Conclusion
MARTIN GOODMAN

in Rabbinic Texts and the History of Late-Roman Palestine

This concluding chapter sums up the key findings of this study on the application of rabbinic literature in studying the history of late-Roman Palestine. It has been demonstrated that a great deal of evidence preserved within the rabbinic tradition in medieval manuscripts originated in the Roman provinces of Palestine between c.200 and c.700 CE. It was also shown that rabbinic texts, even at their most reliable, can only provide a very partial glimpse of late-Roman Palestine. This chapter also highlights the inherent problems using rabbinic texts as historical source and suggests ways to overcome them.

Byzantines and Crusaders in Non-Greek Sources, 1025-1204
Mary Whitby (ed.)

These chapters survey the range of historical sources from the peoples who collided with the Byzantine Empire during this period of dramatic upheaval. The Empire that had been expanded and consolidated by Basil II (d. 1025) was to disintegrate in the face of incursions from the north and Muslim east. In addition, pilgrims and crusaders from the west passed through the Empire and settled – culminating in the capture of Constantinople by the Fourth Crusade in 1204. In order to understand the history of the region during this period, one must be aware of the rich source material created by these shifting populations, in a wide range of languages, and with differing traditions of historical writing. The 14 chapters give an overview of the material, highlighting any problems the historian may have in dealing with it, and provide detailed bibliographical
surveys. Latin, Arabic, Jewish, Slavonic, Georgian, Armenian, and Syriac sources are all discussed.

Processing the Past
Francis X. Blouin, Jr and William G. Rosenberg

Published in print: 2011 Published Online: May 2011
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: book

The worlds of historians and archivists used to converge around shared understandings of “authoritative” history. This book explores the dramatic changes that have split them apart. Written by an archivist and a historian for the general reader as well as specialists, it shows how shared notions of historical authority and the evidentiary power of archival documentation have given way to radically different approaches to processing the past. New historical thinking, new conceptions of archives, changing notions of historical authority, modifications in archival practices, and new information technologies have opened an “archival divide.” This book situates archives as subjects rather than places of study. It explores how active archivists have long shaped historical knowledge through processes of appraisal, description, and access that have become increasingly contingent and problematic. For historians and those interested in history, the book explains the challenges archivists face in managing both traditional and digital documentation. It examines how archives have traditionally acquired and processed materials deemed “archival” and the changes wrought by the explosive growth of documents of all sorts. For archivists and others, it explores the demands of contemporary historical enquiry, including those relating to social memory, identity politics, and changing conceptions of historical “truth,” and their implications for archival research. For all readers this volume raises the worrisome question of what future historical archives might be like if scholars and archivists no longer understand each other, and indeed, whether their now different notions of what is properly archival and historical will ever again be joined.

Rabbinic Literature and the History of Judaism in Late Antiquity: Challenges, Methodologies and New Approaches
MOSHE LAVEE

in Rabbinic Texts and the History of Late-Roman Palestine
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: January 2012
Publisher: British Academy
Item type: chapter
This chapter examines the methodologies, new approaches, and challenges in the use of rabbinic literature to study the history of Judaism in late antiquity. It provides some examples that demonstrate some of the issues concerning the applicability of rabbinic literature to the study of Judaism in late-Roman Palestine. It concludes that rabbinic literature can serve as a historical source, especially when read indirectly and through the lens of well-defined theoretical frameworks, and when perceived as a rabbinic cultural product that reflects delicate, sophisticated and hardly recoverable relationships between text and reality.

**Georgian Sources**

Stephen H. Jr. Rapp

in Byzantines and Crusaders in Non-Greek Sources, 1025-1204

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: January 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses Georgian sources, beginning with a section on contemporary narrative historical sources. Comments on their utility for prosopographical data are provided and described, followed by a synopsis of other relevant contemporary Georgian-language sources. The chapter ends with a discussion of the current state of historical scholarship in Georgian and comments on the scholarly researches that would be of primary interest to prosopographers.

**Analyzing and Interpreting Historical Sources: A Basic Methodology**

Matthias Kipping, R. Daniel Wadhwani, and Marcelo Bucheli

in Organizations in Time: History, Theory, Methods

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: January 2014
Item type: chapter

This chapter outlines a methodology for the interpretation of historical sources, helping to realize their full potential for the study of organization, while overcoming their challenges in terms of distortions created by time, changes in context, and selective production or preservation. Drawing on social scientific methods as well as the practice and reflections of historians, the chapter describes analytical and interpretive process based on three basic elements, illustrating
them with exemplars from management research: source criticism to identify possible biases and judge the extent to which a source can be trusted to address the research question; triangulation with additional sources to confirm or question an interpretation and strengthen the overall findings; hermeneutics to relate sources to their original contexts and make their interpretation by a researcher today more robust. The chapter contributes to the creation of a language for describing the use of historical sources in management research.

Historical Sources and Data
Kenneth Lipartito

in Organizations in Time: History, Theory, Methods

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: January 2014
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: chapter

This chapter introduces readers to historical sources and how they may be both useful and challenging in historical research on organizations and markets. The chapter explains how historical sources are identified and used in different ways than ‘data’ in hypothesis testing research methods. Specifically, the chapter discusses how to identify and evaluate primary sources, including relevant archives and business records, as well as how to analyze them in relation to secondary sources. Drawing on archival theory, the chapter also highlights the issues scholars should take into consideration when asking why and how historical records have been preserved for researchers to use. The chapter concludes with a discussion of how to represent these sources in organization and management publications.

The Use of Historical Sources in War and Peace
Dan Ungurianu

in Tolstoy On War: Narrative Art and Historical Truth in “War and Peace”

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: August 2016
Publisher: Cornell University Press
Item type: chapter

This chapter revisits the historical basis of War and Peace and outlines the scope of Leo Tolstoy's sources, his treatment of historical material, and its implications for the overall artistic system of the novel. It also examines the arguments of skeptics who question Tolstoy's historical accuracy. Most critics who address the problem of historical sources in
War and Peace fall into two opposing camps: the skeptics who question almost every historical aspect of War and Peace, exposing what they see as Tolstoy's meager preparation and considerable license in his handling of sources; and those who, taking Tolstoy's assurances at face value, speak of the novel's colossal factual foundation owing to which the words and deeds of historical characters are rendered in complete accordance with the truth of history.

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Backgrounds and Development

Elliott Antokoletz

in Musical Symbolism in the Operas of Debussy and Bartok

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2008
Item type: chapter

This chapter explores the historical sources of dramatic symbolism and its philosophical and psychological foundations, based on new tendencies in literature, psychology, and music. It discusses psychiatric reconceptualization of trauma in the late 19th century, its relevance to symbolic meaning of the new musical language, and the language of trauma. The chapter also addresses cross-sensory analogies, metaphors, and synesthesia, all of which contribute to symbolist opera as a modern phenomenon.

A Forger Observed

Alfred P. Smyth

in King Alfred the Great

Published in print: 1995 Published Online: October 2011
Item type: chapter

This chapter conducts a study of Byrhtferth of Ramsey's working methods and handling of historical sources to shed light on how the Life of King Alfred is constructed. It notes that the Pseudo-Asser has certain definitive and crucial organizational and stylistic features in common with all the known major works of Byrhtferth. It observes that both writers indulge in lengthy digressions which frequently bear little relationship to the main body of narrative and whose raison d'être within the text is to conceal the author's glaring lack of information on his chosen subject. It further observes that alternatively, such digressions, although
relevant to the work as a whole, have been inserted at the wrong point in the discussion due to the writer's haste or because of his gross lack of organizational ability.

Relighting the Torch of European Antiquity
Paul U. Unschuld

in What Is Medicine?: Western and Eastern Approaches to Healing
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: May 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter sheds light on the developments of the Early Middle Ages in Europe. Jacob Burckhardt called the Middle Ages, an era in which the life was very colorful and rich. The remaining historical sources are unclear. The Renaissance in Europe occurred under entirely different preconditions, and was not a rebirth in the literal sense of something dead being revitalized. The ancient medicine had indeed passed away in late antiquity and the Early Middle Ages but medicine had not totally disappeared. It is easy to understand why medieval medicine narrowed ancient medicine down to only the fraction that might suffice to treat common afflictions. One could list the impulses for the so-called European Renaissance in Italy from about 1350. There were so many changes in the political landscape there that it affected thinking in art, literature, architecture, and science. The original Greek sources were translated into the conventional Latin in the twelfth century. Greeks were still present as mediators in southern Italy in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Introduction
Nancy Shoemaker

in A Strange Likeness: Becoming Red and White in Eighteenth-Century North America
Published in print: 2004 Published Online: September 2007
Item type: chapter

This book's most valuable sources were the Indian speeches recorded during 18th-century diplomatic councils held between American Indians and Europeans. These speeches give an Indian voice in a time period when they left few written records of their own. The methodology of this book is based on an analysis of these speeches along with other
documents attuned to speakers' and writers' choices of metaphor and systems of categorization.

**Majnūn: The Madman in Medieval Islamic Society**
Michael W. Dols

Published in print: 1992 Published Online:  
October 2011  
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198202219.001.0001


Item type: book

This is a study of madness in the medieval Islamic world. Using a wide variety of sources from history, literature, and art, the book explores beliefs about madness in Islamic society and examines attitudes towards individuals afflicted by mental illness or disability. The book demonstrates the links between Christian and Muslim medical beliefs and practices, and traces the influence of certain Christian beliefs, such as miracle working, on Islamic practices. It analyses the notions of the romantic fool, the wise fool, and the holy fool in medieval Islam within the framework of perceptions of mental illness, and shows that the madman was not regarded as a pariah, an outcast, or a scapegoat. This book's examination of magic, medicine, and religion helps to open up our understanding of medieval Islamic society.

**Roots of a Network**
Adam M. Schor

in Theodoret's People: Social Networks and Religious Conflict in Late Roman Syria

Published in print: 2011 Published Online:  
March 2012  
DOI: 10.1525/california/9780520268623.003.0004


Item type: chapter

This chapter explores the origins of the Antiochene network by analyzing the heritage that Theodoret of Cyrrhus depicted in works of history. It traces Theodoret's account of his heroic predecessors and compares it to other historical sources. The analysis reveals that Theodoret's writings celebrate his Nicene clerical forebears and argues that his narrative must be placed in historiographical context. It explains that his depictions made sense of developments in Antiochene doctrine and in Syrian clerical-ascetic relations.
This chapter shows how Higuera’s conversations with other learned men, and his unique place in the Spanish Republic of Letters, help explain not only the genesis of his project, but also its success, as his friends became the texts’ first proponents. The role of Higuera’s friends, acquaintances, and other learned correspondents in providing historical information, apocryphal and otherwise, makes his chronicles a record of scholarly collaboration and correspondence, and not simply the record of one man’s overheated religious imagination. Higuera’s learned networks help reveal his methods and sources; they also point toward Higuera’s own understanding of what he was doing, and why.

Joyce's Sermon on Hell
James R. Thrane

This chapter focuses on the sermon on the historical source and background of Joyce's sermon on hell, as explained in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. The primary, and probably the solely, printed source of this sermon was the English version of an Italian tract called in translation Hell Opened to Christians, To Caution Them from Entering into It, written by Giovanni Pietro Pinamonti, a seventeenth-century Jesuit. Hell Opened to Christians, following a traditional pattern in devotional literature, consisting of seven daily “Considerations” or meditations, each analyzed, somewhat arbitrarily, under three points and concluding with a short prayer to a different sacred personage. Joyce's version emerges less as an abridgment than as a synopsis or précis, tersely setting forth under seven points what Pinamonti develops leisurely under twenty-one with more-than-ample exempla, analogies, cited authorities, synonymous repetitions, and overwhelming questions.
This essay outlines the historical and political context for the breakdown in Anglo-Scottish relations that culminated in the Battle of Flodden and describes the unfolding and aftermath of the battle itself. A table of dates for these events is helpfully provided. The essay then examines Scott’s fictional narrative timeline and the blend of historical characters and character prototypes presented in Marmion. It identifies the literary and historical sources that Scott drew upon most extensively when writing the poem and concludes with a brief discussion of the purpose of the verse epistles.

This chapter sketches some of the methods and sources that scholars use to reconstruct the history of the emotions. It considers some challenges historians face when studying emotions, as they try to pinpoint both what they are studying and how to study it. The feeling itself would be long gone, after all, as well as the person who experienced it. The chapter addresses these issues by first examining the contested connection between feelings and words. It then turns its attention to an equally thorny issue—the relationship between emotional norms and individual emotional experience. Finally, the chapter considers the sources that scholars have available to them, and the creative ways that historians use them to understand the past.
Introduction
Hoda A. Yousef

in Composing Egypt: Reading, Writing, and the Emergence of a Modern Nation, 1870-1930

Published in print: 2016 Published Online: January 2017
Item type: chapter

This chapter introduces the idea of gendered public literacies; that is, broad-based literacies that changed the contours of public spaces and had lasting implications for gendered uses of literacy. These three lenses are central to the process of unpacking the influence of Arabic language reforms, women’s roles in public life, protests and activism, and education among a broader segment of Egyptians—not just among the educated elite. The introduction also details the sources and methodology of this study and provides some historical background on Egypt during this period.

Religion in Secular Archives
Sonja Luehrmann

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: August 2015
Item type: book

Russian archives contain a wealth of information on religiosity during the Soviet era, but most of it is written from the hostile perspective of officials and scholars charged with promoting atheism. Based on archival research in locations as diverse as the multi-religious Volga region, Moscow, and Texas, this book argues that much can be learned about Soviet religiosity by a focus not just on what documents say but also on what their originators did. Especially during the post-war decades (1950s–1970s), the puzzle of religious persistence under socialism challenged atheists to develop new approaches to studying and theorizing religion while also trying to control it. Examining the logic of filing systems as well as the content of documents, the book shows how documentary action made religious believers firmly a part of Soviet society while simultaneously casting them as ideologically alien. When juxtaposed with oral, printed, and samizdat (literally “self-publish”) sources, the records of institutions such as the Council of Religious Affairs and the Communist Party take on a dialogical quality. In distanced and circumscribed form, they preserve traces of encounters with religious believers. By contrast, collections compiled by Western supporters during
the Cold War sometimes lack this ideological friction, recruiting Soviet believers into a deceptively simple binary of religion versus communism. Through careful readings and comparisons of different documentary genres and depositories, this book opens up a difficult set of sources to students of religion and secularism.