


UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies  
Box 951485  
Los Angeles CA 90095-1485  
MD41

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THE POETIC THEOLOGY OF  
  
MICHAEL J. B. ALLEN

*A Symposium*



NOVEMBER 16, 2012  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES  
ROYCE HALL 314

*The* Neoplatonists invented a philosophical technique to explicate Homer in a morally comforting way, calling it ‘poetic theology.’ ∞ With very different motives, **MICHAEL J. B. ALLEN** has made himself the modern master of this method, applying it ingeniously and abundantly to the immense corpus of Latin philosophy produced by Marsilio Ficino in the Renaissance. ∞ Professor Allen’s studies of Ficino’s *Phaedrus* commentaries, for example, do for our time what Porphyry did in his *Cave of the Nymphs* around 260 CE. ∞ On the occasion of his retirement, this symposium celebrates Professor Allen, his work and his special gift of reading philosophy like a poet and poetry like a philosopher. ∞

## THE POETIC THEOLOGY OF MICHAEL J. B. ALLEN

Friday, November 16, 2012 ∞ UCLA, Royce 314

8:30 Coffee, fruit, pastries

9:00 Welcoming Remarks

**MASSIMO CIAVOLELLA**

Director, Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, UCLA

**BRIAN P. COPENHAVER**

Philosophy and History, UCLA

9:15 **DEBORA SHUGER** (English, UCLA)  
“Portrait of the Artist as a Young ?”

10:15 Break

10:30 **SHANE BUTLER** (Classics, UCLA)  
“Cicero’s *Sonnets*”

11:30 Break

11:45 **A.R. BRAUNMULLER** (English, UCLA)  
“Language, Law, and Measurement in *Measure for Measure*”

12:45 Lunch Break

2:00 **JAMES HANKINS** (History, Harvard University)  
“Ficino and the Impious Poet:  
Ficino and Lucretius on the Nature of Religion”

3:00 Break

3:15 **JOHN MONFASANI** (SUNY, Albany)  
“The Literary Scholar as Intellectual Historian:  
Michael J. B. Allen and Western Thought”

4:15 Concluding Remarks and Reception