

FRANCIS OF ASSISI, William R. Cook. Michael Glazier, Inc. [Now distributed by Liturgical Press]. Wilmington, De. 1989. 135pp.

Dr. Cook, presently a professor at the State University of New York at Geneseo, has taught and lectured on St. Francis throughout the U.S., and has directed summer seminars in Assisi on Francis' life for the National Endowment for the Humanities. This book is not another biography of Francis, but in a series being published on Christian mystics. Dealing with the spirituality of place--such as his chapters on Greccio and LaVerna--he makes it known we are dealing with a unique form of mysticism called the mysticism of the historical event. The book makes for fine spiritual reading and is recommended for friary or convent libraries.

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Raoul Manselli. Franciscan Herald Press, 1988, 363pp.

This book has already been reviewed in a previous issue of Newsletter. I include this brief note to underscore its value as a reference for any of us working/speaking of Francis or Clare. Manselli writes: "Our attempt has been to liberate his biography from anecdotal incrustations which tend to accentuate characteristics, singularities, and marvels at the expense of things that are historically and humanly more valid and meaningful. Freed from such overlay, his biography displays [Francis'] personality...." It is recommended for all libraries.

ASSISI: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. FRANCIS, by Theophile Desbonnets, OFM, translated by Nancy Celaschi, OSF; Editione Porziuncola, second edition, 1993, 141pp.

This little book is an excellent companion to walk the way of Francis with Desbonnets as guide. A Franciscan scholar from France, Desbonnets (RIP), leads the pilgrim to the places, explains them briefly with ample references to the Franciscan sources included in the text. He includes diagrams of the sanctuaries accompanied as well by several well-placed maps. He includes information on places outside Assisi, such as the Abbey of San Benedetto, Gubbio, Cannara, Bevagna, Montefalco, Foligno, the Rieti Valley, Monte Casale, LaVerna. It has all a pilgrim would desire to prayerfully as well as historically visit Assisi in Francis' footsteps.