

1035-Q1-181

Daniel C. Slougher* (dan.slougher@furman.edu), Department of Mathematics, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613. *The De Continuo of Thomas Bradwardine*. Preliminary report.

This talk will briefly explore Thomas Bradwardine's view of the composition of continua. Bradwardine was a 14th century philosopher, logician, mathematician, theologian, and, shortly before his death, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Chaucer ranks him with Augustine and Boethius for his most famous work, *De Causa Dei*, a treatise on free will. C. S. Peirce states that Bradwardine "anticipated and outstripped our most modern mathematico-logicians, and gave the true analysis of continuity." Bradwardine's *De Continuo* is a careful analysis of the nature of geometric, physical, and temporal continua in 24 definitions, 10 suppositions, and 151 conclusions. Many of the conclusions investigate the logical difficulties faced by those of his contemporaries who held that continua could be built up from either a finite or an infinite number of indivisibles. Indeed, in his 151st conclusion, Bradwardine concludes not only that a line is not a mere aggregation of points, a surface a collection of lines, or a solid a union of surfaces, but that points, lines, and surfaces do not exist. (Received August 13, 2007)