

# VINCENTIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

GIUSTINO DE JACOBIS

**Scritti: 2 Epistolario**

CLV - Edizioni Vincenziane, Roma 2003, 1651 pages

With the recent publication of Volume II of the *Writings* of St. Justin de Jacobis (*Letters*), we have the complete edition of the works of this great Vincentian missionary and apostle of Abyssinia, who died on 31 July 1860 and was canonized on 26 October 1975. Volume I was published in 2000 (centennial of his birth) and contains six parts of his *Diary*. The *Catechism* in the Amharic language, attributed to Justin de Jacobis, was edited by Propaganda Fide and printed in 1850 [cf., *Vincentiana* 37 (1993), 560-593].

This Volume II, entitled *Epistolario (Letters)*, was edited by Fr. Giuseppe Guerra, with the cooperation of a team which collaborated profitably, as is mentioned in the Introduction, especially Fr. Vincenzo Lazzarini and Prof. Mario Guerra. Collected in the book are all the letters of De Jacobis which remain, either in the original, or in his drafts, or in copies. Even if this is not a critical edition in the most rigorous sense of the term, at the beginning and in the various notes, the scientific criteria, adopted to make reading easier and at the same time documented, are explained. At the end of the volume there is an index of the names of persons and places found in both the Letters and the Diary, whose index had been purposely put off.

In 1651 pages, 524 letters are collected: these have been transcribed from the Archives of the General Curia of the CM (this is a collection of 379 letters sent, among other addressees, to the Superior General, the Procurator General, or the Assistants General); from the Historical Archives of Propaganda Fide in Rome (some 100 letters addressed mainly to the Cardinal Prefect or to his Secretary). Some letters were found in the Archives of the Pontifical Work of Propaganda Fide in Paris and in Lyon, or in the Historical

Archives of the Foreign Ministry in Paris. Thirty-two letters are in the Archives of the Provincial House of the CM in Naples, from which Justin de Jacobis left for Africa in 1839.

Having these valuable sources available, it will certainly be easier for historians to verify and study in depth some fundamental aspects of De Jacobis' biography. It will especially be possible to make the most of and show the topicality of some of his intuitions, which were valuable forerunners of modern missiology.

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