

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996344226303316
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Titolo	The Summa Halensis : Sources and Context // Lydia Schumacher
Pubbl/distr/stampa	De Gruyter, 2020 Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2020] ©2020
ISBN	3-11-068502-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (X, 328 p.)
Collana	Veröffentlichungen des Grabmann-Institutes zur Erforschung der mittelalterlichen Theologie und Philosophie ; ; 65
Soggetti	Alexander of Hales Early Franciscan John of La Rochelle Summa Halensis LITERARY CRITICISM / Ancient & Classical
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgements -- Contents -- A Guide to Citing the Summa Halensis -- The Summa Halensis: Sources and Context -- Biblical Exegesis in the Summa Halensis -- The Summa Halensis and Augustine -- Evil in Dionysius the Areopagite, Alexander of Hales and Thomas Aquinas -- The Reception of John of Damascus in the Summa Halensis -- John of Damascus in the Summa Halensis -- The Eriugenian Influence in the Summa Halensis: A Synthetic Tradition -- Reading Aristotle with Avicenna -- The De anima Tradition in Early Franciscan Thought -- The Influence of Anselm of Canterbury on the Summa Halensis' Theology of the Divine Substance -- Anselm's Influence on the Teaching of the Summa Halensis on Redemption -- Hugh of St Victor's Influence on the Summa Halensis -- The Summa Halensis -- Praepositinus of Cremona and William of Auxerre on Suppositio -- Alexander's Commentary on the Rule in Relation to the Summa Halensis -- Odo Rigaldi, Alexander of Hales and the Summa Halensis -- Slippers in Heaven -- Creation, Light, and Redemption -- Author Biographies -- Index

For generations, early Franciscan thought has been widely regarded as unoriginal: a mere attempt to systematize the longstanding intellectual tradition of Augustine in the face of the rising popularity of Aristotle. This volume brings together leading scholars in the field to undertake a major study of the sources and context of the so-called Summa Halensis (1236-45), which was collaboratively authored by the founding members of the Franciscan school at Paris, above all, Alexander of Hales, and John of La Rochelle, in an effort to lay down the Franciscan intellectual tradition for the first time. The contributions will highlight that this tradition, far from unoriginal, laid the groundwork for later Franciscan thought, which is often regarded as formative for modern thought. Furthermore, the volume shows the role this Summa played in the development of the burgeoning field of systematic theology, which has its origins in the young university of Paris. This is a crucial and groundbreaking study for those with interests in the history of western thought and theology specifically.

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