MEDIEVAL TRINITARIAN THOUGHT FROM
AQUINAS TO OCKHAM

How can the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be distinct and yet identical? Prompted by the doctrine of the divine Trinity, this question sparked centuries of lively debate. In the current context of renewed interest in trinitarian theology, Russell L. Friedman provides the first survey of the scholastic discussion of the Trinity in the 100-year period stretching from Thomas Aquinas’ earliest works to William Ockham’s death.

Tracing two central issues—the attempt to explain how the three persons are distinct from one another but identical as God, and the application to the Trinity of a “psychological model,” on which the Son is a mental word or concept, and the Holy Spirit is love—this volume offers a broad overview of trinitarian thought in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, along with focused studies of the trinitarian ideas of many of the period’s most important theologians. An “Annotated bibliography” points the reader to further secondary literature.

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Symbols, abbreviations, and conventions

a. articulus
BN(C) Biblioteca nazionale (centrale)
c. caput
d(d). distinctio(nes)
f(f). folio(s)
ms(s). manuscript(s)
Ord. Ordinatio
OTH Opera theologica
prin. principium
q(q). questio(nes)
Rep. Reportatio
resp. responsio
Sent. Sententiae
un. unica/us

<x> (in a Latin text): I have added x to the text
[x] (in a Latin text): I have deleted x from the text
[x] (in an English text): I have added x to the text

References to published Latin texts are abbreviated according to the editor’s or the series name and keyed to the “Bibliography of primary sources”; line numbers in modern critical editions are indicated in superscripts to page number references. Translations into English of central Latin texts are numbered and are cross-referenced by means of this numbering system. “At n. x” indicates that the reader should see the main text at footnote indicator x.