

Voici les notices biographiques consacrées à Van Postel par le *Catalogus fratrum Averbodiensium* ¹⁶⁾.

Henricus Balthasar filius legitimus Balthasaris Van Postel et Mariae Abigaelis Van Beethoven, baptisatus Antverpiae in ecclesia parochiali S. Georgij 7 januarij 1741. Susceperunt Henricus Alardus Van Beethoven ¹⁷⁾ et Anna Isabella Van Postel. Vestitus 14 decembris 1760, vocatus Fr. Joannes Chrisosthomus. Professus 12 decembris 1762 ; 24 sept. 1763 ordinatus subdiaconus Antverpiae ab illustrissimo Domino Episcopo van Gameren ; 17 martij 1764 ordinatus diaconus Leodij ab illustrissimo Domino Suffraganeo de Gradij ; 2 martij 1765 ordinatus sacerdos Leodij a Principe celsissimo Carolo d'Oultremont et constitutus eodem mense succentor ; 18 augusti discessit ad assistentiam Domini Pastoris in Rummen 1766. Circa finem septembris 1768 abiit ad assistentiam R. D. Pastoris de Cosen ; 4 maij missus 1777 ad vicepastoratum Venlonensem ; fit pastor Venlonae 9 bris 1788 ; obiit 4 junii 1800.

Trudo GERITS, O. Praem.

Masterpieces of Ecclesiastic Architecture in Austria. Bundesministerium für Handel und Wiederaufbau, Österreichische Fremdenverkehrswerbung. 22 pp., Illustrated, 1960.

The Austrian Federal Government has in the year of 1960 published *Masterpieces of Ecclesiastic Architecture in Austria*. Printed in English, this brochure is distributed by the Austrian State Tourist Department with offices in major cities of the United States.

The cover portrays the beautiful baroque gem of Stift Melk, a famous Benedictine Abbey. The prologue introduces the reader to Austria and its position as a « bastion of Christian civilization ». It is well edited containing pictures and brief historical and descriptive accounts of thirty-nine places of Catholic worship and pilgrimage in Austria.

As the second subject of their brochure, the editors list the Wilten Monastery (Abbey) in Innsbruck. This Norbertine Abbey,

¹⁶⁾ AAA., I, Reg. 105, fol. 268 v^o et 269 r^o.

¹⁷⁾ Henri Adélaide Van Beethoven fut le grand-père maternel de J. C. Van Postel. Voir : A. MALCORPS, *art. cit.*, p. 124.

which was seriously damaged in the last war, is described in two paragraphs.

« The Premonstratensian monastery of Wilten at the foot of Berg Isel is one of the most important works of ecclesiastical architecture in the Tyrolean capital. It stands on the site of the Roman Veldidena. The first documentary mention, dated 1138, is the summons issued by Bishop Reginbert of Brixen calling the Premonstratensians hither. We know for certain, though, that a convent of regular canons had been established here still earlier, possibly in the 8th century. In 1201 the consecration took place and the church was dedicated to St. Laurence. This church was, however, almost completely destroyed in 1644 when its tower collapsed. Between 1651 and 1656, a new building was erected in the prevailing style of the age by Christopher Gump, builder of the imperial court. In 1716 Georg Anton Gump erected the high Baroque porch in front of the early Baroque facade. Only one of the two facade towers which were planned was actually completed (1667). Next to the portal there are niches with the statues of the two giants Haymon and Thyrsus mentioned in the legend of the monastery's foundation.

« Through a narrow transom, closed by an ornamental grille containing the wooden figure of the giant Haymon (c. 1500), we enter the wide barrel vaulted interior of the church whose vault is divided into four, by binding arches. The two-arched choir is hardly narrower at all than the main aisle and is closed by a flat wall. Along the side walls there are barrel — vaulted side — chapels. The impressive stuccos are the work of Bernardo Pasquale (1702-1703), the ceiling frescoes were painted (1702-1707) by Kaspar Waldmann. The end of the church is taken up by a magnificent high altar, the work of Paul Huber (1665), which has a painting by Egid Schor (1671). Above the high altar Hans Egid Schor's 'The Throne of Solomon' surmounts twelve stumps with reclining lions. In the last side-chapel to the right of the main aisle there is a splendid Gothic crucifix (c. 1510). The other side-chapels date from 1670-1710. The cloisters have Gothic remnants. The monastery also possesses valuable panel paintings, including a 'Nativity' ».

This publication contains another Norbertine Church — The Karlskirche in Vienna. Originally entrusted to the Military Order of the Red Star Crucifers, an ancient Order founded in Bohemia; the Karlskirche is now a parish administered by the Premonstratensians of Geras Abbey.

« During the plague of 1713, Emperor Karl VI vowed to build a church in honour of St. Charles Borromeo after the extinction of what he called the 'pestilent contagion'... Fischer von Erlach himself at first supervised construction (1716-1722). When he then fell seriously ill his place was taken by his son Joseph Emmanuel. After the elder Fischer's death in 1723, the emperor entrusted the son with completing the task, and this the latter did 1724-1739. Seldom has a building been conceived with such consistency... ».

A multi-colored map of Austria in the center of the brochure and a comprehensive list of places of Catholic worship in Austria on the last page complete this excellent work.

Wenceslas CENEFELDT, O. Praem.