

PREFACE

The history of universities has long been an object of scholarly research. However, as a survey of the literature would show, the areas of study have too often been handled in isolation and the interconnected themes ignored. Scholars in the field of university history tend to concentrate on organizational, legal or biographical topics, paying little attention to the content of university teaching or to doctrinal developments within the schools. Historians of philosophy, by contrast, tend to ignore the organizational forms and legal institutions of the university, although the connection between the literary form of university texts in the fields of philosophy and theology and the organizational structures of the corresponding faculties should be self-evident.

The present collection, divided into three thematic sections, attempts to connect subjects which are bound together in the context of the idea of the university and the course of its historical realization. The first section, 'Universities between Institution and Career', concentrates on the rational process which characterized the development of the university, calling special attention to the internal and external consequences of this process. Section two, 'Organizational Structures and Literary Genres', is devoted to the relationship between the organizational forms of the university and the literary forms of university texts. The final section, 'Late Medieval Universities: School Formation and School Conflict', concerns itself with the differentiation and institutionalization of schools of thought in the later Middle Ages, showing among others things that these developments were rather less definitive than is commonly believed.

This collection consists principally of contributions at a symposium held in Tübingen from November 21st to 24th, 1991, the theme of which finds expression in the title of this volume. The symposium and this publication were made possible only by multiple support and assistance. In the first place, the Fritz-Thyssen-Foundation in Cologne deserves our thanks for its generous financial support for the symposium. Further

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