

The writings of Jean-Claude Colin (1790-1875)

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As part of presenting a person for beatification, the writings of the person have to be submitted for examination about the orthodoxy of the teaching included. There is no modern edition of the writings of Colin. A first incomplete collection was handed in for the opening of the cause in 1899 (APM old signature 230 Writings; 240 Sermons).

The main categories of his writings are: the different drafts and final versions of constitutions and other rules and regulations; his instructions for the staff at Belley College; the correspondence; circular letters; the homilies; liturgical texts (prayers, blessings, professions, consecrations), other material like accounts, budgets on the missions, his testament, short notes and so on. Much of his writing is related to the other Marist branches (rules; correspondence; drafts) and the missions.

Some of his writings are lost: notes he drew up in seminary days and the early years in Cerdon; possibly an article he published while curate there; part of his correspondence; a manual for home missionaries; notes on education.¹

Unique is the amount of oral statements written down by confreres at the time. Those are not included in this attempt of a list of Colin's writings.

We list the major editions and publications which include his writings. The editions make up the dossier handed in for the diocesan and Vatican process for the cause as it was re-opened in 2017. Next to the writings a life of the person was also required. This was answered with a chronology first and the full biography later in 2018.²

A separate edition of his writings does not exist as yet.³ I would regard this as a desideratum to get to know more the person for whom the cause is introduced.

1 Constitutions and rules: 1816-1875

COSTE, Jean SM, *Les deux plus anciens fragments des Constitutions - The Two Oldest Fragments of the Constitutions*, in *Acta SM* 3 (1954-1955) 468-479.

COSTE, Jean SM, *La règle primitive de Jean-Claude Colin. Essai de reconstitution partielle de son contenu*, ms, Rome, APM, 1988.

COSTE, Jean SM - FAGAN, Seán SM - LESSARD, Gaston SM (eds.), *Antiquiores textus constitutionum Societatis Mariae* (FHSM, 1), 7 Fascicles, Rome, 1955 =
Fasciculus Introductorius I (1816-1833)

Fasciculus II Constitutiones 1842 et textus affines 1836-1854

Fasciculus III Constitutiones R. P. Favre 1856-1866

Fasciculus IV Ultima Redactio a Padre Fundatore Facta 1868-1870

Fasciculus V Novissimae Editiones 1872-1922

Fasciculus VI Documenta Adnexa

2 The origins of the Society of Mary: 1786-1836

COSTE, Jean SM - LESSARD, Gaston SM (eds.), *Origines maristes (1786 - 1836)* (FHSM, 3), 4 Vols., Rome, 1960 – 1967 (= OM).

¹ Justin Taylor SM, *Jean-Claude Colin. Reluctant Founder 1790-1875*, Adelaide, ATF, 2018, 122, on private notes and a possible article ; IMJ, IA 395.3 Mother Saint Joseph destroyed some of his letters; Gabriel Germain SM published a book titled *Programme d'enseignement des collèges de la Société de Marie* (Lyon, Girard, 1865; see FA doc. 380, footnote 3). Fr Germain had participated in the 1850 conferences on education and this book may contain some of the teaching by Colin in a 30-page paper used then on the topic otherwise lost.

² Alois Greiler SM, *Jean-Claude Colin (1790-1875). Founder of the Society of Mary – Fondateur de la Société de Marie. Descriptive Chronology of his life – Chronologie descriptive de sa vie*, Rome, 2014; Taylor sm, *Jean-Claude Colin*.

³ The editions below contain the writings and therefore the major work is done. Even though, a critical edition would be a project on its own.

- Vol. 1: *Documents contemporains (docs. 1 - 419)*, Rome, 1960.
- Vol. 2: avec la collaboration de Seán Fagan SM, *Données narratives recueillies avant la démission du P. Colin* (docs. 420 - 791), Rome, 1961.
- Vol. 3: *De la controverse à l'histoire après la démission du P. Colin* (docs. 792 - 893), Rome, 1965.
- Vol. 4: *Compléments et index* (Docc. 894 - 912; *Subsidia; Mise à jour; Synopse historique; Index*), Rome, 1967.

3 The Generalate of Jean-Claude Colin (1836-1854)

COSTE, Jean SM - LESSARD, Gaston SM (eds.), *Autour de la règle*, Vol. I: *Règlements et pratiques maristes du vivant de Jean-Claude Colin* (FHSM, 8), Rome, 1991.

= Id. (eds.), *En torno a la regla 1. Reglamentos y costumbres maristas en vida de Juan Claudio Colin*, 2 Vols., Madrid, 1993.

LESSARD, Gaston SM (ed.), "*Colin sup*". *Documents pour l'étude du généralat de Jean-Claude Colin (1836-1854)*, volume 1, *De l'élection au voyage à Rome (1836-1842)* (Fontes historici Societatis Mariae XII), Rome, 2007 (= CS 1).

= Id. (ed.), "*Colin sup*". *Documentos para el estudio del generalato de Juan Claudio Colin (1836-1854)*, Vol. I, *Desde la elección hasta el viaje a Roma (1836-1842)*, editados par Gaston Lessard SM, traducción par Luis de la Cámara SM, Madrid, 2008.

LESSARD, Gaston SM (ed.), "*Colin sup*". *Documents pour l'étude du généralat de Jean-Claude Colin (1836-1854)*, volume 2, *Du voyage à Rome au chapitre (1842-1845)* (Fontes historici Societatis Mariae XII), Rome, 2009 (= CS 2).

LESSARD, Gaston SM (ed.), "*Colin sup*". *Documents pour l'étude du généralat de Jean-Claude Colin (1836-1854)*, volume 3, *Du chapitre de 1845 à l'été 1848* (Fontes historici Societatis Mariae XII), Rome, 2011 (= CS 3).

BOURTOT, Bernard SM (ed.), « *Colin sup* ». *Documents sur l'étude du généralat de Jean-Claude Colin (1836-1854)*, volume 4, *De l'été 1848 à la démission (1848-1854)* (Fontes historici Societatis Mariae XII), Rome, SM, 2009 (= CS 4).

GIRARD, Charles SM (ed.), *Maristes laïcs: Recueil de sources historiques* (FHSM, 9) Rome, 1992.

= Id. (ed.), *Lay Marists: Anthology of Historical Sources* (FHSM, 9), Rome, 1993.

3 The third age (1854-1875)

LESSARD, Gaston SM (ed.), *Colin fondateur. Jean-Claude Colin de 1854 à 1875. Correspondance et autres documents* (Fontes historici Societatis Mariae XV), Rome, 2014 (= CF).

4 Other writings

BOURTOT, Bernard SM (ed.), *Conférences et discours de Jean-Claude Colin en paroisses, missions, retraites de jeunes dans les années 1816-1830* (Fontes historici Societatis Mariae, 13), Rome, SM, 2013.

COSTE, Jean SM, *Testament spirituel du Père Colin à la Société (lu à la lumière de quelques documents)*, ms, APM, Rome, 1948.

DROUILLY, François SM, *Les avis de J.-Cl. Colin au personnel du petit séminaire de Belley - J.-Cl. Colin's Instructions To the Staff of the Minor Seminary of Belley* (Maristica, 3), Rome, 1990.

GREILER, Alois SM, *Dossier: Prayers and Blessings by Father Colin*, in *Forum Novum* 13 (2011) 112 - 117.