

Dom Jean Chauvet as Editor of the *Chartae* of the Carthusian General Chapter

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The work of Dom Jean Chauvet falls within that awakening of interest within the Carthusian Order in its own history which was a feature of the seventeenth century¹ – an awakening of historical awareness matched in other religious Orders. The writings of Dom Clément Bohic, Dom Nicolas Molin, Dom Charles le Couteulx, and Dom Léon le Vasseur have been printed by their confrères;² the collections made and transcribed by Dom Jean Chauvet from the Acts of the Carthusian General Chapter are in process of publication within the AC *Chartae* project.³

Dom Le Vasseur knew Dom Chauvet, and gives an evocative biography of him in his *Ephemerides*.⁴ He tells us that Dom Chauvet was born on August 5th, 1607, in Loudun, of a highly regarded family. As a young man Jean Chauvet studied Classics in France, Philosophy at Cologne, and Theology at Rome. He was expert in Greek as well as in Latin.

Jean Chauvet had an elder brother Auguste who in his youth went on the grand tour; while doing this, he was captured by pirates. Jean went to Malta to pay his ransom, and the two brothers returned to France, landing at Marseilles.

On the way home, Auguste determined to visit the Grande Chartreuse, and Jean accompanied him. Both took the Carthusian habit, but during their novitiate Auguste had a breakdown in health, and with the good will of the Prior, Dom Juste Perrot, both brothers returned to their father's house until Auguste should be fully recovered. Subsequently Auguste and Jean were both re-admitted to the Order. Auguste made his profession on September 8th, the Birthday of our Lady, 1641; Jean made his profession on the same Festival in 1642. On September 21st 1646 Dom Jean Chauvet was instituted as Scribe of the Grande Chartreuse by the Prior, Dom Leon Tixier,⁵ and persevered in this office until his death, which took place on Christmas Day 1667 in the Carthusian nunnery of Mélan. The Prior-General of the day, Dom Jean Pégon (Prior from 1649-1675) had, according to Dom le Vasseur, so high a regard for Dom Jean Chauvet that he designated him as his successor if he should outlive him. Dom Chauvet was an exemplary monk, kind in his bearing towards all, learned, a sharer in the counsels of the Reverend Father and an assistant in his work. He visited many charterhouses, and was highly esteemed by all, in France, Italy and Germany.

¹ On Carthusian historians, see James Hogg, 'Carthusian Annals', in *Spiritualität Heute und Gestern*, Band 14, AC 35:14, Salzburg 1991, pp. 199-205.

² C. Bohic, *Chronicon Ordinis Cartusiensis*, 4 vols.; Tournai/Parkminster, 1911-1954; N. Molin, *Historia Cartusiana*, 3 vols., Tournai 1903-1906; C. le Couteulx, *Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis*, 7 vols. + index vol., Montreuil 1887-1991; L. le Vasseur, *Ephemerides Ordinis Cartusiensis*, 5 vols., Montreuil 1890-1992.

³ So far published: *The Chartae of the General Chapter of the Urbanist Observance during the Great Schism* (includes also the *chartae* for the Avignon obedience and for the Spanish charterhouses 1411-1418), ed. John Clark, AC 100:25 (4 vols.), Salzburg 1995; *Transumptum ex Chartis Capituli Generalis: ab anno 1250 ad annum 1379*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:29, Salzburg 1998; *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter 1504-1515: A Supplement to Ms. Parkminster B 62*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:30, Salzburg 1998; *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter 1475-1503*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:31, Salzburg 1998. Editions of Dom Chauvet's *chartae*-texts for 1536-1658 are in preparation.

⁴ *Ephemerides*, Vol. 4, pp. 568 col. a – 575 col. b.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 568 col. b.

Dom le Vasseur refers to Dom Chauvet's work on the *chartae*, which he excerpted (*excerpsit*) in five volumes; in this work he showed great discernment, accuracy and skill. — *summa sagacitas indagandis vestigandisque, summa discernendis peritia, examinandis pensitandisque iudicium circum-spectissimum*. Dom Chauvet also made a most accurate list of the Priors of the Grande Chartreuse. From various charterhouses in Germany and Italy he collected *chartae* of the Chapters celebrated during the Great Schism.⁶ He was tireless in seeking from other charterhouses *chartae* of which there were no copies at the Grande Chartreuse, which he transcribed.

Dom le Vasseur had made the acquaintance of Dom Chauvet in 1656 when the latter had been sent by the Prior General to the Visitors of Belgium, Picardy, and Francia, and was passing through the charterhouse of Bourbon-lès-Gaillon, where Dom le Vasseur was Vicar. From that time these two monks, together with Dom Charles le Couteulx also of Bourbon-lès-Gaillon, worked in close collaboration on Carthusian archival matter; it was through Dom Chauvet that the work of le Vasseur and le Couteulx came to be taken under the wing of Dom Pérignon, the Prior-General. Writing in the *Ephemerides*, Dom le Vasseur says that out of this collaboration grew seventeen volumes of records of the Carthusian Order, besides eleven volumes of *chartae* in folio transcribed by le Couteulx (ab eodem D. Carolo).⁷

The majority of Dom Chauvet's extant writings, especially his writings on Carthusian matters, are kept at the Grande Chartreuse; there are some letters by him on various subjects at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.⁸

Dom Chauvet's transcripts of the *chartae*, conserved at the Grande Chartreuse, answer to the account given by Dom le Vasseur. Ms. 1 Cart. 14 consists of four parts in five volumes.⁹ The common division of these volumes as they stand is based on multiples of fifty years or thereabouts; this rather mechanical division, however convenient for the reader, tends to obscure the manner in which Dom Chauvet actually compiled his material, since his sources, which he notes where he is copying from a single manuscript, or from a bound volume or register of *chartae*, do not correspond with these handy divisions. Of the various bound volumes which together constitute Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome I contains material for 1250 to 1401; for the years from 1380 to 1401 the material is for Provinces and houses of the Avignon obedience. Tome II contains material from 1402-1500; for 1402 to 1410 the material is again for the Provinces and houses of the Avignon obedience. Tome IIIa runs from 1501-1550, Tome IIIb from 1551-1599; Tome IIII from 1600 to 1658.

Ms. Cart 43 contains the *chartae* for the Urbanist Obedience from the years 1380-1409 (though not for 1410), and also the *chartae* for the Spanish houses from 1411-1418; during these years the Spanish houses did not recognise the re-unification of the Order which had been achieved in 1411.¹⁰

The scope of Dom Chauvet's transcripts varies according to the availability of material and what he perceived as the need. In Ms. 1. 1 Cart. 14 Tome I, at any rate for the years prior to the Avignon Schism, he appears to have aimed at as complete a transcript as possible from the available material. The completeness of the *chartae* varies considerably, and for some years there is nothing. Where obit-lists are included, we may assume that in

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 569 col. a.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 569 col. b.

⁸ Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds Français, mss. 13042; 20282; Bibliothèque Nationale, Collection Dupuy 790. — James Hogg, *Kartäuserhandschriftenbestände in öffentlichen Bibliotheken Frankreichs*, AC 165, Salzburg 2000, p. 74.

⁹ Described by Dom Luc Fauchon, O. Cart., Archivist of the Grande Chartreuse, in *The Chartae of the ... Urbanist Observance ...*, Vol. 1, pp. xvi-xvii.

¹⁰ Described by Dom Luc Fauchon, *ibid.*, pp. xvii-xviii.

this area of his transcripts Dom Chauvet gave all the names that were in his exemplar. In very many cases he used exemplars that are no longer available to us, – giving his texts a particular importance – but a valuable control is provided by the Part-Dieu *chartae*,¹¹ of which the originals survive for 1359-1362, 1364, 1377-1379, in part at the Grande Chartreuse (Ms. 1 Cart. 51), and in part at the Valsainte (no shelf-mark). These were unknown to Dom Chauvet, but where both his transcripts and the Part-Dieu *chartae* are running, as in 1359, 1360, 1377, 1378, there is much agreement and overlap, and while at some points, as might be expected, they cover slightly different ground, the material provided by Dom Chauvet is not perceptibly abbreviated by comparison with that in Part-Dieu.

For these years, Dom Chauvet seems to have relied commonly on local *chartae* belonging to particular houses, analogous to those of Part-Dieu. Marginal notes indicate some at least of his sources.¹² As well as *chartae* belonging to the Grande Chartreuse (now lost), he made use of *chartae* from Reposoir and Aillon near at hand, and from Casularum and Padula further afield.

He also drew upon an unidentified '*Manuscriptum Florentinum*' and a '*Vetus Liber Ordinationem Capituli*' for legislative material. The '*Manuscriptum Florentinum*' – presumably it is the same manuscript in each case – is also a subsidiary source for the Urbanist *chartae* assembled in ms. 1 Cart. 43. The '*Vetus Liber ...*' is a continuing supplementary source for Dom Chauvet's work on *chartae* of later years; a legislative extract from apparently the same '*Vetus Liber Ordinationum*' is appended to the *charta* for 1541 in a later volume of ms. 1 Cart. 14.¹³

In this early and particularly difficult area of the *chartae*, the meticulous editorial care to which Dom le Vasseur refers is very apparent. Here and there Dom Chauvet notes that a word is difficult to make out in his exemplar, and gives his own alternative readings. Occasionally, where he has used more than one manuscript, he notes their variant readings.¹⁴

Where appropriate, he supplements the *chartae* with a reference to another historical authority.¹⁵ Where he sees that there is a historical problem to be resolved, a further inquiry to be made, he high-lights this in the text.¹⁶ He will continue to do this throughout his excerpts where he feels that this is needed.

The same care and completeness is found especially in his transcripts of the *chartae* for the Urbanist obedience in ms. 1 Cart. 43.¹⁷ Here we can study his editorial method very closely, because the seventeenth-century transcripts for 1386-1409 which he sought out and used as a basis for his text, centred on the province of Alemania Superior, which were brought to the General Chapter of 1648 by Johannes Serpentinus, Prior of Seitz, are extant at the Grande Chartreuse under the self-mark of ms. 1 Cart. 4 – generally known as the

¹¹ *The Part-Dieu Chartae*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:33, Salzburg 1999.

¹² *Transumptum ... ab anno 1250 ad annum 1379*, Introduction, pp. vii-xi, esp. pp. vii-x.

¹³ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIIa, pp. 228-9.

¹⁴ E.g. *Transumptum*, p. 36, line 3; p. 52, line 3; p. 84, line 4. Examples could be multiplied.

¹⁵ E.g. *Transumptum*, p. 64, lines 13-14; a reference to *Gallia Christiana* on the founder of the Abbéville charterhouse.

¹⁶ E.g. *ibid.*, p. 133, lines 5-6: *Quaerendum, utrum fuerit domnus Clarus qui fuit Prior Cartusiae, et potuit esse.*

¹⁷ For an assessment of Dom Chauvet's editorial methods in the Urbanist *chartae*, see John Clark, 'The *Chartae* of the Urbanist Observance', in *Crises et Temps de Rupture en Chartreuse, XIV^e – XX^e Siecles: Actes de Colloque International d'Histoire et de Spiritualité Cartusiennes (Chartreuse de Glandier, 15-18 Septembre 1994)*, ed. Alain Girard et Daniel le Blévec, AC (N.S.) 6, Nos. 11-12 (1994), pp. 37-47.

The points made below on Dom Chauvet's transcripts of the *chartae* of this period are developed more fully in this article.

Seitz-Akten.¹⁸ These transcripts are themselves of interest, because they commonly preserve earlier spellings of personal names and places which Dom Chauvet has standardised. Ms. 1 Cart. 4 is indeed not Dom Chauvet's only source; when he comes to write up ms. 1 Cart. 43, he notes on a number of occasions that a manuscript other than ms. 1 Cart. 4 gives a different reading.¹⁹ Ms. 1 Cart. 4 is the work of various scribes, no doubt working as a team to meet a dead-line, and is of unequal textual quality. Much of it is excellent, but Dom Chauvet himself recognised that the text for 1408-1409 was highly defective, and he has himself made a number of corrections to ms. 1 Cart. 4 here, which in turn are reflected in his own ms. 1 Cart. 43.²⁰

Ms. 1 Cart. 4 contains the *charta* for 1410 – the year of re-union following the Avignon schism in its usual form: necrology, injunctions for prayers for the living, general ordinances, and dispositions for Alemania Superior. Surprisingly, there is no corresponding text in ms. 1 Cart. 43, though ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome II includes a variant form of the *charta* for 1410 following the series of *chartae* for the Avignon obedience.²¹

Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome II, pp. 1-11 must be a further source behind ms. 1 Cart. 43, although the manuscripts from which this part of 1 Cart. 14 derive are lost. Here particular attention is given to the province of Alemania Inferior; this material, where available, is incorporated into 1 Cart. 43.²² Textual and orthographical evidence confirms that this part of 1 Cart. 14²³ was compiled before 1 Cart. 43.²⁴

For some years in 1 Cart. 43 there is also material for the province of the Rhine, for England, or for the Italian provinces, which again is not matched in either 1 Cart. 4 or in 1 Cart. 14.²⁵ The use of the *Manuscriptum Florentinum* in 1 Cart. 43 has already been mentioned; Dom Chauvet also refers in 1 Cart. 43 to a manuscript from Trier.²⁶ A note attached to an entry for Alemania Inferior reflects his continuing efforts to acquire more information.²⁷

Dom Chauvet states that copies of the *chartae* of the Spanish General Chapters for 1411-1418 which follow the Urbanist texts in 1 Cart. 43 were sent from Porta Coeli in 1649.²⁸

Of the *chartae* for the Avignon obedience (to which the Grande Chartreuse itself belonged), those for 1380-1401 are in 1 Cart. 14, Tome I, while those for 1402-1409 (with the *charta* of reunion for 1410) are in 1 Cart. 14, Tome II, pp. 12-37. They are preceded in the bound volume by the Urbanist material already mentioned, whose different format shows that it was put together at a different time.

While the *chartae*-material for 1250-1379 in 1 Cart. 14, Tome I seems to be presented as completely as possible, and while the Urbanist *chartae* are certainly intended to be as complete as Dom Chauvet could make them, from 1380 onwards the Avignon material in 1 Cart. 14, in what are now Tomes I and II, gives indications of some selectivity

¹⁸ Described by Dom Luc Fauchon, O. Cart., in *The Urbanist Chartae*, Vol. 1, pp. xiv-xvi. See also p. 38 of the edition.

¹⁹ 'The *Chartae* of the Urbanist Observance', pp. 41-42.

²⁰ *The Urbanist Chartae*, Vol. 3, pp. 386-395 (with plate on p. 385); pp. 402-414 (with plate on p. 401).

²¹ *Ibid.*, Vol. 3, pp. 418-425; Vol. 4, pp. 497-501.

²² 'The *Chartae* of the Urbanist Observance', p. 43.

²³ *The Urbanist Chartae*, Vol. 1, p. 5, lines 13-14.

²⁴ 'The *Chartae* of the Urbanist Observance', p. 44.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 45.

²⁷ *The Urbanist Chartae*, Vol. 3, p. 380, line 19, after a single entry for the province of *Alemania Inferior*: *Coetera desiderantur adhuc*. (Italics mine).

²⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. 4, p. 502, line 8.

in presenting material, and also the use of reportage rather than of direct reproduction of the text. Thus at the beginning of the *charta* for 1380:

Hoc anno unus Diffinitorum Capituli Generalis fuit Jonotus Prior Sancti Bartholomaei de Trisulto.

Ponitur obitus Reuerendi domini Philippi de Arbosio Episcopi Tornacensis ...²⁹

While for some years (e.g. 1383, 1384) there is a wide-ranging and presumably full necrology, for 1393 the only death list is in the form of reportage:

Habetur obitus sororis Franciscæ Priorissae domus Excubiarum.³⁰

Reference to the Prioress of les Écouges was clearly felt to be of particular interest. For the same year there is reportage of the long-defunct house of Mortemer:

Fit mentio Prioris Mortui Maris in praesenti charta.³¹

And, in the *charta* of 1396, of the house of Celle-Roubaud:

Fit mentio Priorissae et Vicarii domus Cellae Robaudi.³²

Selectivity in the presentation of material, and the use of reportage or oblique references, will henceforth become a feature of Dom Chauvet's transcripts in 1 Cart. 14; they are, as Dom le Vasseur correctly says, excerpts. This selectivity will progressively apply to the necrologies, – drastically reduced, sometimes omitted altogether – to the references to prayers for the living, and to the dispositions for individual provinces and houses. But comparison with other manuscripts of the *chartae* shows that however selective Dom Chauvet may have become in later years in excerpting his material, he consistently presented the ordinances for the whole Order in full; this applies right up to the seventeenth century.

Since the Grande Chartreuse itself belonged to the Avignon obedience during the schism, it is likely that Dom Chauvet and his confrères may have had plenty of *chartae*-material to hand for this period at the Grande Chartreuse itself, and that for that very reason a certain selectivity in reproducing such texts was felt to be in order. It will have been the absence of urbanist material at the Grande Chartreuse that prompted Dom Chauvet to make his particularly full edition of the material that he sent for soon after being appointed Scribe and beginning his historical researches. There is not known to be any original *chartae*-material for this period at the Grande Chartreuse now, but we know that since the seventeenth century much important Carthusian archive-material has been lost from the mother-house, notably at the French Revolution.³³

For most of the years 1411-1436 Dom Chauvet had at his disposal the *exemplares* of the *chartae* – the master copies made by the Scribe of the General Chapter,³⁴ headed by the list of Diffinitors, and including the total necrology and the dispositions for every province and charterhouse, and the list of visitors. He provides excerpts from these.³⁵ These particular *exemplares* are themselves now lost, but we have the transcripts made by Dom Claude Duchesne (d. 1740).³⁶ These cover the years 1411-1414; 1416-1417; 1420; 1427-

²⁹ Ibid. Vol. 4, p. 427, lines 6-9.

³⁰ Ibid., Vol. 4, p. 454, line 4.

³¹ Ibid., Vol. 4, p. 455, line 5.

³² Ibid., Vol. 4, p. 462, line 27.

³³ *Ms. Grande Chartreuse 1 Cart. 15, Cartae Capituli Generalis 1411-1436, Vol. 1*, ed. James Hogg, AC 100:7, Salzburg 1985, p. v.

³⁴ For discussion of the term '*exemplares*' conventionally used in the AC editions of the *chartae*, see *The Urbanist Chartae*, Vol. 1, p. xi, with fn. 7, referring also to Dr. A.I. Doyle's discussion in AC 100:12:2 (1992), p. 96.

³⁵ *Ms. Grande Chartreuse, 1 Cart. 14, Tome II*, pp. 38-145.

³⁶ *Ms. Grande Chartreuse 1 Cart. 15, Cartae Capituli Generalis 1411-1436*, ed. James Hogg (3 vols.), AC 100:7-9, Salzburg 1985-1986.

1429; 1431-1432; 1434-1436. The following years are not represented in the series: 1415; 1418-1419; 1421; 1430; 1433. Nor is there anything for 1437.

Dom Chauvet's *chartae*-texts for these years are distinctly and deliberately excerpted; the extent of the abbreviation is apparent when comparison is made with the printed editions of Dom Duchesne's transcripts. Those *exemplares* which are not represented in Dom Duchesne's transcripts for 1411-1436 were already missing in Dom Chauvet's day, and Dom Chauvet had to collect his own materials to fill the gaps. Thus at the head of his text for 1415:

Charta huius anni compilata est ex uariis particularibus et desunt aliquot prouinciae.³⁷

Similar statements are attached to the *chartae* in 1 Cart. 14 for 1418, 1419, 1421, 1433³⁸ – and for 1437.³⁹

At the head of the *charta* for 1431 Dom Chauvet has written:

Deest pars prior, sed habui illam a domo Vallis Sanctae.⁴⁰

No Diffinitor is named in this *charta*, the obit-list is limited, as usual where Dom Chauvet is excerpting, to a very few distinguished persons. Dom Duchesne in his transcript for 1431⁴¹ does not give any Diffinitors as he does in the rest of his transcripts – an indication that he did not have the *exemplar* – but he does give a full obit-list and a full set of ordinations and dispositions for individual provinces and houses.

This evidence comes as some encouragement in view of the fact that at the time of the French Revolution several manuscripts in Dom Duchesne's hand vanished from the Grande Chartreuse.⁴²

Already at this point Dom Chauvet shows discretion, perhaps excessive discretion, in suppressing in his excerpts the names of monks who were subject to warning or disciplinary action, while still recording the case in question. Thus in the *charta* for 1436, among a number of such instances:

Et domnus N. ibidem professus (*in domo Vallis Bonae, quae est Aquitaniae*), ibidem remaneat, cum non sit domus quae magis sibi conueniat quam illa. Et de causis quas asserit pro sua mutatione, ipse est in culpa loquendo et audiendo. Ideo teneat silentium et habebit pacem.⁴³

From Dom Duchesne we learn that this was Dom Aegidius.⁴⁴ Dom Chauvet's reticence can become a little tantalising in the case of many of his later excerpts, where we may not have available a second source from which to identify the miscreant.

For 1438-1456 and again for 1457-1474 Dom Chauvet had at his disposal bound volumes of *exemplares*. Before the excerpts for 1438 he writes:

Ab hoc anno et deinceps chartae Capitulum habentur ligatae in libris; primus continet ab hoc anno usque ad 1456 inclusiuē.⁴⁵

The end of this first book is noted correspondingly at the end of the *charta* for 1456;⁴⁶ at the end of the excerpts for 1474 we find:

Hactenus charta. Et hic est ultima secundi libri chartarum Capituli quos (*sic ms.*) habemus.⁴⁷

³⁷ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome II, p. 53.

³⁸ Ibid., pp. 65; 67; 74; 131.

³⁹ Ibid., p. 148.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 115.

⁴¹ Ms. Grande Chartreuse, 1 Cart. 15 ..., Vol. 3, p. 41.

⁴² Cf. note 33 above.

⁴³ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome II, p. 143.

⁴⁴ Ms. Grande Chartreuse 1 Cart. 15 ..., Vol. 3, p. 138, lines 25f.

⁴⁵ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome II, p. 149.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 231.

These exemplares are extant, as Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale mss. Lat. 10887 and 10888, and have been edited in AC.⁴⁸ Comparison with the *exemplares* shows the excellent quality of Dom Chauvet's transcription.

For the years 1475-1503 Dom Chauvet's excerpts⁴⁹ assume capital importance, because we lack *exemplares*. For 1475-1481 there are the Lambeth *chartae*,⁵⁰ which in the AC editions are designated as *originales*, copies made by or for the provincial Visitors following the General Chapters.⁵¹ There are also the *originales* from the charterhouses of Ferrara, running from 1462 to 1796, and of Pisa, running from 1387 to 1500 and from 1551 to 1599, now conserved at the Grande Chartreuse,⁵² which remain to be examined and edited. The Scribe to the General Chapter from 1438 to 1483 was Dom Aegidius Bobini, who died on May 1st 1484, before the 1484 General Chapter. We do not know who the Scribe was for 1484-1485, but the Scribe from 1486 to 1525 was Dom Joannes Binchois. Dom Chauvet says at the end of his excerpts for 1490 that this is the end of the third book of *chartae*.⁵³ This third book, now lost, must therefore have contained a combination of the work of Dom Aegidius Bobini, of the Scribe or Scribes for 1484-1485, and of Dom Joannes Binchois.

Dom Joannes Binchois was Scribe throughout the years 1491-1503, and Dom Chauvet refers to Dom Binchois' *chartae* for 1504-1515 as a 'fifth volume'.⁵⁴ But in Dom Chauvet's day, as he himself explains carefully, there was no fourth volume of master-copies at the Grande Chartreuse, so that he was obliged to collect provincial and local copies as far as he could, and make a digest from these;⁵⁵ at the end of the texts for each of these years he has written: 'Hactenus charta collecta', and this will again be his practice for later years where the Grande Chartreuse had no master-copies. For 1491-1503 there were no dispositions available to Dom Chauvet for the provinces of England or Saxony, and he notes certain other occasional gaps.

For 1504-1515 Dom Chauvet's excerpts are again of particular value.⁵⁶ Much of the *exemplares* are indeed extant in ms. Parkminster B. 62,⁵⁷ but there are a number of losses in the earlier part of the manuscript, and the latter part of the 1513 charta and the whole chartae for 1514-1515 are lost. Ms. 1 Cart. 14 fills some gaps, and in particular provides full transcripts for 1514-1515 regarding the recovery of the Serra San Bruno for the Carthusian Order.

The exemplares for 1516-1525 and again for 1526-1535 are again extant in full in ms. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Lat. 10889 and 10890.⁵⁸ For the latter, the Scribe was

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 312.

⁴⁸ For the edition, see note 3 above.

⁴⁹ For the edition, see note 3 above.

⁵⁰ *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter: London, Lambeth Palace Ms. 413, Part 4 1475-1481*, (Ff. 461r-522v), ed. John Clark, AC 100:12:2, Salzburg 1992. Corrections in *The Chartae ... 1475-1503*, pp. 105-6.

⁵¹ On the terminology, see note 34 above.

⁵² Noted in *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter. Cava Ms. 61. The Louber Manuale from the Charterhouse of Buxheim*, ed. James Hogg and Michael Sargent, AC 100:1, Salzburg 1982, p. 3.

⁵³ *The Chartae ... 1475-1503*, p. 61.

⁵⁴ *The Chartae ... 1504-1515*, p. 78.

⁵⁵ *The Chartae ... 1475-1503*, p. 62.

⁵⁶ *The Chartae ... 1504-1515*.

⁵⁷ *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter. Ms. Parkminster B. 62 (1504-1513)*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:21 (2 vols.), Salzburg 1992.

⁵⁸ *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter. Ms. Paris Bibliothèque Nationale, Latin 10889*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:22 (3 vols.), Salzburg 1994-1995. *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter. Ms. Paris Bibliothèque Nationale, Latin 10890*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:23 (3 vols.), Salzburg 1996-1997.

Dom Joannes Volonis, subsequently Prior-General of the Order. Dom Chauvet indicates again explicitly that it is from these books that his excerpts are taken.⁵⁹

For some periods after this date no *exemplares* were available to Dom Chauvet. He explains that this was so for the years 1536-1540.⁶⁰ But for 1541-1552 there was a volume of *chartae* available; a note after the *charta* for 1552 states that this is the last in the present volume, and the last of Dom Joannes Volonis' priorate;⁶¹ Dom Volonis died on February 12th, 1553.⁶² In these years, as elsewhere in Dom Chauvet's text, the *chartae* are still occasionally supplemented with material from the *Vetus Liber Ordinationum*.

Again for 1553-1556 and for 1558-1559 there was apparently no single master-copy available to Dom Chauvet; but he had access to a master-copy for 1557, and again for 1560-1570 he was able to draw on another volume of complete *chartae*.⁶³ This latter master-copy is conserved at the Grande Chartreuse, and will be the subject of future study.⁶⁴

The Scribe to the General Chapter for much if not all of the period from 1545-1570 was Dom Laurentius Rebolet; he is referred to as such in 1554⁶⁵ and in 1556,⁶⁶ and by a note by Dom Chauvet for 1562.⁶⁷ He died on December 10th, 1577; the *charta* for the following year refers to him as having been formerly (*olim*) Scribe.⁶⁸ Dom le Vasseur indicates that he was succeeded in 1570 by Dom Hieronymus Marchant,⁶⁹ later to be Prior-General.

In the wake of the Council of Trent, the years 1567 and following were busy ones for Carthusian legislation, well into the 1580's; all of this Dom Chauvet faithfully records. One aspect of this was the on-going activity from 1571-1582 for the preparation of the *Nova Collectio Statutorum*.⁷⁰

A note by Dom Chauvet at the end of the *charta* for 1570 says that the *chartae* for the following years from which he made his excerpts were separate, and not bound together.⁷¹ It would seem that for 1570-1574 he had access to complete copies at the Grande Chartreuse, for at the end of each of these years there is simply '*Hactenus charta*'. This is not so for 1575, which is prefaced by: '*Deerat haec charta*' and has at the end '*Hactenus charta collecta*'.⁷² Apparently Dom Chauvet had access again to complete copies for 1576-

⁵⁹ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIIa, p. 94 (for 1516): Incipit uolumen 6^m chartarum ...; *ibid.*, p. 148 (for 1525): Hactenus charta. Quae est ultima huius uoluminis, quod habet decem chartas.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 203: Sequentes quinque chartae collectae fuerunt ex uariis chartis particularibus, nam desunt in Cartusia generales.

⁶¹ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIIb, p. 8: Hactenus charta, ultima huius uoluminis et ultima Reuerendi Patris Domni Joannis Volonis.

⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 9 (*Charta* for 1553).

⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 40 (for 1560): Incipit nouus liber chartarum undecim, continens chartas usque ad annum 1570^m inclusiue; p. 108 (for 1570): Hactenus charta. Ultima uoluminis huius. Quae sequuntur chartae sunt separatae, nec inuicem colligatae.

⁶⁴ *The Chartae ... Cava Ms. 61. The Louber Manuale ...*, (AC 1000:1), p. 4, lists: 'Cartae generales, Grande Chartreuse (Ms. 598); 1560-1570'. Dom Luc Fauchon, O. Cart., the Archivist of the Grande Chartreuse kindly confirms the identification.

⁶⁵ Le Vasseur, *Ephemerides*, Vol. 3, p. 149 col. b.

⁶⁶ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIIb, p. 23.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 54.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 158.

⁶⁹ Le Vasseur, *op.cit.*, Vol. 3, p. 365 col. b. (Dom le Vasseur refers to Dom Laurentius Chapusius as being succeeded as scribe in 1570. The inconsistency between Rebolet and Chapusius is discussed in the introduction to the edition of Dom Chauvet's *Chartae*-excerpts for 1536-1570. Molin, *Historia* Vol. 3, p. 149, gives somewhat different information but Le Vasseur is more likely to be right.

⁷⁰ All this will appear in the forthcoming edition of Dom Chauvet's excerpts for these years.

⁷¹ See above, note 63.

⁷² Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIIb, pp. 139, 143.

1579, but near the head of his text for 1580 is: "*Collecta, nam originalis deest*", and at the end: "*Hactenus charta collecta*".⁷³ Apparently again he had complete exemplars for 1581-1585.

Dom Bernardus Carasse had been Prior General since 1566, but he died on September 8th 1586,⁷⁴ some months after the General Chapter had been held. Again for that year Dom Chauvet has to write at the end of his excerpts: "*Hactenus charta collecta*".⁷⁵ This is the last time that he uses this formula, to show that he did not have access to a set of copies at the Grande Chartreuse. Even so, in future years such sets might be incomplete, as we shall see below.

Dom Bernardus' death set in motion an unusual chain of events regarding the Priorate of the Grande Chartreuse. The *chartae*-excerpts of Dom Chauvet for 1586 to 1589, when these events and their aftermath were finally unravelled, are supplemented by additional material supplied by Dom Chauvet, including extracts from the *Historia Cartusiana* of Dom Nicolas Molin, who was a contemporary and in many cases an eye-witness of these events.⁷⁶

Dom Joannes de Lescluse, Prior of Valenciennes, was canonically elected as the new Prior-General, but was not acceptable to the confirming Priors. After some confusion and uncertainty, Dom Hieronymus Lignanus, Prior of Bologna, was then elected Prior-General. He accepted, but pleaded ill-health and remained in Italy during the General Chapter of 1587, for which he nominated a Vicar and Coadjutor. Dom Lignanus' florid and eloquent letter of apology is prefixed to the *charta* for 1587, and makes interesting reading.⁷⁷ The Vicar appointed by Dom Lignanus died unexpectedly. Dom Lignanus made the journey from Italy to the Grande Chartreuse to hold the General Chapter for 1588, a sick man, accompanied at great expense by a great following of nobility and commoners. Once at the Grande Chartreuse, he proposed that the mother house of the order should in future be the charterhouse of Pavia, with the monks of the Grande Chartreuse installed there. It is no wonder that he was absolved from his office and sent back to Bologna, with expressions of great dignity and honour by way of compensation; he died on the journey, very shortly after leaving the Grande Chartreuse. In his place Dom Hieronymus Marchant, former Scribe to the General Chapter and Vicar of the Grande Chartreuse, and now Prior of the Lyon charterhouse, was nominated Prior General.

As well as extracts from Dom Molin's *Historia*, Dom Chauvet supplements his *chartae*-excerpts for 1588 and 1589 with material from the visitation-*chartae* – the reports of the Visitors – for two charterhouses, on matters which have a bearing on the personalities and events central to the time for the Carthusian Order. For 1588 there is the assessment by the Priors of Paris and Louvain of events at Valenciennes, exonerating Dom de Lescluse, still Prior of Valenciennes, from blame for having given undue heed to the supposed divine revelations and commands given to a certain nun of Gosnay when she received the Eucharist; Dom de Lescluse had readily admitted his fault, which was due to indiscreet zeal rather than to a bad will.⁷⁸

Appended to the *chartae*-material of the General Chapter for 1589 is a report on the visitation to the Paris charterhouse in that year. Here the Prior, Dom Joannes Michel, had been falsely accused by several monks, including the Procurator, of various disciplinary

⁷³ *Ibid.*, pp. 173, 176.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 219. (*Charta* for 1587).

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 211.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 212 (1586); pp. 227-229 (1587); 239-240 (1588). The extracts from Dom Molin's *Historia* in Dom Chauvet's excerpts have numerous small variations from the text of the printed edition of Dom Molin.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 214-219.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 240.

faults. He was amply vindicated in the face of these false accusations, and the offending monks were punished.⁷⁹ Dom Michel – incidentally the author of an important and in its day widely read devotional book⁸⁰ – would succeed Dom Hieronymus Marchant as Prior-General in 1594, and would rule until his own death in 1600.⁸¹

Dom Marchant found the office of Prior General a heavy task; appended to the *chartae* for 1592 is a copy of his letter asking for Dom Joannes Michel from the Paris charterhouse to come to the Grande Chartreuse to be his assistant, with dispositions for the Paris charterhouse in Dom Michel's absence.⁸² There follows an extract from Dom Molin concerning the fire which devastated the Grande Chartreuse that year,⁸³ and a copy of a letter from the Prior-General to Visitors and Priors of the Order, appealing for help in repairing the damage.⁸⁴ In 1593 the disputes affecting the Province of Upper Germany were referred by the General Chapter to Dom Franciscus Quintana, the Prior of Seitz and Commissary of the Prior-General and of the General Chapter, for resolution; a copy of the agreement that was made, sealed by the Priors concerned, is appended to the *chartae* for this year.⁸⁵ Not all the *chartae* for the period of Dom Marchant's rule were available to Dom Chauvet; he notes that for 1592 there were no dispositions to hand for Castille, Picardy, Teutonia, or either of the German Provinces,⁸⁶ although the *chartae* for his Priorate were kept together as a group; at the end of charta for 1594 he notes: 'Hactenus charta ultima regiminis Reuerendi Patris Domni Hieronymi Marchant'.⁸⁷ Appended to the charta is a circumstantial extract from Dom Molin's *Historia* describing Dom Marchant's death.⁸⁸

We have seen that in earlier years some groupings of the *chartae* conserved at the Grande Chartreuse co-incide with the rule of a particular Prior, while others depend on other factors, including a change of Scribe. For the priorates of Dom Hieronymus Marchant and of Dom Joannes Michel, the *chartae* were kept together in distinct groups. Following the account of Dom Marchant's death from Molin's *Historia* appended to the charta for 1594, there is an account of the election of his successor – 'de quo ita in registro chartarum sui temporis statim initio'.⁸⁹ The *charta* for 1599 has at its end: 'Hactenus charta, ultima libri et regiminis Reuerendi Patris Domni Joannis Michel'.⁹⁰

Appended to the *charta* for 1599 are again materials which illuminate events indicated in the *charta* of the General Chapter. First there is a copy of part of the visitation-*charta* of the charterhouse of Coblenz, relating the absolution and subsequent reinstatement of the aged but highly respected Prior, Joannes Wittenius, who at this time had been Prior for thirty-eight years and Co-Visitor and then principal Visitor for the Province of the Rhine for twenty-eight years. Dom Joannes had been absolved by the General Chapter on account of his age, but was re-elected by his own community; this re-election

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 251-253.

⁸⁰ Dom Joannes Michel was also known as Jean de Vesly or Michel de Coutances. His *Liber Exercitiorum Spiritualium Triplicis Via* was widely read in its day, and parts of it were recommended by Fr. Augustine Baker, O.S.B., for the English nuns at Cambay. Fr. Baker himself translated extracts into English for the nuns from this very substantial Latin work.

⁸¹ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome III, p. 1 (*Charta* for 1600).

⁸² Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIIb, pp. 296-297.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, pp. 297-298.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 298-299.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 306-307.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 293, 294.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 315.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 315-316.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 316.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 349.

was subsequently confirmed by the General Chapter, and Dom Joannes remained in office until his death in 1602.⁹¹

Secondly, there is a series of letters consequent upon the election – confirmed by the General Chapter – of a French Carthusian as Prior of Naples. There are letters from the King of Spain to Count d'Olivares (in Spanish); from King Henry IV of France to the Pope (in French); and letters from the Prior-General in the name of the General Chapter to the Pope and to the Cardinal Protector of the Order.⁹²

Dom Michel died early in 1600; this section of Dom Chauvet's *chartae* concluded with a note about the election of his successor, Dom Bruno d'Affringues, and a brief statement about him from Dom Molin.⁹³

Dom Chauvet's *chartae*-excerpts for 1600-1658 together form what is now Tome IIII of ms. Cart. 14, just 162 pages beside the 354 pages of Tome IIIb running from 1551-1559. A new register of *chartae* had begun with the election of Dom Bruno d'Affringues as Prior-General in 1600, and ran until 1613; at the end of the *charta* for 1613 we read: 'Hactenus charta adhuc subscripta a domno Joanne Baptista Porteau Scriba Capituli, insitudo in eodem Capitulo Priore domus Borboniensis; et est ultima huius registri primi Reuerendi Patris Domni Brunonis, numero 14'.⁹⁴

There are again a few supplementary items added to the *chartae* from this register. For 1607 there are a series of ordinances issued by the Prior-General in the name of the Pope;⁹⁵ these are not part of the *charta*, but are likely to have been kept in the register anyway. For 1605 and 1608 there is additional material which Dom Chauvet must himself have searched out. In 1605 an additional note records that the Prior of Rome, Dom Joannes Angelus de Spenis, had been elected Prior of Naples but refused this, and even relinquished his present charge, wishing to retire to his cell; Dom Chauvet gives an extract from the *Life* of Dom de Spenis (by Dom Franciscus Ganneron), together with a copy of a letter from the Prior-General to the procurator-General at Rome expressing his frustration at this turn of events.⁹⁶ The problem continued for some time. The *chartae* for 1608 says that the disposition for the province of Lombardia Remotior (in which the house of Naples was situated) had been left to the Prior-General by the General Chapter. Dom Chauvet gives this disposition below the *charta*; he gives the Prior-General's disposition for Lombardia Remotior in full, not in excerpts.⁹⁷ He appends also a letter from the Prior-General to the Prior of Rome on a matter arising from this, and a series of letters from the Prior of Rome expressing indignation that, against all the customs of the Order, the Prior of Naples who had been deposed by the Commissaries of the General Chapter had been trying to get himself re-instated.⁹⁸ Finally for 1608 there is a further extract from the *Life* of Dom de Spenis; by now he had been compelled by the Commissaries to leave his cell and assume his charge at Naples.⁹⁹

Appended to the *chartae*-material for 1622 is a copy of an indult from the Congregation of Rites extending the feast of St. Bruno on October 6th to the Universal Church with effect from the following year;¹⁰⁰ after the *chartae*-material for 1623 is a Papal

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 349-350. On Dom Joannes, see Le Vasseur, *Ephemerides*, Vol. 2, pp. 414 col. b-416 col. b.

⁹² *Ibid.*, pp. 350-354.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, p. 354.

⁹⁴ Ms. 1 Cart. 14, Tome IIII, p. 46.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 23-26.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 16-17.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 28-29.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 29-30.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 72.

brief to the same effect.¹⁰¹ Both these are added in Dom Chauvet's hand, but the style shows that in each case they were added after he had made the *chartae*-excerpts.

The *charta* for 1626 is followed by a careful letter from the Prior-General to the Prior of Rome, explaining why, following the death of the Cardinal Protector, it was opportune at this point to request a successor; there were difficulties in the way of selecting the best candidate. In the event, the Order was to be without a Protector for some years.¹⁰²

The *charta* for 1630 is followed by a copy of a notice signed by several Priors (including, incidentally, Dom Nicolas Molin, the historian, now Prior of Silua Benedicta), witnessing the aged and infirm Prior-General's appointment of Dom Justus Perrot, Scribe to the General Chapter, as his representative in convening the General Chapter and in administering the affairs of the order.¹⁰³ Dom Perrot became Prior-General in 1631; the *charta* for 1631 is followed by an account of his installation as Prior-General, itself taken from the *liber chartarum* for this year.¹⁰⁴ There is no mention by Dom Chauvet of a fresh register of *chartae* at this point; it is for 1636 that he notes the end of the current register¹⁰⁵ – in the middle years of Dom Perrot's priorate, which lasted until his death in 1643.

From 1631, the first year of Dom Perrot's rule, up to and including the last *charta* in the series, for 1658, there is a difference in presentation of the excerpts. From this point the *charta* for each year begins with the number of Fathers attending the General Chapter, and the list of Diffinitors.¹⁰⁶ Where for much earlier years the *exemplares* are running, the Diffinitors (and, in time, other Chapter officials) are always listed at the beginning of each *charta*, and we might expect that this was also done for the *exemplares* that are now lost for the intervening years; but it is only at this point that it is reflected in Dom Chauvet's excerpts.

The register of *chartae* begun in 1637 ended in 1657,¹⁰⁷ in the course of Dom Joannes Pégon's rule as Prior-General. Dom Chauvet's excerpts end in 1658, with the first year of the new register,¹⁰⁸ though he lived for another nine years.

Students of the *chartae* owe Dom Chauvet an immense debt for his tireless labour, for his accuracy and editorial and historical acumen. For many periods, especially in the earlier years, we rely on his witness to manuscripts that are now lost. Where his transcripts can be checked against surviving manuscripts, we find him very reliable; this fact gives us confidence where his transcription of lost manuscripts is concerned. It must be a matter of regret that he gives us excerpts and not full transcripts for the period after the Avignon schism, since many of the *exemplares* for this period – especially after 1535 – have disappeared; many, though not all of them, were to hand for Dom Chauvet. But he can hardly have anticipated their loss.

In establishing the text of the *chartae*, the *exemplares*, the master-copies made by the Scribe of the General Chapter, have supreme authority where they are running, although even they are not exempt from error and may on occasions need to be supplemented from other sources. For the period up to the ending of the Avignon schism Dom Chauvet's texts are central, though they may be supplemented by the Part-Dieu *chartae* already mentioned, by the Villeneuve Necrology (Ms. Grande Chartreuse, 1 Cart. 22, running at this point

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 75-76.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, p. 84.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, p. 95.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 100.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 116. *Hactenus charta; ultima huius registri.* *Ibid.*, p. 117 (for 1637) has: *Incipit registrum aliud chartarum quod complectitur chartas Capitulorum usque ad annum 1657 inclusivie uiginti et unum.*

¹⁰⁶ The *charta* for 1631 begins *ibid.*, p. 96.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 160: *Hactenus charta, quae est ultima registri ultimi inchoati anno 1637°.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 161: *Incipit registrum nouum chartarum.*

from 1342-1411),¹⁰⁹ and by the Paderborn *chartae* (beginning at 1405).¹¹⁰ For the years from 1411 to 1437 Dom Chauvet's excerpts from collected materials are a valuable supply for the years where Dom Duchesne (like Dom Chauvet himself) had no *exemplares* available; account needs also here to be taken of the Paderborn *chartae* and of the Brussels *chartae* edited by professor Jan de Grauwe.¹¹¹

For 1475-1503, Dom Chauvet's texts need to be set beside the Lambeth *chartae* where these are running, and the *chartae* from Ferrara and Pisa already indicated, as well as (from 1500) the Villeneuve Necrology. For 1500 to 1550 there are *chartae* from Miraflores.¹¹² From 1562 the Trisulti provincial *chartae* are also available.¹¹³

For the seventeenth century, the provincial *chartae* for the province of Teutonia which Professor Jan de Grauwe has made available¹¹⁴ will also be a valuable supplement to Dom Chauvet's material.

For the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it is still possible that more *exemplares* may be located!

Postscript

The hope that further exemplares might be identified was fulfilled after this paper was read at the Aggsbach Congress. Dr. Harald Goder announced that he had already independently identified the *exemplares* for 1560-1570 in Grande Chartreuse, ms. 1 Cart. 19, and furthermore that he had located the *exemplares* for 1557 and for 1571-1575 in Bibliothèque Municipale de Grenoble, ms. 439. Our sincere thanks are given to Dr. Goder for this information. He has generously placed his microfilm of both these mss. at our disposal with a view to a future edition.

¹⁰⁹ *The Villeneuve Necrology. Ms. Grande Chartreuse 1 Cart. 22. Vol. 1: 1342-1411*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:27, Salzburg 1997. An edition of the rest of the Villeneuve necrology is planned.

¹¹⁰ *The Paderborn Chartae*, ed. John Clark, AC 100:26, Salzburg 1997.

¹¹¹ *Capitula Generalia Cartusiae, 1416-1442. Archives Generales du Royaume, Bruxelles, N° 14206/6* (formerly *Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Bruxelles, Ms. II, 1959*), ed. Jan de Grauwe, AC 100:24, Salzburg 1994.

¹¹² Now conserved at the Grande Chartreuse. See *The Chartae ... Cava Ms. 61. The Louber Manuale ...*, AC 100:1, p. 4.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

¹¹⁴ *Chartae Capitulum Generalium 1655-1682*, ed. Jan de Grauwe, AC 100:13, Salzburg 1985; *Chartae Capitulum Generalium (1617-1742)*. (*Rijksarchief te Brugge*), ed. Jan de Grauwe, AC 100:28, Salzburg 1997.