



Adoration and Annihilation: The Convent Philosophy of Port-Royal (Hardback)

By John Conley

University of Notre Dame Press, United States, 2009. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In seventeenth-century France, southwest of Paris, the Port-Royal convent became the center of the Jansenist movement and of its adherents resistance to church and throne. Three abbesses from the Arnauld family spearheaded this resistance: Mere Angelique Arnauld (1591-1661), Mere Agnes Arnauld (1594-1671), and Mere Angelique de Saint-Jean Arnauld d Andilly (1624-1684). Although many books have been written about the tragic lives of the Port-Royal nuns, John J. Conley provides the first study of the radical Augustinian philosophy developed by these remarkable abbesses during decades of persecution by Louis XIV and his ecclesiastical allies. Openly declaring themselves disciples of Saint Augustine , the Arnauld abbesses forged a philosophy notable for its original treatment of the attributes that stressed divine otherness; a moral philosophy of virtue rooted in grace; and a politics that supported the right of women to resist abuses of religious and civil authority. Although their philosophy was clearly influenced by their male Jansenist mentors, the nuns radical Augustinianism maintains its own gendered originality: their philosophy of virtue is closely tied to practices valued in a contemplative convent setting; their defense of...



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