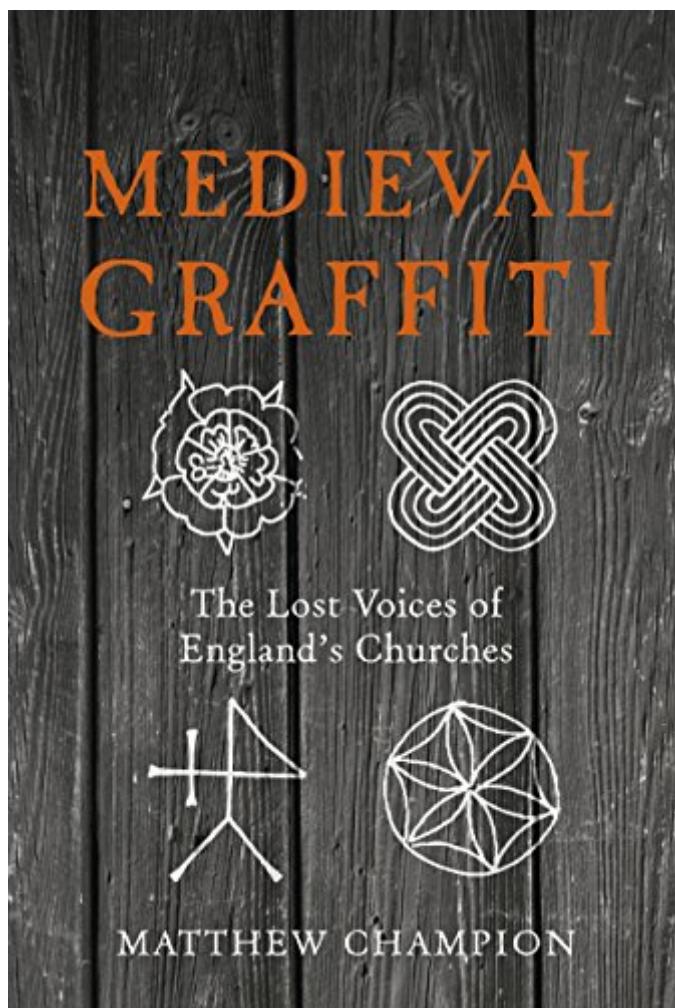


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Medieval Graffiti: The Lost Voices Of England's Churches



Synopsis

For centuries carved writings and artworks in churches lay largely unnoticed. So archaeologist Matthew Champion started a nationwide survey to gather the best examples. In this book he shines a spotlight on a forgotten world of ships, prayers for good fortune, satirical cartoons, charms, curses, windmills, word puzzles, architectural plans and heraldic designs. Drawing on examples from surviving medieval churches in England, the author gives a voice to the secret graffiti artists: from the lord of the manor and the parish priest to the people who built the church itself. Here are strange medieval beasts, knights battling unseen dragons, ships sailing across lime-washed oceans and demons who stalk the walls. Latin prayers for the dead jostle with medieval curses, builders' accounts and slanderous comments concerning a long-dead archdeacon. Strange and complex geometric designs, created to ward off the 'evil eye' and thwart the works of the devil, share church pillars with the heraldic shields of England's medieval nobility.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Marvelous book. Targeted to a small audience, Matthew Champion has written an informative and explanatory treatise on the interpretation of medieval church graffiti. The only thing it needs is more illustrations.

Interesting and informative book on the medieval mind without getting too bogged down with teaching history or architecture. I purchased before my trip to the UK and had fun trying to spot Medieval graffiti!

This a fascinating book, once you've been hooked on this medieval graffiti lark, it's impossible to go into a church without scanning any available surface in search of some inscription, left by a person, who had something to say all those centuries ago.

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