

BOOK CHRONICLE

RECENT BOOKS ON THE LITURGY

The Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites *De Liturgici Hebdomadae Sanctae Ordinis Instauratione* (16th November 1955) has been the occasion for the publication of a large number of books and of hundreds of articles, a list of which (over 900) collected by Dom Placid Bruylants O.S.B. of the Abbey of Mont Cesar, is found in *Hermanus A.P. Schmidt S.J. HEBDOMADA SANCTA*, three volumes, (Herder, 1956, 1957). The three volumes undoubtedly are among the best books on the restored Holy Week Rite from an academic point of view. The first volume puts before the reader a clear picture of the manner in which the Holy Week Rites have been restored by a detailed comparison of the various contemporary liturgical texts. The second volume, in two sections, contains a collection of all the known ancient Holy Week liturgical texts (first section), together with a brief but learned historical commentary on them (second section); the commentary is followed by two short dissertations, one on the order of the psalms in the Triduum Sacrum due to Dom Klesser O. Praem., and the second on Gregorian Chant by Helmut Hucke.

The author's intention has been the publication of a *liber exercitationis* and not a *liber lectionis*. Many commentaries on the Restored Rite, he says in the introduction, may be called libri lectionis for the reader remains passive by receiving the doctrine which the authors try to give him with all the eloquence, persuasion and authority they can master. His book is quite different; he wants to put before his readers all the documents necessary (with brief comments on their importance) so that one may be able to make a personal scientific study of the restored Rite. Fr Schmidt, who is the professor of Liturgy in the Gregorian University, has in mind those students who take up as a subject for their practical exercitations the Holy Week Rites; the book gives them all the material they need for such exercitations.

Two publications by Herder have made available to scholars the texts of the Sacramentarium Veronense and the Missale Francorum (L. Cuniberti Mohlberg O.S.B. — Leo Eizenhoefer O.S.B. — Petrus Siffrin O.S.B., *Sacramentarium Veronense (Leonianum), textus, glossarium, introductio, indices, tabulae cvii et 453pp.*, 1956; Leo Eizenhoefer O.S.B. — Petrus Siffrin O.S.B., *Missale Francorum, textus, glossarium, introductio, indices, tabulae xxvi et 107pp.*, 1957) in the Collection *Rerum Ecclesiasticarum Documenta cura Pontificii Athenaei Sancti Anselmi de Urbe*

edita, moderante L.C. Mohlberg. — *Series Major: Fontes.* The text of the *Sacramentarium Veronense* is preceded by a long introduction in German describing the MS in detail, discussing the peculiarities of the language, the contents and character of the book, the date of its contents, and its relation to the other sacramentaries (pp. i-cxv). The text is followed by seven monographies (pp. 173-203) and four indexes and six plates. The edition of the *Missale Francorum* is planned on the same lines: a long introduction describing the manuscript and discussing its language, place of origin and date (pp. i-xxxiii), six short monographies indispensable for a scientific study of the book (pp. 55-88), followed by two indexes (pp. 89-107), and six plates.

The Henry Bradshaw Society, founded in 1890 for the editing of rare liturgical texts, after a lapse of six years has issued to its members their 1954 and 1955 volumes: they are volumes I and II of *The Ordinale of the Abbey of St Vaast*, edited with introduction, notes and indexes by Dom Louis Brou O.S.B., 1957 (vol. I: xiv-208pp.; vol. II: pp. 209-232). The H.B.S. has already published various Ordinaries and Customaries of English Abbeys, but never yet any foreign Ordinary or Customary, though the Society has published the *Missale Romanum* of 1474 (vols 17 and 33 of the series), the *Quignon Breviary* (vols 35 and 42), *North Italian Services of the XIth century* (vol. 67) etc. The present edition is the first the Society is publishing of a French Monastic Ordinary, that of *St Vedast's or Vaast's Abbey, at Arras*. The MS is found in the *Bibliothèque Municipale* of Arras and numbered 230 (907) and it belongs to the beginning of the fourteenth century. The introduction has a brief account of the history of the Abbey, a description of the MS and its comparison with another MS of the same Ordinary (*Codex Arras 210 (1001)*), a brief account of the various churches depending on the monastery of St Vaast in the fourteenth century, and a critical study of the contents of the Ordinary. The first volume of the edition, besides the introduction, contains the five preliminary folios (unnumbered) with the *Calendar and Computation tables*, and the *Ordinarium (temporale)*; the second volume has the *Sanctorale*, the *intonationes responsorium et hymnorum*, the *Ordo Missae* and an *Ordo in lingua vernacula* followed by a general index.

Since my last Book Chronicle, Longmans have published the two remaining books of Archdale A. King's *Rites of Western Christendom*. The first of these two volumes to be published is *the Rites of the Primatial Sees*. It follows the same pattern as the author's other book *Liturgies of the Religious Orders*, and covers the rites of Lyons, Braga, Milan and Toledo. Mr King gives a brief historical outline of each rite,

a description of the liturgical cycles, church furniture and vestments of each rite, and finally a somewhat detailed account of both solemn and low mass. A bibliography is given after each chapter and a general bibliography at the end of the book. To the first two chapters, which discuss the rites of Lyons and Braga, an appendix is added. The last of the volumes to be published is *The Liturgy of the Roman Church*. This volume is divided into three parts: a short historical survey, followed by the discussion of a number of different topics all in one way or another connected with 'Roman Liturgy', and finally a description of the 'Mass of the Roman Rite' with a prayer-by-prayer analysis and history which is much too short. The two books are 'masterpieces of patient research and scholarship'. The detailed information given makes both of them very useful as reference books, which make interesting reading though it is sometimes rather difficult to get a clear idea of the present state of each particular rite unless one is familiar with it.

The question of the vernacular in the Liturgy is well-treated from different points of view in *English in the Liturgy: A Symposium*, edited and introduced by Charles R.A. Cunliffe and published by Burns and Oates (London, 1956). The editor writes an introductory historical essay mentioning various occasions when the Holy See permitted a vernacular language for the liturgy of the Roman rite. J. McDonald, professor of Dogma at Ushaw, discusses the theological aspect of the whole problem, while Fr Clifford S.J., and Rev. J.J. Coyne of Catholic Missionary Society and late professor of Fundamental Theology at Oscott argue in favour and against the use of the vernacular in the liturgy. Mr H.P.R. Binberg discusses the problem of style in an English Liturgy and Mr A. Milner discusses Music in a vernacular Liturgy. The concluding essay is by Dom Oswald Sumner of Downside and discusses how more English in the Liturgy would aid the conversion of England.

A very recent publication of the English translation of Fr Jungmann's *Der Gottesdienst der Kirche* by Fr Clifford Howell: J.A. Jungmann S.J., *Public Worship*, Challoner Publications, London, has succeeded in tracing the main outlines of the development of Christian worship, bringing into prominence those aspects which seem to be of greater use for a proper understanding of it. The book is a compendium of the most important elements of the lectures he had delivered to theological students in these last thirty years. It will certainly be a very useful text-book for theology students, for it gives them a clear and proper view of liturgy and may serve them as an introduction which will lead them to a deeper study in the spirit of the liturgy. Even priests, teachers and laymen will find it very useful if they wish to have a clear idea of what Liturgy is.

Before concluding I would like to make a reference to three other publications: (i) *Liturgica l. Card. I. A. Schuster in memoriam (Scripta et documenta 7)*, In Abbatia Montiserrati (Barcinone), 1956, which consists of ten dissertations in Catalan on various liturgical questions published on the anniversary of the death of Cardinal Schuster by the monks of the Abbey of Montserrat *in grati et devoti animi pignus*; (ii) *Studia Patristica*, Papers presented to the Second International Conference of Patristic Studies held at Christ Church, Oxford, 1955, edited by Kurth Aland and F.L. Cross, 1957, Akademie Verlag, Berlin, 2 volumes. The publication has been noted here for a number of liturgical dissertations, twelve in all, which are found in the beginning of the second volume. (iii) *La Restaurazione liturgica nell'opera di Pio XII*, Atti del Primo Congresso Internazionale di Liturgia Pastorale. Assisi-Roma 18-22 Settembre 1956, Centro di Azione Liturgica, pp. xxiii-267. This is the Italian edition of the Acts of the Liturgical Congress of Assisi and has been published by the Centro di Azione Liturgica whose president, Mgr Carlo Rossi, bishop of Biella was a member of the organizing Committee of the Congress.

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