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Véronique Decaix Ana María Mora-Márquez *Editors*

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Active Cognition

Challenges to an Aristotelian Tradition

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Active Cognition

Challenges to an Aristotelian Tradition

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This edited work draws ona range of contributed expertise to trace the fortune of an Aristotelian thesis over different periods in the history of philosophy. It presents eight cases of direct or indirect challenges to the Aristotelian passive account of human cognition, taking thereader fromlate antiquity tothe 20th century. Chapters analyse the(often indirect) effect of Aristotle's account of cognition on later periods. In his influential De anima, Aristotle describes human cognition, both sensitive and intellectual, as the reception of a form in the cognitive subject. Aristotle's account has been commonly interpreted as fundamentally passive - the cognitive subject is a passive actor upon which a cognitive process is acted bytheobject. However, at least from the time of Alexander of Aphrodisias onwards, this interpretation has been challenged by authors who posit a fundamental active aspect of cognition. Readers will discover how one or more of three concerns - ontological superiority, direct realism and moral responsibility - drive the active accounts of cognition. Contributed chapters from top scholars examine how these three concerns lead thinkers to take issue with the idea that cognition is a passive process. The authors consider Jesuit accounts of cognition, Malebranche on judgment, and Wittgenstein on perception, as well as Stumpf on active cognition, among other relevant works. This book is ideally suited to scholars of philosophy, especially those with an interest in medieval epistemology, the influence of Aristotle, philosophy of mind and theories of cognition.

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SOMMAIRE

Introduction

Decaix, Véronique (et al.), p. 1-12

- Aristotle and Alexander of Aphrodisias on Active Intellectual Cognition de Haas, Frans A. J., p. 13-36
- Selective Attention Beyond Activity : Robert Kilwardby's Theory of Perception, Băltuță, Elena, p. 37-55

Cognition as Intellectual Constitution : Dietrich of Freiberg in Discussion with Thomas Aquinas Decaix, Véronique, p. 57-78

From Agent to Active Sense : Was There an Augustinianism-Averroisant ? Silva, José Filipe, p. 79-101

Three Jesuit Accounts of Cognition : Differences and Common Ground in the De Anima Commentaries by Maldonado, Toledo and Dandini (1564–1610) Tropia, Anna, p. 103-131

Epistemic Responsibility in an Occasionalist World : Malebranche's Theory of Judgment Schmid, Stephan, p. 133-162

- A Note on Stumpf's History of Active Intellection Taieb, Hamid, p. 163-173
- Explaining Sherlock's Glance. On the Perception of Historical Past Grondin, Vincent, p. 175-196