

appears to depend in large part on a modernist and individualist ideal subjectivity superimposed on an inferred medieval reality. Vasko's assessment of imagery in Syriac texts, seems to expect the modern scholar to somehow mystically adumbrate their modern sensibilities in an effort to get to a true meaning of the image: "Those engaged in image research must strive to realize the purposes of the texts, for only then can the image they provide of the Mongols be studied in the correct context" (89). At least this statement appears consistent with Moilanen's earlier statement (79) in which she declares that "we deal with the mentality and thoughts of the writers—the people who created this image of rulers." There are other examples through this work of a lack of acknowledgement of recent widespread debate in medieval studies around the question of alterity and how we historicize our own engagement with the text. Nor does the volume contain a clear indication of the importance of late twentieth century critical analysis, in particular deconstruction and the de-centring of authority. As a whole, this volume suffers for such oversights, but that said, it would be churlish to dwell on the negatives without acknowledging the positives. The wide range of research topics also presents a fascinating window into sub-disciplines and academic approaches that are not widespread, and which may be of particular interest to medieval scholars in other fields of study. Raeder's statistics of genealogy, the spatial and geographic modelling in the works of Millde and of Uotila et. al., and Tourunen's application of zooarchaeology to the economics of medieval animal husbandry, are each in their way fine examples of developing inter-disciplinarity in medieval studies. Noteworthy, too, is Alaric Hall's contribution, in which he rightly identifies the orality/literality axis as code for primitive versus modern as a false dichotomy, challenging thereby the modernism that posits an otherness to the medieval, in contradistinction to the modern and assumedly literate age. Overall, this volume, despite its low points in scholarship, still delivers some interesting and potentially useful offerings.

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Lansing, Carol, and English, Edward D., *A Companion to the Medieval World*

Blackwell Companions to European History (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009) hardback; 584 pages; RRP €38.90; ISBN: 9781405109222

Lansing and English's well-edited companion, both erudite and readable, is a true companion to the medieval world, covering a broader

scope than a mere companion to the Middle Ages. Part I, "The Middle Ages," which contains one short useful introductory article entitled "The Idea of a Middle Ages" by the editors, and Part VII, "The European Ages," which contains a longer article entitled "Medieval Europe in World History" by R.I. Moore, bookend five parts. The cornucopia of articles with their fine authors is too rich to discuss each in detail in such a short review. Within the five middle sections entitled "Early Medieval Foundations," "Populations and the Economy," "Religious Culture," "Politics and Power," and "Technologies and Culture," a total of twenty-five authors, roughly evenly distributed across the parts, address the topics, finely balanced between elite power and general populations, technology, and culture. Well-known writers on medieval history and culture, the majority from institutions in the United States of America, have been commissioned to contribute. Within Part II, Matthew Innes, Hans Hummer, and Yitzhak Hen address early medieval foundations specifically those of fifth-century Gaul and the Roman inheritance, Charlemagne's court, and the Frankish empire. Part III takes a holistic economic, population, and gender-oriented view. These are expounded upon by James Paul Masschaele, Phillip R. Schofield, Martha Howell, John Arnold, and Edward D. English. Part IV includes Maureen C. Miller, Constance H. Berman, James W. Brodman, Carol Lansing, Kenneth R. Stow, and Olivia Remie Constable. Part V addresses rulers and ruling ideology, and their concomitant tools of bureaucracy, war, and literacy in articles by Thomas Kuehn, Robert W. Dyson, Andreas Meyer, Teofilo F. Ruiz, Richard Britnell, Clifford J. Rogers, and Christopher Tyerman. Part VI in a welcome section pulls together reviews on diverse topics covering church architecture, kinship and court culture, philosophy, and the role of the universities. Authors covering these fields are Stephen Murray, Richard D. Barton, Stephen Gersh, and Philipp W. Rosemann. In the concluding article, Moore's fine summary of the development of medieval studies introduces the Master Narrative, begun in the early fourteenth century and continued through to the nineteenth century to Gibbon. He gives a brief affirmation to the changes in perspective that Said, Barthes, Foucault, and White in the twentieth century have rightly initiated but omits the recent innovative work on formerly neglected women's writings and actions in work pioneered by Joan Wallach Scott (although acknowledged by Arnold in Part III), Joan Ferrantes, and Suzanne Fonay Wemple, for example. Be that as it may, China's and India's contributions, as great civilizations which expanded in the first millennium, in the section, "The Expansion of Civilization" as well as Islamic interactions in "The Great Transformation" are welcome additions often omitted in supposed world histories. Mahatma

Gandhi might have given a nod to these inclusions. Moore notes with regret that violence “was the least interesting instrument of conversion to one of the literacy-based religions” while reminding us that despite the development of the Indian subcontinent this was the age of literacy, Bede, and Boniface. Moore argues persuasively for the similarity of great expansions in Eurasia’s agro-literate societies up to the year 1000 but for diversion in both the twelfth and nineteenth centuries, these two centuries forming boundaries of an epoch in world history. In the former century a divergence of societies and cultures developed founded on similar economies and in the latter a divergence of economies resulted in greater disparities of wealth and power globally. Moore’s definition of a new epoch in history ought to provoke vigorous debate. Although the articles are self-explanatory, a reader with some previous understanding of medieval studies will get more out of the fine analysis of history and culture and the state of play expounded in these up-to-date pieces. The companion does not cover, nor claim to cover, literature. What is particularly superior about this collection is the depth of scholarship demonstrated in the history situated within its contemporary background and related to historiography and modern history. An index, well-constructed although short, allows some synthesis across articles. The book is a delight to read physically with clear print and wide margins. It rests open flat allowing easy access to the suitably detailed notes, full bibliography, and further reading of new and dependable earlier studies at the end of each article. The collection is a fine complement to other recent well-written plethora of work on medieval histories and cultures. However, keep also *The New Cambridge Medieval History*.

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Lowe, Christopher, *Inchmarnock: An Early Historic Island Monastery and its Archaeological Landscape*

(Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 2008) hardback; xxi + 313 pages; RRP £30.00; ISBN: 978-0-903903-37-0

Inchmarnock is one of the tiny, craggy islands that dot the west coast of Scotland within the Firth of Clyde and was the focus of an archaeological survey under Christopher Lowe from 1999 to 2004. Initiated by the island’s owner, Lord Smith, the research brief was a survey of the island followed by excavation of St Marnock’s church and its surrounds. The excavators hoped to find confirmation that St Marnock’s was founded in the early medieval period contemporary with the saint of the dedication, Érnán (mo-Ernóc). While their identification of the relevant saint remains inconclusive the

Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. In this volume 26 distinguished scholars examine major i... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "A Companion to the Medieval World" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... | Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. A Companion to Medieval A has been added to your Basket. Add to Basket. Buy Now. David Nicolle is a leading expert on the history of medieval warfare, in particular the Crusades and Middle Eastern warfare, and he is a prolific writer of books on these subjects as well as articles and magazine articles. Among his many previous works are The Hundred Years War; The Mongol Warlords; Saladin and the Saracens; The Crusades; The Medieval Warfare Sourcebook; Hattin 1187 and Fighting for the Faith. Customer reviews. There are no customer reviews yet. 5 star 5 star (0%). 0%. You can write a book review and share your experiences. Other readers will always be interested in your opinion of the books you've read. Whether you've loved the book or not, if you give your honest and detailed thoughts then people will find new books that are right for them. A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Europe Edited by Stefan Berger. A Companion to the Medieval World Edited by Carol Lansing and Edward D. English. A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance Edited by Guido Ruggiero BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO BRITISH HISTORY A Companion to Roman Britain Edited by Malcolm Todd. A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Britain Edited by Chris Williams. A Companion to Britain in the Later Middle Ages Edited by S. H. Rigby.