

Discover Medieval And Early Modern Times

The twenty studies collected in this volume lead from technical investigations in late medieval and early modern history through reflection on the nature of historical knowledge to a break with historicism and a broad perspective on the history of Europe.

The twelve essays in Crossing Borders: Boundaries and Margins in Medieval and Early Modern Britain examine marches and margins as jurisdictional, legal, and social expressions of power, building upon the scholarship of Professor Cynthia J. Neville.

The volume analyzes the natural philosophical accounts and debates concerning the vegetative powers, namely nutrition, growth, and reproduction. While principally focusing on the early modern approaches to the lower functions of the soul, readers will discover the roots of these approaches back to the Ancient times, as the volume highlights the role of three strands that help shape the study of life in the Medieval and early modern natural philosophies. From late antiquity to the early modern period, the vegetative soul and its cognate concepts have played a substantial role in specifying life, living functions, and living bodies, sometimes blurring the line between living and non-living nature, and, at other moments, resulting in a strong restriction of life to a mechanical system of operations and powers. Unearthing the history of the vegetative soul as a shrub of interconnected concepts, the 24 contributions of the volume fill a crucial gap in scholarship, ultimately outlining the importance of vegetal processes of incessant proliferation, generation, and organic growth as the roots of life in natural philosophical interpretations.

This book examines the relationship between humans and nature that evolved in medieval Europe over the course of a millennium. From the beginning, people lived in nature and discovered things about it. Ancient societies bequeathed to the Middle Ages both the Bible and a pagan conception of natural history. These conflicting legacies shaped medieval European ideas about the natural order and what economic, moral, and biological lessons it might teach. This book analyzes five themes found in medieval views of nature - grating, breeding mules, original sin, property rights, and disaster - to understand what some medieval people found in nature and what their assumptions and beliefs kept them from seeing.

Knowledge, Discovery and Imagination in Early Modern Europe

Disembodied Heads in Medieval and Early Modern Culture

Dying Prepared in Medieval and Early Modern Northern Europe

Vegetative Powers

Reading the Past in Medieval and Early Modern British Literature

Text, Context and Afterlife

Solitude

This book on medieval and early modern corpuscular matter theories presents the research results of nineteen scholars, who show that his modern model of matter has some of its roots in physical, medical, mathematical, alchemical, and theological conceptions developed in the Middle Ages.

This book illuminates a lesser-known aspect of the British history of travel in the Enlightenment: that of the Royal Society’s special contribution to the “discovery” of the south of Italy in the age of the Grand Tour. By exploring primary source journal entries of philosophy and travel, the book provides evidence of how the Society helped raise the Fellows’ curiosity about the Mediterranean and encouraged travel to the region by promoting cultural events there and establishing fruitful relations with major Italian academic institutions. They were especially devoted to revealing the natural and artistic riches of the Bourbon Kingdom from 1738 to 1780, during which the Roman city of Herculaneum was discovered and Vesuvius and Etna were actively eruptive. Through these examples, the book draws attention to the role that the Royal Society played in establishing cultural networks in Italy and beyond. Tracing a complex path starting in Restoration times, this new insight into discourse on learned travel contributes to a more challenging vision of Anglo-Italian relations in the Enlightenment.

From revenant legends to the regulation of burial space; from martyrologies to accounts of murder; and from the danse macabre to funerals both lavish and simple, this volume examines how communities dealt with their dead as continual, albeit non-living members.

This book explores literary and non-literary texts, along with their early manuscripts and subsequent printed and digital editions, covering a time span extending over 1000 years.

Interpretation and Visual Poetics in Medieval and Early Modern Texts

The Medieval Discovery of Nature

Material Remains

Transmission and Tradition of Martial Arts in Europe (14th-17th Centuries)

The Distinctive Features of an Italian State

Dealing With The Dead

John Stearne’s Confirmation and Discovery of Witchcraft

A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Siena introduces the once-powerful commune to a wider audience. Edited by Santa Casciani and Heather Richardson Hayton, this collection explores how Siena built a distinctive civic identity and institutions that endured for centuries.

Between 1645-7, John Stearne led the most significant outbreak of witch-hunting in England. As accusations of witchcraft spread across East Anglia, Stearne and Matthew Hopkins were enlisted by villagers to identify and eradicate witches. After the trials finally subsided in 1648, Stearne wrote his only publication, A confirmation and discovery of witchcraft, but it had a limited readership. Consequently, Stearne and his work fell into obscurity until the 1800s, and were greatly overshadowed by Hopkins and his text. This book is the first study which analyses Stearne’s publication and contextualises his ideas within early modern intellectual cultures of religion, demonology, gender, science, and print in order to better understand the witch-finder’s beliefs and motives. The book argues that Stearne was a key player in the trials, that he was not a mainstream ‘puritan’, and that his witch-finding availed from contemporary science. It traces A confirmation’s reception history from 1648 to modern day and argues that the lack of research focusing on Stearne has resulted in misrepresentations of the witch-finder in the historiography of witchcraft. This book redresses the imbalance and seeks to provide an alternative reading of the East Anglian witch-hunt and of England’s premier witch-hunter, John Stearne.

In Jennifer Summitt’s account, libraries are more than inert storehouses of written tradition; they are volatile spaces that actively shape the meanings and uses of books, reading, and the past. Considering the two-hundred-year period between 1431, which saw the foundation of Duke Humphrey’s famous library, and 1631, when the great antiquarian Sir Robert Cotton died, Memory’s Library revises the history of the modern library by focusing on its origins in medieval and early modern England. Summitt argues that the medieval sources that survive in English collections are the product of a Reformation and post-Reformation struggle to redefine the past by redefining the cultural place, function, and identity of libraries. By establishing the intellectual dynamism of English libraries during this crucial period of their development, Memory’s Library demonstrates how much current discussions about the future of libraries can gain by reexamining their past.

Sexuality is one of the most influential factors in human life. The responses to and reflections upon the manifestations of sexuality provide fascinating insights into fundamental aspects of medieval and early-modern culture. This interdisciplinary volume with articles written by social historians, literary historians, musicologists, art historians, and historians of religion and mental-ity demonstrates how fruitful collaborative efforts can be in the exploration of essential features of human society. Practically every aspect of culture both in the Middle Ages and the early modern age was influenced and determined by sexuality, which hardly ever surfaces simply characterized by prurient interests. The treatment of sexuality in literature, chronicles, music, art, legal documents, and in scientific texts illuminates central concerns, anxieties, tensions, needs, fears, and problems in human society throughout times.

The German Discovery of the World

Travel, Discovery, Transformation

The Royal Society and the Discovery of the Two Sicilies

Essays in Honor of H. Wayne Storey

Beholding Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

The Rise of Aesthetic Rationalism

Death, War, Dance, and Discovery

Dying Prepared in Medieval and Early Modern Northern Europe offers an analysis of the various ways in which people made preparations for death in medieval and early modern Northern Europe.

A contributory volume on the effect of medieval culture and literature on early modern England.

Late Medieval and Early Modern Fight Books offers insights into the cultural and historical transmission and practices of martial arts, based on interdisciplinary research on the corpus of the Fight Books (Fechtbücher) in 14th- to 17th-century Europe.

Discussing medieval and early modern ‘disembodied heads’ this collection questions the why and how of the primacy of the head in the bodily hierarchy during the premodern period. On the basis of beliefs, mythologies and traditions concerning the head, they come to an ‘cultural anatomy’ of the head.

Dogs in Medieval and Early Modern Art, Literature, and Society

Renaissance Encounters with the Strange and Marvelous

Mental Health, Spirituality, and Religion in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Age

The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Essays in Honour of Cynthia J. Neville

The Life of Joseph Ritson - Gentleman, Scholar and Revolutionary

Discovering Robin Hood

Addressing discourses of perfect knowledge in Western culture between 1200 and 1800, this book integrates the study of Western esotericism in a larger analytical framework of European history of religion.

Despite common perceptions of the medieval world as mostly land-based or limited to individual courts, we can discover the development of the urbanization process already in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The complexity of the matter requires a fully interdisciplinary approach, including art history, literature, urban geography, women’s studies, social and economic history, religion, and philosophy. The contributions to this new volume build on extensive research on urban history but develop intriguingly new insight into living space, mental structures, and social conditions within medieval and early-modern cities.

This volume continues the critical exploration of fundamental issues in the medieval and early modern world, here concerning mental health, spirituality, melancholy, mystical visions, medicine, and well-being. The contributors, who originally had presented their research at a symposium at The University of Arizona in May 2013, explore a wide range of approaches and materials pertinent to these issues, taking us from the early Middle Ages to the eighteenth century, capping the volume with some reflections on the relevance of religion today. Lapidary sciences matter here as much as medical-psychological research, combined with literary and art-historical approaches. The premodern understanding of mental health is not taken as a miraculous panacea for modern problems, but the contributors suggest that medieval and early modern writers, scientists, and artists commanded a considerable amount of arcane, sometimes curious and speculative, knowledge that promises to be of value and relevance even for us today, once again. Modern palliative medicine finds, for instance, intriguing parallels in medieval word magic, and the mystical perspectives encapsulated highly productive alternative perceptions of the macrocosm and microcosm that promise to be insightful and important also for the post-modern world.

This book examines the ways in which spaces and places of solitude were conceived of, imagined, and represented in the late medieval and early modern periods. It explores the spatial, material, and affective dimensions of solitude, which have so far received only scant scholarly attention.

Natural Symbols in Medieval and Early Modern Italy

Locations of Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Discovery Education Social Science Techbook for California - Core Text Companion - Medieval and Early Modern World History

Essays on Medieval And Early Modern Medicine

Spaces and Places of Solitude in Late Medieval and Early Modern Cultures

Narratives of Encounter

The Roots of Life in Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Natural Philosophy

The name of Joseph Ritson, born in Stockton-on-Tees in 1752, will be familiar to very few people. The name of Robin Hood is known the world over. Yet it was Ritson whose research in the late eighteenth century ensured the survival of the Robin Hood legend. He traveled all over the country looking for ancient manuscripts which told of the life and deeds of England’s most famous outlaw. Without his efforts, the legend of Robin Hood might have gone the way of other medieval outlaws such as Adam Bell – famous in their day but not so much now. Yet this is not only a story about the formation of the Robin Hood legend. Ritson’s story is one of rags to riches. Born in humble circumstances, his aptitude for learning meant that he rose through society’s ranks and became a successful lawyer, local official, and a gentleman. However, underneath the genteel and bourgeois façade of Joseph Ritson, Esq, was a revolutionary; having traveled to Paris at the height of the French Revolution, he was captivated by the revolutionaries’ ideology of liberté, égalité, fraternité. He returned to England as a true democrat who sought the abolition of the British monarchy and the ‘rotten’ parliamentary system and wished for French Revolution and its reign of terror to spread over to England. This the history of the life and times of Joseph Ritson: gentleman, scholar, and revolutionary.

A study on the scientific dimension of Jewish intellectual history in the early modern world.

This latest volume in the Culture & Civilization series gathers interdisciplinary voices to present a collection of essays on travel and travel narratives. The essays span a range of topics from iconic ancient travel stories to modern tourism. They discuss travel in the ancient world, modern heroic travels, the literary culture of missionary travel, the intersection of fiction and travel narratives, modern literary traditions and visions of Greece, personal identity, and expatriation. Essays also address travel memoirs, the re-imagining of worlds through travel, transformed landscapes and animals in travel narratives, diplomacy, English women travel writers, and pilgrimage and health in the medieval world. The history of travel writing takes in multiple pursuits: exploration and conquest, religious pilgrimage and missionary work, educational tourism and diplomacy, scientific and personal discovery, and natural history and oral history. As a literary genre, it has enhanced a wide range of disciplines, including geography, ethnography, anthropology, and linguistics. Moreover, twenty-first-century interests in travel and travel writing have produced a global framework that promises to expand travel’s theoretical reach into the depths of the Internet, thus challenging our conventional concept of what it means to travel. The fact that travel and travel writing have a prehistory that is embedded in foundational religious texts and ancient narratives of journey, like the Odyssey and the Epic of Gilgamesh, makes both travel and travel writing fundamental and essential expressions of humanity. Travel encourages writing, particularly as epistolary and poetic chronicling. This is clearly a history and tradition that began with human communication and which has kept pace with our collective development.

The Discovery of the Fact draws on expertise from lawyers, historians of philosophy, and scholars of classical studies and ancient history, to take a very modern perspective on an underexplored but essential domain of ancient legal history. Everyone is familiar with courts as adjudicators of facts. But legal institutions also played an essential role in the emergence of the notion of the fact, and contributed in a vital way to commonplace understandings of what is knowable and what is not. These issues have a particular importance in ancient Greece and Rome, the first western societies in which state law and state institutions of dispute resolution visibly play a decisive role in ordinary social and economic relations. The Discovery of the Fact investigates, historically and comparatively, the relationships among the law, legal institutions, and the boundaries of knowledge in classical Greece and Rome. Societies wanted citizens to conform to the law, but how could this be insured? On what foundation did ancient courts and institutions base their decisions, and how did they represent the reasoning behind their decisions when announcing them? Slaves were owned like things, and yet they had minds that ancients conceded were essentially unknowable. What was to be done? And where has the boundary been drawn between questions of law and questions of fact when designing processes of dispute resolution?

Esoteric Discourse and Western Identities

The Anatomy of the Senses

The Five Senses in Medieval and Early Modern England

The Discovery of the Fact

Southern Routes in the Grand Tour

A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Siena

Mortality and Community in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Augsburg distills the extraordinary range and creativity of recent scholarship on one of the most significant cities of the Holy Roman Empire into a handbook format.

This book is a brilliant account of medieval and early modern attitudes to the cosmos in general and the human body in particular, written by one of the foremost historians of folklore and popular beliefs in Europe today.

These essays offer a fresh perspective on the interrelationships between sense perception and secular and Christian cultures in England from the Middle Ages into the Early Modern period.

This collection of twelve essays explores various aspects in the development of medicine from the Middle Ages to 1700 with a particular emphasis on revisiting original texts for new insights in the culture of healing.

A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Milan

Medieval Books in Early Modern England

The Representation of Percussion Instruments in Medieval and Early Modern French Literature

Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe

Crossing Borders: Boundaries and Margins in Medieval and Early Modern Britain

New Approaches to a Fundamental Cultural-Historical and Literary-Anthropological Theme

Urban Space in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age

20 chapters by qualified and distinguished scholars offer a new and original view of the State of Milan from the mid 14th to the late 17th century, with themes ranging from society to politics, music to literature, the history of art to law, the church to the economy.

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, 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? 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?

Through an in-depth analysis of writings by John Mandeville, Richard Eden, George Best, Ralph Lane, John Smith and John Underhill, this study traces the selection, combination, adaptation and invention of rhetorical strategies that English-speaking Europeans used to make sense of their encounters with the Americas. The author explores how these rhetorical strategies enabled European colonists themselves and their relationship to the indigenous inhabitants.

A new explanation for the substantial changes of thought that occurred in early modern Europe.

A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Augsburg

Our Dogs, Our Selves

Sexuality in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times

Textual Healing

Memory’s Library

Late Medieval and Early Modern Corpuscular Matter Theories

A Companion to Medieval and Early Modern Confraternities

This volume brings together fifteen essays that examine the appearance, meaning, and significance of dogs in painting, sculpture, manuscripts, literature, and legal records of the period, reaching beyond Europe to include cultural material from medieval Japan and Islam.

This study offers a thematic and somewhat longitudinal analysis of the contexts in which percussion instruments appear in literary works of various genres. By closely analyzing and “listening” to these texts, I use percussion as a window to a deeper understanding of the attitudes, beliefs, and customs surrounding depictions of war, courtly life, death rituals, and overseas exploration. By focusing closely on discrete passages describing percussion music or instruments in various sources of literature, I combine elements of anthropological, historical, musicological, and material cultures research with a fundamentally literary approach - allowing the text to stand as its own “world”, in conversation with the real context surrounding it, in order to demonstrate the importance of percussion in both musical performance and other elements of medieval and early modern life. Percussion’s multifaceted role is reflected by the many descriptions of drums and other instruments in various kinds of texts, from travel narratives (explicitly fictionalized or not) to poetry to instruction manuals meant for young courtiers. It plays an important part in the development of French (and broader European) identity as well as in the understanding of other cultures. By anchoring my analysis to a specific object, I create a closer bond between the modern-day researcher and the early modern period; allowing the drum to embody various attitudes, roles, and ideas, drives us to more deeply understand some of the social, literary, and cultural contexts of the texts I will treat. Through this work, representations of percussion instruments move from background elements or invisible foundations to central motifs that play important roles in literary texts, from symbols of death and dead bodies to definitions of civilization. Furthermore, this work seeks to provide literary examples that support not only the percussive and rhythmic underpinnings of music but also the importance of percussion instruments and rhythm in literature.

A Companion to Medieval and Early Modern Confraternities presents confraternities as fundamentally important venues for the acquisition of spiritual riches, material wealth, and social capital in early modern Europe and Post-Conquest America.

In Self-Fashioning and Assumptions of Identity in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia, chapter authors assert the applicability of Stephen Greenblatt’s self-fashioning theory, originally framed within Elizabethan England, to medieval and early modern Iberia in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries.

Self-Fashioning and Assumptions of Identity in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia

Past Sense — Studies in Medieval and Early Modern European History

Reading the Medieval in Early Modern England

Inventing Americans in the Age of Discovery

Late Medieval and Early Modern Fight Books

Examines how medieval and early modern British texts use descriptions of archaeological objects to produce aesthetic and literary responses to questions of historicity and epistemology.

Current historiography suggests that European nations regarded the New World as an inassimilable “other” that posed fundamental challenges to the accepted ideas of Renaissance culture. The German Discovery of the World presents a new interpretation that emphasizes the ways in which the new lands and peoples in Africa, Asia, and the Americas were imagined as comprehensible and familiar. In chapters dedicated to travel narratives, cosmography, commerce, and medical botany, Johnson examines how existing ideas and methods were deployed to make German commentators experts in the overseas world, and how this incorporation established the discoveries as new and important intellectual, commercial, and scientific developments. Written in an engaging and accessible style, this book brings to light the dynamic world of the German Renaissance, in which humanists, cartographers, reformers, politicians, botanists, and merchants appropriated the Portuguese and Spanish expeditions to the East and West Indies for their own purposes and, in so doing, reshaped their world. Studies in Early Modern German History