

I WORKED HARD at this: the normal thing that you do if you are a scholar. That is to say, you get to work and examine how musicians in the past have treated texts and, for what concerned us, to see how composers of the genius of Byrd and Tallis tackled English texts once the Anglican vernacular Liturgy was born. I studied the matter historically from the beginning until the present. I wrote about this in the book Geoffrey Chapman asked me to write. I was concerned to study cadence in the English language. People are finally beginning to discover that you can't just waffle on in English and expect to have cadence or a singable phrase.

I went through the whole of the Psalter in English as it was at that time, the modified Coverdale translation, and I discovered that in over 75 per cent of cases the final cadence of each sentence was *iambic*. That is to say the last syllable was accented. This gave clear pointers as to how translation should be done, as it was obvious that here one was confronted with the normal pattern of English speech. **I was fortunate at the same time to discover a new translation of the psalms done by an American Jesuit, Father Kleist.** This was like a red rag to a bull to the English, but he had in fact a genius for translating. He had translated the whole psalter in iambics and it read beautifully. It was this translation which we used in the first English version of the Holy Week services in Australia in 1964. The translation adapted itself perfectly to the eight tones of plain chant. It was a Godsend.



ITS EDITORS LEFT NO STONE unturned in their quest for the best versions of these ancient Catholic hymns, combing through centuries of English translations from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the process, they have revealed much little-known material, and some that is published in a hymnal for the first time. [They] navigate this difficult terrain with assurance; indeed, the editors' explanation of the Urbanite reform and its impact on English translators is a model of clarity, and contains information this reviewer has not encountered elsewhere.

—Dr. Aaron James: 2019 review of the *Brébeuf Catholic Hymnal* in the *Journal of the Society for Catholic Liturgy* • <https://ocwatershed.org/hymn/>