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Aquinas: 'Summa theologia, pars prima'

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Reflections on the various works in the exhibit

Imprints and Impressions: Milestones in Human Progress

Highlights from the Rose Rare Book Collection, Sept. 29-Nov. 9, 2014

Roesch Library, University of Dayton

Thomas Aquinas

Summa theologiae, pars prima

- Venice, 1484
- Second of the three editions printed by Antonius de Strata

Thomas Aquinas's *Summa theologiae* was originally written as a teaching document, a guide for beginning theology students. At more than 3,500 pages, it may seem an intimidating introduction to Christian theology; however, the influence the *Summa* exceeds its volume. Aquinas's work influenced every subject in the liberal arts, especially astronomy, logic, and rhetoric. Aquinas's methodical disputations, rhetorical style, and logic are

as much an education as his insights on the balance of faith and reason within Christian doctrine.

The *Summa* has three parts; *pars prima*, displayed here, includes Aquinas's examination of the existence of God, the nature of God and of Man, and the creation of the universe.

—Patrick Thomas, PhD, Assistant
Professor, English