

Dom Charles Le Couteux, Annalist of the Carthusian Order

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Dom Charles Le Couteux, the most significant chronicler of the Carthusian Order, was born in 1639 at Yvetot, Normandy, in a family belonging to the minor nobility. Nothing is known of his education, but he proved to be a good Latinist. In 1660 he entered the charterhouse of Bourbon-lès-Gaillon in the département of Eure, where he made his profession in 1661:

D. Carolus Le Couteux in Domo Borboniensi anno 1660 receptus est ibique, peracto novitiatus curriculo, vota nuncupavit. Qui etiam ante vestitionem de fastis Ordinis et historia cogitabat, postea liberius tali incubuit studio. Vicarius effectus novæ plantationis Rothomagensis, Priorem habuit D. Leonem Le Vasseur¹, de quo dictum est quod semper legeret aut scriberet: sancta conjunctus erat amicitia venerandus ille vir D. Joanni Chauvet, Scribæ Ordinis celeberrimo, qui Rothomagum transmittabat quidquid, antiquitatis amator et indessus investigator, exararat ipse vel e diversis provinciis perpeceerat; sic, faventibus quoque spectatissimis aliis monachis, se collegisse refert D. Le Vasseur copiosam documentorum messem illamque, collaborante Vicario, excrevisse in septemdecim volumina Notitiarum Ordinis nostri, præter undecim libros Chartarum Capituli generalis ab eodem D. Le Couteux transcriptos.²

Dom Leo Le Vasseur later compiled the *Ephemerides Ordinis Cartusienensis*.³ Self-taught, Le Couteux remained an assiduous collector of Carthusian material throughout his life. Around 1672 he became vicar and later procurator of the charterhouse of Rouen, where Le Vasseur had been appointed prior. Perhaps under the influence of the publication of the Oratorian Caesar Boronius's *Annales Ecclesiastici*⁴, the General Chapter in 1615, under Prior Bruno d'Affringues, had initiated a project for a history of the Order:

Quoniam ad totius Ecclesie et Ordinis bonum, utile fore iudicamus si chronologia rerum Cartusianarum historia in lucem edatur, ideo Capitulum Generale mandat omnibus Prioribus et superioribus domorum, ut foundationes, priuilegia, miracula et alia id genus insigniora et relatu digna transmittant ad Reuerendum Patrem per exempla fideliter recognita, idque intra annum.⁵

¹Born at Paris in 1623, he was professed at the charterhouse of Bourbon-lès-Gaillon on 25 March 1643. He became vicar in 1653. He was sent as prior to the charterhouse of La Rose near Rouen in 1669 and nominated covisitor of the province of France. In 1679 the priorate of St. Julian in Rouen was added to his charges, but in 1686 he was summoned to the Grande Chartreuse, where he was Scribe until his death on 16 November 1693. Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, "Le Vasseur, Léon", *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne* (in the press 2004) and Augustin Devaux, "Le Vasseur (Léon)", *DS* 9 (1976), 735-736.

²Quoted in the "Præfatio" of Dom René-Marie Herbault to Vol. 1 of the *Annales Ordinis Cartusienensis ab anno 1084 ad annum 1429*, printed finally at Montreuil-sur Mer 1887-1891, in 8 volumes. The seven unnumbered pages of the "Præfatio", are referred to as a-e, as both Roman and Arabic numerotation follow. Here p. d.

³Finally published at Montreuil-sur Mer in 5 volumes 1890-1893.

⁴Cf. Adelindo Giuliani, *La Formazione dell'Identità Certosina (1084-1155)*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 155 (2002), pp. 8-9.

⁵John Clark (ed.), *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter 1600-1658 (MS. Grande Chartreuse 1 Cart. 14)*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 39 (2001), p. 55.

Little seems to have been undertaken, however, until the priorate of Dom Innocent Le Masson¹, although Dom Clement Bohic, *Chronica Ordinis Cartusienensis* (Ab anno 1084 ad annum 1510)² and Dom Nicolas Molin, *Historia Cartusiana ab origine usque ad tempus auctoris 1638 defuncti*³, both undertook chronicle compilations, and Dom John Chauvet⁴ collected much material from the *chartae* of the Carthusian General Chapter. In 1686 the General Chapter under Innocent Le Masson took up the project again:

§Quia propositum jam dudum conceptum componendi et divulgandi Chronica Ordinis partui tandem vicinum est, et Reverendus Pater, evocatis ad se hujus compositionis studiosis operariis, manum ad opus incunctanter missurus est, monentur omnes Domus Ordinis ut infra annum singula curent mittere memorialia rerum notabilium quas apud se a tempore memorabili evenisse nosset, et huic operi inseri posse censebunt. §Quod opus in tres partes dividetur, in quarum prima Instituti nostri ratio, spiritus et firmitas enucleabuntur ac per Statutorum veterum ac novorum ad invicem collatorum litteram, nec non per Ordinationes Capitulorum generalium probabuntur; in secunda, de viris pietate et observantia claris agetur; in tertia vero, historia textetur fundationis Domorum et rerum notabilium quae in singulis per diversa tempora evenerunt. §Quae succincte et observato in omnibus Cartusianae simplicitas stylo scribentur; non enim, ad

¹Born at Noyon on 21 December 1627, he made his profession at the charterhouse of Noyon in 1646, where he became vicar and novice-master, before his nomination as prior in 1663 and covisitor for the province of Picardy in 1669. He was elected prior of the Grande Chartreuse on 20 October 1675, dying in office on 8 May 1703. Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, "Le Masson, Innocent", *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*; Jacques Martin, *Le Louis XIV des Chartreux: Dom Innocent Le Masson*, Paris 1975; Augustin Devaux, "Le Masson (Innocent)", *DS* 9 (1976), 571-583; and Augustin Devaux (ed.), *Dom Innocent Le Masson Général des Chartreux: Correspondance, Analecta Cartusiana* 206, 4 vols., (2003-2004).

²4 vols., Vols. 1 & 2 Tournai 1911, 1912; Vols. 3 & 4, Parkminster 1922, 1954. Professed of the charterhouse of Parc in September 1596, Dom Clement Bohic died on 16 July 1621. His brother Peter, who was also a Carthusian († 1650), completed the work and sent it to the Grande Chartreuse in 1625. Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, "Bohic, Clément", *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*. His death is recorded in the *charta* of the General Chapter for 1622: "Obiit domnus Clemens Bohic, professus domus Parci (qui duos tomos Annalium Ordinis perduxit usque ad Reuerendum Patrem Franciscum de Puteo).", in John Clark (ed.), *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter 1600-1658 (MS. Grande Chartreuse I. Cart. 14)*, p. 76. Cf. Adelindo Giuliani, *La Formazione dell'Identità Certosina (1084-1155)*, pp. 12-17.

³Tournai, 1903-06. He was a Benedictine before he entered the Grande Chartreuse, where he made his profession on 1 June 1583. He was coadjutor and then procurator at the Grande Chartreuse, before taking up the post of procurator at Arvières in 1587 and then rector and subsequently prior of Val-Saint-Hugon in 1589. He was again procurator at the Grande Chartreuse, before becoming prior of Val-Sainte-Marie in 1596 and of Sylve Bénite and provincial visitor for Burgundy in 1601, offices which he exercised until his death on 18 August 1638. Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, "Molin, Nicolas", *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*; Adelindo Giuliani, *La Formazione dell'Identità Certosina (1084-1155)*, pp. 12-17; Leo Le Vasseur, *Ephemerides Ordinis Cartusienensis*, Vol. 3, Montreuil-sur-Mer 1891, p. 90, col. b; and John Clark (ed.), *The Chartae of the Carthusian General Chapter 1571-1588 (MS. Grande Chartreuse I Cart. 14)*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 100:37 (2001), pp. 109, 117.

⁴Born at Loudon on 5 August 1607, he studied philosophy at the University of Cologne and theology in Rome before making his profession at the Grande Chartreuse on 8 September 1642. Five years later he became Scribe to the Prior of the Grande Chartreuse, occupying the office until his death on 25 December 1667 during the course of a visitation at the charterhouse of Mélan. Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, "Chauvet de Martigny, Jean", *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*; Leo Le Vasseur, *Ephemerides Ordinis Cartusienensis*, Vol. 4, Montreuil-sur-Mer 1892, pp. 568, col. a - 575, col. b (a sympathetic portrait); and John Clark, "Dom Jean Chauvet as Editor of the *Chartae* of the Carthusian General Chapter", in James Hogg (ed.), *Die Kartäuser und die Künste ihrer Zeit, Analecta Cartusiana* 157:1 (2001), pp. 183-95.

ostentationem, sed ad propriam omnium nostrum ædificationem et consolationem, et maxime ad suscitandum semper in nobis zelum insequendi vestigia antiquorum Patrum et ab ipsis nunquam aberrandi."¹

Dom Le Vasseur and Dom Le Couteux were summoned to the Grande Chartreuse, the latter probably on the recommendation of Dom Le Vasseur, as he had not occupied a prominent post up to that time, which would have attracted the attention of the Prior of the Grande Chartreuse:

Interea ad clavum totius Ordinis evectus erat D. Innocentius Le Masson, Prior Domus Noviomi; dum de Annalibus conficiendis meditaretur, prædictum Priorem Domus Rothomagensis et D. Le Couteux, qui tunc ibidem Procuratoris gerebat officium, ad se vocare statuit, ut ipsorum fulciretur auxilio et eruditione. Anno igitur 1686, jubente Reverendo Patre, profecti sunt ambo cum jam appropinquaret Capitulum generale, commissa plaustrariis qui ad Lugdunensem civitatem pergebant memorialium chartarumque ingenti mole. Factus hospes Cartusiæ, quanta diligentia, quanto animi ardore credito sibi labori se dederit D. Le Couteux arbitrari facile est. Codices et diplomata legere, instrumentis instrumenta conferre, scribere, addere, delere, adjutores dirigere, ordinare omnia fuit illi quotidianum.²

The complete work was to be called *Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis in tribus tomis distributi*, whereby Dom Le Masson reserved the first part dealing with the Statutes of the Order for himself, whilst Dom Le Vasseur was to be responsible for the *Ephemerides*, dealing with those Carthusians noted for the holiness of their lives, and Dom Le Couteux should occupy himself with the Annals proper, revealing the expansion of the Order, the foundation of the individual houses and notable events in their history, - an enormous undertaking. Dom Le Masson's volume on the Statutes appeared promptly, printed at the Correrie of the Grande Chartreuse in 1687 with the title *Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis, tribus tomis distributi. Tomus Primus, complectens ea quæ ad institutionem, disciplinam et observantias Ordinis spectant*, enjoying a reprint under the title *Disciplina Ordinis Cartusiensis* at Paris in 1703. Apparently, a vast amount of material was sent to the Grande Chartreuse, as Dom Le Couteux records:

Secundum hanc admonitionem, e variis Domibus Ordinis ad Domum Cartusiæ tot affluxere documenta ut inde, testante D. Le Couteux, sexaginta volumina in-folio componi potuissent.³

In 1690 one began to print the *Annales* of Dom Le Couteux at the Correrie in folio, but the printing process stopped at the signature Sij (p. 144), though the author had anticipated that the whole work would be issued. Today only two copies of this printing are extant at the Bibliothèque Municipale of Grenoble, one of which contains numerous annotations in the hand of Dom Le Couteux.⁴ The other copies were

¹Quoted in the "Præfatio" of Dom René-Marie Herbault to Vol. 1 of the *Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis ab anno 1084 ad annum 1429*, pp. a-b.

²Ibid., pp. c-d.

³Ibid., p. b.

⁴Dom Herbault remarks: "Anno 1687 [*sic*; other authorities give 1690, which seems more likely.], R.P.D. Le Masson typis Correrie mandari jussit, invito auctore, 144 primas operis paginas, quarum sic impressarum duo tantum, quod sciamus, extant exemplaria, servata nempe in bibliotheca

destroyed at the request of Dom Innocent Le Masson. The reason for the abandonment of the publication is not known with certainty, although suspicions have been expressed that the relations between Innocent Le Masson and Le Couteulx had become less cordial, though documentary evidence is lacking, even in the autobiographical notes compiled by Dom Le Couteulx in his old age.¹ L.C. Du Creux², former prior of the charterhouse of Bourbon-lès-Gaillon, in his life of St. Bruno, written in 1788, but first printed at Rouen in 1812, maintains that the Canons of Paris had protested to the French monarch against Le Couteulx's extensive treatment of Canon Diocres, who, supposedly, rose from his bier after his death to announce, despite his edifying life, his eternal damnation, thus confirming Bruno's determination to quit the fleeting glories of the world to serve God alone in solitude. Dom Herbault's introduction may have given the impression of a certain tension between Dom Le Couteulx and the Prior General:

Ipsium vero, nondum peracto opere, anno 1694 mense decembri, Priorem Domus Rothomagensis instituere opportunum in Domino judicavit R.P.D. Le Masson ne, mortuo D. Cypriano Le Vavasseur de Ronfresbosc nuper Priore, fabrica hujusce domus retardaretur. Ut a capite suo talem averteret casum et a munere quod mortis instar timebat se eximeret, nihil intentatum reliquit D. Le Couteulx; sed frustra: obedientia coactus, e Domo Cartusiae tristis abscessit et, exeunte jam mense januario anni 1695, devenit Rothomagum. Tribus abhinc mensibus, dum teneretur Capitulum generale, misericordiam et absolutionem ab officio suo ore et corde incassum petiit; anno tamen sequenti, instantissime rogans exauditus est et, ad Domum suae professionis, Borboniensem scilicet, rediit. Quam libenter solitudinem recuperaverit, quanta caelestis auxilii abundantia tunc confortatus fuerit, quantis suavitatibus consolatus ipse testatus est et cuidam monacho, jussu Reverendi Patris, eum interrogandi quomodo se haberet respondit scribens: "Innovavit mihi Deus dies meos sicut a principio." Itaque cellae amator et pie quietis, officia quaecumque recusavit. D. Franciscus Ferrus, qui fuit consiliarius D. Le Masson et totum fere orbem cartusianum cum D. Chauvet visitaverat, magni eum pendeat; pluries quaesivit an illi placeret ad Domum Currieriae, ubi ipse morabatur, venire et quod tanto zelo inceperat opus perficere. Tale propositum sibi arrisisse nimis, fatetur D. Le Couteulx; sed

Gratianopolitanæ civitatis (Y/10): unum quidem intactum cui Ms. in eadem bibliotheca pariter habitum (Y/597 quondam 211) conforme est; alterum vero superscriptionibus annotationibus ab ipso D. Le Couteulx oblitum."

¹Augustin Devaux, "Dom Charles Le Couteulx - Notes Autobiographiques (Ms. Grande Chartreuse 1 Com. 42)", in Augustin Devaux, *Études et Documents pour l'Histoire des Chartreux*, AC 208 (2003), pp. 143-182.

²Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*: "**DUCREUX, Emmanuel** Né à Paris le 4 avril 1738, il fit profession à la chartreuse de GAILLON le 1er janvier 1758. Vicaire en 1782, sacristain à ROUEN en 1783, coadjuteur à VAL-SAINT-GEORGES la même année, procureur à GAILLON en 1785, il fut élu prieur de cette maison en 1786. Il opta pour la vie commune en 1790, puis refusa le serment et émigra avec quatre de ses moines. Récupéré en l'an X, il devint aumônier de l'hôpital de Rouen. En 1816, il fut la cheville ouvrière des démarches administratives pour la réoccupation de la Grande Chartreuse. Son décès est annoncé par la carte de 1826. 1812 DUCREUX, Emmanuel, *Vie de Saint Bruno*. Rouen, Hement, 1812, in-12, XXIV+464 p., 1 gr. (En vers) cfr AC 116/2, 78, n. 39). 1816 DUCREUX, Emmanuel, *Opuscules*, Paris, Le Clère 1816, in-12, 50 p. 1819 DUCREUX, Emmanuel, *Discours composé sur une question proposée par l'Académie des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts de Lyon*, Rouen, Perdieu, 1819, 60 p., 16 cm."

Annalibus valedicere maluit et in Domo Borboniensi solitarius mori. Quod et evenit 15 septembris 1709. [?1715]¹

There is, however, no specific proof of any feelings of animosity between Dom Le Couteulx and Dom Le Masson.

After his brief period of office as prior in Rouen, he returned to the house of his profession, Bourbon-lès-Gaillon, where, despite increasing ill-health, - he suffered acutely from gout, - he occupied himself with copying early documents containing Carthusian legislation, which are today preserved in the significant MS. Parkminster B 84, which offers the unique surviving copy of some texts, which are furnished with Le Couteulx's annotations. As a historian, Dom Le Couteulx may not fulfill all the criteria for modern critical editions, but on the whole his texts are faithful copies of the originals at his disposition with minor orthographical modifications. Furthermore, many of the documents he cites perished during the French Revolution. He died apparently on 15 September 1715², and not in 1709 as most authorities declare.

Writings:

Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis ab anno 1084 ad annum 1429, La Correrie de la Grande Chartreuse [1690?], pp. 1-144 only.

Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis ab anno 1084 ad annum 1429, 8 vols., Montreuil-sur-Mer 1887-1891: Vol. 1: 1084-1141; Vol. 2: 1142-1183; Vol. 3: 1184-1230; Vol. 4: 1231-1308; Vol. 5: 1309-1337; Vol. 6: 1338-1395; Vol. 7: 1395-1429; Vol. 8: Indices, prepared by Dom Prosper Chalaud³. The preface was contributed by René-Marie Herbault⁴, later prior of the Grande Chartreuse in exile at the charterhouse of Farneta

¹"Præfatio" of Dom René-Marie Herbault to Vol. 1 of the *Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis ab anno 1084 ad annum 1429*, p. d.

²Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*.

³Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*: "CHALAUD, Prosper Jean-Bapt. Chalaud naquit à Excideuil (Périgueux) le 16 avril 1829. Prêtre du diocèse de Périgueux et curé de Saint Laurent des Hommes, il fit un essai chez les jésuites. Il prit l'habit à la GRANDE CHARTREUSE le 24 juillet 1879 et fit profession l'année suivante. Il fut successivement maître des novices de cette maison, puis coadjuteur du REPOSOIR, avant de devenir prieur de LA VALSAINTE de 1893 à 1898. Il mourut hôte à SELIGNAC le 25 août 1900. 1890 CHALAUD, Prosper, prépare et édite les *Tables de LE COUTEULX, Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis* et de *LE VASSEUR, Ephemerides Ordinis Cartusiensis*, Montreuil-sur-Mer. (Ces deux ouvrages sont édités après 1890)." Dom Le Couteulx's text happily survived the French Revolution. Dom Herbault in his "Præfatio" to Vol. 1 of the *Annales Ordinis Cartusiensis ab anno 1084 ad annum 1429*, remarks, pp. e-f: "Prædictos Annales et quidquid pro illis conficiendis scripserat aut collegerat auctor noster, in domo Cartusiæ reliquerat; quæ omnia ibidem asservabantur, quando exorta est Gallica perturbatio. Anno 1792, adventa die dispersionis, Ms. quod nunc edimus et quod in sua cella habebat, D. Matthæus Giraud, Proscriba Reverendi Patris et chartophylax, secum detulit; illud autem monachi Domus Pisarum, ubi hospes obiit anno 1803 die 20 septembris, Cartusiæ restituerunt, cum, sedata tempestate, reversi sunt Patres nostri. Annalium exemplarium hoc authenticitate, correctione et perfectione pretiosissimum est. Nam manu propria Domnus Le Couteulx partim illud scripsit, partim correxit. ... Præterea extant quidem Notæ ab anno 1454 ad annum 1681; sed quia imperfectæ sunt valde, partim latine partim gallice scriptæ et pro synopsi potius habendæ sunt, tales excudi non expedire duximus."

⁴Cf. Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne*: "HERBAULT, René-Marie Augustin Herbault naquit à Fontevault le 2 février 1844. Il fit profession à la GRANDE CHARTREUSE le 22 janvier 1868. Après avoir été procureur général à ROME, il fut élu prieur de CHARTREUSE (à Farneta) en 1905. Il mourut en charge le 14 décembre 1911. 1887 HERBAULT, René-M., "Præface." Dans: LE COUTEULX, *Annales* ..., cfr généralités, 1887."

(Lucca). Hubert Elie notes, pp. 183-184: "Les Chartreux de Montreuil, notamment D. Cyprien Boutrais, trouvèrent un texte définitivement rédigé, bon à être imprimé, pour les années allant depuis la fondation de l'Ordre, en 1084, jusqu'en 1416. Il y avait ensuite pour les années 1416 à 1429, un travail seulement ébauché, sans doute interrompu, dont en tout cas la mise au point n'avait encore été achevée. Ils effectuèrent cette rédaction et publièrent le tout à Montreuil de 1888 à 1891, selon le plan fixé par le Chapitre général de 1686 en huit volumes Pour la période allant de 1429 à 1454, l'on ne retrouva aucun manuscrit de D. Le Couteulx. Sans doute ces documents furent-ils détruits par un incendie à la maison mère. Par contre, de nombreuses notes du savant Chartreux subsistent pour les années allant de 1454 jusqu'en 1681. Mais l'Ordre en a, jusqu'à présent, différé la publication, soit qu'un travail de composition soit encore ici à effectuer, soit parce qu'il a jugé cette période trop récente pour pouvoir faire paraître ces textes." Mss.: Archives de la Grande Chartreuse.

St. Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster, Sussex, Angleterre: Ms. B.84: detailed analysis in James Hogg, *Die ältesten Consuetudines der Kartäuser*, AC 1 (1970), pp. 45-46, 49-68, - Collection of Carthusian legislative material.

Count Hubert Le Couteulx, Eure, France: Ms.: Remarks on the genealogy of the Le Couteulx family; portrait of Dom Le Couteulx as a Carthusian.

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Bernard Bligny, *Recueil des plus anciens actes de la Grande Chartreuse (1086-1196)*, Grenoble 1958, pp. XII-XIII.

[Maurice Laporte], *Aux Sources de la vie cartusienne*, t. 1: *Éclaircissements concernant la vie de Saint Bruno*, In *Domo Cartusiae* 1960, pp. 16, 94, 96, 104, 174, 210, 215, 310, 316, 322, 324, 325, 327, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 355, 420, 423.

[Maurice Laporte], *Aux Sources de la vie cartusienne*, t. 2: *Traits Fondamentaux de la Chartreuse*, In *Domo Cartusiae* 1960, pp. 17, 24, 27, 32, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 53, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 72, 73, 75, 76, 78, 81, 82, 84, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 119, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 144, 150, 151, 152, 182, 211, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 287, 288, 325, 340, 424, 458, 459, 485, 531.

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Jean Picard, "Grande Chartreuse", in Jean Picard, Karl Thir, Giovanni Leoncini and James Hogg, *La Grande Chartreuse, et les Chartreuses de Portes, Sélignac, et Pierre Chatel*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 61 (1986), pp. 32, 63.

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Adelindo Giuliani, *La Formazione dell'Identità Certosina (1084-1155)*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 155 (2002), particularly pp. 17-25.

Augustin Devaux, "Dom Charles Le Couteux - Notes Autobiographiques (Ms. Grande Chartreuse 1 Com. 42)", in Augustin Devaux, *Études et Documents pour l'Histoire des Chartreux*, AC 208 (2003), pp. 143-182, containing information on the charterhouse of Rouen and particularly on the prior's cell, but significantly no negative criticism of Dom Le Masson; (there is a reproduction of a manuscript page of the *Annales* on p. 142).

Augustin Devaux (ed.), *Dom Innocent Le Masson Général des Chartreux: Correspondance*, 4 vols., AC 206 (2003-2004), contains only two commissions to Dom Le Vasseur and the concession of a perpetual anniversary and Mass of Our Lady to Dom Le Couteux on his decease, dated 26 December 1694¹ (AC 206, Vol. 3, p. 212), and a fragment of a letter from Dom Le Couteux to Dom Innocent Le Masson, dating from the second half of 1698, concerning a commentary on the Statutes, which Dom Le Couteux was compiling.²

Augustin Devaux & Gabriel van Dijck, *Nouvelle Bibliographie cartusienne* (in the press 2004: "Prosper Chalaud", "Emmanuel Du Creux", "René-Marie Herbault", "Charles Le Couteux", "Innocent Le Masson", "Léon Le Vasseur").

James Hogg, "Historiographie des Kartäuserordens", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 215 (2004), pp. 5-30, particularly pp. 14-17.

DHGE XXI, 1107.

DIP II, 801.

TRE XVII, 672.

¹The text describes him as "hôte" at the Grande Chartreuse, though he was nominated prior of Rouen in late December 1694: Letter 976- "(26 décembre 1694) Lettres patentes à dom Charles Le Couteux, profès de Gaillon hôte à La Grande Chartreuse, lui accordant un anniversaire perpétuel et une messe de Beata dans tout l'ordre."

²AC 206, Vol. 3, pp. 300-302, Letter 1068: "Fragment de lettre de dom Charles Le Couteux (A la fin de ce brouillon, dom Le Couteux a collé un papillon de papier où il en indique l'histoire: "Le R. Pere ayant sceu que je travaillois quelquefois sur nos Statuts s'en alarma, s'imaginant que j'en faisois la critique en les comparant a nos statuts anciens. Il m'en escrivit et je luy envoyois la copie de cette feuille affin qu'il jugea si mon travail sortoit d'un esprit outré. Il me fit une response tres honneste dans laquelle il loue cet espece de commentaire. Et il me donna en mesme temps un monachat.")" - A substantial extract from the commentary in Latin follows.