

Elf Queens and Holy Friars

Fairy Beliefs and the Medieval Church

RICHARD FIRTH GREEN

The Middle Ages Series

July 2018 304pp

9780812224252 £20.99 NIP

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Offers a detailed account of the church's attempts to suppress or redirect belief in such things as fairy lovers, changelings, and alternative versions of the afterlife.

Taking as his starting point the assumption that the major cultural gulf in the Middle Ages was less between the wealthy and the poor than between the learned and the lay, Green explores the church's systematic demonization of fairies and infernalization of fairyland. He argues that when medieval preachers inveighed against the demons that they portrayed as threatening their flocks, they were in reality often waging war against fairy beliefs. The recognition that medieval demonology, and indeed pastoral theology, were packed with coded references to popular lore opens up a whole new avenue for the investigation of medieval vernacular culture. That the church took these fairy beliefs so seriously suggests that they were ideologically loaded, and this fact makes a huge difference in the way we read medieval romance, the literary genre that treats them most explicitly. The war on fairy beliefs increased in intensity toward the end of the Middle Ages, becoming finally a significant factor in the witch-hunting of the Renaissance.



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The City Lament

Jerusalem across the Medieval Mediterranean

TAMAR M. BOYADJIAN

December 2018 210pp 6 b&w halftones

9781501730535 £41.00 HB

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Boyadjian traces the trajectory of this genre across the Mediterranean world during the period commonly referred to as the early Crusades (1095–1191), focusing on elegies and other expressions of loss focusing on the spiritual and strategic objective of those wars: Jerusalem. Through readings of city laments in English, French, Latin, Arabic, and Armenian literary traditions, this book challenges hegemonic and entrenched approaches to the study of medieval literature and the Crusades.

This book exposes significant literary intersections between Latin Christendom, the Islamic caliphates and sultanates of the Middle East, and the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, arguing for shared poetic and rhetorical modes. Boyadjian demonstrates how lamentations about the loss of Jerusalem, whether to Muslim or Christian forces, reveal fascinating parallels and rich, cross-cultural exchanges.



Jacket image forthcoming

Virgin Whore

EMMA MAGGIE SOLBERG

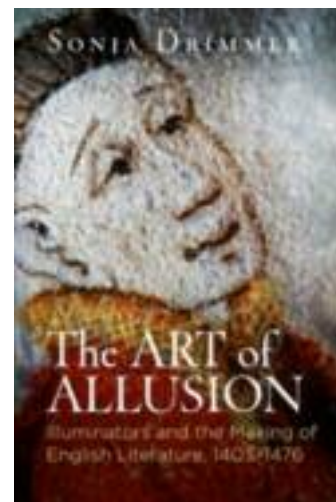
December 2018 276pp

9781501730337 £31.00 HB

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Uncovers a surprisingly prevalent theme in late English medieval literature and culture: the celebration of the Virgin Mary's sexuality. Although history is narrated as a progressive loss of innocence, the Madonna has grown purer with each passing century. Looking to a period before the idea of her purity and virginity had ossified, Solberg uncovers depictions and interpretations of Mary, discernible in jokes and insults, icons and rituals, prayers and revelations, allegories and typologies—and in late medieval vernacular biblical drama.

More unmistakable than any cultural artifact from late medieval England, these biblical plays do not exclusively interpret Mary and her virginity as fragile. In a collection of plays known as the N-Town manuscript, Mary is represented not only as virgin and mother but as virgin and promiscuous adulteress, dallying with the Trinity, the archangel Gabriel, and mortals in kaleidoscopic erotic combinations. By revealing the presence of the promiscuous Virgin in early English drama and late medieval literature and culture—in dirty jokes told by Boccaccio and Chaucer, Malory's Arthurian romances, and the double entendres of the allegorical Mystic Hunt of the Unicorn—Solberg provides a new understanding of Marian traditions.



The Art of Allusion

Illuminators and the Making of English Literature, 1403-1476

SONJA DRIMMER

Material Texts

October 2018 368pp

27 color, 97 b/w illus.

9780812250497 £46.00 HB

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

At the end of the fourteenth and into the first half of the fifteenth century Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, and John Lydgate translated and revised stories with long pedigrees in Latin, Italian, and French. Royals and gentry alike commissioned lavish manuscript copies of these works, copies whose images were integral to the rising prestige of English as a literary language. The newly enlarged scale of English manuscript production generated a problem: namely, a need for new images. Sonja Drimmer traces how, just as the poets embraced intertextuality as a means of invention, so did illuminators devise new images through referential techniques— assembling, adapting, and combining images from a range of sources in order to answer the need for a new body of pictorial matter.

Featuring more than one hundred illustrations, 27 of them in color, Drimmer's is the first book devoted to the emergence of England's literary canon as a visual as well as a linguistic event.

Books are stocked at Marston. Call +44 (0)1235 465500

Order online @www.combinedacademic.co.uk



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Before the Gregorian Reform

The Latin Church at the Turn of the First Millennium

JOHN HOWE

January 2019 368pp 44 halftones, 1 table, 2 maps
9781501732683 £22.99 NIP
CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Challenges us to rethink the history of the Church and its place in the broader narrative of European history. Compellingly written and generously illustrated, it is a book for all medievalists as well as general readers interested in the Middle Ages and Church history.

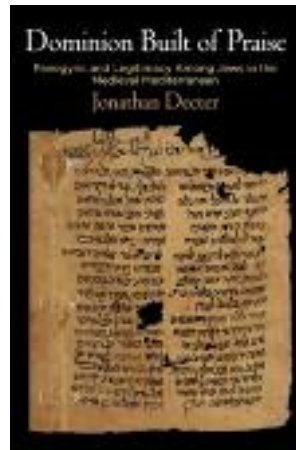
Burning Bodies

Communities, Eschatology, and the Punishment of Heresy in the Middle Ages

MICHAEL D. BARBEZAT

December 2018 300pp 6 b&w halftones
9781501716805 £42.00 HB
CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Interrogates ideas that the authors in the medieval West associated with the burning alive of Christian heretics. Barbezat traces these instances from the eleventh century onward, depicting the exclusionary fires of hell, the purifying fire of post-mortem purgation, and the unifying fire of God's love that authors used to describe inclusion and exclusion.



Dominion Built of Praise

Panegyric and Legitimacy Among Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean

JONATHAN DEXTER

Jewish Culture and Contexts
September 2018 432pp 12 illus.
9780812250411 £61.00 HB
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Looking at the phenomenon of panegyric in Mediterranean Jewish culture from several overlapping perspectives—social, historical, ethical, poetic, political, and theological—Dexter finds that they depict representations of Jewish political leadership as it varied across geographic area and evolved over time.



Ecstasy in the Classroom

Trance, Self, and the Academic Profession in Medieval Paris

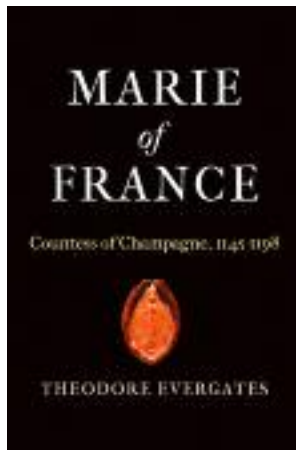
AYELET EVEN-EZRA

Fordham Series in Medieval Studies
November 2018 320pp
9780823281916 £26.99 PB
9780823281923 £96.00 HB
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY PRESS

Analyzes the early thirteenth century theological discourse about Paul's rapture and other modes of cognizing God. It reconstructs the perceptions of transformation and self they imply, and demonstrate their role in establishing the peculiar professional identity of scholastic theologians compared with other seers of God.



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Law and the Imagination in Medieval Wales

ROBIN CHAPMAN STACEY

The Middle Ages Series
September 2018 360pp
9780812250510 £69.00 HB
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Explores the idea of law as a form of political fiction: a body of literature that blurs the lines drawn between the legal and literary genres. Stacey argues that for jurists of thirteenth-century Wales, legal writing was an imaginative genre, one responsive to nationalist concerns and capable of reproducing them in sophisticated symbolic form.

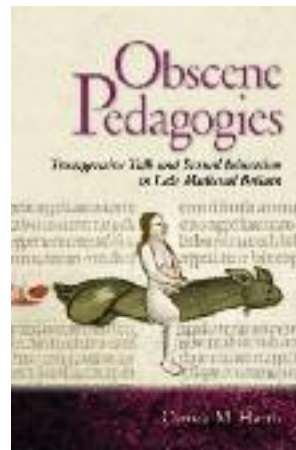
Marie of France

Countess of Champagne, 1145-1198

THEODORE EVERGATES

The Middle Ages Series
December 2018 216pp 8 illus.
9780812250770 £54.00 HB
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Countess Marie is primarily known as the daughter of Louis VII of and Eleanor of Aquitaine and as a literary patron of Chrétien de Troyes. However, in this engaging biography, Evergates offers a more rounded view of Marie as a successful ruler of one of the most vibrant principalities in medieval France.



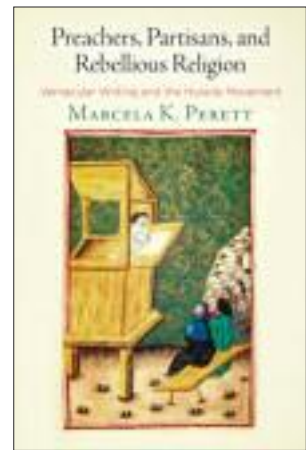
Obscene Pedagogies

Transgressive Talk and Sexual Education in Late Medieval Britain

CARISSA M. HARRIS

December 2018 312pp
9781501730405 £33.00 HB
CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Through innovative close readings of literary texts including erotic lyrics, single-woman's songs, debate poems between men and women, Scottish insult poetry battles, and *The Canterbury Tales*, Harris demonstrates how through its transgressive charge and galvanizing shock value, obscenity taught audiences about gender, sex, pleasure, and power in ways both positive and harmful.



Preachers, Partisans, and Rebellious Religion

Vernacular Writing and the Hussite Movement

MARCELA K. PERETT

The Middle Ages Series
September 2018 312pp
9780812250534 £65.00 HB
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Marcela K. Perett examines the early phases of the so-called Hussite revolution, between 1412, when Jan Hus first radicalized his followers, and 1436, the year of the agreement at the Council of Basel granting papal permission for the ritual practice of the Utraquist, or moderate Hussite, faction to continue.