



The Wisdom of the Middle Ages

Michael K. Kellogg

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This engaging survey of important works from late antiquity to the beginning of the Renaissance reveals the depth of thought and the diversity of expression that characterized the Middle Ages. Michael Kellogg demonstrates that medieval thought owes far more to ancient philosophy than is generally supposed; that poets of this era were as sophisticated and nuanced as their ancient counterparts; and that writers of this time anticipated most of the lines of inquiry that gave rise to the Renaissance.

The author examines philosophical treatises, memoirs, letters, tales, romances, and epics, documenting the unique array of evolving concerns that drove the medieval search for wisdom. Among the authors and works discussed are Augustine's *Confessions*; Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*; *Beowulf*; the writings of Abelard and Heloise, Francis of Assisi, and Thomas Aquinas; the *Song of Roland*; the Arthurian romances of Chrétien de Troyes; Dante's *Divine Comedy*; and the tales of Boccaccio and Chaucer.

Written for the lay reader, this lively overview of a flourishing era, often devalued in our time as a benighted period of history, will bring a new appreciation to the many accomplishments of the Middle Ages.

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