



The Ancient Commentators on Plato and Aristotle (Ancient Philosophies)

By MIIRA TUOMINEN

University of California Press June 2009, 2009. Paper Back.
Book Condition: New. Philosophical commentary as a genre developed in late antiquity, several hundred years after Plato and Aristotle completed their major works. Generated by a revival of Platonic thought and the availability of the Aristotelian corpus, the commentaries themselves represent an abundance of material, but Miira Tuominen's study is the first systematic introduction to philosophical commentary as a literary form. A lecturer of philosophy at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, Tuominen presents the commentators as philosophers in their own right who used the commentary format as a vehicle for original and significant philosophical theory. The commentators—including Aspasius, Galen, Alexander of Aphrodisias, Porphyry, Proclus, Simplicius and others—worked in the Platonist-Aristotelian framework exploring themes such as the nature and justification of knowledge, the nature of the soul, epistemological concerns, psychological questions related to perception and intellect, ethical issues, and metaphysical debates. Building the book around the commentators' discussions of these themes, Tuominen explores the ways in which the ancient commentaries are 'a rich source of arguments and developments in, sometimes also revisions and criticism of, the Platonic-Aristotelian tradition.' She goes on to relate the commentators' formulation of philosophical problems to...

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