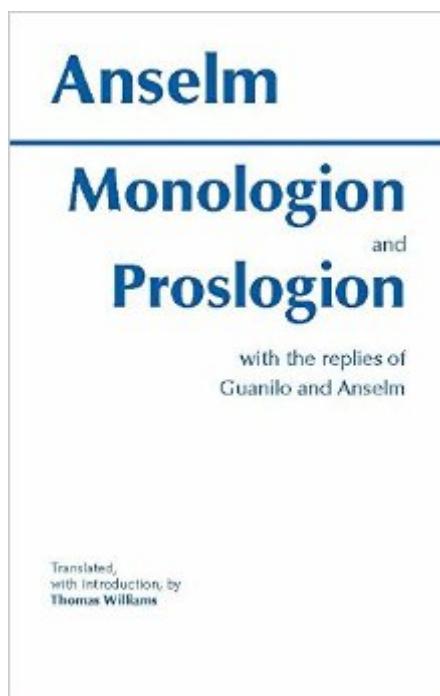


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Monologion And Proslogion: With The Replies Of Gaunilo And Anselm (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Williams's translations are scrupulously faithful and accurate without being slavishly literal, and yet are lively and graceful.--Paul Vincent Spade, Indiana University

Book Information

Series: Hackett Classics

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. (February 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0872202976

ISBN-13: 978-0872202979

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #314,938 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Medieval Thought #684 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > History & Surveys #2060 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies

Customer Reviews

Saint Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) was a medieval philosopher, theologian, prior of Bec, and Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109. This volume includes the Monologion, the Proslogion, Gaunilo's reply to the ontological argument, and Anselm's reply to Gaunilo's reply. Anselm is known by the motto "faith seeking understanding." However, it should be noted that Anselm is not "hoping to replace faith with understanding" (xiii) but rather the better that you come to know God "the more you will see that he is worthy of all your love" (xiv). The Monologion proceeds on these themes, exploring God's Divine attributes and provides a few arguments for the existence of God. The reader will be immediately struck by Anselm's obsession with semantics - Anselm argues that "systematic reflection on the language of Christian doctrine is... always in the service of a better understanding of God" (xv). Anselm also discusses the question of Biblical metaphor, Trinitarian theology, and the rational soul. The Proslogion contains the famous ontological argument. Anselm's ontological argument is as follows. Premise I: God is by definition that than which no greater can exist meaning that God is the most perfect object, the most perfect being that can be thought about. Secondly, it is understood that it is greater to exist in reality and the mind than to exist only in the mind. If you tell the fool who does not believe in God to think about the concept of that than which

no greater can exist, that concept exists in his mind. Even the fool cannot doubt that the concept exists in his mind since he had heard it and understood it and "whatever is understood is in the mind" (pg 150).

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