

A Graduate Student's Guide to Modern Aristotelian Philosophy:

The Essential Readings in Speculative Philosophy (compiled by John C. Cahalan. Ph.D.)

I. Overviews

- A. Mortimer J. Adler, "The Superiority of Aristotelian to Modern Philosophy, and the Failings of Modern Aristotelian Philosophers," www.foraristotelians.info
- B. Etienne Gilson, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience*
- C. Jacques Maritain, *An Introduction to Philosophy*, Pt. I, Ch. 4; Pt. II, Chs. II, VI and VII. (This gives you a needed introduction to Aristotelian technical vocabulary—e.g., do not assume you know what "substance" means. In Maritain, you must read the footnotes.)
See also: Gilson, "The Spirit of Thomism," in *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Maritain, "System of Philosophic Harmonies," in *Theonas; Bergsonian Philosophy and Thomism*. Yves R. Simon, "The Philosopher's Calling," in *Philosopher at Work*.

II. Epistemology

- A. Yves R. Simon, "The Conformity of Knowledge with the Real," www.foraristotelians.info
- B. Maritain, "Critical Realism," in *The Degrees of Knowledge* (The 20th century's most important, and least understood, epistemic essay. Read II.A first, and read Maritain's footnotes.)
- C. _____ "On Nominalism" TBS (www.foraristotelians.info)
- D. Adler, *Ten Philosophical Mistakes* (chs 1-3; Epilogue)
- E. Francis H. Parker, "A Realistic Appraisal of Knowledge," www.foraristotelians.info
- F. Simon, "An Essay on Sensation," in *Philosopher at Work*
- G. _____ *Introduction to Metaphysics of Knowledge* (though the French original is preferable)
See also: John C. Cahalan, "The Problem of Thing and Object in Maritain," *The Thomist*; "Wittgenstein as a Gateway to Analytical Thomism," in *Analytical Thomism*," ed. Paterson and Pugh; "If Wittgenstein Had Read Poincaré," *The ACPQ; Causal Realism*. Gilson, *Methodical Realism*. Peiffer, *The Mystery of Knowledge*. Raymond Dennehy, "The Ontological Basis of Certitude," *The Thomist*; Henry B. Veatch, *Swimming Against the Current in Contemporary Philosophy*; John Wild, "An Introduction to the Phenomenology of Signs," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (1947). Peter Geach, *Mental Acts*. John N. Deely, *Realism for the 21st Century*.

III. Metaphysics

- A. Gilson, *Being and Some Philosophers*
- B. Maritain, *A Preface to Metaphysics*
- C. _____ *Existence and the Existent* (Introduction, Chs. I, IV and V)
- D. Simon, "On Order in Analogical Sets," in *Philosopher at Work*
- E. Maritain, *God and the Permission of Evil*

See also: Maritain, *The Degrees of Knowledge*, Chs I and V App. IV (1954). Joseph Bobik, *Aquinas on Being and Essence*. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, *God: His Existence and His Nature*. Cahalan, *Causal Realism*, I-III, V-VII, IX, XI, App. I; "Wittgenstein as a Gateway to Analytical Thomism," in *Analytical Thomism*," ed. Paterson and Pugh; "How Simon Trumps Cajetan on Analogy," "The Real Presence of the Trinity in Jesus' Humanity and Ours," both at www.foraristotelians.info; "Metaphysics and Immateriality," *The New Scholasticism*; "Analogy and the Disrepute of Metaphysics," *The Thomist*". Ralph McInerny, *Aquinas and Analogy*.

IV. Philosophy of Science and Nature

- A. Simon, "Jacques Maritain's Philosophy of the Sciences," in *Philosopher at Work* (read this first)
- B. Maritain, *The Philosophy of Nature* (pp. 1-125; read this before IV.C.)

C. _____ *The Degrees of Knowledge*, Chs. II, IV (the core), and V, Pt. I. (Maritain offers a principled, but poorly understood, alternative position on such issues as the real and ideal elements, and description and explanation, in science. His brief summaries, written after 1935, obscure the realist side of his nuanced view.)

D. Simon, *The Great Dialogue of Nature and Space*

See also: Anthony Rizzi, *The Science Before Science; Physics for Realists*. Matthew S. Pugh, “Maritain and Postmodern Science,” in *Postmodernism and Christian Philosophy*, ed. Ciapalo; “Maritain, Instrumentalism, and the Philosophy of Experimental Science,” in *Reading the Cosmos*, ed. Butera. Maritain, “The Conflict of Methods at the End of the Middle Ages,” in *The Thomist*, 1941; “The Philosophy of Nature,” in *Science and Wisdom*. Charles De Koninck, *The Writings of Charles De Koninck*. Vincent E. Smith, *Philosophical Physics*, Cahalan, *Causal Realism*, chs. 8 to 10. William A. Wallace, *The Modeling of Nature*. Simon, *Foresight and Understanding*; and II.F above.

V. Philosophical Psychology

A. Adler, *The Difference of Man and the Difference it Makes*

B. _____ *Ten Philosophical Mistakes* (Ch. 8)

C. Maritain, *Creative Intuition in Art and Poetry* (Chs. III and IV)

D. _____ “The Thomist Idea of Freedom,” in *Scholasticism and Politics*

E. _____ *The Person and the Common Good* (Ch. III)

F. _____ “The Immortality of Man,” in *A Maritain Reader*, ed. D. and I. Gallagher (read with V.G)

G. _____ “The Immortality of the Soul,” in *The Range of Reason* (read with V.F)

H. Simon, *Freedom of Choice* (though the French original is preferable)

See also: Maritain, *Bergsonian Philosophy and Thomism*. Dennis Bonnette, *Origins of the Human Species*. George P. Klubertanz, *The Philosophy of Human Nature*. Cahalan, “How Sensory Intentionality is Caused,” at www.foraristotelians.info. Simon, II.F above.

Reference Works

Adler, *Adler’s Philosophical Dictionary* (125 terms)

James F. Anderson, *An Introduction to the Metaphysics of St. Thomas Aquinas* (key metaphysics texts)

Roger Bissell, “Annotated Bibliography of (Henry B.) Veatch’s Major Works (www.ojectivistliving.com)

John W. Carlson, *Words of Wisdom* (a comprehensive dictionary)

Paul Cobley, “Chronological Bibliography of (John N.) Deely,” in *Realism for the 21st Century*.

John N. Deely, *Four Ages of Understanding* (a very original history of philosophy)

Donald and Idella Gallagher, *The Achievement of Jacques and Raissa Maritain: a Bibliography*

Gerald McCool, *From Unity to Pluralism* (a “Gilsonian” history of modern Aristotelianism)

Florian Michel, *La pensée catholique en Amérique du Nord* (a history of the influence of French and Belgian Aristotelians in North America)

Anthony O. Simon, “Yves R. Simon: A Definitive Bibliography, 1923-1996,” in *Acquaintance with the Absolute*

L. M. Regis, *Epistemology* (the definitive reference for Aquinas’ epistemological texts)

Helpful Undergraduate Textbooks

Carlson, *Understanding Our Being* (Philosophy of Nature, of Man, Being and God in one volume)

W. Norris Clarke, *The One and the Many* (Metaphysics)

R. P. Phillips, *Modern Thomistic Philosophy*, 2. vols. (The most complete and accurate textbook in English, and a good reference work for things hard to find elsewhere)