

CRUSADERS
AND CRUSADING
IN THE TWELFTH
CENTURY



Giles Constable

Crusaders and Crusading in the Twelfth Century

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Crusading in the twelfth century was less a series of discrete events than a manifestation of an endemic phenomenon that touched almost every aspect of life at that time. The defense of Christendom and the recovery of the Holy Land were widely-shared objectives. Thousands of men, and not a few women, participated in the crusades, including not only those who took the cross but many others who shared the costs and losses, as well as the triumphs of the crusaders.

This volume contains not a narrative account of the crusades in the twelfth century, but a group of studies illustrating many aspects of crusading that are often passed over in narrative histories, including the courses and historiography of the crusades, their background, ideology, and finances, and how they were seen in Europe. Included are revised and updated versions of Giles Constable's classic essays on medieval crusading, along with two major new studies on the cross of the crusaders and the Fourth Crusade, and two excursions on the terminology of crusading and the numbering of the crusades. They provide an opportunity to meet some individual crusaders, such as Odo Arpinus, whose remarkable career carried him from France to the east and back again, and whose legendary exploits in the Holy Land were recorded in the Old French crusade cycle. Other studies take the reader to the boundaries of Christendom in Spain and Portugal and in eastern Germany, where the campaigns against the Wends formed part of the wider crusading movement. Together they show the range and depth of crusading at that time and its influence on the broader history of the period.

Contents

Introduction; The historiography of the crusades; The cross of the crusaders; Medieval charters as a source for the history of the crusades; The financing of the crusades; The place of the crusader in medieval society; The military orders; Cluny and the First Crusade; Early crusading in Eastern Germany: the Magdeburg charter of 1107/8; The three lives of Odo Arpinus: Viscount of Bourges, crusader, monk of Cluny; The Second Crusade as seen by contemporaries; Two notes on the Anglo-Flemish crusaders of 1147-8; Crusading project of 1150; The Fourth Crusade; Appendices: The terminology of crusading; The numbering of the crusades; Indexes.

About the Author

Giles Constable is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA

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