

A COMPENDIUM OF MEDIEVAL KNOWLEDGE WITH THE GUIDANCE OF C. S. LEWIS

By James Grote



First published in 2011 by
Fons Vitae
49 Mockingbird Valley Drive
Louisville, KY 40207
http://www.fonsvitae.com
Email: fonsvitaeky@aol.com

© Fons Vitae

© 2011 James Grote Louisville, KY jimgrote@hotmail.com

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011929821 ISBN 9781891785825

> No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without prior permission of the publishers. All rights reserved.

Supra lunam sunt aeterna omnia.
Beyond the moon are all the eternal things.
Cicero

Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret. You can try to drive out Nature with a pitchfork, but she will always return.

Horace

Dedication

To Elizabeth Bleecker Meigs

Acknowledgements

To Sissy Grote for helping me find my way to the Kilns; and to Carl Mitcham, bibliographic mentor and purveyor of the Scholastic adage, "Never deny, seldom affirm, always distinguish."

To express my gratitude in Aristotelian terms, this book is particularly indebted to its *causa materialis*, Rachel Grote and the generous assistance of the Trustees of the Daedalus Foundation as well as to Sara and Lauren Rice; to its *causa efficiens*, Perry Bramlett and Timothy Fout who both prodded it into existence over numerous drafts and years; to its *causa formalis*, James Lynch and Stephen Yandell who added numerous lists and insightful perspectives to the book; and finally to its *causa finalis*, Charles Breslin, who assigned C. S. Lewis' *The Discarded Image* in a Medieval Culture class I attended. This book grew out of a 30-page term paper handed in to Mr. Breslin many years ago.

In addition, I am grateful for the advice, counsel, and inspiration of Virginia Alexander, Annette Allen, Karen Britt, David Burrell, Dick and Margaret Clements, Glenda Hodges-Cook, Elias Dietz, Michael Downey, Angela Doyle, T. J. and Svetlana Durbin, Jack Ford, Edward Hackett, Philip Hanson, Junius Johnson, Rex Lagerstrom, Lucy Jones Langman, Vincent Linz, Greg and Paula Livingston, Elena Lloyd-Sidle, Anna Lynch, Thomas Maloney (particularly for his help with the chapter on Logic), Rebecca Martin, Carol Mattingly, John McGeeney, Marylee Mitcham, Anne Ogden, Gill Ring (particularly for his help with the chapters on Psychology and Philosophy), John Rounds, Julie Shinnick, William Stoddart, Abigail Tardiff, as well as colleagues and friends in the Department of Humanities at the University of Louisville.

Thanks also to Mary Jo Grote, Edward Rice, and Mary Frances Schafer for their inspiration on Dante.

Special thanks are owed to the entire editorial team at Fons Vitae, particularly to Gray Henry and to Neville Blakemore, whose wonderful manuscript and book strewn home reminds me of a Catholic Worker House of Hospitality, described by Dorothy Day as hospitality with a dash of holy chaos.

Also a special thanks to my teacher in all things Eastern, Patrick Pranke. Without his guidance, there would be no Appendix to this book.

Finally, many thanks to Mark Grote, сын Джима, for his graphic design work.

Table of Contents

Dedication	vi
Acknowledgements	vii
I. Introduction: C.S. Lewis as Tour Guide to the Middle Ages	1
PART ONE: NATURE	23
II. Mythology	25
III. Cosmology	50
IV. Psychology (Ethics)	74
INTERLUDE	91
V. Seven Liberal Arts	93
PART TWO: KNOWLEDGE	121
VI. Logic	123
VII. Philosophy	140
VIII. Theology	184
EPILOGUE	239
IX. Art and Literature: Transition to Modernity	241
Annotated Bibliography	276
Select Index	301
APPENDIX: Lists on Eastern Traditions	309
Bibliography on Eastern Traditions	358
Select Index on Eastern Traditions	363

1. Introduction: C.S. Lewis as four Guide to the Middle Ages	1
Old Western Culture as Therapy	2
Reading Old Books as an Exercise in Democracy	4
Overcoming Modern Prejudice	6
Modernity: God in the Dock and Nature on the Rack	10
Lewis' Sacramentalism and Pagan Animism	12
Situating Lewis within the Critique of Modernity	15
How to Read Medieval Literacy	18
Postscript	21
PART ONE: NATURE	23
II. Mythology	25
Introduction	25
Chronology of the Gods	29
Primordial Gods	29
First Generation of Individualized Gods	30
Second Generation of Individualized Gods	30
Genealogy of the Gods	31
Lists of Mythological Figures	32
The Three Graces	32
The Three Furies	32
The Three Fates	33
The Four (Five) Rivers of Hades	33
The Four Winds	34
The Five Ages of Humanity	34
The Seven Days of the Week	35
The Nine Muses	35

	Types of Nymphs	36
	The Twelve Months of the Year (Julian calendar)	37
	The Olympian Deities	38
	Sources of Mythology	39
	Triangular Relationships in the <i>Iliad</i>	39
	The Underworld in Homer's <i>Odyssey</i>	40
	The Underworld in Virgil's Aeneid	41
	Outline of Ovid's Metamorphoses (chiastic structure)	42
	Outline of Ovid's Metamorphoses (book by book)	44
	Types of Change in Ovid's Metamorphoses	46
	The Wheel of Fortune	47
	Illustration of the Wheel of Fortune	49
III.	Cosmology	50
	Introduction	50
	The Neo-Platonic Triad	54
	The Neo-Platonic Universe	54
	The Terrestrial World	55
	The Four Contraries	55
	Four (Five) Elements (sublunary spheres)	56
	Representation of Sublunary Elements	57
	Four Bodily Humors	58
	Diagram of the Four Contraries, Elements, Humors, and Seasons	59
	Four Grades of Terrestrial Reality	60
	The Arc or Four Ages of Human Existence	60
	Five Geographical Zones	61
	Illustration of the Five Zones	62
	T-O Map or Medieval World Map	63
	The Seven Climes (following Sacrobosco)	64
	The Celestial World	65
	Celestial Spheres of the Ptolemaic Universe	65
	Representation of the Ptolemaic Universe	66

Astrological Influences	67
Illustration of the Music of the Celestial Spheres	68
Signs of the Zodiac	69
Zodiacal Man	70
Illustration of Zodiacal Man	71
The Ten Celestial Circles	72
Diagram of the Celestial Circles	73
IV. Psychology (Ethics)	74
Introduction	74
Outline of the Soul	78
Pythagoras and Aristotle's Doctrine of the Three Lives	78
The Tripartite Soul in Plato	78
The Tripartite Soul in Thomas (psychological approach)	79
The Tripartite Soul in Aristotle and Thomas (biological approach)	79
Sensation in the Sensitive Soul	80
Four Main Passions of the Soul	80
Five Passions of the Irascible Appetite (Thomas)	81
Six Passions of the Concupiscible Appetite (Thomas)	81
Virtues and Vices	82
Virtues as the Golden Mean between Extreme Emotions	82
Five Intellectual Virtues in the Rational Soul (Aristotle)	82
Human Responsibility in Aristotle	83
Four Cardinal Virtues (following Thomas)	83
Personifications of the Four Cardinal Virtues	84
Three Theological Virtues (following Thomas)	84
Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit	85
Three Pagan Moral Defects (Aristotle)	85
Three Deadly Sins/Temptations (Augustine)	86
Three Categories of Sin (Thomas)	86
Three Internal Causes of Sin (Thomas)	86
Seven Deadly Sins	87

Natural and Divine Law	88
Types of Law in Thomas Aquinas	88
Three Main Precepts of Natural Law	88
Divine Law (the Decalogue)	89
Three Kinds of Justice	90
Prerequisites for a Just War (Thomas)	90
INTERLUDE	91
V. Seven Liberal Arts	93
Introduction	93
Seven Liberal Arts	98
Symbols of the Seven Liberal Arts	101
Grammar – Major Topics (following Cassiodorus)	102
Rhetoric – The Five Parts (following Cicero)	103
Dialectic - Grammar & Argument (following Hugh of St. Victor)	104
Arithmetic – Four Different Divisions of Numbers (following Cassiodorus)	105
Arithmetic - Four Types of Mathematics (following Hugh of St. Victor)	106
Music (following Cassiodorus)	107
Boethius' Classification of Music	108
Geometry (following Martianus)	109
Astronomy (following Martianus)	114
The Ten Celestial Circles	115
Latin Mnemonic Verse	116
The Liberal Arts Curriculum of Ancient Athens	117
The Liberal Arts Curriculum of the Philosopher-King in Plato's Republic	118
The Liberal Arts Curriculum of the Medieval University (c.1100–1500)	119
Types of Medieval Schools	120
PART TWO: KNOWLEDGE	121
VI. Logic	123
Introduction	123
Three Laws of Thought	127
Outline of Aristotle's <i>Organon</i> (his works on logic)	128

Three Acts of the Intellect	129
Definition: Types of Definition	130
Proposition: The Components of a Proposition	131
Proposition: The Traditional Square of Opposition	132
Argument: The Components of a Categorical Syllogism	134
Argument: Mood and Figure in a Categorical Syllogism	135
Argument: Valid Syllogisms Using Latin Mnemonic Verse	136
Three Types of Arguments (Material Division)	137
Sophistical Arguments: Verbal Fallacies	138
Sophistical Arguments: Non-Verbal Fallacies	139
VII. Philosophy	140
Introduction	140
Premodern Classifications of Philosophy	144
Classification of Philosophy in Aristotle	144
Classification of the Sciences in Al-Fārābi	145
Classification of Philosophy in Hugh of St. Victor	148
The Tree of Knowledge (School of Hugh of St. Victor)	149
Premodern Schools of Philosophy	150
Pre-Socratic Philosophers	150
The Golden Age of Greek Philosophy	151
Hellenistic Schools of Philosophy	152
Medieval Schools of Philosophy	153
The Three Major Heresies of Philosophers According to Al-Ghazālī	154
Major Medieval Arabic Scholars	155
Major Medieval Jewish Scholars	156
Major Medieval Christian Scholars	157
The Path of Philosophy	159
Pythagorean Number Symbolism	160
Pythagorean Table of Opposites	163
The Sacred Tetractys $(1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10)$	164
Plato's I ambda	165

The Platonic Solids	166
Plato's Cave	169
Plato's Divided Line and the Image of the Cave	169
Plato's Divided Line in Detail	170
Aristotle's Four Causes	171
Aristotle's Five Predicables	172
Aristotle's Ten Categories	173
The Tree of Porphyry	174
The Ontological Status of Universal Concepts	175
The Ontological Argument for the Existence of God	176
Thomas' Five Ways (proofs for existence of God)	177
First Way: Argument from Motion	177
Second Way: Argument from Efficient Causation	178
Third Way: Argument from Contingency	179
Fourth Way: Argument from Degrees of Perfection	180
Fifth Way: Argument from Design	181
Thomas' Transcendentals	182
Divine Attributes	183
VIII. Theology	184
Introduction	184
The Neo-Platonic Triad	191
The Classical Spiritual World	192
Three Pagan Theologies (Varro)	193
Images of the Trinity in the Soul (Augustine)	193
Three Ages of the Bondage of the Will in Augustine	194
Three Ages of the World According to Joachim of Fiore	195
Three-Fold Punishment for Sin	196
The Four Evangelists	196
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	197
The Four Islamic Schools of Theology (kalām)	198
Four Islamic Sources of Law	199

Five Categories of Behavior in Islamic Law	200
Five Constituents of Islamic Faith (<i>īmān</i>)	201
Five Pillars of Islam	202
Eschatology	203
The Five Places of the Medieval Universe	203
Macrobius' Five Species of Dreams	204
Six Ages of the World	205
Six Days of Creation	206
Seven Sacraments	207
Seven Petitions in the Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster)	208
Seven Corporal Works of Mercy	208
Eight Beatitudes	209
Nine Choirs of Angels (Pseudo-Dionysius)	210
Twelve Tribes of Israel	211
Twelve Apostles	212
Thirteen Cardinal Tenets of Judaism	213
Medieval Exegesis of Scripture	214
St. Paul's Two Meanings of Scripture	214
Origen's Threefold Sense	214
Cassian's Three Spiritual Senses	215
Medieval Fourfold Sense	215
Latin Mnemonic Verse	216
Three Types of Truth in the Qur'ān (Averroes)	216
Outline of Monasticism	217
Major Medieval Monastic Orders	217
Medieval Heretical Sects	219
Three Evangelical Counsels	220
Three Steps to Truth (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)	220
Three Stages of the Contemplative Life	220
Four Types of Monks (according to St. Benedict)	221
The Divine Office	221

Twelve Steps of Humility (St. Benedict)	222
Twelve Steps of Pride (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)	223
Outline of Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologica	224
Pars Prima, First Part	224
Prima Secundae, First Part of Second Part	225
Secunda Secundae, Second Part of Second Part	226
Pars Tertia, Third Part	226
Supplementum, The Supplement	227
Outline of Dante's Divine Comedy	228
Inferno: The Nine Circles of Hell	228
Purgatorio: The Seven Terraces of the Mountain of Purgatory	232
Paradiso: The Nine Spheres of the Heavens	233
Souls of the Wise in the Circle of the Sun	234
Representation of the Celestial Rose	235
Representation of Dante's Universe	236
Basic Layout of a Medieval Cathedral (Chartres Cathedral)	237
EPILOGUE	239
IX. Art and Literature: Transition to Modernity	241
Introduction	241
The Denigration of the Mechanical and Fine Arts before the Middle Ages	241
The Growth of Vernacular Literature in the Twelfth Century Renaissance	243
The Flowering of Chivalric Literature in the Middle Ages	245
Outline of Classification Systems	249
Plato's Classification of the Arts	249
Aristotle's Classification of the Arts	249
Quintilian's Classification of the Arts	249
Cicero's Classification of the Arts	250
Plotinus' Classification of the Arts	250
Seven Mechanical Arts (Hugh of St. Victor)	251
Classification of the Liberal and Mechanical Arts (Hugh of St. Victor)	251
Seven Wonders of the Ancient World	252

Poetry in Aristotle (modes of imitation)	253
Six Elements of Greek Drama	254
Five Sources of the Sublime in Literature	254
Medieval Literature: Three Popular Medieval Books	255
Medieval Literature: Three Major Genres	256
I. The Heroic Epic (chanson de geste)	256
II. The Troubadour Lyric	257
III. The Chivalric Romance (roman d'aventure)	260
Medieval Literature: Other Genres	262
The Ten Commandments of the Code of Chivalry	263
The Nine Worthies (models of chivalry)	264
The Chief Rules of Courtly Love	265
Other Rules of Courtly Love	266
The Four Stages of Courtly Love	267
Genealogy of King Arthur	268
The Legends of the Holy Grail	269
The Three Tables (The Three Great Fellowships)	271
The Holy Pentangle of Sir Gawain	272
Three Types of Medieval Drama	273
The York Cycle of Medieval Mystery Plays	274
Annotated Bibliography	276
Online Sources	276
Primary Sources	277
Secondary Sources	286
Select Index	301
APPENDIX: Lists on Eastern Traditions	309
Introduction	311
The Four Ages and Myth of the Eternal Return	312
Sacrifice and Cosmology	314
Karma and Natural Law	316
The Medieval Passion for Classification	319

Hinduism	324
The "Horizontal" Trinity	324
The "Vertical" Trinity	324
The Three Regions of the Cosmos	325
The Triple Veda	325
The Three Vedic Sacrificial Fires	326
Chart of the Vedic Sacrificial Arena	327
Three Vedic Debts	328
Three Paths to God	329
Three Guṇas	330
Four Castes or Stations of Life (varnas)	331
Chart of Four Castes and of Vedic Sacrificial System	332
Four Stages of Life (āśramas)	333
Four Goals of Life (puruṣārthas)	334
The Four Major Addictions (royal vices)	335
The Four Cosmic Ages (yugas)	336
Five Great Elements (mahābhūtas)	337
Five Bodies or Sheaths (kośas)	337
Five Vital Breaths (prāṇa)	338
Five Afflictions (kleśa)	338
Five Restraints (yamas)	339
Five Disciplines (niyamas)	339
Six Schools or Viewpoints (darśanas) of Hindu Metaphysics	340
Seven Psycho-Spiritual Centers (Chakras) in Hatha Yoga	341
Illustration of the Chakras	342
Eight Limbs of Yogic Practice	343
Hindu Scriptures	344
Buddhism	345
Threefold Sāsana	345
Three Refuges or The Triple Gem	346
Three Marks of Existence (lakkhaṇa)	346

Three Poisons or Fires	347
The Four Noble Truths	347
The Four Stages of Enlightenment	348
The Five Aggregates	349
The Eightfold Path (sub-divided)	350
The Eightfold Path (wisdom)	351
Right View: The Four Noble Truths	351
Right Intention: The Four Sublime States	351
The Eightfold Path (ethical conduct)	352
Right Speech	352
Right Action: The Five Precepts	352
Right Livelihood	352
The Eightfold Path (meditation)	353
Right Effort	353
Right Mindfulness	353
Right Concentration: Four Jhānas	353
The Ten Fetters to Enlightenment	354
Twelve Factors of Dependent Origination	355
The Tibetan Wheel of Life	356
Buddhist Scriptures	357
Bibliography on Eastern Traditions	358
Primary Sources	358
Secondary Sources	359
Select Index on Eastern Traditions	363