

Book notes

EDITED BY MARTIN STONE

Kent Emery, Jr, and Joseph P. Wawrykow (eds) *Christ Among the Medieval Dominicans*. (Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1999). Pp. xvi + 561. £35.95 (Pbk). ISBN 0 268 00836 1.

This distinguished collection of essays is devoted to the discussion as well as to the depictions of Christ in the art, philosophy, and theology of the medieval Dominicans. Written by a host of internationally acclaimed scholars in the field of medieval studies, the essays provide many interesting insights on the life and thought of the Order of Preachers. The subjects considered range from theology (specifically, Christology), spirituality, philosophy, and church history, to art history, Latin and vernacular languages, and palaeography. The essays focus on the role of Christ within the devotion, preaching and intellectual work of the Order. Collectively, they call into question many commonplaces in medieval historiography, especially in the domains of spirituality and literary criticism. Readers of this journal will be attracted to the eleven entries that concern medieval philosophy and theology. Many issues germane to the history of the philosophy of religion are considered. In particular, the essays by Stephen Brown on the 'Unique existence of Christ' and Edward Mahoney on 'Albert on Christ and hierarchy', consider topics that are now of interest to modern students of philosophical theology. The volume is attractively produced by the University of Notre Dame Press, and is accompanied by ample and quite sumptuous visual imagery from medieval illustrations, woodcuts and engravings.

[M. W. F. S.]

Ghita Holmström-Hintikka (ed.) *Medieval Philosophy and Modern Times*. Synthese Library Volume 288. (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1999). Pp. x + 188. £53.00; US\$85.00 (Hbk). ISBN 0792361024.

Few would doubt that a great many contemporary philosophical problems have medieval roots. One has only examine current debates in logic, metaphysics, philosophy of language and the philosophical theology in order to be aware that these discussion possess important medieval antecedents. The theme of Ghita Holmström-Hintikka's volume might be said to concern the connections that may exist between medieval theological discussions and contemporary English-speaking philosophy. *Medieval Philosophy and Modern Times* has its origins in a symposium held at Boston University in 1992. It consists of twelve papers, nearly half of which are from Finnish scholars. The topics considered range from individual discussions of the works of Augustine, Anselm, Bonaventure, Crathorn, and Ockham, to more specific treatments of issues such as divine

illumination, moral tutorism, omniscience and religious experience. The volume includes a good deal that will interest modern philosophers of religion as well as scholars of medieval philosophy. Two papers stand out as worthy of special mention. Stephen F. Brown in 'Reflections on the structural sources of Bonaventure's *Itinerarium mentis in Deum*' provides a masterly discussion of an important aspect of Bonaventure's work that suffers from undue neglect among English-speaking scholars. Simo Knuuttila's 'Remarks on medieval discussions of religious emotions' provides a brief but important glimpse into the medieval discussion of the emotions. Knuuttila's adroit discussion of this topic is of genuine interest, as it demonstrates that medieval authors applied many aspects of ancient discussions of the emotions to topics of specific Christian concern. The remaining papers of the volume are of rather mixed quality. The worthy articles by Michael Martin, Steven P. Marrone and Gyula Klima aside, the essential problem with the articles by many of the Finnish scholars concerns their use of English. These authors tend to write in a very dense and compressed manner. Their articles would have benefited from the skill of a sagacious copy editor who could have ironed out many of the infelicities in their use of English prose. That said, the volume is a welcome addition to the literature. It is well produced, if not attractively priced, by Kluwer.

[M. W. F. S.]

William Hasker, David Basinger and Eef Dekker (eds) *Middle Knowledge: Theory and Applications*. Contributions to Philosophical Theology, 4 (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2000). Pp. vii + 309. ISBN 3 631 36288 9.

As every student of philosophical theology knows, the idea that God has 'middle knowledge' (*scientia media*) was the solution to the problem of divine foreknowledge and human freedom advanced by the sixteenth-century Jesuit Luis de Molina (1535–1600). Molina's theory of *scientia media* spawned intense and rancorous discussion of divine knowledge and human freedom, and such was the intensity of these discussions that in 1607 Pope Paul effectively issued a moratorium on all further discussion of the topic in order that those moved to write and consider this issue could calm down. The long process of 'cooling off' continued until very recently when interest in the topic was revived by modern English-speaking philosophers. Coming to this topic from the perspective of modern analytic philosophy, many contemporary philosophers were struck by the connections that might be said to exist between Molina's original account and current work on conditionals, counterfactuals and freedom. The volume *Middle Knowledge: Theory and Applications* provides the noble service of collecting together in one commodious tome the most important articles from the recent discussion of middle knowledge. It reprints much-discussed articles by Robert Adams, Alvin Plantinga, Thomas P. Flint, William Lane Craig, Richard Gaskin and William Hasker, and a host of other objections and replies. The volume also devotes attention to the application of the doctrine of middle knowledge to other debates in philosophical theology, such as free will, soteriology and prophesy. Further to this, the editors sensibly preface the articles of the book with a careful introduction and include the appropriate part of Molina's *Concordia*. This last excerpt is followed by a historical commentary by Alfred J. Freddoso. A full bibliography concludes the volume. *Middle Knowledge: Theory and Applications* will prove a valuable resource in the classroom and will no doubt provoke yet further work on this most difficult of issues.

[M. W. F. S.]