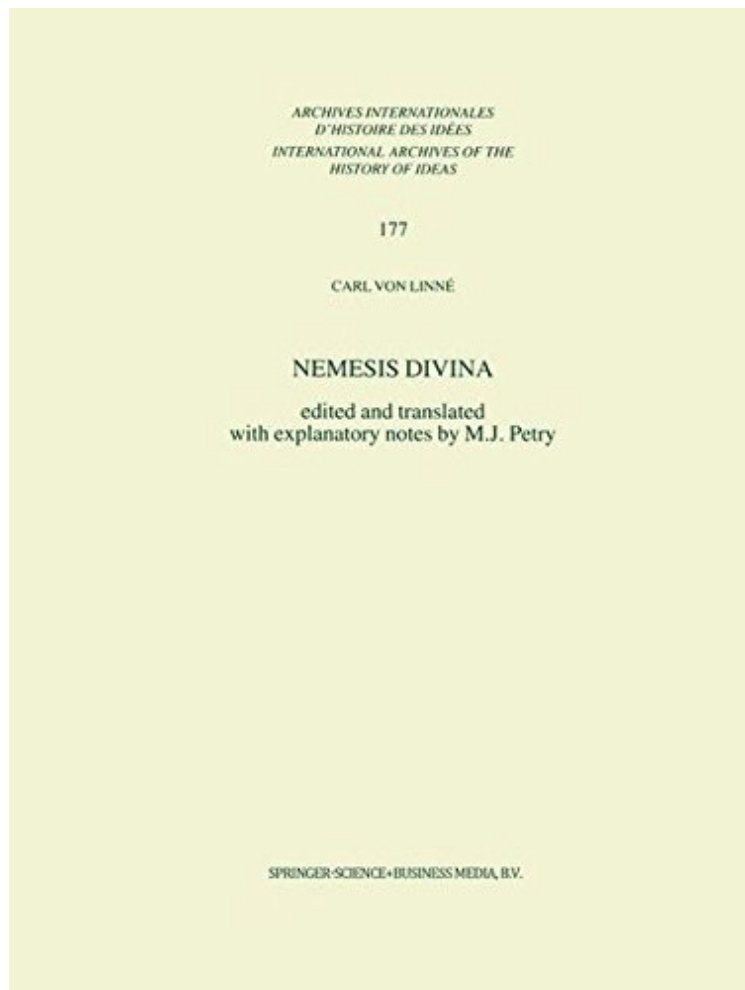


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Nemesis Divina (International Archives of the History of Ideas Archives internationales d'histoire des ides)

Carl von Linn

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Carl von Linn : Nemesis Divina (International Archives of the History of Ideas Archives internationales d'histoire des ides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nemesis Divina (International Archives of the History of Ideas Archives internationales d'histoire des ides):

Linnaeus' mature theodicy, his attempt to reconcile the suffering and evil of the world with the omnipotence and goodness of God, is presented in a condensed form in the final editions of his Systema Naturae (1758/68). In this comprehensive compendium of our knowledge of the three great realms of organic nature, he outlines the significance

of the sub-conscious, social awareness and theological orientation in the spiritual life of man, and indicates how fate, fortune, and Providence interrelate within his conception of the Deity. In the *Nemesis Divina* this general undertaking is developed into an 'experimental theology', which is exactly analogous to Linnaeus' work in the natural sciences, in that it involves the collecting and classifying of concrete and carefully described case-studies. He never prepared the manuscript for publication, however, and for many years it was regarded as lost, and it is only very recently that any attempt has been made to publish it in its entirety. This is the first English translation of all the relevant manuscript material. It is also the first attempt to analyse the case-studies in the light of what we know of Linnaeus' general taxonomic principles, and to relate each of them to its historical context.