complete, but with competent scholars like Father EPHREM HENDRICX working in a province, which established a scientific correspondence school with 13,000 students, even this arduous task should be brought to a successful conclusion.

Of their historians I met only Father ADEODAT VERMEULEN who has completed his thesis on Conrad Treger, the saviour of the Rheno-Suebian Province at the time of the Reformation, and Father BENIGNUS VAN LUIJK who had shown himself a most cooperative confrère, before he took sick and had to stop his comprehensive research in Italian archives. He is much interested in the development of Augustinian spirituality and tried to find the answer in the official decrees of our general and provincial chapters. He will find a great deal there, but the main contribution comes from our Founder himself. It is a striking fact in our history, that, whenever we revived from a time of spiritual depression, we have done so by returning to the monastic ideals of St. Augustine. Furthermore, all our periods of greatness have been signalized by intensive study of his works. This is true of no other Order in like or even similar manner, and therefore, we are really and truly the Order of St. Augustine. The detailed proof for this statement should result in a very interesting study.

United States

The Catholic University of America in Washington has given tremendous impetus to the study of St. Augustine as its many publications easily prove. Professor PEEBLES in particular studies the canon of St. Augustine's sermons during the Middle Ages and one of his students VINCENT FITZPATRICK has given us a fine treatise on Bartholomaeus Carusi of Urbino and the sermons found in his famous *Milleloquium Sancti Augustini* (1954).

Amongst our own men the work of *The Tagastan*, edited by the theologians of our college in Washington, D. C. is well known, while the more scientific efforts at Villanova University are less publicized. Here, ever more typewritten mastertheses accumulate in the beautiful new library, which cover various phases of our history. If some of our professors, who made their doctorate in history, were not as overburdened as American professors are in general, we could expect many well-written studies like the biography of Veracruz by Father ARTHUR ENNIS in this issue.

The establishment of an Augustinian library in New York should facilitate future research. It contains over a thousand printed books written by and on Augustinians and together with the collections of Villanova University and the Augustinian College in Washington, D. C. can offer to scholars almost any important work on our Order. New York also has hundreds of MSS, mostly in microfilm.

The establishment of the library in New York was made possible by the generosity of Miss Ruth Fox, professor at State Teachers College, Milwaukee, Wis. It was the necessary prerequisite for the Augustinian Historical Institute, the goal of which is the scientific investigation of our history. It has published so far Jordani de Saxonia, *Liber Vitasfratrum*, re-edited the commentaries of Vargas Toletanus and Gregory of Rimini and one of its associates Father DAMASUS TRAPP is assiduously working on the publication of the theological tracts and commentaries of Johannes de Basilea. He also promised a lengthy, but important essay on our theologians of the fourteenth century. Another associate, Father RUDOLF ARBESMANN, professor at Fordham University, will publish for our jubilee volume the first historical tract on our Order, written by H. Friemar. A third associate, Father FULGENS MATHES has written a lengthy Doctor thesis on poverty within our Order and in his limited spare

time is working on an edition of Geoffrey Hardeby's, *De vita evangelica*, written about 1358.

In order to complete a survey of our historical work as I have found it I would like to mention the remaining co-workers on our jubilee volume. CARLOS CASTANEDA, professor at the university of Texas, and Father ARTHUR ENNIS will comment on the activities of our missionaries in South America, while Father MANUEL MERINO, the prolific writer on our missions, will give an account of their work in the Orient. In an article on the present status of our hagiography (*The Tagastan* 1953/4). I mentioned the « disappearance » of many letters of Blessed Steven Bellesini, whose process of canonization has been introduced. They have again been « found » and will be edited by Father ADALBERO KUNZELMANN. This epistolary will be very important, since not a single letter of this saint seems to be preserved in the archives of our postulator. If anyone knows of other letters we would appreciate his communication.

Let's hope that the many contacts I made during my extended trip will ripen into some more fruitful contributions towards the history of our Order. Much detailed research has yet to be done, before one of us will be able to write that up-to-date history which we all desire. By studying our history we shall find the well springs which made our Order great and learn to avoid the causes which more than once brought it to the brink of ruin. Knowledge of our history is not the only nor the most important source of good religious life, but it is nevertheless gravely necessary. Only unselfish love of the Order brings about its greatness, but love is always based on knowledge, and to obtain real knowledge, intensive study is necessary.

Spain

A letter from Spain, dated May 4, 1955, informs me that the students of Valladolid are preparing a special number on the Third Order ; that at the end of 1956 or the beginning of 1957 the ninth volume of Santiago-Vela's monumental bibliography should make its appearance and that Fr. Isaac Rodriguez is preparing indices for the *Analecta Augustiniana* and the *Archivo Historico Agustini-*

Francis ROTH, O. S. A.