

Nicholas of Cusa and the Making of the Early Modern World

Edited by

Simon J.G. Burton, Joshua Hollmann, and Eric M. Parker



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Contents

Acknowledgements VIII

List of Illustrations IX

Abbreviations X

Notes on Contributors XI

Nicholas of Cusa: The Life of a Reformer XVI

Simon J.G. Burton, Joshua Hollmann, and Eric M. Parker

Introduction: Nicholas of Cusa and Early Modern Reform: towards a Reassessment 1

Simon J.G. Burton, Joshua Hollmann, and Eric M. Parker

PART 1

Reformatio Generalis: *Ecclesiastical Reform*

1 A Difficult Pope: Eugenius IV and the Men around Him 49

Thomas M. Izbicki and Luke Bancroft

2 The Reform of Space for Prayer: *Ecclesia primitiva* in Nicholas of Cusa and Leon Battista Alberti 74

Il Kim

3 "Papista Insanissima": Papacy and Reform in Nicholas of Cusa's *Reformatio Generalis* (1459) and the Early Martin Luther (1517–19) 105

Richard J. Serina, Jr.

4 Nicholas of Cusa and Paolo Sarpi: Copernicanism and Conciliarism in Early Modern Venice 128

Alberto Clerici

PART 2

Coincidentia Oppositorum: *Theological Reform*

5 Nicholas of Cusa and Martin Luther on Christ and the Coincidence of Opposites 153

Joshua Hollmann

- 6 *Ignorantia Non Docta*: John Calvin and Nicholas of Cusa's Neglected Trinitarian Legacy 173
Gary W. Jenkins
- 7 Nicholas of Cusa and Pantheism in Early Modern Catholic Theology 199
Matthew T. Gaetano

PART 3

Explicatio Visionis: Reform of Perspective

- 8 The Notion of Faith in the Works of Nicholas Cusanus and Giordano Bruno 231
Luisa Brotto
- 9 "The Sacred Circle of All-Being": Cusanus, Lord Brooke, and Peter Sterry 257
Eric M. Parker
- 10 Varieties of Spiritual Sense: Cusanus and John Smith 285
Derek Michaud
- 11 Motion, Space, and Early Modern Re-formations of the Cosmos: Nicholas of Cusa's *Anima Mundi* and Henry More's Spirit of Nature 307
Nathan R. Strunk

PART 4

Mathesis Universalis: Reform of Method

- 12 Cusanus and Boethian Theology in the Early French Reform 339
Richard J. Oosterhoff
- 13 Nicholas Cusanus and Guillaume Postel on Learning and *Docta Ignorantia* 367
Roberta Giubilini

- 14 The Book Metaphor Triadized: the Layman's Bible and God's Books in Raymond of Sabunde, Nicholas of Cusa and Jan Amos Comenius 384
Petr Pavlas
- 15 "Squaring the Circle": Cusan Metaphysics and the Pansophic Vision of Jan Amos Comenius 417
Simon J.G. Burton
- 16 Cusanus and Leibniz: Symbolic Explorations of Infinity as a Ladder to God 450
Jan Makovský
- Epilogue: Ernst Cassirer and Renaissance Cultural Studies: the Figure of Nicholas of Cusa 485
Michael Edward Moore
- Index 507