## Das vatikanische Antiphonale.

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Von P. Richael Bern O. 8. B.

Ea war am 23. Dezember 1912, als der hochwürdige Abt Dom J. Pothier, Präsident der Plästlichen Choralkommission und der eigentliche Bearbeiter der vatikanischen Ausgaben, in Begleitung seiner beiden Hauptimatreiter aus dem Benediktinerorden: Prior Andoyer von Ligugé und D. David, Redakteur der "Revue de chant greigerien" und Privatschretter Pothiers, eine Audeinz bei Seiner Heiligkeit Plus X. hatten, um demselben in offizieller Weise das soeben durch die Wiese das soeben durch die Wiese der Verlagen der Verlage

∜Es ist zum mindesten als eine Frivolität zu brandmarken, wenn jüngst ein deutscher chenmusikkritiker sich nicht schoute zu sagen, ₄daß es der göttlichen Vorsehung gefallen habe,

## **The Vatican Antiphonale** • by Fr. Michael Horn, O.S.B.

English translation courtesy of Mr. Patrick Williams

T WAS December 23, 1912, when the Rev. Abbot Dom J. Pothier, President of the Pontifical Chant Commission and the actual editor of the Vatican editions, accompanied by his two main collaborators from the Benedictine order, Prior Andoyer of Ligugé and D. David, editor of the Revue de chant gregorien and Pothier's private secretary, had an audience with His Holiness Pius X to deliver the completed Antiphonale from the Vatican press.

For about four years, the volume of the Antiphonale containing the chants for Lauds, all the little hours, and especially all Vespers for the whole church year, was awaited with longing. There are still many churches all over the world where Vespers and a few of the little hours are sung solemnly daily, or at least on certain days. And there are also many that have endeavored to fulfill the will of Rome expressed in the decrees of recent years. {See first footnote} The work was completed when the reform of the breviary and of the psalter became a reality. On the express desire of Pius X, who wanted a uniform chant reform in all pieces, as a result of the changes in the text, it was often necessary for changes of the melody to be made; in other words, the finished work was partly in vain and had to start all over again. This explains the delay in the appearance of the Antiphonale.

The title of the work is thus not Vesperale, but Antiphonale pro diurnis horis, i.e., the collection of all antiphons, hymns, verses, etc., which occur day after day in the Office of the whole church year, except for the night office or Matins. The volume that contains the chants of Matins, i.e., all the invitatories, hymns, and responsories of Matins, shall appear later.

In comparison to the Graduale, one key difference is that the Antiphonale contains not only all of the chants for the choir but also those of the celebrant, i.e., the little chapters and the orations, so that the officiant does not need to have any other book at hand.

The arrangement of the work is exactly the same as in the *Diurnale romanum*; it thus follows the *Ordinarium de Tempore*, the Proprium de Tempore, the Proprium Sanctorum, the Commune Sanctorum, etc. The first part, the Ordinarium de Tempore in particular, has undergone a complete makeover, since only a small fraction of the antiphons could be taken from the previous Antiphonale, and since most of the melodies either had to be newly composed or else adapted according to the new texts. In the Antiphonale already printed, this part had 128 pages, but after the revision following the breviary reform, 183. The difference is explained by the fact that, in the new psalter, a much greater variety prevails in the psalms, and respectively in the corresponding antiphons.

In the Proprium de Tempore, it should be mentioned that Vespers on Holy Thursday and Good Friday is provided with melodies, although generally, in all churches on these days, Vespers is recited plainly. In a note, it is specifically stated that this has happened *ne cantus pereat*, which means that the existing melodies are not lost and thus the melodies are at hand for any circumstances. In the Officium majoris hebdomadae in preparation, however, the melodies will be left out.

The chants for the votive offices are no longer included, since these offices have disappeared in the new breviary order. In contrast, the festa per aliquibus locis have remained, although the chants for them are needed only in a few churches and the Sunday offices are now preferred.

The *Toni communes* are a reprint of the one that appeared in the 1911 *Cantorinus*, which was reissued in 1912. A short appendix features two Te Deums, the first of which is the first in the Gradual. The second is a so-called modus simplexshortened melody—very desirable and useful precisely because of that. With the more romano placed second in the Graduale (also included in the Medicaean edition), we therefore have three official chant melodies for the Te Deum.

<sup>(1)</sup> It is at least to be denounced as a frivolity that a German church music critic did not hesitate to say recently "that divine providence was pleased 'to assist the true chant to its rights,' at least insofar as it is reprinted and also sung in some places." The latter is a direct untruth. Let the publishers Desclée, Schwann, Pustet, just to name a few of the best known, tell him how many 100,000 copies of the Graduale in all forms are already in circulation. And it will soon be the same with the Antiphonale.

der einigermaßen über die schweirigen Probleme, die sich hier insbesondere für die Melodien der Tageszeiten darbieten, unterrichtet ist, wird staunen, daß in verhältnismäßig kurzer Zeit ein so großes Werk in so glücklicher Weise vollendet werden konnt.

Es ist aligemein bekannt, daß die ältesten Handschriften nicht vor das 9, und 10, Jahrhundertz zurückreichen, wenn auch die aus diesen Zeiten stammenden Dokumente eine etwa drei Jahrhunderte filtere Tradition darstellen. Wie Zeit der größen Reife, der vollständigen Entwicklung, aus der klassischen Choralzeit, aus einer Zeit, wo man noch nicht begonnen hatte, Abänderungen und systematische sogenannte "Verbesserungen" anzubringen. Um dies an einem frappanten Beispiele zu erläutern, genügt es, auf das him dritten und auch achten Kirchentone hinzuweisen, das in früherer Zeit so vorherrschend war. Bald gewann aber das uf oder c., als ein melodisch viel klarerer und sicherer Stützpunkt, die Oberhand, nicht als beliebige Abänderung, sondern infoge einer gewissen natürlichen, fachgemäßen und folgerichtigen Entwicklung, wenn sich auch an anderen Stellen das A noch erhalten hat. Es war num die heilt, große choralistische Erfahrung voraussetzende Anfaghe der Bearbeiter des neuen Antiphonale, in gewordenen Auftrages, die legitime Überlieferung der Jahrhunderte" bedeutet.

Als Grundlage für alle vergleichenden Studien und für die Neuredaktion hat das berühmte Antiphonale von Hartiker (St. Gallen) gedient, dem allgemein eine hervorragende Bedeutung beigemessen wird. Daneben wurden die besten itälienischen, französischen und auch auch autitanischen Zeugnisse verwendet sowie ebensozahlreiche Handschriften aus den Bibliotheken der Schwetz, Belgiens, Spaniens herbeigezogen wurden. Auch die Bücher der zentralisierten Orden der Kartäuser, Zunt Hand, sondern die früheren Biehere. Ebenso bei den Zieterziensern. Eine besondere Bereicherung erfuhr der Schatz der Hymnen nicht blöß durch Einführung vieler neuer Melodien erhielten. So zum Beispiel hat der marianische Hymnus, Ave maris sei

1) Es ist schade, daß den Nachdrucken des römischen Originals, zum Beispiel in der schönen Ausgabe von F. Pustet, die alte Hymnusversion nicht beigegeben wurde.

A final appendix of 48 pages contains the hymns with their powerful and expressive old texts, such as found in use to this day in the Vatican Basilica (St. Peter's Church in Rome) and in the monastic breviary of the Benedictines and their offshoots. There seems to have been the intention to include them ad libitum in the corpus libri on an equal footing with the texts reformed under Urban VIII, but they finally had to be content with a modest place as an appendix. [See second footnote] The added rubric in interesting: in gratiam eorum qui talibus Hymnis de jure vel ex consuetudine aut indulto uti possunt ["for those who can use such hymns by right, custom, or exemption."] The possibility of reintroducing the hymns to general use is not entirely out of the question.

The original Roman edition comprises 1,164 pages compared to 940 of the Liber Gradualis. Despite this, the volume is elegant and light due because of the very thin but good paper, while the original edition of the Gradual is cumbersome and impractical. The allotted space prevents us from going into the content on the musical side. Let it only be noted about the splendid melodies of the *Benedicamus*, the hymns and unique new psalm forms such as the Tonus diurnus for the little hours of Easter.

Another word about the methodology followed during the production, in particular about the guidelines observed when using the oldest manuscripts, of the historical monuments of the classical chants of the past: everyone that is aware of the difficult problems that arise here, in particular concerning the melodies of the day hours, will be amazed that such a great work could be completed in such a successful way in a relatively short time.

It is well known that the oldest manuscripts do not predate the ninth and tenth centuries, although the documents dating from those times represent a tradition that is about three centuries older. As for the melodies of the present Antiphonale, they come from the time of the greatest maturity, of complete development, from the classical chant period, from a time when alterations and systematic so-called improvements had not yet begun to be applied. To illustrate a striking example, it is sufficient to refer to the B in the third and eighth modes, which was so prevalent in former times. But soon the C, as a melodically much clearer and more secure point of support, gained the upper hand, not as an arbitrary change, but as a result of a certain natural, competent, and logical development, even though the B was also preserved in other places. It was now the delicate task of the arrangers of the new Antiphonale, which required great chant experience, to find the right means after right consideration of all the relevant factors, in order to produce a reading that, in the sense of the task assigned by the Holy See, represented "the legitimate tradition of the centuries."

The famous Antiphonale by Hartker (Saint Gallen), which is generally considered to be of outstanding importance, served as the basis for all comparative studies and for the new edition. In addition, the best Italian, French and Aquitanian documents were used, and numerous manuscripts were drawn from the libraries of Switzerland, Belgium, and Spain. The books of the centralized orders of Carthusians, Cistercians, Premonstratensians, Dominicans were also consulted. Naturally, the so-called typical "improvement" of the Dominicans was not taken up, but the earlier books. Likewise with the Cistercians. The manuscripts of Central Italy received special research because of their specific importance. These include the Tuscan documents (specifically the Lucca manuscript), those of Benevento, and those of Monte Cassino, which are particularly valuable.

The treasury of hymns was particularly enriched not only by the introduction of many new melodies, but also by the fact that hymns that appeared more frequently were given several melodies. For example, the Marian hymn Ave maris stella has no fewer than five different chants. The same consideration for the most possible variety had also guided the chant commission in the inclusion of many chants in the Ordinarium Missae des Graduale.

As a supplement to the Antiphonale will follow the Officium defunctorum, which, although it has been in the book trade for a long time, has to be adapted to the new breviary order. In the future will appear the aforementioned Officium majoris hebdomadae (Holy Week), the detailed Christmas Office and finally the Matutinale or Responsoriale.

<sup>(2)</sup> It is a pity that in the reprints of the Roman original, for example, in the beautiful edition by F. Pustet, the old hymn versions were not included.