



Cornell University Library

Religious Studies

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Mr. Paul Cashman
21 Tower Hill Rd
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Dear Mr. Cashman,

As we begin yet another busy fall semester, I would like to take a moment to write and to thank you and all the Class of 1973 alumni/ae who have over the years been steadfast in support of Cornell—your university—and particularly of your university library. The Class of 1973 Book Fund currently has an important role ensuring resources in general Religious Studies, which include a historical and phenomenological range from ancient religions through modern, heterodox movements and even atheism.

Important research and instruction are now occurring on campus in the broad field of Religious Studies. Courses this fall include “New Testament/Early Christian Literatures,” “Saint Francis,” and “Greek New Testament Readings,” to name just those in the domain of Christian literatures and studies; these offerings come from faculty who are of course engaged in sophisticated research that your book fund is now actively supporting.

To cite one example, the Class of 1973 Book Fund recently acquired for the library *Andronici Camateri Sacrum armamentarium*, edited by Alessandra Bucossi and published in 2014 in the series *Corpus Christianorum (Series Graeca)*. (The *Corpus Christianorum* series has a reputation for being authoritative, expensive, and essential for researchers, conveying expertly edited texts from ecclesiastical history.)

The *Armamentarium* was written following a meeting in Constantinople, circa 1172, between emperor Manuel Komnenos and a delegation of cardinals from the Roman Curia to discuss reunification of the Latin and Greek churches. This critical edition establishes the Greek text after a scholarly introduction.

Themes in the work include papal primacy and theological consideration of the Holy Spirit. The subtext, of course, is a long history of differences between the Greek and Latin Christian worlds that goes back to the cultural divide between the eastern and western halves of the Roman Empire, itself the chief crucible for the establishment of Christianity as a religion on a universal scale.

The Cornell Library of course sustains Religious Studies several orders of magnitude above single volumes. A great number of these books are, like the *Armamentarium*, authoritative editions, a significant number of which have been made available by you. For the generosity of the Class of 1973 Book Fund, please know of my profound appreciation. Your concern for the strength and relevance of the library is an essential factor in the furtherance of human knowledge here at Cornell.

With all best wishes,

Patrick

Watermark: Exterior of Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (“16 AyaSoph exterior” by willow wilcox fox, 29 December 2006); available on Wikimedia Commons under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic license.