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### 12. Editions and studies of the Commentary on the Gospel of St. John

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## *Editions and studies of the Commentary on the Gospel of St. John*

### **The Text**

Two editions were made of Libermann's *Commentary on St. John*:

**The first** was produced at the Mission of Saint Joseph of Ngazobil (Senegal) in 1872 with the imprimatur of Mgr. Kobès and a circular from the Superior General, Ignatius Schwindenhammer, recommending it to the members of the Congregation: "*There were fears that our holy founder had destroyed it at one time or another. So one day, having discovered it amongst his papers at La Neuville, I quickly took it and with great care put it in a safe place. I knew that the day would come when our confreres would be delighted to have it*"

**The second** edition was published at Saint-Michel en Priziac, near Langonnet in France (*N.D. II. pp.229-230.*) Drawn up in French, it is now out of stock.

One of the first jobs of the "Spiritan Centre" in Rome was to produce, as soon as possible, a critical edition acceptable to the University at the time the young students needed it for Masters degrees and Doctorates in religious sciences.

A new edition was produced by Fr Joseph Lécuyer and Fr Amedeo Martins with help from Fr Roger Le Déaut. Having a scientific purpose, they worked from the original text of Libermann. Several slight errors appeared which did not escape the eagle eye of Fr Bernard Noel, archivist at Chevilly. Being accustomed to the poor handwriting, he worked straight from the handwritten text of Libermann. Thus a definitive text which was published for the general public by *Nouvelle Cite Press, Paris* appeared in 1988. Fr

Myles Fay, of the Irish Province, translated this new French Text into English.

## Works on the Commentary

Fr Roger Le Deaut, CSSp, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Biblical Institute in Rome and member of the Committee for Judaeo-Christian Friendship, wrote a reflection on the importance of Spiritans getting to know more about Judaism.

Fr Claude Tassin, CSSp, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Institut Catholique at Paris, shows us how Libermann approached the Bible.

Fr Michael Cahill, CSSp, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Major Seminary in Liberia, author of a doctoral thesis in Theological Science presented to the Institut Catholique de Paris in December 1985, entitled: "*Research into the rabbinical influences and the influence of the Ecole Francaise in the Commentary on St John*", makes clear what we can expect realistically from the *Commentary*.

Fr Felix Gils, CSSp, professor of Sacred Scripture in our Indian Ocean Foundation, has paid particular attention to "*The Wedding Feast at Cana*", and shares his discoveries, thus offering both a method and a key to reading the *Commentary*.

Fr Felix Porsch, CSSp, Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Centre of Philosophy-Theology (SVD) of St Augustin (Germany) made a detailed analysis of Chapter X of the *Commentary*, on the Good Shepherd.

Fr. James Okoye, CSSp, made a commentary on Libermann's reflections on the "Call of the Disciples" in the first Chapter while he was Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Catholic Institute of West Africa (CIWA) in Nigeria.