



Newsletter

Volume V Number 10

Summer 1950

A MARIAN COLLECTION

An offer came from New York to buy a Collection of Mariana---10,000 items. To say the least, it was startling. The story to date deserves a newsletter all its own. Here it is:-

May 1950:-A letter and three printed fascicles of Marian bibliography were received from N.Y. by air mail, special delivery (\$1.19). The letter explained that the Marian Library of Dayton could purchase the 10,000 (estimated) items for \$8,800.00. Thanks to Notre Dame University who did not want to purchase the collection, we were given the second chance to buy.

Two priests visited the bookseller's place to see what the Collection included. Father Dombro S.M. felt that it was an excellent offer. Father Carol O.F.M. was surprised to find in the Collection some books he was never able to locate before. Both of the priests believed it was worth our while to obtain the Collection.

June 1950:- I went to N.Y. June 12th to see for myself. All was excellent except the price. And to this date (July 15), I have not been able to agree on a price with the seller.

I spent several days examining the Collection. It consists of books, pamphlets, papers, magazines, pictures--most of which is in French.

Monsignor Leon Clugnet of Fresnes les Rungis (Seine) France was the originator of the Collection. His goal was to print in 18 fascicles (he actually printed 3) of all his materials on the Shrines of Our Lady in France. This collection is, in the language of the bibliophile "a virgin collection on the Virgin". Leon Clugnet organized his work according to the 17 provinces of France, and in this way he did a detailed and amazing piece of work. Some of the material can be classed as "incunabula" (before 1600); most of the items are in French, yet there are numerous items in other languages.

All of Clugnet's Collection is catalogued, and his handwritten cards show an excellent piece of detailed work on his part.

July 1950:- I wrote to France to get background on the Clugnet Collection. A priest visited Fresnes (near Paris) and tried to get information on the man and on the collection. However, strange to say, neither the pastor of Fresnes, nor the convent in the same town, ever heard of the name of Clugnet.

(And very incidentally, too---Collier's magazine in June 1950 speaks of a model French prison in Fresnes-les-Rungis.)

Followup work is being done in France to get information in Leon Clugnet and his extraordinary collection. I believe this Collection is a most interesting discovery in the field of Mariology.

Conclusion:-Two men in New York, Mr. Bolan and Mr. Arnough, both specialists in the field of bookbuying, are working to obtain the Clugnet Mariana for the Marian Library of Dayton. Some interesting data on the Collection is the following:-

1. It took 20 large wooden boxes to bring the collection from France to New York.
2. Monsignor Clugnet was a former librarian of the Bibliothèque Mazarin.
3. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd printed bibliography contains 650, 410, and 1941 titles.
4. The ecclesiastical provinces of Aix, Albi, & Auch have been covered. Number 4 was to have been of the province of Avignon. There were to be 18 volumes in all.
5. Each of the printed fascicles contains a table of authors and a table of sanctuaries.
6. Two thousand of the books in the collection are bound in half-calf; others are unbound.
7. Leon Clugnet has also written 4 other books--showing his skill in the field of science and bibliography.

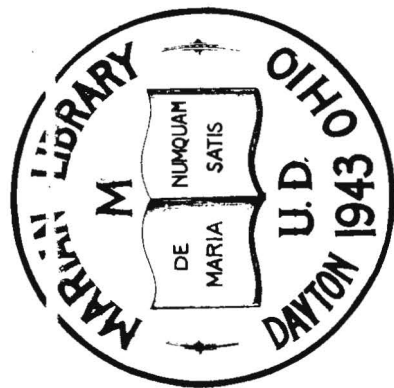
Would you kindly say a prayer that we succeed in getting this Collection for the Marian Library, Mary willing? Thank you!

In Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Lawrence Monheim

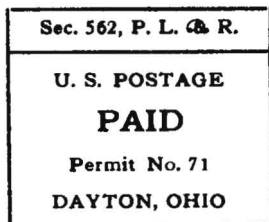
Father Lawrence Monheim S.M.

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