

Confalonieri, Giovanni Aloisio, 1600-1653.

De fide, spe et charitate disputationes theologiae dictatae a R^{do} Patre
Aloysio Confaloniero, S.I., SS. theologia professore ordinario. Suscepte a
me Jacobo Lang, Friburgensi, Collegii Helvetici alumno, 1647.
BT770.C75. MS 148.

Italy (in Latin).

1647.

At the end of the 19th century this codex lay in the library of the Jesuit house at Lyons in France, and the title page bears a stamped seal with the inscription "DOMUS LUGDUNIENSIS SOC. JESU." The work is listed in the invaluable Bibliothèque de la Compagnie de Jésus, ed. Carlos Sommervogel, II (Brussels/Paris, 1891), cols. 1367-8, which also lists one or two other short works by Confalonieri, and furnishes some brief biographical notes about the author.

The Bibliothèque declares that Confalonieri was born in Milan, joined the Jesuit Order as a novice in 1615, became professor of philosophy at Jesuit academies in Perugia and Rome, and eventually taught at the Jesuit school in Milan, where he began as professor of philosophy, then became professor of theology, and then rose to the positions of prefect of studies and rector of the academy. He eventually became vice provincial of the Jesuit province of Milan, and finally was called to Rome by the father general to serve as his Assistant for Italy. He died in Rome on 22 January 1653.

This unpublished MS consists of Confalonieri's lectures on faith, hope, and charity, probably delivered at Milan during 1647, and taken down, polished, and drafted in the form of a book by a student, one Jakob Lang of Fribourg, Switzerland, who calls himself a student of the "Swiss College." The work is divided into three parts - on faith, hope, and charity, the cardinal virtues - but, as one would expect, the discussion on faith occupies 70 percent of the space. The divisions run as follows:

Book I.	Disputatio I ^a de Fide	pp. 1-316.
	Quaestio prima de obiectio fidei	pp. 2-103.
	Quaestio II ^a de actu fidei	pp. 103-222.
	Quaestio III ^a de habitu fidei	pp. 222-266.
	Quaestio IV de pertinentibus ad fidem	pp. 266-316.
Book II.	Disputatio II ^a de Spe	pp. 317-371.
	Quaestio unica de natura spei	pp. 317-371.
Book III.	Disputatio III ^a de charitate	pp. 372-440.
	Quaestio I ^a de natura charitatis	pp. 372-409.
	Quaestio II ^a de habitu charitatis	pp. 410-440.

In general conception and argument the work is heavily dependent on the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Confalonieri never published anything of importance. The Jesuit bibliography lists two short tracts by him: De S. Spiritus Adventu oratio ad S.D.N. Urbanum VIII (12 p.; Rome, 1628); and "Oratio de passione Domini, habita coram Urbano VIII, anno 1636," in Orationes quinquaginta de Christi Domini morte (Rome, 1641). Jakob Lang, the student who drafted the MS, does not seem to have published anything. He may not have become a Jesuit himself, since he appears to have left no discernable trace in the printed records of the Society of Jesus.

It is not clear how the Jesuit house in Lyons acquired this MS. The MS probably passed into the book trade after the break-up of Jesuit properties in France following the passage of the "Association Laws" of 1901-1902.

4°, 20 x 15 cm.

440 numbered pages, or 227 leaves in all, including blanks.

Contemporary vellum binding.

A fair copy in a single hand, probably Lang's, impatiently written, particularly near the end, where the hand degenerated into a scrawl. Numerous marginal notes in the same hand, with later notes in other hands. Signed "Jacobus Lang . . . 1650" on the flyleaf. Fully paginated, with a table of contents. There is a curious break in the text between pp. 403 and 407.

Purchased 1930.

T. B. Duncan
12 July 1967