

## Book Reviews

Thomas Fornet-Ponse, *Xavier Zubiri interkulturell gelesen*. Interkulturelle Bibliothek, N. 84, Verlag Traugout Bautz, Nordhausen, 2010, paperbound, 147 pages, 10€.

This book, like others reviewed over the years in these pages, is another fine example of the internationalization of Zubiri studies. It is a survey and summary of Zubiri's philosophy in German, done thematically. It begins with a biographical sketch, followed by a discussion of Zubiri's critique of older philosophical traditions. The author brings out the key points of Zubiri's critique, especially the notions of logification of knowing and entification of reality. He then discusses Zubiri's notion of essence ("Das Wesen als Strukturprinzip der Realität") in its role as a structural principle of reality, what was originally envisioned by Aristotle but not adequately formulated by him. He also discusses Zubiri's theory of knowledge, the real location of essence, and related concepts such as *talidad* (suchness) and *transcendentalidad* (transcendence). Appropriately, the longest chapter of the book is devoted to a discussion of *Inteligencia sentiente*. This begins with a discussion of the three levels of knowing in Zubiri's thought (reality, logos, reason), the distinction between knowing and sensing, and related topics such as the impressions of stimulation and reality. The book also discusses such topics as the respectivity of reality. It concludes with a discussion of the extent to which Zubiri's philosophy can be considered an "intercultural philosophy", the theme of this series of books from the publisher. The book is a welcome addition to the literature on Zubiri in German, and should serve well as an introduction to Zubiri's thought for German-speaking audiences.

\* \* \*

Diego Gracia, *Desde Zubiri*. Granada: Editorial Comares, paperbound, 2004, xv+231 pages, 16.50€.

Diego Gracia is well-known to all readers of this journal as a fine Zubiri scholar and great friend of Zubiri during the later years of Zubiri's life. He has written extensively on Zubiri (as well as on many topics of medicine), and here he has collected eight essays that show how the study of Zubiri has evolved since his death in 1983. As he says in his introduction, "increasingly common are studies that seek not so much to interpret what Zubiri says as to make use of his thought to focus on problems and analyze them—something that frequently obliges us to go beyond what Zubiri himself said." Many of the essays in *The Xavier Zubiri Review* do just that, and the essays in this volume move in that direction as well. Of course, going beyond exegesis of Zubiri's texts can lead to controversial interpretations; but that is the price of continuing the radical rethinking of philosophy begun by the master. He did not, and could not, solve all problems by himself. He knew well that knowledge in all fields would continue to grow, and that these changes would have to be integrated with the new vision of reality and truth that he bequeathed to us. In this book the eight essays assembled by Professor Gracia span a range of subjects from biographical notes, science, and twentieth century philosophy, to postmodernism and theology, all with a view to increasing our understanding of Zubiri as we delve into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The authors include Jordi Corominas (biography), José Luis Abellán (postmodernism), Antonio Ferraz (science), Francisco

González de Posada (science) , José Antonio Marina (continuation of Zubiri's work), Miguel García-Baro (phenomenology), Antonio González (Heidegger), and Andrés Torres Queiruga (theology). Whether one agrees with the authors or not, all of the essays are thought-provoking and will repay the time spent to understand them.

*Thomas B. Fowler*