

A COMPANION TO CRIME AND DEVIANCE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

This reference work examines the ways in which some medieval behaviours and identities were categorized as criminal or deviant. It also explores the implications of modern demonization of the Middle Ages. As well as discussing constructions of deviance, this book also explores the behaviours and identities which provoked these labels and processes. The model is one of reciprocity between behaviours and processes of demonisation and criminalisation. Each authoritative essay engages carefully with this approach, examining behaviours, the ways they were demonized, and the relationship between the two processes. The three parts of the volume are centred around forms of discursive and normative power—religious ideologies, political ideologies, and legalism. The authors also explore issues of political discourse, spiritual censure, justice and punishment, and the construction of taboos.

HANNAH SKODA

is Tutorial Fellow in History at St. John's College, University of Oxford.

Both academics and students—including undergraduates—will read this and profit from it. I can see it on most compulsory reading-lists for medieval crime/deviance modules.

Christopher Wickham

All Souls College, University of Oxford

COMPANIONS
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The Arc Humanities Press Companions programme includes curated volumes that have a global perspective and that earn their shelf space by their authoritative and comprehensive content, up-to-date information, accessibility, and relevance. As well as providing an overview of the topics, contributing authors are encouraged to challenge the *status quo*, and recognize contentious issues and cutting-edge concerns. The Companions acknowledge diversity and inclusivity, and open students up to the idea that research is evolving, debatable, and contested and not always definitive.

Cover image: Detail of hedgehogs, which represented the stratagems of the devil in medieval bestiaries. From Oxford, St. John's College Library, MS 61, fol. 34v. By permission of the President and Fellows of St John's College, Oxford.