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How Maurice De Wulf went to Harvard (1914–1915)¹

Abstract

The Belgian scholar Maurice De Wulf (1867–1947) was one of the pioneers in the study of Medieval Philosophy as well as one of the leading representatives of the “Neo-scholastic” movement at the beginning of the 20th Century. His tenure at Harvard University (1921–1927) is known and generally referred to. However, the motives and the chain of events which brought the Louvain scholar to Harvard remain unfamiliar. The purpose of this Note is to shed light on the early contacts between Harvard’s Faculty of Philosophy and De Wulf, well before his official appointment to the professorship.

¹ In addition to published sources, my Note is grounded on documents preserved both in US and in Belgium, i.e., at the Harvard University Archives, Cambridge, Mass. (viz., Hug. 300, Quinquennial File ‘Dewing – Dewulf’) and at the Archives of the Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve (viz., “Fonds Maurice De Wulf”). On the latter, see MIRGUET, Françoise/HIRAUX, Françoise: *L’Institut supérieur de philosophie de Louvain (1889–1968): Inventaire des archives – Introduction historique* (= Publications des Archives de l’Université catholique de Louvain 21). Louvain-la-Neuve: Academia Bruylant 2008, 257–264. I should like to thank the librarians who, both in Cambridge and Louvain-la-Neuve, have helped me. Mrs. Françoise Hiraux’s and Professor John Monfasani’s generous advice deserve here a special mention.