

Augustine, *Confessions*, 12.28.38

« Vident enim, cum haec verba legunt vel audiunt tua, deus aeternae, stabili permansione cuncta praeterita et futura tempora superari nec tamen quidquam esse temporalis creaturae, quod tu non feceris, cuius voluntas, quia id est quod tu, nullo modo mutata vel quae antea non fuisset, exorta voluntate fecisti omnia, non de te similitudinem tuam formam omnium, sed de nihilo dissimilitudinem informem, quae formaretur per similitudinem tuam recurrens in te unum pro captu ordinato, quantum cuique rerum in suo genere datum est, et fierent omnia bona valde, sive maneant circa te, sive gradatim remotiore distantia per tempora et locos pulchras **mutationes** faciant aut patiantur. Vident haec et gaudent in luce veritatis tuae, quantum hic valent. »

mutationes scripsi variationes ed. Lov. 1576 narrationes Mss. Eugippius

The reading of the paradosis (*narrationes*) is clearly wrong; among modern editions, it is printed only in Vega¹, and that perhaps by mistake, for his app. crit. is arranged as though *variationes* were in the text. The emendation of the Louvain editors has stood in the text for four hundred years; it appears in the Maurist ed., Pusey, Knöll, Gibb-Montgomery, Skutella (both 1935 and revised 1969), the reprintings of Skutella in the Bibliothèque Augustinienne and the Nuova Biblioteca Agostiniana, and Verheijen. The emendation has the merit of palaeographical proximity to the reading of the MSS. The only other correction I know is a suggestion in Vega's app. crit. ad loc.: « fort. gradationes ».

There is, however, a difficulty: not only does *variatio* appear nowhere else in *Conf.*, it does not appear anywhere else in Augustine². The suggestion I offer has the merit of parallels in *Conf.*: 7.1.1 « et quod nullam patitur mutationem melius esse quam id quod mutari potest »; 12.11.14 « ecce nescio quid informe in istis mutationibus rerum extremarum atque infimarum³ ».

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1. I use his 5th/6th ed., Madrid, 1968, in volume 2 of the Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos.

2. I can speak categorically with the authority of the Würzburg Augustinus-Lexikon's computer-search facility. I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Cornelius P. Mayer, O.S.A., for authorizing the computer search necessary. There will be much scholarly value from the Würzburg data base if it is ever finally made generally available to scholars; for the time being, only occasional glimmers of light will be able to pierce the legal and financial restrictions that hamper access.

3. This note appears as *primitiae* of a detailed commentary on *Conf.* which will be published by the Oxford University Press. I would appreciate receiving offprints and notice of forthcoming publications at the address given here.