This volume examines the aristocracy in Tuscany and in England across a period of two and a half centuries (1000-1250). It deals first with Tuscany, tracing the history of the aristocracy and illustrating its nature and evolution, and observing aristocratic behaviour and attitudes, and how aristocrats related to other members of society. Peter Coss then examines the history of England in the same periods. It is not, however, a comparative history, but employs Italian insights to look at the aristocracy in England and to move away from the traditional interpretation which revolves around Magna Carta and the idea of English exceptionalism. By offering a study of the aristocracy across a wide time-frame and with themes drawn from Italian historiography, Coss offers a new approach to studying aristocracy within its own contexts.

Includes section "Bullettino bibliografico".

Several essays document and discuss new discoveries, such as the extraordinary collection of musical compositions written by women in Bologna and Milan in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the convent theater of sixteenth-century Tuscany.

Includes the sections "Reviews", "Italian studies published in England", "Academica" and "A chronicle of public lectures, etc.".


This volume brings together leading European historians who are firmly based in regional, archival research with a number of Israeli and American scholars who concentrate on cultural, legal and constitutional aspects of the Jewish community. Another distinguishing feature of the volume is the fact that historians working on Mediterranean Jewries (Sicily, Spain, Provence, etc.) and those studying the northern communities (England, Northern France, and Ashkenaz) will present their findings in a single, one-language collection, thus highlighting the similarities and contrasts among the various European Jewish cultures. The book will help to undermine stereotyped images about Jews and about Jewish history. Above all, its emphasis on the variance in European Jewish historical experience will subvert teleological approaches to Jewish history. The volume comprises: part 1: Dimensions of the Subject, part 2: Around the Mediterranean part, 3: The Northern Jewries: France, England and Ashkenaz part, 4: Aspects of Cultural, Economic, and Social History part, 5: Individual Jewries through Archival and Archaeological Evidence.

This comprehensive study examines early medieval popular culture as it appears in ecclesiastical and secular law, sermons, penitentials and other pastoral works - a selective, skewed, but still illuminating record of the beliefs and practices of ordinary Christians. Concentrating on the five centuries from c. 500 to c. 1000, Pagan Survivals, Superstitious and Popular Cultures in Early Medieval Pastoral Literature presents the evidence for folk religious beliefs and piety, attitudes to nature and death, festivals, magic, drinking and alimentary customs. As such it provides a precious glimpse of the mutual adaptation of Christianity and traditional cultures at an important period of cultural and religious transition.
This Encyclopedia gathers together the most recent scholarship on Medieval Italy, while offering a sweeping view of all aspects of life in Italy during the Middle Ages. This two volume, illustrated, A-Z reference is a cross-disciplinary resource for information on literature, history, the arts, science, philosophy, and religion in Italy between A.D. 450 and 1375. For more information including the introduction, a full list of entries and contributors, a generous selection of sample pages, and more, visit the Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia website.

Through his research on the status of women in Florence and other Italian cities, Julius Kirshner helped to establish the socio-legal history of women in late medieval and Renaissance Italy and challenge the idea that Florentine women had an inferior legal position and civic status. In Marriage, Dowry, and Citizenship in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy, Kirshner collects nine important essays which address these issues in Florence and the cities of northern and central Italy. Using a cross-disciplinary approach that draws on the methodologies of both social and legal history, the essays in this collection present a wealth of examples of daughters, wives, and widows acting as full-fledged social and legal actors. Revised and updated to reflect current scholarship, the essays in Marriage, Dowry, and Citizenship in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy appear alongside an extended introduction which situates them within the broader field of Renaissance legal history.

Neighborhood voices in poetry - The verbal web of patronage - Prayer in the urban setting - Love and history : men against women - Suicide of a poet - Alienation : the outsider as poet - Cruelty in the community - Seduction and family space - Poetry as political memory - Crisis in the generation of 1494.

"These seven essays on women, sex, violence, and piety in Renaissance Italy," writes historian Samuel Cohn Jr., "bespeak the darker side of the Renaissance and, in particular, the decline in Italian women's status from the late fourteenth century until the Counter Reformation visitations of the 1570s. In this sense, these essays run directly counter to Jacob Burckhardt's claim for Renaissance Italy, 'that women stood on a footing of perfect equality with men.' Challenging conventional views of the history of women in the Italian Renaissance, Cohn examines the lives primarily of non-elite women and looks at their experiences in various city-states and regions, thus offering a different perspective from the history of aristocratic and well-to-do women in the large city-states. Drawing on a wide range of archival documentation, Cohn also relies on large sets of quantitative material to reveal a multifaceted view of women's social worlds not seen from the letters of patrician ladies or the prescriptive judgments of Renaissance moralists. Within the larger historical contexts of the Black Death, the growth of territorial states, and the Counter Reformation, Women in the Streets charts changes in law, the structure and accessibility of the criminal courts, and the customs and mentalities that shaped women's lot, from infanticide to the control of sexual mores. Ultimately, Cohn argues, women are the protagonists of this book, whether the issue is their support of other women or the resolution of conflict in the streets of Florence, the control of their own dowries or the salvation of their own souls.

In this first book to explore women's lives in medieval Italy from the sixth to the thirteenth centuries, Patricia Skinner outlines the development of women's history in Italy before exploring medieval sources for their lives. She conveys the rich variety of women's lives and experiences through new readings of the source material and newly-translated excerpts. The book is arranged chronologically, and each chapter includes a brief political overview together with a focus on key female figures in Italian history, mainly rulers, who have been neglected by surveys of medieval European women. In contrast to many treatments, the book includes substantial comparisons between the northern and southern halves of the peninsula. It also challenges some of the standard historiography on medieval Italy by demonstrating that women often did not benefit from the so-called advances in Italian political and social structures.

Bernardino of Siena (1380-1444) was one of the major religious figures of the 15th century. His charismatic preaching filled the piazzas of Italian cities, as thousands of listeners flocked to hear him and to participate in dramatic rituals, which included collective weeping, bonfires of vanities, and exorcisms. He was also a renowned peacemaker, in the Franciscan tradition, who tried to calm feuding clans and factions in the turbulent political world of the Renaissance. His preaching visits would often culminate in mass reconciliation, as listeners were persuaded to exchange the bacio di pace, or kiss of peace.