

Location #1: The Toadstool Bookshop in Nashua, New Hampshire.

1 - Ab, Mojang. *Minecraft: Exploded Builds: Medieval Fortress: An Official Mojang Book*. Random House Publishing Group, 2019.



Image and information courtesy of:

“Minecraft: Exploded Builds: Medieval Fortress: An Official Mojang Book (Paperback).” *Minecraft: Exploded Builds: Medieval Fortress: An Official Mojang Book (Paperback)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781984820174.

- Paperback
- 80 pages
- Published November 5th, 2019
- Mojang Ab is a game company that is apparently based in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Critics Review: None provided
- Price: \$11.99 (plus depending on what platform you buy it Minecraft the game on anywhere from \$14.99 to \$30.00)
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

2 - Boatner, Kay, and Kevin Rechin. *National Geographic Kids Funny Fill-in: My Medieval Adventure*. National Geographic Society, 2014.



Image and information about the book courtesy of:

“National Geographic Kids Funny Fill-in: My Medieval Adventure (Paperback).” *National Geographic Kids Funny Fill-in: My Medieval Adventure (Paperback)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781426316845.

- Paperback
- 48 pages
- Published June 10th 2014
- Author Boatner is a writer and editor for *National Geographic Kids* and *Little Kids* magazines and has previously released an ocean themed National Geographic Fill in book. Illustrator Rechin is a cartoonist whose work has appeared in *Time*, *National Geographic*, and many others.
- Critics Review: None provided
- Price \$4.99
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

3 - De Hamel, Christopher. *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts: Twelve Journeys into the Medieval World*. Penguin Books, an Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2019.

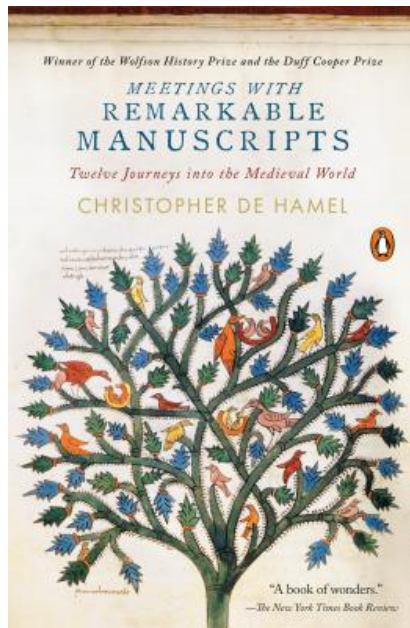


Image and information on the book courtesy of:

“Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts: Twelve Journeys into the Medieval World (Paperback).” *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts: Twelve Journeys into the Medieval World (Paperback)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9780143110804.

- Hardcover
- 640 pages
- Published November 12, 2019
- De Hamel is “the best known writer of medieval manuscripts in the world”. He is a former librarian in Cambridge, England and is a “Fellow Corpus Christi College”.
- Critics Review:
 - “Winner of The Wolfson History Prize and The Duff Cooper Prize”
 - “*Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts* is one of the least likely and most wonderful books I have ever read. Least likely: Where to start? It’s a vanishingly rare pleasure, given the commercial constraints of modern publishing, to handle 600 smoothly weighty pages in which the printed text winds its way seamlessly among more than 200 glorious, often full-color illustrations. And in producing such a gorgeous object, Christopher de Hamel’s publisher has had the courage of his convictions, because its physical and visual delights mirror its commercially unlikely subject matter...[De Hamel] is voraciously completist, recording impressions of each journey, place, building and reading room, as well as every coverage detail of each manuscript’s creation, content and existence as a physical object through time and space... On this archival odyssey, I lost count of the things I learned...[*Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts*], like the volumes that are its subject, is a book of wonders.” - *The New York Times Book Review*”
- \$25.00

4 - Friesen, Jeff. *The LEGO Castle Book: Build Your Own Mini Medieval World*. No Starch Press, Inc., 2019.

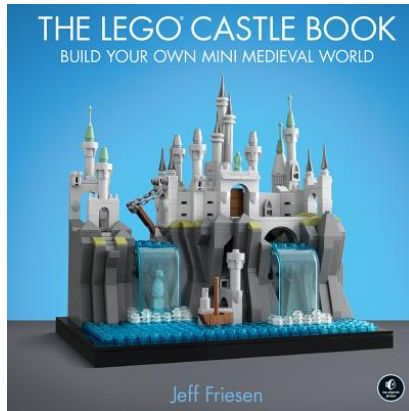


Image and information on the book courtesy of

“The LEGO Castle Book: Build Your Own Mini Medieval World (Hardcover).” *The LEGO Castle Book: Build Your Own Mini Medieval World (Hardcover)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781718500167.

- Hardcover
- 208 pages
- Published August 27th, 2019
- Friesen is a photographer and frequent LEGO builder. His designs have been displayed around the United States, Canada, and even as far as Japan and parts of Europe.
- Critics Review: None provided
- Price: \$24.95 (plus an X amount of money spent on LEGOs to build these castles)
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

5 - Phillips, Charles. *The Medieval Castle Manual: Design - Construction - Daily Life*. Haynes Publishing UK, 2018.

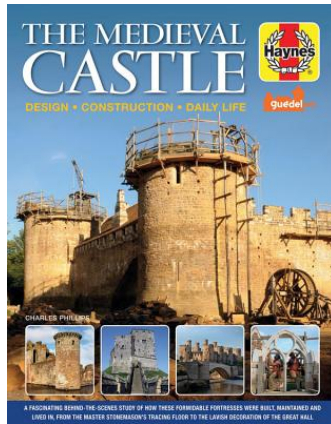


Image and information courtesy of:

“The Medieval Castle Manual: Design - Construction - Daily Life (Haynes Manuals) (Hardcover).” *The Medieval Castle Manual: Design - Construction - Daily Life (Haynes Manuals) (Hardcover)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781785211478.

- Hardcover
- 192 pages
- Published March 27th, 2018
- Phillips is “and author of more than 35 books” focusing on such topics as history, movies, and psychology. It is cited that one of his other works is *The Medieval Knight*.
- Critics Review: None provided
- Price: \$29.95
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store. I remember seeing a copy in the HIS (History) section of the store when I briefly searched in a spare minute of my shift.

6 - Picard, Liza. *Chaucer's People: Everyday Lives in Medieval England*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2019.

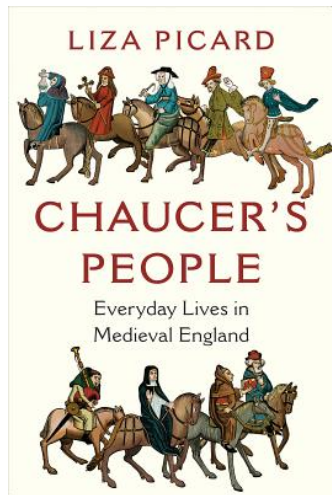


Image and information about the book courtesy of:

“Chaucer's People: Everyday Lives in Medieval England (Hardcover).” *Chaucer's People: Everyday Lives in Medieval England (Hardcover)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781324002291

- Hardcover
- 368 pages
- Published March 26th, 2019
- Picard is a fairly prolific author who has wrote many books on the history of London, England. She has a degree in law from the London School of Economics.
- Critics Review:
“*Chaucer's People* is a holiday in the complex, joyful, indelicate medieval world—an approachable, engaging and highly recommended account of an England which is long gone, but whose spirit lingers. — John Higgs, author of *Watling Street*”
- Price: \$27.95
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

7 - Polack, Gillian, et al. *The Middle Ages Unlocked: a Guide to Life in Medieval England, 1050-1300*. Amberley Publishing, 2016.

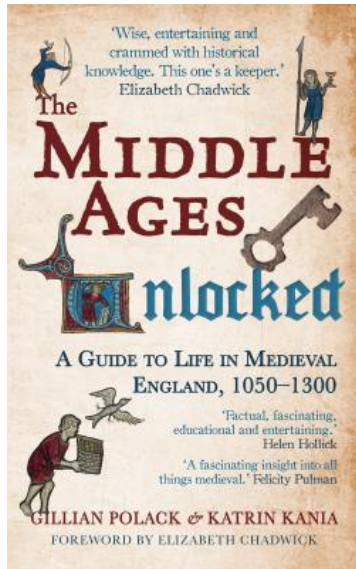


Image and information about the book courtesy of:

“The Middle Ages Unlocked: A Guide to Life in Medieval England, 1050-1300 (Paperback).” *The Middle Ages Unlocked: A Guide to Life in Medieval England, 1050-1300 (Paperback)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781445660219.

- Paperback
- 400 pages
- Published August 15th 2016
- Chadwick and Polack are Medieval Historians and Kania is a textile archeologist.
- Critics Review: None provided
- Price: \$17.95 with “(save \$1.00 5%)” listed underneath
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

8 - Sciacca, Christine. *Illuminating Women in the Medieval World*. Getty Trust Publications, 2017.

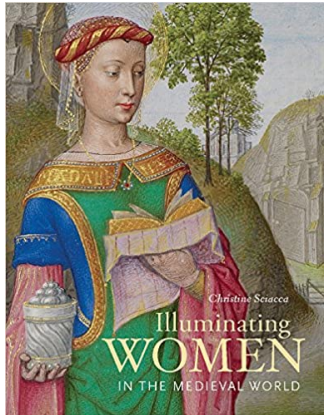


Image and information courtesy of:

“Illuminating Women in the Medieval World (Hardcover).” *Illuminating Women in the Medieval World (Hardcover)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781606065266.

- Hardcover
- 120 pages
- Published June 20th 2017
- Sciacca is an assistant manuscript curator at the J. Paul Getty Museum, located in California.
- Critics Review:
“This book's accessibility will appeal to many readers, especially those interested in medieval art or women's history.” (starred review) — *Library Journal*
Price: \$24.95
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store. I remember seeing a copy while shelving books in the ART section of the store.

9 - Stokes, Jonathan W., and Xavier Bonet. *The Thrifty Guide to Medieval Times: a Handbook for Time Travelers*. Viking, Penguin Group, 2019.

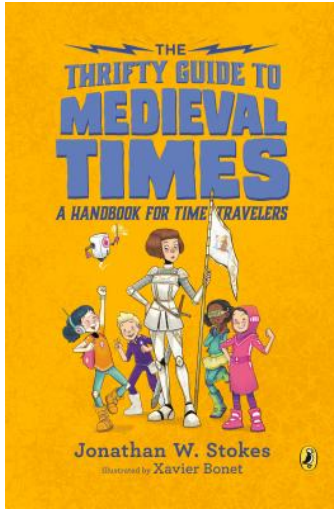


Image and information courtesy of:

Stokes, Jonathon X. "The Thrifty Guide to Medieval Times: A Handbook for Time Travelers (The Thrifty Guides) (Paperback)." *The Thrifty Guide to Medieval Times: A Handbook for Time Travelers (The Thrifty Guides) (Paperback)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9780451480286.

- Paperback
- 176 pages
- Published August 20th, 2019
- Stokes used to be a teacher, but is now a screenwriter for movies. Bonet is a comic book artist and the illustrator of various children's books.
- Critics Review: None provided
- Price: \$8.99
- Found by searching "Medieval" on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

10 - Weir, Alison. *Queens of the Conquest: England's Medieval Queens*. Ballantine Books, 2018.

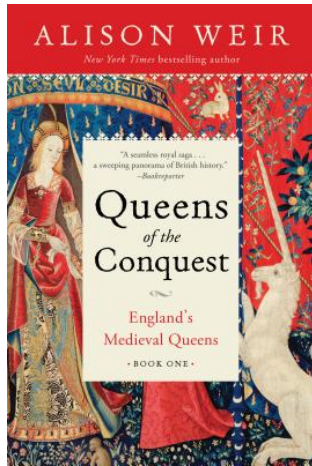


Image and information about the book courtesy of:

“Queens of the Conquest: England's Medieval Queens Book One (Paperback).” *Queens of the Conquest: England's Medieval Queens Book One (Paperback)* | *The Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Nashua, and Peterborough, NH*, www.toadbooks.com/book/9781101966686.

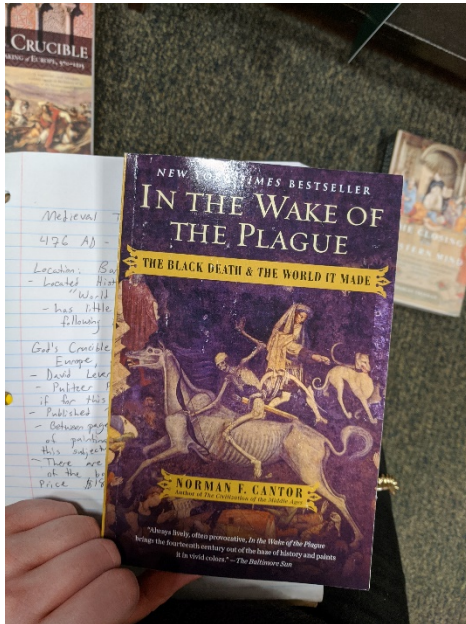
- Paperback
- 608 pages
- Published September 4th, 2018
- Weir has written many biographies on the monarchs of both this time period/England in general, ranging from Elizabeth I to Henry VIII.
- Critics Review:

“Best-selling author [Alison] Weir pens another readable, well-researched English history, the first in a proposed four-volume series on England’s medieval queens. . . . Weir’s research skills and storytelling ability combine beautifully to tell a fascinating story supported by excellent historical research. Fans of her fiction and nonfiction will enjoy this latest work.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)

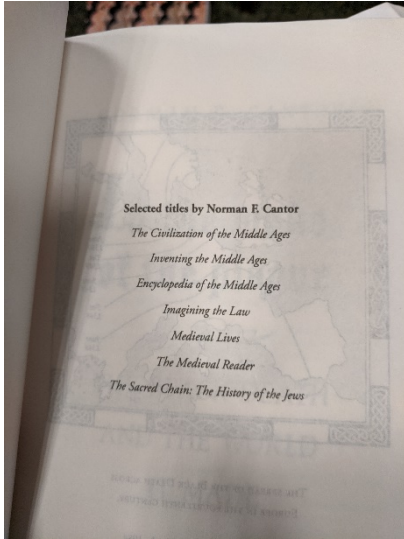
- Price: \$20.00
- Found by searching “Medieval” on the Toadstool Bookshop website, with 1 copy available in the store.

Location #2 Barnes and Noble in Leominster, Massachusetts

1 - Cantor, Norman F. *In the Wake of the Plague: the Black Death and the World It Made*. Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2015.

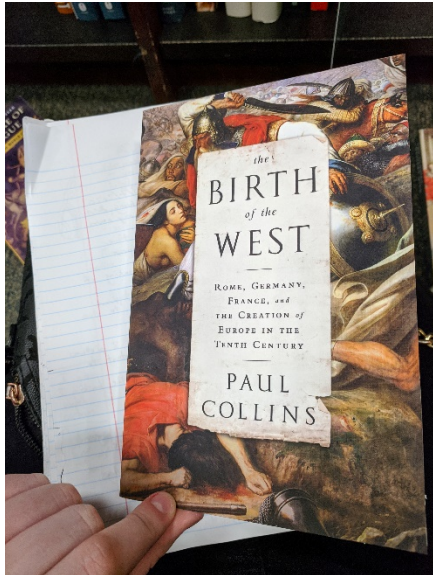


- Paperback
- First published 2001, but this edition is from 2015
- Cantor was (he died in 2004) a history, sociology, and comparative literature professor at New York University.
- Critics Review:
"Professor Cantor's style is easy... He is far beyond just knowing his period. He can explain, without oversimplifying, the variety and complexity of this great selection of the West's past." - *The New Yorker*
- My Review:
An all text book, with the exception of one European map from this time period, but thankfully it has a contents page to help organize the information given. According to the contents page, the book is divided into three parts, "Biomedical Context", "People", and "History". There is also an index in the back to look up specific points as they appear in the book. Personally I like when visuals are included in a book, as it helps me learn better and get a more feel for the subject. There is a page dedicated to more of Cantor's works though which would be useful if readers wanted to learn more of this time period. It will be interesting to see later if I end up finding any of them as my search continues.



- 245 pages
- \$17.00
- Located in World History Section of the store behind a subdivider on the shelf itself labeled, "European". 1 copy available.

2 - Collins, Paul. *The Birth of the West: Rome, Germany, France, and the Creation of Europe in the Tenth Century*. PublicAffairs, 2014.



- Paperback
- 484 pages
- First published in 2013, but this edition is from 2014.
- No information about the author given.
- Critic Review:
“A lively, full-to-bursting history of the turbulent tenth century in Europe...Collins presents chaotic upheaval across Europe in an organized and riveting fashion”.
- My review:

Yet another book with no accompanying pictures, but it does have a good selection of maps at the beginning. They are labeled as, “The European and Mediterranean World about 950-1000 A.D”, “Rome in the Tenth Century”, “Italy in the Tenth Century”, “Europe in 900 A.D”, “Divisions of Germany in 950 A.D”, “England in the 10th Century”, “Ireland in the Tenth Century”, “Europe in the Year 1000 A.D”, so a good spread of land is covered. As predicted by the sub-section they were found in, see below, and the way history is told, it is very European centered. There are a lot of reviews in the first three pages of this book so it is clearly well received by its audience at least.

- Price: \$18.99
- Located in World History Section of the store behind a subdivider on the shelf itself labeled, “European”. 1 copy available.

3- Haag, Michael. *The Templars: the History & the Myth: From Soloman's Temple to the Freemasons: A Guide to Templar History, Culture, and Locations*. Harper, 2009.

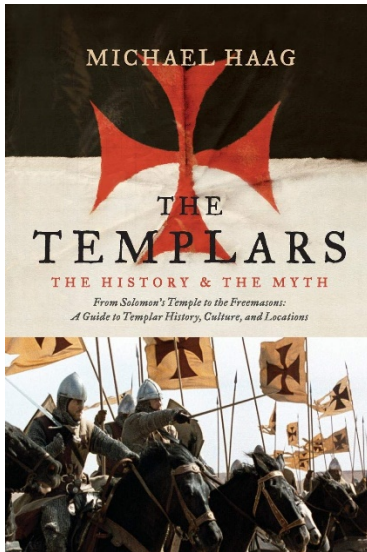
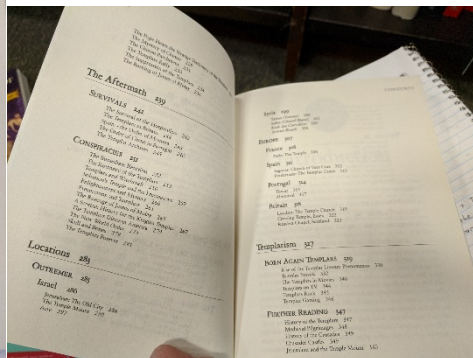
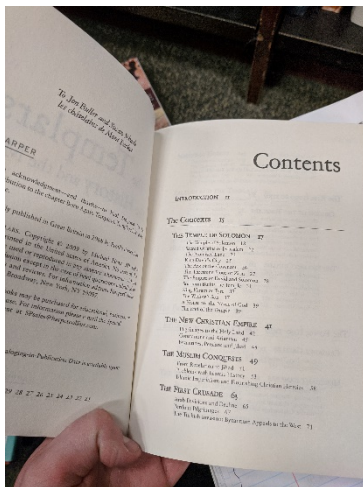
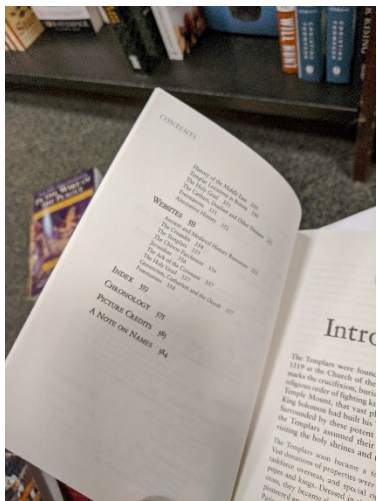
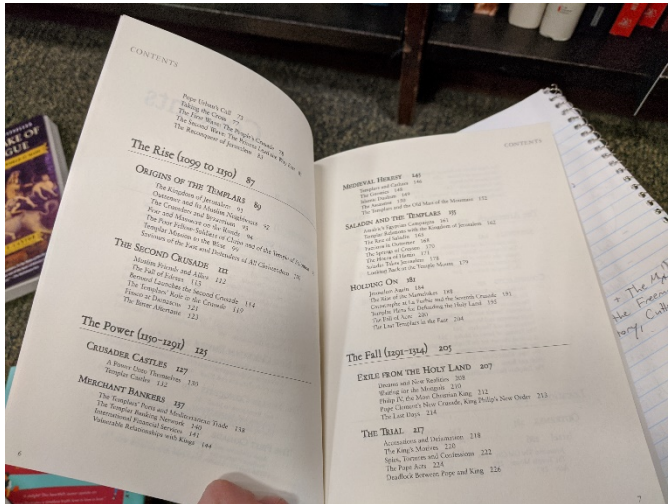


Image of book courtesy of:

Haag, Michael. "Templars - History and Myth: from Solomon's Temple to the Freemasons." *Amazon*, Profile Books Ltd, 2009, www.amazon.com/Templars-History-Solomons-Temple-Freemasons/dp/0061775932.)

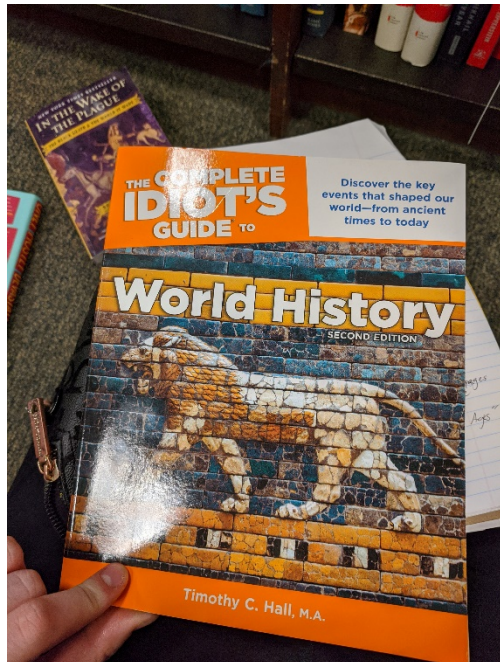
- Paperback
- 374 pages
- I will update the author section and include a critic's review when I am free of quarantine.
- My Review:
- The book contains an index, chronology of events that take place in the book, and lots of art, photographs, and other supporting media relevant to the text that it appears near. The contents at the beginning of the book is very detailed as well, making the book seemingly easy to navigate if one was looking for a specific area of focus in this subject.





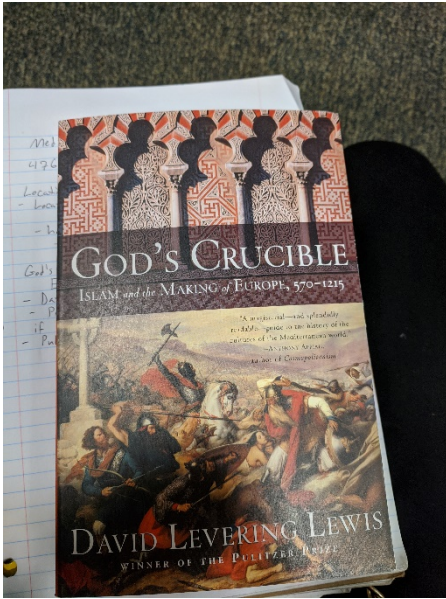
- \$17.99
- Located in World History Section of the store behind a subdivider on the shelf itself labeled, "European". 1 copy available.

4 - Hall, Timothy C. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to World History*. 2nd ed., Alpha, 2012.

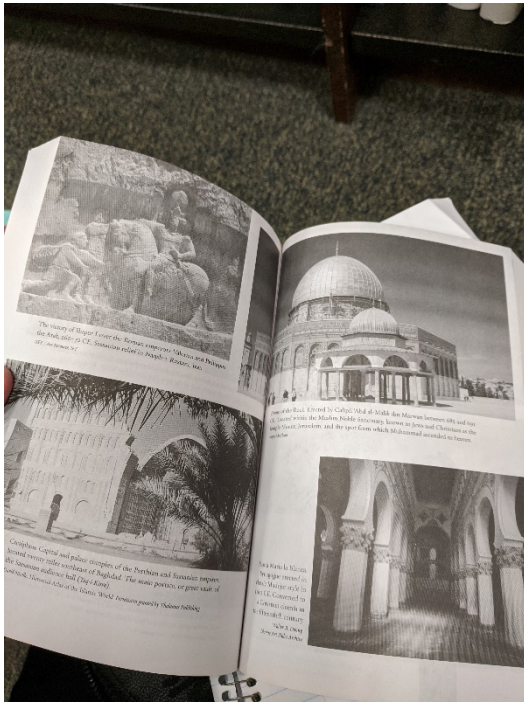


- Only 15 pages related to the Medieval Period
- Published 2012
- Again, I will get the author information and look for a critics review on my next visit.
- My Review:
The language is very easy and accessible to understand. All the sub points about this time period are broken up into small paragraphs that summarize any main points. There is no art or any media from this time period shown and perhaps the most unfortunate thing about this book is the name of this chapter, “Those Terrible Middle Ages”. With the use of that negative language, how are readers going to perceive this time? Yes, there are terrible times in all of human history, but I feel this label is wrongfully placed here.
- Price \$19.95
- Located in the World History section, but with no subdivider and only 1 copy available in the store.

5 - Lewis, David L. *God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570-1215*. Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2018.



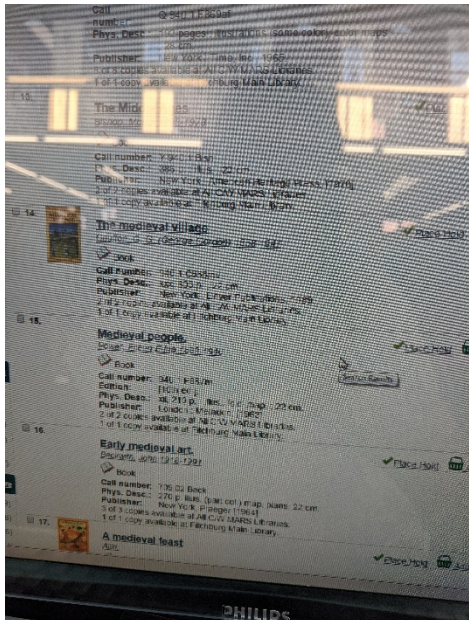
- Paperback
- 473 pages total, including an index in the back
- First published 2008, but this edition is from 2018.
- Lewis is a history professor at New York University. He has also said to have written *The Improbable Wendell Willkie*. The front cover states he won a Pulitzer Prize.
- Critic Review:
“A bold hypothesis...Lewis has a wonderful command of narrative structure [and] lively prose.” - Joan Acocella, *The New Yorker*
- My review:
- The book was mostly text, in a rather small font I may add. It is divided into chapters with such names as, “The Arabs are Coming!”, “*Jihad!*” and “The Great Mosque”. There are a few maps in the beginning of the book showing the locations specifically referred to during the years to provide context.



Between pages 258-259, there are 8 pictures of paintings, artifacts, and buildings important to the subject that are all labeled, but there are no page numbers given to reference these pages, nor are there notes saying if these images are related to any of the text itself. I would find it more accessible if they were displayed in a more textbook format where they were labeled for example, “Figure 3-1”, and when you’re reading the book you’d see in parenthesis, “(see: Figure 3-1)” so you have the visual at the same time as you’re reading about it.

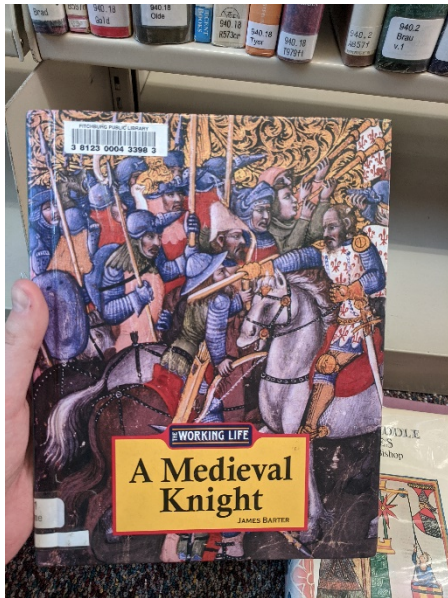
- Price: \$18.95
- Located in World History Section of the store behind a subdivider on the shelf itself labeled, “European”. 1 copy available.

Location #3 - The Fitchburg Public Library



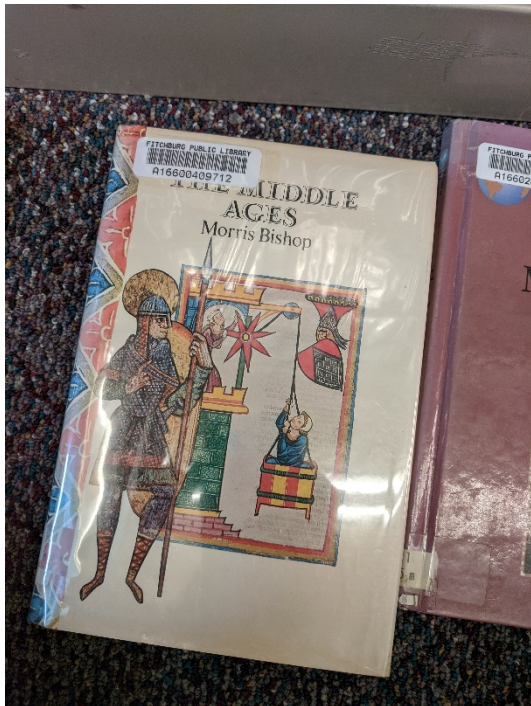
(Picture of all the books I found related to Medieval Studies in the 940s section of the FPL)

1 - Barter, James. *A Medieval Knight*. Lucent, 2005.

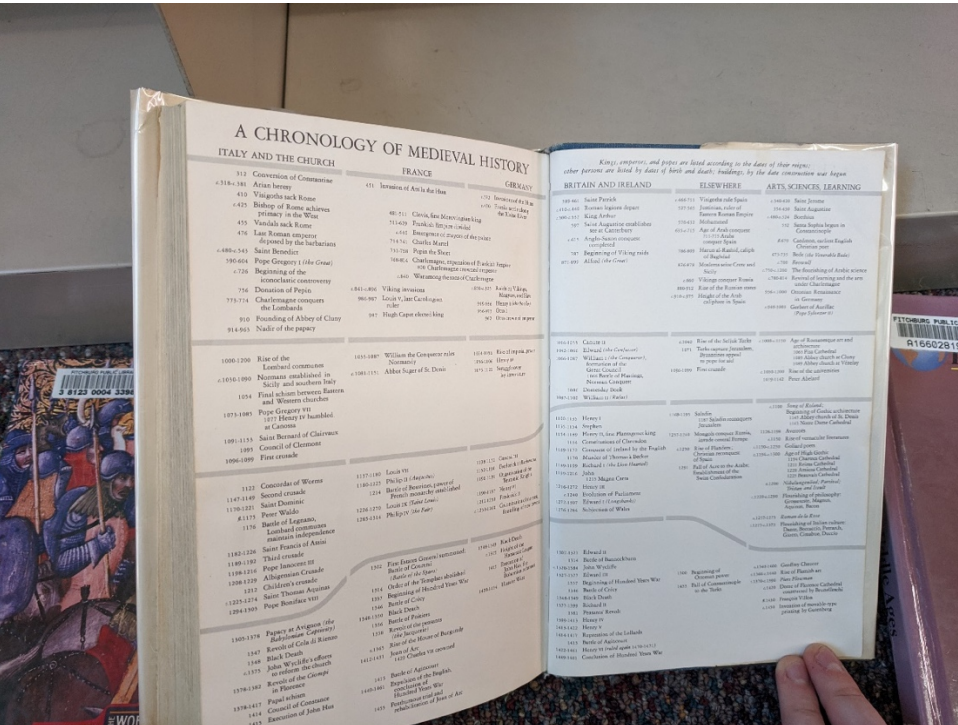
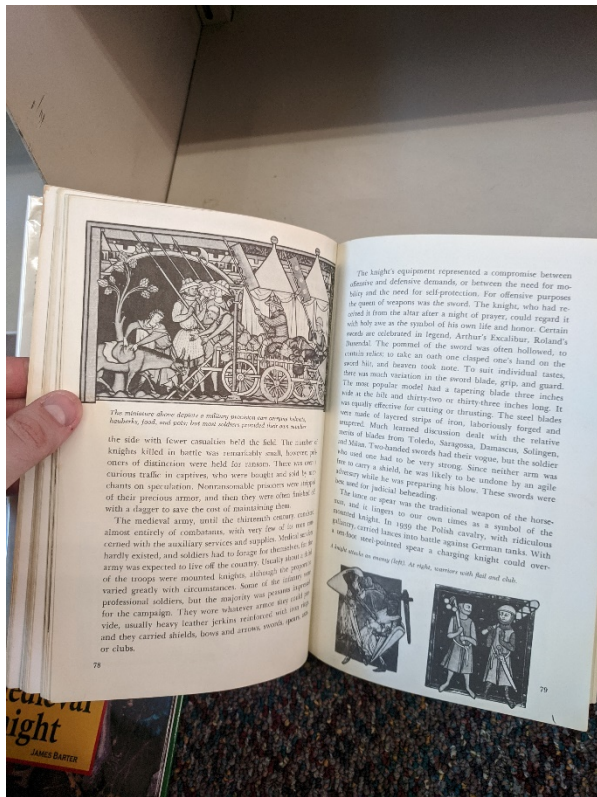


- 112 pages
- Hardcover
- Published 2005
- James Barter is said to be an author of numerous books and a graduate of University of California, Berkeley.
- Critic Review: None provided
- My Review: This book, despite being in the General Section of the Library, is said to be marketed to Young Readers. It's one of the shorter books I've found and is divided into small chapters. There are nice clear illustrations that clearly show what the text is talking about and the text is straightforward and easy to understand.
- Price unknown

2 - Bishop, Morris. *The Middle Ages*. American Heritage Press, 1970.

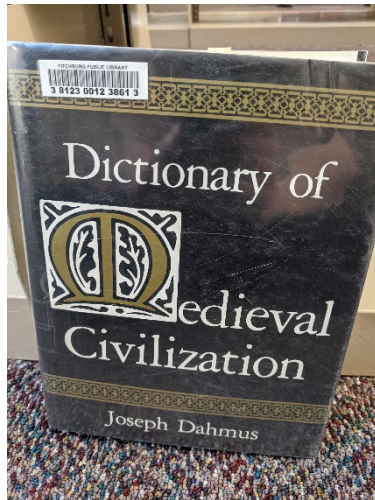


- 374 pages
- Hardcover
- Published 1970
- Morris Bishop was a scholar and historian with a number of books on the Middle Ages under his belt (and according to my outside readings, he died 1973).
- Critic Review:
“Mr. Bishop, the sage of Cornell, says here almost everything of transcending importance about the Middle Ages and says it better than it has been said before. One feels great sympathy for those who must follow him...” - Louisville Courier-Journal
- My Review:
Finally a book with a lot of art and media included in it! The language Bishop uses is informative and interesting, though I’m unsure on how much more has been found since this was published. Probably the best part of the book is the Middle Ages Chronology chart included at the end of the book.



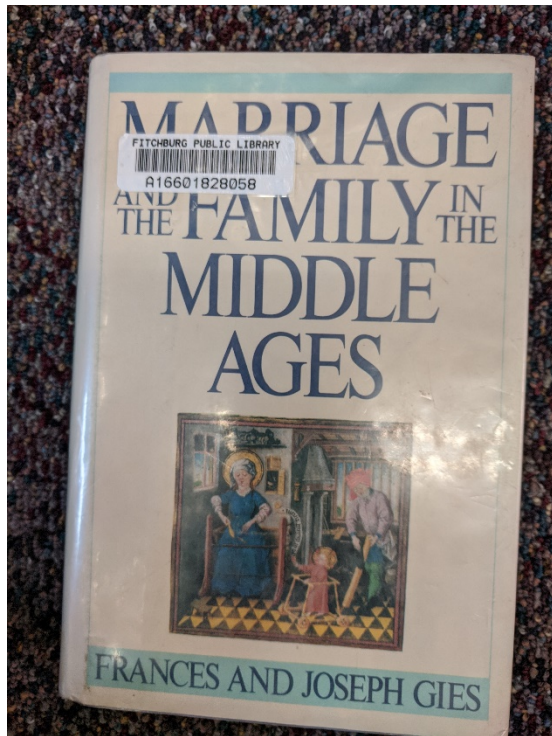
- Price Unknown

3 - Dahmus, Joseph Henry. *Dictionary of Medieval Civilization*. Macmillan, 1984.



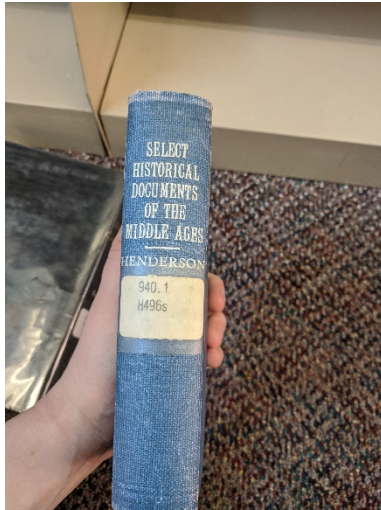
- 700 pages
- Hardcover
- Critic Review: None provided
- My Review:
Literally this book is a dictionary, which I found very interesting considering it's the only one I found. It's also the only dictionary I know of geared to a specific topic. This is a very good supporting text to all the others I've found that are historically based. Visuals would be a nice touch though to help support the definitions.
- Price unknown

4 - Gies, Frances, and Joseph Gies. *Marriage and the Family in the Middle Ages*. Harper and Row. 1987.



- Hardcover
- 399 pages
- Unknown information about authors, but based on the review below, the two are prolific in Medieval Studies' texts.
- Critic Review:
"A comprehensive and illuminating history of the development of marriage and the family in the Middle Ages written by the authors of the bestselling *Life in a Medieval Castle* and *Life in a Medieval City*." - back of the book
- My Review:
A comprehensive look at what life was like for the commoners of this area. Chapters are divided up by specific years. It seems to mostly focus on the Middle Ages from the English perspective, but it appears very informative without coming off as too textbook-like. Another without pictures though.
- Price (if in a store): \$22.50

5 - Henderson, Ernest F. *Select Historical Documents of the Middle Ages*. George Bell & Sons, 1892.



- Hardcover
- 490 pages
- Could not find information about the author or a critics review on the book. The only thing I found is the author is the writer and the translator of this book.
- My Review:
I love the fact that this book is from the 19th century. I assume there have been later editions of this book, but to actually hold a book this old was pretty awesome for me. It was cool to find a book that wasn't an author just giving facts and statistics of this time period - as great as those types of books are - but actual papers from this time. It would be interesting to read through and see how people talked (wrote) then and what was actually documented.
- Price unknown

Location #4 - Fitchburg State University Library

1 - I'll start with the surprise. The same book I found at The Toadstool Bookshop, *Chaucer's People*, I also found at the FSU library. Now I was hoping when I started this project that there would be some overlaps among all four places, but this is the only book I found that was at two locations. It was nice to see because, as noted above, this book came out in 2019, so it was good to see that this library is able to get newer titles on their shelves.

2 - Dunn, Caroline. *Stolen Women in Medieval England: Rape, Abduction and Adultery, 1100-1500*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

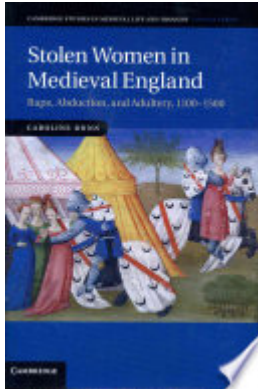


Image of book courtesy of: Fitchburg State Library Site

- 261 pages
- Publishers Review:
“...This investigation broadens our understanding of the role of women in the legal system; provides a means for analysing male control over female bodies, sexuality and access to the courts; and reveals ways in which female agency could, on occasion, manoeuvre around such controls.”
- My Review:
As someone who is going for a Masters in English, with a Gender Studies concentration, I am very interested in checking this book out for myself.

2 - Classen, Albrecht. *Forest in Medieval German Literature: Ecocritical Readings from a Historical Perspective*. Lexington Books, 2019.



Image of book courtesy of: Fitchburg State Library Site

- 243 pages
- Published 2015
- Publishers Review:
“This book revisits some of the best and lesser known examples of medieval German literature, and the critical approach used here will allow us to recognize the importance of medieval literature for a profound reassessment of our modern existence with respect to our own forests”

3 - Frank, Brandsma, editor. *Emotions in Medieval Arthurian Literature: Body, Mind, Voice*. D. S. Brewer, 2018.

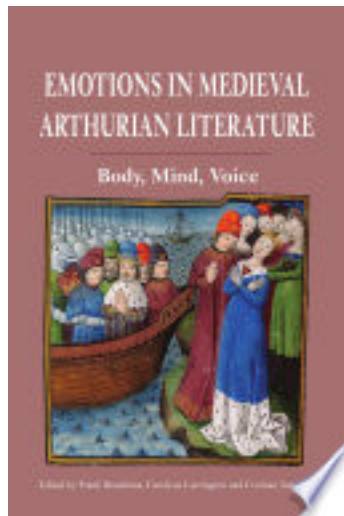


Image of book courtesy of: Fitchburg State Library Site

- 210 pages
- Published 2015
- This is an anthology of different authors writing about this topic.

4 - James, Liz. *Mosaics in the Medieval World : from Late Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

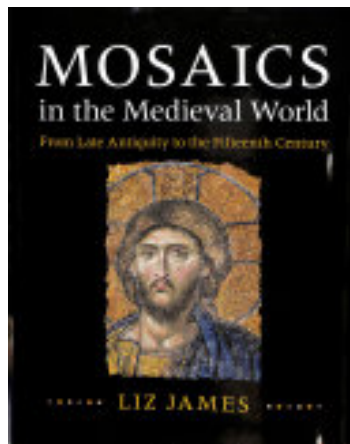


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- 623 pages
- Published 2017
- Words on the book jacket according to the FSU library:
“In this book, Liz James offers a comprehensive history of wall mosaics produced in the European and Islamic middle ages. Taking into account a wide range of issues, including style and iconography, technique and material, function and patronage, she examines mosaics within their historical context...”

5 - Lawrence-Mathers, Anne, and Carolina Escobar-Vargas. *Magic and Medieval Society*. Routledge, 2014.

- No cover image provided
- 145 pages
- Published 2014
- “Magic and medieval society presents a thematic approach to the topic of magic and sorcery in Western Europe between the eleventh and the fifteenth century. It aims to provide readers with the conceptual and documentary tools to reach informed conclusions as to the existence, nature, importance and uses of magic in medieval society. Contrary to some previous approaches, the authors argue that magic is inextricably connected to other areas of cultural practice and was found across medieval society. The book is arranged thematically.” - Carolina Escobar-Vargas, author, according to FSU library.