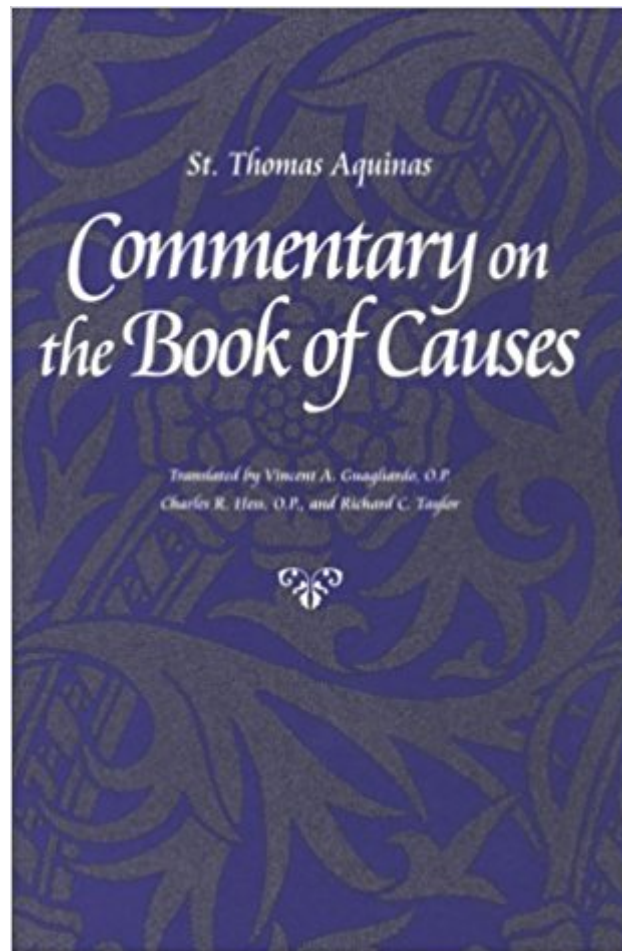




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Commentary On The Book Of Causes (Thomas Aquinas In Translation)



Synopsis

The Book of Causes, highly influential in the medieval university, was commonly but incorrectly understood to be the completion of Aristotle's metaphysics. It was Thomas Aquinas who first judged it to have been abstracted from Proclus's Elements of Theology, presumably by an unknown Arabic author, who added to it ideas of his own. The Book of Causes is of particular interest because themes that appear in it are echoed in the metaphysics of Aquinas: its treatment of being (esse) as proceeding from the First Creating Cause; the triadic scheme of being, living, and knowing; and the general scheme of participation in which "all is in all." Thus, the Book of Causes provides a historical backdrop for understanding and appreciating Aquinas's development of these themes in his metaphysics.

Book Information

Series: Thomas Aquinas in Translation

Paperback: 236 pages

Publisher: The Catholic University of America Press (April 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813208440

ISBN-13: 978-0813208442

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #635,203 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #234 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Medieval Thought #252 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Epistemology #589 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Epistemology

Customer Reviews

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This is the first volume in a new series of translations of the works of Thomas Aquinas. Additional volumes are in preparation and will be published as the finished manuscripts become available. The Book of Causes, highly influential in the medieval university, was commonly but incorrectly understood to be the completion of Aristotle's metaphysics. It was Thomas Aquinas who first judged

it to have been abstracted from Proclus's *Elements of Theology*, presumably by an unknown Arabic author, who added to it ideas of his own. The *Book of Causes* is of particular interest because themes that appear in it are echoed in the metaphysics of Aquinas: its treatment of being (*esse*) as proceeding from the First Creating Cause; the triadic scheme of being, living, and knowing; and the general scheme of participation in which "all is in all." Thus, the *Book of Causes* provides a historical backdrop for understanding and appreciating Aquinas's development of these themes in his metaphysics. Thomas's *Commentary on the Book of Causes*, composed during the first half of 1272, is a distinct philosophical work in its own right. It provides an extended view of his approach to Neoplatonic thought and functions as a guide to his metaphysics. Though long neglected and, until now, never translated into English, it deserves an equal place alongside his commentaries on Aristotle and Boethius. In addition to the extensive annotation, bibliography, and thorough introduction, this translation is accompanied by two valuable appendices. The first provides a translation of another version of proposition 29 of the *Book of Causes*, which was not known to St. Thomas. The second lists citations of the *Book of Causes* found in the works of St. Thomas and cross-references these to a list showing the works, and the exact location within them, where the citations can be found. The late Vincent A. Guagliardo, O.P., was professor of philosophy at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California. Charles R. Hess, O.P., is an adjunct lecturer in ecclesiastical Latin at the Dominican School. Richard C. Taylor is associate professor of philosophy at Marquette University. His area of specialty is ancient and medieval philosophy. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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This book is absolutely crucial to understanding Aquinas. Its analysis of "progression" is behind everything in the *SUMMA THEOLOGICAE*. Both works need to be read in conjunction with E. R. Dodds' translation of Proclus' *THE ELEMENTS OF THEOLOGY* which, in turn, should be read with intense concentration on the logic of mathematics. There is, in Aquinas' *COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF CAUSES*, a relatively explicit analysis of "time" as being always two very different things: 1] the immediacy of NOW, the personal, real, individual, existential experience of time in 'human being' and 2] "time" as observed, measured, mapped from starting point to finishing point, the time of the clock. This is the serial 'time' Heidegger criticized in Aristotle and Hegel as deficient and DERIVED 'time', real time being the immediate continuum of human physical experience.--Gary C. Moore
P O BOX 5081
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