

Draft Preliminary Prospectus (James Stoner)
For CCK – December 5, 2017 (updated July 2019)

ARISTOTELIAN INVENTORY

This project begins with a comprehensive accounting of Aristotle's continuing, or in some cases revived, influence in the many academic fields which he either established or to which he made signal contributions: from physics and biology, to logic and metaphysics, to politics, ethics, rhetoric, and poetics. In some instances the influence is continuous (ethics, rhetoric); in some intermittent (politics, poetics); in some rejected, albeit with some continuing controversies (biology, physics). In many of these fields (even physics), there are reputable scholars today who consider themselves Aristotelians, but I don't think many know about one another. History, of course, would be a companion; Aristotle was not too much of a historian (but cf. his *Athenian Constitution*), but intellectual historians will be essential guides.

After extensive preliminary research to collect published sources and identify major scholars, I anticipate a series of conferences, with papers from the various fields and a focus on both coverage and controversy. [“Solet Aristoteles quaerere pugnam” (“Aristotle has a habit of seeking a fight”).] Perhaps this would result in a published volume of proceedings; perhaps in a website catalogue. Two sources I have already found are the *Aristotle Bibliography*, an online resource compiled by Prof. Richard Ingardia of St. John's University and hosted by Brill (annual subscription cost: \$520), and the program for the 2016 World Congress on “Aristotle: 2400 Years” at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Our conferences should ideally take place in several different settings and focus on different clusters of Aristotle's work. So for example:

Year One (Louisiana State University)

Aristotle on Natural Science: works discussed would include *Categories, Physics, On the Heavens, Of Generation and Corruption, History of Animals, On the Parts of Animals, On the Generation of Animals, On the Soul*

Year Two (Oxford or Cambridge University)

Aristotle on Logic and Philosophy: *Metaphysics, On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Posterior Analytics, Topics, On Sophistical Refutations*

Year Three (Princeton University)

Aristotle on Ethics, Politics, Rhetoric, and Literature: *Ethics (Eudemian and Nicomachean), Politics, Athenian Constitution, Rhetoric, Poetics*

Papers/presentations would assume familiarity with Aristotle's writings in each field, but would concentrate on the question of his influence: whether there are scholarly approaches that can be called “Aristotelian,” what discoveries have been made that Aristotle would accept (and what would he dispute), and whether his insights offer valuable avenues for future research. Finally, we would consider whether, taken as a whole, Aristotle's corpus might guide contemporary efforts to find unity in modern knowledge.