

Marian Studies

Volume 1

Article 9

1950

Some Marian Collections in the World

Lawrence W. Monheim

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Recommended Citation

Monheim, Lawrence W. (1950) "Some Marian Collections in the World," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 1, Article 9.
Available at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol1/iss1/9

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SOME MARIAN COLLECTIONS IN THE WORLD

In view of the world-wide growth of the Mariological movement, which has been much stimulated by the many recent apparitions of Our Lady, Marian scholars investigating these phenomena and working toward a fuller understanding of Mary's part in the economy of Redemption will find invaluable aid and much time-saving in a highly organized center of Marian information such as we are trying to develop on the campus of the University of Dayton.

In gathering books of a Marian character into a single collection, we do not, and, in fact, we cannot, claim originality. To be sure, such collections have existed, both in Europe and in the United States, for years previous to our own. In addition to a collection of Mariological works, our intention is to put at the disposal of Marian scholars and of the general public as comprehensive a list of titles of books, articles, pamphlets etc. as it is possible to collate. This list, moreover, is not confined to any specialized aspect of Mariology. It includes theological, historical and devotional books about Mary.

Before going into detail, however, in connection with the University of Dayton project, we wish to say a word about some of the Mariological collections housed elsewhere.

ROME

Reaching across the miles to Europe, we find the largest collection of Marian works in the Eternal City. Begun in 1904, at the suggestion of Monsignor Stagni, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, in a short time this Marian Library witnessed the accumulation of three thousand volumes in various languages. The collection was at first organized at the Pontifical Leonine College. Later it was transferred to the Apol-

linaris. In recent years, Pope Pius XII confided it to the care of the Servite Fathers of the International College of St. Alexis Falconieri. The present director of the Library is the Very Rev. Gabriel M. Roschini, O.S.M. It is here that the Servites publish the well-known quarterly Marian magazine called *Marianum*. This is edited in Latin, for the most part, but occasionally there are articles in Italian, Spanish, French and English. As a supplement of *Marianum*, the Servites edit also a *Ragguaglio Mariano*, an annual brochure of approximately 125 pages, indicating the most recent material dealing with the Mother of God.

BANNEUX

The other noteworthy European collection started in 1942 at Banneux, in Belgium, where the Blessed Virgin appeared in 1933. The Rev. Louis Arendt, a secular priest of the diocese of Liège, is both the founder and the director of the library.¹ At present his collection contains more than 5,000 Marian volumes dealing with theology, devotion, liturgy, archeology, art, etc. For the convenience of the hundreds who consult his files, Father Arendt has arranged a threefold index system: author, title and subject matter.

VAUBAN

At the Benedictine monastery of Our Lady of the Turning Stone, in St. Leger, Vauban, France, Dom Marie Dannay has organized a Marian museum containing objects of art, tokens of pilgrimages, pictures, statues, post-cards, medals and historical notices. In a recent communication he informs us that his museum comprises also a Marian Library which is growing daily from the world-wide contributions made to it. However, he cites no figures that might permit a comparison with other similar libraries.

¹ Cf. L. Arendt, *La Bibliothèque Mariale de Banneux-Notre-Dame*, in *Marie*, vol. 2, n. 4, 1948, p. 46-48.

NICOLET

Coming closer to home, the most recent Marian Library was started in the summer of 1949 at Nicolet (Quebec), Canada, by Mr. Roger Brien, editor of the widely-recognized and greatly-applauded bimonthly *Marie*. This same layman, director of the Marian Center of Canada, member of the French Canadian Academy and of the Canadian Society for Marian Studies, directs the monthly "Service of Marian Tracts". He also plans to publish an English edition of his superb magazine *Marie*, provided sufficient subscribers can be found in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland and Australia.²

WASHINGTON, D. C.

In Washington, D. C., more than a quarter of a century ago, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bernard McKenna began "a great library of Mary which was to form an integral part of the Shrine." "More than 300 theological, historical and devotional books on the Blessed Virgin are in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception." In a book entitled *The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*, William Kennedy reports that in 1927 the Marian Library numbered about 2,000 volumes.³ This unique library, according to the same author, is a manifestation of the piety and munificence of George Logan Duval, of New York, who conceived the idea of a great collection of writings pertaining to Our Blessed Mother, and provided for the purchase of the best as they appear from year to year.⁴

The Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., of Holy Name College, president of The Mariological Society of America, reports that he possesses a private collection of over 2,400 Marian items,

² Cf. R. Brien, *Marie, Reine du monde*, in *Marie*, vol. 3, n. 2, 1949, p. 5-6.

³ W. Kennedy, *The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 1917-1927*, vol. 1 (Washington, D. C., 1927), p. 259.

⁴ W. Kennedy, *ibid.*



Headquarters of the Marian Library—Showing Map Designating World Contacts

which include books, theological articles, pastoral letters and similar things. He emphasizes, however, that he is primarily interested in theological treatises on Mariology. In all probability Father Carol has the best and most complete collection of literature dealing with such aspects of Mariology as Our Lady's Coredemption and universal Mediation. He feels confident that he has virtually everything that has been written on the subject in Latin, English, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Flemish. Another interesting and valuable feature of Father Carol's private collection is the fact that it is up-to-date, especially in the line of important Marian periodicals and encyclopedias, such as *Marianum*, *Bulletin de la Société Française d'Etudes Mariales*, *Estudios Marianos*, *Mariale*

Dagen, Studia Mariana, Marie, Katholische Marienkunde, Maria (Etudes sur la Sainte Vierge), Summa Aurea de laudibus B. V. Mariae, etc.



The Marian Library of University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio—
Showing a Marianist Checking for a Book

DAYTON

And now about the Marian Library at the University of Dayton, in Dayton, Ohio. To the oft-repeated question: **JUST WHAT IS THE MARIAN LIBRARY**, we answer that it is the gathering into one place of all possible information about the Blessed Virgin Mary, including the printed word, art and music, with a view toward establishing an **INTERNATIONAL MARIAN CENTER**.

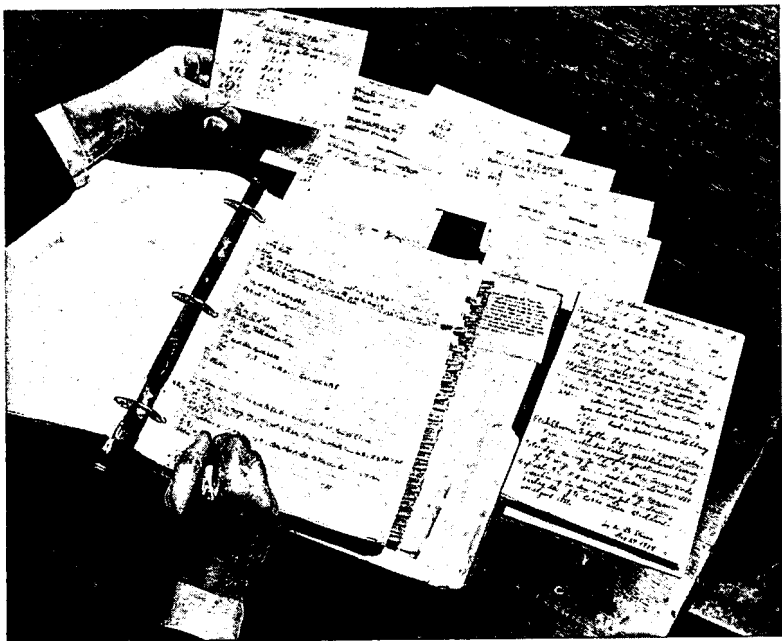
Origin—Our project was begun in 1943 in preparation for the centennial of the Society of Mary (Marianists) in America. The idea then was to pay a fitting tribute to Our Blessed Lady in the form of a Marian Library. With due permission, work was begun in the fall of 1943. At that time it was our intention to gather a copy of every Marian book that was available. The response from among the hierarchy, clergy and laity was excellent and commendatory. Following news articles in Catholic periodicals and in the local papers, almost immediately donations of books and funds began to reach us. The Library today has 2,600 volumes on the Blessed Virgin, of which one third have been catalogued.

Director.—A shift in personnel, occasioned by the emergency of World War II, placed Father Edmund Baumeister, S.M., in charge of the Marian Library in 1944. Finding that the mere collection of Marian books gradually bogged down, Father Baumeister conceived the idea of preparing a Union Catalogue of Marian Books.

The Union Catalogue—Our Marian Library Union Catalogue contains the titles and the location of Marian books in private, public, parish and school libraries all over the world. To date, more than seven hundred and fifty libraries have been checked by Marian Library fieldworkers for their Marian accessions. From Africa, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Hawaii, Italy, Puerto Rico, Spain, and from practically every State in the Union, we have received record-cards of Marian books found in the various libraries. These record-cards tell us the author, the title, the publisher and the date of publication of the book. The results of these investigations have brought us as many as 11,000 titles of Marian books. These have appeared in a *Booklist* printed in January 1949.⁵

⁵ Cf. 1949 *Booklist of the Marian Library* (University of Dayton, Ohio, 1949). The book may be purchased directly from the Marian Library at \$1.50.

Not every item in our *Booklist* of 1949 has as yet been inserted in the Marian Library Union Catalogue. However, we do know the exact whereabouts (country, city, library) of more than 8,000 volumes dealing with Our Blessed Lady. To the degree that the Union Catalogue grows, there will be a



The Marian Library Union Catalogue—One Big Work of This Library—University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

wider service to Mariologists the world over, or to those wanting to know or to have certain books on Mary. This Union Catalogue of the Marian Library of Dayton is now set up in loose leaf form with a library code of our own. For example, AfNP 621 means that in Africa, Natal (Pinetown), at the Marianhill Convent of the Precious Blood is L. Diether's book *Ave Maria* (Chicago, The Carmelite Press, 1934).

Fieldworkers—The Marian Library fieldworkers are ap-

proved volunteers in various cities of the world who check carefully the libraries of their locality for Marian books. Although there are eighty fieldworkers in fifteen different countries, there is still a pressing need for many more, if the Marian Library Union Catalogue is to realize its maximum potential. The Library is also helped considerably by those who, like Brother Moral in Madrid (Spain) and Brother Lonsing in Graz (Austria), frequently purchase the best Marian books they can find and send them to us. We already have similar co-workers in Switzerland, France and Italy.

New Director—In August 1949 Father Edmund Baumeister was assigned to St. Mary's University in Puerto Rico, as head of the Department of Education. Father Lawrence W. Monheim was then recalled to take over the work he had initiated in the fall of 1943.

Cataloguing—Last summer (1949) four trained librarians spent their time cataloguing our books. After much time, thought and discussion by specialists in the field of library science, a new system was created, similar to that of the Library of Congress. The general headings for the system of the Marian Library cataloguing are:

- 000. General: Bibliography; periodicals; collections; essays; lectures, sermons, etc.
- 100. Life of the Blessed Virgin: Old and New Testament; tradition; virtues.
- 200. Mary in Dogma: Prerogatives of Mary.
- 300. Devotion to Mary: theoretical.
- 400. Devotion to Mary: practical; directories, collections; specific prayers.
- 500. Mary in the Liturgy: in the divine office; feasts; little office.
- 600. Marian Congregations: clerical; religious men and women; lay.
- 700. Apparitions; miracles; shrines.

800. Marian art and literature: paintings; sculpture; architecture; music.
900. Miscellaneous: congresses; events; jubilees; dedications, etc.⁶

Newsletter—Every month a Marian Library *Newsletter* is multigraphed and mailed to 2,000 friends all over the world. The *Newsletter*, which is now in its fifth year of publication, tells of the progress, needs, and interests of the Marian Library. There is no charge for this *Newsletter*; it can be had upon request.

Expenses—The expenses of the Marian Library until now have been taken care of by the many donations of friends the world over.

Services—The services offered by the Marian Library are many: books are secured, questions are answered, material for research is sought for, lists are prepared, newsletters are edited. In the future we plan to edit excellent out-of-print books on the Blessed Virgin, and also print new ones. Pamphlets and reprints dealing with Our Lady likewise hold a great interest for the Library's future.

Branch Libraries—Until now (1950) the Marian Library has limited its book gathering to those in six languages: Latin, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. We have some few books in Chinese, Polish, Lithuanian, and one in braille. Not long ago correspondence was held on the feasibility of establishing branches of the Marian Library in other cities, branches for special languages like Polish, Lithuanian, Chinese. What actual progress has been made along these lines to date is not known. There are surely people elsewhere than in Dayton who are definitely interested in this work.

The Future—Actually, we have just begun this work of the Marian Library. There are many more things that we

⁶ A complete list with all subheadings can be had from the Marian Library upon request.

plan to do in the future toward establishing a Marian Center worthy of the name. Of course, the first and biggest work is the Marian Library Union Catalogue, of which we spoke in detail. It must grow with the years. The collection of many books, as many as possible, with an emphasis on the better ones, is our second objective. Magazines, those directly dealing with Our Lady, like *Marie*, of Canada, *Marianum*, of Italy, and *Bulletin de la Société Française d'Etudes Mariales*, will be in our files. We are likewise interested in those magazines which bear our Lady's name, such as *The Marianist*, *The Queen's Work*, *The Victorian*, *The Ave Maria*, *The Rosary*, *Fátima*, etc.

In time, we hope to arrange a *Marian Periodical Index* which will list all articles on Mary as they appear in current magazines. Newspaper-clippings, be they found in religious or secular papers, are being filed away for future reference. Our interest in Marian stamps, medals, statues, paintings and the like, is also for the future.

Conclusion—We dream of the day when we shall have a building completely apart from the University of Dayton Library, THE MARIAN LIBRARY BUILDING. It will contain as complete a collection of MARIANA as possible, even a chapel and a room for Marian lectures and meetings: a true center for Marian activity in the United States of America.

Our first and primary reason for all this work is to honor Our Blessed Mother, who is the Patroness of the Americas. *De Marian numquam satis*—this is our motto, and it means that never can we do enough for Mary.

We sincerely hope that the Marian Library in Dayton can be of service to you. We invite your cooperation. We want to serve you. If it's Marian, we have it, or we will get it, or we will direct you to it.

Father Lawrence W. Monheim, S.M.
Director of the Marian Library
University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio.