



# THE MONSTROUS MIDDLE AGES

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# Monstrous Middle Ages

**Robert E. Bjork**



## **Monstrous Middle Ages:**

**The Epistemology of the Monstrous in the Middle Ages** Lisa Verner, 2005-01-07 This book studies the phenomena of monsters and marvels from the time of Pliny the Elder through the 14th century The Monstrous Middle Ages Bettina Bildhauer, Robert Mills, 2003-01-01 The figure of the monster in medieval culture functions as a vehicle for a range of intellectual and spiritual inquiries from questions of language and representation to issues of moral theological and cultural value Monstrosity is bound up with questions of body image and deformity nature and knowledge hybridity and horror To explore a culture's attitudes to the monstrous is to comprehend one of its most important symbolic tools The Monstrous Middle Ages looks at both the representation of literal monsters and the consumption and exploitation of monstrous metaphors in a wide variety of high and late medieval cultural productions from travel writings and mystical texts to sermons manuscript illuminations and maps Individual essays explore the ways in which monstrosity shaped the construction of gender and sexual identity religious symbolism and social prejudice in the Middle Ages Reading the Middle Ages through its monsters provides an opportunity to view medieval culture from fresh perspectives The Monstrous Middle Ages will be essential reading for anyone interested in the concept of monstrosity and its significance for both medieval cultural production and contemporary critical practice *Medieval Monstrosity* Charity Urbanski, 2023-10-13 This volume examines various manifestations and understandings of the concept of monstrosity in medieval Europe around 500-1500 CE through a collection of contextual chapters and primary sources The main chapters focus on a specific theme a type of monster or representation of monstrosity and consist of a contextual essay synthesizing recent scholarship on that theme excerpts from primary sources and a bibliography of additional primary and secondary sources on the topics addressed in the chapter In addition to building upon the wealth of scholarship on monsters and monstrosity produced in recent decades the book engages with the current fascination with monsters in popular culture especially in movies television and video games The book presents a survey of medieval monstrosity for a non-specialist audience and provides a theoretical framework for interpreting the monstrous This book is ideal for undergraduate students working on the theme of monstrosity as well as being useful for undergraduate courses that cover the supernatural and manifestations of the monstrous covered in the book With materials drawn from a wide range of medieval sources it will also appeal to courses in English French Art History and Medieval Studies Lives, Identities and Histories in the Central Middle Ages Julie Barrau, David Bates, 2021-10-07 Offers a new take on the identities and life histories of medieval people in their multi-layered and sometimes contradictory dimensions

**Ritual Gone Wrong** Kathryn McClymond, 2016 Ritual theorizing has tended to focus on perfect rituals as prescribed in sacred texts yet ritual mistakes occur all the time crucial items can go missing or get broken incorrect phrases can be said In this book Kathryn McClymond examines cases in which rituals have gone wrong embracing the fact that in fact they rarely go as planned From ancient India to modern Iraq *Ritual Gone Wrong* demonstrates that ritual disruptions throughout history

reveal the fluid supply and dynamic nature of ritual      Holy Monsters, Sacred Grotesques Michael E. Heyes, 2018-08-10  
Holy Monsters Sacred Grotesques examines the intersection of religion and monstrosity in a variety of different time periods in the hopes of addressing two gaps in scholarship within the field of monster studies The first part of the volume running from the medieval to the Early Modern period focuses upon the view of the monster through non majority voices and accounts from those who were themselves branded as monsters Overlapping partially with the Early Modern and proceeding to the present day the contributions of the second part of the volume attempt to problematize the dichotomy of secular religious through a close look at the monsters this period has wrought      **The Monstrous Races in Medieval Art and Thought**

John Block Friedman, 2000-06-01 Beyond the boundaries of the known Christian world during the Middle Ages there were alien cultures that intrigued puzzled and sometimes frightened the people of Europe The reports of travelers in Africa and Asia revealed that monstrous races of men lived there whose appearance and customs were quite different from the European norm This book examines the impact of these races upon Western art literature and philosophy from their earliest mention until the age of exploration Friedman furnishes a descriptive catalog of the races most of which were real geographically remote peoples some of which were fabled creatures that served as symbols He traces the evolution of European attitudes toward them with particular emphasis on the high Middle Ages when they seem most strongly to have captured the Western imagination Ranging through literature the arts cartography canon law and theology he considers the widely varying ways in which Christians viewed and depicted strange races of men Finally he examines transformations in European consciousness brought about by the discoveries of the exotic peoples of the Americas Whatever their form pygmy giant hirsute cave dweller cyclops or Amazon the monstrous races clearly challenged the traditional concept of man in the Christian world scheme It is the medieval thinking about this challenge that Mr Friedman addresses in this revealing account

**Holiness and Masculinity in the Middle Ages** P. H. Cullum, Katherine J. Lewis, 2004 Discussions of the relationship between gender and religion most often focus attention on female religious figures In redressing this bias this collection of fourteen essays taken from a conference held at the University of Huddersfield in 2001 examines how medieval masculinity related to concepts of holiness Contents include Sexual prowess the battle for chastity and monastic identity J Murray Masculine identity in mystic marriages C D Muir Masculinity and eunuch saints in Byzantium S Tougher Holiness and masculinity in the Lives of Anglo Saxon martyr kings E Christie Monarchy martyrdom and masculinity England in the later Middle Ages W M Ormrod      **Monsters, Gender and Sexuality in Medieval English Literature** Dana Oswald, 2010 Case studies of Wonders of the East Beowulf Mandeville's Travels the Alliterative Morte Arthure and Sir Gowther reveal a shift in attitudes toward the gendered and sexed body and thus toward identity between the two periods while Old English authors and artists respond to the threat of the gendered monstrous form by erasing it Middle English writers allow transgressive and monstrous bodies to transform and therefore integrate into society This metamorphosis enables redemption for some

monsters while other monstrous bodies become dangerously flexible and invisible threatening the communities they infiltrate These changing cultural reactions to monstrous bodies demonstrate the precarious relationship between body and identity in medieval literature     *The Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages* Robert E. Bjork,2010-06-24 The Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages is an outstanding resource for anyone studying or with an interest in all aspects of European history society religion and culture from 500 to 1500 Its 5 000 plus entries written by over 800 international scholars provide uniquely broad balanced and authoritative coverage of the period     *The Legacy of the Middle Ages* Charles George Crump,Ernest Fraser Jacob,1926     *Wolves and the Wilderness in the Middle Ages* Aleksander Pluskowski,2006 This text compares responses to wolves focusing on two regions Britain and southern Scandinavia It explores the distribution of wolves in the landscape their potential impact as predators on both animals and people and their use as commodities in literature art cosmology and identity     ***The Monstrous Middle Ages*** ,     *Carleton's Household Encyclopaedia and Handbook of General Information* ,1879     ***Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*** ,2006     ***Mystics Quarterly*** ,2004     *The Fantastic in Old Norse/Icelandic Literature* John McKinnell,David Ashurst,Donata Kick,2006     ***The Monster-hunters*** Francis Rolt-Wheeler,1916  
       *Medieval Feminist Forum* ,2003

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