

Adoring the Holy Trinity by a Pictorial Language

Part II: The Main Models of Contemplating the Holy Trinity During the Post-Nicean Period

Nikolaos Garagounis

Abstract

The article presents a survey over the early (2nd to 6th century) representations of the Holy Trinity in pictorial form in relation to its debate in sermon and theological writing.

Keywords: Christian theology, trinity, history of dogma, sacred art

Zusammenfassung

Der Artikel führt ein in die frühchristliche (2.-6. Jahrhundert) Darstellung der Trinität in bildlicher Form und auf der Grundlage ihrer Diskussion in Predigt und theologischem Schrifttum.

Schlüsselwörter: Christliche Theologie, Frühes Christentum, Trinität, Dogmengeschichte, sakrale Kunst

Bibliography

Sources

St. Augustine of Hippo, De libero arbitrio II, in, CCL no 29.

Idem, La Trinità, [ed. città nuova, Roma, 1973.

Clement of Alexandria, Paedagogus, (ed. Brill, Leiden, 1995).

Gregor von Nyssa, Der versiegelte Quell. Auslegung des Hohen Liedes [ed. Hans Urs von Balthasar], Johannes Verlag, Einsiedeln, 1984.

Origenes, De principiis, in, SC nr. 252.

Photios of Constantinople, Myriovivlos, in, Chr. Krikonis, selection of patristic texts [in Greek], ed. university studio press, Thessaloniki, vol. II 1998.
Theophilus of Antioch, Ad Autolycum, in, SC 20.

Other bibliography

Adorno Fr., La filosofia antica, vol. iv, Feltrinelli ed, Milano, 1991.
Alfaro J., Rivelazione Cristiana, fede e teologia [bibliotecari teologia contemporanea no 50], ed. Querininiana, Brescia, 1986.
Arendt H., Der Liebesbegriff bei Augustinus. Versuch einer Philosophischen Interpretation, Philo-Verlagsgesellschaft, Berlin, 1949.
Ayres L., Nicea and its Legacy. An approach to fourth century Trinitarian theology, Oxford university press, New York, 2004.
Von Balthasar H. U., Karl Barth: Darstellung und Deutung seiner Theologie, Johannes Verlag, Einsiedeln, 1951.
Belloso J. M. R., La fe se hace teología refleja (S. Agustín), in, EstTrin, no. 29, 1995 p. 419-441.
Davis St. J., The early Coptic papacy. The Egyptian church and Its leadership in late antiquity, The American university in Cairo Press, Cairo, 2004.
Decker M., Die Monarchianer. Frühchristliche Theologie im Spannungsfeld zwischen Rom und Kleinasien, VSA Verlag, Hamburg, 1987.
Christou P.K., The herald of grace and light. St. Gregory Palamas archbishop of Thessalonica [in Greek], ed. H. convent of St. Gregory Palamas, Thessalonica, 1984.
Dörrie H. & Baltes M., Der Platonismus in der Antike Vol. 5, Fromman/Holyboog Verlag, Stuttgart, 1998.
Coakly S., Rethinking Gregory of Nyssa (Directions in modern theology), Blackwell pub., Oxford/London, 2003.
M. Federici, Precisione, mmm.federici@gmail.com
Feulner R., Clemens von Alexandrien, ed. Lang, Frankfurt am Main, 2006.
Florofski G., The eastern fathers of the 4th century, Bücher-vertriebsanstalt, München, 1978.
Idem, The Byzantine ascetic and spiritual fathers, Bücher-vertriebsanstalt, München, 1978 p. 294.
Gosebrink H., Hildegard von Bingen begegnen, Sankt Ulrich Verlag, Augsburg, 2002.
Greshake G., An den drei-einen Gott glauben, Herder Verlag, Freiburg, 1996.
Hammer K., Festschrift für Karl Barth: Analogia relationalis gegen analogia entis, Parrhesia, Zürich, 1966.
Hibbard H., Michelangelo, Penguin Books, London / New York, 1975.
A. C. Huth & Hoffman Th. R., Wie erkenne Ich die Kunst der Renaissance, Belser Verlag, Stuttgart, 2004.
Jowett B., Plato's "The Republic", Modern Library, New York, 1941.
Kannengieser, Ch. Lady wisdom's final call. The patristic recovery of Proverbs 8, in, D. Krieg & C. Brown, Nova doctrina Vetusque: essayes on early Christianity in honor of Frederico Schlatter, Lang publishers, New York, 1999.

- Kasper W., *Der Gott Jesu Christi*, ed. Grünewald, Mainz, 1995.
- Kelly J.N. D., *Early Christian doctrines*, Adam & Charles Black ed., London, 1960.
- Kennedy G. A., *Classical Rhetoric and its Christian and secular Tradition from ancient to modern times*, UWC press, Huston, 1999.
- Kern W., *Der Gottesbeweis Mensch. Ein konstruktiver Versuch*, in, *Atheismus, Marxismus, Christentum: Beiträge zur Diskussion*, [ed. W. Kern], Styria, Innsbruck, 1976.
- King R., *Michelangelo and the pope's ceiling*, Penguin books, New York, 2003.
- Ladaria L. F., *Antropologia teologica*, editrice pontificia università Gregoriana, Roma 1987.
- Lam P., Johnson M. & Steinhauser M., *From Paul to Valentinus. Christians at Rome in the first two centuries*, Fortress press, Minneapolis, 2003.
- McBrien R., *Catholicism*, Geoffrey Chapman editions, London, 1984.
- Méhat A., *Clemens von Alexandrien*, in, *Theologische Realenzyklopädie*, Vol. 8, De Gruyter, Berlin, 1981.
- Meshberger Fr. L., *An interpretation of Michelangelo's creation of Adam based on neuro-anatomy*, JAMA, no 264 (14), 1990 p. 1837-41.
- Mühlen H., *Una persona mystica. Die Kirche als das Mysterium der heilgeschichtlichen Identität des Heiligen Geistes in Christus und in den Christen: Eine Person in vielen Personen*, Schöningh Verlag, Paderborn, 1964.
- Pannenberg W., *Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Anwendung des Analogie-Prinzips in der evangelischen Theologie*, in, *Theologische Literatur-zeitung (ThLZ)*, no 85, 1965 p.225-228.
- Pedrini D., *Quietismo*, in, *Dizionario di mistica*, [a cura di L. Borriello, E Caruana, M. R. Del Genio & N. Suffi], Libreria editrice Vaticana, Città del Vaticano, 1998 p. 620-621.
- Pieper J., *Scholastik. Gestalten und Probleme der Mittelalterlichen Philosophie*, Ruhdiger, München, 1986.
- Rahner K., *Visionen und Prophezeiungen*, in, *Questiones Disputatae*, no IV, Laurent Volker Verlag, Freiburg, 1958 p. 76-88.
- Peinodor M., *El alegorismo de la escuela alejandrina*, in, *virtud y letras*, 1951.
- Prostmeier F.R., *Doxa bei Theophilus von Antiochien*, in, R. Kampling, *In Herlichkeit: Zur Deutung einer theologischen Kategorie*, Schöningh Verlag, Paderborn, 2008 p. 125-156.
- Rizzi M., *Il fondamento epistemologico in clemente Alessandrino*, in, *Origene: Maestro di vita spirituale* [Studia patristica Mediolansia no 22], a cura di M. Rizzi & L. F. Pizzolato, ed. Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2001 p. 91-123.
- Ruasenda M. (Mariano da Torino), *Essenza e valore dell' umiltà*, tesi di Laurea/Antonianum, Roma, 1949.
- Rowland Tr., *A Christocentric Trinitarian anthropology*, John Paul II institute press, Melbourne, 2009.
- Santini L., *Michelangelo: Sculptor-painter-architect*, Plurigraf/ Perseus editions, Sesto Fiorentino, 1992.
- Salvati G., *Io uno e trino. La trinità come modello del cristiano*, Città nuova, Roma, 1997.
- Schott R., *Michelangelo*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1963.
- Scognamiglio E., *Il volto del' uomo. Saggio di antropologia Trinitaria. La domanda e le risposte*, ed. San Paolo, Milano 2006.
- Simonof A., *Great prayer-book* [in Greek], ed. Pelekanos, Athens, 1993.

- Spanneut M., Os padres da igreja: séculos IV-VIII, São Paulo, ed. Loyola, 2002.
- Splett J., Gottes Erfahrung im Denken. Zur philosophischen Rechtfertigung des Redens von Gott, Herder, Freiburg, 1973.
- Stenzel A., Il battesimo. Genesi ed evoluzione della liturgia battesimale, ed. Paoline, Torino, 1962 p. 72-73.
- Sylvas M., Gregory of Nyssa: the letters, introduction, translation and commentary [vigilae Christianae suplementi nr. 83], Brill pub., Leiden, 2007.
- Tatakis V., Byzantine philosophy [in Greek], Society of Modern Greek studies & General education, Athens, 1977.
- Uspenski L., L' Icône. Quelques mots sur son sens dogmatique [Greek translation by P. Kondoglou] ed. Kivotos, Athens, 1952.
- Vitali D., Esistenza cristiana. Fede, speranza e carità [Nuovo corso di teologia sistematica no14], Queriniana, Brescia, 2001.
- Watt St., Introduction: the theory of forms (Books 5-7), Wordsworth ed., London, 1997 p. xix-xiv
- Zemmrich E., Demut zum Verständnis eines theologischen Schlüssel-begriffs, in, Ethik im Theologischen Diskurs, nr. 4, 2006 p. 459-465

About the author

Nikolaos Garagounis, Lic. theol., born in 1970, holds a degree in political sciences and psychology as well as in Catholic theology and hospital chaplaincy. Her lives as a theologians in Rom. Email: ngaragounis[at]yahoo.it.

If you want to read more, please purchase our yearbook containing all articles of 2012. This article will probably be available online in the summer of 2015 again. → [Yearbook 2012](#)