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New this month:

Peter Ackroyd. Chaucer. (hb) £6.50 (reduced from £12.99)
Gerald Barnes. Viking America: The First Millennium. (hb) £12.50 (reduced from £20.00)
Birgitta of Sweden. Saint Bride and her Book: Birgitta of Sweden’s Revelations; trans. Julia Bolton Holloway. (hb) £7.50 (reduced from £14.99)
Julia Boffey, ed. Fifteenth Century English Dream Visions: An Anthology. (pb) £12.50 (reduced from £21.00)
Benjamin Griffin. Playing the Past: Approaches to English Historical Drama, 1385-1600. (hb) £28.50 (reduced from £50.00)
The Book of Margery Kempe: An Abridged Translation; Liz Herbert McAvoy, trans. (pb) £6.50 (reduced from £15.99)
Gwen Seabourne. Royal Regulation of Loans and Sales in Medieval England: ‘Monkish Superstition and Civil Tyranny’. (hb) £15.00 (reduced from £35.00)
Yoko Wada, ed. A Companion to Ancræte Wisse. (hb) £14.50 (reduced from £60.00)


 Geoffrey Chaucer has some claim to being the greatest poet in the English language. Yet he has also been considered to be an invisible poet, self-deprecating and ironic, leaving only thebreath of his comedy behind. In truth a great deal is known of him. He was a royal servant, who was indicted for rape. He was captured in battle and held for ransom. He knew at first hand the most powerful people in the country and, as the king’s servant, he was concerned with the most pressing events of the realm. Yet even in this crowded life he found time and opportunity to write some of the finest poems in the language.

Troilus and Criseyde is the first modern work of English literature. His genius was prolific and diverse and, while he was a true London artist, he was also part of the European renaissance of learning. The Canterbury Tales is an epic of Englishness itself, presided over by the genial and generous figure of Geoffrey Chaucer.

Peter Ackroyd’s short biography is rich in drama and colour. It evokes the medieval world of London and Kent, and provides an entertaining introduction to Chaucer’s poetry.

**Hardback £6.50 (in print at £12.99)**


The author of Watership Down gets medievals…

A novel of three generations of a family which lives the unwritten history of England’s troubled past. On the run with the wife of a Wexford country man, Raymond, a wandering minstrel, joins the forces massing to challenge the reign of Richard of York. His bravery in fighting for Henry Tudor’s cause begins a tradition in which he and his descendants serve the kings and true servants to those who guide England through the sixteenth century.

Raymond’s son devotes his life to Katherine of Aragon, supporting her through good times and bad, and living to tell her tragic story. He marries only after her death, and his daughter attends Anthony Babington, from his auspicious childhood, through his own service to Mary Queen of Scots, up to—and beyond—his fateful plot to rise up against the oppression of Catholics in Elizabethan England.

**Hardback £8.00 [last in print at £17.99]**


This book not only contains new material, it also incorporates a completely original approach to the political imagery of a Renaissance dynasty. It treats symbolism and the techniques of communication not from a conventional and wholly theoretical position but from the standpoint of common sense and practicality. The result is to expose, as a wholly modern academic invention, the commonly held notion that there was a systematic sales promotion of recondite imagery to the nation at large.

Tudor dynastic images are extremely simple, but their simplicity is not self-evident—this book provides the theme and structure of this book. Much attention has been devoted to how symbolism functions: but none has been devoted to its limitations and failures. This book, therefore, examines dynastic imagery not only within an intellectual context but also within the practical context of what was possible in Renaissance England. Did contemporaries have theories governing the function and manipulation of images? What signs distinguished the Tudors from other dynasties, and how sophisticated were they? Did they evolve spontaneously, or were they consciously planned? For whom were they intended, and how were they deployed?

To answer these questions the book begins with a consideration of the traditions (the British descent, the Lancastrian connection, and the union of the houses of York and Lancaster) which underlay the badges and emblems used by Henry Tudor, his son, and his three grandchildren. The final chapter, examining the practical means available for the display of monarchy, highlights their very circumscribed efficacy.

**Paperback. £8.50**


Christendom, the sequel to The Church in the Roman Empire in the series Records of Christianity, deals with the Middle Ages in the words of contemporary writers. We still worship in the churches they were first to use. We know about the buildings, but their minds are often a closed book to us. What were they really like? The purpose of this book is to let them tell us. In these pages there is ignorance, superstition and brutality, but also abundance of heroic devotion and a spiritual sensitivity well beyond the reach of most of us.

Dante and Thomas Aquinas, Bede and Alfreed the Great, Francis of Assisi and Peter Abelard are among the writers. But there is
also an unknown Irish monk's verses on his cat and a private soldier's story of how, though beaten in the Third Crusade, he yet visited the Holy Places by courtesy of Safa- din. The book is满怀 and matter of sense in the instruction a Cistercian monk gave his Rhineland novices. Readers can listen to the debate which decided that Iceland should become Christian, and on what terms. For the Koran is of great blood relationship with Christianity and measure the distance between them. They may meet Jews and simple pagans. They may travel to China at a time when it seemed possible to replace the old Eastern empires of the West Atlantic land which its Scandinavian discoverers named Vinland. Geraldine Barnes leaves archaeological evidence aside and returns to the Old Norse narratives, Grønlands saga (Saga of Greenlanders) and Eiriksa saga rauda (Saga of Eric the Red), in her study of the writing and rewriting of the Vinland story from the middle ages to the late twentieth century. She sets the sagas in the context of Iceland's transition from paganism to Christianity; later chapters explore the Vinland story in relation to issues of regional pride and national myths of founda- tion. The book is a good introduction to the nineteenth-century American settler's view of Iceland, to the ethos of popular impe- rialism during the same period in English lit- erature, and, in the late twentieth century, to postcolonial concerns.

**Hardback, no dustjacket £12.50**


Peter Biller's innovative study challenges the view that medieval thought was fundamen- tally abstract. He shows how, by 1300, me- dieval men and women were beginning to think of the population in terms of the numbers of boys and girls being baptized. Their mental capacity to grapple with popu- lation, to get its measure, was developing, and the book describes how medieval peo- ple thought about population through both the texts which contained their thought and the medieval realities which shaped it. He as- serts that they found many topics - such as the church, the family, and the state - inv- olved in discussions between polygamy, monogamy and virginity-through theology, and that crusade and travel literature supplied the themes of Mus- lim polygamy, military numbers, the coloni- zation of the Americas, the population of Mongolia and China. Translations of Aris- totle provided not only new themes but also a new vocabulary with which to think about population.

**The Measure of Multitude** sets academic discussions of population alongside the me- dieval facts of 'birth, copulation, and death' to provide a challenging new approach to the study of medieval demographic thought.

**Readership:** Scholars and students of so- ciety and intellectual thought in medieval Europe.

**Contents:**

1. Introduction to medieval demo- graphic thought


Greenland
* Leif Eriksson's voyage to the New World
* A Viking battle with Native Americans
* Swedish exploits in the Volga and the founding of an American colony

**Hardback £7.50 [in print at US$22.95/CAN$32.99/£14.99]**

**Gerald Barnes, Viking America: The First Millennium. Brewer, 2001.**

The accounts in the Vinland sagas of the great voyages to the northeast coast of America in the early years of the eleventh century have often been obscured by de- piction of the foreign land as a passing place to the West Atlantic land which its Scandinavian discoverers named Vinland. Geraldine Barnes leaves archaeological evidence aside and returns to the Old Norse narratives, Grønlands saga (Saga of Greenlanders) and Eiriksa saga rauda (Saga of Eric the Red), in her study of the writing and rewriting of the Vinland story from the middle ages to the late twentieth century. She sets the sagas in the context of Iceland’s transition from pa- ganism to Christianity; later chapters explore the Vinland story in relation to issues of re- gional pride and national myths of founda- tion. The book is a good introduction to the nineteenth-century American settler's view of Iceland, to the ethos of popular impe- rialism during the same period in English lit- erature, and, in the late twentieth century, to postcolonial concerns.

**Hardback, £8.50. Slightly dusty, due to an extended pe- riod of warehouse storage—last copy.**

**John Baggley, Festival Icons for the Christian Year. Mowbray, 2000.**

The beauty of orthodox Christian icons is being appreciated more and more in the western world. But this beauty is not only to be understood artistically; icons were created by Christians within the rich Orthodox tradition where they are at the centre of prayer and liturgy.

The Christian year is full of great feasts, such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Beautifully illustrated with colour plates, Festival Icons for the Christian Year introduces the general reader to the most impor- tant icons of the orthodox Church associated with these major festivals, accompanied by words of prayer and liturgy.

The book includes background information, extracts from the associated liturgical texts, detailed analysis of the icon illustrated with information about its development, and comment on the theology and spiritual significance of the festival and its icon.

**Hardback £8.50 (no dustjacket)**

**[in print at £5.00]**

**Alan Baker, The Viking. Wiley, 2004.**

One moment they were a mere speck on the sea; the next, a murderous force slashing its way into unprotected monasteries and vil- lages, enslaving men and pillaging vil- lages and kidnapping innocents. For three centuries the Vikings rained terror on Europe. As fearsome as these warriors were, however, there was far more to Viking life and culture than battle.

The Viking takes you on a fantastic voyage into history, where you'll meet legendary Viking warriors, explorers, kings, and poets. It chronicles the repeated Norse invasions of Europe, from the British mainland, from the destruction of the Anglo- Celtic monastery at Lindisfarne through the founding of Normandy and the battles of Hastings and Stamford Bridge. This enlight- ening book also examines Viking culture, re- ligion and explorations, including:

* Norse gods, mythology, and belief in an af- terlife
* Day-to-day life in Viking settlements
* Discovery and settlement in Iceland and Greenland
* Leif Eriksson's voyage to the New World
* A Viking battle with Native Americans
* Swedish exploits in the Volga and the founding of an American colony

**The Light of the Common Day; 14. The Bulging circuit of Florence; Epigraph: The Climate of Thought**

**Paperback 12.50 [in print at £23.00]**


Saint Birgitta of Sweden (canonised in 1939) is one of the most important female figures of medieval Europe. She participated vigoro- usly in its political life, attempting through her influence to resolve the conflict be- tween England and France, and to strengthen the Papacy against the Schism; she also influenced other mystics, such as Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Siena, Chiara Gambacorta, Margery Kempe and Beth Barton, leading a tradition in which women, despite being forbidden to preach, could act through writing visionary books. Birgitta was helped by cardinals, bishops, pri- ors and masters in her task, speaking to Popes, Emperors and all Europe. For this work she is now proclaimed, with Catherine of Siena and Edith Stein, Patron of Europe.

In this edition of her fourteenth-century medieval biography, excerpts from her mas- sive book, the Revelations, from a translation into Middle English made at Birgittine Syon Abbey in England. This is accompanied by an informative essay and an introduction tracing her life.

**Paperback £7.50 [in print at £14.99]**

**Christopher F. Black. Early Modern It- aly: A Social History. Routledge, 2001.**

Early Modern Italy is a fascinating survey of society in Italy from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries—the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. Covering the whole of Italy, the book aims to provide an account of Renaissance and early modern Italy, from Florence, to Naples it shows how the huge economic, cultural and social di- vides of the period still affect the stability of present day Italy.

**This is an essential guide to one of the most vibrant yet tempestuous periods of Italian history.**

**Paperback £8.50 [in print at £21.99]**


The title of the book is taken from words ad- duced by Sir Winston Churchill during the corona- tion service which, the author points out, plays a much more important part in the life of our nation than is generally recognised. It is not just an empty ceremony but the occa- sion when Divine Law is acknowledged as the source of all our law. The service re- minds, not only the monarch but all those as- sembled in Westminster Abbey (with televi- sion and radio audiences worldwide) of a basic tenet of the British constitution, expressed by the 13th century lawyer Bracton as: 'The King [or Queen] must be under no man but under God and the law, for the law makes the King. The King has the power to make John to sign Magna Carta were insisting that he abide by the law and his coronation oath.

This principle has frequently been com- pared, down the ages, with the Justinian pre- cinct, 'the power of the prince to police officer', and which has enabled us to give freedom under law to large parts of the world—whereas in Brus- sels, what pleases the Commissioners has the force of law.

Writing after the Second World War,
where Britain had been fighting to preserve the rule of law, Professor R. W. Chambers emphasised the importance of this principle enshrined in our coronation service: ‘Upon that foundation, whether or no we place Divine Law in the last resort above the law of the State—depends the whole future of the world’.

The book also shows that there is government or no government, with no purpose and permanence than the changing spectrum of party political strife. This government consists of institutions, mostly of medieval origin, the monarchy, parliament, courts, army, navy, police, church, universities and armed forces. The powers working through these institutions (which meet in the House of Lords) are made available to the government of the day, and may be retracted if and when they are abused—as the prime minister of Australia discovered—in 1975.

Two appendices contain extracts from Queen Bessie’s coronation service and an Anglo-Saxon document entitled Institutes of Polity, Civil and Ecclesiastical.

**Hardback £7.00 [in print at £12.95]**


Despite lip service to the proposition that the Pearl manuscript is the product of a single author, critics usually treat the four poems as isolated entities. The two authors of this work—who individually and together have produced a formidable body of research on the manuscript system, church, universities and this anonymous fourteenth-century poet—set forth a different thesis. They assume not only that the works share a common author but that they are connected and interrelated.

They begin with the observation that the four Cotton Nero poems, taken together, extend from Creation to the Apocalypse and thus correspond to the haelly Jerusalem. Comprising the entire scope of ‘History,’ the poems share a Creator whose active intervention in human affairs bespeaks a providential history that is the proper subject of history and philosophy. In this sense, the authors discuss a series of interrelated themes (language, covenants, miracles, the iconography of the hand, and the role of the intrusive narrator) that successively the poems refer to their original objects.

Every discussion treats all four poems, using each individual work to gloss the others.

While this study builds on centuries of previous scholarship, much of what Blanch and Wasserman explore has never been discussed elsewhere. Some of the material—in particular their reading of the Green Knight’s offer of weapons to Arthur’s court, and the final scene of the coming of the ‘handwork’ in the Gawain poems—not only breaks new ground but challenges accepted interpretations.

**Hardback £12.50 [in print at £9.95]**


This anthology provides new editions of five fifteenth-century dream poems of the same dreams, and demonstrates the energy with which this influential medieval form was explored by post-Chaucerian writers. Lydgate’s *The Temple of Glass,* a complex love vision, generates a context for the wide-ranging image in *The Kings Quair of James I of Scotland and Love’s Renewal* from the English poems of Charles of Orleans manipulate autobiographical detail to philosophical and political ends; the anonymous *Assembly of Ladies* foregrounds women’s voices; finally, Skelton’s *Bower of Court* adapts the love vision to the purposes of a satire on court life.

The editions are in lightly modernized spelling (and some in their original spellings), with explanatory notes, and textual commentary. Each text has its own introduction and recommendations for further reading, and a general introduction discusses the significance of vision literature in the fifteenth century and the Middle English writers, and the extraordinary variety of directions in which it was developed by fifteenth-century poets.

**Readership:** Students and scholars of medieval literature and history, Medieval Studies, and Chaucer.

**Contents:**

- John Lydgate, The *Temple of Glass*
- James I of Scotland, The *Kings Quair*
- Charles of Orleans, *Love’s Renewal*
- Anon., *Assembly of Ladies*

John Skelton, The *Bower of Court*

**Paperback £12.50 (in print at £21.00)**


A unique study of Pre-Reformation Scottish philosophy and theology, this book, by the greatest of all the Scottish philosophers was John Duns Scotus, but there were others such as John Ireland, John Mair of Haddington and George Lokeet of Ayr. Focusing on the concepts of will, intellect and free will, he investigates what the philosophy of these men and the relationships between their ideas. He places them within the framework of the medieval dispute between nominalists and realists which so characterised philosophy and theology in the Middle Ages.

Scotus’ account of the primacy of will over intellect was demonstrably influenced by his Franciscan inheritance. Will is the factor in the area of Art in which our act can be free if God has known from eternity that Awe will perform them? This question is examined in relation to John Ireland’s major theological work, *Mirror of Wisdom.* Professor Brodie analyses the concept of faith as presented by John Mair and his Scottish contemporaries, and their doctrine that giving assent as an act of faith involves two contraries: the act of assent is irrevocable but the act of belief is given, and an act of free will by which hesitancy is replaced by certainty.

*This book displays all the philosophical vigour and liveliness of Pre-Reformation Scottish philosophy that Scottish philosophical culture only began with the Enlightenment.** Hardback £8.50 [paperback in print at £15.99]**


Columba, the legendary saint and bishop, predates the establishment of Scottish political identity; Columba’s biographer Adomnán, and Columba on Iona. Scholarly but highly readable, this book is accessible to anyone interested in Columba, Celtic Christianity and Scottish history. The contributions include:

- Davut Broun, ‘Bannerman, Scottish takeover of Pictland & the rise of the Columban order’
- Andy Nicholls, ‘The relics of Saint Adomnán’
- Davut Broun, ‘Dunkeld & the origin of Scottish identity’
- Markus, Iona—monks, poets & missionaries’
- O’Loughlin, ‘Adomnán’s exegetical method’
- O’Reilly, ‘Wisdom of the sire & fear of the lord in the Life of Columba’

O’Sullivan, Iona—archaeological investigations; MacArthur, Celebrating Columba, 1897 & 1997; Meek, 20th-c. interpretations & images of Columba.

**Paperback £10.00 [in print at £25.00]**


King Arthur is often written off as a medie vent fantasy, the dream of those yearning for an age of strong, just rulers and a contented kingdom. Those who accept his existence at all generally discard the stories that surround him.

The author’s investigation argues not only that Arthur did exist, but that many of the romantic tales—of Merlin, Camelot and Excalibur—are rooted in truth. He carefully scrutinises up-to-date archaeological and documentary sources, from which a picture emerges of Arthur as a genuine sixth-century military commander-in-chief, responsible for leading the Britons of Wales and the west Country.

In his quest for the real King Arthur, Rodney Castleden reconstructs the kingdoms, frontiers and political power centres of Arthur’s time, and reveals the royal dynasties, chronologies and life-styles of the Dark Age kings. The various theories regarding the whereabouts of Arthur’s kingdom and power base are evaluated, with the aim of identifying his likely hometerritory. New evidence revives the idea that Tintagel was a royal residence, probably one of many used by Arthur on his travels.

One of the most exciting aspects of the book is Rodney Castleden’s proposal of a radical new theory—that Arthur escaped alive from his final battle, to a retirement far from home. A location is even suggested for perhaps the greatest mystery, the whereabouts of Arthur’s grave.

**Hardback £15.00 [in print at £35.00]**


A beautifully illustrated introduction to the divine and daunting tradition of mystical contemplation from the religious evolution of the Middle Ages.

This exquisite little volume follows the story of the early Christian thinkers who broke from the confines of the church to seek communion with the inner boundless forces and hopes of finding a purer, more ultimate union with the divine principle. From the Desert Fathers in 350 AD. to Plotinus, Meister Eckhart, and St. Francis of Assissi, these seekers sought a life of peace and solitude far away from the clutches of society. Because the established church often viewed these personal journeys unfavourably, the mystics had to be cautious to preserve their holy vows. Due to their purity and perseverance, however, the mystics existed throughout the centuries, attracting fervent disciples from near and far.

With an informative introduction by Oxford scholar Catto as well as its own attractive illustrations from medieval scribes and artists, this volume provides the perfect primer—and the perfect gift—for those drawn to this spiritual movement.

**Hardback £2.50 [previously published at £9.95]**


No medieval emphasis. Humans have been burying their dead for the past fifty thousand years. Their monuments and grave good have been studied by antiquarians for centuries, but recent advances in medicine and science
Battlefield Walks: The South provides a comprehensive collection of walks around the battlefields of the south of England, and covers military engagements fought throughout English history, from the Saxon victory at Ashdown in 871 to the site of a Second World War airfield—RAF Charmy Down.
Not every town of the battles covered is, of course, the Battle of Lewes, but the book also includes Simon de Montfort’s victory at the Battle of Lewes in 1264, which enabled him to convene the First English Parliament. The book also considers English soil—Sedgemoor, in 1685, the culmination of a rebellion, which resulted in the aftermath of Judge Jeffreys’ ‘bloody assizes’. In addition, five battles of the Civil War provide attractive and diverse walking routes, from the site of the Siege of Gloucester to those at Lansdown, Cheriton and Langport. In all, twelve walks are covered, varying in length; while some are quite short and suitable for the everyday walker, others are more demanding and will provide an enjoyable challenge for the seasoned rambler. Helpful sketch maps, transport connections and suggestions for places of interest along the way, and all the walks are circular, thus enabling walkers to choose their point of departure to suit themselves. Famous myths, mysteries and legends associated with the battles are recounted, including the astrological chart for the battle of Towton and black and white photographs showing the places as they are today, as well as contemporary pictures of the historic events described.
An indispensable guide to the battlefields of the south of England, this book will prove a stimulating and informative companion for walkers, military historians and for the family in search of an enjoyable day in the English countryside.

Paperback £1.20 [in print at £2.00].

According to Chesterton St Francis of Assisi is the most sympathetic in the modern mood, he exceeds Wordsworth in his love of nature and Tolstoy in his social compassion. However St Francis’ love of people was not worldly obsession but was the expression of his complete love of Christ. It is perhaps his key inspiration and legacy that the material things most valued by human dignity diminish in insignificance in the face of this love.

Chesterton provides a commentary to the life of St Francis. As for his legacy Chesterton concludes; ‘He was above all things a great giver; and he cared chiefly for the best kind of gifts, those which affected the poorest people. He knew that we can best measure the towering miracle of the mere fact of existence if we realize that but for some strange mercy we should not even exist.’

Hardback £6.50 [dustjacket slightly grubby]. [Paperback in print at £8.99]

Andrew A. Chibi. The European Reformers and Their Work by Love and the_...the clothed. Study Notes, 1999.
Lecturers often lack the time to present this subject as fully as students need. Students tend to be either bored or overwhelmed by unfamiliar theologies, philosophies and names—or presented with only the barest details, and expected to fill in the gaps themselves. Resource collections are limited and students have to rely on the book in hand. This book, specially written by an experienced university lecturer, is a handy pocket book on the key facts of the European Reformation in a straightforward and student-friendly fashion to help the student understand very clearly the key reformers and their basic reforming principles. Complete with quick overviews and mini-tutorials, this book will meet the needs of lecturers and students alike.

Paperback £5.00 [in print at £9.99].

Early Christianity, simple in nature, grew rapidly more complex in the course of its expansion. The growth, transmission and development of ecumenical movements in recent years and the growth in the number of branch churches now registered with the World Council of Churches.

Building on the Christian references from Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, the Cassell Dictionary of Christianity represents a substantial expansion of content, taking account of some 3,000 entries, this volume provides a much-needed reference for students and general readers alike and one which genuinely reflects the immense diversity of Christian experience.

Hardback £8.60: copies have had an extended period of warehouse storage, so dustjackets have lost their sheen.

For modern listeners, the sounds of Gregorian chant are compelling, with words and rhythms that seem at once familiar and remote. Gregorian chant is the oldest Western music in which the knowledge of the religious significance of Gregorian chant, listeners respond to its unique qualities and sensuous tranquility. Richard L. Crocker, a world-renowned scholar of chant, provides a historical introduction to the history and meaning of the Gregorian chant. He explains how Gregorian chant began, what functions and meanings it had over time, who heard it and why, and how it was composed. He begins the book with hands on. His guided tour of the Gregorian chant provides for any student, performer or interested listener a rich understanding of this extraordinary musical treasure.

Hardback with audio CD. £12.50 [in print at £37.50/£19.90].

Cassell Religious Studies series.
This book is the same as the paperback titled The Rise of Christianity in Northern Europe, 300-1000. The book is a study of the process of conversion of the Germanic peoples from the third to the eleventh centuries. The intention is twofold: first, to examine previous scholarship on conversion and to develop a model of conversion appropriate to the Germanic peoples; second, to produce a comparative study of six Germanic conversions.

Chapter 1 reviews the existing models of conversion, including the scholarly number of fields, principally psychology, anthropology and religious studies, and develops an alternative model. This model explores the cognitive and social structures of pre-Christian Germanic social roles and motivations of the agents of mission and traditional secular and religious leaders, validates the spiritual dimension of corporate decision-making in religious transitions, and accounts for the process of conversion by the Germanic peoples. Chapters 2 to 7 are case studies which apply this model to the conversions of the Goths, Franks, Anglo-Saxons, continental Saxons, Scandinavians, and Frisians. The book concludes with some key concepts in the process of conversion and their implications for modern studies of religious change.

This book was previously issued in hardback in 1999 under the title *Conversion Among the Germanic Peoples.*

This book is a study of the process of Christian conversion among the Germanic peoples from the third to the eleventh century. Each of the four main sections of this study: examine previous scholarship on conversion and to develop a model of conversion appropriate to the Germanic peoples; and second, to produce a comparative study of six Germanic conversions.

Chapter 1 reviews the existing models of conversion developed by scholars in a number of fields, principally psychology, anthropology and religious studies, and develops an alternative model. This model explores the cognitive and social structures of pre-Christian Germanic society, highlights the roles and motivations of the agents of mission and traditional secular and religious leaders, validates the spiritual dimension of corporate decision-making in religious transitions, and accounts for the indigenization of Christianity by the Germanic peoples. Chapters 2 to 7 are a detailed study of this model and the conversions of the Goths, Franks, Anglo-Saxons, continental Saxons, Scandinavians, and Icelanders, revealing a fundamentally common process but with local variations. The final chapter reflects the insights gained from the case studies.

**Paperback £12.50 [in print at £25.00]**


When a thin, pale boy called Lambert claims he’s the rightful heir to the throne, King Henry VIII writes him a letter. Lambert has the clever ways of dealing with this young impostor. Can Eleanor, the maid, discover the truth—and what will it mean for Lambert?

**Paperback £2.50 [in print at £4.99]**


This book traces the work of English Augustan friar Osbern Bokenham, an ardent Yorkist on the eve of the Wars of the Roses and a gifted poet. Sheila Delany focuses on a manuscript written in 1447, the *Liber Vitæ* which narrates the lives and ordeals of thirteen heroic and powerful saints, this was the first all-female legendary in English, much of it commissioned by wealthy women patrons in the vicinity of Clare Priory, Suffolk, where Bokenham lived.

Delany structures her book around the image of the human body. First is the corpus of the body, a celebration within which Bokenham wrote: above all, the work of his two competing masters, St. Augustine and Geoffrey Chaucer. Next comes the female body and its parts as represented in hagiography, with Bokenham’s distinctive treatment of the body and the corporeal semantic of his own legend. Finally, the image of the body politic allows Delany to examine the relation of Bokenham’s work to contemporary political life. She analyzes both the legendary and the friar’s translation of a panegyric by the late-classical poet Claudian. The poetry is richly historicized by Delany’s reading of it in the context of succession crises and the connection of women to political power during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

**Paperback £8.50 [in print at £19.00]**


* An investigation of England’s 400-year fascination with Elizabeth I and of the rich and varied representations and texts about Elizabeth in drama, painting, poetry, propaganda, film, and television.
* Examines the diverse representations of Elizabeth in drama, painting, poetry, propaganda, and film.
* Looks at how these multiple interpretations have related to national identity.

No monarch is more glamorous or more controversial than Elizabeth I. The stories by which successive generations have sought to make sense of her, or the events that have supplied her with a rich index to the cultural history of English nationalism—whether they represent her as Anne Boleyn’s suffering orphan or as the implacable nemesis of Mary, Queen of Scots, as learned stateswoman or as frustrated lover, as persecuted princess or triumphant warrior queen. This book examines the many afterlives the Virgin Queen has lived in drama, poetry, fiction, painting, propaganda, and film, and the cinema over the four centuries since her death, from the aspiringly epic to the frankly kitsch. Exploring the Elizabethans of Shakespeare and Spenser, of Sophia Lee and Sir Walter Scott, of D.H. Lawrence and Glenda Jackson, of Shakespeare in Love and Blackadder II, this is a lively, lavishly-illustrated investigation of England’s perennial fascination with a queen who is still engaged in a posthumous progress through the collective psyche of her country.

**Readership: Renaissance scholars, historians of nationalism, readers with an interest in Elizabeth I (visitors to Tudor palaces, viewers of costume-drama, readers of popular history).**

**Contents:** Introduction: The Queen is Dead, Long Live the Queen; 1. Gloriana Re-Vives; 2. The Private Lives of the Virgin Queen; 3. Elizabethan Epic and Elizabethan England; 4. The Faery Queen and Victorian Values; 5. An Empress and her Adventurers; 6. Elizabeth Modernized; Afterword: Virginia in the New World. **Paperback £18.00 [Publisher’s price £14.00].**


Nostradamus (1503-1666) is one of the most controversial writers of the Renaissance and one of the most widely read. Whatever his other accomplishments, he is best remembered by those who could foretell events, though he could not specify when in the future they would occur. Modern readers tend to view Nostradamus either as a relic from a superstitious age or as an inspired visionary. In this book Georges Dumézil, renowned scholar of myth and religion, takes Nostradamus seriously in order to examine, for once, what happens if he is taken seriously indeed. Can one forecast the future, Dumézil asks, and understand it?

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, commentators on Nostradamus found in the prophecies of Nostradamus’ Century 9 a bundle of precise details that seemed to predict the arrest of Louis XVI as he fled the French Revolution. Other details in the quatrains remained unexplained. Why was there mention of ‘Aurelian’ in 1598? What did the second verse signify: ‘Deux parts, vautorte, Herne, la pierre blanche’? What can scholarship contribute to the understanding of these puzzles?

Dumézil explores three possibilities: a philological and historical study of the text to clarify its enigmas by a deeper investigation of Louis XVI’s unsuccessful flight to Varennes; a logical analysis, determining how Nostradamus would have interpreted a view of the eighteenth century from his vantage in the sixteenth; and, finally, a metaphysical enquire into the status and process of prediction. Written in dialogue form, *The Riddle of Nostradamus* is one of Dumézil’s most arresting works, challenging dogmas, even scholarly ones, and raising sharp questions about how much we know to want, and why. Shunning the usual forms of academic inquiry to probe the grey regions that stretch between knowledge and belief, the book not only studies, but exemplifies, the role of the riddle in discussing portentous events.

**Hardback £8.00.**


Meister Eckhart is one of the most enigmatic and influential of the mystics of the Western spiritual tradition. Throughout his writings he emphasizes each person’s God-given potentiality for knowing God and becoming one with the divine spark in the depths of their being. This mystical understanding of the self-birthing God within the human soul transcends Eckhart’s own time and remains as vital today as it was to those first hearers who speak in fourteenth-century Germany.

As with all the books in this series, the extracts gathered here are arranged under thirty headings, providing daily meditations for a month. **Hardback £6.00**


Christopher Columbus has generated a legend more excessive than the achievements of his own lifetime. Amid the vast quantity of material—some misleading, some mystifying—this book meets the need for a concise, authoritative, and up-to-date account of the discovery of America.

From the sources which he has studied for many years, Felipe Fernández-Armesto builds up a believable portrait of Columbus, seen in the context of the world in which he lived. He examines the explorer’s quest for patronage and the development of his geographical ideas, as well as describing his famous voyages and subsequent explorations, his political career and his disenchanted role as a demotedator. The personal tragedy of this weaver’s son who rose to greatness and died in bitterness makes a compelling story.

Throughout, Columbus’s character is searched and examined—especially in his conflicting motivation, his divergent perceptions of his discoveries, his uneasy relationships with patrons and friends. Instead of the unchanging victim of his own ‘certainty’ commonly portrayed, a convincingly human Columbus emerges: mercurial and suggestive, with ideas and attitudes that changed over time.

There is no greater interest in the truth about one of the most important, and most discussed, events in our history, this readable and revealing book will be invaluable.

**This is a corrected reissue of the book first published by Oxford University Press in 1991.** **Paperback £4.00**


*Premodern Sexualities* offers rigorous new approaches to current problems in the historiography of sexuality. From queer readings of early modern medical texts to transcribing and interpreting pre-modern documents of sexual transgression, the contributors bring together current theoretical discourses of sexuality while emphasizing problems in historico-interpretivist understandings of early textualizations of sexuality.
Contents: Louise Fraudgen & Carla Fercero, Introduction: Caixon, Founcault & the pleasures of history; Jonathan Goldberg, The history that will be; José Piedra, In search of the blithe and the calm; The Queen's two braves: El burador de Sevilla and the teasing of historicity; Richard Corum, Henry's desires; Ruth Mazo Karras & David Lorenzo Boyd, 'Ut cum muliere: a male transvestite prostitute in fourteenth-century London; Lorraine Daston & Katharine Park, The bermophrodit and the orders of nature; Karma Lochrie, Don't ask, don't tell: murderous plots and medieval secrets; Simon Gaunt, Straight minds, queer wishes in Old French romance; and Saint Euphrosyne; Kathy Lavezzo, Sobs & signs between women: the homoerotics of compassion in The Book of Margery Kempe; Patricia Parker, Virile style; Elizabeth Pettenger, Explicit ink; Bruce W. Lindsey, Body and reconstruction: the homoerotic subject of the Divine Comedy.

Paperback. £9.50 [in print at £17.99]

Be praised, Thou, my Lord, For Brother Wind And for the air and the cloud And for the sky serene and all the weather Through which Thou givest sustenance To thy creatures—Francis of Assisi

Between 1221 and 1226, in the last years of his life, Francis of Assisi composed his celebrated 'Canticle of the Sun' (also known as the 'Canticle of the Creatures'), in which he gives voice to a feeling of appreciation for, and unity with, the sun, the moon, the earth, and all the elements of nature—which he addresses as 'brother' and 'sister'.

Frank Missant's extensive knowledge of the art and culture of the Italian Middle Ages enables him to convey the aesthetic spirit of that period in his stunning calligraphic interpretation of this spiritual classic.

Paperback £4.50

[I in print at US$12.95/CA$19.95]

Irene M. Franck & David M. Brownstone, adapted by Rachel Kranz. Across Asia on Foot and Electric Tram: Traveling From File to Travel Routes series, 1991 (Adapted from To the Ends of the Earth, 1984).

Human life began in the area of Africa and Asia, and the story of the routes that developed across these lands is as old as humankind. The Nile River was traveled by the earliest peoples, by Egyptian pharaohs, and then by Greek kings and Roman emperors. Its history is part of the history of those great cultures. The Incense Road carried not only gold and incense but culture and religion as well. The kings who are said to have brought Christianity to China traveled this road, and the prophet Mohammed is believed to have spent his youth as a trader on the route. Over the Sahara routes travelers crossed an immense desert bringing salt to trade for gold or slaves to sell to merchants from distant lands. Along these routes, places such as Timbuktu became renowned in myth as golden cities, reachable only through scorching journeys over bone- sand, or where travelers endured the heat and bones but never found the gold.

Across Africa and Arabia, a volume in Facts on File's Trade and Travel Routes series, describes in colourful detail the evolution of some of the world's most important trade and travel routes. To follow the development of these routes is to glimpse not only the events of the times but also the conditions faced by those who traveled these paths. The text is enhanced by the inclusion of some 50 maps and illustrations, suggestions for further reading, and a thorough index.

Across Africa and Arabia offers a new and strategy of the study of world history, as well as sending the reader on a fascinating journey through space and time. [Hardback £5.00]


One of the few introductions to Chaucer's poem failed love amid the ruins of war. Allen J. Frantzen's study distinguishes itself by accommodating the multiplicity of ideas at play both within the text and among the various interpretations of Troilus and Criseyde that have. It is the first to appear in London.

Contents include chapters: on 'Social text, historical context', 'The importance of the work', 'Critical reception and the history of the work', and a detailed reading of the poem in seven chapters.

Paperback. £4.00


'Years have passed and much has changed since we two bad out arms around each other. Thus what I write will perhaps be equally a letter to the whole present Christian church, for today you are a man of great influence.'

In a second-hand bookshop in Buenos Aires, Jostein Gaarder makes an exciting find: a transcript of a letter to St Augustine, author of the Confessions. From Flavio Amalia, the woman he renounced for chastity.

Vita Brevis is both a classic love story, beautifully told, and a fascinating insight into St Augustine's life and that of his discarded companion. It is the reader to determine its authenticity.

Paperback, £3.50 [in print at £6.99]


Paperback. £7.50 [in print at £22.50].


"A rich source... recommended for college libraries.' —Choice.

A treasury of medieval tales about the great heroes of the time is unlocked in this volume. Some are familiar figures, like Charlemagne and his paladins, Arthur and his knights, or Tristan and Isolde, but there are many other lesser-known, but equally fascinating, stories to be found, ranging from the medieval versions of the exploits of Alexander the Great and Aeneas to the parody of hisof in Reynard the Fox. The different cultures from which the middle ages drew its inspiration are represented. Cuchulain from the Celtic world, Apollonius of Tyre from Greek romance, Attila the Hun and Theodoric the Ostrogoth from the struggle of the Roman empire against the barbarians. Gardner's magnificently detailed history, how it spread through Europe, its modern retellings and appearances in art, and a selective bibliography.

Paperback, £9.50 [in print at £16.99]


At the turn of the 16th century Italy was a turbulent territory made up of independent states, each at war with or intriguing against its neighbour. There were the proud, cultivated and degenerate Sforzas in Milan and, in Rome, the corrupt Spanish family of the Borgias whose head, Rodrigo, was the pope who sold Peter's throne as Pope Alexander VI. In Florence, a golden age of culture and sophistication ended with the death of the greatest of the Medici family, Lorenzo the Magnificent, gone too soon for his community, cruelty and religious fundamentalism.

In the midst of this turmoil, there existed the greatest concentration of artists that Europe has ever known. Influenced by the recovery of Greek art, by the Florentine and Rome, artists and thinkers such as Botticelli and Leonardo da Vinci threw off the shackles of the Middle Ages to produce one of the most creative periods in history—the Renaissance. This is the story of twelve years when war, plague, famine and chaos made their mark on a volatile Italy, and when a young, erratic genius, Michelangelo Buonarroti, made his great contribution. It has to become a symbol not only of the independence and defiance of Florence but also of the tortured soul who created it.

Hardback £8.00

[Paperback in print at £7.99]


This new reassessment of Richard II is an outstanding group of international contributors re-evaluates the (frequently biased) evidence to create a new and rounded portrait of this fascinating and much-maligned king. They investigate Richard's character, his judgment and action and key aspects of his policies, covering topics which include: the conventions of cooperation between kings and communities; discourse on the nature and purpose of rule; representations of Richard and his identity; the perception and execution of royal personality; and the fiscal basis of government. They highlight the seriousness of the problems affecting the exercise of power and show how the traditional and innovative approaches to academic history, as well as the methodological strategies of the Sforzas and the Medici, were by Richard's appointment. [Paperback £9.95]

the *Mons Promptbook* of 1501. The result is a producible English translation of a French medieval Christmas play. To aid in the performance of this remarkable achievement, the book is illustrated with contemporary miniatures from manuscripts of Passions clearly showing the details of polychromy French staging.

**Hardback £5.00**

[publisher lists this as out of print].


Gregory VII ranks among the very greatest popes of all time, and as an outstanding figure of European and even world history. The letters in his Register, of which this is the first complete modern translation, shed penetrating light on his person, policies, and actions, and especially on his often dramatic dealings with the kings and kingdoms of Europe in the late eleventh century.

**Readership: Scholars and students of medieval history, especially of the medieval Church.**

**Hardback £45.00 [in print at £90.00]**


Cambridge, 1355—it is a damp, gloomy November morning, and the Cam is just beginning the history of the intrigue in store for Michaelhouse...

Physician Matthew Bartholomew recognises the deceased as the book-bearer of the Master of Michaelhouse. Runham's death certainly looks like suicide—Runham's servant was well known for his black moods and heavy drinking—but before Bartholomew can reach a definitive conclusion, a second, terrifying addition is made to the puzzle. Fellow has plunged to his death from the top of a building scaffold. And when his colleague claims to know who pushed him, he too is mysteriously murdered.

Meanwhile, at Michaelhouse itself, great change is afoot. The current Master, admired and respected by both Bartholomew and his colleagues, announces his intention to retire. The late Master made an unexpected appearance by surprise—everyone except the ruthless Runham. Hastily elected, he immediately moves to make his mark upon the college; he forces one Fellow to leave, sacks the chef, takes over the serious staff, ousts Bartholomew's loyal servant Cynric; he builds a courtyard the college cannot afford, infuriating Benet in the process by poaching their workers to do so; he then attempts to force Bartholomew out, demanding that the physician choose between his teaching and his medical work—but just as Bartholomew is agonising over such an impossible decision, he is himself discovered dead.

**Hardback £8.50 [in print at £16.99]**


It is a time of division and denomination at Michaelhouse. As with Carminow, Carminow Dominicans are at theological logheadgers, so much so that the more fanatical are willing to swap rational argument for a far deadlier form of debate. And no sooner is Carmelite friar Fiaricus found stabbed than a junior proctor is found hanging from the walls of the Dominican friary.

Why was Fiaricus found outside his friary, when he was not permitted to leave? How are the nuns at St Radegund’s involved? And who is negotiating between Cambridge and their great enemy, Oxford? The longer his inquiries go on, the more Matthew Bartholomew realises that the murders are less to do with traditional principles, and more to do with far baser instincts.

**Paperback £3.50 [in print at £6.99]**


Two overlapping areas of English historical drama are examined in this study. The first is the large group of plays dramatising the lives of kings and queens. The second is the proto-novel (native-subject drama), from the end of the fourteenth century to the end of the sixteenth, and the second is the select group of plays produced in the 1580s, at the height of their flourishing. Griffin charts the development of historical drama from the Mass and Saint plays on Thomas Becket, through the Reformation and its legacy, to the later history plays, showing that the history play is neither Shakespeare’s nor an Elizabethan invention, but has its roots in medieval drama. The use made by Shakespeare and Marlowe of the various types of historical source material—festival, study, and the formless genealogical—is discussed, and the decline of the history play examined, reviewing and amending critical explanations of the extinction of the genre.

**Paperback £8.50 (reduced from £50.00)**


**In We Are Another Dr Guilmham described how a group of Cathars from mediaeval Carcassonne—solid men still in the twentieth century in a circumscribed area in Bristol and Somerset. The Lake & The Castle tells how this same group first assembled in ancient Rome and maintained its loyalty to its basic Dualist beliefs in Celtic Christian Cumberland and as French sailors in the Napoleonic era.**

This book is not merely a straight history book. It describes how the author was contacted by discernate entities. They revealed to him a succession of symbols representing his different incarnations and enabled him to see in detail scenes hundreds of years distant and in times as far back as the fourth century AD. These discarnates were always concerned with what was concrete and verifiable. They directed the author to places in Cumberland and Hampshire where he found indubitable traces of his past lives. He was guided accurately to objects such as crosses and mason’s marks which had invariably a personal significance for him, and for his family, and were extraneously direct. Different discernate guides communicated the same truths at the same time to different members of the group.

This is also the story of a personal attachment which, in its different ways, lasted fifteen centuries, and involves visionary experiences centred round a jewel given to the author in the fourth century AD.

As far back as the imaginative experience *The Lake & The Castle* provides invaluable first-hand information about the cult of Mithras and the Celtic Church in the seventeenth century AD. It is immensely important to know that reincarnation and other tenets of Catharism were accepted by the Celtic Church in Britain before its reorganisation following the Synod of Whitby in 664.

**Paperback. £6.00 [in print at £11.95]**


The book of the Middle Ages brings life to the Middle Ages as no book before it. It is organized in five main chapters, each focusing on a key component of medieval society: castles, knights and lords; town and country; houses and homes; and warfare. The approach is at once classic and contemporary, presenting history in authoritative yet lively and entertaining text with beautiful full-colour artwork and photography. *Secrets of the Middle Ages* opens with a six-page gatefold that reveals a reconstruction of a historical place or event in all its medieval splendour. Turn to the gatefold of Cologne cathedral, for example, and marvel at the detail: the stained glass windows, the forest of marble columns, and the carved-wood choir stalls. Open the gatefold of the abbey of Cluny and discover its courts, gardens, cloisters, and magnificent church, and learn about the activities of the monks who lived there. Peer into the Fall of Constantinople and witness a city under siege: Byzantine defenders man the Romanus Gate, disease rips through the city, and the Golden Horn, and the deployment of troops around the western end of the city.

With an introductory chapter that provides an overview of the Middle Ages, from the fall of Rome to the fall of Constantinople, the intentions of European exploration of the New World, *Secrets of the Middle Ages* is an absorbing journey back in time, providing an eyewitness perspective on this fascinating period of history. Vivid, engaging and topical, the book will instruct and delight for years to come.

**Paperback. £7.50 [in print at £14.99]**


Throughout history, great faiths have been subjected to persecution and attack from beyond the wall—literally walls, in Peter Harrison’s remarkable book of the great monastery-fortresses, and church-fortresses, of the world.

Fortified religious buildings of Christendom, Islam and Tibetan Buddhism are some of the most dramatic buildings of the middle ages. Though they shared a common purpose in defending the living faith from the incursions of the outside world, they are strikingly different from each other. Peter Harrison has spent a lifetime in scholarly pursuit of fortified religious buildings dating from a thousand years ago and more, in the Old and New Worlds, the Orient, and the Occidental, ranging through New Mexico, North Africa and Tibet, though the majority are to be found in Europe.

The book is highly illustrated, with over 150 photographs, diagrams and line drawings. Each building is accompanied by a detailed description. This is not a conventional architecture book, but a journey into the history of faiths, the power of art, and the physical beauty of the past. The book is written for everyone interested in architecture, history and travel.

**Hardback £17.50 [in print at £30.00/$60.00]**

The five centuries of early medieval art, from the seventh to the tenth century, are divided into three periods of transition in which European art of the Middle Ages was born. Although the period lacks unifying characteristics, four artistic centres are clearly discernible—Irish, Anglo-Saxon, Carolingian, and Ottonian. A monastic order of artist-scholars of these centres left a vast heritage of illuminated manuscripts. But their boundless stylistic explorations, like the Lindisfarne Gospels, are not the only masterpieces. The second period, the Ottonian art, which en- compasses also the work of master craftsmen such as those who designed and cast the magnificent doors at Hildesheim. Although Charlemagne’s Chapel Royal at Aachen is one of the few buildings left from this pe- riod, the surviving gems of the allied archi- tectural arts of mosaic, carving and fresco give us an idea of the glories of the age.

Paperback £4.50


A 1997 hardback academic David Sel- bourne was shown a remarkable manuscript which had been hidden from public view for seven centuries. In it a scholarly Jewish mer- chant called Jacob described how in 1270 he had set out on a voyage to a naming place in China at the coastal metropolis of Zaitun, the ‘City of Light’, in 1271—four years before Marco Polo’s arrival at Xanadu in 1275.

As the manuscript’s owner was unpre- pared for hardcover binding, David Sel- bourne was forced to wrestle with doubts about translating a manuscript to which oth- ers would not have access, but decided that his overriding duty was to bring its contents to a wider public. He then drafted a dra- matic prose, rich in humanity and insight as well as factual recollection, Jacob’s account forms a document of potentially great his- torical significance, not only describing the adventures of a mediaeval trader, but also commenting on Chinese society and man- ners through the eyes of a European man of learning. Jacob provides an unparalleled ac- count of fourteenth-century China, the econ- omy of Zaitun, whose vigorous manufacture and lavish consumption in the shadow of the impending Mongol invasion represent the wains and the wealth—and dynastic succession—of Sung and Yuan China.

Jacob’s participation in the internal po- litical battles of Zaitun, where the merchant class debated civic responsibility and public morality with sages and scholars, reveals me- diaeval opinions in the debate on the role of the individual in society in arguments of en- during relevance. He also sheds unique light on the relationship between Jews, Christians and Muslims, which was one of the most significant aspects of early medieval society. Through his relationships with his entou- rage, and through his own introspective re- flections, Jacob exposes his own fears and dreams, opinions and inner life, presenting a unique insight into the mentality of a man who is a perfect example of an elo- gent scepticism, rational curiosity and moral orthodoxy.

Hardback £12.00


Although the conventional lectura typically follows its canto’s sequential presentation of material, the authors have chosen to organise this essay thematically, dividing the discus- sion into three related parts. The introduc- tory chapter discusses and analyses a pattern seen throughout the canto; it is at once a summary and a prelude and takes the form of an explication de texte. Consideration is given to various aspects of the canto’s con- cern with language and with literature, argu- ing for its implicit metalinguistic dimension. The essay then moves on to the analysis of the second chapter, which begins with an analysis of the tre donne benefizie considered first as a triad and then in terms of the spe- cific attributes of each of the ladies. The last part of the essay, a deepening of the representation exemplified by Dante’s figurazione of these fe- male figures leads to a culminates in a discus- sion of allegory. The third chapter explores Dante’s diverse use of the canto’s three ma- jor figures, engaging with the audience in Consolation of Philosophy. Throughout the Commedia, Dante’s progressive poetic self- definition is in large part accomplished by his imaginative and strategic use of these texts.

The book concludes in relation to Dante’s subsequent un- derstanding of his vocation as the author of a ‘poema sacro’.

The book includes an Italian text of the canto together with a new translation into English by Patrick Creagh and Robert Hollander.

Hardback (no dustjacket). £8.50


Across the stark heavens the mysterious ob- ject in the sky is moving in all directions, growing larger with every pass- ing moment. There was no time to panic, no time to raise an alarm…

Out in the deep darkness float the nine strange solitary beings...The beat-it, the castle of Britain. Elizabeth Tudor is celebrating her one-hundred and seventy-eighth year on the throne of England.

Into this world a place with no living aspen, a haunted and ancient technology—appears a visitor, bringing with him strange devices and sinister practices. He’s about to change things forever...

Deathscene is the first title in a startling new fantasy series from the author of Tales from the Wyrd Museum and The Deptford Mice.

Paperback £3.00 [in print at £5.99]


The world of medieval Europe continues to fascinate historians; its great cathedrals and castles, many of its institutions—and yet this is a civilization from which we are funda- mentally cut off. The uniquely terrible fire break of the fourteenth century—the fam- enes, plagues and wars—meant that the Europe that slowly rebuilt itself in the fif- teenth century was a very different place from the brilliant, assured world that had built Castile, and summoned up the passion for the Crusades.

In what will become the standard work on the subject, Professor Jordan re-creates the values and achievements of this lost world, and gives us a precise detail that allows readers to appreciate a society that had emerged from the chaos of the Viking, Hungarian and Muslim invasions and soon began to measure itself against the lofty achievements of the ancient Roman Empire. Above all, Europe in the High Middle Ages was a fervently Christian society and it was the power and ambition of the Church, and the extensive support it en- joyed, that provided the great motor for dy- namic and aggressive innovation that marks the era.

Hardback £12.50 [paperback in print at £10.99].

A unique narrative of sin, sex and salvation, The Book of Margery Kempe comprises a text which has continued to perplex and fascinate historians and philologists since its discovery in the library of an English country house in 1934. Simultaneously exasperating, endearing, vulnerable and eccentric, Margery Kempe, mother of fourteen children and wife of a spy, portrays, part with an autobiographical account of her own singular brand of affective piety—excessive weeping, lack of bodily control, compulsive travelling, visionary meditations—and the growth of what she regarded as her devotional and privileged mystical relationship with Christ. This new excerpt, thematically organised translation of the challenging text follows passages which will contextualise for the reader its author’s reliance upon the experiences of her own maternal and sexualised body in an attempt to gain spiritual and literary authority. With detailed introduction and challenging interpretive essay, this volume uncovers in particular the importance of motherhood, sexuality and female orality to the inception and expression of Margery Kempe’s singular mystical experiment, and represents an important dialogue regarding the agency of holy women during the later middle ages.

Paperback £6.50 (in print at £15.99)


Defining the meanings and derivations, as well as giving associated names, for over 2,500 surnames, Stufflebeen, Brockway & Sturt answers that perennial question, ‘What’s in a name?’

“A good deal of intriguing information about a surname, its history, where it was first used, who used it, where it lived, or where they fled from, what they looked like, their jobs, nicknames, morals, personal habits, and even important events in their lives. Here too are the origins of such common names as Anderson, Berkeley and Rockefellar, as well as surnames which, while they may have originated in Britain, Ireland or elsewhere, have become commonplace, sometimes in adapted versions, in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.”

Packed with information that goes back to Saxon times, or to the days of the Celtic chieftains and Norman knights, Stufflebeen, Brockway & Sturt is at once a delightful journey through our shared history, and a highly readable work of ready reference.

Hardback (printed boards, issued without dust jacket) £12.50 [in print at £8.50].


Hardback £20.00 (in print at £20.00/$35.00).


This is an expanded edition of The Macmillan Atlas History of Christianity. Atlases that represent the first 1,500 years of Christianity can, for the most part, safely rely on ethnic and national boundaries to provide the basic context for the maps and drawings that illustrate change. Yet, as one approaches the modern period, when the creedal preferences of rulers and government policies become more important than the geographical portrayal of religion becomes more problematic. In our era, this becomes more pronounced. How does one graphically portray ‘Lutheran’ Sweden or Catholic Spain? Is there a ‘Christian’ Iran and is it more than 1 percent, respectively, of the population is actually practicing? Which is the best way to represent the life of Christians in China, Indonesia or the Sudan? Franklin Littell’s method is to refine the places of crisis and decision—both internal and external—in which the shape and direction of Christianity was determined. Particular attention is paid to the interaction of Christianity and the encounter between Christianity and Islam. Three main areas are emphasized: theology and dogma; ethical and moral life; and the expansion of Christianity to a world religious force.

Hardback £20.00 [in print at £20.00/$35.00].


The medieval legend of the Grail, a tale about the search for supreme mystical experience, has engaged writers and scholars by its wildly varied forms: the settings have ranged from Britain to the Punjab to the Temple of Zeus at Dodona; the Grail itself has been described as the chalice used by Christ at the Last Supper, a stone with miraculous youth-preserving virtues, a vessel containing a man’s head swimming in blood; the Grail has been kept in a castle by a beautiful maiden, been sought through the air in Arthur’s palace, and been used as a talisman in the East to distinguish the chaste from the unchaste. In his classic exploration of the obscurities and continuities of the five-year-old legend, Roger Sherman Loomis shows how the Grail, once a Celtic vessel of plenty, evolved into the Christian Grail with miraculous powers.

Loomis bases his argument on historical examples involving the major motifs and characters in the legends, beginning with the Arthurian legend recounted in the 1180 French poem by Chrétien de Troyes. The principal texts fall into two classes: those that relate the adventures of the knights in King Arthur’s time and those that account for the Grail’s removal from the Holy Land to Britain. Written with verve and wit, Loomis’s book builds suspense as he proceeds from one puzzle to the next in revealing the meaning behind the Grail and its legends.

Paperback, £6.50 [in print at £15.95/$12.95].


On 22-24 September 1993 a group of internationally recognized scholars met at a conference held in the University of Kent at Canterbury, this being the occasion of the nineninth centenary of the enthronement of St Anselm as Archbishop of Canterbury (25 September 1093). Papers delivered at the conference, and gathered together in this volume, cover a number of aspects of Anselm’s life and times; his English and Italian contemporaries such as Guibert of Nogent and Roscelin of Compiegne, Anselm’s philo- sphy and theology, his knowledge of canon law, his exile, the Letters written and left in the Middle Ages and among modern philosophers. The papers are:

Southern, Anselm: his mission of reconciliation; Olszewski, Anselm and Franciscan Prolegomena; Van Fleteren, Augustine’s influence on Proslon; Gilbert, Veritas orationis selon le De Veritate; Biffi, Ragioni e non-razioni di un Esilio; Phil- port, Anselm’s knowledge of canon law; Mews, p. 226. The Theology of the Anglo-Saxon Texts; Yuki, The realism of Anselm & his contemporaries; Pranger, Naben images in Anselm & Bernard of Clairvaux; Fröhlich, Anselm’s Imago episcopi; Marabelli, Concezione della maternità ecclesiastica VI; Vittori, Autorità e reazione a An- selm’s life & thought; Gallonier, Littérature sophistimacque dans le De grammatico; Vander- jagt, The performative heart of Proslon; Lossy, The Proslon argument & the Anselm passage from De civitate Dei; de libertate arbitrii; Campbell, Conceptual roots of Anselm’s soteriology; Schurr, Philosophische Überlegungen zu Anselm—Car de boso deu; Cot- tani, Anselm’s diem apolostolam apsychan.

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(text previously issued by RKP, 1926, in The Kabbalah Unveiled).

This is a book of the key text of the Kabbalah, a work known as the Zohar (‘Splendour’). The Zohar is a commentary on the Torah and although it is sometimes ascribed to a second-century rabbi, Simon Bar- Yochai, the form in which it is most widely known originates with Moses of Leon, a native of Granada, who died in 1105. The kabbalists believe that the undefinable origin of all things is Ein Sof—the cause of the causes, the infinite, that which underlies everything. The universe emanates from the divine in successive layers called sefirot. Everything exists in God, but God extends infinitely beyond a finite concept. Its expression or understanding, the contemplation of God’s presence in all things causes our thoughts to be purified.

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On 8 March 1421 the largest fleet the world had ever seen sailed from its base in China. The ships, huge junks nearly five hundred feet long and built from the finest teak, were under the command of Emperor Zhu Di’s eunuch admiral. It was ‘as if the sun had proceeded all the way to the end of the earth to collect tribute from the barbarians beyond the seas’ and unite the whole world in Confucian harmony. Their journey would last over two years as they knew and are it linked together, pervaded and maintained by the divine. According to this work, the light of God must be concealed in order to be revealed to creation. Even though the kabbalists disclaim this intellectualism, the expression or understanding, the contemplation of God’s presence in all things causes our thoughts to be purified.

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King Richard I won an enduring reputation for personal courage in his numerous wars, but his reputation as a military commander, his political acumen and, to a lesser extent, his personal charm which British historians in particular have judged him harshly for what has been seen as absentees: he spent so little time in England that his younger brother John was eventually able to seize power.

His ability to undertake a two-year campaign at the other end of the Mediterranean demonstrated strategic skills far in advance of other Crusader commanders. Not least his political savvy was his ability to actually an alliance of often mutually hostile elements and to hold this multinational force together for so long suggests the king’s political talent has been undervalued.

The story of Richard failed to wrest the Holy City from Saladin and the Muslim armies, he restored the fortunes of the Crusader Kingdom that had been on the brink of extinction when he set out for the Middle East. As this book makes clear, these achievements give him the right to be included in the front rank of great military commanders.

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Notions of witchcraft have haunted the human imagination throughout history. From the earliest witchcraft persecutions in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe, some 50,000 people were executed, they were accused of acts including murder, cannibalism, black magic, and devil worshipping. By the end of the eighteenth century, witchcraft trials were the major theme in the study of witchcraft are brought together in a general introduction which places the extracts in a critical context.

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To measure time and the passing of the seasons was always one of man’s priorities. Equally, to read significance into various times and seasons, to see the future in the past, has been a preoccupation since man could count. From the early Middle Ages illuminated manuscripts showed the passing of time, for both nobility and peasantry, as a series of images taking the original allegories of the classical world and gradually shaping them into a calendar. The style of these is that they tell us about, when and how people actually did. When we discover objects dropped by soldiers, be they the arrowheads or bullets that they used in battle, we are the remnants of actions and actions of a person in the last hours or even moments of his life. War is one of the defining characteristics of the human species. As battlefield archaeologists, we are exploring the dark side of the human character.

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Over the years countless historians have sought the truth behind the story of King Arthur. Many have produced plausible but ultimately unsatisfactory hypotheses, locating the Arthur story in Cornwall, in Scotland or in Wales. But now Howard Reid’s radical reassessment turns received wisdom on its head. The idea that Arthur actually lived and his story is connected to the history of the region of the European Atlantic—West Francia—the kingdom; David Bates, West Francia—the northern principalities; Michel Zimmermann, West Francia—the southern principalities; Simon Keynes, England; Thònoon, European Russia c.500-1050; Jerzy Staczek, Bobemia and Poland; Konrad Bakay, Hungary; Jonathan Shepard, Byzantium in equilibrium, 886-934; Jonathan David, Bulgaria in the eleventh century; Jonathan Shepard, Byzantium expanding, 944-1025; Jonathan Shepard, Byzantium and the west; G. A. Loud, Southern Italy in the tenth century; Hugh Kennedy, Sicily and al-Andalus in the Muslim rule; Koguet, The Byzantine kingdoms.

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The period of the tenth and early eleventh centuries was crucial in the formation of Europe, much of whose political geography and larger-scale divisions began to take shape at this time. It was also an era of great fragility and renewed disunity, which had been magnified by modern national historiographical traditions. The international network of authors in this volume of The New Cambridge Medieval History reflects these various traditions, but the first section of the book—Portia, the archbishop—seeks to develop the themes of stability, order, and continuity in the face of the threat of invasion from Denmark. It addresses the deficiencies in the national system of taxation and defence, and resulted in a renegotiation of the burden of geld and knight service.
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The New Forest lies in a vast bowl scooped from England’s southern coast. To its west runs the river Avon, from Sarum to the harbor at Christchurch, and to its east the port of Southampton. In the heart of the New Forest itself, some one hundred thousand acres of primeval forest stretching down to the Solent water and the Isle of Wight and overlook the English Channel just beyond.

From the time of the Norman Conquest to the present day, the New Forest has remained a mysterious, powerful, almost mythical place. It is here that Saxon and Norman kings rode forth with their hunting parties, and where William the Conqueror’s son was mysteriously killed. The mighty oaks of the forest were used to build the ships for Admiral Nelson’s navy, and the fishermen who lived in Christchurch and Lymington helped Sir Francis Drake fight off the Spanish Armada. The New Forest is the back drop of Kit Pillory’s epic—the people this epic story—one that makes clear the connections between the dark, dangerous, sensuous life of the primeval forest and the genteel life of Georgian and Regency society.

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Edward Rutherford is a master storyteller and the kind of character—whether fictional or historical—is at its most vibrant in The Forest. Like his earlier novels, Sarum and London, it is a gripping novel of history.

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The year 2000 marked the 600th anniversary of the death of Geoffrey Chaucer. This first and some would say greatest poet of the English language stands at the gateway of the early modern age. He lived and worked at a time when French and Latin were at last giving way to English, not just as the vernacular, but now used in the law, and in literature—and his robust command of it has kept his work in the forefront of our literary consciousness ever since.

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