

# William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

A new approach to a vital historical source of the twelfth century, examining its author's ethical purpose in its creation.

This volume examines the history of a complex and varied body of ideas over a period of more than a thousand years.

A fresh look at William of Malmesbury which not only demonstrates his real greatness as a historian and his European vision, but also the breadth of his learning across a number of other disciplines.

The Historia Novella is a key source for the succession dispute between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda which brought England to civil war in the twelfth century. William of Malmesbury was the doyen of the historians of his day. His account of the main events of the years 1126 to 1142, to some of which he was an eyewitness, is sympathetic to the empress's cause, but not uncritical of her. Edmund King offers a complete revision of K. R. Potter's edition of 1955, retaining only the translation, which has been amended in places. Not only is this a new edition but it offers a new text, arguing that what have earlier been seen as William of Malmesbury's final revisions are not from his hand. Rather they

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

seem to come from somewhere in the circle of Robert of Gloucester, the empress's half-brother, to whom the work is dedicated. In this way the work raises important questions concerning the transmission of medieval texts.

History writing in the Middle Ages did not belong to any particular genre, language or class of texts. Its remit was wide, embracing the events of antiquity; the deeds of saints, rulers and abbots; archival practices; and contemporary reportage. This volume addresses the challenges presented by medieval historiography by using the diverse methodologies of medieval studies: legal and literary history, art history, religious studies, codicology, the history of the emotions, gender studies and critical race theory. Spanning one thousand years of historiography in England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, the essays map historical thinking across literary genres and expose the rich veins of national mythmaking tapped into by medieval writers. Additionally, they attend to the ways in which medieval histories crossed linguistic and geographical borders. Together, they trace multiple temporalities and productive anachronisms that fuelled some of the most innovative medieval writing.

The fighting bishop or abbot is a familiar figure to medievalists and much of what is known of the military organization of England in this period is based on ecclesiastical evidence. Unfortunately the fighting cleric

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

has generally been regarded as merely a baron in clerical dress and has consequently fallen into the gap between military and ecclesiastical history. This study addresses three main areas: which clergy engaged in military activity in England, why and when? By what means did they do so? And how did others understand and react to these activities? The book shows that, however vivid such characters as Odo of Bayeux might be in the historical imagination, there was no archetypal militant prelate. There was enormous variation in the character of the clergy that became involved in warfare, their circumstances, the means by which they pursued their military objectives and the way in which they were treated by contemporaries and described by chroniclers. An appreciation of the individual fighting cleric must be both thematically broad and keenly aware of his context. Such individuals cannot therefore be simply slotted into easy categories, even (or perhaps especially) when those categories are informed by contemporary polemic. The implications of this study for our understanding of clerical identity are considerable, as the easy distinction between clerics acting in a secular or ecclesiastical capacity almost entirely breaks down and the legal structures of the period are shown to be almost as equivocal and idiosyncratic as the literary depictions. The implications for military history are equally striking as organisational structures are shown to be more temporary, fluid and 'political' than had previously been understood.

The youngest of William the Conqueror's sons, Henry I (1100-35) was never meant to be king, but he was

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

destined to become one of the greatest of all medieval monarchs, both through his own ruthlessness and intelligence and through the dynastic legacy of his daughter Matilda, who began the Plantagenet line that would rule England until 1485. A self-consciously diligent and thoughtful king, his rule was looked back on as the real post-invasion re-founding of England as a new realm, integrated into the continent, wealthy and stable. Edmund King's wonderful portrait of Henry shows him as a strikingly charismatic and thoughtful man. His life was dogged by a single great disaster, the death of his teenage heir William in the White Ship disaster. Despite astonishing numbers of illegitimate sons, Henry was now left with only a daughter. This fact would shape the rest of the 12th century and beyond.

Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford  
University Press on Demand

This interdisciplinary study explores how classical ideals of generosity influenced the writing and practice of gift giving in medieval Europe. In assuming that medieval gift giving was shaped by oral 'folk models', historians have traditionally followed in the footsteps of social anthropologists and sociologists such as Marcel Mauss and Pierre Bourdieu. This first in-depth investigation into the influence of the classical ideals of generosity and gift giving in medieval Europe reveals to the contrary how historians have underestimated the impact of classical literature and philosophy on medieval culture and ritual. Focusing on the idea of the gift expounded in the classical texts read most widely in the Middle Ages, including Seneca the Younger's *De beneficiis* and

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

Cicero's *De officiis*, Lars Kj'r investigates how these ideas were received, adapted and utilised by medieval writers across a range of genres, and how they influenced the practice of generosity.

The reign of King Stephen (1135-54) is famous as a period of weak government, as Stephen and his rival the Empress Matilda contended for power. This is a study of medieval kingship at its most vulnerable. It also shows how individuals and institutions enabled the monarchy to survive. A contemporary chronicler described the reign as "nineteen long winters in which Christ and his saints were asleep". Historians today refer to it simply as 'the Anarchy'. The weakness of government was the result of a disputed succession. Stephen lost control over Normandy, the Welsh marches, and much of the North. Contemporaries noted as signs of weakness the tyranny of the lords of castles, and the break-down of coinage. Stephen remained king for his lifetime, but leading churchmen and laymen negotiated a settlement whereby the crown passed to the Empress's son the future Henry II. This volume by leading scholars gives an original and up-to-date analysis of these major themes, and explains how the English monarchy was able to survive the Anarchy of King Stephen's reign.

The Earl, The Kings, And The Chronicler is the first full length biography of Robert (c.1088-1147), grandson of William the Conqueror and eldest son of King Henry I of England (1100-35), who could not succeed his father because he was a bastard. Instead, as the earl of Gloucester, he helped change the course of English history by keeping alive the prospects for an Angevin succession through his leadership of its supporters against his father's successor, King Stephen

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

(1135-54) in the civil war known as the Anarchy. Robert of Gloucester is one of the great figures of Anglo-Norman history (1066-1154). He occupies important niches in the era's literature, from comprehensive political studies of Henry I's and Stephen's reigns and an array of specialized fields to the 'Brother Cadfael' novels of Ellis Peters. Gloucester was one of only three landed super-magnates of his day, a model post-Conquest great baron, Marcher lord, borough developer, and patron of the rising merchant class. His trans-Channel barony stretched from western Lower Normandy across England to south Wales. Robert was both a product and a significant agent of the contemporary cultural revival known as the Renaissance of the Twelfth Century, being bi-lingual, well educated, and a significant literary patron. In this last role he is especially notable for commissioning the greatest English historian since Bede, William of Malmesbury, to produce a history of their times which justified the empress Matilda's claim to the English throne and Earl Robert's support of it.

"This intriguing book tells the story of this great medieval era and the dynasty at its heart in an entirely new way. Departing from the usual king-centric, high-politics perspective, Richard Huscroft instead centres each of his chapters on the experiences of a particular man or woman who contributed to the broad sweep of events ... This irresistible book deftly weaves together remarkable life-stories to illuminate anew the key themes of this exciting and formative era".--Rabat de la jacquette.

William of Malmesbury's *Gesta Regum Anglorum* (The Deeds of the English Kings) is one of the great histories of England. Apart from its formidable learning, it is characterized by narrative skill and entertainment value. This edition, with facing-page English translation, provides for the first time a detailed commentary on all aspects of the work.

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

Description: WILLIAM OF MALMESBURY, "De gestis re-um Anglorum" (f. 1) and "Historia Novella" (f. 181): the third recension, with the dedicatory epistle at the end of the third book, being the MS. Ce2 of Stubbs's edition (Rolls Series, 1887, 1889) and E2 in that of Sir T. D. Hardy (Engl. Hist. Soc., 1840), for both of which it was collated. A description of it is given by Hardy, Descriptive Catalogue (Rolls Series, 1862-1871), ii, p. 159, and Stubbs, op. cit. i, p. lxxxii. The text is closely related to that of the Margam MS., Royal 13 D. ii, though not a transcript of it, both, in the opinion of Sir T. D. Hardy, being copied from the author's autograph. The "Historia Novella" is imperfect through the loss of several leaves; the missing portion, from "Cuius concilii" (Stubbs, 492, p. 574) to "impedimenta" ( 519, p. 592), has been supplied on printed pages (ff. 195-198) copied from Hardy's edition. Vellum; ff. ii + 200. 10 in. x 7 in. Early xv cent. Gatherings of 12 leaves. Initials, many roughly decorated, in red and green. Sec. fol. "arcuum exinanita." On f. 1 is an obliterated inscription (16th cent.), "liber Hospitalis . . . ." In 1635 the MS. belonged to Sir Roger Twysden, who has prefixed a table of contents and written headings to several pages. Subsequently it passed into the possession of the Sebright family, and at the sale of part of Sir John Sebright's library in 1807 (lot 1190) it was bought by Richard Heber, from whom it passed (sale-cat. 1836, lot 1006) to Sir Thomas Phillipps. Phillipps MS. 8239 (sale-cat. 1911, lot 668). This volume presents the hagiographical writings of the Benedictine monk, historian and scholar, William of Malmesbury (c.1095-c.1143). As well as recording the "Lives" of Saints Wulfstan, Dunstan, Patrick, Benignus and Indract, the text also assesses William as hagiographer. This first comprehensive biography of Henry I, the youngest son of William the Conqueror and an elusive figure for historians, offers a rich and compelling account of his

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

tumultuous life and reign. Judith Green argues that although Henry's primary concern was defence of his inheritance this did not preclude expansion where circumstances were propitious, notably into Welsh territory. His skilful dealings with the Scots permitted consolidation of Norman rule in the northern counties of England, while in Normandy every sinew was strained to defend frontiers through political alliances and stone castles. Green argues that although Henry's own outlook was essentially traditional, the legacy of this fascinating and ruthless personality included some fundamentally important developments in governance. She also sheds light on Henry's court, suggesting that it made an important contribution to the flowering of court culture throughout twelfth-century Europe.

Civil war and the battle for the English Crown dominated the reign of King Stephen, and this popular account is the only complete account of the complex and fascinating military situation. The war is examined in detail throughout the various campaigns, battles and sieges of the period, including the two major battles at the Standard and Lincoln, showing that Stephen always held more ground than his opponents and was mostly on the offensive. The nature of the warfare and the reasons for its outcome are examined, along with comment on the strategy, tactics, technology in arms and armour, and the important improvements in fortifications. Full use has been made of the numerous detailed chronicle sources which give some indication of the horrors of twelfth-century war, the depredations which affected the ordinary people of the land, and the atrocities which sometimes accompanied it. Full of colourful characters - the likeable king, the domineering Matilda, the young and vital Henry of Anjou (later Henry II), his intelligent and effective father Geoffrey Count of Anjou, the powerful barons from Geoffrey de Mandeville to Ranulf of Chester - and illustrated with

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

photographs, maps and manuscript illustrations, this is a fascinating story of rivalry for the English throne which throws new light on a much-neglected aspect of Stephen's reign.

" ... second volume ... contains an introduction and detailed commentary to accompany the Latin text and translation of the work appearing in Volume I. The introduction presents and analyses the reasons behind the work ... The commentary, linked to the Latin text, discusses problems and questions thrown up by the work, and illustrations appear throughout."--Jacket.

Gesta Regum Anglorum (meaning Chronicle of the Kings of England) is a 12th-century chronicle of the kings of England by William of Malmesbury. It followed other works written by Malmesbury on the deeds of English Bishops. Malmesbury would later add Historia Novella, which continued the account for several more years, though that account is not included here. It is notable for Arthurian scholars since Arthur is briefly mentioned, though most of the work does not pertain to Arthur directly. Malmesbury was clearly borrowing from older sources for his history. These texts are taken from public domain sources. Their inclusion in this volume is for convenience, as a way of keeping all the shorter and fragmentary texts together in one place. A free copy of the ebook is available online. About the Arthurian Classics These are public domain works presented as a cohesive and branded line of literature, brought to you by MythBank.com. Visit the site to learn more.

This book provides an analytical overview of the vast range of historiography which was produced in western Europe over a thousand-year period between c.400 and c.1500.

Concentrating on the general principles of classical rhetoric central to the language of this writing, alongside the more familiar traditions of ancient history, biblical exegesis and patristic theology, this survey introduces the conceptual

## Get Free William Of Malmesbury Historia Novella The Contemporary History Oxford Medieval Texts

sophistication and semantic rigour with which medieval authors could approach their narratives of past and present events, and the diversity of ends to which this history could then be put. By providing a close reading of some of the historians who put these linguistic principles and strategies into practice (from Augustine and Orosius through Otto of Freising and William of Malmesbury to Machiavelli and Guicciardini), it traces and questions some of the key methodological changes that characterise the function and purpose of the western historiographical tradition in this formative period of its development.

This volume contains fifteen contributions on diverse aspects of twelfth-century moral thought, including monastic morality, (proto-)scholastic virtue ethics, the conception of virtue in various socio-political contexts and ethical traditions in Islamic and Jewish philosophy. "Symbols as Power" concentrates on the papacy from the end of the Investiture Contest in 1122 until the re-establishment of the Roman Senate in 1143. By combining an investigation of such media as art, architecture, and liturgy with written sources it helps to illuminate the ideology and the policies of the individual popes relating to the church, the empire, and the city of Rome.

[Copyright: 93ce4ea9eb279b17e906080c51c5b062](https://www.oxfordjournals.org/doi/10.1093/medieval/ehz011)