

*Radulphus Ardens*  
*The Questions on the Sacraments*

Edited and translated by CHRISTOPHER P. EVANS

Radulphus Ardens (fl. 1190s) was a famous preacher, distinguished theologian within the school of Gilbert of Poitiers, and chaplain in the court of Richard I the Lionheart. While modern scholarship is already familiar with his sermon collections published in the *Patrologia Latina*, his major and final work, the *Speculum uniuersale*, still remains unedited and virtually unexplored. In it he composes one of the most comprehensive moral theologies in the twelfth century. In his treatment on the sacraments he discusses questions and solutions to what he calls the necessary sacraments, namely Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, and Extreme Unction (the voluntary sacraments, Marriage and Holy Orders, are not discussed). Building upon the sacramental theology of Peter Lombard's *Sententiae* and Simon of Tournai's *Institutiones in sacram paginam* (ca. 1160–1170), he offers precise and lucid solutions that advance the ideas of his predecessors sometimes in unique ways. He thereby becomes an important witness to the development of sacramental theology in the late twelfth century.

This is the first Latin edition and translation of Radulphus' treatment of the sacraments (Book 8, chapters 31–92). The introduction offers a biographical sketch, a summary of his writings, and an analysis of the manuscript tradition of the *Speculum*. Included as well are critical studies on selected topics and extended Latin citations from elsewhere in the *Speculum*, from Simon of Tournai's *Institutiones*, and from many other post-Lombardian theologians who are not his immediate sources, like Magister Martin and Praepositinus. Readers are thus presented with a wealth of Latin writings, much of which are still unedited, that situates Radulphus' sacramental theology both within the broader framework of his moral theology and within the rich theological milieu of the late twelfth century. As such, Radulphus' *Speculum* will be of interest both to scholars and students alike who are interested in the history of sacramental theology in the early-scholastic period. And, as the only English translation of a late twelfth-century summa on the sacraments, this makes an ideal supplement to the newly published English translation of the fourth book of Peter Lombard's *Sententiae*.

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## Preface

The twentieth century witnessed a flourishing of editions of early-scholastic Latin writings that have shed light on the richness and vitality of the theological milieu of the late twelfth century. Despite this productivity there are few reliable Latin texts of all the key thinkers, and even fewer English translations. Indeed, except for the citations of unedited manuscript materials found in scholarly studies, the late twelfth century remains widely inaccessible. Radulphus Ardens is one of many theologians of the period to have captured the interest of specialists, because he bears important witness to the traditions he inherited from Peter Lombard and especially from Simon of Tournai. This volume aims to make Radulphus's summa on the sacraments available and more serviceable to both scholarly research and teaching through a critical Latin text and facing English translation, as well as a commentary that discusses key topics and offers extended citations from other influential twelfth-century thinkers, particularly Simon of Tournai, whose *Institutiones* remain unedited. Whenever possible, I have consulted multiple manuscripts for these citations in order to ensure their reliability.

I am grateful to the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies for its interest in this project and to Fred Unwalla for his help in dealing with dilemmas in editing and production that a volume like this inevitably involves. I am also indebted to Joseph Goering for his generous time and much-appreciated critiques and suggestions. The Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and Vatican Film Library were also instrumental in making accessible and providing microfilm copies of many manuscripts used in this volume. I am grateful to the Faculty Development Committee at the University of St Thomas (Houston, Texas) for awarding me a research grant in aid of publication and to the Theology Department for providing financial assistance in acquiring the microfilms. Finally, I would especially like to thank my wife, Elizabeth, for her constant support and encouragement of my research.

*Feast of St James 2010*

