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the book of st gilbert was written by a canon of the order of sempringham and is presented here in its first full critical edition it contains all the documents of the canonization process of st gilbert and his life including a dossier of letters concerning a major crisis of his rule the revolt of the lay brothers a detailed account of the canonization process and two collections of his miracles the book is especially revealing of the procedures of canonization at a crucial stage in its formation and provides a central body of material for the history of the order in its first sixty years

an edition and english translation of the *speculum stultorum* the mirror for fools a long latin beast epic written near the end of the twelfth century by a monk of christ church canterbury it is not only a milestone in the history of medieval beast epic but a rich source of information about contemporary life and events at canterbury

the men and women that followed the 6th century customs of benedict of Nursia c 480 c 547 formed the most enduring influential numerous and widespread religious order of the latin middle ages this text follows the benedictine order over 11 centuries from their early diaspora to the challenge of continental reformation

the *carmen de hastingae proelio* is one of the most important sources for the norman conquest of england this second edition has a new introduction translation and notes as well as a revised latin text

the study of medieval literature has experienced a revolution in the last two decades which has reinvigorated many parts of the discipline and changed the shape of the subject in relation to the scholarship of the previous generation new texts laws and penitentials women s writing drama records innovative fields and objects of study the history of the book the study of space and the body medieval masculinities and original ways of studying them the sociology of the text performance studies have emerged this has brought fresh vigour and impetus to medieval studies and impacted significantly on cognate periods and areas the oxford handbook of medieval literature in english brings together the insights of these new fields and approaches with those of more familiar texts and methods of study to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of medieval literature today it also returns to first principles in posing fundamental questions about the nature scope and significance of the discipline and the directions that it might take in the next decade the handbook contains 44 newly commissioned essays from both world leading scholars and exciting new scholarly voices topics covered range from the canonical genres of saints lives sermons romance lyric poetry and heroic poetry major themes including monstrosity and marginality patronage and literary politics manuscript studies and vernacularity are investigated and there are close readings of key texts such as beowulf wulf and eadwacer and ancrene wisse and key authors from *Ælfric* to geoffrey chaucer langland and the gawain poet

this classic edition of glanvill by the great medievalist g d g hall has now been reissued by oxford university press the treatise on the laws and customs of the realm of england commonly called glanvill is undoubtedly one of the best known and most important works of medieval english law its itemization and commentary upon writs and the procedure connected with them provides invaluable information in legal practice in the twelfth century but the treatise has far more than this to offer it is a work of original analysis covering such significant topics as dowry debt and inheritance and allowing us a unique insight into the medieval legal mind

in the first full length study of judith of flanders c 1032 1094 mary dockray miller provides a narrative of judith s life through analysis of the books and art objects she commissioned and collected organizing her book chronologically by judith s marriages and commissions dockray miller argues that judith consciously and

successfully deployed patronage to support her political and marital maneuverings in the eleventh century european political theater during her marriage to tostig godwinson earl of northumbria she commissioned at least four gospel books for herself in addition to the numerous art objects that she gave to english churches as part of her devotional practices the multiple treasures judith donated to weingarten abbey while she was married to welf of bavaria culminated in the posthumous gift of the relic of the holy blood still celebrated as the abbey s most important holding lavishly illustrated with never before published full color reproductions from monte cassino ms 437 and fulda landesbibliothek ms aa 21 the books and the life of judith of flanders features english translations of relevant excerpts from the vita oswinii and de translatione sanguinis christi dockray miller s book is a fascinating account of this intriguing woman who successfully negotiated the pitfalls of being on the losing side of both the norman conquest and the investiture controversy

the deeds of the abbots of st albans records the history of one of the most important abbeys in england closely linked to the royal family and home to a school of distinguished chroniclers including matthew paris and thomas walsingham it offers many insights into the life of the monastery its buildings and its role as a maker of books and covers the period from the conquest to the mid fifteenth century the deeds of the abbots of st albans is the longest continuous chronicle of a medieval monastery in england following its fortunes from its first foundation in the wake of the first viking raids to its status as a proud and prosperous pillar of the church establishment more than six centuries later more than merely a common conventional annal the deeds drew contributions from the most accomplished chroniclers of the st albans school including matthew paris thomas walsingham and perhaps william rishanger it is a history of one of the most important abbeys under royal patronage and always at the apex of the church hierarchy it also offers a glimpse of life inside the monastic community from the conquest to within a century of the dissolution there are detailed descriptions of the building and rebuilding of the abbey church and recounts the abbey s commitment to the making of books from the first flowering of the scriptorium in the twelfth century when a famous psalter was made for the anchorite christina of markyate to its indian summer in the years before 1400 under thomas walsingham himself there are rare snapshots of the daily routine of the monks their liturgical observances their interactions with their staff tenants townspeople and guests and it captures the colour and character of the celebrated figures seen at the abbey from king john to edward the black prince

the most powerful dynasty behind the throne of anglo saxon england shedding new light on events such as the battle of hastings

first comprehensive study of four important medieval saints lives setting them in their political and ecclesiastical context jocelin of furness fl 1175x1214 the cistercian hagiographer composed four substantial and significant saints lives varying widely in both subject and patron they offer a rich corpus of medieval hagiographical writing jocelin s vita s patricii and vita s kentegerni provide updated versions of each saint s legend and are carefully adapted to reflect the interests of their respective patrons in ireland and scotland the vita s helenae was probably commissioned by a female community in england it represents an idealized narrative mirror of its early thirteenth century context in contrast the vita s waldevi was written to promote the formal canonization of a new saint waltheof d 1159 abbot of the cistercian house of

melrose in the scottish borders this is the first full length study of the lives it combines detailed analyses of the composition of the texts with study of their patronage audiences and contemporary contexts and it provides new insights into jocelin s works and the writing of hagiography in the period dr helen birkett is lecturer in medieval history university of exeter

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Introduction

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