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**NEW ESSAYS ON METAPHYSICS  
AS SCIENTIA TRANSCENDENS**

**Proceedings of the Second International Conference  
of Medieval Philosophy, held at the Pontifical Catholic  
University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS),  
Porto Alegre / Brazil, 15-18 August 2006**

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## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In an external sense, this collection of essays on metaphysics is the direct result of the Second International Conference on Medieval Philosophy, held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Porto Alegre/Brazil, 15-18 August 2006. The Conference itself was not only an expression of the intensive research activities in the area of medieval philosophy that characterize the Postgraduate Program of Studies in Philosophy at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, but also, and even more importantly, a sign of the vitality of the academic exchange between South American scholars (in this case mostly Brazilian) and scholars from European universities and research institutes. To be sure, for many scholars, exchange of this kind began when they completed all or part of their doctoral studies and dissertation writing in European soil. With general and generous support of the *Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale* (SIEPM) and other institutions, many efforts have been made on both sides of the Atlantic to sustain, update, and fertilize medieval-philosophical debates and research practices in Brazil and other South American countries.

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*Roberto Hofmeister Pich*