

2-1-2019

Review of John of Salisbury and the Medieval Roman Renaissance

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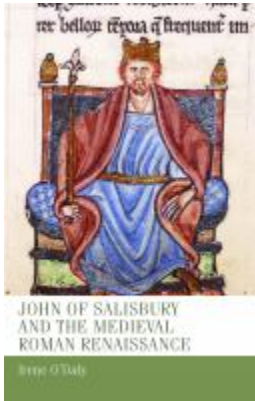
Citation Information

Maxson, Brian Jeffrey. 2019. Review of John of Salisbury and the Medieval Roman Renaissance. *Choice*. Vol.56(6). ISSN: 0009-4978

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Review of John of Salisbury and the Medieval Roman Renaissance

[John of Salisbury and the medieval Roman Renaissance](#)



[O'Daly, Irene](#). Manchester University Press, 2018

244p bibl index, 9781526109491 \$115.00, 9781526109521

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O'Daly (Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands) offers a contextualized history of the political thought of John of Salisbury. She argues that he used ancient sources often filtered through Christian intermediaries to create unique ideas about political ethics, duty, and community. John was heavily influenced by ancient stoics, whose ideas he usually encountered through patristic writers, medieval compilations, and classical authors such as Cicero and Seneca. O'Daly uses methodologies developed by the Cambridge School of Intellectual History to reconstruct the most likely specific texts to which John had access. After a chapter exploring John's source material, the book turns to unpacking the key characteristics of John's thought. In chapters 2, 3, and 4, O'Daly shows how John combined Roman stoic thought with Christianity to create a rational conception of political duty that extended through entire communities. In the final two chapters, the book shows the application of these ideas to conceptions of just rule and practical examples through which John lived and on which he commented. This thoughtful study will interest specialists of medieval thought and politics.

Summing Up: Recommended. Advanced undergraduates and above.

Reviewer: [B. J. Maxson](#), East Tennessee State University

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Humanities - Philosophy](#)

Choice Issue: feb 2019 vol. 56 no. 6

Choice Review #: 56-2295