

Msgr. Bressan seems preoccupied with the workings of our Commission. He has assured me that the Holy Father read the letter I sent him from Luxembourg. I conclude from this that the order not to publish the Preface was a consequence of that letter . . .

It seems the Preface was originally to appear in the 1905 Kyriale.

The Preface, which was prepared by Wagner,²³⁴ runs three printed pages in length. Of particular interest is the following remark:

Now that the previous error has been overcome, because of which, indeed, the ancient musical monuments of our fathers were consigned to oblivion or held in contempt, we must take care not to err in the opposite extreme, we should be more balanced and less meticulous in investigating the more ancient manuscripts.

Dom Pierre Combe seems to be mistaken; this paragraph does not appear in the Preface to the Vatican Edition. Perhaps an earlier draft?

This was, in fact, a recalling of the painful quarrels of the previous months, all the more so in that the text dwells, at other places, on subsequent tradition:

With regard to what is called the Gregorian tradition, it is not right to compress it within the limits of some number of years, nor to consider it as the work of some individual author, seeing that it embraces all centuries which, indeed, cultivated the Gregorian art with greater or lesser zeal and success.

Msgr. Respighi, for his part, kept Dom Mocquereau up to date on everything. He, too, was thoroughly exhausted. He no longer went to the Vatican, and he did not go to Strasbourg (August 1 to Dom Mocquereau). He approved of Dom Mocquereau's attitude. He said that if,

The "Gradual" would not appear until 1908...

²³⁴. "Father de Santi has instructed me to tell you that the author of the famous Preface of the *Gradual* is the very learned Doctor Wagner." Bas to Dom Mocquereau, October 28, 1905.

By the end of 1912, Dom Pothier had finished editing the Vatican *Antiphonal*, which he dedicated to the Pope on December 23 (letter from Father Franck, December 22, 1912). The book was published without a preface. The preface that had been prepared for it was rejected at the last minute (Father Franck, December 22; Father Haegy, December 29; cf. de Santi, November 20, 1912).^{250bis} It was introduced by a decree that

^{250bis}. "It is certain that D. P. did not manage to have adopted either his preface or the decree that he prepared for the new *Antiphonary*" (de Santi, November 20, 1912).