

AUGUSTINE AND THE TRINITY

Augustine of Hippo (354–430), whose accounts of the Trinity have heavily influenced much subsequent Western theology, has often been accused of over-emphasizing the unity of God and thus been maligned as a source of persistent problems in contemporary religious thought. In *Augustine and the Trinity*, Lewis Ayres offers a new treatment of this important figure, demonstrating how Augustine's writings offer one of the most sophisticated early theologies of the Trinity developed after the Council of Nicaea (325). Building on recent research, Ayres argues that Augustine was influenced by a wide variety of earlier Latin Christian traditions which stressed the irreducibility of the Father, Son and Spirit. Augustine combines these traditions with material from non-Christian Neoplatonists in a very personal synthesis. Ayres also argues that Augustine shaped a powerful account of Christian ascent towards understanding of, as well as participation in, the divine life, one that begins in faith and models itself on Christ's humility.

LEWIS AYRES is Bede Professor of Catholic Theology at the University of Durham. He is co-editor with Frances Young and Andrew Louth of *The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature* (2004).

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*... cui trinitati pie sobrieque intellegendae omnis excubat vigilantia
christiana et omnis eius propectus intenditur*

The goal of all Christian watchfulness and all Christian progress is a
pious and sober understanding of the Trinity

De libero arbitrio 3. 21.60

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knew well that only in lives of mutual service and love is the foundation laid for any individual ascent towards understanding: I may or may not have achieved any of the latter, but I have no doubt about the meaning of the former.

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Abbreviations

ACW	Ancient Christian Writers
<i>AÉPHÉ</i>	<i>Annuaire de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études, Ve section (des sciences religieuses).</i>
<i>AL</i>	<i>Aristoteles Latinus</i> (Brepols)
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
<i>Aug(L)</i>	<i>Augustiniana</i>
<i>Auglex</i>	C. P. Mayer, <i>Augustinus – Lexicon</i> (Basel : Schwabe & Co. AG, 1986–)
<i>AugMag</i>	<i>Augustinus Magister: Congrès International Augustinien Paris, 21–24 septembre 1954</i> , 2 vols. (Paris: Études Augustiniennes, 1954)
<i>Aug(R)</i>	<i>Augustinianum</i>
<i>AugStud</i>	<i>Augustinian Studies</i>
BA	Bibliothèque Augustiniennes
BTL	Bibliotheca Teubneriana Latina (De Gruyter)
<i>CAG</i>	<i>Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca</i>
CCSG	Corpus Christianorum, Series Graeca
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina
<i>CHHP</i>	<i>Cambridge History of Hellenistic Philosophy</i>
<i>CPG</i>	<i>Clavis Patrum Graecorum</i>
<i>CPL</i>	<i>Clavis Patrum Latinorum</i>
CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
<i>EOMIA</i>	<i>Ecclesiae Occidentalis Monumenta Iuris Antiquissima</i>
FoC	Fathers of the Church
GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller
<i>GNO</i>	<i>Gregorii Nysseni Opera</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>JThS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LLT	Library of Latin Texts (Brepols)

NPNF	Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers
OCT	Oxford Classical Texts
OLD	<i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i>
PG	Patrologia Graeca
PL	Patrologia Latina
<i>REAug</i>	<i>Revue des Études Augustiniennes</i>
<i>RecAug</i>	<i>Recherches Augustiniennes</i>
<i>RevBen</i>	<i>Revue Bénédictine</i>
<i>RThAM</i>	<i>Recherches de théologie ancienne et médiévale</i>
<i>RThL</i>	<i>Revue Théologique de Louvain</i>
SC	Sources Chrétiennes
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studia Patristica</i>
<i>TS</i>	<i>Theological Studies</i>
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen
U	Urkunde
WSA	Works of Saint Augustine
<i>ZNTW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZAC</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>