THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO ANSELM

Each volume of this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars, together with a substantial bibliography, and will serve as a reference work for students and non-specialists. One aim of the series is to dispel the intimidation such readers often feel when faced with the work of a difficult and challenging thinker.

Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109), Benedictine monk and the second Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, is regarded as one of the most important philosophers and theologians of the Middle Ages. The essays in this volume explore all of his major ideas, both philosophical and theological, including his teachings on faith and reason, God’s existence and nature, logic, freedom, truth, ethics, and key Christian doctrines. There is also discussion of his life, the sources of his thought, and his influence on other thinkers.

New readers will find this the most convenient, accessible guide to Anselm currently available. Advanced students and specialists will find a conspectus of recent developments in the interpretation of Anselm.

BRIAN DAVIES is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, New York. He is the author of An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (3rd edn., 2003), Thinking about God (1985), The Thought of Thomas Aquinas (1992), and Aquinas (2002).

BRIAN LEFTOW is Nolloth Professor of the Philosophy of the Christian Religion at Oxford University. He is the author of Time and Eternity (1991), and over fifty papers in philosophy of religion, metaphysics, and the history of medieval philosophy.
The Cambridge Companion to
ANSELM

Edited by
Brian Davies
Fordham University

Brian Leftow
University of Oxford
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CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn McCord Adams is Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford. She is the author of William Ockham (2 vols., University of Notre Dame Press, 1987), and Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God (Cornell University Press, 1999). She is also the author of many articles on medieval philosophy and theology, on philosophy of religion, and philosophical theology.

Jeffrey E. Brower is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University. He is co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to Abelard and author of several publications on medieval philosophy and philosophy of religion.

David Brown is Van Mildert Professor of Divinity in the University of Durham. His most recent writings include the two-volumed work Tradition and Imagination (Oxford University Press, 1999) and Discipleship and Imagination (Oxford University Press, 2000). He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2002.

Brian Davies is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University. With G. R. Evans he is joint editor of Anselm of Canterbury: The Major Works (Oxford University Press, 1998). His books include Thinking about God (Geoffrey Chapman, 1985), The Thought of Thomas Aquinas (Oxford University Press, 1992), An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (3rd edn., Oxford University Press, 2003), and Aquinas (Continuum, 2002).

G. R. Evans is Professor of Medieval Theology and Intellectual History in the University of Cambridge. With Brian Davies she is joint editor of Anselm of Canterbury: The Major Works (Oxford University Press, 1998). Her many books include Anselm and Talking about God.
x  List of contributors


Peter King is Professor of Philosophy and Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. He has translated works by Buridan and Augustine, and is the author of several articles on medieval philosophy.

Simo Knuuttila is Research Professor in the Academy of Finland and Professor of Theological Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion at the University of Helsinki. He is the editor of The New Synthese Historical Library and the author of many books and articles on the history of logic, semantics, the philosophy of mind, and philosophical theology.


William E. Mann is Marsh Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy at the University of Vermont. He has written extensively on topics in medieval philosophy and the philosophy of religion. He is the editor of The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Religion (2004). He is a contributor to the Cambridge Companions to Augustine, Duns Scotus, and Abelard.


Sandra Visser is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Valparaiso University. Her research interests include metaphysics, philosophy of language, and ethics.
List of contributors

THOMAS WILLIAMS is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Iowa. He is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus* and a contributor to the Cambridge Companions to Augustine, Abelard, and Medieval Philosophy. His other publications include *Anselm: Monologion and Proslogion* (Hackett, 1995) and *Anselm: Three Philosophical Dialogues* (Hackett, 2002).
CHRONOLOGY

1033  Born in Aosta, Italy
1056–59 Leaves home and travels through Burgundy and France
1059  Arrives at the Abbey of Bec, Normandy; studies under Lanfranc
1060  Becomes a monk at Bec
1060–63 Probably working on De Grammatico
1063  Becomes Prior of Bec
1070–75 Produces his first Prayers and Meditations
1075–76 Writes the Monologion
1077–78 Writes the Proslogion
1078  Becomes Abbot of Bec
1080–86 Writes De Veritate, De Libertate Arbitrii, and De Casu Diaboli
1093  Becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
1094  Completes Epistola de Incarnatione Verbi
1095–98 Writes Cur Deus Homo
1097–1100 Away from England in France and Italy because of conflict with King William II
1100  Returns to England
1101  Completes De Processione Spiritus Sancti
1103–1106 Away from England again because of conflict with King Henry I; visits Bec, Chartres, Lyons, Rouen, and Jumièges
1107–1108 Completes the De Concordia
1109  Dies at Canterbury on 21 April
ABBREVIATIONS

Commendatio Operis ad Urbanum Papam
De Casu Diab. De Casu Diaboli
De Conc. De Concordia Praescientiae et Praedestinationis et Gratiae Dei cum Libero Arbitrio
De Conc. Virg. De Conceptu Virginali et de Originali Peccato
De Gramm. De Grammatico
De Inc. Verbi Epistola de Incarnacione Verbi
De Lib. Arb. De Libertate Arbitrii
De Proc. De Processione Spiritus Sancti
De Ver. De Veritate
Mon. Monologion
Phil. Frag. Philosophica Fragmenta
Prosl. Prosligion
Resp. and Gaun. Responsio ad Gaunilon

While some of the contributors to the present volume have chosen to cite texts of Anselm by referring directly to Anselm’s writings, others have given details alluding to the critical edition of Anselm (Opera Omnia) edited by F. S. Schmitt [listed in the bibliography]. In their references “S” = “Schmitt.”