
BOOK REVIEWS

PHILIPPE-MARIE MARGELIDON, o. p., ed.
**Le Miracle et la Foi: Actes du colloque
des 21–22 octobre 2016 à Rocamadour**
Paris–Perpignan: Lethielleux, 2017

AN IMPORTANT element of Christianity, miracles have been traditionally approached as a part of Christian life, rather than as a topic of theological debate. For this reason, they have not been sufficiently investigated until now. Therefore, the book coordinated by Father Philippe-Marie Margelidon, professor at the Faculty of Theology, the Catholic Institute of Toulouse, entitled *Le Miracle et la Foi* and featuring the papers of the Rocamadour conference, is not only an important book for the mystique of the Church, but also for its scientific dimension.

Segmented into eleven big chapters and accompanied by a foreword written by Mgr. Laurent Camiade, bishop of Cahors (pp. 7–18)—the area where the event took place—and by another “avant-propos” of the editor (pp. 19–23), the book is meant to be a useful tool in the understanding of miracles and of the meanings that this term acquired over time in Christian spirituality. The editor organizes the presentation in a quasi-diachronic way, starting from the presentation of the way in which miracles are presented by Origen in his apologetic masterpiece *Contra Celsius* (pp. 25–46), and continuing with Saint Maximus the Confessor (pp. 47–64), Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (pp. 65–130), Pascal (pp. 131–146), Saint Louis-Marie Grignon

de Montfort (pp. 147–170), Saint Thomas Aquinas (pp. 171–203) or Hans Urs von Balthasar (pp. 207–224).

Mgr. Laurent Camiade carries out an interesting investigation starting from questions as to whether “the miracle is real” (pp. 8–11), wondering whether a world without miracles is still a human one (pp. 11–13), or offering a series of criteria that would help everyone speak about miracles (pp. 15–17). In his turn, the editor provides an interesting survey of the literature dedicated to the topic, analyzing in a critical way the most important titles in this field (pp. 19–22). Only after these two texts, the patrologist Daniel Vigne, known for his work on the Early Church fathers and for his contribution in editing important collections such as “Sources Chrétiennes,” proceeds with the investigation of Origen, later continued with that of the aforementioned authors.

Coming from a Catholic space, the book does not avoid the theology of this area. Therefore, one of the chapters is dedicated to the way in which the relationships between miracles and prophetic vocations are seen by the First Vatican Council (pp. 225–238), and another chapter is devoted to the juridical dimension of miracles and their importance for the process of canonization (pp. 319–372). The latter one is divided into two big parts, one dedicated to the period between the founding of the Church and the year 1588 (pp. 319–341), with an emphasis on topics like martyrdom, the cult of martyrs and relics, or aspects like elevation, translation, or image miracles. The second part of the

chapter presents general aspects related to the topic (pp. 342–347), but also the views on this topic of important personalities like Pope Benedict XIV (1675–1758) (pp. 328–260), or the contemporary understanding of their role in the declaration of a saint (pp. 361–372). The relationship between martyrdom and miracle in this process is presented briefly, in a synthesis intend to be understandable not only to theologians, but also to secular readers.

The elements pertaining to the doctrine of the Church are presented in detail, using information coming either from the history of the Ancient Church and the writings of the Holy Fathers, or from various encyclicals considered normative for the procedure of canonization.

By highlighting the relevance of miracles for the canonization process, presenting the fundamental elements that defined them from the early Christian Church until today, and emphasizing the views of authors like Origen, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Pascal, or Hans Urs von Balthasar, speaking about the way in which the social doctrine of the Church has understood it or about the apologetic value of Christ's miracles (pp. 291–318), the work, written by important French theological scholars, offers an interesting overview of a topic important for doctrinarian theology, morals, patristics, or the life of the Church. Therefore, the work has both an interdisciplinary value and a theological one, helping the reader to better understand a fundamental aspect of Christian life and morals, while at the same time approaching a topic that can cast bridges between different spiritualities.



IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU

IOSIF MARIN BALOG

Mirajul aurului: Economie și societate în “Cadrilaterul aurifer” al Apusenilor 1750–1914

(The mirage of gold: Economy and society in the “auriferous quadrilateral” of the Western Carpathians, 1750–1914)

Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2016

IOSIF MARIN Balog is a researcher with the Romanian Academy's George Barițiu Institute of History, and his fields of interest are among others, the modern history of Transylvania, the Revolution of 1848, and the economic history of the Romanian and Central-European area.

Chronologically, *Mirajul aurului* is the second single-author work of Iosif Marin Balog. His first book, *Dilemele modernizării: Economie și societate în Transilvania 1850–1875* (The dilemmas of modernization: Economy and society in Transylvania during 1850–1875) (2007), covers a more extended geographical area—although the chronological boundaries are more limited, between 1850 and 1875. The current work, like the first exegesis of the author, deals with the economic history of the Romanian and Central-European area, focusing on the region of Transylvania, or indeed on the more limited area of the Western Carpathians, also called the “auriferous quadrilateral.” By comparison to his first volume, where a period of three decades was being studied, the author expands the chronology to the period between 1750 and 1914, spanning a total of 164 years.

The book is structured into seven chapters of varying lengths, also featuring an introduction and a conclusion.