



Professor James McEvoy
Secretary

Professor Carlos Steel
President

ERIUGENA

The Annual Bulletin of SPES

Number 9, 1999



Society for the Promotion of Eriugenian Studies

Eriugena:

The Annual Bulletin of the Society for the Promotion of Eriugenian Studies. no 9, 1999

The Tenth Colloquium of SPES

The Maynooth and Dublin conference of SPES was held on 16-20 August 2000. (The programme of events is printed below). Full registrations (including speakers) totalled around sixty, while other participants came for one or two days only. All events were held on the campus shared by St Patrick's College and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, save for Friday 18 August, which was passed entirely at Academy House, Dublin.

Several events were mounted on the margins of the conference. These included a specially-arranged manuscript exhibition (due to Ms S. O'Rafferty) at the Academy (see Appendix); an original book display (put together by Ms Penny Woods) at the Russell Library for Research, Maynooth; the public launch of *John Scottus Eriugena* by Deirdre Carabine, at which W. Beierwaltes spoke; the performance in St Patrick's College Chapel by solo soprano voice (Bríd Whelehan), with organ accompaniment, of verses from the *Carmina* of Eriugena, set to music specially for the colloquium by Dr Kevin O'Reilly, one of the College organists; and an optional trip to the historic monastic valley of Glendalough on the afternoon of Sunday 20th. A group photograph was taken. The 'site organiser' of the colloquium, Professor James McEvoy, was assisted by a supportive team, which included Ann Gleeson, Orla Morrissey, Tom Kelly, Catherine Kavanagh, Eamonn Gaines, Michael Dunne and Kevin O'Reilly.

Financial sponsorship for the conference came from the following bodies (in addition to SPES): Maynooth Scholastic Trust; Institute of Philosophy, Leuven; Faculty of Philosophy, NUIM and PU, Maynooth; Irish Centre for Faith and Culture; Conventions Bureau Ireland; Maynooth University Bookshop.

10th INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF SPES

16 – 20 August 2000

Maynooth and Dublin

History and Eschatology
in Eriugena and his Age



Faculty of Philosophy
National University of Ireland,
Maynooth
And Pontifical University of
St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
In Cooperation with
The Institute of Philosophy,
Catholic University of Leuven

Wednesday, 16 August 2000

- 8.00 Formal opening by **Rev. Dr. Hugh Connolly**, Vice-President of the Pontifical University.
Address of welcome by **James McEvoy**, Secretary of SPES.
- 8.15 – 9.15 **Bernard McGinn**, University of Chicago
Eschatologies of the Early Middle Ages: Imminent and Immanent.
Chair: **James McEvoy**

Thursday, 17 August

- 9.30 – 10.45 **HISTORY AND FINALITY**
J.C. Marler, St Louis University
History and Finality in the Periphyseon
Giulio d'Onofrio, Università degli Studi di Salerno
'Cuius esse est non posse esse': la 'quarta species' tra logica e metafisica
Chair: **Willemien Otten**
- 11.00 – 1.00 **ESCHATOLOGY AND MYSTICISM**
Thomas O'Loughlin, University of Wales
Eriugena, the Periphyseon, and the New Jerusalem: The Use and Transformation of Some Hiberno-Latin Sources
Alois M. Haas, University of Zürich
Mystische Züge in Eriugenas Eschatologie
Valery V. Petroff, Russian Academy of Sciences
'Theoria' of the Return in John Scottus' Eschatology
Chair: **Deirdre Carabine**
- 3.00 – 4.15 **GRAMMAR AND LETTERS**
Catherine Kavanagh, University of Notre Dame
The Significance of Grammar in the Work of Eriugena
Anneli Luhtala, University of Helsinki
Time and the Substantial Verb in Eriugena
Chair: **Michael Haren**

4.30 – 6.30

**ERIUGENA AND THE
CORPUS DIONYSIACUM**

Francesco D'Elia,
Università della Basilicata
*The Corpus Dionysiacum
Translation and the
Eschatological Problem in
Scottus Eriugena.*

Michael Harrington,
Boston College
*Eastern and Western
Psychological Trinities in
Eriugena's Realized
Eschatology*

Ralph M.W. Stammberger, Hochschule
St Georgen, Frankfurt
*'Theologus nostri temporis
Ioannes Scottus': The
Reception of Pseudo-
Dionysius through John
Scottus Eriugena in Hugh of
St Victor*

Chair: John Dillon

7.30

General Meeting of SPES
officers in Resident's
Lounge.

Friday, 18 August

8.45

Departure by coach for
**ROYAL IRISH
ACADEMY, DUBLIN**
Welcome to delegates on
behalf of the RIA – **John
Dillon**

10.00 – 12.15

Carlos Steel, Catholic
University of Leuven,
President of SPES
*The Return of Body into
Soul: Philosophical Musings
on the Resurrection*

James McEvoy, NUI,
Maynooth and Pontifical
University, Maynooth
*Eriugena and Thomas
Gallus, Commentators on
the Mystical Theology*

Chair: W. Beierwaltes

3.00 – 5.00

Dermot Moran, University
College Dublin
*Eriugena on Time and
Eternity*

Hilary Richardson,
University College Dublin
*Themes in Eriugena's
Writings and Early Irish Art*
Willemien Otten, Utrecht
University

*The Pedagogical Aspect of
Eriugena's Eschatology:
Between the Letter and the
Spirit*

Chair: Édouard Jeuneau

Saturday, 19 August

9.30 – 11.00

Édouard Jeuneau, Paris
and Toronto
*L'édition critique du
Periphyseon: une
asymptote?*

Paul Edward Dutton,
Simon Fraser University
*Eriugena's Workshop: the
Making of the Periphyseon
in Rheims MS 875*

Chair: Carlos Steel

11.15 – 1.10

**THE ESCHATON:
IMAGE AND DOCTRINE**

José Luis Cantón Alonso,
Universidad de Córdoba
*'Deus omnia in omnibus':
les exempla naturalia dans
le discours eschatologique
de Jean Scot Érigène*

Donald F. Duclow,
Gwynedd-Mercy College
and **Paul Dietrich**,
University of Montana
*Hell and Damnation in
Eriugena*

Douglas Hadley, Catholic
University of Leuven
*A Twofold Problem in
Eriugena's Twofold Vision
of Eschatology*

Chair: Paul Dietrich

2.00 – 3.30

**TOWARDS THE
INFINITE**

Robert Crouse, Dalhousie
University
*Predestination, Human
Freedom and the
Augustinian Theology of
History in Eriugena's De
divina praedestinatione*

Hilary Anne-Marie Mooney, Freiburg-im-Breisgau
Ininitely Towards the Infinite: The Eschatological Anthropology of Johannes Scottus Eriugena
Chair: John Contreni

4.00 – 6.00

RECENT IDENTIFICATIONS AND DISCOVERIES

Francesco Mosetti Casaretto, Firenze
'Intuere coelum apertum': il prologo dell' 'epistola ad Grimaldum abbatem' di Ermenrico di Ellwangen fra Ilduino di Saint-Denys e Giovanni Scoto Eriugena
Carl Laga, Catholic University of Leuven
Eriugena as a Translator: a Complete Greek-Latin-Greek Index of the Quaestiones ad Thalassium
Gustavo A. Piemonte, Universidad de Buenos Aires
Some Distinctive Theses of Eriugena's Eschatology in his Exegesis of the Gospel According to Matthew
Chair Giulio d'Onofrio

7.30 Conference Banquet Dinner in Pugin Hall

Sunday, 20 August

9.0 Mass in College Chapel / Anglican Service at St Mary's 10.00

10.30 General Meeting of SPES

1.00 Optional trip to Glendalough.

Organizing Committee:

Professor James McEvoy,
 Professor Carlos Steel,
 Professor Dermot Moran.

Information and Registration:

The Departmental Secretary,
 Department of Philosophy,
 National University of Ireland,
 Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
 E-mail: philsec@may.ie
 Tel: 00.353.1.7083661
 Fax: 00.353.1.7084525

The organisers wish to thank the following bodies and organisations for financial support:

Maynooth Scholastic Trust, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; National University of Ireland, Maynooth; Royal Irish Academy; The Institute of Philosophy, Catholic University of Leuven; Irish Centre for Faith and Culture; Aer Lingus; Maynooth University Bookshop; Conventions Bureau Ireland.

Thanks are due to the following academic sponsors of the Colloquium:

Royal Irish Academy; Faculty of Philosophy, NUIM; Pontifical University, Maynooth; Department of Philosophy, UCD; The Dublin Society for the Study of Platonism.

An exhibition of rare books relating to the conference was held in the Russell Library.

Meeting of the Officers of SPES

A meeting of officers of the society was held at Maynooth, on the occasion of the Tenth International Colloquium, on Thursday, 17 August 2000, at 19.30.

The following were present:

C. Steel (President); B. McGinn (Vice-President); Ed. Jeuneau; W. Beierwaltes; W. Otten; G. D'Onofrio; J. McEvoy (Secretary).

Agenda (circulated to officers);

1. Proposal to raise the annual contribution to US\$20.00 (and equivalent in other currencies).
2. The makeup of the Officers group: a new election? New Secretary?
3. General policy review:
-role of SPES; membership; the annual Bulletin; relationship to similar bodies; an event to mark the completion of the *Periphyseon* edition?

Any other business.

General Meeting of SPES

All the members who attended the Maynooth Colloquium received an invitation to attend a general meeting, together with the agenda recorded below. The meeting was held on Sunday, 20 August 2000 at 10.30am, and was attended by about thirty members.

Agenda

1. The minutes of last meeting (June 1995) were read by the Secretary, J. McEvoy
2. Financial report: C. Steel (treasurer for Europe and other places); J. Contreni (N. America)
3. Membership: Total active; new (1999-2000); paid up in 1999
4. Annual membership fee: proposal to raise to US\$20
5. Election of new Secretary, and of a new officer
6. Possible themes for next colloquium
7. The role of SPES and its future.

Report on the proceedings (of 20 August)

The meeting was opened by the President, C. Steel.

1. **The minutes were read by the Secretary:**

Minutes (of last meeting: 10 June 1995).

A well-attended meeting of SPES was held at the Abdij Keizersberg (Abbaye du Mont César), Leuven, on 10 June 1995, during the course of the IXth International Colloquium of the Society.

The President, Bernard McGinn, was in the chair.

The report made by the Secretary (later printed in *Eriugena* 4, 1995) was approved by the meeting.

A letter of good wishes from John O'Meara (Hon. Pres.) was read out.

The President thanked the organizers of the colloquium and the speakers, in particular Professors McNamara and Contreni, the principal invited speakers. He also thanked the Abbot and community of the monastery for their hospitality.

The theme and the location of the Tenth International Colloquium were discussed. A number of members favoured Dublin, in the year 2000. Possible themes were canvassed, but it was left to

the officers to arrive at a decision on these matters. The suggestion was made that a minor colloquium might be held sometime before AD 2000, at either Kalamazoo or Leeds.

Professor **Jeuneau** outlined the progress of both forms of the critical edition of the *Periphyseon*. In line with the tradition of SPES, Professor Carlos **Steel** (as co-organizer of the Belgian colloquium) became the new president. He warmly thanked in the name of the assembly the outgoing President, Bernard **McGinn**, for his noteworthy contributions to the society, a sentiment which was echoed by the secretary and applauded by all present.

The secretary proposed to the meeting that two new officers be appointed, namely W. **Otten** (USA) and G. **d'Onofrio** (Italy). The proposal was approved by the assembly.

Following the conclusion of the meeting supper (consisting of monastic beer and cheese) was taken at the monastery.

The minutes were approved by the members.

2. Report of the Secretary

Officers

The following list of officers represents the situation since 1995:

Hon. President: John **O'Meara**
 President: Carlos **Steel**
 Vice-President: Bernard **McGinn**
 Secretary: James **McEvoy**

Officers:

Claudio **Leonardi**; Werner **Beierwaltes**; Edouard **Jeuneau**; Guy-H. **Allard**; Willemien **Otten**; Giulio **d'Onofrio**.

SPES at Erfurt

The *Société internationale pour l'étude de la philosophie médiévale* held its Tenth International Congress at Erfurt, 25-30 August 1997. Its organisation was the joint responsibility of the Thomas-Institut of the University of Cologne and the recently (1994) re-established University of Erfurt. Over 600 participants were enrolled for this meeting, the largest in the history of the society. Under the auspices of SPES, a special section was devoted to 'Eriugena and the Philosophical Tradition', on Friday 29 August. The President of our society, **Carlos Steel**, made an 'Interim Report on Eriugenian Studies', laying emphasis on the very lively nature of their present state, and on the editions and collective works which have appeared in very recent years. The Secretary, **James McEvoy**, outlined the activities of the society, mentioning the annual bulletin and the plans for the Dublin Colloquium, to be held in the year 2000. (The overall theme of the Dublin meeting has been established by the secretary and the president: History and Eschatology in Eriugena and his Times; see below). Two papers were read, with the president in the chair: **João E. LUPI** (Florianópolis, Brazil), 'From Origen's *Peri Archon* to Eriugena's *Peri Physeon*'; **Valery V. PETROFF** (Moscow), 'Anonymous *Glossae* to Bede's *De natura rerum* and their Eriugenian Background'. Each was followed by a brief discussion. It is hoped that these papers will appear among the acts of the congress.

During the later part of the same afternoon a meeting of SPES was held, chaired by the president. The afternoon attendance of around 30 scholars included about ten members of SPES, as well as four of the officers: **C. Steel** (President); **J. McEvoy** (Secretary); **Cl. Leonardi**; **Éd. Jeuneau**. Three new members were enrolled at the meeting. This meeting was at the same time a workshop section of the SIEPM congress, entitled 'La nouvelle édition de *Periphyseon*'. It was devoted entirely to a discourse of Éd. Jeuneau concerning his edition of Eriugena's masterpiece. A lengthy and informative discussion of the principles of editing followed the presentation of the edition. The questioners were unanimous in welcoming the advent of the edition and in congratulating the editor upon the remarkable nature of his achievement.

New Members

Three were admitted at the Erfurt meeting of SPES:

Bauchwitz, Oscar F. (Salamanca); **Holopainen, Toivo** (Helsinki); **Lupi, João E.** (Florianópolis, Brazil).

Meeting of officers

A meeting of officers was convened for Leuven, in February 1999. Present were C. **Steel**, Ed. **Jeauneau**, J **McEvoy** and W. **Otten**. Plans for the Xth International Colloquium were discussed in detail.

Treasurers

During the period 1995-2000 C.Steel has acted as treasurer for European countries, while J. Contreni has acted in the same capacity for N. America. Both deserve the thanks of the membership. C. Steel has in addition taken charge of the circulation of the bulletin, since 1995, in a voluntary capacity.

Addresses

Every effort is made to keep the address-list of the membership up to date. A list of 'missing members' is published regularly in the bulletin. You can help by communicating with the secretary if you change your address, or know someone who has done so.

Subsidy

The secretariate of SPES receives hidden subsidies from the Faculty of Philosophy, NUIM (Maynooth), and from the Institute of Philosophy, Leuven, in the form of telephone and other communications expenses, and occasionally some secretarial time.

Reports of Treasurers

a) **C. Steel** gave a report on the years 1997-2000, as follows:

Available on February 15, 1999: Belgian Francs (BF) 142.662
Expenses covered by the Institute of Philosophy in 1997-98-99:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1) mailing: | 39,939 |
| 2) photocopying | <u>6,920</u> |
| Total | 46.859 |

Expenses covered by the SPES account in 1997-98-99:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1) travel costs McEvoy, Jeauneau, Otten | 10.300 |
| 2) invoice Faculty Club | 3.250 |
| 3) Administrative cost (mailing material) | <u>6.450</u> |
| Total: | 20.000 |

Available in SPES account on August 1, 2000 (expenses covered by Institute of Philosophy and SPES account itself have been deducted):

105.593 BF

Expenses for the printing of posters and flyers for Maynooth conference have been covered by the Institute of Philosophy. Total costs: 40.361 BF.

Expenses still to be covered by SPES: mailing costs of posters and flyers for Maynooth conference, amount presently unknown but estimated at about 25.000BF.

- b) **J. Contreni** rendered a detailed (bank-supplied) Dues Log for the period 21 October 1997-01 January 2000.

During the stated period the total sum of US\$ 560.00 was credited to the account. When added to the balance from the Chicago account, i.e. \$474.00 (formerly managed by B. BcGinn), the sum total arrived at is US\$ 1034.00.

The above reports were approved by the members.

3. Membership:

Total membership is 132, including 57 based in N. America.

Members are reminded that only paid-up members are entitled to vote at meetings of SPES or to hold office in the society. Only about a third of the membership is paid up in any given year.

An agreeable and promising feature of the Maynooth conference was the number of new members (fourteen joined up at the conference itself or in the run-up to it), most of them young. Here are their names:

Lehmann, Jeffrey S; **Stammberger**, Rolf; **Paparella**, Francesco; **O'Byrne**, Sean P.; **Henderson**, Doug; **Durand**, Stella; **Bisogno**, Armando; **Dunne**, Michael; **Kelly**, Thomas; **Delp**, Mark D.; **Sells**, Michael; **Reynolds**, Philip; **Cobb**, Lawrence W.; **Mainoldi**, Ernesto.

When we include the above, then SPES has a total (on paper) of 147 members, 62 of whom are located at present in N. America. However, many members are inactive. Some are difficult to trace, and for the following names we have **no up-to-date address**:

Chisaka, Jasuo; **Garin**, Eugenio; **Kenney**, John Peter; **Paschetto**, Eugenio; **Preux**, Philippe; **Van Lieshout**, Jules.

Fully paid-up members numbered 63 (for 1999).

4. Annual Membership Fee:

The proposal of the officers to raise the subscription was discussed. It was decided to institute several levels of annual fee, on the N. American model:

- up to the doctorate: US\$ 10.00
- ordinary members fee: US\$ 20.00
- fee for Patrons of SPES: US\$ 50.00

5. The President **proposed** that **W. Otten** should be elected Secretary of the society in place of **J. McEvoy**. The proposal was passed by acclamation. The president proposed that **J. McEvoy** be elected President in succession to him. This proposal was also passed by acclamation.

The President put the recommendation of the officers to the meeting, to the effect that the presiding group be strengthened by the election of two new officers, namely **J. Contreni** (USA) and **P.E. Dutton** (Canada). The motion was accepted *nem. con.*

6. A wide-rangeing **discussion** was held, with many contributing. Several suggestions were made concerning possible themes for the next colloquium and other research developments:

---A close reading of selected texts of Eriugena, in a seminar-style
 ---Eriugena's **appropriation** of his sources, e.g. Augustine, Boethius, Maximus, Pseudo-Dionysius (E. does not simply quote or employ passively but selects, repeats, interprets, and even distorts...);

- Cosmology and Creation: Eriugena, his Sources and his Influence (e.g. Eckhart), was proposed (by B. McGinn) for a colloquium theme;
- Eriugena and the Liberal Arts and Education;
- Eriugena in parallel study with each of the other theological figures of the 6-9th cents (T. O'Loughlin)
- The historiography of Eriugena and of his thought is still lacunary (according to E. Jeaneau), e.g. the attitude to him on the part of Ussher and Gale, their religious motivations for reading him, etc.

The research work of G. Piemonte was highlighted and encouragement offered to him regarding its continuation.

Brendan O'Ciobhain proposed that an Irish-language translation of Eriugena's works should be undertaken. A select Irish-language study- group might succeed in making an original linguistic approach to the mind of John Scottus.

Some members feel that the present colloquium-format has only a limited future, before repetitiousness overtakes or even defeats it. Alternatives should be explored.

7. The role of SPES and its future:

This was partly covered in the course of the above discussion. The President suggested that the society should widen its horizons and seek to fulfil the role of a society for Carolingian Thought and Culture--but without changing its name or its current structure. He further proposed that an interim conference of SPES should be held on the occasion of the planned SIEPM (*Société internationale pour l'étude de la philosophie médiévale*) congress, to be held in Porto in AD 2002, on the analogy of the Erfurt meeting of the same SIEPM. Also, when the edition of *Periphyseon* is completed it should be marked by some special event on the part of SPES.

The suggestion met with strong support that a **Web-site** for Eriugenian matters should be founded, and be kept up to date. This should be an independent site with its own domain name. It would require initial funding. It would rapidly replace the present bulletin (which is costly to circulate). It would present many other advantages, including perhaps attracting young scholars to the field. Such sites already exist for other medieval figures, e.g. Robert Grosseteste. A site can be advertised widely in large-circulation educational chronicles. Copyright is an issue, and where it applies the permission of the editor/publisher must be secured in advance of web-site posting. Bibliography can be kept up to date, and news (e.g. conferences) posted.

[end of report]

SPES and Carolingianists

Members present at the recent Maynooth meeting looked with favour on the suggestion put forward by Carlos Steel and the officers' group, to the effect that SPES should extend its activities to include within its ambit Carolingian intellectual and religious culture, while still retaining its focus (Eriugena) and its current organisation. To some extent this extension of interest has already been implicit in the society's activities, so that it is more a matter of explicating and announcing something than it is of inventing anything.

In order to publicize this announcement in the desirable quarters, an appeal is now being made to members of SPES: can you help the secretariat to compile an accurate mailing-list of Carolingianists? Please send names plus complete addresses to the secretary as soon as possible. In contacting the people suggested, an invitation will be given to each to become a member of SPES.

Eriugena in Spain

A conference on Neoplatonism was held at the Universidad de Navarra, 3-5 May 2000: **Revisión del Neoplatonismo/Revision of Neoplatonism (XXXIX Reuniones Filosóficas.**

Of the thirteen contributions on diverse aspects of Neoplatonism one directly concerned Eriugena: Agnieszka **Kijewska** (Lublin, Poland), 'The Epistemological Foundation of the Eriugenian System.'

From the Urals...

At the International Medieval Congress, held at the University of Leeds (10-13 July 2000), Dr Maxim B. **Homyakov** of the Urals State University read a paper entitled 'Tolerance in Medievality: "Western" and "Eastern" Authorities in Eriugena's *Periphyseon*.'

Eriugena at Cologne

The programme of the 32. Kölner Mediaevistentagung (12 to 15 September 2000, at the Thomas-Institut) announced the general theme of the congress: 'Ende und Vollendung. Eschatologische Perspektiven im Mittelalter'. One of the lectures directly concerns Eriugena: W. Otten, 'Realized Eschatology or Philosophical Idealism: The Case of Eriugena's *Periphyseon*.'

In Memoriam

The death of Paul Oskar **Kristeller** took place on 7 June 1999, at the age of 94. He was a member of SPES from its early years right up to his death (his last payment of membership dues was made in 1999). He was one of the great scholars of the twentieth century. His interest in the thought and literature of the Middle Ages was for the most part indirect, the focus of his vast scholarly output being of course the Renaissance. Many tributes to the man and his work have appeared; one of the most rounded of these may be mentioned here: John Monfasani, 'Paul Oskar Kristeller 1905-1999', in *American Cusanus Society Newsletter* XVI.1, July 1999, pp. 7-10, and *ibid.*, XVI.2, December 1999, pp. 9-11.

APCQ Number Planned

The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly devotes every third issue to a particular philosopher. Preparations have begun for a special number on Eriugena, to appear in 2002. The *ACPCQ* has a circulation of 1600 copies. Prof. Philipp W. **Rosemann** (Dept. of Philosophy, University of Dallas, Texas), who has communicated this information, has recently been appointed associate editor of the journal, which was formerly known as *The New Scholasticism*.

Gratias ago...

The outgoing secretary would like to return thanks to a number of people - to more, in fact, than can be mentioned here.

Since 1991 I have worked with two presidents of our society, Bernard McGinn and Carlos Steel, each of whom proved efficient, thoughtful, supportive regarding the administrative work, and attentive to the present and future concerns of SPES. In particular, Bernard acted as N. American treasurer (1991-1997), and Carlos as European treasurer (1995-2000) - the latter being ably seconded by the secretary of the Institute of Philosophy at Leuven, Ingrid Lombaerts. I wish also to thank John Contreni, who since 1997 has acted as treasurer for N. America.

Ann Gleeson has given a great deal of help since 1995, as secretary of the Department of Philosophy at Maynooth. From 1998 to 2000 she was assisted by Orla Morrissey. Their commitment during the past two years did much to ensure the successful organisation of the Maynooth Colloquium, in addition to the ordinary administration of SPES.

I wish my successor as secretary, Willemien Otten, the same support from fellow-officers and members of SPES as I have received during the past nine years. Indeed, for my own part I promise her as much during my presidency.

The secretaryship will be passed on to Willemien on 1 January 2001. Correspondence should be addressed to her from 1 December 2000 at the following address:

Prof. Willemien Otten, Utrecht University, Fac. of Theology, Heidelberglaan 2, De Uithof,
NL-3584 CS Utrecht, The Netherlands.
e-mail: WOTTEN@THEO.UU.NL

Appendix: Irish Academy MSS on Exhibition for SPES

As was mentioned above, three ancient manuscripts were exhibited in the library of the RIA on 18 August, for the benefit of the SPES conference. Readers may like to have some details on each of them.

1. The Cathach/The Psalter of St Columba: R.I.A. MS 12 R 33

Ca A.D. 560-630. Vellum 27cm. x 19cm. 58 leaves survive.

Written in Latin, the *Cathach* is the oldest extant Irish manuscript of the Psalter and the earliest example of Irish writing. It contains a Vulgate version of Psalms XXX (10) to CV (13). Tradition ascribes it to St Columba as the copy of a Psalter lent to him by St Finnian. A dispute arose about the ownership of the copy and King Diarmait Mac Cerbhaill gave the judgement, 'To every cow belongs her calf, therefore to every book belongs its copy.' The arbitration failed, and the Psalter of St Columba passed into the hands of the O'Donnells after the battle of Cul Dremhne in A.D. 561 (Columba left Ireland for Iona in 563). Modern scholarship has cast doubts on the authorship by St Columba and the early dating, but the book should be placed in the early seventh century, at the latest.

The O'Donnells kept possession of the *Cathach*, or 'Battler' (it was carried round the field of battle as a talisman) up to the seventeenth century, with its invasions and wars. It was taken to France in 1691 but brought back by an O'Donel family of Newport (Mayo) in 1802, still inside its eleventh-century shrine (*cumdach*). In 1843 Sir Richard O'Donel deposited it in the Academy.

The script by one scribe is early majuscule with ornamental capitals, and decoration mostly by spirals and animal heads. The *cumdach* of the *Cathach*, made by Sitric of Kells (Co. Meath) to the order of Cathbarr O'Donnell, may be seen in the National Museum.

Consult: R.S. O'Cochláin, 'The *Cathach* Battle Book and the O'Donnells', in *The Irish Sword* 8 (1968) 157-177; alternatively, C. Douglas, *The Battle Book of the O'Donnells*, Berkeley, 1935. See further: *Great Books of Ireland* (Thomas Davis Lectures), various authors, Dublin, 1967.

2. The Stowe Missal. R.I.A. MS D ii 3: Cat. No. 1238.

Ca A.D. 792-803. Vellum. 15 cm x 12 cm. 67 leaves surviving.

The Stowe Missal is a Latin Mass-book of the early Irish Church, small enough to be carried around for the use of a priest on his travels. It may have been written in Tallaght, Co. Dublin, as the abbot of the priory, St Mael Ruain, is commemorated in the Mass. An inscription on its *cumdach* locates it in the monastery of St Ruadhan in Lorrha, Co Tipperary, ca 1050. The name 'Stowe' was given it because in the nineteenth century it was part of the Buckingham collection kept at Stowe House in England. In 1883 it was purchased by the British Government and deposited in the R.I.A.

The Missal consists of two separate manuscripts. The first (11 folios) contains excerpts from the Gospel according to St John. It was written in a cursive minuscule script by a scribe who signed himself in Ogham writing, as 'Sonid'. In common with the 'pocket' Gospel books and books of devotion of the ninth century, the opening page of the Gospel has a large ornamental initial and a group of coloured initials enclosed in an ornamental border of geometrical pattern and a beast's head. The figure of St John (fol. 11) is similar to the short draped figure of the standing Evangelists of the St Gall Gospels, with an eagle hovering with expanded wings over his head and coloured in red and yellow.

The Missal proper (56 fols) is in the second manuscript and it contains the Ordinary and Canon of the Mass, the Order of Baptism and the Order of Visitation of the Sick, Extreme Unction and Communion. At the end (fols 65-67) there is an Irish tract on the Mass, together with some Irish spells and liturgical rubrics.

Consult: Byrne, F. J., 'The Stowe Missal', in *Great Books of Ireland* (Thomas Davis Lectures), Dublin, 1967, 38-50.

3. **Lebor na hUidre/The Book of the Dun Cow.** MS 23 E 25: Cat. No. 1229.

Before A.D. 1106. Vellum 32cm. x 24 cm. 67 folios, fragmentary.

Written in Irish at the monastery of Clonmacnois. The two principal scribes were Mael Muire Mac Célechair and an unnamed scribe. It was revised at a later date by an interpolator using different sources. It is named after a sixth-century sacred relic of Clonmacnois, the hide of the dun cow that belonged to St Ciarán. It is the earliest surviving MS with literature written in Irish. It contains the oldest version of the saga, *Táin Bó Cuailgne*; also the *Voyage of Bran*, and the *Feast of Bricriú*, together with other religious, mythical and historical material.

After the break-up of the old Irish monastery at Clonmacnois, the MS was in the possession of the O'Donnells of Donegal. In 1359 a member of that family was ransomed from captivity by this MS, which thus passed into the hands of the O'Connors of Sligo. It was recovered by Aedh Ruadh O'Donnell in 1470 and was still in Donegal in 1631, at the time when the *Annals of the Four Masters* was finished. It then disappeared, but was used by George Petrie in 1837. It was purchased by the Academy as part of the Hodges Smith Collection of 227 MSS, in 1844, for the sum of 1,200 guineas.

Consult: Oskamp, H.P.A., 'Notes on the History of *Lebor na hUidre*', in *Proceedings of the R.I.A.* 65 C 6 (1967), 117-138.

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Moran, Dermot, review of *Iohannis Scotti Eriugena Carmina*, SLH, vol. XII, ed. M.W. Herren, 1993; publ. in *Irish Theological Quarterly* 64/3 (1999) 321-323.

Petroff, Valery V., 'Eriugena on the *Filioque*', in *Alpha and Omega* 2 (20) 1999 207-218.

[In Russian. **Summary:** Aside from the *Quaestiones ad Thalassium* of Maximus, the *Fount of Knowledge* by Damascene is suggested as the possible source for Eriugena's discussion of the *Filioque* in *Periphyseon* II].

----- 'Epilogue of John Scottus' *Aulae Sidereae* (vv. 72-101) and the Earlier Poetic Tradition', in *Dialogue with Time. Intellectual History Yearbook I* (Moscow, Institute of Universal History, 1999), 46-59.

[In Russian. **Summary:** The article discusses models which John Scottus may have followed in the epilogue to his poem *Aulae Sidereae*. Besides the Vulgate and Bede's *De Tabernaculo* and *De Templo*, Alcuin's dedicatory inscriptions for the altars and churches dedicated to the Virgin Mary are suggested as plausible sources].

----- 'Carolingian School Texts: Glosses from the Circle of John Scottus and Remigius of Auxerre', in *Philosophy of Nature in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Part II* (Moscow, Institute of Philosophy, 1999), 233-292.

[In Russian. **Summary:** Under discussion are Carolingian school texts containing the definitions of *natura* from Eriugena's *Periphyseon*. These are 'glossae incerti auctoris' on *De Natura Rerum* [P.L. 90, 187Aff.]; glosses on the *Decem Categoriae* [ed. Marenbon], *De Natura Quid Sit* from Saint Gall [ed. De Rijk]. Related material is also treated: *Scholia Graecarum Glossarum* and the Pseudo-Byrhtferth glosses. The computer-driven analysis allows the author to suggest that the core of the anon. glosses to Bede's *De Natura Rerum* derives from the circle of Remigius of Auxerre and not from Heiric).

Reprints of articles

Marenbon, John, *Aristotelian Logic, Platonism, and the Context of Early Medieval Philosophy in the West* (Variorum Collected Studies Series: CS696), November 2000. Contains: 'Wulfad,

Charles the Bald and John Scottus Eriugena'; 'John Scottus and Carolingian Theology: from the *De praedestinatione*, its background and its critics, to the *Periphyseon*'.

O'Meara, Dominic, *The Structure of Being and the Search for the Good. Essays on Ancient and Early Medieval Platonism*, (Variorum Collectes Studies Series: CS629), 1998, 318 pp. Contains: 'The Concept of *Natura* in John Scottus Eriugena'; 'The Problem of Speaking about God in John Scottus Eriugena'; 'The Metaphysical Use of Mathematical Concepts in Eriugena'; 'Eriugena and Aquinas on the Beatific Vision'.

Book review:

Eriugena. De la division de la Nature: Periphyseon, Livre I, II, III (PUF 1995, 3 vols). Reviewed by P.E. Dutton in *The Review of Metaphysics* 50 (1997) 654-656.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Note: Members are kindly asked to let us know any change of address. We would also like to know their e-mail address, if available.

- Guy-H. ALLARD, 60, rue de Brésoles, Montréal, Canada H2Y IV5.
- American Cusanus Society, Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus, Brookville, New York 11548, USA.
- Dirk ANSORGE, Soldiner Strasse 48, 50767 Köln, DEUTSCHLAND
- David L. BALAS, Department of Theology, University of Dallas, Irving, Texas 75061, U.S.A.
- Jeanne BARBET, Route de Chaillot, Solesmes, F-72300 Sable, FRANCE
- Joel I. BARSTAD, 806 E. Boulder, Main Apt., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, U.S.A.
- Oscar F. BAUCHWITZ, Calle Colegio Solis, 5-7, 7 E, 37008 Salamanca, ESPAÑA
- Werner BEIERWALTES, Am Fischerwinkel 19, D-82031 Grünwald, DEUTSCHLAND
- David BELL, Department of Religion, University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, CANADA A1C 5S7
- Aldo BODRATO, Via Boston 60, I-10137 Torino, ITALIA
- Giulio BONAFEDE, Via Giuseppe Giusti 3, I-90144 Palermo, Sicilia, ITALIA
- Jean BOREL, La Cure, BP 77, CH-1884 Villars sur Ollon, SUISSE
- D.G. BREARLEY, Department of Classical Studies, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1N 6N5
- Mary BRENNAN, 8 Hamilton House, Wellington Lane, Dublin 4, IRELAND
- Julio BURUNAT, 515 West 59th Street, Apt. 21N, New York, NY 10019, U.S.A.
- Oleg BYCHKOV, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5S 2C4
- Jose Luis CANTON ALONSO, Universidad de Cordoba, Facultad de Filosofia y Letras, Plaza Cardenal Salazar 3, 14071 Cordoba, ESPAÑA e-mail: fs1caalj@uco.es
- Deirdre CARABINE, Uganda Martyrs University, P.O. Box 5498, Kampala, UGANDA
- Yves CHRISTE, Faculté des Lettres, Département des Sciences de l'Antiquité, Université de Genève, CH-1200 Genève, SUISSE
- Lawrence W. COBB, 6728 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223, U.S.A.
- John J. CONTRENI, Department of History, Purdue University, 1358-University Hall, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1358, U.S.A. e-mail: contreni@purdue.edu
- Raymond CORMIER, 2664 Oakhurst Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29732, U.S.A.
- Hugh J. CORRAN, Philosophy Department, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04473, U.S.A.
- F. Edward CRANZ, 110 Pinecrest Road, Durham, NC 27705-5813, U.S.A.
- R.D. CROUSE, Department of Classics, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA B3H 3J5
- Pearse A. CUSACK, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, IRELAND
- James L. DELAPLAIN, Department of English, University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI 54022, U.S.A.
- Mark D. DELP, 707 'B' Street, Petaluma, CA 94952, U.S.A.
- Paul DIETRICH, Department of Liberal Studies, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812-1038, U.S.A.
- John DILLON, School of Classics, 5034 Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin 2, IRELAND
- Maria Teresa DONATI, Fondazione Ezio Franceschini, Certosa del Galluzzo, I-50124 Firenze, ITALIA
- Giulio d'ONOFRIO, Via Rodolfo Lanciani 24, I-00162 Roma, ITALIA
- Peter DRONKE, 6 Parker Street, Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM
- Fr. Marcel-Jacques DUBOIS, Hebrew University, Faculty of Humanities, Isaiah House POB 1332, Jerusalem, ISRAEL
- Marie-Elisabeth DUCHEZ, 43 rue d'Assas, F-75006 Paris, FRANCE
- Donald F. DUCLOW, Humanities Division, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437-0901, U.S.A. e-mail: duclowg@library.phila.gov
- Paul E. DUTTON, Department of History, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, CANADA V5A 1S6
- Kurt FLASCH, Hindenburgstrasse 25, D-55118 Mainz, DEUTSCHLAND
- Georges Folliet, Etudes Augustiniennes, 3, rue de l'Abbaye, F-75006 Paris, FRANCE.
- Tore FROST, Oppedagsvejen 71, N-3148 Hvasser, NORWAY
- Stephen E. GERSH, The Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, 715 Hesburgh Library, South Bend, Indiana 46556, U.S.A.
- Wolfgang L. GOMBOCZ, Institut für Philosophie, Karl-Franzens Universität Graz, Heinrichstrasse 26, A-8010 Graz, ÖSTERREICH
- Jorge J.E. GRACIA, Department of Philosophy, State University of New York, 607 Baldy Hall, Buffalo, NY 14266, U.S.A.
- Tullio GREGORY, Università degli Studi di Roma, Città Universitaria, Istituto di Filosofia, I-00193 Roma, ITALIA

- Alois M. HAAS, Schlossergasse 2, CH-8001 Zürich, SCHWEIZ
- Jeremiah HACKETT, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, U.S.A.
- Douglas HADLEY, P.O. Box 211 B.U. Station, Boston MA 02215, U.S.A.
- Jacqueline HAMESSE, Collège Mercier, Place du Cardinal Mercier 14, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, BELGIUM. e-mail: academia.belgio@agora.stm.it
- R. Baine HARRIS, Department of Philosophy, Old Dominion University, Room 400, Norfolk, VA 23529-0083, U.S.A.
- Russell HATTON, Department of Philosophy, State University of New York, 607 Baldy Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260, U.S.A.
- David HENDERSON, 90B Harberton Road, London N19 3JP, UNITED KINGDOM
- Michael W. HERREN, 45 Woodlawn Ave. East, Toronto, CANADA M4T 1B9
- Professor Michael Herrity, President, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, IRELAND.
- Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, Bush Centre, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321-2000, U.S.A.
- Hiberno-Latin Newsletter, c/o D. Brearly, Department of Classical Studies, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1N, 6N5.
- Denis HIMES, 0897 Black Diamond Mine Road, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, U.S.A.
- Toivo J. HOLOPAINEN, University of Helsinki, Dept of Systematic Theol., Aleksanterinkatu 7, 00014 Helsinki, FINLAND
- Louis HOLTZ, Institut de Recherches et d'Histoire des Textes, 40, Avenue d'Iéna, F-75016 Paris, FRANCE
- Greg HOLUPCHINSKI, 1773 Hubbard Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104-1135, U.S.A.
- William J. HOYE, Fachbereich 21, Kath. Theologie, Universität Münster, D-48143 Münster, DEUTSCHLAND
- Institute of Medieval Thought, Sophia University, 7-1 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102, JAPAN
- International Boethius Society Newsletter, Department of English, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614, USA.
- International Society Neoplatonic Studies, c/o R.B. Harris, Department of Philosophy, Old Dominion University, Room 400, Norfolk, VA 23529-0083, USA.
- Ph. JANVRE, 11, rue Vesseron-Lejay, F-08200 Sedan, FRANCE
- Edouard JEAUNEAU, 15 passage Trubert-Bellier, 75013 Paris, FRANCE
- Colette JEUDY, 4, rue Georges Bizet, F-75116 Paris, FRANCE
- Josef KABAJ, ul. Topolnickiego 52 m 60, Kraków, POLAND
- Bernice M. KACZYNSKI, Dept. of History, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, CANADA L8S 4L9
- Charles KANNENGIESSER, 7400 Sherbrooke St. West, Sutton Square #1102, Montreal, QC H4B 1R8, CANADA. E-mail: brightp@alcor.concordia.ca
- Sheri KATZ, Department of Philosophy, Spring Hill College, 4000 Dauphin Street, Mobile, Alabama 36608-9987, U.S.A.
- Catherine KAVANAGH, University of Notre Dame, Centre for Medieval Studies, Hesburgh Library 715, Notre Dame, In 46556, U.S.A.
- Douglas F. KELLY, Reformed Theological Seminary, 5422 Clinton Boulevard, Jackson, Mississippi 39209, U.S.A.
- John Peter Kenney, Department of Religion, Reed College, Portland, Oregon 97202-8199, USA.
- Agnieszka KIJEWSKA, Faculty of Philosophy, Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, Aleje Racławickie 14, 20-950 Lublin, POLAND. e-mail: agat.kul@zeus.kul.lublin.pl
- Yoshihiro KON, Yamanashi University, Takeda 4, Kofu 400, JAPAN
- Johann KREUZER, Funckstrasse 59, D-42115 Wuppertal, DEUTSCHLAND
- Paul Oskar KRISTELLER, Dept. of Philosophy, Columbia University, 708 Philosophy Hall, New York, NY 10027, U.S.A.
- Stephen LAHEY, Department of Philosophy - Box U-54, 103 Manchester Hall, 344 Mansfield Road, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-2054, U.S.A.
- Christina LANDMAN, Department of Church History, University of South Africa, P.O. Box 392, 0001 Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA
- Claudio LEONARDI, Via Lorenzo il Magnifico 53, I-50129 Firenze, ITALIA
- Jeffrey S. LEHMAN, 1037 Rolling Hills Dr., #12, Fullerton, CA 92835, U.S.A.
- Paolo LUCENTINI, Via Giancarlo Vanini, I-50125 Firenze, ITALIA
- Anneli LUHTALA, Department of Classics, University of Helsinki PL4, 00014 Helsinki, FINLAND
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- Michael McCORMICK, Department of History, Harvard University, Cambridge/Mass., MA 02138, U.S.A.

- James McEVOY, Department of Philosophy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare, IRELAND
- Bernard McGINN, The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Swift Hall, 1025 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, U.S.A.
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- Goulven MADEC, Etudes Augustiniennes, 3, rue de l'Abbaye, F-75006 Paris, FRANCE
- John MAGEE, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5S 2C4
- Joanne MAGUIRE, 1156 E. 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, U.S.A.
- Ernesto MAINOLDI, Largo Mazzini, 1, 20081 Morimondo (MI), ITALIA
- James MALISZEWSKI, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5S2C4
- John MARENBO, Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ, UNITED KINGDOM
- J.C. MARLER, Department of Philosophy, St. Louis University, Xavier Hall, 221 North Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63103-2006, U.S.A. e-mail: marlerjc@sluvca.slu.edu
- Donald G. MARSHALL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Dept. of English (MC 162), 601 S. Morgan, Chicago, IL 60607-7120, U.S.A.
- Concetto MARTELLO, SATA - Università di Catania, Piazza Dante 32, I-95124 Catania, ITALIA
- C.K. MATHIS II, 3422 Hope Street, Huntingdon Park, California 90255, U.S.A
- Meister Eckhart Society, 49 Cockcroft Place, Cambridge CB3 0HF, United Kingdom.
- Milena MINKOVA, 224 Spargo Street, Gastonia, NC 28056, USA. E-mail: web10073@charweb.org.
- Wojciech MOHORT-KOPACZYNSKI, ul. Boguslawskiego 10/13, 60-124 Poznań, POLAND
- Hilary-Anne MOONEY, Breiacherstrasse 131, 79110 Freiburg-im-Breisgau, DEUTSCHLAND
- Dermot MORAN, Department of Philosophy, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, IRELAND. e-mail: Dermot.Moran@ucd.ie
- Gregory MOSES, Brisbane College of Theology, Banyo Seminary, Approach Rd, Banyo Q 4014, AUSTRALIA
- Seamus MULHOLLAND, The Friary, 58 St. Antony's Gate, London E7 9QB, UNITED KINGDOM
- Alessandro MUSCO, Via P.pe di Paterno 192, I-90145 Palermo, Sicilia, ITALIA
- Jacob NEEDLEMAN, Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132, U.S.A.
- Prónséas Ní CHATHAIN, Department of Early Irish, University College, National University of Ireland, Belfield, Dublin 4, IRELAND
- Breandan Ó CIOBHAIN, 4 Hawthorne Lawn, Castleknock, Co. Dublin, IRELAND
- Sean Patrick O'Byrne, 5 Sydenham Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, IRELAND.
- Masako ODAGAWA, Tokiwa 7-5-6, 336 Urawa, JAPAN
- James T. O'DONNELL, 840 Montgomery Avenue, Apt. 901, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, U.S.A.
- T. O'LOUGHLIN, 'Columba', Llanwnnen Rd., Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7JP, UNITED KINGDOM. e-mail: O-Loughlin@lamp.ac.uk
- Dominic O'MEARA, Séminaire de Philosophie, Université Miséricorde de Fribourg, Faculté des Lettres, CH-1700 Fribourg, SUISSE. e-mail: philosophie@unifr.ch
- John J. O'MEARA, 15 Maple Road, Dublin 14, IRELAND
- F. O'ROURKE, Department of Philosophy, University College, National University of Ireland, Belfield, Dublin 4, IRELAND
- Willemien OTTEN, Utrecht University, Fac. of Theology, Heidelberglaan 2, De Uithof, NL-3584 CS Utrecht, NEDERLAND
- Francesco PAPARELLA, P.G. S. Lorenzo Giustiniani 11, Mestre (VE), ITALY. E-mail: refer@libero.it
- Eugenia Paschetto, Via Cernaia 36, I-Torino 10122, ITALY.
- Jean PEPIN, 210, rue de Vaugirard, F-75015 Paris, FRANCE
- Eric D. PERL, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064, U.S.A.
- Valery PETROFF, Volzhsky Boulevard, 114a-3-268, 109462-Moskva, RUSSIA
- Gustavo A. PIEMONTE, Cas. Correo 24 - Suc. 28 (B), 1428 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- M.B. PRANGER, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Fac. der Godgeleerdheid, Delenus Instituut, Oude Turfmarkt 147, 1012 GC Amsterdam, NEDERLAND
- Phillip L. REYNOLDS, Aquinas Center of Theology, 1703 Clifton Road, #F-5 Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322, U.S.A.
- Hilary RICHARDSON, 75 Wellington Road, Dublin 4, Rep. of IRELAND
- René ROQUES, 5, rue de Belzunce, F-75010 Paris, FRANCE

- Mary Carman ROSE, 402 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21212, U.S.A.
- Philipp W. ROSEMANN, Department of Philosophy, University of Dallas, 1845 East Northgate Drive, Irving, TX 75062-4736, U.S.A.
- Paul ROREM, Princeton Theological Seminary, CN 821 Princeton NJ 08532, U.S.A.
- Liberato SANTORO, Department of Philosophy, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, IRELAND
- Jose Ignacio SARANYANA, Facultad de Teologia, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, ESPANA
- Jean-Pierre SCHOBINGER, Höschgasse 29, CH-8008 Zürich, SCHWEIZ
- Gangolf SCHRIMPF, Am Filzhauck 6, D-36093 Künzell, DEUTSCHLAND
- Peter SCHULTHESS, Philosophisches Seminar, Zollikerstrasse 117, CH-8008-Zurich, SCHWEIZ
- T.K. SCOTT jr., Department of Philosophy, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1360, U.S.A.
- Michael SELLS, Department of Religion, Haverford College, Haverford, PA 19041-1392, U.S.A.
- Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, UNITED KINGDOM.
- R.F. SMITH, S.J., Adris Newsletter, Theology Department, Fordham University, The Bronx, NY 10458, U.S.A.
- Società Internazionale per lo studio del Medioevo Latino, c/o Certosa del Galluzzo, I-50124 Firenze, ITALIA
- Ralf STAMMBERGER, Hugo Von Sankt Viktor-Institut, für Quellenkunde des Mittelalters, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Offenbacher Landstraße 224, D-60599 Frankfurt, GERMANY. E-mail: r.stammberger@em.uni-frankfurt.de.
- Carlos STEEL, Hoger Instituut voor Wijsbegeerte, Kardinaal Mercierplein 2, B-3000 Leuven, BELGIE.
e-mail: Carlos.Steel@hiw.kuleuven.ac.be
- Sergei N. SUSHKOV, 45 Broompark Drive, Dennistoun, Glasgow, G31 2JB, UNITED KINGDOM
- Robert SVITEK, 2226 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, U.S.A.
- Louis F. SWIFT, Department of Classics, 1165 Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027, U.S.A.
- Antonio TINÉ, Via Umberto 354, I-95129 Catania, ITALIA
- G.W. TROMPF, University of Sydney, 58 Boundary Road, Wahroonga 1076, AUSTRALIA
- Myra L. UHLFELDER, Department of Philosophy, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, U.S.A.
- Lin URBAN, Department of Philosophy, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19081-1397, U.S.A.
- John VAN ENGEN, Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, 715 Hesburgh Library, Notre Dame, IN 46556, U.S.A.
- Eugene VANCE, French and Italian Studies 354361, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-4361, U.S.A.
- Michael WAGNER, Philosophy Department, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110, U.S.A.
- The Warburg Institute, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, UNITED KINGDOM
- Avital WOHLMAN, Philosophy Department, Hebrew University, Isaiah House POB 1332, Jerusalem, ISRAEL
- Richard WOODS, Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626-5385, U.S.A.