

FOLLOW-UP ON THE McGLYNN SYMPOSIUM

On November 5 the Henry George Institute sponsored a Symposium on Dr. Edward McGlynn, American priest and follower of Henry George, reported in the last issue of the Georgist Journal. The following communication has been received:

From DR. C. JOSEPH NUESSE (Provost Emeritus, Catholic University of America)

I wish to make a correction and clarification concerning my remarks at the McGlynn Symposium as reported in the Georgist Journal. In this report it was stated that the two copies of Henry George's Open Letter to Pope Leo XIII in the Vatican Library are "apparently unread." It is of the copy of the Italian edition in the Vatican Archives that I noted the uncut pages. Actually I do not know the extent of any use made of the two copies of the Italian edition in the Vatican Library.

It should be noted that there is a distinction between the Vatican Archives and the Vatican Library. The Archives contain the correspondence and other material of the Secretary of State and other curial officials, although some congregations, e.g., the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, formerly the Propagation of the Faith or Propaganda Fides, have their own archives. In the Vatican Archives, the encyclical Rerum Novarum and responses to it are bound in fourteen fascicles. It is in this collection that I found the galley proofs of the first American edition of the Open Letter and the paper-bound but uncut copy of the Italian edition. It is in this collection that the specially-bound copy should have been placed or at least recorded.

The Vatican Library serves scholars with research interests. I ascertained the presence of the two paper-bound copies of the Italian edition in the Vatican Library by telephone and verified their presence later by letter. I would assume that their pages are not uncut because the volumes in the Library are for the use of scholars. Unfortunately, one cannot usually trace the use of such a volume. I did verify that neither was the specially-bound copy for which I was searching.

I have found this mystery so intriguing that I will use any opportunities that I have to obtain information looking toward its solution.

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The specially-bound copy that Dr. Nuesse was seeking at the Vatican is the one mentioned by Henry George, Jr. in the biography of his father: "A copy of the (Italian) translation of the Letter to the Pope, beautifully printed and handsomely bound, was presented to Leo XIII personally by Monsignor Caprini, Prefect of the Vatican Library, though Mr. George never received, directly or indirectly, aught in reply." The substance of Dr. Nuesse's remarks at the McGlynn Symposium (based, in turn, on a report to the Schalkenbach Foundation) will appear in the American Journal of Economics and Sociology.

Father James Gilhooley also spoke at the McGlynn Symposium, on Father Francis Duffy, who appeared on the New York scene shortly after Father McGlynn and started a career as an important intellectual. He was evidently silenced and thereafter devoted himself to pastoral duties. (He is memorialized with a statue in Duffy Square, New York, and in a movie with Pat O'Brien.) An expanded version of this subject by Father Gilhooley appeared as the leading article in the March 24 issue of the magazine America. This is the same magazine that published Father Gilhooley's article "Soggarth Aroon" (Beloved Priest) about Father McGlynn, which was the springboard for the McGlynn Symposium.

An article on Father McGlynn appeared in the newspaper Catholic New York by Father John Catoir, Director of the Christophers.