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## CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

G. J. P. O'Daly

The Classical Review / Volume 48 / Issue 02 / October 1998, pp 358 - 360

DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X98750012, Published online: 12 April 2006

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**How to cite this article:**

G. J. P. O'Daly (1998). CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY. The Classical Review,48, pp 358-360 doi:10.1017/S0009840X98750012

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## CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

C. STEAD: *Philosophy in Christian Antiquity*. pp. xii + 261. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Paper. ISBN: 0-521-46553-2.

S. is a patristic scholar of note, whose contributions over several years to elucidating the thought of, above all, Greek Christian writers of the fourth century (especially Gregory of Nyssa) have been characterized by analytical acuity and a robustly critical approach. His major study, *Divine Substance* (Oxford, 1977), is a landmark in the application of modern logical method to early Christian accounts of the nature of God. The book under review is a revised English-language version of *Philosophie und Theologie I* (Stuttgart, 1990), which appeared as the first volume of a series devoted to the development of Christian thought. Its publication in English is to be welcomed, for, despite the recent explosion of interest in late antiquity in general and its philosophical currents in particular, there is no other book on the market that provides an introductory survey of the topic as intellectually stimulating and challenging as S.'s (Gerard Watson's *Greek Philosophy and the Christian Notion of*

One final quibble: in the transition from German to English version the bibliography has been insufficiently revised. There are too many references to German-language studies for an introductory book of this kind, and some notable omissions of valuable English works, such as G. Vlastos's *Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher* (Cambridge, 1991), M. Burnyeat's *The Theaetetus of Plato* (Indianapolis, 1990), and E. TeSelle's *Augustine the Theologian* (London, 1970).

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