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Louise M. Antony (2005)

## INNER SENSES

The scholastic theory of the inner senses can be viewed as an attempt to explain and classify cognitive abilities shared by human beings and nonrational animals, abilities that go beyond pure sensation and require a certain level of abstraction. Given that capacities such as reason or belief were generally denied to animals beginning in the classical period of Greek philosophy, these powers or faculties of the sensible soul were thought to account for goal-directed or intentional animal behavior as well as memory and dreaming in humans and animals.

Historically, the concept of the inner senses is rooted in Aristotle's (384–322 BCE) remarks on postsensory faculties of the soul in the second and third books of *De Anima* and in *De memoria et reminiscencia*. A model list-

ing three “inner” psychic faculties, assigned to three cerebral ventricles (imagination/front ventricle, intellective faculty/middle ventricle, memory/rear ventricle), stems from the writings of Galen (129–c. 199) and was handed down to medieval thinkers via Nemesius’s (fourth century AD) *De natura hominis* (chapter 5) and John Damascene’s (c. 675–749) *De fide orthodoxa* (chapters 32–34). St. Augustine (354–430) was the first to use the Latin term *sensus interior*, meaning Aristotle’s common sense (*Confessions*, book 1, chapter 17; *vis interior* in book 7, chapter 27).

However, the notion of the inner sense only appears there in its singular form. The tendency to posit a plurality of inner senses was probably most influenced by Avicenna’s (980–1037) *Liber de anima sextus de naturalibus* (part 1, chapter 5). The Islamic philosopher lists five inner senses as powers of the apprehensive part of the sensible soul: (1) the common sense (*sensus communis*) combines the forms it receives from the five external senses; (2) the imagination (*imaginatio*) keeps these forms stored; (3) the imaginative power (*vis imaginativa*) combines and separates forms kept in the imagination; (4) the estimative power (*vis aestimativa*) judges perceived salient or of interest (e.g., the sheep that apprehends the perceived wolf as something it should flee from); and (5) the memory (*vis memorialis et reminiscibilis*) keeps these prerational estimations. Although Avicenna gives three- and fourfold classifications as well, this fivefold classification came to be frequently cited in medieval texts.

Albert the Great (Albertus Magnus, c. 1200–1280) uses Avicenna’s classification and combines it with a description of the brain and the functions of animal spirits taken from Costa ben Luca’s (c. 864–923) *De differentia animae et spiritus* to localize the inner senses. According to Albert the classification reflects different levels of abstraction and corresponds to the grades of subtlety of the animal spirits (*Summa de homine*). The common sense belongs to the same level of abstraction as the five external senses because its function depends on the immediate presence of a perceived object. Nonetheless, it is not counted as an external sense because it does not receive its forms directly from the external object, but from the external senses.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) calls the common sense the “root and principle” of the external senses because it joins the different impressions of the external senses and thus combines the raw sense-data to form a unified episode of perceiving an object. Besides the common sense Aquinas’s fourfold list of inner senses (*Summa*

*Theologiae*, pars Ia, quaestio 78, articulus 4) includes the imagination (*imaginatio sive phantasia*), the functioning as storage for sensible forms, the estimative power (*vis aestimativa*), and the memory (*vis memorativa, memoria sive reminiscencia*). In contrast to Albert and Avicenna, Aquinas—following Averroes (1126–1198)—stresses that in human beings the animal estimative power is replaced by the cogitative power (*vis cogitativa sive ratio particularis*) that accounts for quasi-propositional perception. In modern philosophy the term *inner sense* is used to signify the mind’s ability to reflect on its own operations (Locke 1975, Kant 1998).

**See also** Aristotle; Augustine, St.; Avicenna; Thomas Aquinas, St.

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## INSTRUMENTALISM

See Dewey, John; Pragmatism

## INTENSIONAL TRANSITIVE VERBS

A verb is transitive if it takes a direct object and intensional if it exhibits one or more intensionality effects in its direct object. The three main such effects are (i) resistance to interchange of coextensive expressions, such as coreferential names or common nouns that happen to apply to exactly the same objects; (ii) lack of existence entailments even when the direct object is existentially