

Summaries of articles

On certain forms of religious propaganda in the 16th century

P. DEYON

Luther frequently praised printing as a gift of God, and the protestant reformers skilfully used books, music and engraving in the service of their propaganda. The reissue of Max Geisberg's book gives us an opportunity of admiring the talent of the artists enrolled in the service of this offensive. The Catholic Church was initially caught unprepared ; it looked askance at translations of the holy books into the vernacular, and feared the widespread dissemination of theological debate. It was only later on that it developed an appropriate riposte of its own, but the history of the Parisian League does give us some idea of its effectiveness. It was around the meaning of the Eucharist that anathemas and polemics chiefly crystallized, and their opposition reflected two different conceptions of the relations between man and the divine and salvation.

The Failure of a Baroque sensibility : Rouen wills in the 18th century

P. GOUJARD

This article is concerned with the evolution of religious clauses in wills written in Rouen in the 18th century. Unlike Marseille and Paris, there were relatively few wills in Rouen. But the sample is compatible with the social composition of the city, and more so than elsewhere, it furnishes us with insight into attitudes among the lower orders. The temperament of the people of Rouen is original in that, right from the beginning of the century, it eschewed ostentatious burials. The evolution of religious clauses, on the other hand, is less unusual. In Rouen, as elsewhere, it was in this century that the demand for masses to be sung after a death dwindled. The end of the period sees the emergence, as in Paris, of a pious minority (women and men), whose social contours are loosely defined : it contains representatives of all categories of society even if, by and large, the traditionalist behaviour of the nobility and the rentier bourgeoisie stands in opposition to the rejection of the world of commerce, crafts and wage-labour.

The mass as a social institution, 1200-1700

J. BOSSY

This essay is an attempt to analyse the social implications of the mass as a ritual during the later mediaeval and early modern periods, with a view to suggesting some reasons why it came to prove unacceptable in much of Europe during the sixteenth century. After an account of the structure and ideology of the mass as expounded by mediaeval commentators, it analyses first the sacrificial element of the mass, the canon, then the sacramental aspect, the communion : the Christian community is taken to be represented segmentally in the sacrifice

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(attention is given to possible contexts for this view in the theory of sacrifice in general) and unitarily in the sacrament. The essay concludes with an exposition of the decline of social ritual (notably of the pax), both in the eucharistic rites of the Reformation and in the mass itself, from the sixteenth century onwards.

Butr and Berānis : hypotheses on the history of the Berbers

R. W. BULLIET

The division of the Berber tribes into two categories, Butr and Berānis, is much in evidence in Arabic sources pertaining to the period after the Islamic conquest of North Africa ; the division is not in evidence in earlier sources. By drawing upon data from the fields of linguistics, agricultural technology, harnessing technology, and history of costume, the conclusion may be ventured that the division between the two groups reflects important aspects of the social and economic evolution of the Berber people in the pre-Islamic period. In particular, the appearance of the Butr tribes is linked to the agricultural history of the Roman period. The hypotheses put forward also permit the harmonization of the various previous theories relating to the division of tribes.

Factorial analysis in mediaeval history : the canons of the chapter of Laon Cathedral

H. MILLET

849 canons have been identified in Laon between 1272 and 1412. The findings derived from a survey of these canons have been simply and cross-sorted, which has in turn isolated five sociological factors : social origin, family links with the Church, geographical origin, educational background and post occupied. Using corresponding data, the computer has turned out four Burt tables. The four factorial analyses conducted on the basis of these tables divide the canons into two groups according to whether or not they had enjoyed privileges at birth or not, while their functions introduce into the chapter a hierarchy modelled on that of university posts.