



Monks and Laymen in Byzantium, 843-1118

By Rosemary Morris

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In Byzantium monks did not form a separate caste, apart from society. They formed part of a nexus of social, economic and spiritual relationships that bound together the "powerful" in the middle Byzantine state. Using hagiography, chronicles and, in particular, the newly-available archives of the Athonite monasteries, this book reassesses the role of monks in Byzantine society and examines the reasons for the flowering of the monastic life in the period from the end of iconoclasm to the beginning of the twelfth century.

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Monks and Laymen in Byzantium, 843-1118 By Rosemary Morris Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4351632 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press
- Published on: 2003-11-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .79" w x 5.98" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 356 pages

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Review

"Morris has produced a study that is impressive in its scholarship, and argumentation, and in the flow of its presentation." Steven Fanning, The Historian

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"This book is a pioneering work on the life of the monk in the middle Byzantine period." Charles A. Frazee, American Historical Review

"...an impressive range of source materials....should be of vital interest to anyone studying the history of monasticism." Religious Studies Review

From the Back Cover

In Byzantium monks did not form a separate caste, apart from society. They held loyalties not only to their own houses or monastic leaders, but also formed part of a nexus of social, economic and spiritual relationships which bound together the 'powerful' in the middle Byzantine state. Monasticism displayed a highly individualistic streak, unlike the Western religious 'orders'. Using hagiography, chronicles and, in particular, the newly available archives of the Athonite monasteries, this book reassesses the role of monks in Byzantine society and examines the reasons for the flowering of the monastic life in the period from the end of iconoclasm to the beginning of the twelfth century. It is the first study of its kind in English, and is aimed at anyone interested in either the Western or the Byzantine early medieval religious life.

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