

appreciation of the crucial role that bishops played in the social and political order of Castile, and indeed of all Latin Christendom, in the age of Alfonso VIII.

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A Female Apostle in Medieval Italy: The Life of Clare of Rimini.
 Edited by Jacques Dalarun, Sean L. Field, and Valerio Cappozzo.
 Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023. 192 pp. \$99.95
 hardcover; \$29.95 paperback.

Both experts and students will find a wealth of value in this translation of and extended commentary upon *The Life of Clare of Rimini*. Jacques Dalarun, Sean L. Field, and Valerio Cappozzo bring needed attention to Clare of Rimini (d. c. 1324-1329), one of the many women in late medieval Italy who, inspired by the widely popular *vita apostolica* movement, garnered a community of devotees and saintly cult for her extraordinary religious life. But as the authors make clear, there is much about Clare and her *vita* to distinguish her from those other women. Clare's *vita* is not only likely the first saint's life to be written originally in Italian but also composed while Clare was still alive. Using an effective methodological structure, the authors divide each of the book's twelve chapters to correspond with the twelve chapters of the *vita*. Following each chapter of the translated *vita* is a brief essay discussing the historical, religious, and literary issues raised by that bit of the *vita*. This structure allows the authors to navigate brilliantly between introducing students to many aspects of late medieval religious history as well as to the challenges and rewards of close primary source analysis. But, at the same time, the contextual essays also provide more expert readers with a deep understanding of how Clare's life and *vita* stand as a complex navigation of apostolic ideals amid the growing institutional church and mendicant orders. This text is essential for those teaching and studying the rich historical moment.

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The Fruit of Her Hands: Jewish and Christian Women's Work in Medieval Catalan Cities. By Sarah Ifft Decker. Iberian Encounter and Exchange, 475–1755. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2022. 233 pp. \$104.95 hardcover.

This excellent book by Sarah Ifft Decker provides original research and a renewed perspective on Jewish and Christian women's mostly fiscal household work in three Catalan cities, Barcelona, Girona, and Vic, from the late thirteenth to the early- to mid-