

THE GILSON LECTURES ON THOMAS AQUINAS

Etienne Gilson was born on 13 June 1884. He earned a doctorate from the University of Paris (1913), where he was appointed professor of history of medieval philosophy in 1921. In 1928 he was professor of medieval philosophy at Harvard University, and in 1929 he was a co-founder of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and for many years was the Institute's director of studies. In 1930 he founded the series *Etudes de Philosophie Médiévale*. In 1947 he was appointed a member of the French Academy and in 1957 a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He died on 19 September 1978 at Auxerre.

Few men of modern times have influenced the study of the medieval past as profoundly as Professor Gilson. By the encyclopaedic range of his writings, teaching, lectures, and personal contacts, by his sensitive vision of Christian culture, present and past, and by the brave new ventures on which he embarked, he, as few others, is responsible for the strength and diversity of medieval studies in North America and Europe.

In recognition of his achievement and to continue his work, the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies commissioned an annual lecture to develop areas of his interest and expertise. Since 1979, there have been twenty four lectures given by senior medievalists. Among the distinguished contributors to the series are fellows of the Institute, past and present, Leonard E. Boyle, Jocelyn Hillgarth, Edouard Jeuneau, James K. McConica, M. Michèle Mulchahey, Joseph Owens, Walter H. Principe, James P. Reilly, Brian Stock, Edward A. Synan, and James A. Weispheipl, as well as such eminent scholars from Canada, Europe, and the United States, as Marcia Colish, Giles Constable, William J. Courtenay, Paul Dutton, Mark D. Jordan, F. Donald Logan, Karl F. Morrison, John D. North, Francis Oakley, Jaroslav Pelikan, Otto Hermann Pesch, Kenneth Schmitz, and John F. Wippel.

To mark the thirtieth anniversary of Gilson's death and seventy-five years of scholarly publishing at the Institute, we are reprinting the nine Gilson lectures devoted to Thomas Aquinas.

Etienne Gilson Series 30

THE GILSON LECTURES ON THOMAS AQUINAS

With an introduction by

JAMES P. REILLY



PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

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In memory of

ARMAND A. MAURER, C.S.B.

(1915–2008)

whose devotion to Aquinas and Gilson

inspired and taught

three generations of students