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**Mark 16 in the West from the 15th to the 19th century:
doubts and certitudes about the *conclusio longior***

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Abstract

It is often said that it was not until the 19th century that exegetes realized that the long ending of Mark might not be authentic. In reality, Jerome's doubts have never ceased to be known. And, surprisingly enough, suspicion was harbored by Catholic exegetes. Indeed, while criticism of the *conclusio longior* came in the 19th century from liberal Protestantism devoted to philology, for four centuries it was rather the Catholics who sought reasons to continue reading a pericope whose problems they perceived quite well.

This paper tries to determine when the doubts concerning the long ending of Mark began to be expressed; it seems that it was Cajetan (1469-1535) who first recalled the patristic debates, but this hypothesis must be verified. Then it presents how those who express them justify continuing to read the pericope. Finally, it will study how the pericope was challenged in the early 19th century.