Jerome Nadal and Frederick Homann, trans.

Annotations and Meditations on the Gospels: Cumulative Index. Philadelphia: Saint Joseph's University Press. Pp. 196. Pb, \$39.95.

This appearance of St. Joseph University Press on Jerónimo Nadal's work, is an outstanding complement to the three previous volumes published on this work. As Father Joseph F. Chorpenning, O.S.F.S., writes in his Preface,

The current volume brings to completion the "Nadal Project" undertaken by St. Joseph's University Press that makes available the sections of Nadal's

Annotations and Meditations corresponding to the three major seasons of the liturgical year (Advent and Christmas, Lent, and Easter): Vol. 1: The Infancy Narratives (2003); Vol. 2: The Passion Narratives (2007), and Vol. 3: The Resurrection Narratives (2005). Together with this Cumulative Index to these three volumes, St. Joseph University Press is pleased to offer a final incisive essay by Professor Walter S. Melion, "'Quis non intelligent hoc voluisse Christum:' The Significance of the Redacted Images in Jerónimo Nadal's Annotations and Meditations in Evangelia of 1595" (10).

This volume is a useful addition to the complete works of Nadal given to all English speakers by Philadelphia's Saint Joseph's University Press. The cumulative index assists unfamiliar with the liturgical order followed by Nadal's images, in finding a particular biblical scene. What is more, the index draws the reader closer to the text of the scriptural quotations described in the engravings, and to the persons who appear therein. The cumulative index is subdivided into four: an index of persons, an index of scriptural passages, an index of subjects, and an iconographical index.

The preliminary essay by Walter S. Melion is exemplary, as were the ones that he wrote for the three previous volumes. Drawing on his profound knowledge of Nadal's life and writings, Melion highlights how these indices render the complete works of Nadal more available to a much wider audience. After describing the historical trajectory of Nadal's work through to its final publication, Melion focuses his attention on the processes of composition for twenty-five of the *Evangelicae Historiae* engravings. He selects those examples most significant in illustrating the evolution from engraving to publication. One is thus truly able to appreciate the detailed work of the engravers. We cannot forget that this work was executed by the best Flemish engravers of the age, in particular the Wierix brothers. Melion is undoubtedly a leading expert on the history and technique of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century engravers.

This book amalgamates the indices of the three previous volumes of the Nadal Project. I know of no similar publication, in any language, so useful in penetrating the *Annotations and Meditations*. Through this work, one of the most influential early modern texts has been made accessible to countless new readers.

It must be remembered that the influence of Nadal's work extended to China and Japan: his writings were highly sought-after and deeply appreciated wherever Jesuit missions were to be found. From those remote outposts came request after request for copies of the *Annotations and Meditations*. But since there was no possibility of sending so many copies, students at Jesuit-run schools were taught how to produce such engravings on-site.

The missions found Nadal's work to be an invaluable tool of evangelization, since it so clearly and feelingly depicted Christian history and the message of salvation. In this light, the assessment of art historian Gauvin Alexander Bailey comes as no surprise:

[Matteo] Ricci and [Nicolò] Longobardo wrote frequently to Rome asking for a copy of Nadal's illustrated gospel, *Evangelicae Historicae Imagines* (1593). This lavish work may represent the Jesuit's greatest and most successful artistic achievement of the sixteenth century (*Art on the Jesuit Missions in Asia and Latin America (1542–1773)*: University of Toronto Press, 1999, p. 93).

The scholarly world is indebted to Saint Joseph's University Press for making an English translation of this seminal work available.

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