

MANUSCRIPTS OR DOCUMENTS IN THE SMM ARCHIVES

The “*Oeuvres Complètes*” in French, published in 1966, does not contain the « *Livres des Sermons* », nor the « *Cahier de Notes* » which have more than 2000 pages. The Hymns (Cantiques) include 25,000 verses. The Writings that are proper to Montfort and that have reached us are:

1. « Cahier de Notes » (CN)
2. Book of Sermons (S)
3. One of the four volumes of the Hymns (H)
4. The True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin (TD)
5. The Original Rule of the Daughters of Wisdom (RW)
6. The Tryptich: The Prayer for Missionaries (PM), The Rule of the Missionary Priests of the Company of Mary (RM) and The Letter to the Members of the Company of Mary (LCM)

Then we have some manuscripts which are the copies of the original which we do not have in our possession. They are:

1. Love of Eternal Wisdom (LEW)
2. Secret of the Rosary (SR)
3. Secret of Mary (SM)

But all the same SR and one of the Volumes of the Hymns that we have, bear corrections or short passages from the pen of St. Louis de Montfort himself.

With regard to the Letters we have only three in our possession (11, 22, 23).

Some of his writings were published during his life-time. He himself has done it: two formulas of the "Covenant with God" (1709 and 1715); a collection of Hymns printed in 1711 at La Rochelle; in 1714 "The Letter to the Friends of the Cross" was published in Rennes. Unfortunately, until today we have no copies (specimen) of these.

THE MANUSCRIPTS PROPER:

1. Letters: 34 Personal Letters 2 Circular Letters (To the people of Montbernage and The Friends of the Cross). 12 addressed to the Family; 6 addressed to Leschassier; 10 Letters addressed to Daughters of Wisdom (3 ML; 3 ML & CATHERINE BRUNET; 2 ML & Com). 2 to the unknown Religious; 1 to the parish priest of Bréal, 1 to a priest by name Carrière, parish priest of Pontchâteau, 1 to the SG of the Dominicans and 1 to M.lle Dauvaise.

Letter 11, addressed to Fr. Leschassier was in possession of the Montfort Fathers in Holland but it is here now in SMM Curia.

Letter 22 addressed to the parish priest of Pontchâteau is in possession of the DW and Letter 23 written to the Superior General of the Dominicans is conserved in their Curia OP in Rome.

2. Book-Note (Cahier de Notes): has 314 pages of which 92 are blank. Montfort had it from the beginning of his Seminary days and so the hand-writing varies. We do not know who gave this title. Even if we want to find it out, unfortunately the first page was lost.

3. Book of Sermons (Livre des Sermons): After the discovery of the TD, this manuscript was found in 1842. 15th June of the same year, Bro. Augustine of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel presented to the Bishop of Luçon a book which he found in the library of the Brothers. It has 482 pages of which 70 are blank. It has three parts: the 1st Part 55 pages, the 2nd part 300 pages and the 3rd part 93.

4. Hymns (Cantiques): We have it in 4 manuscripts. These are the treasures that Montfort left with the Bishop of La Rochelle and Fr. R. Mulot for the use of his four brothers (cf. The Will of Montfort). Officially they are known as: *Cahier 2* (contains 35 Hymns written by Montfort); *Cahier Copie*

includes all that is contained in Cahier 2 and 20 more Hymns are added, and we note the correction made by Montfort himself. *Cahier 8* which contains 94 Hymns and the hand writing is of several persons. Bro. Mathurin is named several times. *Cahier 10* contains some new Hymns about 20, where we also note the hand-writing of Montfort.

5. Love of Eternal Wisdom: At first when the writings of Montfort were sent to Rome, this book along with that of the Secret of the Holy Rosary were bounded together. Only in 1957 this book received its separate autonomy after the research conducted by the Monks at Grottaferrata in Rome. The writing is not that of Montfort. The manuscript contains the writing of four persons: 1-134; 135-146; Index (148-149) is recognized as the hand-writing of Fr. C. Besnard and the 4th part has nothing to do with the work but stories of two saints: Theophil and Euphaemia which bear the hand-writing of Fr. R. Mulot. From research it becomes clear that the hand-writing contained in pages 135-146 is as same as that of the Secret of the Holy Rosary. This part also contains a small part written by the hand of Montfort himself. It is said to be the hand-writing of Fr. A. Vatel. The research done by Rocco Paceri in 1985 gave this text the autonomy that it belongs totally to Montfort, though the calligraphy is not his.

6. Secret of the Rosary: The work has 232 pages and the last 7 pages are blank. It was in 1985-1986 some research was made with regard to the manuscript and the copier. Pages 1-200 and 204-213 were written by the same one who copied the second part of the LEW (pages 135-146). The second copier of the Secret of the Rosary copied pages 201-203 and 215-224. This second writer is Fr. de Montfort, who also has made corrections on page 204-205. In SR we have pages 33-48 and 64-80 are missing. When was it written? If the major part of the hand-writing is that of Fr. Vatel, then it must have been written between 1715-1716, which were the years that Fr. Vatel spent time with Fr. Montfort.

7. Secret of Mary: This work reached us in two copies of the original manuscript: It starts like this: « *Copie d'un manuscrit que feu Monsieur de Montfort avait écrit de sa main et envoyé a une personne de piété sur l'esclavage de la Ste Vierge* ». The original title is taken from SM #20: "Blessed soul: Here is a secret". There are two copies. One is preserved at the DW. This hand-writing looks to be that of Fr. Vatel and the other which is preserved in the archives of SMM. This copy kept at SMM seem to have been copied by someone who was not familiar with French.

8. True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin: It was buried in the coffin according to the prophecy of Montfort himself in VD 114. It was found in the library of the SMM at St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre on 22 April 1842 by Fr. Rotureau while searching for material for preaching. During the French revolution the documents of the two communities were hidden in nearby farm houses. They were found later and this work reached us. As is said in LEW 203, the devotion to Mary is the marvelous means to obtain Wisdom. Fr. J. Dalin, S.G. of the SMM studied this manuscript attentively. In 1839 with the permission of Fr. Deshayes he published the Life of Montfort. In 1842 when he became the SG and in the same year on 10 May he has to give witness to the diocesan process of beatification of Montfort. Regarding the recently discovered manuscript he says: *A note book of around 160 pages having its object the true devotion to Mary and begin with these words: It is through the most BVM that he came into the world and the book ends with Justus ex fide vivit (The Just man lives by faith)*. We do not have a precise date: But probably in 1712. Already in 1843 the first publication was done by a priest of the seminary from the diocese of Luçon (the Bishop of Luçon Mons. Soyer gave his Imprimatur for its publication on 18 December 1842).

| 1. REFERENCE according to the study Center <i>Informatique et Bible</i> , Maredsous Abbey, Belgium | 2. MANUSCRIPTS OR DOCUMENTS in the SMM safe | 3. ARCHIVES. Cataloging according to SMM archives | 4. No. Numbering of each document in the safe |
|--|---|---|---|
| 3.1.1 | Notebook (Cahier de Notes). Very well restored. Original manuscript by Father de Montfort. | 2, 161 | 1 |
| 3.1.2 | Sermons. Very well restored. Original manuscript by Father de Montfort. | 2,162 | 2 |
| 3.1.3 | Canticles I. Very well restored. Original manuscript by Father de Montfort. | 2,164 | 3 |
| 3.1.4 | Canticles II. Very well restored. Original manuscript. | 2,164 | 4 |
| 3.1.5 | Canticles III. Very well restored. Original manuscript. | 2,164 | 5 |
| 3.1.6 | Canticles IV. Very well restored. Original manuscript. | 2,164 | 6 |
| 3.1.7 | TD. Very well restored. Original manuscript by Father de Montfort. | 2,167 | 7 |
| 3.1.8 | PM, RM, LCM. Very well restored. Original manuscript by Father de Montfort. | 3,169 | 8 |
| 3.2.1. | LEW. Very well restored. Manuscript copied from the original. | 2,165 | 9 |
| 3.2.2 | Secret of the Rosary. Very well restored. Manuscript copied from the original. | 2,163 | 10 |
| 3.2.3 | SM. Copied manuscript. | 2,166 | 11 |
| 3.3.1.1 | Small Manual of the Missionary of the Congregation of Mary, Poitiers, 1865, printed, 260 pages. | 2,164 | 12 |
| 3.3.1.2 | Rule of the Missionary Priests of the Company of Mary. Manuscript written by Father Audubon, 70 pages. | 3,169 | 13 |
| 3.3.1.3 | Parchment cover, accompanied by a photo of a manuscript. | | 14 |
| 3.3.1.4 | Memoirs of the Missions of 1824-1852. Original manuscript, 150 pages. | 23,15 | 15 |
| 3.3.2.1 | Instruction plans, manual by unknown author written by Father AUDUBON, 150 pages. | | 16 |
| 3.3.2.2 | SR. FLORENCE. Chronicles of Sr. Florence on the beginning of the Congregation, 1744-1761. Original manuscript, 168 pages. | 23, (29) | 17 |
| 3.3.3.1 | Disposition for Happy Death (HD). Restored and printed manuscript, 50 pages. | 3, 169 | 18 |
| 3.3.3.2 | MARCHAND. Manuscript of Rev. Father Marchand who died on May 1, 1852, 45 pages (Missions: 1824-1842). | | 19 |
| 3.3.3.3 | HACQUET: Memoir of the missions carried out by the missionaries of the community of St Laurent-sur-Sèvre. 1740-1779. | 23, 14 | 20 |

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| 3.3.3.4 | BESNARD. Report of what happened in the Missions that I attended, 1743-1750. Original manuscript. | 23, 13 | 21 |
| 3.3.3.5 | BLAIN. Summary of the life of L-M. G. de Montfort by Blain. Very well restored. Original manuscript, 255 pages. | 1, 122 | 22 |
| 3.3.3.6 | BLAIN. Manuscript by Blain, 1719. Unrestored copy, 359 pages. | 1, 122 | 23 |
| 3.3.3.7 | Act of the "Deposit of the Will of <i>Messire Louis-Marie de Montfort</i> Grignon, great missionary who died in the odor of sanctity. Will of Messire Louis-Marie de Montfort Grignon. | 3, 169 | 24 |
| 3.3.3.8 | Copies of the Letters of Father de Montfort (I) | 3, 169 | 25 |
| 3.3.3.9 | Copies of the Letters of Father de Montfort (II) | 3,169 | 26 |
| 3.3.3.10 | Various documents with the signature of Father de Montfort. | | 27 |
| 3.3.3.11 | Photocopy of the Baptismal Certificate of Louis Grignon. Photocopy of the Signature of Father de Montfort in the Mass register of the Church of St Blaise in Rome. | | 28 |
| 3.3.3.12 | Resignation as a Chaplain of St. <i>Julien de Concelle</i> by L. M. Grignon. Original manuscript by Father de Montfort. | | 29 |
| 3.3.3.13 | Panegyric on the Rev. Father Mulot (+1749). Original manuscript. | | 30 |
| 3.3.3.14 | Photocopy of letter 23 from Father de Montfort addressed to the Superior Generals of the Dominicans: Sallertaine, May (?), 1712, with a letter of recommendation from the Provincial Father OP, François le Compte. | | 31 |
| 3.3.3.15 | Photocopy of letter 22 from Father de Montfort (29 January 1711), the original of which is in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre, at the Sisters of Wisdom. | | 32 |