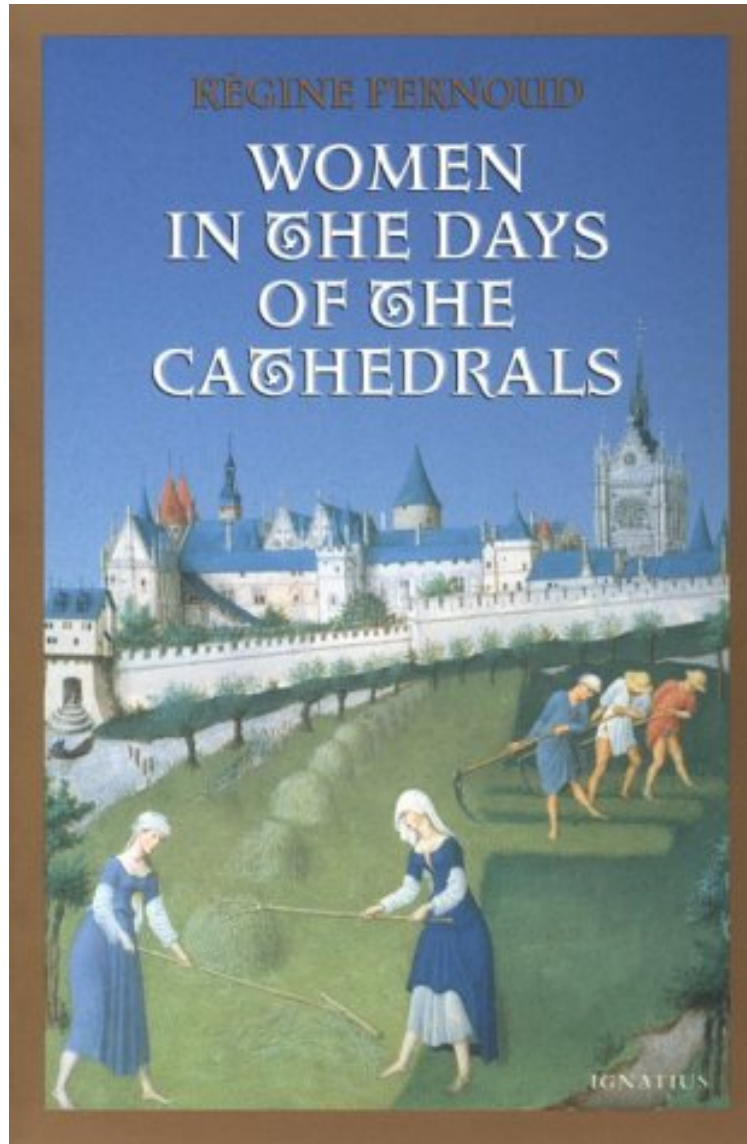


[Mobile book] Women in the Days of the Cathedrals

Women in the Days of the Cathedrals

Rgine Pernoud

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Rgine Pernoud : Women in the Days of the Cathedrals before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women in the Days of the Cathedrals:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. women in the days of the cathedralsBy DevoniaWhat a fantastic book. Purely factual but written in a style to interest the lay reader. I would recommend it to all feminists for a start plus those interested in history. Devonia5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. From darkness to light: of women, love and joyBy Robert Fripp"The mysterious force that elevated woman to the rank of queen, that knew love

as an art, as a philosophy, as a religion even, was the impulse of the medieval soul, the very spirit of Romanesque and Christian Europe." Regine Pernoud quotes that passage by another writer in this seminal work about the lives and conditions of women from the sixth century to the fifteenth. Pernoud set herself the task of explaining that mysterious force in "Women in the days of the cathedrals": she succeeds wonderfully. Her book goes far in explaining how this feminine mystique operated through nine hundred years in lands exposed to Frankish culture and the rise of chivalry. In "Women in the days of the cathedrals," Pernoud's chapter, "Love, the invention of the twelfth century..." speaks for her book. Here, she shows how love and courtesy coexisted, intermingling, growing together; and her following chapter, Fontevrault, describes the origins of, and conduct in, an abbey in which women and men were governed by an abbess who was required to be a formerly married woman. With chapters on Homemakers, Femininity, Marriage and Economic and Political activities, Pernoud explores the lives of women for almost a millennium, finding that positive, culturally active elements abound. This is surely a book for Women's Studies courses. Pernoud had a long, distinguished career as a medieval scholar, with unrestricted access to the National Archives of France (a privilege extended to few), where she worked to develop the Museum of History of France. With two books about Joan of Arc to her credit, and others about Hildegard of Bingen and Blanche of Castile, Pernoud understood that the middle ages were far from unrelieved misery. For many, life was a joy. She held that view to the end. Her final title, "Those Terrible Middle Ages: Debunking the Myths," appeared in English only after her death. A fascinating book Robert FrappAuthor of "Power of a Woman. Memoirs of a turbulent life: Eleanor of Aquitaine"(Eleanor writes her memoirs)43 of 43 people found the following review helpful. Charing Cross and the beloved queen.....By Dianne FosterI love this book. Regine Pernoud is my new favorite historian. Ms. Pernoud writes about the Middle Ages when men were men and women were--well if not in charge pretty darn close to being so. Ms. Pernoud's premise contradicts much of what I have read elsewhere, but she goes to the primary sources and produces much material to support her thesis. First of all, Pernoud says a number of women living in the Middle Ages were queens in their own right. She names these rulers--and some better known than others largely owing to the writing of male historians who seemed to have concentrated on queens married to illustrious men. Of course, there was Eleanor of Aquitaine--the grandmother of Europe--who was the wife of both a French and an English king (in succession). She went on a Crusade with her French King. Later, she married Henry II and became the mother of Richard I and poor John of the Magna Carta fame. But Eleanor had some pretty well situated daughters also, and Pernoud tells the reader about them. Also, Eleanor's mother-in-law was the famous Matilda, who sparred with her usurper cousin Stephen for the English throne, which she finally secured for her son Henry II. Another, lesser known queen was a Matilda who along with Agnes of Poitou played a major role in the reforms of the church in the 11th Century by siding with the Pope against the Holy Roman Emperor. "Matilda Dei gratia si quid est" -- Matilda by the grace of God if she is anything. Hildegard von Bingen has become known in our age because of her beautiful music, and of course many other women were powerful Abbesses in their own right--or Saints like Joan of Arc. I found interesting Pernoud's assertion that the Celtic and Germanic tribes welcomed Christianity because it reinforced their notions of equality of the sexes and the hearth and home as the center of life. So, not only were women queens of countries and lords of fiefdoms, they were "queens" of households. Pernoud points out what any archeologist will tell you--family wealth is centered in the hearth and home--combs, copper pots, and gold crosses. And Charing Cross? That's named for Eleanor of Castile, granddaughter of Eleanor of Aquitaine. When she died, her husband had a gold cross mounted everywhere they had lived. One site can be found at the Charing Cross station in London. Charing Cross is a corruption of "Chere reine" -- beloved queen.

Book by Regine Pernoud

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