

discussed in chapter 4, a resource more accessible to researchers. The appendix is also indispensable to research of guilds or material objects as it includes a description of the manuscript's physical characteristics, including how folios were constructed and moved over time. Perhaps most importantly for guild historians, a list of the names entered into the guild book, alongside a key to their guild careers, is included.

This book is an informative and comprehensive guide to Egerton MS 2572 that sheds light on both the construction and demonstration of medical knowledge alongside more unusual displays of guild recording keeping. The volume is ambitious in its aims to both show the archaeological assessment of the book alongside a full transcript, which is particularly useful for research into guild records, both generally, and for those interested in medical guilds. Placing the guild in the wider medical, civic, and urban context, it shows how multiple approaches can be brought together to explain the wider role of texts as material objects.

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Susana Zapke and Elisabeth Gruber (eds.), *A Companion to Medieval Vienna*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2021. 611pp. 72 figures. Bibliography. €202.00 / \$243.00 hbk.
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Brill's Companions to European History series has for many years now created a platform for historians to present their research to a wider audience. The tone of these publications is light enough for any interested reader but at the same time each contribution also represents fundamental academic research and goes beyond the importance of textbooks. The collection has been especially fruitful for urban historians as the list of cities covered by the series keeps growing, the latest one added being medieval Vienna. The contributions in this volume were collected with the intention to introduce the city from as many aspects as the primary sources allow from c. 1100 to c. 1500. The volume is comprised of 19 chapters, starting with the introduction written by the editors, after which the chapters are grouped into four thematic parts. The book concludes with an appendix including the genealogical charts of the Babenberg and Habsburg families, a select bibliography and two indices: one listing geographical, the other collecting the personal names referenced.

The first thematic section focuses on describing the urban environment of medieval Vienna and introducing the main political events that took place in the observed period. Chapter 2 presents the primary sources that are available, providing the foundation for the entire volume, while the following chapter lays out the political configuration of the medieval city along with the social groups that formed part of it. Chapter 4 includes a detailed account of the architectural design: the importance of symbols and certain sacral buildings, while chapter 5 is an analysis

of the property market: describing how it acted as an institutional framework, which then was very much interlinked with the social framework of the city. This first section closes with a collection of maps: detailing how the city was portrayed and viewed at the time.

The second section focuses on the privileges, rights and freedoms that Vienna as a city and its citizens fought for and established. Chapter 7 describes the emergence of a legal framework that evolved from the different rights of the city of Vienna as a whole, but additionally also the privileges of certain social groups within the city walls. The following chapter introduces the economic, social and political elite of the town and their constant struggle over influence and rights with the Austrian territorial lords over the 400 years covered by the book. This part also includes an introduction of the institutional and political conditions within which the community of the urban elite was organized and carried out their everyday life. The last chapter in this section is an analysis of the waterways of medieval Vienna: their economic importance is presented based on both archaeological and documentary sources. The chapter also offers plenty of illustrations and a deep geographical insight.

The third thematic section is dedicated to examining further social groups, minorities and intellectuals. Chapter 10 reflects on the division that exists in urban space as well as the ties that can connect or heal these divisions, such as kinship, property or spiritual belonging. Chapter 11 shines a spotlight on the Jewish community and describes their existence as a key political factor, while chapters 12 and 13 shift the focus of this section towards the intellectual and scholarly groups of the town. The section closes with chapter 14 casting the social net wide and attempting to portray the everyday life of the ordinary people in medieval Vienna.

The final theme of this volume embraces medieval urban culture. Five chapters are dedicated to subjects that still form an integral part of and very much define urban life in Vienna today. Chapter 15 introduces the works of the university with the example of Greek studies. Chapter 16 describes the importance of a symbolic group of tradesmen: goldsmiths. The relevance of their activities in art as well as in trade again draws a parallel between medieval and twenty-first-century Vienna. Chapter 17 explores the urban spaces and forms of art, especially rituals that took place there, while chapter 18 narrows the focus onto performative art. Chapter 19 is dedicated to music and introduces the foundations from which Vienna evolved into the world capital of music during the following centuries.

This volume is constructed as a well-oiled machine, where the reader first gets to see the big moving parts of a political system, legislative framework and their participants. This macro view is then narrowed, where micro cultures – tradesmen, scholars and artists – are all introduced in order to see how an ordinary day in medieval Vienna might have looked. The additional aid of a top-down analysis of the social structure really paves the way for the reader towards a complete understanding of the medieval urban environment. The most significant value of this publication, however, is the collection of primary and secondary sources it references. Similarly to the recent publication of Peter Csendes and Ferdinand Opll, *Wien im Mittelalter. Zeitzeugnisse und Analysen* (Vienna and Cologne, 2021), this book is a showcase of the abundance of material that is available for historians

in the various Viennese archives. Whilst the Csendes and Opll work takes a new approach on the chronological events, *A Companion to Medieval Vienna* focuses upon multiple thematic aspects of medieval urban life.

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Geoffrey Tyack, *The Making of Our Urban Landscape*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. xv + 367pp. 144 illustrations and maps. Further Reading. £25.00 hbk. doi:10.1017/S0963926822000670

Writing during the aftermath of World War II, W.G. Hoskins lamented the despoilation of England's landscape by wartime airfields and the decline of country estates in his *Making of the English Landscape* (1955). Saturated with pastoral poetry and eighteenth-century travellers' accounts, Hoskins' nostalgic preoccupation was not with 'the foul and joyless towns' he identified as the source of contemporary barbarism, but with the evolution of the landscape from the Norman conquest. Geoffrey Tyack's *The Making of Our Urban Landscape* (2021) quietly rejects Hoskins' hatred of the 'the acid fingers of the 20th century'. Tyack unapologetically emphasizes that developments over the past two centuries 'did most to shape the urban landscapes we experience in our daily lives' (p. vi). Appropriately for a work addressing urban landscapes, Tyack explicitly incorporates the contribution of infrastructural developments to changing cityscapes, and highlights incidents where the current appearance of ancient monuments speaks more of that very twentieth-century taste for the picturesque that Hoskins embodied, rather than any architectural 'authenticity'.

There are strong parallels in this homage to Hoskins, but Tyack's tone is neither polemical nor patriotically nostalgic. Rather, he warmly introduces Britain – not exclusively England – to new generations of urban historians in an accessible manner. He immediately signals both his debt to Hoskins and his inclusive agenda through the personal pronoun in his title that expresses a desire to expand urban and landscape history to include studies of the environment more broadly, inflected by his extensive knowledge of architectural traditions. Like Hoskins' much-reprinted work, Tyack's volume is inexpensively but lavishly illustrated with monochrome plates, maps and plans: at £25 it is good value. Tyack organizes his substantial material – like Hoskins – as a straightforward chronological survey. Divided into short chapters, he traces the evolution of the relationship between the land and human architectural intervention upon it, augmented with recent archaeological discoveries, and urban geography. Like the late Mark Girouard's *The English Town* (1990), it blends art and culture with economics and urban planning; it updates and synthesizes classics as Spiro Kostof's *The City Shaped* (1999), and the fine-grained archival research of Peter Borsay's *The English Urban Renaissance* (1989). Indeed, synthesis is one of Tyack's fortes. These venerable antecedents speak of ambition, and Tyack's book is both broad in compass and minutely observed. His urban narrative starts with the Romans, and while considering major cities like London, Edinburgh,