ABSTRACT

THESIS: The Graduale Romanum: A Comprehensive Approach to Chant Restoration

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The restoration of Gregorian chant throughout the nineteenth century culminated in the publication of new official Vatican chant books, particularly the Graduale Romanum of 1908. Major contributions were made by the monks at the abbey of Solesmes, who focused on the oldest available medieval manuscripts, and by scholars in the Cecilian movement, who favored sources compiled after the Middle Ages. These two viewpoints were fused into the Graduale Romanum to create a comprehensive historical perspective. To support this position, this thesis traces historical events and conflicts leading up to the publication of the Graduale Romanum. It also compares the Graduale Romanum with its most immediate source, the 1895 Liber Gradualis by Solesmes, focusing on the Propers of the four Sundays of Advent. Analysis of the differences between the two reveals that the Graduale Romanum closely resembles medieval manuscripts and reflects Renaissance and nineteenth-century sources to a limited degree.