

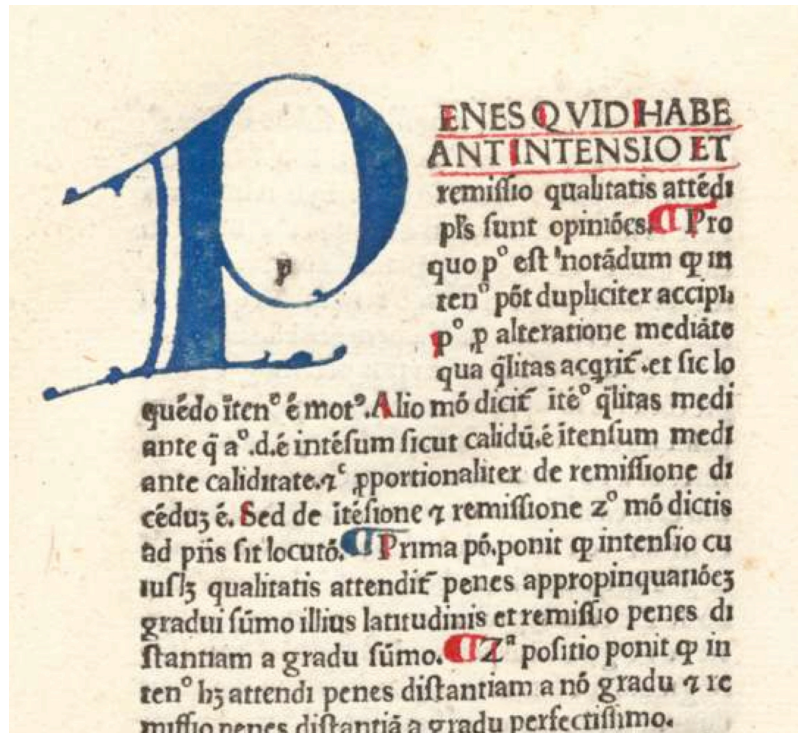
Calculatores-Project

„Von einem logisch-mathematischen Standpunkt: Richard Swineshead und die Tradition der *Calculatores*“

From a logical-mathematical standpoint: Richard Swineshead and the calculators tradition

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The present research project treats the tradition of the *Calculatores*, a current of thought from the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance that was still very influential during the time of Galileo and Leibniz. The special combination of logical, mathematical and philosophical elements in this tradition reveals a strong similarity with modern analytical and mathematical philosophy. For the purposes of a reasonable limitation of scope, this research concentrates on some aspects of Richard Swineshead's *Liber*



The beginning of Richard Swineshead's *Liber calculationum* (Padua 1477, fol. 2r).

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calculationum and its later repercussions. It focuses on the development of various areas within which the typical "logical-mathematical" approach of the *Calculatores* is

best expressed. These include in particular the analysis of maximal and minimal power (*de maximo et minimo*), the first and last instants of time (*de primo et ultimo instanti*), the increase and decrease of “forms” (*intensio et remissio formarum*), the problem of action and reaction of qualities (*de actione et reactione*) and the proportional analysis of motion according to the causes (*quoad causas*) and according to the effects (*quoad effectus*). In addition, a series of *Sophismata* (logical-mathematical exercises), which are closely linked with the problem of the infinite and the continuum, are to be considered.

Consonant with the general approach of late medieval philosophy, different areas and techniques of the “new logic” are also included in the project, even if they are not the subject matter *per se* of investigation (especially *consequentiae*, *insolubilia*, *exponibilia*, *categoremata/syncategoremata* and the theory of *suppositio*). The mathematical aspect is represented above all in the theory of proportions, as it is expressed in Books V and VII of Euclid’s *Elements*, revised by Nichomachus of Gerasa and Boethius, and discussed and expanded in late medieval mathematics and physics by Thomas Bradwardine, Nicole Oresme, Albert of Saxony and others. The new role of geometry representing qualities and motions is also investigated, especially following the tradition of Oresme’s *Tractatus de configurationibus qualitatum et motum* and of the short tract *De latitudinibus formarum*. In this regard, one of the focal points of the project is the later geometrical representation of statements by Richard Kilvington, William Heytesbury or even by Richard Swineshead himself, which originally were formulated “verbaliter”, using the different techniques of logic and philosophy of language.

Although the project is principally centred on the field of natural philosophy, the application of the “calculatory way of philosophizing” in ethics, psychology and

epistemology is not excluded. Since this project involves fundamental research work in the field of the history of ideas, it is strictly oriented toward the analysis of original handwritten and printed sources.

The scientific collaborator of the project is **Daniel A. Di Liscia**. The student research assistant is **Brigitte Endres-Ludwig**.

The Calculatores Project works in collaboration with the following institutions and projects:

- Die Abteilung Wissenschaftsgeschichte am Historischen Seminar der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (History of Science/LMU Munich): <http://www.gn.geschichte.uni-muenchen.de>
- Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance (LMU Munich): <http://www.phil-hum-ren.uni-muenchen.de/Default.htm>
- Monumenta Germaniae Historica: <http://www.mgh.de/dmgh>
- Project “Albert of Saxony: Sophismata, Critical Edition” (University of Graz): <http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/abstracts/abstract.asp?L=D&PROJ=P24892>

