Buckner and Zupko's "Duns Scotus on Time & Existence: The Questions on Aristotle's 'De interpretation'" (Book Review)

Yvonne Wilber
California Lutheran University

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Duns Scotus on Time & Existence:  
*The Questions on Aristotle’s “De interpretation,”*  

*Reviewed by Yvonne Wilber, Manager of Collection Development, Pearson Library, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA*

This scholarly text contains the first translation in English of this important early work by Duns Scotus, and fills an important lacuna in Scotist studies.

John Duns Scotus (c. 1266-1308) was one of the outstanding theologians and philosophers of the later Middle Ages who sought to develop a new metaphysical discourse on the being of God and an intuitive mode of epistemology. Despite the brevity of his career, his influence on western philosophy is difficult to underestimate. His text on Aristotle’s *De interpretatione* was an early work, likely developed from classroom lectures in Oxford prior to the turn of the fourteenth century.

*De interpretatione* is the second text from Aristotle’s dialectic *Organon* and deals with the proposition of statement, which – according to Scotus – is “not an act of understanding itself, but is more what is done by the understanding.” In regard to *De interpretaione*, Scotus used the method of the “question commentary” in developing his lectures, a popular technique that considered philosophical questions raised by the study of Aristotle.

Based upon a new Latin critical edition of the text, Buckner and Zupko’s is a fine translation. Crisp and readable, it includes extensive commentary explaining more difficult passages, as well as citations to quotations from external texts. It is suitable for upper division undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate studies in theology and philosophy.

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*Reviewed by Lisa Cutforth-Anderson, Learning Resource Coordinator and Old Testament Professor, Alberta Bible College, Calgary, AB*

Ilaria Ramelli is a highly credentialed postdoctoral researcher and theological professor; Judith Perkins holds a Ph.D. and is a Professor Emeritus of Classics and