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Summary

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SUMMARY

Father Roberto Caro, a member of the Society of Jesus, was granted the doctorate in theology at the Gregorianum on March 4, 1967. The great value of his thesis, a study of Greek Marian homilies of the fifth century, was recognized by René Laurentin, who mentioned it in his "Bulletin sur la Vierge Marie," (Revue des Sciences Philosophiques et Théologiques, 52 (1968) 491-2). During the last few years, Father Caro has completed this research, and it is this finished work that is now being published in volumes three and four of Marian Library Studies.

Father Caro's discoveries provide a key for future research in patristic studies and in the history of Marian themes. The documents he has analyzed, in accord with current scientific methods, show that fifth-century Byzantium was a period of transcendant importance, when certain theological notions crystalized, and when there began an intense movement of devotional piety that has reached down to our own day.

The study is divided into two distinct parts. The first is a careful analysis of twenty-nine homilies which the author attributes to preachers of the fifth century, almost all of them showing a close relation to the doctrine of Ephesus. Here we are given a fairly precise notion of the ideas and of the theological and liturgical ambient of the times as well as of the prevalent literary genre and style—all of which will prove very useful to the textual critic, the historian, and the theologian.

The second part breaks through the impenetrable tangle of works falsely attributed to the great preachers of the fourth and fifth centuries. It opens a road through this mass of Marian pseudo-epigraphy and presents some valuable conclusions for the study of the evolution of Marian dogma


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In a comparative study of twenty-eight homilies, questions are raised that will stimulate further investigation and will certainly lead to an enrichment of serious studies in Mariology.

When we summarize the extensive and difficult analysis achieved in this work, we see that its conclusions touch upon three areas: 1) the critical study of texts, in a chronological inventory confirming the authenticity of various homilies, while putting in question that of some others and saving from oblivion many pseudo-epigraphic pieces; 2) the liturgy, by setting forth certain facts which help to clarify the origin and development of the earliest Marian feasts; 3) the history of doctrine, through the presentation of doctrinal data in context, thus making possible a correct evaluation of such data as well as determining the stage of evolution of theological reflection and of its dynamic for future development.

**INHALT**

Roberto Caro's Werk *Die griechische marianische Homiletik des 5ten Jahrhunderts* ist eine wissenschaftliche Untersuchung einer patristischen Periode, welche für die Geschichte der marianischen Lehre und Frömmigkeit von grosser Bedeutung ist. Der langsame Vorgang eines theologischen Reifens verdichtet sich in der byzantinischen Homilien des 5ten Jahrhunderts, in denen wir den Anfang einer lebhaften Frömmigkeit entdecken, die sich bis in unsere Zeit entwickelt.


Der zweite Teil ist eine Forschung im dichten Wald der unechten Werke, die den grossen Predigern des 5ten Jahrh. zugeschrieben werden. Die kritische Untersuchung liefert einen kleinen Wegweiser in die Verzwickung der unechten marianischen Schriften. Die Forschung könnte dadurch vielversprechende Ergebnisse erreichen hinsichtlich der Entwicklung der