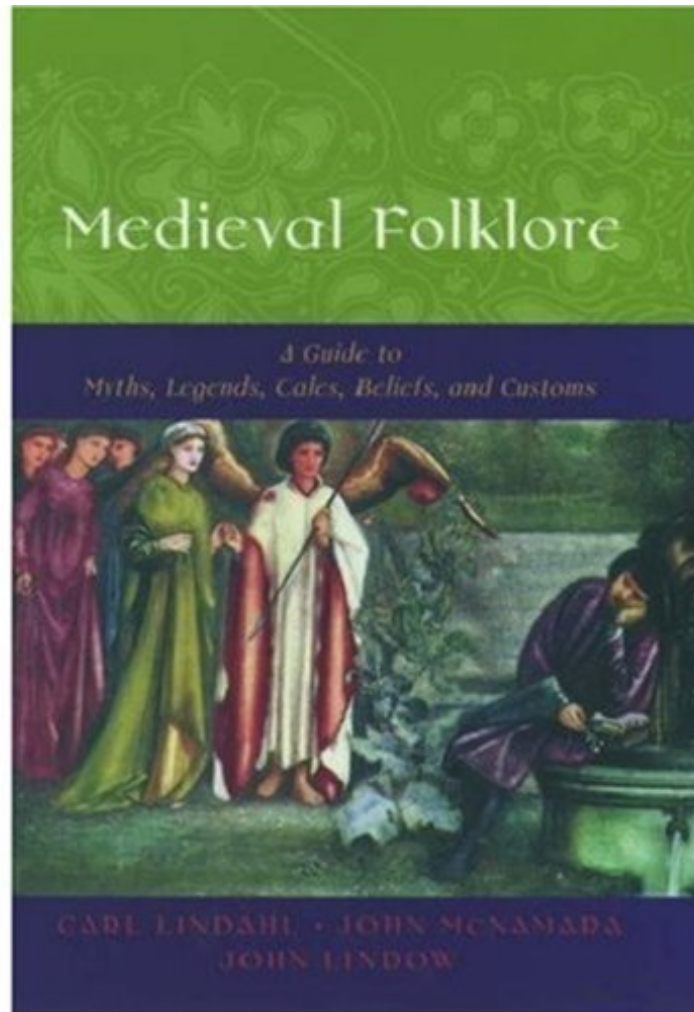


(Library ebook) Medieval Folklore: A Guide to Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs

# Medieval Folklore: A Guide to Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs

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works of fiction is the folklore that they draw upon. "Medieval Folklore" gives short articles about all sorts of topics, from specific folkloric characters (such as Prester John, the Wandering Jew, the Seven Sleepers), traditions (like Jewish, Italian, and Irish medieval folklore), motifs, works ("The Decameron," "The Seven Wise Masters"), authors (Dante Alighieri, Geoffrey Chaucer), and more. Although formatted as an encyclopedia, the writing stays lively thanks to high quality editing. Almost every page will yield an article that is interesting to the layman and the expert. I'd recommend this book to anyone with a potential interest in medieval life, history, or literature. It would be a welcomed addition to their library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. SOOOOO much information, small words make it hard to ...By Jennifer SOOOOO much information, small words make it hard to stay focused on it sometimes. Very interesting things in here though. It's worth the read, just takes some time.

[Flaps:] Over a decade in the making, *Medieval Folklore* offers a wide-ranging guide to the lore of the Middle Ages--from the mundane to the supernatural. Definitive and lively articles focus on the great tales and traditions of the age and includes information on daily and nightly customs and activities; religious beliefs of the pagan, Christian, Muslim, and Jew; key works of oral and written literature; traditional music and art; holidays and feasts; food and drink; and plants and animals, both real and fantastical. While most books on medieval folklore focus primarily on the West, this unique volume brings together an eclectic range of experts to treat the subject from a global perspective. Especially remarkable are the surveys of the major medieval traditions including Arab-Islamic, Baltic, English, Finno-Ugric, French, Hispanic, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Scandinavian, Scottish, Slavic, and Welsh. For anyone who has ever wanted a path through the tangle of Arthurian legends, or the real lowdown on St. Patrick, or the last word on wolf lore--this is the place to look. [Back:] A venerable assemblage of scholars illuminates the folklore of the medieval world and the generations that invented and sustained it. The contributors: Ulrich Marzolph -- Arab-Islamic Thomas A. DuBois -- Baltic John McNamara Carl Lindahl -- English Thomas A. DuBois -- Finno-Ugric Francesca Canad Sautman -- French Samuel G. Armistead -- Hispanic va Pcs -- Hungarian Joseph Falaky Nagy -- Irish Giuseppe C. Di Scipio -- Italian Eli Yassif -- Jewish Stephen A. Mitchell -- Scandinavian John McNamara -- Scottish Eve Levin -- Slavic Elissa R. Henken Brynley F. Roberts -- Welsh

From Library Journal Originally published in two volumes (LJ 9/15/00), this rich compendium has been streamlined to create the first one-volume companion to medieval folklore. Gathered here is a significant body of information currently available only in widely scattered sources. The 261 alphabetically arranged entries span a broad spectrum of topics, embracing major themes in folk culture and the legends and sagas of classic European literature both oral and written dating from 500 to 1500 C.E. (Only very modest attention is paid to materials from Africa, East Asia, and South Asia.) Each essay first defines the topic and then carefully addresses context, historical development, uses, motifs, and notable research. Major entries cover death, dance, music, Christmas, lesbians, funeral rituals, taverns, spirits, food, and animals in literatures from Baltic to Welsh to Jewish. Penned by 114 academic scholars, both European and American, the narratives are often ponderous and leaden, yet it must be acknowledged that within academic limits the writing is well crafted, offering insights and dimension found nowhere else. While not exhaustive, this is an extensive and fully researched work that scholars will find valuable. Richard K. Burns, MSLS, Hatboro, PA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. About the Author Carl Lindahl, author of books and articles on Chaucer, folk narrative, and festive custom, and John McNamara, who has produced many studies of the heroic and monastic lore of medieval England and Scotland, are Professors of English at the University of Houston. John Lindow is a professor at the University of California at Berkeley specializing in Scandinavian folklore and medieval studies.