

quality may be enlarged for closer study, a circumstance which goes some way towards nullifying a significant failing of the normal numismatic convention, which insists on publication at 1:1. [R. J. Brickstock]

Helen M. Jewell, *Women in Late Medieval and Reformation Europe 1200–1550*, European Culture and Society Series (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). viii + 171 pp. ISBN 0–333–91257–8. \$29.95. This is a distinctly useful little book, just the thing to give to students, and indeed postgraduates embarking on an MA and addressing gender issues in later medieval and Renaissance Europe. It is rooted in the gender expectations deriving largely from the Judaeo-Christian tradition, and from early medicine. It discusses the roles women played in rural and urban communities, relations between women and power in aristocratic and royal circles, women in the context of religion, and, finally, ‘women who exceeded society’s expectations’: these last are Clare of Assisi, Joan of Arc, and Christine de Pizan, to each of whom about five pages are allotted. The book is pleasantly written, and for anyone who is inspired by the author’s brief surveys, there is a short bibliography which will allow the student to expand his or her knowledge of territory which, given the vast range of topics addressed, cannot be much more than introductory.

*Fifteenth-Century Studies*, Vol. 31, ed. Edelgard E. DuBruck and Barbara I. Gusick (Woodbridge: Camden House, 2006). 230 pp. ISBN 1–57113–333–X. £45.00/\$75.00. In addition to the annual review of scholarship on late medieval drama, this volume comprises William Calin’s essay on Alain Chartier’s *La Belle Dame sans mercy*; Rocio del Río Fernández on Middle Spanish translation; Barbara Gusick on Christ’s healing of the lame man in the York *Entry into Jerusalem* play; Sibylle Jefferis on the German hagiography *Der Maget Krone*; Judy Kem on Jean Molinet’s *Roman de la Rose moralisé*; Hannele Klemetilä on the late medieval hangman; Lynn T. Ramey on the *Petit Jehan de Saintré*; and Carolyn King Stephens on dating and contextualizing *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. The volume also includes several essays on sixteenth-century material: DuBruck’s essay on Hans Sachs’s play the *Tragedy of the Last Judgment* and Leonardas V. Gerulaitis’s essay on Johann Weyer. Also includes book reviews on eight works published 2002–4 and an index to volumes 21–30 of this wide-ranging annual collection. [Matthew Woodcock]

*Byzantine Christianity*, ed. Derek Krueger, A People’s History of Christianity 3 (Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 2006). xx + 252 pp. ISBN 0–8006–3413–6. £19.99. Volumes 3–5 of the People’s History of Christianity, general editor Denis R. Janz, will be of special interest to medievalists, being devoted to *Byzantine*, *Medieval*, and *Reformation Christianity* respectively. In accordance with the definition of a ‘People’s History’ as a presentation of the religious lives, pious practices, and self-understandings of the laity and ordinary people, the ten chapters of this well-presented, illustrated book provide discussion of a wide range of topics in a manner accessible to the general reader, as well as to the interested scholar. These range from the preaching of John Chrysostom and the activities of the Cappadocian Fathers to death and dying, icons and prayer, children, festivals, devotional objects, and the devotional life of laywomen. The focus on the culture of lay piety in its broadest sense provides a considerable overlap with issues that are of interest to literary scholars and to those whose own special areas of research lie further west. The period covered is from the foundation of the city of Constantinople in 324 to its fall to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

*Greek Literature in Late Antiquity: Dynamism, Didacticism, Classicism*, ed. Scott Fitzgerald Johnson (Aldershot and Burlington, Vt: Ashgate, 2006). xii + 215 pp. ISBN 0–7546–5683–7. £50.00. This interesting volume – the result of a conference in Oxford in 2004 – covers unfamiliar ground, and covers it in challenging and innovative ways.

The title is a thoughtful one: it is chosen to represent the argument of the collection as a whole, and to signify the energy of late Greek literature. The papers cover a broad spectrum of topics, from saints' lives to theatre to narrative fiction, from Eusebius to Chorikios of Gaza. The collection casts interesting and suggestive light on what is probably, for most readers of this journal, unfamiliar territory.

Nicolas Oikonomides, *Society, Culture and Politics in Byzantium*, ed. Elizabeth Zachariadou (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005). xii + 356 pp. ISBN 0-86078-937-3. £62.50. This is the fourth and last Variorum reprint volume of the writings of the Byzantine sigillo-grapher Nicolas Oikonomides (1934–2000), twenty-eight articles devoted to the language and literacy of Byzantium, art and politics, Byzantium after 1204, and Athos and the Church. Several of the papers are in French, Italian, or Greek. Articles that may be of special interest to western-oriented medievalists are those on Byzantine 'unilingualism', literacy and patronage on Mt Athos, the relationship of literacy and social context in western Asia Minor, and several studies of relations between East and West in the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries.

*Nation, Ethnicity, and Identity in Medieval and Renaissance Europe*, ed. Philip M. Soergel, Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History, 3rd ser. 3 (New York: AMS Press, 2006). 326 pp. ISBN 0-404-64553-3. \$110.00. A collection of nine papers, of varying lengths, which take a literary – or in one case, an art-historical – approach to investigate a variety of ethnic and cultural identities. The range is broad, taking in France, Italy, England, the Low Countries, and Germany, and spanning the late thirteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries (though weighted towards the sixteenth century). Many of the essays touch on ethnic and/or religious minorities, and expatriates, examining the identities which such groups constructed for themselves, as well as those imposed on them by others. Perhaps of most interest to readers of this journal will be Henry Kelly's consideration of attitudes towards non-Christians in fourteenth-century England, which sets Chaucer's Prioress's Tale in context; and Thomas Luongo's discussion of the religious identity which Raymond of Capua constructed for Catherine of Siena in his hagiographical *Legenda maior*. An interesting collection, and pleasingly free of the abstruse postmodern-ese jargon which has rendered some modern academic work on identity incomprehensible. [Andy King]

*C. S. Lewis: Come un fulmine a ciel sereno: Saggi, letterari e recensioni*, ed. Edoardo Rialti (Genoa and Milan: Marietti 1820, 2005). xvi + 222 pp. ISBN 88-211-6561-2. €28.00. Contains translations into Italian of a series of Lewis's essays; the first part consists of papers devoted to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The referencing system unfortunately makes it difficult to discover if, and where, some of the essays previously appeared, but one at least appeared in *ME* in 1957, and others were given as lectures to the Dante Society, in Oxford. There is a brief introduction by the editor.

*The Mabinogi: Legend and Landscape of Wales*, trans. John K. Bollard, photography by Anthony Griffiths (Llandysul, Ceredigion: Gomer Press, 2006). 128 pp. ISBN 1-84323-348-7. £19.99. This is an attractively produced new translation of the *Mabinogi*, in its four branches, a large quarto in hardback interspersed with numerous colour photographs of the ancient monuments and rural landscapes of Wales (and of the three manuscripts). It will encourage the general reader, to whom it is addressed, to see these imaginative tales as jewels of the Welsh heritage and as a valuable and living testimony to medieval culture. The translator has aimed at a close but readable rendering, with some concessions to the medieval syntax.

*Innovation and Tradition in the Writings of the Venerable Bede*, ed. Scott DeGregorio, Medieval European Studies VII (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2006). xii + 288 pp. ISBN 1-933202-09-2. \$45.00. The subtitle of the introduction to this collection,