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the essays in this volume transcend eastern and western geographical boundaries during a loosely defined medieval and early modern period ranging from carolingian europe to qing china and pull rituals out of their geographical contexts cultural history binds these essays together this volume permits readers to compare ritual in religious and secular contexts in the east and west and to focus on the purposes of ritual without being caught up in localism or historical jingoism the various essays are organized chronologically and thematically they focus on ritual and gender law identity and political legitimization they cover topics as varied as the spatial appropriation of surfaces and territories charity carnival women s magic the jesuits graffiti theater business medicine qing imperial ceremonies chinese princesses coming of age spiritual reconciliation and the great western schism contributors include catherine bell virginia a cole andrée courtemanche james l hevia michael w maher s j véronique plesch marguerite ragnow martha rampton eric c rath dylan reid kathryn reyerson joëlle rollo koster and ann waltner

this book illuminates the pervasive interplay of sacred and secular phenomena in the literature history politics and religion of the middle ages and early modern periods the essays gathered here constitute a new way of applying a classic dichotomy to major cultural phenomena of the pre modern era

captures the essence of life in great civilizations of the past each volume in this series examines a single civilization and covers everything from landmark events and monumental achievements to geography and everyday life

religion and the medieval and early modern global marketplace brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines to examine the intersection conflict and confluence of religion and the market before 1700 each chapter analyzes the unique interplay of faith and economy in a different locale syria ethiopia france iceland india peru and beyond in ten case studies specialists of archaeology art history social and economic history religious studies and critical theory address issues of secularization tolerance colonialism and race with a fresh focus they chart the tensions between religious and economic thought in specific locales or texts the complex ways that religion and economy interacted with one another and the way in which matters of faith economy and race converge in religious images of the pre and early modern periods considering the intersection of faith and economy the volume questions the legacy of early modern economic and spiritual exceptionalism and the ways in which prosperity still entangles itself with righteousness the interdisciplinary nature means that this volume is the perfect resource for advanced undergraduates

postgraduates and scholars working across multiple areas including history literature politics art history global studies philosophy and gender studies in the medieval and early modern periods

the heart is an iconic symbol in the medieval and early modern european world in addition to being a physical organ it is a key conceptual device related to emotions cognition the self and identity and the body the heart is read as a metaphor for human desire and will and situated in opposition to or alongside reason and cognition in medieval and early modern europe the feeling heart the heart as the site of emotion and emotional practices informed a broad range of art literature music heraldry medical texts and devotional and ritual practices this multidisciplinary collection brings together art historians literary scholars historians theologians and musicologists to highlight the range of meanings attached to the symbol of the heart the relationship between physical and metaphorical representations of the heart and the uses of the heart in the production of identities and communities in medieval and early modern europe

the medieval and early modern english imaginary encompasses a broad range of negative and positive dismemberments from the castration anxieties of turk plays to the elite practices of distributive burial this study argues that representations and instances of bodily fragmentation illustrated and performed acts of exclusion and inclusion detaching not only limbs from bodies but individuals from identity groups within this context it examines questions of legitimate and illegitimate violence showing that such distinctions largely rested upon particular acts assumed symbolic meanings specific chapters address ways dismemberments manifested gender human versus animal nature religious and ethnic identity and social rank the book concludes by examining the afterlives of body parts including relics and specimens exhibited for entertainment and education contextualized by discussion of the resurrection body and its promise of bodily reintegration grounded in dramatic works the study also incorporates a variety of genres from midwifery manuals to broadside ballads

interested in the ways in which medieval and early modern communities have acted as participants observers and interpreters of events and how they ascribed meaning to them the essays in this interdisciplinary collection explore the concept of beholding and the experiences of individual and collective beholders of violence during the period addressing a range of medieval and early modern art forms including visual images material objects literary texts and performances the contributors examine the complexities of viewing and the production of knowledge within cultural political and theological contexts in considering new methods to examine the process of beholding violence and the beholder's perspective this volume addresses such questions as how does the process of beholding function in different aesthetic conditions can we speak of such a thing as the period eye or an acculturated gaze of the viewer if so does this particularize the gaze or does it risk universalizing perception how do violence

and pleasure intersect within the visual and literary arts how can an understanding of violence in cultural representation serve as means of knowing the past and as means of understanding and potentially altering the present

scholars from europe and north america convened at harvard university in 2004 for an interdisciplinary conference aimed at rethinking the early middle ages what are the issues and techniques of research defining the field today and what will they be tom

in this volume the authors bring fresh approaches to the subject of royal and noble households in medieval and early modern europe the essays focus on the people of the highest social rank the nuclear and extended royal family their household attendants noblemen and noblewomen as courtiers and physicians themes include financial and administrative management itinerant households the household of an imprisoned noblewoman blended households and cultural influence the essays are grounded in sources such as records of court ceremonial economic records letters legal records wills and inventories the authors employ a variety of methods including prosopography economic history visual analysis network analysis and gift exchange and the collection is engaged with current political sociological anthropological gender and feminist theories

in recent political and legal history scholars seldom specify how and why they use the concept of territory in research on state formation processes and nation building for instance the term mostly designates an enclosed geographical area ruled by a central government inspired by ideas from political geographers this book explores the layered and constantly changing meanings of territory in late medieval and early modern europe before cartography and state formation turned boundaries and territories into more fixed but still changeable geographical entities its central thesis is that assessing the notion of territory in a pre modern setting involves analysing territorial practices practices that relate people and power to space s the essays in this book not only examine the construction and spatial structure of pre modern territories but also explore their perception and representation through the use of a broad range of sources from administrative texts to maps from stained glass windows to chronicles

includes section book reviews

this volume examines the politics of space in the most densely urbanized areas of europe during the late middle ages and renaissance it ranges from italy to the parisian region and then to the greater low countries home of europe s most powerful commercial cities of the period hardly inert

sites on which political action took place the spaces these authors investigate conferred power on those who possessed them at the same time they were themselves transformed by the struggles thus acquiring new powers that invited future contest thus implicitly responding to georges lefebvre's claim that space is produced the authors ask how space was perceived and used in everyday life giving specific spaces cultural social and political coherence le percu how it was represented or theorized thus encoded in symbols maps and laws le concu and how it was lived in effect the result of the dialectical relation between the perceived and the represented le vecu

for seven years a collaboration between the institute for medieval studies of the austrian academy of sciences and the universities of utrecht cambridge leeds and paris i sorbonne provided the opportunity for young researchers to discuss and coordinate their work the title of the project and of this volume texts and identities provides the framework for case studies in different fields of early medieval history they include apparently disparate topics such as historiography and hagiography monastic spaces and memories lay and ecclesiastic legislation as well as liturgy and penance rather than defining a common field of research the meetings from which these papers have emerged derived their coherence from their common methodological framework this approach combines two elements on the one hand emphasis has been laid on the careful analysis of the transmission of texts and of the manuscript evidence on the other research has focused on the problem of identity or rather of processes of identification including the perception of differences between specific social political and religious communities in the combination of these two approaches the extant texts from the early medieval period are not only seen as mere reflections of ethnic social and cultural identities but also as media that gave meaning to social practices and were often intended to inspire guide change or prevent action directly or indirectly the written texts that have been transmitted to us can be seen as part of a cultural effort to shape the present by means of restructuring the past the often discordant voices of medieval authors allow modern historians to grasp something of the multiplicity of the early medieval world and of the disagreements conflicts idiosyncrasies and individual perceptions among the people who lived in that period many contributions in this volume propose specific methods for studying changing identities they analyse differences between similar texts over time or specifically changes in texts in the course of their transmission the papers collected in this volume illustrate that texts were integral parts of a world in transformation

the field of premodern environmental history the study of the complex and ever changing interrelationship between human beings and the world around them prior to the industrial revolution has grown vigorously over the past two decades in no small part due to the energy and expertise of richard c hoffmann york university canada in this collection historians of medieval and early modern europe and social scientists with a sensitivity to the use of historical information present their current research in honor of richard c hoffmann's retirement from teaching the result is a

panoramic and dynamic view of the state of the field of premodern environmental history by leading practitioners the papers are organized under the broad themes of premodern people and the natural world and aquatic ecosystems and human economies contributors are richard w unger paolo squatruti william chester jordan petra j e m van dam verena winiwarter maryanne kowaleski constance h berman pierre claude reynard wim van neer and anton ervynck

drawing from theatre english studies and art history among others these essays discuss the challenges and rewards of teaching medieval and early modern texts in the 21st century university topics range from the intersections of race religion gender and nation in cross cultural encounters to the use of popular culture as pedagogical tools

states of emotion were vital as a foundation to society in the premodern period employed as a force of order to structure diplomatic transactions shape dynastic and familial relationships and align religious beliefs practices and communities at the same time societies understood that affective states had the potential to destroy order creating undesirable disorder and instability that had both individual and communal consequences these had to be actively managed through social mechanisms such as children s education acculturation and training and also through religious intellectual and textual practices that were both socio cultural and individual presenting the latest research from an international team of scholars this volume argues that the ways in which emotions created states of order and disorder in medieval and early modern europe were deeply informed by contemporary gender ideologies together the essays reveal the critical roles that gender ideologies and lived structured and desired emotional states played in producing both stability and instability

using human skeletal remains this volume traces health workload and violence in the european population over the past 2 000 years health was surprisingly good for people who lived during the early medieval period the plague of justinian of the sixth century was ultimately beneficial for health because the smaller population had relatively more resources that contributed to better living conditions increasing population density and inequality in the following centuries imposed an unhealthy diet poor in protein on the european population with the onset of the little ice age in the late middle ages a further health decline ensued which was not reversed until the nineteenth century while some aspects of health declined other attributes improved during the early modern period interpersonal violence outside of warfare declined possibly because stronger states and institutions were able to enforce compromise and cooperation european health over the past two millennia was hence multifaceted in nature

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