

# THOMAS AQUINAS

## *Lectura romana in primum Sententiarum Petri Lombardi*

*Edited by*

†LEONARD E. BOYLE, OP and JOHN F. BOYLE

This edition makes available for the first time a previously lost work of Thomas Aquinas.

Ptolomeo of Lucca, the friend, confessor, and biographer of Aquinas, uniquely reported that Thomas, while in Rome, had written a second commentary on Book I of Peter Lombard's *Liber sententiarum*. The *Lectura romana* is that commentary. It is a *reportatio* of Aquinas' lectures on Peter Lombard given in Rome in 1265–1266. An entirely new commentary, the *Lectura romana* contains a prolog, ninety-seven articles covering distinctions 1–17 and 23, and three short notes on distinctions 3 and 24. These lectures cover the nature of *sacra doctrina*, the names and attributes of God, the Trinity, and charity.

The Roman Province of the Order of Preachers had established a new studium at Rome in which Thomas would teach his fellow Dominicans beginning their theological education. The *Lectura romana* constituted part of his teaching in this new studium. In this work, we have the only surviving *reportatio* of Thomas' teaching other than biblical commentaries. Written with the trim precision of the *Summa theologiae*, the *Lectura romana* contains questions, arguments, and examples not found elsewhere in the works of Aquinas. The extended treatment of the Holy Spirit is the fullest to be found outside of the Parisian *Scriptum*. The *Lectura romana* generally reflects Thomas' mature theological thinking. It is this work he abandons to begin the writing of his *Summa theologiae*. Because it can be precisely dated to 1265–1266, the *Lectura romana* is particularly promising for understanding the development of Aquinas' thought on a number of central theological topics.

The *Lectura romana* survives in the margins and guard folia of a thirteenth-century manuscript of the Parisian *Scriptum* now in Lincoln College, Oxford.



STUDIES AND TEXTS 152

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PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

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## Contents

Preface	IX
Abbreviations	X
Introduction ( <i>John F. Boyle</i> )	1
Oxford, Lincoln College MS Lat. 95	2
“Alia lectura fratris Thomae”	2
The Sale and Dating of the Manuscript	3
Evidence from B for the Authenticity of the <i>Lectura romana</i>	5
Marginal Notes Indicating Authenticity	7
Hands B and C	8
The <i>Lectura romana</i> as a Commentary on Peter Lombard	10
The Thomistic Character of the <i>Lectura romana</i>	14
Thomas’ Classroom	16
Description of the Distinctions and Articles	19
The Principles of the Edition	56
“Alia lectura fratris Thomae” ( <i>Leonard E. Boyle</i> )	58
<b><i>Lectura Romana in primum Sententiarum Petri Lombardi</i></b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Prologus</b>	<b>73</b>
Prologus	73
Prol.1.1 Vtrum haec doctrina sit scientia	75
Prol.2.1 Vtrum Deus sit subiectum huius scientiae	76
Prol.3.1 Vtrum haec scientia sit practica	77
Prol.4.1 Vtrum modus procedendi in hac scientia sit conveniens	78
Prol.4.2 Vtrum homo debeat intendere ad ea quae supra ipsum sunt	79
Prol.4.3 Vtrum in sacra scriptura liceat uti auctoritatibus sanctorum	80
Prol.4.4 Vtrum in sacra scriptura liceat uti auctoritatibus philosophorum	81
Prol.5.1 Vtrum veritas possit esse odiosa	83
<b>Distinctio 1</b>	<b>84</b>
1.1.1 Quid sit frui	84
1.1.2 Quid sit uti	85
1.1.3.1 Vtrum homo debeat seipso uti vel frui	86
1.1.3.2 Vtrum verum sit quod dicit Augustinus, <i>in quantum sumus, boni sumus</i>	88
1.1.3.3 Vtrum Deus utatur nobis	89
1.1.3.4 Vtrum virtutibus sit fruendum	90
1.2.1 Vtrum haec doctrina sit de rebus et signis	91
<b>Distinctio 2</b>	<b>93</b>
2.1.1 Vtrum nomina de Deo dicta significant unum in Deo vel multa	93
2.2.1 Vtrum aliquid sit summe bonum	95
2.2.2 Vtrum summum bonum possit ante purgatissima mente videri	96
2.2.3 Vtrum sit tantum unum summum bonum	98
2.2.4 Vtrum in summo bono possit esse pluralitas personarum	99
2.3.1 Vtrum hoc nomen “Deus” sit nomen operationis vel naturae	101
2.3.2 Vtrum hoc nomen “Deus” predicetur de tribus personis in plurali	103
2.3.3 Vtrum hoc nomen “Deus” sit magis proprium nomen ipsius quam alia	104

<b>Distinctio 3</b>	<b>106</b>
3.1.1 Vtrum Deum esse sit per se notum	<i>106</i>
3.1.2 Vtrum per creaturas possimus devenire in cognitionem Dei	<i>107</i>
3.1.3 Vtrum per rationes naturales possit deveniri in cognitionem Trinitatis personarum in divinis	<i>109</i>
3.2.1 Vtrum in omnibus creaturis sit vestigium Trinitatis	<i>110</i>
3.3.1 Quid sit mens	<i>113</i>
3.3.2 Vtrum in mente secundum ista tria, scilicet memoriam, intelligentiam et voluntatem, sit imago Trinitatis	<i>115</i>
3.3.3 Vtrum in memoria, intelligentia et voluntate attendatur imago Trinitatis quantum ad quaecumque obiecta vel solum quantum ad Deum	<i>117</i>
3.3.4 Vtrum memoria, intelligentia et voluntas insint substantialiter animae	<i>119</i>
Nota 1	<i>121</i>
Nota 2	<i>121</i>
<b>Distinctio 4</b>	<b>122</b>
4.1 Vtrum haec sit vera, “Deus genuit Deum”	<i>122</i>
4.2 Vtrum haec sit vera, “Deus est Trinitas” vel “Deus est tres personae”	<i>123</i>
4.3 Vtrum haec sit vera, “Deus genuit se vel alium Deum”	<i>124</i>
<b>Distinctio 5</b>	<b>126</b>
5.1.1 Vtrum haec sit vera, “essentia generat vel genita est”	<i>126</i>
5.1.2 Vtrum essentia sit principium generationis	<i>126</i>
5.2.1 Vtrum haec sit vera, “Filius est de substantia Patris”	<i>127</i>
5.2.2 Vtrum haec locutio sit vera, “Filius est Filius substantiae sive caritatis Patris”	<i>129</i>
5.2.3 Vtrum haec sit vera, “tres personae sunt unius essentiae”	<i>130</i>
<b>Distinctio 6</b>	<b>131</b>
6.1 Vtrum Deus Pater genuit Filium necessitate	<i>131</i>
6.2 Vtrum Deus Pater genuit Filium voluntate	<i>131</i>
<b>Distinctio 7</b>	<b>134</b>
7.1 Vtrum in Patre sit potentia generandi	<i>134</i>
7.2 Vtrum potentia generandi in divinis sit notionale vel essenziale	<i>135</i>
7.3 Vtrum potentia generandi sit in Filio	<i>136</i>
7.4 Vtrum Filius possit generare Filium	<i>137</i>
<b>Distinctio 8</b>	<b>139</b>
8.1.1 Vtrum Deus sit suum esse	<i>139</i>
8.1.2 Vtrum hoc nomen “qui est” sit proprium nomen Dei	<i>140</i>
8.1.3 Vtrum Deus mensuretur aeternitate	<i>141</i>
8.2.1 Vtrum Deus sit immutabilis	<i>143</i>
8.2.2 Vtrum solus Deus sit immutabilis	<i>144</i>
8.3.1 Vtrum solus Deus sit simplex	<i>145</i>
8.3.2 Vtrum Deus sit in praedicamento substantiae	<i>146</i>
8.3.3 Vtrum Deus sit corpus	<i>147</i>
8.3.4 Vtrum in Deo sint accidentia	<i>149</i>

<b>Distinctio 9</b>	<b>151</b>
9.1 Vtrum generatio sit in divinis 151	
9.2 Vtrum Filius possit dici alius a Patre 152	
9.3 Vtrum Filius sit coeternus Patri 153	
9.4 Vtrum debeat dici quod Filius nascitur semper 155	
<b>Distinctio 10</b>	<b>157</b>
10.1 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus procedat ut amor 157	
10.2 Vtrum amor in divinis dicatur essentialiter vel personaliter 158	
10.3 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus sit unio sive nexus Patris et Filii 160	
10.4 Vtrum hoc nomen “Spiritus Sanctus” conveniat tertiae in Trinitate personae 160	
<b>Distinctio 11</b>	<b>163</b>
11.1 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus procedat a Patre tantum 163	
11.2 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus distingueretur a Filio si non procederet ab eo 165	
11.3 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus procedat a Patre et Filio in quantum sunt unum vel in quantum sunt duo 167	
<b>Distinctio 12</b>	<b>168</b>
12.1 Vtrum sit aliquis ordo processionis Spiritus Sancti ad generationem Filii 168	
12.2 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus secundum aliquem ordinem procedat a Patre et Filio 169	
12.3 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus procedat a Patre per Filium 169	
<b>Distinctio 13</b>	<b>171</b>
13.1 Vtrum in divinis sit una processio tantum vel plures 171	
13.2 Vtrum processionibus differant re vel ratione tantum 172	
13.3 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus possit dici genitus 173	
13.4 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus possit dici ingenitus 174	
<b>Distinctio 14</b>	<b>175</b>
14.1 Vtrum Spiritus Sancti sit aliqua missio temporalis 175	
14.2 Vtrum processio Spiritus Sancti possit dici datio sive donatio 176	
14.3 Vtrum detur Spiritus Sanctus vel dona eius tantum 177	
14.4 Vtrum sancti viri possint dare Spiritum Sanctum 178	
<b>Distinctio 15</b>	<b>179</b>
15.1 Vtrum alicui personae divinae conveniat mitti 179	
15.2 Vtrum personae Patris conveniat mitti 180	
15.3 Vtrum Filius mittat seipsum vel Spiritus Sanctus mittat seipsum vel Filium 181	
15.4 Vtrum sint duo modi missionis Filii 183	
<b>Distinctio 16</b>	<b>184</b>
16.1 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus mittatur visibiliter vel conveniat visibiliter mitti 184	
16.2 Ad quos missio visibilis Spiritus Sancti fieri debet 186	
16.3 Vtrum Spiritus Sanctus secundum missionem visibilem sit minor Patre 188	
16.4 Vtrum secundum divinitatem Pater sit maior Filio et Filius non sit minor Patre secundum quod dicit Hilarius 189	

<b>Distinctio 17</b>	<b>190</b>
17.1.1 Vtrum ad diligendum Deum requiratur aliquod lumen supernaturale 190	
17.1.2 Vtrum illud sit quid creatum vel increatum 191	
17.1.3 Vtrum illud sit accidens 193	
17.1.4 Vtrum homo possit scire certitudinaliter se habere caritatem 193	
17.2.1 Vtrum caritas augeatur 194	
17.2.2 Quantum caritas augeatur 196	
17.2.3 Vtrum caritas crescat per additionem 198	
17.2.4 Vtrum caritas minuatur 199	
<b>Distinctio 23</b>	<b>202</b>
23.1 De distinctione nominum “essentia,” “subsistentia,” “substantia,” “persona” et “hypostasis” 202	
23.2 Vtrum hoc nomen “persona” dicatur proprie in divinis 203	
23.3 Vtrum hoc nomen “persona” significet essentiam vel relationem 204	
23.4 Vtrum hoc nomen “persona” praedicetur pluraliter in divinis 205	
<b>Distinctio 24</b>	<b>207</b>
Nota 207	
Bibliography	208
Index	212



## Preface

In his Gilson Lecture of 7 March 1982, delivered at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and subsequently published as *The Setting of the "Summa theologiae" of Saint Thomas*, Leonard Boyle announced the existence, at least in part, of a lost work of St. Thomas Aquinas, a second commentary on Book I of Peter Lombard's *Liber sententiarum*. Shortly thereafter, Fr. Boyle invited me to serve as his co-editor in preparing the edition here at hand. The next year, he presented his thinking more fully in "Alia lectura fratris Thome" published in *Mediaeval Studies*. When Fr. Boyle left for Rome as Prefect of the Vatican Library in 1985, he cleared his desk of many projects, but this one he kept. In the course of the years that followed, the edition took shape. In the months before his death in 1999, he was reviewing the typescript. He planned a trip to Oxford to examine the manuscript again.

In our discussions of the introduction, Fr. Boyle thought he would revise his "Alia lectura fratris Thome" in the light of his fresh examination of the manuscript. Declining health prevented his trip to Oxford and thus any revision of his article. It is only right that Leonard Boyle should introduce this text. Thus, his "Alia lectura fratris Thome" is reprinted here. I would not presume to imagine how he might have revised it, although he surely would have. With the exception of very minor corrections, it is here as he wrote it.

A particular debt of gratitude is owed to those who made my all too short trips to Oxford productive. Dr. Martin Kauffmann, Mr. William Hodges and the staff of Duke Humphrey's at the Bodleian Library made possible my consultation of Lincoln College, Lat. 95. Fr. Joseph Munitiz, SJ and Fr. Gerald Hughes, SJ, Masters of Campion Hall, were most kind in providing guest lodgings for a visiting scholar.

Essential financial assistance was provided by several grants from the Aquinas Foundation of the University of St. Thomas. I am grateful to the late Msgr. Terence Murphy, chancellor of the University of St. Thomas, who, as director of the Aquinas Foundation, consistently supported this project.

The work on the source apparatus was done during a sabbatical year supported by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency of the United States.

## Abbreviations

Books of the Bible are cited using the standard abbreviations. References to Aristotle adopt the modern internal divisions and Bekker numbers. Citations to other primary sources also follow the conventional divisions of the work, supplemented, where necessary, by parenthetical reference to the modern edition used (full details of which are provided in the Bibliography).

### Series

- CCL Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina (Turnhout: Brepols, 1953– )  
CCCM Corpus Christianorum, Continuatio Mediaevalis (Turnhout: Brepols, 1977– )  
CSEL Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum latinorum (Vienna: F. Tempsky, and various imprints, 1866– )  
PL Patrologiae cursus completus: Series Latina, ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris: Migne, 1844–1864)

### Peter Lombard

*Sent.* *Sententiae in IV libris distinctae* [*Liber sententiarum*]

### Thomas Aquinas

- CEG* *Contra errores graecorum*  
*CT* *Compendium theologiae*  
*De pot.* *De potentia Dei*  
*De ver.* *De veritate*  
*SCG* *Summa contra Gentiles*  
*ST* *Summa theologiae*  
*Super Sent. (Scriptum)* *Scriptum super libros Sententiarum*

### Other works

Boyle, “‘Alia lectura’ ”

Leonard E. Boyle, “‘Alia lectura fratris Thome.’ ” *Mediaeval Studies* 45 (1983): 418–29.  
Reprinted, with minor corrections, pp. 58–69 below; all references to this version.

Dondaine, “‘Alia lectura’ ”

H.-F. Dondaine, “‘Alia lectura fratris Thome?’ (*Super 1 Sent.*)” *Mediaeval Studies* 42 (1980): 308–36.

The fifteen sequentially numbered articles edited in this essay, referred to by “Dondaine” followed by the roman numeral assigned to each, correspond to the articles of the *Lectura romana* as follows:

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dondaine I: <b>Prol.1.1</b>   | Dondaine IX: <b>2.3.3</b>  |
| Dondaine II: <b>Prol.4.2</b>  | Dondaine X: <b>3.3.2</b>   |
| Dondaine III: <b>Prol.4.4</b> | Dondaine XI: <b>2.1.1</b>  |
| Dondaine IV: <b>Prol.4.3</b>  | Dondaine XII: <b>8.1.2</b> |
| Dondaine V: <b>2.2.1</b>      | Dondaine XIII: <b>9.2</b>  |
| Dondaine VI: <b>2.2.3</b>     | Dondaine XIV: <b>10.1</b>  |
| Dondaine VII: <b>2.2.4</b>    | Dondaine XV: <b>10.2</b>   |
| Dondaine VIII: <b>2.3.2</b>   |                            |