

a PHILIPPO DE HARVENGT in Commentario suo in *Canticum* effertur. Audiamus ipsum Philippum scribentem: « Denique ipsa est quae invenitur Christo sic subesse, ut non sit dubium reliquo eam corpori superesse; et ipsa inter caput et corpus videtur locum medium obtinere, nec ad Sponsum filii Sponsi possunt nisi Matre media pertinere. Praesente ipsa nobis Sponsa, bonum est adhaerere; absente vero, non possunt membra capiti cohaerere; nobis longe infra positis, per ipsam Dei Filius condescendit, ad quem nisi per ipsam nostra infirmitas non ascendit. Ipsa prior, ipse felicius accipit grande munus, per quod multi et diversi facti sunt velut unus; per quod duo parietes una fide, uno baptismo sunt uniti, et ad Christum concurrentes, ei personaliter cointuiti. Ipsa denique Sponso et Filio, interventu medio, nos commendat; Sponsi mater et ancilla, nostra omnium imperatrix, disjunctos jungit, junctos retinet, potens et efficax Mediatrix... Collum bonum, bona interventio, bona denique mediatrix, quae jungit quod disjunxerat Eva noxia separatrix » (In Cant. II, 6).

Notemus tandem ADAMUM SCOTUM in sermone I in Nativitate B. Mariae (Paris, Mazarine, 1003, fol. 131 r^o et v^o) (ita Barré, l. c., pag. 142) jam proponere interpretationem mariologicam textus notissimi Gen. 3, 14 s.: « Inimicitias ponam inter te et mulierem... ».

J. B. VALVEKENS, O. Praem.

The Conte del Graal and the Praemonstratensian Order ?

In conjunction with the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association of America, held December 27-29 at the Hotel Statler in New York City, N. Y., a special session was arranged by Professor Urban T. Holmes Jr. of the University of North Carolina for the presentation of a paper on Chrétien de Troyes *Conte del Graal* by John F. Mahony, Instructor of Latin at Duke University, Part-Time Instructor of English at the University of North Carolina, and doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina. The following scholars were in attendance: Helen Adolph, Grace Franck, Albert Minut, Lawton P. G. Peckham, Edwin D. Cuffe, S. J., Sister M. Amelia, O. P., Wm. S. Woods, Alexander Schutz, Canon Astrik Gabriel, Helmut Hatzfeld, and Julian Harris. The paper presented represented the results of partial investigations on a project of examining historical references of Chretien's poem. An abstract of the paper follows.

Certain evidence gatherable from the *Conte del Graal* indicates that the Praemonstratensian Order in the 12th century may have been in some way influential on the writing of the poem and of considerable importance in its interpretation. The Judaeo-Christian Interpretation of the *Graal* forwarded by U. T. Holmes in 1948¹⁾ has suggested that the poem had a distinctly religious purpose, namely unification of Church and synagogue. Recent investigation on my part tends to support two of the premises on which a stronger Judaeo-Christian interpretation could be based. These are the existence historically of the use of the name « Chrétien » as baptismal name for a converted Jew, and wide prevalence of the name in religious circles. Contrary to some opinion, the name seems not generally uncommon, nor indeed common, but rather peculiar to religious. Evidence has been found to suggest a potential connection between the name and the Praemonstratensian Order. Moreover, documents have been found to at least suggest an identification of the *Belrepaire*²⁾ of the poem with a Praemonstratensian Abbey, and the battle surrounding that place in the poem with a civil uprising in Liege in 1181. Indeed, the entire city of Liege seems to possess potential connection with the poem in the political and religious orders.

The connection between the poet and the Praemonstratensian Order is established through the service of Phillip of Harveng as counsellor to both of Chretien's patrons, Phillip of Flanders and Henry of Champagne, through the interest the 12th century Praemonstratensians showed in conversion of the Jews, and through analogous referenes in the writings of various canons which call the *Graal* to mind.

The proposed research to complete the investigation of these matters and documentation of the emerging conclusions constitutes the doctoral dissertation of Mr. John F. Mahoney. Material is available to do this, and the project should be finished by August of 1956. The partial conclusions reached as of this writing unquestionably indicate confirmation of at least the principal elements of the Judaeo-Christian Theory.

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¹⁾ Urban T. Holmes Jr., *A New Interpretation of Chretien's Conte del Graal*. University of North Carolina Studies in Romance Languages and Literatures, Number Eight, Chapel Hill, 1948.

²⁾ Bellus Redisus = Beaurepart (Liege).