

PETER ADAMSON

MEDIEVAL  
PHILOSOPHY

a history of philosophy without any gaps

volume 4

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

**OXFORD**

**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP,  
United Kingdom

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.  
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,  
and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of  
Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

© Peter Adamson 2019

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

First Edition published in 2019

Impression: 2

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in  
a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the  
prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted  
by law, by licence or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics  
rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the  
above should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the  
address above

You must not circulate this work in any other form  
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

Published in the United States of America by Oxford University Press  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, United States of America

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Data available

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019947222

ISBN 978-0-19-884240-8

Printed and bound in Great Britain by  
Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

Links to third party websites are provided by Oxford in good faith and  
for information only. Oxford disclaims any responsibility for the materials  
contained in any third party website referenced in this work.

# CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
<i>Dates</i>	xvii

## Part I. Early Medieval Philosophy

1. Arts of Darkness—Introduction to Medieval Philosophy	3
2. Charles in Charge—The Carolingian Renaissance	10
3. Grace Notes—Eriugena and the Predestination Controversy	17
4. Much Ado About Nothing—Eriugena's <i>Periphyseon</i>	24
5. Philosophers Anonymous—The Roots of Scholasticism	31
6. Virgin Territory—Peter Damian on Changing the Past	39
7. A Canterbury Tale—Anselm's Life and Works	46
8. Somebody's Perfect—Anselm's Ontological Argument	52
9. All or Nothing—The Problem of Universals	58
10. Get Thee to a Nunnery—Heloise and Abelard	66
11. It's the Thought that Counts—Abelard's Ethics	72
12. Learn Everything—The Victorines	79
13. Like Father, like Son—Debating the Trinity	87
14. On the Shoulders of Giants—Philosophy at Chartres	94
15. The Good Book—Philosophy of Nature	101
16. One of a Kind—Gilbert of Poitiers on Individuation	107
17. Two Swords—Early Medieval Political Philosophy	114

18. Law and Order—Gratian and Peter Lombard	121
19. Leading Light—Hildegard of Bingen	128
20. Rediscovery Channel—Translations into Latin	135
21. Straw Men—The Rise of the Universities	142

## **Part II. The Thirteenth Century**

22. No Uncertain Terms—Thirteenth-Century Logic	153
23. Full of Potential—Thirteenth-Century Physics	161
24. Stayin' Alive—Thirteenth-Century Psychology	168
25. It's All Good—The Transcendentals	175
26. Do the Right Thing—Thirteenth-Century Ethics	182
27. A Light that Never Goes Out—Robert Grosseteste	188
28. Origin of Species—Roger Bacon	194
29. Stairway to Heaven—Bonaventure	201
30. Your Attention, Please—Peter Olivi	208
31. None for Me, Thanks—Franciscan Poverty	215
32. Begin the Beguine—Hadewijch and Mechthild of Magdeburg	222
33. Binding Arbitration—Robert Kilwardby	229
34. Animal, Vegetable, Mineral—Albert the Great's Natural Philosophy	236
35. The Shadow Knows—Albert the Great's Metaphysics	242
36. The Ox Heard round the World—Thomas Aquinas	248
37. Everybody Needs Some Body—Aquinas on Soul and Knowledge	255
38. What Comes Naturally—Ethics in Albert and Aquinas	262
39. What Pleases the Prince—The Rule of Law	269

CONTENTS

40. Onward Christian Soldiers—Just War Theory	277
41. Paris when it Sizzles—The Condemnations	284
42. Masters of the University—“Latin Averroists”	290
43. The NeverEnding Story—The Eternity of the World	297
44. Let Me Count the Ways—Speculative Grammar	304
45. Love, Reign over Me—The <i>Romance of the Rose</i>	311
46. Frequently Asked Questions—Henry of Ghent	318
47. Here Comes the Son—The Trinity and the Eucharist	325
48. Once and for All—Scotus on Being	332
49. To Will or Not to Will—Scotus on Freedom	339
50. On Command—Scotus on Ethics	345
51. One in a Million—Scotus on Universals and Individuals	352

**Part III. The Fourteenth Century**

52. Time of the Signs—The Fourteenth Century	361
53. After Virtue—Marguerite Porete	368
54. To Hell and Back—Dante Alighieri	374
55. Our Power is Real—The Clash of Church and State	381
56. Render unto Caesar—Marsilius of Padua	387
57. Do As You’re Told—Ockham on Ethics and Political Philosophy	394
58. A Close Shave—Ockham’s Nominalism	400
59. What Do You Think?—Ockham on Mental Language	407
60. Keeping it Real—Responses to Ockham	414
61. Back to the Future—Foreknowledge and Predestination	421
62. Trivial Pursuits—Fourteenth-Century Logic	428

CONTENTS

63. Quadrivial Pursuits—The Oxford Calculators	435
64. Get to the Point—Fourteenth-Century Physics	442
65. Portrait of the Artist—John Buridan	449
66. Seeing is Believing—Nicholas of Autrecourt's Skeptical Challenge	456
67. On the Money—Medieval Economic Theory	463
68. Down to the Ground—Meister Eckhart	470
69. Men in Black—The German Dominicans	476
70. A Wing and a Prayer—Angels in Medieval Philosophy	482
71. Alle Maner of Thyng Shall be Welle—English Mysticism	489
72. Say it with Poetry—Chaucer and Langland	495
73. The Good Wife—Sexuality and Misogyny in the Middle Ages	502
74. Sighs Were her Food—Catherine of Siena and Affective Mysticism	509
75. The Most Christian Doctor—The <i>Querelle de la rose</i> and Jean Gerson	516
76. Morning Star of the Reformation—John Wyclif	523
77. The Prague Spring—Scholasticism across Europe	529
78. Renaissance Men—Ramon Llull and Petrarch	536
Notes	543
<i>Further Reading</i>	609
<i>Publisher's Acknowledgment</i>	627
<i>Index</i>	629