

# Saint Anselm of Canterbury and His Legacy

*Saint Anselm of Canterbury and His Legacy* is a collection of twenty-one essays based on papers originally delivered at a conference commemorating the nine hundredth anniversary of Anselm's death in 1109. The breadth of the essays presented in this volume reflects the enduring fascination with Anselm and his world in ways that stress both the continuities and discontinuities with the present day.

The essays consider the following: Anselm's legacy in his own lifetime and amongst the communities in which his living memory was preserved longest; the impact of his thought in the twelfth century; the rather different inspiration his thought provided in the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries; Anselmian texts and their influence in vernacular translation, notably Middle English; and twentieth-century reception of Anselm's life and thought within Roman Catholic, continental Protestant, and Anglican history and theology, as well as the continued place of Anselmian argument within philosophical thought.

To study Anselm, and to study his legacy, is to enter a much larger world of reflection and interpretation on questions and issues he himself made central, and which concern some of the deepest subjects of human inquiry: ontology, creation, the purposes of human life, and matters of faith.



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# Saint Anselm of Canterbury and His Legacy

*Edited by*

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*Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication*

Saint Anselm of Canterbury and his legacy / edited by Giles E.M. Gasper and Ian Logan.

(Durham medieval and renaissance monographs and essays,  
ISSN 2041-2959 ; 2)

Essays based on papers originally presented at a conference held at the  
University of Kent, at Canterbury, 22nd–25th April, 2009, commemo-  
rating the nine hundredth anniversary of Anselm's death.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Co-published by: Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Durham  
University.

ISBN 978-0-88844-861-3

I. Anselm, Saint, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1033–1109 – Congresses.  
2. Anselm, Saint, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1033–1109 – Influence –  
Congresses. 3. Theology – History – Middle Ages, 600–1500 – Congresses.  
I. Gasper, Giles E. M. (Giles Edward Murray), 1975– II. Logan, Ian, 1950–  
III. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies IV. University of Durham.  
Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies V. Series: Durham  
medieval and renaissance monographs and essays ; 2

B765.A84S25 2012

282.092

C2012-901728-0

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Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
Durham University

Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies  
59 Queen's Park Crescent East  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C4  
[www.pims.ca](http://www.pims.ca)

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## Abbreviations and a Note on References

Anselm's works are indicated by title. The standard critical edition of the works remains the *Opera omnia* prepared by Dom F.S. Schmitt in one of two bibliographic forms:

*S. Anselmi Cantuariensis archiepiscopi opera omnia, ad fidem codicum recensuit*, 6 vols. [the first printed at Seckau, 1938, the second at Rome, 1940, all reset for the Edinburgh, Nelson edition] (Edinburgh: Nelson, 1946–1961).

Reprinted with new editorial material as:

*S. Anselmi Cantuariensis archiepiscopi opera omnia, ad fidem codicum recensuit*, 2 vols. (Stuttgart-Bad-Constatt: F. Frommann, 1968–1984).

The particular translations used are indicated within each author's paper.

Southern, <i>Biographer</i>	R.W. Southern, <i>Saint Anselm and His Biographer</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963).
HN	Eadmer, <i>Historia novorum in Anglia</i> , ed. Martin Rule, Rolls Series 81 (London: Longman and Trübner, 1884).
PL	Patrologiae cursus completus: Series Latina, ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris: Migne, 1844–1864).
S	F. S. Schmitt, <i>S. Anselmi Cantuariensis archiepiscopi opera omnia</i> (as above)
Southern, <i>Portrait</i>	R.W. Southern, <i>Saint Anselm: A Portrait in a Landscape</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
VA	Eadmer, <i>Vita Anselmi</i> , ed. and trans. R.W. Southern (Edinburgh: Nelson, 1962; repr. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1972).



## Preface and Acknowledgements

The fostering and maintenance of modern academic fascination with Anselm can be attributed in no small part to the series of conferences organised from 1959 to the present day focused on his works and context. The year 2009 marked both fifty years since the first of these conferences at Le Bec-Hellouin (to mark nine hundred years after Anselm's probable arrival at the Abbey of Bec), and the nine hundredth anniversary of Anselm's death. During the course of 2009, a number of conferences, colloquia and services were organised to commemorate that anniversary including those at Canterbury, Bec, Saint Anselm's College, New Hampshire, and the Abbey of Tyniec in Poland. The Canterbury conference, held at the University of Kent campus, 22–25 April 2009, took as its title and theme, *Saint Anselm of Canterbury and His Legacy*. It is from this conference that the essays that follow were selected.<sup>1</sup> The 2009 conferences as a whole indicate the enduring fascination with Anselm and his world in modes that stress both the continuities and discontinuities with the present-day. A conference in November 2010 at the Pontifical Gregorian University, on Anselm and the Making of the New Europe, served to underline the relevance of Anselm studies to a wide range of contemporary issues.

1 The Canterbury conference was organised principally by the Centre for (now Institute of) Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Durham University, and under the aegis of the Canterbury Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and the Internationale Gesellschaft für Theologische Mediävistik. Saint Anselm and His Legacy formed the annual conference for the IGTM, and the annual meeting of the society accordingly took place in Canterbury. In addition, the conference also enjoyed the patronage of the Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale. The conference organising committee consisted of Dr Giles Gasper, Conference Chair (Durham), Dr Pavel Blazek (Prague), Dr Alixe Bovey (Kent), Professor Gillian Evans (Cambridge), Dr Helmut Kohlenberger (Salzburg), Dr Ian Logan (Oxford), Professor David Luscombe (Sheffield) and Sr Dr Benedicta Ward, OSU (Oxford). The conference chair would like to take the opportunity to formally thank the organising committee, especially Dr Ian Logan and Professor David Luscombe, for all of their hard work and support.

The original 1959 conference served to give more focus to academic interest in Anselm; subsequent conferences grew in vigour and in the variety of subject areas encompassed. Although not exclusively so, the efforts of the International Anselm Committee, formed within the context of the 1959 conference, were of considerable importance in nurturing and presenting Anselmian scholarship in the second half of the twentieth century. Anselm scholarship owes a very great deal to the efforts, on this score as well as many others, to that committee.<sup>2</sup> The growth of newer foci for Anselm studies, such as the series of conferences in New Hampshire, is testament to the current vibrancy of interest within the area.<sup>3</sup>

The editors of the volume would like to express their thanks to the contributors, for their expeditious production of expanded papers, and for their cheerful response to changes requested or suggested. In addition, the editors are very grateful to the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and to the Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Durham, in whose publication series this volume appears, especially Mathew Gibson and Fred Unwalla. This is the second Anselm collection to be published by the Pontifical Institute, following the Stuttgart conference of 2004. The index to this volume was prepared by Laura Napran, to whose efforts the editors and contributors are indebted. Both editors would like to thank Professor David Luscombe for his continued advice on publication and other matters.

GEMG *and* IL

- 2 Amongst others, the International Anselm Committee has included, F.S. Schmitt OSB, Raymond Klibansky, Sir Richard Southern, and later Klaus Kienzler, Coloman Viola, Frederick Van Fleteren, Thomas Losoncy, Alessandro Ghisalberti, Helmut Kohlenberger and David Luscombe.
- 3 A list of Anselm conferences, and, where applicable, the volumes of essays they inspired are available at “Fifty Years of Anselm Conferences,” accessed 31 May 2010, <http://www.dur.ac.uk/imrs/conferences/anselm2009/50years/>.