

Jan DE GRAUWE et Francis TIMMERMANS, *Cartae Capitulorum Generalium (1689-1772) (Rijksarchief le Brugge)*. (Analecta cartusiana, 100:35). Salzbourg, Inst. für Anglistik u. Amerikanistik. Univ. Salzbourg, 2001. 30 x 21 cm, 256 p. € 40. ISBN 3-900033-13-7.

When the Editor of the Analecta Cartusiana launched the project for editing the Cartae of the Carthusian General Chapter in 1982, it was decided to concentrate on those manuscripts containing complete *carta*, as these would provide essential material for a future history of the Carthusian Order, whilst noting for future reference further manuscripts offering partial copies for the use of the individual Carthusian provinces. As the E. was by training a medieval historian, a start was made in endeavouring to reconstruct the *cartae* up to the Reformation. Over the decades considerable progress has been made, though gaps still exist, even in the medieval period. The distinguished Carthusian scholar J. D. G., author of numerous publications on the Carthusians in the Low Countries, discovered in the State Archives at Bruges several series of provincial *cartae* dating from the 17th and 18th c. Though in many cases the manuscript copies were damaged and often difficult to decipher, over the years from 1985 onwards he

has edited these collections in four volumes, presenting painstaking diplomatic editions, furnishing the *cartae* of the *Provincia Teutoniæ* for 1617-1621, 1623-1642, 1644-1645, 1649-1655, 1659-1662, 1664-1665, 1669-1670, 1673-1675, 1677, 1679, 1681-1682, 1689-1690, 1693-98, 1700-1702, 1724-1730, 1732-1733, 1735-1736, 1740-1742, 1758, 1760, 1762, 1765-1768, 1770-1772. For the volume under review, offering *cartae* from 1689 up to 1772, though there are substantial gaps in this collection, as in the preceding ones, J. D. G. has been aided in the editorial process by Fr. T., who has himself become an authority on the Carthusians in the Low Countries. The result is a substantial volume, elegantly presented, with brief notes to each *carta*, elucidating obscure points and offering references to relevant literature, particularly to their *Prosopographia Cartusiana Belgica Renovata* 1314-1796, published in the *Analecta Cartusiana* in 1999. In awaiting further progress on the *carta*-project in the Post-Reformation period, editions of such collections are invaluable, providing at least partial insight into the relations between the annual General Chapter, held at the Grande Chartreuse, and the Carthusian Province in question and furnishing also the annual necrology and suffrages for the whole Order. Unfortunately, few general ordinations are included, though rare cases underline specific abuses. The dispositions for the *Provincia Teutoniæ* are, however, given in full, revealing considerable movement of personnel, the punishment of occasional misfits, and rather frequent changes of the priors, suggesting that not all the superiors proved apt for their charge. The picture of life in the charterhouses in the Low Countries which emerges from these documents indicates, however, that, if the observance was no longer heroic, it seldom gave rise to harsh interventions on the part of the General Chapter. There are a few typographical errors, but these are in the main obvious and will not mislead the attentive reader. A list of those charterhouses appearing under the guise of the sometimes bizarre orthography of the local scribes would have aided those who are not Carthusian *periti*, but this is a minor blemish. The charterhouses can in any case be identified in the new *Monasticon Cartusiense* without too much difficulty. The EE. of this volume are to be felicitated on making such documents readily available in print.

James Hogg