EDITOR’S INTRODUCTION

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• A Complete List of Abelard’s Writings

Peter Abelard (1079–1142) is a philosopher and theologian whose reputation has always preceded him. Indeed, to this day he remains among the best-known figures of the entire Middle Ages. Although one can hardly overestimate the value of his intellectual legacy, his reputation owes at least as much to his flamboyant personality and to the sensational details of his biography. Very early on Abelard established his place as one of the most celebrated masters in Paris by challenging—and then defeating—his teachers and rivals in public disputation. In some cases, he literally drove these rivals out of business: he stole their students and set up his own schools (the first when he was only twenty five) just down the road from them. He aroused the fiercest devotion in students, and the fiercest enmity in rivals. He also inspired the love and devotion of (some would say merely seduced) a seventeen-year-old Heloise. But when Heloise became pregnant and ran away with him to be secretly married, Abelard earned the hatred of her uncle and guardian, Fulbert, who was also the cannon of Notre Dame. In fact, Fulbert’s anger
was so great that he hired a group of thugs to seize Abelard and have him castrated, in an effort to put a quick end to their relations. Although Abelard spent the rest of his days as a monastic—he and Heloise having taken religious vows shortly after his castration—he continued to provoke the strongest reactions among those he encountered. For example, shortly after he was elected Abbot of the monastery at St. Gildas, he was forced to flee the institution in fear of his life, having aroused such hostility in his fellow monks that they actually tried to kill him! Not surprisingly, his efforts at philosophical theology produced much the same reaction. Several of his works were publicly condemned for heresy (on two separate occasions), subsequently burned, and Abelard was excommunicated from the Church (though his excommunication was revoked shortly before his death). Obviously no attempt to assess Abelard’s place in history can ignore these aspects of his life. Nonetheless, it is to his intellectual achievements that the current volume is devoted.

In philosophy, Abelard is best known for his work in philosophy of language, logic, and metaphysics which—together with the philosophical theology of Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)—represents the high point of philosophical speculation in the Latin West prior to the recovery of Aristotle in the mid-twelfth century. The fact that Abelard was writing “prior to the recovery of Aristotle” makes it difficult to situate him squarely with respect to either his predecessors or his successors, though important lines of influence can be traced in both directions. During his own lifetime, John of Salisbury claimed that Abelard alone really understood Aristotle and gave him the honorific title ‘Peripatetic of Pallet’. In actuality, however, Abelard’s thought draws on a number of intellectual traditions, including not only Aristotelianism, but also Platonism and Stoicism. Thus, in language and logic, Abelard emphasizes the role of propositions (rather than terms), developing a theory of propositional
connectives and propositional content; in ethics, he stresses the importance of intentions, both
developing the ideas of Augustine and anticipating in certain ways the work of many modern
philosophers such as Kant; and in metaphysics, he initiates a influential reductive program,
which comes to be known as “nominalism”. Even his provocative and controversial work in
philosophical theology has a lasting influence on the development of scholastic thought, despite
its being twice condemned as heretical.

It is not difficult to see why, of all the great philosophers of the Middle Ages, perhaps
none appeals more than Abelard to the sensibilities of contemporary analytic philosophers. His
pioneering work in areas of contemporary philosophical concern—namely, language, logic, and
metaphysics—as well as his independent spirit in ethics and theology, virtually guaranteed that
he would be among the first medieval thinkers to be taken up and championed within the Anglo-
American philosophical tradition. As one of the first—and best—to undertake an overarching,
nominalistic program in philosophy, moreover, he remains a source of insight and inspiration for
many.

Over the past few decades, scholarship on Abelard has begun to flourish, and the
attention now being devoted to his work is unprecedented. Even so, we are only just beginning
to recover and appreciate the full significance of his thought. Most Abelardian scholarship to-
date has proceeded in a piece-meal fashion, with the result that connections between the various
parts of Abelard’s thought have been obscured and certain aspects of his thought have been
ignored altogether. In this volume, we begin the process of rectifying this situation. The essays
collected here not only survey the complete range of Abelard’s thought, but also approach his
thought systematically and with a kind of analytical rigor that is sometimes lacking in more
historical studies. Moreover, in addition to displaying recent developments on topics already of
concern to scholars, these essays highlight philosophically valuable areas of Abelard’s thought that have until now been neglected, showing wherever possible precisely how Abelard’s views contribute to current debates in philosophy of language, logic, metaphysics, philosophical theology, and ethics. The result, we believe, is a volume that significantly advances the current trend in Abelardian scholarship while at the same time making up for some of its deficiencies.

I. CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE VOLUME

Because one of our primary aims in this volume is to provide a comprehensive introduction to Abelard’s thought, we have organized its essays around his most important philosophical, theological, ethical, and literary works, taking into account not only the influences that shaped their development, but also the way in which they influenced Abelard’s contemporaries and successors. Thus, the volume begins (in chapter 1) with a consideration of the main historical, political, religious, and academic influences on Abelard’s writings, and concludes (in chapter 10) with an examination of the influence of Abelard’s work on subsequent medieval thought. The chapters falling in between address everything from his contributions to literature and poetry (chapter 2) to his writings on metaphysics (chapter 3), philosophy of language (chapter 4), logic (chapter 5), mind and cognition (chapter 6), philosophical theology (chapters 7-8), and ethics (chapter 9).

The division of the chapters of this volume is designed to reflect the natural divisions within Abelard’s own writings. These writings fall naturally into four categories: literary writings, dialectical writings, philosophical theology, and ethics.
I.1 Literary Writings

In line with the mandate of the Cambridge Companion series to which this volume belongs, the bulk of its essays are devoted to Abelard’s philosophical writings. It is important to recognize, however, that Abelard’s philosophical writings represent only one part of his larger oeuvre, which also includes a number of other works (such as letters, autobiography, hymns, and poetry) best described as literary in nature. Abelard’s most important literary writings may be listed as follows:5

1. *Historia calamitatum* (= The Story of My Misfortunes)

   This work is a narrative account of Abelard’s misfortunes as a philosopher and theologian over thirty years. Although autobiographical in nature, it takes the form of a letter: it is addressed to an unnamed friend, attempting to console him by inviting him to contrast his own struggles with Abelard’s greater sufferings. Most of the details we know about Abelard’s life owe to this work, including his own account of his many confrontations with academic, political, and other rivals.

2. *Epistolae* 2-8 (= Letters 2-8)

   These seven letters comprise the famous correspondence between Abelard and Heloise, and together with the *Historia calamitatum* (= Epistola 1), with which they typically circulated, are perhaps the best known and most widely translated parts of Abelard’s work. They include Heloise’s request for, and Abelard’s attempt to
provide, an authoritative basis of religious life for women, as well as a monastic Rule for women.

3. *Hymnarius Paraclitensis (= The Paraclete Hymnary)*

   According to his own testimony, Abelard wrote a number of non-religious songs, but this collection comprises his extant liturgical music. The hymns in this collection were written for the abbey of the Paraclete and intended to form a complete hymn-cycle for the liturgical year.

4. *Planctus (= Lamentations)*

   This work consists of a group of six lyrics or laments in which figures from the Old Testament protest the circumstances and injustice of their impending deaths or the deaths of those they love.

5. *Carmen ad Astralabium (= A Poem for Astralabe)*

   This work is a poem dedicated to Abelard’s son, Peter Astralabe. In addition to summarizing the most important aspects of Abelard’s ethics, it offers Astralabe practical advice on his studies, the nature of women, and other topics.

The importance of Abelard’s literary writings—both historically and literarily—is hard to overestimate. Not only are they valuable in their own right, but they also provide unique insight into the personal and historical circumstances of one of the period’s greatest minds. Because this insight sets the stage for a proper understanding of his philosophy, and has been the subject of
scholarly debate for over a century, the first two chapters of the volume provide some assessment of Abelard’s literary works and their relation to his philosophical writings.

Each of the first two chapters takes Abelard’s *Historia* as its point of departure. In chapter 1, John Marenbon draws on it to provide a brief biographical sketch of Abelard’s life and to supply a context for the proper understanding of his intellectual development. The *Historia* sheds significant light, Marenbon argues, not only on Abelard’s own views, but also on their relationship to that of his predecessors. In chapter 2, Winthrop Wetherbee assesses Abelard’s role as a literary artist. Here again, he argues, the *Historia* supplies the relevant context, showing Abelard to be a master of both the narrative and lyric form.

### 1.2 Dialectical Writings

If the first two chapters of the volume discuss Abelard’s non-philosophical works, as well as provide the intellectual context in which his more philosophical works were written, the remaining chapters address the philosophical works themselves. Here again the chapters are organized according to the natural divisions of Abelard’s writings. In the case of his philosophy, these divisions correspond to three main categories: dialectic, philosophical theology, and ethics.

‘Dialectic’ (or ‘Logic’) is the name of the discipline that, together with grammar and rhetoric, comprises the *Trivium* of the ancient curriculum. As Abelard himself points out (*Dial. 146.10-20*), the early medieval study of this discipline focuses on a small number of ancient logical texts, which come to be known collectively as the ‘old logic’ (*logica vetus*). These texts include the following: two works of Aristotle, the *Categories* and *On Interpretation*; one work by Porphyry, the *Isagoge*, which is an introduction to Aristotle’s *Categories*; and four works by
Boethius, *De topicis differentiis* (= On Topical Differences), *De divisione* (= On Division), and the two treatises on categorical and hypothetical syllogisms, *De syllogismis categoricis* and *De syllogismis hypotheticis*.

Like most twelfth-century logical works, Abelard’s dialectical writings take the form of glosses or commentaries on one (or more) of the seven texts comprising the old logic. Although they follow the subject matter and arrangement of these ancient logical texts, however, it is important to emphasize that Abelard’s discussions in them goes far beyond the analysis of authoritative texts. As with most other commentaries written during this period, Abelard’s dialectical writings provide him with an occasion to develop his own views. Indeed, Abelard’s views often emerge in his extended excurses on the text, typically triggered by some question or problem arising either in the text or in debates with his contemporaries.

The following works are generally regarded as Abelard’s most important dialectic writings:

1. *Logica ‘ingredientibus’* (= The Logic [that begins with the words] “For Beginners”)  
   This work—which is commonly referred to by its incipit, ‘*ingredientibus*’—was intended to be a cycle of extended commentaries on the whole of the *logica vetus*. All that survives of it, however, are the commentaries on Porphyry’s *Isagoge*, Aristotle’s *Categories* and *On Interpretation*, and Boethius’s *De differentiis topicis*. Abelard’s reputation as a nominalist derives, in large part, from the commentary on the *Isagoge* in which he defends the view that universals are words (*voces*) or names (*nomina*). This is, perhaps, the best-known and most widely translated section of his philosophical work.
2. *Dialectica* (= *Dialectic*)

This work, which is missing the beginning and perhaps the end as well, is an independent treatise in logic divided into five sections: (1) Aristotle’s categories and parts of speech, only the second part of which is extant; (2) categorical propositions and syllogisms; (3) the rules of inference or ‘Topics’; (4) hypothetical propositions and syllogisms; and (5) division and definition.

3. *Tractatus de intellectibus* (= *A Treatise on Understandings*)

This work discusses the mechanisms of cognition through a five-fold mental process: sense, imagination, thought, knowledge, and reasoning. Thought by some to be a section of the *Grammatica*—a larger work (now lost) that Abelard may have written—the *Treatise* develops and expands the theory of cognition required for Abelard’s logical and semantic views.

4. *Logica ‘nostrorum petitoni sociorum’* (= *The Logic [that begins with the words] “At the request of our friends”*)—also known as the *Glosulae* (= *Little Glosses*)

A commentary on Porphyry, generally agreed to have been composed after the *Ingredientibus* and *Dialectica*. It is sometimes thought that in this work Abelard significantly develops his account of universals beyond that initially offered in the *Ingredientibus*. 
There is still considerable scholarly dispute about the chronology of Abelard’s dialectical writings. Much of the debate has focused on the relationship between the Logica ‘ingredientibus’ and the Dialectica. Although these works constitute Abelard’s most developed logical writings, they contain what appear to be several quite different discussions of predication, propositions, mental images, and even universals. Until recently, most scholars regarded the Ingredientibus as the earlier of the two works.\(^7\) Due to the influence of recent work by Constant Mews, however, the consensus has shifted: now the Dialectica is typically regarded as the earlier of the two (written between 1117 and 1121), though the Ingredientibus is often thought to be a fairly early work as well (completed before 1121).\(^8\) A third possible view—which we find attractive—is that the Ingredientibus, though actually the earlier of the two works, was revised a number of times (perhaps each time Abelard taught through the logical curriculum), and hence contains in its final form many doctrines that postdate anything to be found in the Dialectica. On this view, the Ingredientibus represents Abelard’s views as they evolved over a period of time, whereas the Dialectica represents his attempt to produce a stand-alone textbook at a particular moment in his career.

These are not the only possible views one can take with respect to the relative dating of these two works.\(^9\) But they are sufficient to indicate that the chronology of Abelard’s dialectical writings has been a focus of much contemporary Abelardian scholarship, and will continue to be for some time to come.

Although Abelard thinks of his dialectical writings as dealing with issues in logic, they in fact contain his treatment of issues that we would now recognize as falling within a number of different domains, including metaphysics, philosophy of language, logic, and philosophy of
mind. Since Abelard’s contributions to these areas constitute his most enduring legacy, a separate chapter of the volume is devoted to each.

In chapter 3, Peter King provides a systematic introduction to Abelard’s metaphysics, discussing his nominalism—or better, *irrealism*—about such topics as universals, propositions, events, times other than the present, natural kinds, relations, wholes, absolute space, and hylomorphic composites. As King’s chapter demonstrates, Abelard’s nominalism, far from being merely a position on the problem of universals, is in fact a sophisticated and integrated metaphysical program. In chapter 4, Klaus Jacobi explicates the main aspects of Abelard’s philosophy of language, including his views about the semantics of terms and sentences, indicating along the way how Abelard’s views about language developed in the connection with standard views of the time about dialectic and grammar. In chapter 5, Christopher Martin discusses Abelard’s views in logic. He focuses on Abelard’s theory of entailment, which according to Martin emerges as part of an ingenious attempt to unify certain traditional views about topical differences and conditional or hypothetical sentences. Finally, in chapter 6, Kevin Guilfoy presents and explains Abelard’s views in philosophy of mind and cognition, arguing that these views play an important role in the development of Abelard’s dialectical views in generally, and hence deserve more attention than they have previously received.

### I.3 Philosophical Theology

During his own lifetime, Abelard was a much-sought-after master in the area of dialectic. His writings about language, logic, and metaphysics were recognized by his contemporaries as insightful and original, and his colorful personality made him extremely popular with students.
By contrast, his work in theology was not, on the whole, well received. Indeed, the same colorful personality that helps to explain his popularity in dialectic aroused the suspicion of many powerful figures in the Church, and partly accounts for his reputation as one of the period’s most notorious figures.

Although Abelard composed a number of works in philosophical theology, the most important are the following:

1. *Theologia* (= Theology)

This work occurs in three different versions: an early version, *Theologia ‘summi boni’* (= *The Theology [that begins with the words] “The Highest Good”*),¹⁰ and two later versions, *Theologia Christiana* (= *Christian Theology*) and *Theologia ‘scholarium’* (= *The Theology [that begins with the words] “Among the schools”*). The first version of the *Theologia*, which was undertaken at the request of certain students who wanted an explanation of the Trinity, was condemned at the Council of Soissons in 1121. Although the embarrassment and public humiliation caused by this event was significant, Abelard continued to develop and defend his original account of the Trinity in two subsequent versions of the *Theologia* (the second of which was nearly three times the size of his original work). Despite his efforts, however, even the final version of his *Theologia* was condemned, at the Council of Sens 1140/41, and as a result he was subsequently excommunicated (though only temporarily) from the Church.

2. *Sic et Non* (= Yes and No)
Apart from a short preface, this work consists entirely of quotations from Church fathers and other Christian authorities, organized in such a way as to provide opposing (i.e., ‘yes’ and ‘no’) answers to questions about important issues of theology. Although ultimately intended to serve as a textbook for students, Abelard began compiling it shortly after his first condemnation and apparently used it initially as a notebook to which he could turn for groups of quotations to illustrate points about the Trinity and Christology. The text as a whole is important for the light it sheds both on issues of debate in twelfth-century theology, as well on the development of the scholastic method of disputation, which comes to dominate the teaching and writing of philosophy and theology during the high and later Middle Ages.

3. Commentaria in Epistolam Pauli ad Romanos (= Commentary on the Epistle of Paul to the Romans)

This is Abelard’s most important work of biblical exegesis and contains an extensive discussion of the nature of human sinfulness and the Christian doctrine of the Atonement. It is also important for understanding his condemnation at Sens, since several of the nineteen heretical propositions or capitula that were imputed to him at this Council derive from claims that Abelard defends in this work.\(^\text{11}\)

Abelard’s work in philosophical theology, especially as it emerges from the writings just mentioned, has been a topic of scholarly inquiry for some time not only among philosophers, but also among historians and theologians. Since Abelard is most notorious for his views about the
Christian doctrines of the Trinity and the Atonement, and his general approach to philosophical theology can be illustrated by a study of these two doctrines, a separate chapter of the volume is devoted to each.

In chapter 7, Jeffrey Brower examines Abelard’s treatment of the Trinity. In particular, he assesses Abelard’s attempt reconcile the view that God is an absolutely simple being with the view that God exists in three really distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. According to Brower, the key to Abelard’s solution lies in his defense of a form of numerical sameness without identity—a relation that Abelard argues must be invoked to explain not only the Trinity, but also familiar cases of material constitution.

In chapter 8, Thomas Williams examines Abelard’s view of the Atonement. Williams argues that the common interpretation of Abelard’s views concerning the purpose of Christ’s life and death—namely, that they were intended as nothing more than an inspiring example—is mistaken. William’s argument is important, not only because the common interpretation is part of what led to Abelard’s condemnation at Sens, but also because William’s argument locates Abelard’s views on atonement in the broader context of Abelard’s understanding of both original sin and divine grace.

1.4 Ethics

The third and final category (besides dialectic and philosophical theology) into which Abelard philosophical writings can be divided is ethics. As in the case of so many other medieval philosophers, Abelard insists on the need to relate one’s views in ethics to theology and to apply the tools of dialectic to both.
Abelard composed two important works in ethics. Both are extensive; neither is complete:

1. **Collationes (= Comparisons)—also known as Dialogus inter Philosophum, Iudaeum et Christianum (= Dialogue between a Philosopher, a Jew, and a Christian)**
   
   This work contains two dialogues, the first between a philosopher and a Jew, and the second between the philosopher and a Christian. In each case, the dialogue consists of a debate over the nature of good and evil, and the right understanding of the true path to the supreme good—the Law of Moses for the Jew, the Law of the Gospels for the Christian, and the Natural Law discoverable by reason for the philosopher. The work begins with these three men approaching Abelard, asking him to judge which of them has correctly identified the highest good and the correct path to that good. It ends, however, before Abelard presents his final judgment.

2. **Scito te Ipsum (= Know Yourself)—also known as Ethica (= Ethics)**
   
   This work was originally intended to consist of two books, one dealing with sin and the source of moral blame, and another dealing with right action or the source of moral praise. The second book breaks off, however, after several paragraphs. Hence, the work is in fact given over almost entirely to determining the nature of sin (which Abelard identifies with consent) and its relation to volition, action, and vice.

In chapter 9, William Mann presents and evaluates Abelard’s ethical theory, as it emerges from these two works. Mann distinguishes Abelard’s intentionalist (or “internalist”) ethics from that
of Augustine, and highlights its relevance to issues in contemporary moral philosophy—such as the nature of desire and intention. Mann also briefly speculates about possible Abelardian solutions to questions left unanswered by Abelard himself.

In chapter 10, Yukio Iwakuma provides a fitting conclusion to the volume by discussing Abelard’s influence on later medieval philosophy. Because of his unstable relationship with the Church, and the enormous social and intellectual changes that occurred shortly after his death, Abelard’s influence is difficult to trace. Iwakuma focuses, therefore, on the area in which his influence is clearest—namely, dialectic or logic, paying special attention to his relation to the school of the so-called Nominales, a movement inspired by Abelard’s own nominalist commitments.

II. A COMPLETE LIST OF Abelard’s WRITINGS

The texts around which we have organized this volume represent only part of Abelard’s larger corpus. In our discussion so far, we have identified only those works that are most important for understanding the main aspects of Abelard’s life and thought. As one would expect, however, the authors of this volume help themselves to the entire range of Abelardian works, including not only those mentioned above, but a host of others as well. For the sake of completeness, we list here alphabetically all of Abelard’s known surviving works, including direct reports of his teaching. For each item, we include the Latin title, followed by an English translation or description of that title, and (wherever appropriate) the abbreviation used for it in this volume. We also list the standard—in some cases the only—available Latin editions and English
translations of Abelard’s works, together with any other editions referred to by our
contributors.\textsuperscript{12}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Comm. Cant.</em></td>
<td><em>Commentarius cantabrigiensis in Epistolas Pauli</em> (= A commentary on the Epistles of Paul by an anonymous pupil of Abelard, with material reported from Abelard’s lectures). Ed. in Landgraf 1937-45.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Conf. fidei ‘Universis’</em></td>
<td><em>Confessio fidei ‘Universis’</em> (= The Confession of Faith [that begins with the words] “For the universal”). Ed. in Burnett 1986b.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ep. 2-14 etc.</em></td>
<td><em>Epistolae</em> (= Letters). Letters 2-5 ed. in Muckle 1953; letters 6-7 ed. in Muckle 1955; letter 8 ed. in McLaughlin 1956; letters 9-14 ed. in Smits 1983. For letter 1, see <em>Historia calamitatum</em> below. The letter to Abelard’s socii (unnumbered) is ed. in Klibansky 1961: 6–7.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>IP Cat.</em></td>
<td>Literal gloss on Aristotle’s <em>Categories</em>. Ed. in Dal Pra 1969: 43-68.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>IP De div.</em></td>
<td>Literal gloss on Boethius’s <em>De Devisione</em>. Ed. in Dal Pra 1969: 155-203.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IP Por.</strong></td>
<td>Literal gloss on Porphyry’s <em>Isagoge</em>. Ed. in Dal Pra 1969: 3-42.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LI</strong></td>
<td><em>Logica 'ingredientibus' (= The Logic [that begins with the words] “For beginners”), which contains the following commentaries or glosses:</em>**</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LI Cat.</strong></td>
<td><em>Glossae Super Categorias (= The commentary from <em>LI</em> on Aristotle’s <em>Categories</em>). Ed. in Geyer 1921: 111-305.</em>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LI De in.</strong></td>
<td><em>Glossae super Periermeneiαs (= The commentary from the <em>LI</em> on Aristotle’s <em>De Interpretatione</em>). Ed. in Jacobi and Strub forthcoming, Geyer 1927, and Minio-Paluello 1956. Primary references are to the forthcoming Jacobi-Strub edition, but references to the Geyer and Minio-Paluello editions (prefixed by a ‘G’ and ‘MP’ respectively ) are also included throughout. For translations of selections on mind and language (based on Geyer’s edition 307.1-309.35; 312.33-318.35; 325.12-331.11; 365.13-370.22), see King 1982:vol. 2, 92</em>–116*.***</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>LI Por.</strong></td>
<td><em>Glossae super Porphyrium (= The commentary from the <em>LI</em> on Porphyry’s <em>Isagoge</em>. Ed. in Geyer 1919, 1-109. Selection on universals (7.25-32.12) trans. in Spade 1994.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LI Top.</strong></td>
<td><em>Glossae super De topicis differentiis (= The commentary from the <em>LI</em> on Boethius’s <em>De topicis differentiis</em>). Ed. in Dal Pra 1969: 205-330.</em>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LNPS</strong></td>
<td><em>Logica 'nostrorum petiton sociorum' (= The Logic [that begins with the words] “At the request of our friends”) or <em>Glosulae (= The little Glosses on Porphyry’s <em>Isagoge</em>). Ed. in Geyer 1933: 505-588. Selections on genera (512.6-533.9) and differentia (558.1-560.15) trans. in King 1982:vol. 2, 29</em>–54</em>.***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problemata</strong></td>
<td><em>Problemata Heloisae cum Petri Abaelardi Solutionibus (= Questions of Heloise with the Replies of Peter Abelard). Ed. in Migne 1878, vol. 178.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sc.</strong></td>
<td>*Scito te Ipsum (= Know Yourself) or <em>Ethica (= Ethics). Ed. and trans. in Luscombe 1971. Cf. also the ed. in Ilgner 2001 and trans. in Spade 1995.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sententie</strong></td>
<td><em>Reports of Abelard’s Teachings, which include the following:</em>**</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sent. Flor.</strong></td>
<td><em>Sententie Florianenses (= The Teachings [Contained in the Manuscript] From Fleury). Ed. in Ostlender 1929.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sent. Herm.</strong></td>
<td>*Sententie Abaelardi (= The Teachings of Abelard), also known as <em>Sententie Hermanni (= The Hermanni Teachings or The Teachings of [or Written Down By] Hermannus). Ed. in Buzzetti 1983.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sent. magistri Petri</strong></td>
<td><em>Sententie magristri Petri (= The Teachings of Master Peter). Ed. in Mews 1986.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sent. Par.</strong></td>
<td><em>Sententie Parisiensenses (= The Parisian Teachings or The Teachings Contained in the Parisian Manuscript). Ed. in Landgraf 1934.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>Serm. 1-33 etc.</td>
<td>Sermons. 1-33 ed. in Migne 1878: vol. 178; cf. also Marenbon 1997a: 78, n.80 for supplementary material, including two other sermons possibly written by Abelard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theologia</td>
<td>Theology, which occurs in three main versions:</td>
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How many other twelfth-century monastics have so captured the popular mind as to have movies based on their life’s story? See Donner 1988.

Prior to the twelfth century, philosophers in the Latin west had access only to small portion of the Aristotelian corpus—namely, the logical works (most notably, *Categories* and *De interpretatione*). The information they had about other aspects of Aristotle’s work, therefore, was derived from other sources, such as Boethius’s commentaries.

*Metalogicon* 1.5.

For a notable exception, see Marenbon 1997a.

Compare the descriptions in what follows with the standard descriptions of Abelard’s works in Mews 1995. In this introduction we do not intend to take a stand on the dating of Abelard’s works, which remains a matter of some controversy. Cf., however, our remarks below on the relative dating of Abelard’s dialectical works.

And in the case of the commentary on Boethius’s *De differentiis topicis*, only the first part (perhaps less than a quarter of the whole) of it survives.


Cf. e.g., de Rijk 1986, 103–108, who argues that the *Dialectica* is contemporaneous with the *Ingredientibus*, while at the same time following Mews’s early dates for the *Dialectica*.

Also known as *De Trinitate* (= *On the Trinity*).

For a list of all nineteen propositions, as well as relevant discussion, see Luscombe 1969.
The following list is indebted to the list in Marenbon 1997a, xiv–xvii. We are grateful to Susan Brower-Toland, John Marenbon, and Peter King for helpful comments on an earlier draft of this introduction.