

way. The central thesis of this monograph, a dissertation (München, 2007) revised for publication, is that the latter distinction is not identical to the Aristotelian schema of *sophia* and *phronêsis*, that Augustine's concept of *scientia* even resembles the Aristotelian notion of *phronêsis* (rather than *epistêmê*), and thus is a form of practical reason. Augustine's solution of the 'theory-praxis problem' is by the author considered as a middle position between Plato and Aristotle. After a *status quaestions* on the research on this topic, the author describes Augustine's thinking on practical philosophy from three angles, with two movements in each chapter: firstly the philosophical, antique positions (Plato, Aristotle and Stoa) and secondly Augustine's stance. The first chapter discusses the distinction between theoretical and practical knowledge/reason, dealing with Augustine's vision on the history of philosophy in *De ciuitate Dei*, his classification of the sciences (dialectics, arithmetics, ethics, philosophy; esp., in *De ordine* and *De doctrina christiana*), the significance of *sapientia* and *scientia*. Subsequently the relation between God, cosmos and human praxis is studied: the topics of human *medietas* and man as *imago Dei*, the distinction between *uti* and *frui* (parallel to the distinction *scientia-sapientia*), the right order in human actions. Thirdly the evolution in Augustine's reflection on the ways of living and their relation to *beatitudo*; and on the relation between active and contemplative life, is presented as parallel to the development in his thinking on *sapientia* and *scientia*. This monograph illustrates in a well structured and clear argued way the inner coherence and the developing continuity in Augustine's thinking.

Anthony DUPONT

Josef Pilvousek, Josef Römelt (hg.), *Die Bibliothek des Amplonius Rating de Berka und ihre verborgene Schätze. Anmerkungen zur Wiederentdeckung "Erfurter" Augustinus-Pedigten* [Erfurter Theologische Schriften 39]. Echter, Würzburg 2010, 110 pp. ISBN: 9783429032494.

In the summer of 2007 six new sermons of Augustine of Hippo were discovered in the *Bibliotheca Amploniana*, the rare books collection of the Library of Erfurt University (Germany). The discovery occurred as part of the systematic cataloguing of manuscripts containing texts of Augustine in libraries of Eastern Germany and Berlin. The critical edition of these texts is being carried out by an Austrian team

of scholars: Isabella Schiller (who made the initial discovery), Clemens Weidmann and Dorothea Weber. Meanwhile the texts are finding their way into mainstream scholarship on Augustine and will soon be added to the material usually surveyed in thematic research on topics such as the poor in Late Antiquity, early Christian liturgy or the martyr cult. The first aim of the book under review, however, is not to contribute to the body of scholarship on these sermons. Rather it seeks to provide in 7 essays a larger readership with a background into the collection of the Bibliotheca Amploniana and the discovery of these sermons. The first three contributions deal with the Amploniana: B. Pfeil introduces Amplonius and the way the collection came about and developed (11-21); T. Bouillon presents the manuscripts in the collection that contain text by Augustine and the importance of the *doctor gratiae* in the intellectual universum of Amplonius and his time (21-27); J. Pilvousek sketches the history of the University and the *Collegium Porta Caelis* as the context in which Amplonius lived and worked and his library was developed (27-37). The pièce de résistance (37-67) is a contribution by the three philologists who edited the texts: they present the research project that led to the discovery, the discovery itself, the content of the new sermons and include the Latin texts with German translation and brief commentary of *sermo* Erfurt 5 (a sermon on the resurrection). The volume concludes with a brief discussion by K. Brodersen over findings of new Latin, pre-Christian texts (67-75) and more general portrayals of Augustine by J. Rüpke (75-81) and J. Hofmann (81-109). The book reminds us that systematic research in rare book collections by specialists pays off and results in new findings. It may be hoped that this book about the finding of the *sermones* Erfurt together with the revised version of Schum's catalogue of the *Amploniana* results in more intensive scholarly attention to the *Amploniana*.

Johan LEEMANS

Thomas P. Scheck, *Origen and the History of Justification. The Legacy of Origen's Commentary on Romans*, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN 2008, xi + 297 pp., including bibliography and index. ISBN: 9780268041281.

This book, which is a version of the author's 2004 University of Iowa doctoral dissertation, is an attempt to document and discuss the *Rezeptionsgeschichte* in the West of what is easily one of the most