

Meister Eckhart. *Lateinische Werke, Band 6. Register / Index Eckhardianus*. Edition by Loris Sturlese and Markus Vinzent. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2022. X + 895 p. ISBN: 9783170285880. Hardback: 990€

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When in the late 1930s first Raymond Klibanksy (with the Meiner publishing house), and then soon afterwards a team initially led by Erich Seeberg and Josef Quint (with Kohlhammer publishing house), had started their respective enterprises to edit all of Meister Eckhart's German and Latin works written between 1290 and 1328, it was not foreseeable that it would take nearly 90 years to finish the editions. The reasons for the delay are manifold and here is not the place to discuss them.

Meister Eckhart, the author of all these writings, was one of the leading intellectuals of the Dominican Order who, towards the end of his life, fell under the verdict of being a heretic. Born around 1260 in Tambach (Thuringia) he was twice appointed master at the university of Paris, held several leading positions in his Order and wrote numerous commentaries on biblical books (two on Genesis, one on Exodus, Wisdom, John, respectively, etc.), *questiones*, a treatise in defence of his teaching, and he delivered numerous sermons preserved in German and in Latin. The Latin works are edited in five volumes in six parts, including German translations. The German works are edited in five volumes in seven parts.

In 2023 the whole edition was concluded with a final sixth volume (included in the Latin works series), containing indexes of all biblical references and all persons quoted or alluded to by the editors in both parts of the edition, i.e. the German and the Latin works.

Loris Sturlese, who took responsibility of finishing the edition of the Latin works, and Markus Vinzent, who has prepared and published English translations of Meister Eckhart's works, undertook this enterprise.

The index volume comprises roughly 900 pages (with much empty space in between). It is divided into two main parts. The first part is arranged by Sturlese and Vinzent and is dedicated to all biblical books according to the numbering of the Vulgate (pp. 5–383). The second part is arranged by Sturlese and is dedicated to all ancient and medieval authors and collections mentioned either by Eckhart or by the editors of the Kohlhammer edition (pp. 389–875). Each part is accompanied by a short introduction by the editors. The volume is concluded by "Literature" (pp. 877–895) and one addendum and one corrigendum (p. 895).

The Bible index introduces every single biblical book from Genesis to Revelation with a short introductory note as to whether Eckhart quotes from the book and whether there are commentaries or sermons on chapters and verses. Then a complete listing of all biblical passages quoted follows. Each chapter and verse are mentioned with Eckhart's wording and all places within the volumes of the edition. The index also mentions those books that are not quoted by Eckhart (e.g. Ruth, Ezra, Nahum, Philemon).

The index of authors reads like a revised –and commented on– collection of the indexes of the edited volumes in both series, i.e. the Latin and the German works. It contains entries to 258 authors and juridical collections. Their works are introduced with regard to their relation to Meister Eckhart's works. That makes sense in all cases where a direct influence can be proved, but it is questionable for example in those cases where no influence on Eckhart is possible (e.g. # 34 Vitus Auslasser who lived in the second half of the 15th century; # 71 Konrad von Megenberg who died in 1374, # 77 Dionysius of Rijkel [the Carthusian] who died in 1471, and so on). Furthermore, Sturlese's collection demonstrates that the way editors of critical editions refer to possible sources in numerous cases leads to a dead end. More than once Sturlese informs the reader that it is questionable whether Meister Eckhart read the author. So why does he not leave these passages out? For critical editions in general it would be more helpful to check whether an author like Meister Eckhart quotes authorities beyond their appearance in source collections such as the *Glossa ordinaria* or Peter Lombard's *Sentences*. This method would likely lead to less inflated indexes.

Nonetheless, the index volume is a helpful tool to dive into Meister Eckhart's world of thought with regard to his sources. Both authors have to be lauded for their diligent work. Yet, still the question remains why such a volume was prepared since most single volumes contain indexes on their own (e.g., the most recently finished last volume with German sermons is complemented by a third part [DW IV.3] containing indexes to the whole fourth volume of the German works). So, the question remains: Who will purchase such a volume in which every page, be it empty or filled with text, costs more than 1.10 € each? Even many libraries don't seem to buy it anymore.