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**THE DEBATES ON THE SCIENTIFIC STATUS OF THEOLOGY
BETWEEN XIII AND XIV CENTURY: HENRY'S OF GHENT
INHERITANCE**

Abstract

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My work concerns on the debates about the scientific character of theology between XIII and XIV century, starting from the original doctrine of the *lumen medium* by the secular master Henry of Ghent.

The thesis is divided in two parts, preceded by a brief Introduction on the problematic recognition of the scientific character of theology from Alexander of Hales to Thomas Aquinas.

In the First Part, I take in examination the doctrine of the *lumen medium* by Henry of Ghent, beginning from his gnoseologic presuppositions (the doctrine of the divine illumination on the plan of natural knowledge, the natural desire to know separate substances and the value of the study) showing, from a side, the foundation of theology as *scientia prima* and, from the other, the special status of the theologian, both through the reading of the articles of the *Summa quaestionum ordinariarum* that of *Quodlibeta*.

In the Second Part the controversial fortune of the *lumen speciale* is described, between XIII and XIV century, in Dominican (John Quidort, James of Metz, Hervaeus Natalis, Durandus of Saint-Pourçain), Franciscan (Duns Scotus, Peter Auriole) and Carmelite environment (Gerard of Bologna), with the purpose to

offer a partial contribution to the reconstruction of the system of the alliances and the oppositions among the masters, at least in reference to Henry's view theology.

From the developed work it emerges that the figure of Henry can be considered as a point of reference for the authors of the XIII and the XIV century, not only in negative but also in positive, considering that his original solution of the problem of the scientific status of theology also comes in a certain sense "saved", for instance from Scotus and Auriole and the construction of the theological science elaborated by Henry of Ghent in the *Summa* constitutes a real model in the case of that of Gerard.