

A Brief Overview of the Sermons' Manuscripts¹

The following information is intended as a brief overview for those interested in a highly condensed summary of the more important manuscripts. The largest collection of sermons was edited by Jacques-Paul Migne (1800-1875) and is found in volumes 38 and 39 (published in 1861) of the Latin section of *Patrologiae cursus completus*, commonly referred to as PL. Two authentic sermons (S. 395 and 396), later identified by the Maurists, are found in volume 46 along with 25 *Sermones* (23 of which are recognized as authentic) identified by Denis in 1792. Frangipane identified a further ten, four of which had previously been identified by the Maurists. Volume 47 of PL contains an overview of the *Sermones Caillu et Saint-Yves*, which resulted in an additional seven sermons being accepted as authentic. A detailed listing of all the significant manuscripts which contain authentic sermons of Augustine is found in Drobner's critical work, *Augustinus von Hippo: Sermones ad Populum*.

The most important manuscript discoveries of the twentieth century include the *Codex Guelferbytani* in 1917, edited by the Benedictine Morin, which brought to light an additional 34 sermons previously unknown; the *Codex Wilmart* (1921-1930), which published 21 new pieces, including one later deemed in-authentic and five which were found in better condition than the earlier Maurist edition; the *Codex Lambot* elaborated by Dom Cyrille Lambot added another 29 sermons, including five better versions than found in the Maurist edition as well as seven fragments. Specific mention should be made here of the important work of Adalbert Hamman, who edited the *Patrologia Latina Supplementum* (1958-1974), resulting in five supplemental volumes containing all of the newly discovered Latin texts and critical editions previously unpublished. The second of these five volumes contains the sermons which Migne had not included in PL 46: Callau et Saint-Yves, *Casinensis*, *Guelferbyanti*, Lambot, Liverani, Mai, Morin and Wilmart.

Pierre-Patrick Verbraken organized all of the previously known fragments of Augustine's preaching which had been lost over the centuries into one edition, providing a detailed analysis of dating and a history of the manuscript tradition. As new discoveries were made and published they were either identified by the scholar's name associated with the discovery (e.g. Sermon Lambot 10) or by the manuscript collection to which they belonged (e.g. Guelferbytanus 1). The present system of numbering the sermons is owed to Verbraken, who decided to incorporate the more recent manuscripts, named either for the discoverer or the collection, into the previous system of numbering adopted by the Maurists, by adding a letter to the number. Thus, Sermon Guelferbytanus 1 is now identified as Sermon 213 while Guelferbytanus 2 is now designated Sermon 218/B.

¹ Taken from the Appendix found in *Essential Sermons*, introduction and notes by Daniel E. Doyle, O.S.A., translation by Edmund Hill, O.P., editor, Boniface Ramsey; New City Press, 2007.

In summary, to the Maurists' claim of 396 sermons as genuinely authentic must be added an additional 175 sermons or fragments of sermons that scholars have identified as genuinely attributable to Augustine. The most recent discovery of sermons was made by François Dolbeau in 1990, who luckily came across 26 long-lost sermons from a 15th century Carthusian manuscript now preserved at a library in Mainz.² By far the most complete and accessible collection in Latin continues to be found in PL or the series *Corpus Christianorum*; the more recent work of Lambot and Verbraken was often published in *Revue Bénédictine*. A convenient table of the collections and the Latin editions is found in Fitzgerald's *Augustine through the Ages*, along with an excellent overview of the Sermons in Augustine's corpus.³

² See François Dolbeau, *Vingt-six sermons au peuple d'Afrique* (Paris: Institut d'Études Augustiniennes, 1996) and the important collection of essays on the significance of the Dolbeau discovery in *Augustin prédicateur* (395-411). Actes du Colloque International de Chantilly (5-7 septembre 1966), édités par Goulven Madec (Paris: Études Augustiniennes, 1998). A convenient summary of the most important findings of this discovery is found in Henry Chadwick, "The New Sermons of St. Augustine," *Journal of Theological Studies* 47 (1996) 69-91.

³ See Éric Rebillard, "Sermones," *Augustine through the Ages: An Encyclopedia*, ed. by Allan D. Fitzgerald (Grand Rapids : William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999) 773-792.