

T-14.-218/2

**ANALECTA CARTUSIANA**

**EDITORS:**

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**119:37**

**Proceedings of the Douai Abbey  
Augustine Baker Conference, September 2009**

**edited and introduced by  
Abbot Geoffrey Scott O.S.B.**

**2012**

**FB ANGLISTIK UND AMERIKANISTIK  
UNIVERSITÄT SALZBURG, UNIPARK  
ERZABT KLOTZSTRASSE 1  
A-5020 SALZBURG  
AUSTRIA**

First published in 2012  
by  
Gracewing  
2 Southern Avenue  
Leominster  
Herefordshire HR6 0QF  
United Kingdom  
www.gracewing.co.uk

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Cover image of Dom Augustine Baker, courtesy of Dame Andrea Savage OSB, Abbess of Stanbrook. The picture is a replica of a painting by Ferenc Szoldatits (1820–1916).

Printed in England by The MPG Books Group, Bodmin and King's Lynn

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## Introduction

The annual English Benedictine Symposium, held at Douai Abbey, Reading, on 3 September, 2009, was devoted to the teaching of Dom Augustine Baker (1573–1641), the English Benedictine mystical writer. The Symposium was held to mark the retirement of Dr James Hogg, the distinguished general editor of the *Analecta Cartusiana* series, which now numbers over 300 volumes. This series deals largely with the history of the Carthusian Order, and was begun in Berlin in 1970 and transferred to Salzburg the following year. Thanks to Dr Hogg's encouragement, the series also includes nearly forty volumes of Baker's works and volumes related to Baker which have been painstakingly edited by the Reverend Dr John Clark. Until the appearance of these new editions scholars had been largely dependent on Dom Serenus Cressy's digest of Baker's teachings, known as *Sancta Sophia* or *Holy Wisdom* (first edition, Douai, 1657, New York 1857, London 1871, and later editions), for knowledge of Baker's thought. Dr Clark's work is crucial for revealing much more to us about Baker and his teachings, and an index to Cressy's sources in *Sancta Sophia* remains his ultimate objective. The 2009 Symposium brought together Benedictine monks and nuns, and friends, colleagues, and past pupils of Dr Hogg and Dr Clark, as well as a number of scholars interested in mystical literature. This volume is the first to recognise the importance of Dr Clark's recent editions of Baker, and this is illustrated by so many references to these editions found