



PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

Richard of Campsall. *Works I: Questiones super librum priorum analecticorum*. Edited by Edward A. Synan. Studies and Texts 17. 1968; 326 pp. ISBN 0-88844-017-0 | 978-0-88844-017-4.

This volume contains the Latin text of Richard of Campsall's *Questiones super librum priorum analecticorum* from the single manuscript copy, as well as an informative and well-written introduction. Richard, cleric of the archdiocese of York and master of theology, fellow of Balliol and later fellow of Merton College, died somewhere around 1350/1360.

The questions, probably written before 1306, concentrated on three basic themes: syllogism, conversion, and consequences. The treatise demonstrates the state of logic at Oxford in the first decades of the fourteenth century when logicians were undertaking two tasks: "First they intended to maintain the tradition of logic that had reached them, mainly through Boethius and the Latin Aristotle; second, they strove to extend that tradition by contriving whole treatises, unknown to the last Roman and to the Philosopher alike—to name but a few, the tracts *De consequentiis*, *De suppositionibus*, *De insolubilibus*." Campsall participated in these efforts and although his "conception of syllogism is marked by fidelity to the Philosopher and by an effort to draw out what may have been implicit in his text," still it has a "properly 'medieval' element" – namely an "appeal to 'suppositio' as in the theoretical explanation of the ways in which the 'vox ymaginata' can refer to items in a world of things, of thoughts, and of words that have been 'brought forth.'"

This competent volume is obviously an important contribution to the literature of medieval logic, philosophy and theology. But it assumes additional significance in the light of contemporary claims that Aristotle's logic to some extent anticipates modern mathematical logic and differs from medieval logic. Synan's volume will enable scholars to evaluate those claims more accurately and easily.

– Leo Sweeney, SJ