

BOOK REVIEW

Audemaert, W. [et al.] *Clavis foliorum periodicorum theologicorum: Benelux*. Leuven: Bibliotheek van de Faculteit Godgeleerdheid van de K.U. Leuven, 1994. (Instrumenta theologica; 13). liv, 439 p. ISBN 90-73683-13-0; BEF 1800.-

Among labours of love this must surely be a prizewinner! Being the first of a genre with unpublished French and German antecedents, it realises the ultimate in the bibliographical description of some 222 Dutch, French and German religious periodicals published in the Benelux countries. While the introduction and user's guide are in English, French and Dutch, the description is in the principal language of the journal described. Minute details about issue, numbering, editors, publishers, printers, indexes, editorial policy, contents and a bibliography for further research provide a fine cameo about each title.

What concerns me about such a major undertaking is its usefulness and whether all this information about the history of theology in a certain geographical area will be found by the researcher under some generic heading in our catalogues. As journals are often the mouthpiece of organizations or institutions they can throw unusual light on the working of such bodies but who will find the bibliographical references garnered in this volume here?

This type of work is the end product of endless discussions by theological library associations in Europe and shows our continental colleagues as scholarly rather than practical. English-speaking librarians seem to put their priorities rather into the compilation of bibliographies, indexes and union lists, and while they attract less kudos than keys and inventories of this type, their usefulness bears little comparison. Nevertheless some scholars will find this a goldmine and publications of this type are certainly a help in the provision of accurate data for union lists.

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