

Books from Former Charterhouses in Tongerlo Abbey and Jan Van Blitterswyck, O.Cart.

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In volume three of the *Monasticon Cartusiense*, a detailed survey of Carthusian spirituality by Prof. James Hogg included a list of the translations and writings of Jan Van Blitterswyck (d. 1661), a monk of the charterhouse of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Scheut) in Brussels.¹ I have produced a revised and significantly expanded list of Blitterwyck's works, which will appear next year in the *Analecta Cartusiana*. This is intended as a small tribute to James Hogg, who encouraged and greatly assisted me over the years.² Work on tracking down the writings of Blitterswyck – which are predominantly Dutch translations of spiritual works – began in a rather unexpected way. Research in the library of the Premonstratensian abbey of Our Lady of Tongerlo – as well as 'spring-cleaning'³ – have brought to light a number of books of Carthusian interest, including a lost volume of Blitterswyck's *Het Broederschap der Goddelijcker Liefden* ('The Confraternity of Divine Love'), published in 1621 in Brussels.⁴ Further research indicated that the most recent list(s) of Blitterswyck's known writings – including unpublished works – could be significantly revised. There are no ex libris inscriptions or any other indications which suggest that our copy of *Het Broederschap* was in the abbey's library or in the possession of individual canons before the community was expelled by the French in 1796.⁵ However we still own some books of Carthusian authorship which were definitely in Tongerlo before this time, or were personally retained by confreres, mainly the writings of Denis the Carthusian.⁶ Old library catalogues from the abbey, and other inventories and documents, have still to be systematically examined for *Cartusiana*, which would contextualise the extent to which

¹ J. Hogg, 'Carthusian Spirituality', *Monasticon Cartusiense*, vol. 3, eds J. Hogg and G. Schlegel, *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 185:3 (Salzburg, 2005), pp. 1-89, at p. 46, n.7. The same essay previously appeared in *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 225 (Salzburg, 2005), pp. 27-123.

² Anselm J. Gribbin, O.Praem., 'The Works of Jan Van Blitterswyck, O.Cart. : a Revised List'. At the time of writing, the volume of the *Analecta Cartusiana* in which this contribution will appear is not yet allocated.

³ The author wishes to thank Fraters Thomas de Jong and Ninian Doohan for assisting him in his 'Carthusian' endeavours. I also wish to offer my gratitude to Abbot Jeroen De Cuyper, O.Praem., for his support, and permission to reproduce images of our Carthusian books, and the abbey archivist, Fr. Leo Van Dyck, O.Praem..

⁴ *Het Broederschap der Goddelijcker Liefden. Nut ende oorbaer voor allen die dickvils Communiceren, Eerst gemaect door den Eerw. Heere / Heere Bartholomeus Saluthius, Minrebroeder* [i.e. Minderbroeder], *Nu in onse nederlandsche taele ouergeset*, published by Jan Mommaert: more details will appear in my forthcoming paper.

⁵ The community returned to Tongerlo in 1840. For the history of the abbey (f. 1130) see M. Koyen and L.C. Van Dyck, 'Abbaye de Tongerlo', in *Monasticon Belge* (Province d'Anvers), vol. 8,i (Liège, 1992), pp. 263-375.

⁶ For example, *D. Dionysii Carthusiani in Evangelium Matthaei* (Paris, 1548) has the following inscriptions: 'fr. H. Smittens Can. tongerlo' (d. 1791) and 'Fr. Wilhelmi Van Boven Can. Tong' Anno 1759' (d. 1804); Francis de Puteo, P[eter] Blomevenna, and Lawrence Surius, *Vita S. Bruonis, Ordinis Cartusiensis Institutoris Primi* (et alia), n.d., n.p., probably printed in Belgium (? Brussels or Antwerp) in the 17th century, with the ex libris inscription 'Bibli' tong', from the eighteenth century.

the library or individual canons were interested in acquiring Carthusian books, not excluding the process of benefaction.⁷

Other books acquired by the abbey, at a later date, include at least four volumes from former charterhouses. While the search for ex libris marks among the older books in our library is ongoing, a large number have already been examined, and it was thought worthwhile, and of no small interest, to communicate the existence of these books.

1. Charterhouse of Buxheim (Germany)

(Pseudo) St. Thomas Aquinas, *Postilla seu Expositio Aurea Sancti Thomae Aquinatis Ordinis Praedicatorum in Librum Geneseos...* edited by Anthony Senensis Lusitani, O.P. (Antwerp, 1573).

The title page (illustration one) features one of the characteristic oval stamps of the Buxheim Charterhouse in black ink, with its coat of arms and the words 'BIBL. BUXHEIM'. In black ink are written the words 'Ex Bibliotheca FF. Cartusianorum Aedis Buxiane', from the seventeenth century, with a small circle containing a cross (+), written in the same hand above the place of publication. The book has a parchment binding, and has been trimmed for this purpose. For more information on the library of Buxheim, see W. Whobrey, 'Die Buxheimer Kartausenbibliothek', *Die Reichskartause Buxheim 1402-2002 und der Kartäuserorden*, vol. 1, eds J. Hogg, A. Girard, D. le Blévec, *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 182 (Salzburg, 2003), pp. 37-44 : and see Whobrey's website at <http://www.cls.yale.edu/buxheim/>.

2. Charterhouse of Danzig (Gdansk) /Kartuzy/Karthaus (Poland)

Michael Ab Isselt, *Sui Temporis Historia* (Cologne, 1602).

On the title page (illustration two) is written the ex libris inscription 'Cartusiae Paradisi B.M.V.', from the seventeenth century. Afterwards at least two libraries owned the volume prior to Tongerlo: the library of the diocesan seminary of Pelplin (Poland : nineteenth/twentieth century) and the library of the University of Nijmegen (Holland : twentieth century). The binding is not contemporary. For information concerning the library at Danzig, see R. Witkowski, 'Kartuzy/Karthaus/Danzig', *Monasticon Cartusiense*, vol. 2, eds G. Schlegel and J. Hogg, *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 185:2 (Salzburg, 2004), pp. 736-37 and 738 for entries under K. Nierzwicki in the bibliography.

3. Charterhouse of Leuven/Louvain (Belgium)

Cornelius a Lapide, *Commentaria in omnes Divi Pauli Epistolas* (Antwerp, 1627).

The title page (illustration three) has the ex libris inscription 'Cartusie Lovannien' ', from the seventeenth century, and in another hand 'Frater Paulus Loomans donavit me', from

⁷ The history of the abbey library remains to be written. However for a useful discussion, including existing studies, bibliographical information on the library, extant books and catalogues, see Koyen and Van Dyck, 'Abbaye de Tongerlo', pp. 271-72. The author hopes to undertake more research in this area in the future.

the seventeenth century. Opposite the title page are other inscriptions which have been partially or completely erased : '[...] Frater P[aulus] L[ooman]s [...] A[nno] 1629' and 'Iste [...] Frater [Paulus... L]oomans [...] Lo]vaniensis [...] 1629'. The date may indicate when the volume came to the charterhouse library. Paulus Loomans, a monk of the charterhouse of Leuven, died in 1628 according to J. de Grauwe and F. Timmermans, *Prosopographia Cartusiana Belgica Renovata (1314-1796), Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 154, part two (Salzburg, 1999), pp. 350, 379. The leather binding, on wooden boards, is from the seventeenth century, but the metal clasps are missing. For the library at the charterhouse of Leuven, see F. Timmermans, 'Chartreuse Sainte Madeleine sous la Croix de Louvain', *Monasticon Cartusiense*, vol. 3, eds J. Hogg and G. Schlegel, *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 185:3 (Salzburg, 2005), pp. 234-35.

4. Unknown Charterhouse (France ?)

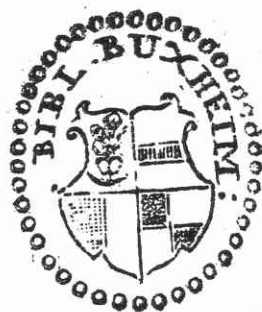
Nova Collectio Statutorum Ordinis Cartusiensis, 2nd ed. (La Correrie, 1681).

This book (illustration four), which seems to have belonged to a French charterhouse, contains handwritten notes in French, as well as Latin. These annotations are of some interest, in that they voice opposition to the statutes in the *Nova Collectio* (editio secunda), which were published under Dom Innocent Le Masson, prior of La Grande Chartreuse (1675-1703). This volume is a particularly interesting witness to the unrest which this compilation caused in several provinces and houses of the Carthusian Order. A study of this particular copy of the *Nova Collectio* of Le Masson is in preparation. For accounts of the controversy, and the compilation of the *Nova Collectio*, see *Nova Collectio Statutorum Ordinis Cartusiensis*, Editio Secunda, Correriae 1681, *The Evolution of the Carthusian Statutes from the Consuetudines Guigonis to the Tertia Compilatio, Documents*, vol. 5, ed. J. Hogg, *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 99: 5 (Salzburg, 1992), pp. iii-viii ; J.P.H. Clark, 'Carthusian Legislation under Dom Innocent Le Masson', *Dom Innocent Le Masson, Chartreux méconnu, Noyonnais oublié*, eds R. Bindel and P-A Henel, *Analecta Cartusiana*, vol. 209, (Salzburg, 2007), pp. 91-104.

POSTILLA SEV
EXPOSITIO AVREA
SANCTI THOMÆ AQVINATIS
ORDINIS PRAEDICATORVM

in Librum Geneseos: Literalem sensum atque
spiritualem complectens, Omnibus
in vniuersum, & praesertim
verbi Dei Praeconibus,
maximè utilis &
necessaria.

*Nunc primum in lucem prodit, è tenebris, diligentia & operâ
eximij Magistri nostri F. Antonij Senensis Lusitani,
eiusdem ordinis Praedicatorum, S. Theologiae Professoris
Ex Bibliotheca FF. Carthusianorum Aedis Buxiarae.*



ANTVERPIAE,
Laedibus Viduae & Haeredum Ioannis Stalsij,
M. D. LXXIII.
CVM PRIVILEGIO.

MICHAELIS ⁺¹⁵⁹⁷
ABISSELT
AMORFORTII
 SVI TEMPORIS
HISTORIA,

In qua
RES IN TOTO ORBE TERRA-
rum gesta, cum præcipue motuum Belgicorum sub
PHILIPPO II. Hispaniarum Rege, & concitato-
rum origo & successus vsque ad annum M. D.
LXXXVI. perspicue & accu-
rate describuntur.

Cum **INDICE** rerum & verborum copiosiss.



COLONIAE,
 Apud Arnoldum Quentelium,
 Anno M. DCII.

Cum gratia & Privilegio S. Caesaræ Majestatis.

Carusiae Paradisi B. N. V.



Vas electuarium... et portet nomen meum coram Gentibus

COMMENTARIA
IN OMNES
DIVI PAVLI
EPISTOLAS.

Paulus Gratianus
Auctore *Loomans*
deparit
R.P. CORNELIO CORNELI A LAPIDE,
e Societate IESV,
Costisizie Lovannien
Olim in Louaniensi, nunc in Romano
Collegio Sacrarum Litterarum Professore.
Ultima editio, aucta et recognita.
Cum Privilegio Caesareo, et Regis Hispaniarum.

ANTVERPÆ,
Apud MARTINVM NVTIVM
ANNO M. DC. XXVII.



NOVA COLLECTIO
 STATVTORVM
 ORDINIS
 CARTUSIENSIS,
 EA QUÆ IN ANTIQUIS
 ET NOVIS STATUTIS,

AC TERTIA COMPILATIONE DISPERSA
 & confusa habebantur simul ordinate
 disposita complectens.

EDITIO SECUNDA.

*ab Innocentio XI reprobata et correcta
 nobis per
 secundum
 nunquam
 falsis Statutis non tenemus obedire*



*in hac Provincia
 habitum
 correctionem
 tradita ergo*

CORRERIÆ,

Per LAURENTIUM GILIBERT, Typographum
 Juratum apud Gratianopolim.
 M. DC. LXXXI.

*Cum Singularem Privilegio Regis Christianissimi
 et Voila la principale raison pour que les deli-
 quants soient punis et que les bons soient
 recompensez par la grace de Dieu et de son
 saint Roy.*