

## Recensies - Comptes rendus

*Corpus Augustinianum Gissense auf CD-Rom (CAG)*, a Cornelio MAYER editum, Basel, Schwabe & Co AG-Verlag, 1996.

After the publication of the *Base de Données pour la Tradition Occidentale Latine* of the Cetedoc Library of Christian Latin Texts (second edition CLCLT-2) by Brepols 1994 and of the *Patrologia Latina Database* by Chadwick-Healy 1994, one may ask the question: is this electronic edition of the *Corpus Augustinianum* by C. Mayer not superfluous? However, strictly speaking, these three databases reflect the situation of electronic research itself: the starting point begins in a general way in order to end in a very detailed way. It is possible to situate first a text of Augustine in the *Patrologia* of Migne, which can be consulted more quickly than ever before, and then be confronted with the editions of the *Corpus Christianorum Latinorum* (CCL) and others (CSEL, RBén., REAug., etc.) which are compiled, as critically as possible, by the CLCLT according to the *Clavis* of Dom Dekkers. A similar compilation of texts from Migne and later critical editions is offered by the CAG. However, there is one difference: an exclusive and refined attention is paid to the texts of Augustine, with certain search procedures which even the second edition of the CLCLT could not give.

The specificity of the CAG consists in its triple information about the text, the different quotations, and the bibliography of primary and secondary literature. This triad makes the CAG an indispensable instrument for research concerning Augustine. Originally, the CAG was composed in view of the *Augustinus-Lexicon*, also under the direction of C. Mayer. Already in 1983, the systematic computerizing of the EVD-text of Augustine's works started by the Justus-Maximilians-Universität at Würzburg; the Justus-Liebig-Universität at Giessen continued it, together with an extended bibliography (*Bedienerhandbuch*, p. 8). The results of this many years' work are now put at the service of all researchers thanks to this CD-Rom.

### Information about the text

The CAG offers all the texts of Augustine, even those which have been discovered in Mainz and edited recently by F. Dolbeau. Even *De grammatica*, *De rhetorica*, *Ordo monasterii*, and the corrections in the *Bibliothèque augustinienne* and other editions are mentioned.

Through a first search (*CAG-Suche*) one receives immediately information about the loci and the frequency of a word, and about the abbre-



viated titles of the writings in which it occurs. The *Index* which mentions all the words in Augustine's writings, constitutes a great help. By pushing a key one sees the context of the word; this context (in the CAG called a document) is more extended than one single phrase. Such a document corresponds to a paragraph in the writings of Augustine: its advantage is that the word appears in its broader context. If one wishes, one can thumb through the book itself according to its paragraphs. The page of the respective edition of each document is indicated, and with the mouse it is possible to find out the number of the line.

Through a second search, one can ask for any book. The *Index* is again useful; it gives the abbreviated titles as mentioned in the *Augustinus-Lexicon*. For a beginner these titles will not be always clear, but one finds them in the *Bedienerhandbuch*, in which K.H. Chelius has composed a very detailed list of Augustine's books and their critical editions (after p. 94). It is easy to thumb through a whole book following its paragraphs or documents. There is no limitation preventing that a book, totally or partly, could be printed or copied on the hard disk.

Of course, the combination of both search procedures provides a more precise result, especially when two words are linked by *und*, *oder*, or *nicht*. The precision can be further increased by determining the distance between two words, going from zero to several words, from zero to several phrases, from zero to several paragraphs. In this way, a shorter or greater distance between the terms *otium* and *negotium* can give quickly a definite answer about the loci in which Augustine deals with the relation between contemplative and active life. By determining the distance of one or several words between the terms *peccatum* and *originale* one discovers immediately the loci where Augustine discusses original sin.

The books of Augustine are presented, as far as possible, in their chronological order. The alphabetical list, composed by K.H. Chelius, at the end of the *Bedienerhandbuch* is also found on the CD-Rom under *Anzeige (Werkverzeichnis)*, not in a general survey but for each book separately. One finds there also bibliographical references regarding the critical text, including references to the *Thesaurus Augustinianus* (Cetedoc).

Of course, a lemmatized word (key l:) gives a more detailed picture. Lemmatizing is indispensable to distinguish homographs and heterographs (*lex*, *legere*, *legi*). In order to discover a word with a suffix (*-que*, *-ve*, etc.) it is necessary to push the key \* (= the truncated word). With the truncated word (the component of a word, p. 19), one can considerably refine the choice. The other boolean-functions of ? and ! (for example, ?aulus) make it possible to find at the same time Paulus and Saulus. The key h: refers to all the greek words in latin transcription. If one wishes to



work quickly, one can make a choice in the *Textanzeige* within the KWIC (keyword in context), so that one sees the desired word in a short context of one or four lines. With the KWIC-function it is also possible to place the desired bibliography in a similar context of one or several lines.

The *Frequenzanzeige*, indicating the frequency and percentage of all the terms (also the lemmatized and truncated) within one and the same book, is something characteristic of the CAG. Comparing the percentages in the different books, one gets a first idea of the evolution of Augustine's thought. However, it seems to me that the *Frequenzanzeige* does not yet function perfectly.

### Quotations

The importance of the CAG lies in the easy accessibility to the quotations, the biblical ones, those of other authors, Augustine's auto-quotations, etc. The *Index* helps to find nine sorts of quotations (p. 22-23) under the indications z1 (Bible), z2 (other author), etc. With the truncation-sign (z\*) one discovers in which of the nine sorts of quotation a word occurs. For example, one finds the lemmatized *otium* in the series of quotations (z1, z2, and z4) with the truncation-sign. The *Index* is again useful in seeking a particular text of the Bible or a particular author; it suffices to indicate after q: the reference to the Bible or the name of the author. The number of quotations is already an indication of the importance of the citation. Quotations in the document can be immediately recognized because they are printed in bold; the mouse identifies the quotation involved. The advantage of this procedure is that all the variants of a quotation are directly shown. Ps 45:11, for example, is quoted 11 times with the variants *agite otium et agnoscetis, quia ego sum dominus*, and *vacate et videte quoniam ego sum deus*. This verse, however, is also quoted implicitly; in that case, a search with the combined words *vacare, videre, deus* makes it possible to discover hidden allusions (for example, in *cons. ev.* 1,8). A *Frequenzanzeige* mentioning the percentage of the quotations in one or in all Augustine's writings is still lacking. Nevertheless, it would offer an interesting view on the evolution of Augustine's thought.

### Bibliography

Through the *Anzeige* in the *Werkverzeichnis* one gets bibliographical information about the critical editions of Augustine's writings, but a complete bibliography of primary literature is not yet published in this alphabetical list. The *Bedienerhandbuch* mentions 20.000 titles of secondary literature about Augustine's life and works (p. 9). Bibliographical re-



search can be done in six ways or fields: the author's name, the title, bibliographical data, the source from which the information is taken, the kind of writing (monograph, Festschrift, review), and a headword of the *Augustinus-Lexicon*. The *Index* makes the use of the six ways very easy. If one knows only a few details, a single word from one field combined with a word from another field will have the desired effect; for example, a part of an author's name combined with a date or an editor. By consulting the source (*Quelle*) from which the bibliographical information is taken, one can evaluate its quality. Nearly the half of this information goes back to the *Fichier augustinien*. The *Index* mentions even simple numbers and characters I, II, III and *et*, *a*, *r* occurring in the source, which I find a bit exaggerated. Due probably to a lack of time, one has not been able to correct some mistakes which so easily slip into a bibliography. Especially, publications in not well-known foreign languages are affected by a certain hurry; for example, in Dutch, the first name of Bastiaensen is Antoon, and not Adriaan.

The headwords of the *Augustinus-Lexicon* (*REferenzen*) are excellent keys for discovering the great themes of Augustine's doctrine. The combination of *De trinitate* with *sapientia*, for example, offers a well-defined bibliographical list; but is such a combination always reliable? This combination offers also *sapientia* as it occurs in *De Genesi ad litteram*, so that we are not sure that this or that study deals with *sapientia* in *De trinitate*. Combining *sapientia* with *De immortalitate animae*, we are confronted with so many themes in O. Du Roy's study *L'intelligence de la foi*, that we do not know whether this study deals with *sapientia* in *De immortalitate animae*. The keys of the *Augustinus-Lexicon* do not always provide insight in the great lines of force of Augustine's thought; the *Répertoire de la bibliographie de Saint Augustin (1950-1960)* can serve here as a model. It is important that a bibliography channels the enormous stream of secondary literature so that the reader gets a survey of the most significant Augustinian themes, enabling him or her to follow the direction into which scientific research develops.

The possibility to examine an author's publications according to the date of publication is not yet realized. We miss also a certain refinement in the search for bibliographical information, for example, looking for the publications in *Augustiniana*, one gets also those in the *Analecta Augustiniana* and the *Analecta augustiniana neerlandica*.

### Notizblock

A last specificity of the CAG is the facility, during the search, to



input the texts from the *Corpus Augustinianum* and the bibliographical information in a kind of notebook. One can add there one's own remarks, and preserve the whole on the hard disk.

## Conclusion

This CD-Rom is in German, but an English and a French version are also in preparation. The *Bedienerhandbuch* is meant for the Dos-version. Another manual is in preparation for the Windows-version. Beside the *Patrologia Latina Database* and the *Cetedoc Library of Christian Latin Texts*, the specialists will find in the *Corpus Augustinianum Gissense* a technologically refined and more complete instrument. The renewed and quick accessibility to the field of the quotations and the bibliographical information regarding the *status quaestionis* of studies in Augustine make this product, in spite of its high price, very attractive. For patrologists who are technologically less skilful, the CAG corresponds to the ambitions of informatics: simplicity and transparency. Databases will still greatly develop in the future, because they will be consulted via satellites and Internet.

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