

A Century Of Miracles

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The Miracle Stories of the Early Christian Tradition
The Reader's Handbook of Allusions, References, Plots and Stories
The Westminster Review
Report of Curator Harold Allen
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Lackawanna Historical Society, Scranton

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the fourth century of our common era began and ended with a miracle constantine s famous vision of the cross at one end and theodosius victory bearing prayer at the other in this book historian h a drake shows how miracles in this century forever altered the way christians pagans and jews understood themselves and each other

modern culture tends to separate medicine and miracles but their histories are closely intertwined the roman catholic church recognizes saints through canonization based on evidence that they worked miracles as signs of their proximity to god physicianhistorian jacalyn duffin has examined vatican sources on 1400 miracles from six continents and spanning four centuries overwhelmingly the miracles cited in canonizations between 1588 and 1999 are healings and the majority entail medical care and physician testimony these remarkable records contain intimate stories of illness prayer and treatment as told by people who rarely leave traces peasants and illiterates men and women old and young a woman s breast tumor melts away a man s wounds knit a lame girl suddenly walks a dead baby revives suspicious of wishful thinking or na ve enthusiasm skeptical clergy shaped the inquiries to identify recoveries that remain unexplained by the best doctors of the era the tales of healing are supplemented with substantial testimony from these physicians some elements of the miracles change through time duffin shows that doctors increase in number new technologies are embraced quickly diagnoses shift with altered capabilities but other aspects of the miracles are stable the narratives follow a dramatic structure shaped by the formal questions asked of each witness and by perennial reactions to illness and healing in this history medicine and religion emerge as parallel endeavors aimed at deriving meaningful signs from particular instances of human distress signs to explain alleviate and console in confrontation with suffering and mortality a lively sweeping analysis of a fascinating set of records this book also poses an exciting methodological challenge to historians miracle stories are a vital source not only on the thoughts and feelings of ordinary people but also on medical science and its practitioners

miracle accounts provide a window into the views and conceptions of the laity the uneducated women and even children whose voices are mostly missing from other types of sources they are not however simple to use this volume offers a methodological insight into the medieval world of the miraculous consisting of 15 cutting edge articles by leading scholars in the field it provides versatile approaches to the origins methods and recording techniques of various types of miracle narratives it offers fascinating case studies from across europe which show how miracle accounts can be used as a source for various topics such as lived religion healing protection and family and gender contributors are nicole archambeau leigh ann craig ildikó csepregi jussi hanska emilia jamroziak sari katajala peltomaa jenni kuuliala iona mcleery jyrki nissi roberto paciocco donald s prudlo marika räsönen jonas van mulder and louise elizabeth wilson

supplement to the report of the secretary of the board of regents i histories essays and works for reference ii editions of plays not english iii mysteries and miracle plays in england iv table of extant english mysteries

this impressive volume presents a thorough examination of all aspects of physical impairment and disability in medieval europe examining a popular era that is of great interest to many historians and researchers irene metzler presents a theoretical framework of disability and explores key areas such as medieval theoretical concepts theology and natural philosophy notions of the physical body medical theory and practice bringing into play the modern day implications of medieval thought on the issue this is a fascinating and informative addition to the research studies of medieval history history of medicine and disability studies scholars the english speaking world over

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