



Handbook of Medieval Sexuality

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Like specialists in other fields in humanities and social sciences, medievalists have begun to investigate and write about sex and related topics such as courtship, concubinage, divorce, marriage, prostitution, and child rearing. The scholarship in this significant volume asserts that sexual conduct formed a crucial role in the lives, thoughts, hopes and fears both of individuals and of the institutions that they created in the middle ages.

The absorbing subject of sexuality in the Middle Ages is examined in 19 original articles written specifically for this "Handbook" by the major authorities in their scholarly specialties. The study of medieval sexuality poses problems for the researcher: indices in standard sources rarely refer to sexual topics, and standard secondary sources often ignore the material or say little about it. Yet a vast amount of research is available, and the information is accessible to the student who knows where to look and what to look for. This volume is a valuable guide to the material and an indicator of what subjects are likely to yield fresh scholarly rewards.

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Review

..."the layout is pleasing and the organization of bibliographies helpful. This is a useful Handbook, full of fascinating material, in which every reader is bound to find something of interest."

-Parergon

"Bullough and Brundage and their sixteen co-authors give wonderful up-to-date coverage, both chronological and geographical, of a wide variety of subjects and fields: law, medicine, theology, abstention, homosexuality, prostitution, contraception, eunuchism; Jewish, Muslim and Eastern Orthodox as well as Latin Christian traditions; literary treatments in French, Norse and English. It's a handbook that really deserves to be kept at hand."

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"Bullough and Brundage are the masters of the field of medieval sexuality. In this handbook they have marshaled a rich collection of essays by leading scholars in the second generation. Read it and learn."

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"[A] highly informative and essential reference work for those interested in medieval society and in human sexuality, past or present."

-"Canadian Folklore

"A solidly instructive, introductory guide to the study of medieval sexuality, its sources and literature...carefully written and rigorously documented."

-"The Medieval Review

About the Author

Vern L. Bullough is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York. **James A. Brundage** is the Ahmanson-Murphy Distinguished Professor of History and the Courtesy Professor of Law at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

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