

NICHOLAS OF CUSA
ON CHRIST
AND THE CHURCH

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

EDITED BY
HEIKO A. OBERMAN, Tucson, Arizona

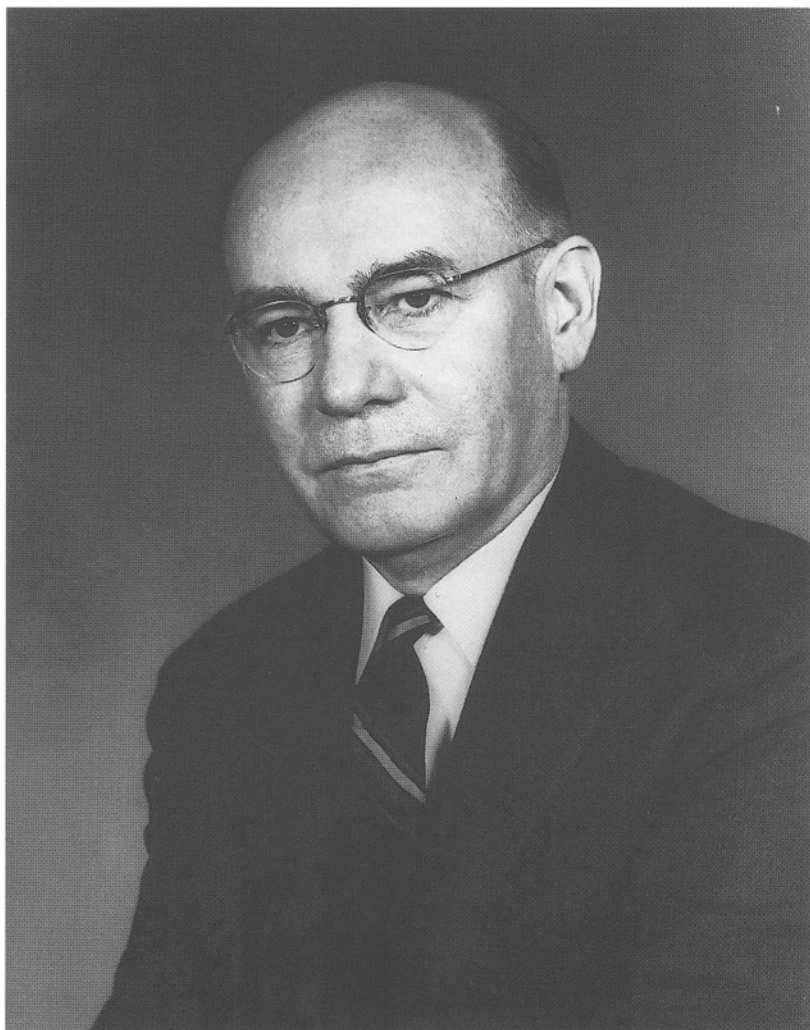
IN COOPERATION WITH
HENRY CHADWICK, Cambridge
JAROSLAV PELIKAN, New Haven, Connecticut
BRIAN TIERNEY, Ithaca, New York
ARJO VANDERJAGT, Groningen

VOLUME LXXI

GERALD CHRISTIANSON AND THOMAS M. IZBICKI (EDS.)

NICHOLAS OF CUSA
ON CHRIST
AND THE CHURCH





Chandler McCuskey Brooks

NICHOLAS OF CUSA ON CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF CHANDLER McCUSKEY BROOKS
FOR THE AMERICAN CUSANUS SOCIETY

EDITED BY

GERALD CHRISTIANSON
THOMAS M. IZBICKI



E.J. BRILL
LEIDEN · NEW YORK · KÖLN
1996

The paper in this book meets the guidelines for permanence and durability of the Committee on Production Guidelines for Book Longevity of the Council on Library Resources.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Nicholas of Cusa on Christ and the church : essays in memory of Chandler McCuskey Brooks / for the American Cusanus Society. Ed. by Gerald Christianson ; Thomas M. Izbicki. – Leiden ; New York ; Köln : Brill, 1996
(Studies in the history of Christian thought ; Vol.71)
ISBN 90-04-10519-0
NE: Christianson, Gerald [Hrsg.]; American Cusanus Society; Brooks, Chandler McCuskey: Festschrift; GT

ISSN 0081-8607
ISBN 90 04 10519 0

© Copyright 1996 by E.J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher.

*Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use is granted by E.J. Brill provided that the appropriate fees are paid directly to The Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Suite 910 Danvers MA 01923, USA.
Fees are subject to change.*

PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS

"I speak of Ulysses as described by Tennyson . . .

Come my friends,
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows: for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
of all the western stars, until I die.
It may be the gulfs will wash us down:
It may be that we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.

Though much is taken, much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are,
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

This is our essence—to seek and to find. It is not so much the finding
as it is the search which determines the nature of our life, our soul."

Chandler McCuskey Brooks

"Thoughts Concerning the Essence of Life: Integrative Power and
the Governance of Function", in *Cardio-Respiratory and Motor
Coordination*, ed. H.P. Koepchen and T. Huopaniemi (Berlin,
1991), pp. 324-325.

"I am in my 84th year and I detect a preference to sit and write to old friends
rather than attempting to do things of a progressive nature . . . What is
Theology and what should a theologian be doing? What is the nature of Life,
the nature of its most sophisticated example Man? What is the nature of the
Mind of Man and that essence which determines the quality of his behavior, the
soul of Man? These questions can't be answered by information obtained by
micropuncture or a patch-clamp. Do take care and remember me."

Chandler McCuskey Brooks

Letter to Silvio Weidmann, M.D., 1989,
in *Chandler McCuskey Brooks:
The Scientist and the Man* (Brooklyn, 1990), p. 43.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	xiii
Note on the Citations of the Works of Cusanus	xv
Abbreviations	xvii

INTRODUCTION

Dedication to the Memory of Chandler McCuskey Brooks	3
Introduction	7
Bernard McGinn	

PART ONE CUSANUS IN CONTEXT

<i>Verius est licet difficilius: Tierney's Foundations of the Conciliar Theory after Forty Years</i>	15
Francis Oakley	
Basel, the Permanent Synod? Observations on Duration and Continuity at the Council of Basel (1431-1449)	35
Johannes Helmuth	
<i>Ecce sacerdos magnus: On Welcoming a New Bishop. Three Addresses for Bishops of Padua by Franciscus Zabarella</i>	57
Thomas E. Morrissey	
Juan de Segovia's <i>Super materia contractuum de censibus annuis: Text and Context</i>	71
Jesse D. Mann	
Nicholas of Cusa and the Presidency Debate at the Council of Basel, 1434	87
Gerald Christianson	

PART TWO THE CHURCH AND REFORM

Nicholas of Cusa's Ecclesiology between Reform and Reformation	107
Scott H. Hendrix	
Nicholas of Cusa on the Constitution of the Church	127
Paul E. Sigmund	
Nicholas of Cusa from Constantinople to "Learned Ignorance": The Historical Matrix for the Formation of the <i>De docta ignorantia</i>	135
H. Lawrence Bond	
Cusanus and Pastoral Renewal: The Reform of Popular Religion in the Germanies	165
Donald Sullivan	
Nicholas of Cusa, <i>A General Reform of the Church</i>	175
Morimichi Watanabe and Thomas M. Izbicki	

PART THREE CHRISTOLOGY AND MYSTICAL THEOLOGY

The Mystical Theology of Nicholas of Cusa's <i>De visione dei</i>	205
Louis Dupré	
The Consolation of Contemplation in Nicholas of Cusa's <i>De visione dei</i>	221
M. Führer	
God's Presence: Some Cusan Proposals	241
Clyde Lee Miller	
Aspect and Perspective in Renaissance Thought: Nicholas of Cusa and Jan van Eyck	251
Clifton Olds	
Non-Referentiality in the Christian Icon and the Buddhist <i>Thangka</i>	265
Roger J. Corless	
The <i>De aequalitate</i> and the <i>De principio</i> of Nicholas of Cusa	271
F. Edward Cranz	

CONTENTS

xi

<i>His Name Is Jesus: Negative Theology and Christology in Two Writings of Nicholas of Cusa from 1440</i>	281
Peter J. Casarella	
Nicholas of Cusa as Theoretician of Unity	309
Birgit H. Helander	
Absolute Truth and Conjectural Insights	323
Wilhelm Dupré	

APPENDIX

Nicholas of Cusa: The Literature in English, 1989 to 1994	341
Thomas M. Izbicki	
Index	355
Persons	
Places	
Subjects	
Cusanus' Works Cited	
List of Contributors	361