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The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, commonly known as the Goldsmiths’ Company, is one of the twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London. Its Register of Deeds contains an array of documents dealing mainly with its property holdings. With the loss of the originals, the Register has become the sole original evidence of the Goldsmiths’ Company’s property acquisitions from the reign of King Richard I to the seventeenth century. Deeds, wills and legal documents are presented here with full explicatory annotation, making accessible an incredibly rich array of material that has never yet been fully utilised by historians.

**WHAT DO THE DOCUMENTS REVEAL?**

They provide information on a vast range of buildings in medieval and Tudor London and their use as personal or business premises. Here are revealing details of houses, homes and businesses, tenements, taverns, and others, along with details of their inhabitants, sometimes including precise details of their belongings.

The deeds, along with wills which bequeathed property, reveal much about the precise location of properties and their inhabitants and help to present a social history of the time. For instance, charitable purposes were often the reason for monies or property bequeathed to the Goldsmiths, sometimes of an educational nature, or of almsgiving to the poor, or for the training and support of young goldsmiths and silversmiths. Many documents concern women, either acting solely in their own name or jointly with a husband, sometimes also appearing as daughters or sisters, and ample evidence appears of how much better their legal position was during the Middle Ages than it became later.

The Name Index, the Subject and Place Index, and the List of Contents will lead readers and researchers to relevant documents, and annotations have been provided throughout both to explicate unclear words, phrases, or allusions, to give references to other relevant material, or to suggest further reading on a matter. These previously hidden sources will help to rewrite a social, legal, and economic history of medieval and Tudor London.
Animal-Human Relationships in Medieval Iceland
From Farm-Settlement to Sagas
HARRIET J. EVANS TANG

Domestic animals played a range of roles in the imaginary world of medieval Icelanders: This multidisciplinary book examines the domestic animals of early Iceland in their physical and textual contexts, through detailed analysis of the spaces and places of the Icelandic farm and farming landscape, and textual sources such as The Book of Settlements, the earliest Icelandic laws, and various episodes from the Sagas and Tales of Icelanders. By inviting readers to question how these sources form, embrace, or reject animal-human relationships, it provides a resource for understanding these archaeological sites and textual narratives differently: as products of multispecies communities in which animals and humans lived, worked, and died together.

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Nature and Environment in the Middle Ages
D.S. BREWER

The Foundations of Royal Power in Early Medieval Germany
Material Resources and Governmental Administration in a Carolingian Successor State
DAVID S. BACHRACH

The Ottonians were the most powerful monarchs in Europe during the tenth and eleventh centuries. The foundations of their royal power remain highly contested and largely misunderstood, with previous scholarship tending to have considered it as depending upon the ability of the king to shape and harness the power of the nobles. This study challenges the dominant historiographical paradigm, rebutting the notion of putative power-sharing between the king and the nobility, which simply did not exist as a legal class in the Ottonian century. Rather, it argues that the foundations of royal power under the Ottonians comprised not only their own enormous wealth, but also their unique authority and ability, through the royal bannum, the authority inherent in the office of the king, to make use of the economic resources and labour of the broad free population of the realm, as well as from the Church.

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History and Identity in Early Medieval Wales
REBECCA THOMAS

Early medieval writers viewed the world as divided into gentes ("peoples"). These groups could be differentiated from each other according to certain characteristics - by the language they spoke or the territory they inhabited, for example. The same writers played a key role in deciding which characteristics were important and using these to construct ethnic identities. This book explores this process of identity construction in early medieval Wales, focusing primarily on the early ninth-century Latin history of the Britons (Historia Brittonum), the biography of Alfred the Great composed by the Welsh scholar Asser in 893, and the tenth-century contains the poem Armnes Prydein Vâner ("The Great Prophecy of Britain"). £75.00/$99.00 April 2022
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Studies in Celtic History
D.S. BREWER

The Marlborough Mound
Prehistoric Mound, Medieval Castle, Georgian Garden
Edited by RICHARD BARBER

Marlborough Mound, standing among the buildings of Marlborough College, has attracted little attention until recently. It was known to be the motte of a Norman castle, and later the centrepiece of a major eighteenth century garden. Neglected for over a century, restoration began in 2003. Seven years later, cores taken by English Heritage for a comparison with nearby Silbury Hill produced remarkable results showing that the two sites were of similar date. The mound is now recognised as a major monument within the complex around Stonehenge.

There are four essays by specialists in this book. The first covers the prehistoric period in the light of the discoveries since 2010. This is followed by a study of the place of the castle among the fortresses of the area. Under the Plantagenet kings, Marlborough was one of a group of major royal castles, and a particular favourite of Henry III. The third essay looks at the occupants of the castle and the events which took place there, based on new research in the National Archives. And the final essay describes the mound as part of the garden of the earls of Hertford from the early seventeenth century until the late eighteenth century, finishing with its revival by the Marlborough Mound Trust in recent years.

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Runes: A Handbook
MICHAEL P. BARNES

"An immaculately scholar and notably rational introduction to runology. [It] tells the reader everything he or she needs to know about runes and how to study them. It will be invaluable to students." TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

This comprehensive guide to runes and runology, begins by discussing the origin of runes, their development in Europe (especially Scandinavia) and in Anglo-Saxon England, and the demise of traditional runic writing at the end of the Middle Ages. It then moves on to look at the different types of runic inscription and their context; cryptic runes; rune names; the use of runes in the post-Reformation era; the practicalities of how runic inscriptions were made and where they are to be found; and how runologists read and interpret inscriptions, together with a history of runology. A glossary of technical terms and essential information on speech sounds are also provided, while the numerous illustrations shed further light on the subject.

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Territoriality and the Early Medieval Landscape
The Countryside of the East Saxon Kingdom
STEPHEN RIPPSON

All communities have a strong sense of identity with the area in which they live, which for England in the early medieval period manifested itself in a series of territorial entities, ranging from large kingdoms down to small districts known as pagi or regions. This book investigates these small early folk territories, and the way that they evolved into the administrative units recorded in Domesday, across an entire kingdom - that of the East Saxons (broadly speaking, what is now Essex, Middlesex, most of Hertfordshire, and south Suffolk). Using archaeology, written documents, place-names and the early cartographic sources, the book looks in particular at the relationship between Saxon immigrants and the native British population. It argues that initially these ethnic groups occupied different parts of the landscape, until a dynasty which assumed an Anglo-Saxon identity achieved political ascendancy.

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SPECTULUM

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A Chivalric Life
The Book of the Deeds of Messire Jacques de Lalaing
Translated with notes and introduction by ROSALIND BROWN-GRANT & MARIO DAMEN

Jacques de Lalaing (c.1421-53) was undoubtably the most famous knight at the court of the Burgundian duke, Philip the Good, one who was celebrated in his own lifetime for the dazzling feats of arms that he performed in jousts across Europe during the 1440s. The chivalric biography of Lalaing, written in the early 1470s, offers an entertaining and informative account of the life of a late medieval knight.

This first English translation of the text, accompanied by an introduction and extensive notes based on new research into both archival and literary sources, aims to offer the reader an in-depth portrayal of Lalaing in the context of the chivalric, dynastic and political culture of his day.

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Marriage and Emotion in Medieval Tomb Sculpture
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“Essential reading for all interested in medieval church monuments.” PEROGRINATIONS

This is the first book to address the phenomenon of the medieval “double tomb”, drawing the rich history of tomb sculpture into dialogue with diverse courses of power, marriage, gender and emotion, and placing them in the context of ecclesiastical material culture of the time. It offers new interpretations of some of the most famous medieval monuments, such as those found in Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral, as well as a host of lesser-known memorials from throughout Europe, providing a vantage point from which to reconsider the culture of medieval marriage.

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Lost Artefacts from Medieval England and France
Representation, Reimagination, Recovery
Edited by LAURA CLEAVER & KATHRYN GERRY

Surviving accounts of the material culture of medieval Europe present a tantalising glimpse of medieval life, hinting at the material richness of that era. However, the loss of so much of the physical remnants of the Middle Ages continues to thwart our understanding of the period. The essays in this book draw on a wide array of sources and disciplines to explore how textual records, from the chronicles of John of Worcester and Matthew Paris and inventories of monastic treasuries and noble women to Beowulf and early English riddles, when combined with archaeological and art-historical evidence, can expand our awareness of artistic and cultural environments.

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The Ashburnham Pentateuch and its Contexts
The Trinity in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages
JENNIFER AYES FREEMAN

The Ashburnham Pentateuch is an early medieval manuscript of uncertain provenance. This study examines the theological, political, and iconographic contexts of the production and later modification of the Ashburnham Pentateuch’s creation image, focusing on materiality, the oft-contested relationship between image and word, and iconoclastic acts as “embodied responses”. Ultimately, this book argues that the Carolingian-era reception and modification of the creation image is consistent with contemporaneous iconography, a concern for maintaining the absolute unity of the Trinity, as well as Carolingian image theory following the Byzantine iconoclastic controversy.

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8 colour, 39 b/w illus., 244 pp., 234 × 156 mm
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From the mid-eleventh to the mid-twelfth century, Worcester was a monastic community of unparalleled importance. Home to many of the most famous bishops and monks of the period, including Bishop Wulfstan II, it was also a centre of notable and ambitious scholarly production. The essays collected here aim to shed new light on different aspects of the Worcester "historical workshop." Chapters address the different ways in which the monks organised and updated their archives of documents, both via their sequence of cartularies, and via an interesting (and previously unedited) prose account of the foundation of the see. Other chapters focus on the Worcester Chronicarum, the stages in which it was completed, and its connections with Welsh chronicles. The volume thus elucidates how the Worcester monks navigated the period across the Conquest through the composition of different genres of texts, and how these texts shaped their own institutional memory.

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Writing History in the Middle Ages
York Medieval Press
The medieval songbook known as trouvère manuscript C or the “Bern Chansonnier” (Bern, Burgerbibliothek, Cod. 389) is one of the most important witnesses to musical life in thirteenth-century France. It provides the texts to over five hundred Old French songs, and is a unique insight into cultures of song-making and copying on the linguistic and political borders between French and German-speaking lands in the Middle Ages. This collection of essays is the first to consider C on its own terms and from a range of disciplinary perspectives. The contributors explore the process of creating the complex object that is a music manuscript, examining the work of the scribes and artists who worked on C, and questioning how scribes acquired and organised exemplars for copying. As a whole, the volume demonstrates that in this early hub of music and poetry, poet-composers, readers, and scribes interacted with the courtly song tradition in fascinating and unusual ways.

£60.00/$99.00 February 2022
28 b/w, 1 line illus., 286 pp., 234 x 156 mm
HB: 9781783276523
Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Music

BOYDELL PRESS

Anglo-Norman Studies XLIV
Proceedings of the Battle Conference 2021
Edited by S. D. CHURCH

This volume has a particular focus on the inter-relations between the various parts of north-western Europe. After the opening piece on Lotharingia, there are detailed studies of the relationship between Ponthieu and its Norman neighbours, and between the Norman and Angevin duke-kings and the other French nobility, followed by an investigation of the world of demons and possession in Norman Italy. Meanwhile, the York massacre of the Jews in 1190 is set in a wider context, showing the extent to which crusader enthusiasm led to the pogroms that marred Anglo-Jewish relations; and there is an exploration of poverty in London also during the 1190s, through the prism of the life and execution of William Fitz Obert. Another chapter demonstrates the power of comparative history to illuminate the norms of proprietary queenship. And two essays focusing on landscape bring the physical into close association with the historical.

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3 colour and 7 line illus., 183 pp., 234 x 156 mm
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Anglo-Norman Studies

BOYDELL PRESS

Creativity, Contradictions and Commemoration in the Reign of Richard II
Essays in Honour of Nigel Saul
Edited by JESSICA A. LUTKIN & J. S. HAMILTON

The reign of Richard II is well-known for its political turmoil as well as its literary and artistic innovations, all areas explored by Professor Nigel Saul during his distinguished career. This volume interrogates many familiar literary and narrative sources, including works by Froissart, Gower, Chaucer, Clanvow, and the Continuation of the Eulogium Historiarum, along with those less well-known, such as coroner’s inquests and gaol delivery proceedings. The reign is also notorious for its larger than life personalities – not least Richard himself. Meanwhile, Richard III’s tomb reflects his desire to shape a new vision of Commemoration more broadly was changing in the late fourteenth century, and this volume includes several studies of both individual and communal memorials of various types that illustrate this trend: again, appropriately for an area Professor Saul has made his own.

£65.00/$99.00 March 2022
15 b/w illus., 324 pp., 234 x 156 mm
HB: 9781783276172

BOYDELL PRESS
Forgeries and Historical Writing in England, France, and Flanders, 900-1200
ROBERT F. BERKHOFER III

What modern scholars call “forgeries” (be they texts, seals, coins, or relics) flourished in the central Middle Ages. Although lying was considered wrong throughout the period, such condemnation apparently did not extend to forgeries. Monastic scribes frequently rewrote their archives, using charters, letters, and narratives, to create new usable pasts for claiming lands and privileges in their present or future. Such imagined histories could also be deployed to “reform” their community or reshape its relationship with lay and ecclesiastical authorities. Through focusing on three monastic archives over the long eleventh century, this book contextualizes key shifts in documentary culture, arguing that connections between monastic forgeries and historical writing reveal attempts to reshape reality. Both sought to rewrite the past and thereby promote monks’ interests in their present or future.

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1 b/w, 3 line illus., 348 pp., 234 x 156 mm
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Medical Documentary Cultures
§ BOYDELL PRESS

Global Perspectives on Early Medieval England
Edited by KAREN LOUISE JOLLY & BRITTON ELLIOTT BROOKS

Early medieval England through the lens of comparative and interconnected histories is the subject of this volume. It examines artistic, archaeological, literary, and historical artifacts, converging around the idea that the period not only defines itself, but is often defined by others.

The first part considers the transmission of material culture, taking in the spread of wheat, the collapse of the art historical “decorative” and “functional”, and unknowns about daily life. The volume then moves on to reimagine the permeable boundaries of early medieval England, perspectives from the Baltic, Byzantium, and the Islamic world. The final chapters address the construction of and responses to “Anglo-Saxon” narratives, past and present: they look at early medieval England within an Eurasian perspective, the historical origins of racialized Anglo-Saxonism(s), and views from Oceania, comparing Hiberno-Saxon and Anglican Melanesian missions, as well as contemporary reactions to exhibitions of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and Pacific Island cultures.

£60.00/$80.00 April 2022
12 colour, 16 b/w, 6 line illus., 272 pp., 234 x 156 mm
HB: 9781783276686
Anglo-Saxon Studies
§ BOYDELL PRESS

The Growth of Law in Medieval Wales, c.1100-c.1500
SARA ELIN ROBERTS

The Middle Ages in Wales were turbulent, with society and culture in constant flux. Edward I of England’s 1282 conquest brought with it many changes, including to the traditional system of the law. In the post-conquest period the development of law in Wales and the March flourished, and many manuscripts and lawbooks were created. This study, the first to fully reappropriate the entire corpus since the nineteenth century, begins by considering the background to the creation of the law from the earliest period, particularly from c.1100 onwards, before turning to the “golden age” of lawmaking in thirteenth-century Gwynedd. The law in south Wales is also examined, including the different use of legal texts in that region, and its fourteenth- and fifteenth-century manuscripts. The author approaches medieval Welsh law, its practice, texts and redactions, in their own contexts. In particular, she shows that much manuscript material previously considered “additional” or “anomalous” in fact incorporates new legal material and texts written for a particular purpose.

£70.00/$99.00 July 2022
1 map, 1 colour illus.; 1 b/w illus., 288 pp., 234 x 156 mm
HB: 9781783277261
Studies in Celtic History
§ BOYDELL PRESS

Edited by LAURA L. GATHAGAN, WILLIAM NORTH & CHARLES C. ROZIER

This latest volume demonstrates the Haskins Society’s continued engagement with historical and interdisciplinary research from the early to the central Middle Ages on a broad range of topics. Chapters cover a mythic eleventh-century papal banner; the seals and coins of the Empress Matilda; new insights into Carolingian hagiography and the undead in the Historia rerum Anglicarum; new evidence on the role of priests’ wives; the tensions of multiple lordships; shifting identities in the Irish Sea world; the didactic use of royal anger; a fresh examination of Aelfred of Rievaulx’s Relatio de Standaro; a re-assessment of Flemish documentary practice; links between Crusade spirituality and lay penitential strategies; and an investigation into the economic costs of waging war.

£50.00/$89.00 December 2021
5 b/w illus., 264 pp., 234 x 156 mm
HB: 9781783278932
Haskins Society Journal
§ BOYDELL PRESS
Kingship, Lordship and Sanctity in Medieval Britain
Essays in Honour of Alexander Grant
Edited by STEVE BOARDMAN, DAVID DITCHBURN
The volume celebrates the career of the influential historian of late medieval Scotland and northern England, Dr Alexander (Sandy) Grant. Its contributors engage with the profound shift in thinking about this society in the light of his scholarship, and the development of the “New Orthodoxy”, both attending to the legacy of this discourse and offering new research. Dr Grant’s famously diverse interests are here reflected. The volume includes significant reassessments of the reputations of two kings, Alexander I of Scotland and Henry V of England; an examination of Richard III’s relationship to the lordship of Pontefract; and a study of the development of royal pardon in late medieval Scotland. Further chapters consider the social influence and legal and tenurial rights vested in aristocratic lineages, regional gentry communities, and the leaders of burghal corporations. Finally, the relationship between saints cults, piety and regnal and regional identity in medieval Scotland is scrutinised in chapters on St Margaret and St Ninian.

£70.00/$99.00 June 2022
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HB: 9781783272693
St Andrews Studies in Scottish History

NEW IN PAPERBACK
The Letters of Margaret of Anjou
HELEN MAURER & B.M. CRON
“[This book] will become the standard reference work for Margaret’s letters,” SPECTULUM
Margaret of Anjou has had a bad press. Yorkist propaganda vilifying Margaret was consolidated by Shakespeare: her portrayal of her as a warlike and vengeful queen - “a tiger’s heart wrapped in a woman’s hide” - has been accepted ever since. But Margaret’s letters tell a different story. They reveal a woman who lived according to the noble standards of her time. She enjoyed the hunt, she practised her faith, and she tried to help or protect those who called upon her for assistance, as was expected of a queen and a “good lady”. This study and edition of her letters clarifies obscure corners of her life and sheds new light on a misunderstood figure.
£25.00/$34.95 November 2021
2 b/w illus., 320 pp., 234 x 156 mm
PB: 97817832765820

Boydell Press

Monks Eleigh Manorial Records, 1210-1683
Edited by DAVID SHERLOCK & VIVIENNE ALDOUS
The manor was one of the principal units of medieval administration, providing a legal framework for land tenure, the prosecution of crimes and misdemeanours and social control. For the lord of a manor it was a source of supplies and income for the maintenance of his status and power. For the tenants the manor formed the everyday focus of their working lives, because they typically owed work services on his land and were subject to the manorial court for wrong doings, the settlement of disputes, the holding of their lands and payment of various feudal dues. Manors were the standard unit of land tenure for centuries, but they changed and developed over time and differed in their administration according to the particular custom of each manor. The records of the manor of Monks Eleigh are typical of those which still exist for hundreds of manors across England. They allow us to glimpse some of the details of the people who lived and worked there over a period of some four centuries.
£75.00/$99.00 May 2022
13 b/w illus., 432 pp., 234 x 156 mm
HB: 9781783276790
Suffolk Records Society

Plato’s Republic in the Islamic Context
New Perspectives on Averroes’s Commentary
Edited by ALEXANDER ORWIN
The first collection of articles devoted entirely to Averroes’s Commentary on Plato’s “Republic” includes a variety of contributors from across several disciplines and countries. It explores such diverse themes as the work’s teachings on poetry, law, property, and government, its relationship to Plato, Ibn Baja, and Alfarabi, and its influence in Jewish and Christian Europe. A major feature of the collection is the first published English translation of Shlomo Pines’s 1957 essay, written in Hebrew, on Averroes. The volume will provide valuable insight for researchers as well as important background for those seeking to introduce this neglected work into the classroom.
£60.00/$89.00 April 2022
338 pp., 229 x 152 mm
HB: 9781648250118
Rochester Studies in Medieval Political Thought

Records of the Jesus Guild in St Paul’s Cathedral, c.1450-1550
An Edition of Oxford, Bodleian MS Tanner 221, and Associated Material
Edited by ELIZABETH A. NEW
Meeting in the crypt of Old St Paul in the decades before the Reformation, the Jesus Guild, a “cutting-edge orthodox devotion, not only attracted members from the top ranks of London society but also derived support from people of all degrees across the whole country. As well as shedding welcome light on aspects of the devotional life shared by some of London’s most influential citizens, its records illuminate facets of the City’s economy and its citizens’ inter-personal relationships, and help determine linguistic developments at a critical juncture. This volume reproduces for the first time all the extant records surviving for the Guild in the early sixteenth century, a full twenty consecutive years of accounts, along with material that reveals what happened to the crypt chapel and some of the Guild’s possessions during the religious changes of the 1550s. The documents are edited with accompanying notes and glossary, complemented by an introduction and biographies of the Guild wardens identified in the text.
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Among these works were the *Manuel des péchés* (commonly known through its English translation *Handlyng Synne*), The *Speculum Vitae* and Chaucer’s *Parson’s Tale*. While manuals developed under Church control, they also became a site of the Church’s concern. Clerics worried they might accidentally teach people new sins, remind them of old ones, or become a site of prurient interest. This finding, and others, call for a new awareness of the complications and contradictions inherent in late medieval orthodoxy.

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Barks, hoots and howls resonate through medieval texts. A mandrake shrieks when uprooted from the ground, a saint preaches to the animals, and a cuckoo causes turmoil at the parliament of birds. This book considers a range of such episodes in Old French verse texts, including bestiaries, treatises on language, the Life of Saint Francis of Assisi and the Fables by Marie de France, arguing that they draw on sound to produce competing perspectives, forms of life, and linguistic subjectivities, suggesting that humans owe more to animal sounds than we are disposed to believe. Texts inviting readers to learn animal noises, seek spiritual consolation in the jargon of birds, or identify with the speaking wolf, create the conditions for an assertion of human exceptionalism even as they question such forms of control. By asking what it means for an animal to cry, make noise, or speak in French, this book provides an important resource for theorizing sound and animality in multilingual medieval contexts, and for understanding the animal’s role in the interpretation of the natural world.

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Arthurian Literature XXXVII

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This volume is devoted to Sir Thomas Malory’s Le Morte Darthur. Developments of papers first given at a conference, “Malory at 550: Old and New”, they emphasise the “New”. Several contributors focus new attention on Malory’s style, using his stock phrases, metaphors, characterization, or manipulation of sources to argue for a deeper appreciation of his merits as an author and a renewed need to re-assess the question of the possible originality of his “Tale of Sir Gareth of Orkney”. Similarly fresh approaches underlie essays re-examining Malory’s attitude to time and the sacred in “The Sankgréal”, the manner in which the ghosts of Lot and his sons highlight potential failures in the Round Table Oath, and the pleasures and pitfalls of Arthurian hospitality. Further contributions argue for new approaches to Malory’s narrative gaps, Launcelot’s status as a victim of sexual violence, and the importance of rejecting Victorian moral attitudes towards Gwavvere and Isode.

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Romance was the most popular secular literature of the Middle Ages, and has been understood most productively as a genre that continually re-fashioned itself. The essays collected in this volume explore the subject of translation, both linguistic and cultural, in relation to the composition, reception, and dissemination of romance across the languages of late medieval Britain, Ireland, and Iceland. In taking this multilingual approach, this volume proposes a re-centring, and extension, of our understanding of the corpus of medieval Insular romance, which although long considered extra-canonical, has over the previous decades acquired something approaching its own canon - a canon which we might now begin to unsettle, and of which we might ask new questions. The topics of the essays gathered here range from Dafydd ap Gwilym and Walter Map to Melusine and English Trojan narratives, and address topics from women and merchants to werewolves and marvels.

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“This book does something that has rarely been done before: it develops a coherent interpretation of the entirety of Beowulf through a series of close readings that are philologically and historically plausible. In an era of ephemeral scholarship, Lenehan has triumphed over time and written a book that will last.” ANGLIA

The original audience of Beowulf was steeped in ancient Scandinavian royal legend. But for modern readers of the text, these traditions are frustratingly obscure and confusing. This book argues that Beowulf is a dynastic drama centred on the fortunes of three great royal houses, the Scyldings, Scyldings and Hrithings. At the centre of the poem is the Geatish hero, whose adventures provide the link between these three dynasties. By unravelling the web of Scandinavian royal legends known to the work’s original audience, the volume allows the modern reader to appreciate better the role of the monsters as portents of dynastic and national crises. It begins by offering a new interpretation of the work’s structure based on the principle of the dynastic life-cycle, providing explanations for features of the poem that have never been satisfactorily explained, most famously its many digressions and episodes. Highlighting the work’s often-overlooked originality, it then proposes that the poet created a fictionalized monster-slaying hero and inserted him into royal legend in order to dramatize specific moments of dynastic crisis. Finally, it brings into focus the poet’s debt to biblical paradigms of kingship and considers how the Anglo-Saxons came to read Beowulf as their own Book of Kings.

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Although Virgil's *Aeneid* was one of the most widely admired works of the European Middle Ages, the first complete translation to appear in any form of English was Gavin Douglas's magisterial verse rendering into Old Scots, completed in 1513, which he called the "Eneados". It included not only the twelve books of Virgil's original, but a thirteenth added by the Italian humanist scholar Maphaeus Vegius, and lively, original prologues to every book. D.F.C. Coldwell's four-volume modern edition of it was published in 1957–64 for the Scottish Text Society, but for some time now has needed revision. Professor Bawcutt's new edition, based on Cambridge, Trinity College Library MS O.3.12, presents a substantially revised and corrected version of Coldwell's text and variants. The first volume contains the introduction and commentary offering a wealth of new scholarship on the Eneados, including a comparison of Douglas's text to his exact Latin source, detailed analyses of the manuscript and print witnesses and the Eneados's early reception and circulation, and a critical survey of modern Douglas criticism. The second and third volumes contain the introduction and commentaries on the whole Eneados.

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Sagas of Icelanders, also called family sagas, are the best known of the literary genres that flourished in medieval Iceland. Modern critics often praise their apparently realistic descriptions of the lives, loves and feuds of settler families of the first century and a half of Iceland's commonwealth period (c. AD 970-1030), but this ascription of realism fails to account for one of the most important components, the abundance of skaldic poetry, mostly in dríthkvett "court metre", which comes to saga heroes' lips at moments of crisis. These presumed voices from the past and their integration into the narrative present of the written sagas is the subject of this book. It investigates what motivated Icelandic writers to develop this particular mode, and what it achieves. It also looks at the paths saga writers took within the evolving prosimetrum (a mixed verse and prose form). Consideration is also given to the evolution of the genre in the context of the growing popularity in Iceland of romantic and legendary sagas. A final chapter looks at why a minority of sagas do not use poetry at all.

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This volume engages with widely varied themes, from confession in the domestic household to international politics and statecraft; experimental scientific knowledge, and the supernatural world of demons; canonical Arthurian romance, and scholastic theology in the vernacular; monastic historiographical visions, and geographies of pilgrimage. Investigations range from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, and from England to the Holy Land. Chréitien de Troyes’s Le chevalier de la charrette and Geoffrey Chaucer’s Friar’s Tale are examined in new ways; Lasaçon’s Breut is shown to bring the expectations of monastic historiography into the vernacular, while Reginald Pecock’s radical and sophisticated vernacular theology is explicated. Multiple narratives converge and are occluded at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron; Albert the Great experiments with animals and reorients humans in the natural world; Alain Chartier strives to build a united French state. Finally, domestic, familial, and civic bonds emerge in anonymous, late-medieval confessional forms.

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Linne R. Mooney, Emeritus Professor of Palaeography at the University of York, has significantly advanced the study of later medieval English book production; this collection honours her distinguished scholarship. Its essays take a variety of approaches to the study of the English medieval book and the environments where manuscripts were produced and used from 1300-1530. Contributors explore manuscripts containing works by key writers, including Chaucer, Gower, Wyclif, and Hilton. Major texts addressed include Speculum Vitae, the Scale of Perfection, the Canterbury Tales, and Confessio Amantis, among others. Scribal cultures in London and beyond receive attention, as does the book production of personal miscellanies.

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This previously unpublished chronicle from the mid-fifteenth century covers the English wars from 1415 to 1429. It is highly unusual in that it was written by two soldiers, Peter Basset and Christopher Hanson. William Worcester, secretary to the English commander Sir John Fastolfe, also had a hand in it, and it was specifically written for Sir John. The context is unusual, as it includes many lists of individuals serving in the war, and records their presence at battles, naming more than 700 in all. The narrative is important for the English campaigns in Maine in the 1420s in which Fastolfe was heavily involved and which otherwise receive little attention in chronicles. The progress of the war is well mapped, with 230 place names mentioned.

The chronicle is indirectly a source for Shakespeare, who used Edward Hall’s chronicle when writing his history plays; Hall in turn used this work as a source for his book.

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