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The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Archaeology - David K. Pettegrew 2019

"This handbook brings together work by leading scholars of the archaeology of early Christianity in the Mediterranean and surrounding regions. The 34 essays to this volume ground the history, culture, and society of the first seven centuries of Christianity in the latest currents of archaeological method, theory, and research."--

The Temple of Peace in Rome - Pier Luigi Tucci 2017-11-16

In this magisterial two-volume book, Pier Luigi Tucci offers a comprehensive examination of one of the key complexes of Ancient Rome, the Temple of Peace. Based on archival research and an architectural survey, his research sheds new light on the medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque transformations of the basilica, and the later restorations of the complex. Volume 1 focuses on the foundation of the complex under Vespasian until its restoration under Septimius Severus and challenges the accepted views about the ancient building. Volume 2 begins with the remodelling of the library hall and the construction of the rotunda complex, and examines the dedication of the Christian Basilica of SS Cosmas and Damian. Of interest to scholars in a range of topics, The Temple of Peace in Rome crosses the boundaries between classics, archaeology, history of architecture, and art history, through Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the early modern period.

Archaeology of Iran in the Historical Period - Kamal-Aldin Niknami 2020-05-22

This collection of twenty-eight essays presents an up-to-date survey of pre-Islamic Iran, from the earliest dynasty of Illam to the end of Sasanian empire, encompassing a rich diversity of peoples and cultures. Historically, Iran served as a bridge between the earlier Near Eastern cultures and the later classical world of the Mediterranean, and had a profound influence on political, military, economic, and cultural aspects of the ancient world. Written by international scholars and drawing mainly on the field of practical archaeology, which traditionally has shared little in the way of theories and methods, the book provides crucial pieces to the puzzle of the national identity of Iranian cultures from a historical perspective. Revealing the wealth and splendor of ancient Iranian society - its rich archaeological data and sophisticated artistic craftsmanship - most of which has never before been presented outside of Iran, this beautifully illustrated book presents a range of studies addressing specific aspects of Iranian archaeology to show why the artistic masterpieces of ancient Iranians rank among the finest ever produced. Together, the authors analyze how archaeology can inform us about our cultural past, and what remains to still be discovered in this important region.

The Routledge Handbook of Early Christian Art - Robin M. Jensen 2018-05-20

The Routledge Handbook of Early Christian Art surveys a broad spectrum of Christian art produced from the late second to the sixth centuries. The first part of the book opens with a general survey of the subject and then presents fifteen essays that discuss specific media of visual art—catacomb paintings, sculpture, mosaics, gold glass, gems, reliquaries, ceramics, icons, ivories, textiles, silver, and illuminated manuscripts. Each is written by a noted expert in the field. The second part of the book takes up themes relevant to the study of early Christian art. These seven chapters consider the ritual practices in decorated spaces, the emergence of

images of Christ's Passion and miracles, the functions of Christian secular portraits, the exemplary mosaics of Ravenna, the early modern history of Christian art and archaeology studies, and further reflection on this field called "early Christian art." Each of the volume's chapters includes photographs of many of the objects discussed, plus bibliographic notes and recommendations for further reading. The result is an invaluable introduction to and appraisal of the art that developed out of the spread of Christianity through the late antique world.

Undergraduate and graduate students of late classical, early Christian, and Byzantine culture, religion, or art will find it an accessible and insightful orientation to the field. Additionally, professional academics, archivists, and curators working in these areas will also find it valuable as a resource for their own research, as well as a textbook or reference work for their students.

Encyclopedia of Early Christianity, Second Edition - Everett Ferguson 2013-10-08

First published in 1990. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

The Apostles in Early Christian Art and Poetry - Roald Dijkstra 2016-01-12

In The Apostles in Early Christian Art and Poetry the relation between visual and poetic images of Christ's closest followers is discussed from the time of the first Christian figural images and poetry till the political end of the undivided Roman Empire (250-400).

Ante Pacem - Graydon F. Snyder 2003

Early Christianity emerged from obscurity to dominate the Roman world: that story, told and retold, continues to fascinate historians and believers. But the religion of ordinary Christians is not so well or easily known; they have left us no literary record of their faith and their hope, their marrying and their dying, their worship and their common life. Before the publication of "Ante Pacem there was no introduction or source-book for early Christian archaeology available in English. With his book Professor Snyder has performed an incalculable service for students of early Christianity and the world of late antiquity. He analyzes in one lavishly illustrated volume every piece of evidence that can, with some degree of assurance, be dated before the triumph of the emperor Constantine at the Milvian Bridge in 312CE thrust the nascent Christian culture "into a universal role as the formal religious expression of the Roman Empire."

Religious Diversity in Late Antiquity - 2010-05-17

This volume in the ongoing Late Antique Archaeology series draws on material and textual evidence to explore the diverse religious world of Late Antiquity. Subjects include Jews and Samaritans, orthodoxy and heresy, pilgrimage, stylites, magic, the sacred and the secular.

Journal of Theological Studies - 1900

Rivista di archeologia cristiana - 1924

St Paul's outside the Walls - Nicola Camerlenghi 2018-08-31

This volume examines one of Rome's most influential churches: the principal basilica dedicated to St Paul. Nicola Camerlenghi traces nearly two thousand years of physical transformations to the church, from before its construction in the fourth century, to its reconstruction following a fire in 1823. By recounting this long history, he restores the building to its rightful place as a

central, active participant in epochal political and religious shifts in Rome and across Christendom, as well as a protagonist in western art and architectural history. Camerlenghi also examines how buildings in general trigger memories and anchor meaning, and how and why buildings endure, evolve and remain relevant in cultural contexts far removed from the moment of their inception. At its core, Saint Paul exemplifies the concept of building as process, not product: a process deeply interlinked with religion, institutions, history, cultural memory and the arts. This study also includes state-of-the-art digital reconstructions synthesizing a wealth of historical evidence to visualize and analyze the earlier (now lost) stages of the building's history, offering glimpses into heretofore unexamined parts of its long, rich life.

The Roman Martyrs - Michael Lapidge 2018

The Roman Martyrs contains translations of forty Latin *passiones* of saints who were martyred in Rome or its near environs, during the period before the peace of the Church (c. 312). Some of the Roman martyrs are universally known—St. Agnes, Sebastian or Laurence, for example—but others are scarcely recognized outside the ecclesiastical landscape of Rome itself. Each of the translated *passiones* is accompanied by an individual introduction and commentary; the translations are preceded by an Introduction which describes the principal features of this little-known genre of Christian literature, and are followed by five Appendices which present translated texts which are essential for understanding the cult of Roman martyrs. This volume offers the first collection of the Roman *passiones martyrum* translated into a modern language. They were mostly composed during the period 425-675, by anonymous authors who were presumably clerics of the Roman churches or cemeteries which housed the martyrs' remains. It is clear that they were composed in response to the explosion of pilgrim traffic to martyrial shrines from the late fourth century onwards, at a time when authentic records (protocols) of their trials and executions had long since vanished, and the authors of the *passiones* were obliged to imagine the circumstances in which martyrs were tried and executed. The *passiones* are works of fiction; and because they abound in ludicrous errors of chronology, they have been largely ignored by historians of the early Church. Although they cannot be used as evidence for the original martyrdoms, they nevertheless allow a fascinating glimpse of the concerns which animated Christians during the period in question: for example, the preservation of virginity, or the ever-present threat posed by pagan practices. As certain aspects of Roman life will have changed little between the second century and the fifth, the *passiones* shed valuable light on many aspects of Roman society, not least the nature of a trial before an urban prefect, and the horrendous tortures which were a central feature of such trials. The *passiones* are an indispensable resource for understanding the topography of late antique Rome and its environs, as they characteristically contain detailed reference to the places where the martyrs were tried, executed, and buried.

Commemorating the Dead - Laurie Brink 2008-12-10

Commemorating the Dead analyzes and interprets the material remains of Roman period burials in light of ancient texts. Is the move from columbaria to catacombs the result of evolving religious identities or simply a matter of a change in fashions? What Greco-Roman and Jewish funerary images were “baptized” as Christian ones? In Commemorating the Dead, archaeologists, Roman historians, and scholars of Judaism and Early Christianity engage in a cross-disciplinary conversation on the impact of Roman and Jewish burial customs on the creation of early Christian memorial practices.

Christians in Caesar's Household - Michael Flexsenhar III 2020-02-28

In this volume, Michael Flexsenhar III advances the argument that imperial slaves and freedpersons in the Roman Empire were essential to early Christians' self-conception as a distinct people in the Mediterranean and played a multifaceted role in the making of early Christianity. Scholarship in early Christianity has for centuries viewed Roman emperors' slaves and freedmen as responsible for ushering Christianity onto the world stage, traditionally using Paul's allusion to “the saints from Caesar's household” in Philippians 4:22 as a core literary lens.

Merging textual and material evidence with diaspora and memory studies, Flexsenhar expands on this narrative to explore new and more nuanced representations of this group, showing how the long-accepted stories of Christian slaves and freedpersons in Caesar's household should not be taken at face value but should instead be understood within the context of Christian myth- and meaning-making. Flexsenhar analyzes textual and material evidence from the first to the sixth century, spanning Roman Asia, the Aegean rim, Gaul, and the coast of North Africa as well as the imperial capital itself. As a result, this book shows how stories of the emperor's slaves were integral to key developments in the spread of Christianity, generating origin myths in Rome and establishing a shared history and geography there, differentiating and negotiating assimilation with other groups, and expressing commemorative language, ritual acts, and a material culture. With its thoughtful critical readings of literary and material sources and its fresh analysis of the lived experiences of imperial slaves and freedpersons, *Christians in Caesar's Household* is indispensable reading for scholars of early Christianity, the origins of religion, and the Roman Empire.

Rome in the Eighth Century - John Osborne 2020-05-31

This book addresses a critical era in the history of the city of Rome, the eighth century CE. This was the moment when the bishops of Rome assumed political and administrative responsibility for the city's infrastructure and the physical welfare of its inhabitants, in the process creating the papal state that still survives today. John Osborne approaches this using the primary lens of 'material culture' (buildings and their decorations, both surviving and known from documents and/or archaeology), while at the same time incorporating extensive information drawn from written sources. Whereas written texts are comparatively few in number, recent decades have witnessed an explosion in new archaeological discoveries and excavations, and these provide a much fuller picture of cultural life in the city. This methodological approach of using buildings and objects as historical documents is embodied in the phrase 'history in art'.

Rome's Holy Mountain - Jason Moralee 2018

"Rome's Holy Mountain is the first book to chart the history of the Capitoline Hill in Late Antiquity, from the third to the seventh centuries CE. It investigates both the lived-in and dreamed-of realities of the hill in an era of fundamental political, religious, and social change" --

The Expansion of Christianity - Roderic Mullen 2003-12-01

This complete list of known early Christian communities provides references to the original sources for the diffusion of earliest Christianity.

Through the Eye of a Needle - Peter Brown 2013-09-02

A sweeping intellectual history of the role of wealth in the church in the last days of the Roman Empire Jesus taught his followers that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven. Yet by the fall of Rome, the church was becoming rich beyond measure. Through the Eye of a Needle is a sweeping intellectual and social history of the vexing problem of wealth in Christianity in the waning days of the Roman Empire, written by the world's foremost scholar of late antiquity. Peter Brown examines the rise of the church through the lens of money and the challenges it posed to an institution that espoused the virtue of poverty and called avarice the root of all evil. Drawing on the writings of major Christian thinkers such as Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome, Brown examines the controversies and changing attitudes toward money caused by the influx of new wealth into church coffers, and describes the spectacular acts of divestment by rich donors and their growing influence in an empire beset with crisis. He shows how the use of wealth for the care of the poor competed with older forms of philanthropy deeply rooted in the Roman world, and sheds light on the ordinary people who gave away their money in hopes of treasure in heaven. Through the Eye of a Needle challenges the widely held notion that Christianity's growing wealth sapped Rome of its ability to resist the barbarian invasions, and offers a fresh perspective on the social history of the church in late antiquity.

Christianity in Roman Africa - J. Patout Burns 2014-11-30

In-depth, illustrated exploration of how early North African Christians lived out their faith Using a combination of literary and archeological evidence, this in-depth, illustrated book documents the development of Christian practices and doctrine in Roman Africa -- contemporary Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco -- from the second century through the Arab conquest in the seventh century. Robin Jensen and Patout Burns, in collaboration with Graeme W. Clarke, Susan T. Stevens, William Tabbernee, and Maureen A. Tilley, skillfully reconstruct the rituals and practices of Christians in the ancient buildings and spaces where those practices were performed. Numerous site drawings and color photographs of the archeological remains illuminate the discussions. This work provides valuable new insights into the church fathers Tertullian, Cyprian, and Augustine. Most significantly, it offers a rich, unprecedented look at early Christian life in Roman Africa, including the development of key rituals and practices such as baptism and eucharist, the election and ordination of leaders, marriage, and burial. In exploring these, Christianity in Roman Africa shows how the early African Christians consistently fought to preserve the holiness of the church amid change and challenge.

Papers in Italian Archaeology VII: The Archaeology of Death - Edward Herring 2018-08-13
This volume collects more than 60 papers by contributors from the British Isles, Italy and other parts of continental Europe, and North and South America, focussing on recent developments in Italian archaeology from the Neolithic to the modern period.

"Death, Torture and the Broken Body in European Art, 1300-1650" - JohnR. Decker 2017-07-05

Bodies mangled, limbs broken, skin flayed, blood spilled: from paintings to prints to small sculptures, the art of the late Middle Ages and early modern period gave rise to disturbing scenes of violence. Many of these torture scenes recall Christ's Passion and its aftermath, but the martyrdoms of saints, stories of justice visited on the wicked, and broadsheet reports of the atrocities of war provided fertile ground for scenes of the body's desecration. Contributors to this volume interpret pain, suffering, and the desecration of the human form not simply as the passing fancies of a cadre of proto-sadists, but also as serving larger social functions within European society. Taking advantage of the frameworks established by scholars such as Samuel Edgerton, Mitchell Merback, and Elaine Scarry (to name but a few), *Death, Torture and the Broken Body in European Art, 1300-1650* provides an intriguing set of lenses through which to view such imagery and locate it within its wider social, political, and devotional contexts. Though the art works discussed are centuries old, the topics of the essays resonate today as twenty-first-century Western society is still absorbed in thorny debates about the ethics and consequences of the use of force, coercion (including torture), and execution, and about whether it is ever fully acceptable to write social norms on the bodies of those who will not conform.

A Companion to Roman Art - Barbara E. Borg 2019-11-04

A Companion to Roman Art encompasses various artistic genres, ancient contexts, and modern approaches for a comprehensive guide to Roman art. Offers comprehensive and original essays on the study of Roman art Contributions from distinguished scholars with unrivalled expertise covering a broad range of international approaches Focuses on the socio-historical aspects of Roman art, covering several topics that have not been presented in any detail in English Includes both close readings of individual art works and general discussions Provides an overview of main aspects of the subject and an introduction to current debates in the field

Archeologia cristiana -

Lezioni di archeologia cristiana - Fabrizio Bisconti 2014

The Jews in Late Ancient Rome - L.V. Rutgers 2021-11-08

It was long believed that Roman Jews lived in complete isolation. This book offers a refutation of this thesis. It focuses on the Jewish community in third and fourth-century Rome, and in particular on how this community related to the larger, non-Jewish world that surrounded it.

Jewish archaeological remains and funerary inscriptions are examined from various angles, and compared to pagan and early Christian material. This volume provides an important and useful addition to the literature on Roman Jewry.

The Visigoths in Gaul and Spain - Alberto Ferreiro 1988

Pagan City and Christian Capital - John Curran 2002-06-06

The critical century between the arrival of Constantine and the advance of Alaric in the early fifth century witnessed dramatic changes in the city of Rome. In this book Dr Curran has broken away from the usual notions of religious conflict between Christians and pagans, to focus on a number of approaches to the Christianization of Rome. He surveys the laws and political considerations which governed the building policy of Constantine and his successors, the effect of papal building and commemorative constructions on Roman topography, the continuing ambivalence of the Roman festal calendar, and the conflict between Christians over asceticism and 'real' Christianity. Thus using analytical, literary, and legal evidence Dr Curran explains the way in which the landscape, civic life, and moral values of Rome were transformed by complex and sometimes paradoxical forces, laying the foundation for the capital of medieval Christendom. Through a study of Rome as a city Dr Curran explores the rise of Christianity and the decline of paganism in the later Roman empire.

Archeologia cristiana - Friedrich Wilhelm Deichmann 1993

Catalog of an exhibition held at the Civic Musei di Udine.

Digital and Traditional Epigraphy in Context - Silvia Orlandi 2017-07-01

This volume collects the proceedings of the final conference of the European project EAGLE (Europeana network of Ancient Greek and Latin Epigraphy), held at the Sapienza University of Rome on January 28-30th 2016.

Law, Medicine and Engineering in the Cult of the Saints in Counter-Reformation Rome: The Hagiographical Works of Antonio Gallonio, 1556-1605 - Jetze Touber 2014-01-30

This book shows how the sixteenth-century priest Antonio Gallonio engaged with law, medicine and engineering, to draw attention to saintly virtues. It exposes the tensions between a theocratic clergy and the self-assertion of secular professionals in the Italian Counter-Reformation

L'Archeologia Cristiana in Palestina - Bellarmino Bagatti 1962

Public Uses of Human Remains and Relics in History - Silvia Cavicchioli 2019-11-25

The principal theme of this volume is the importance of the public use of human remains in a historical perspective. The book presents a series of case studies aimed at offering historiographical and methodological reflections and providing interpretative approaches highlighting how, through the ages and with a succession of complex practices and uses, human remains have been imbued with a plurality of meanings. Covering a period running from late antiquity to the present day, the contributions are the combined results of multidisciplinary research pertaining to the realities of the Italian peninsula, hitherto not investigated with a long-term and multidisciplinary historical perspective. From the relics of great men to the remains of patriots, and from anatomical specimens to the skeletons of the saints: through these case studies the scholars involved have investigated a wide range of human remains (real or reputed) and of meanings attributed to them, in order to decipher their function over the centuries. In doing so, they have traversed the interpretative boundaries of political history, religious history and the history of science, as required by questions aimed at integrating the anthropological, social and cultural aspects of a complex subject.

Archeologia cristiana - Pasquale Testini 1980

The Changing Landscapes of Rome's Northern Hinterland - Helen Patterson 2020-09-03

This study presents a new regional history of the middle Tiber valley as a lens through which to

view the emergence and transformation of the city of Rome from 1000 BC to AD 1000. Setting the ancient city within the context of its immediate territory, the authors reveal the diverse and enduring links between the metropolis and its hinterland.

Atti del Convegno Rileggere il Laterano Antico. Il rilievo 3D dell'Ospedale San Giovanni - Work in progress. 29 novembre 2018 - Sala Folchi, Presidio Ospedaliero San Giovanni / Proceedings of the Conference Reassessing the Ancient Lateran. The 3D Survey of the San Giovanni Hospital - Work in Progress. November 29, 2018 - Folchi Room, Addolorata Hospital Unit - Massimo Annicchiario 2020-10

Il Convegno nasce come espressione della volontà della Soprintendenza Speciale Archeologica Beni Artistici e del Paesaggio di Roma, condivisa con questa Azienda, di ampliare le conoscenze sugli ipogei, che insistono al di sotto dei nostri Presidi Ospedalieri, in relazione e in analogia a quanto già condotto in precedenza, presso l'area di insediamento della Basilica Costantiniana, intitolata al Santissimo Salvatore, e le aree adiacenti, sulle quali vennero edificate tutte le altre strutture a compimento del Patriarcato, sin dal IV sec. d.C. La sopra citata volontà si è concretizzata con una apposita Convenzione, sottoscritta nel febbraio del 2018, che ha ritenuto di coinvolgere studiosi, appartenenti a prestigiose Università Italiane ed Internazionali, i cui attori principali erano quelli che fino ad allora avevano già dato il loro massimo contributo di alto valore scientifico, sia sull'Area Lateranense sia nell'area di competenza dell'Antico Ospedale. The Conference came about as the expression of the desire of the Soprintendenza Speciale Archeologica Beni Artistici e del Paesaggio for Rome, a desire which our Administration also shared, to expand knowledge of the underground remains that stand below our hospital buildings, in relation to, and in analogy with, the work already done in the past, near the area where the Constantinian Basilica stood, which was dedicated to the Most Holy Saviour, and the adjacent areas, on which were built all the other structures to complete the Patriarcato, ever since the 4th century AD. This aforementioned desire took concrete shape with a special Agreement, signed up to in February 2018, which set out to involve academics from prestigious Universities, in Italy and abroad. The main players in this Agreement were the same ones who, up until that time, had already made their biggest contribution, of high scientific value, both in the Lateran Area and in the area pertaining to the Ancient Hospital itself.

Damasus of Rome - Pope Damasus I 2015

Damasus of Rome makes available in English the epigraphic poetry of Damasus, bishop of Rome from 366 to 384. The translations are accompanied by the Latin text as well as by commentary on the literary, topographic, and archaeological features of Damasus' inscribed epigrams. Antonio Ferrua published the last critical edition of Damasus' poetry in 1942. Since Ferrua's ground-breaking edition, however, much has changed. Recent scholarship has challenged the Damasan authorship of several epigrams, other pieces have been reinstated as Damasan, and archaeology has added fragments that were not known in 1942. Moreover in recent years new ways of appreciating Late Latin poetry have revolutionized thinking about many poets contemporary with Damasus. Damasus of Rome, therefore, not only offers new translations but updates the corpus and criticism of Damasus' poetry. A full introduction situates Damasus in his times by considering his troubled election and the issues that dominated Rome and his papacy. The introduction also sets the poems within the broader sweep of the history of epigraphic poetry at Rome and relates them both to the development of the Christian catacombs and to the emergence of the cults of the Roman saints. Modern scholarship readily acknowledges that the years of Damasus' episcopacy were pivotal ones in the transformation of Rome into a late antique Christian city. His poetry, much of it inscribed at the suburban tombs of the Roman

saints and martyrs, played an incalculable but significant role in the redefinition of both Roman and Christian identity in this remarkable age. Damasus of Rome now makes that poetry more readily available to scholars and students alike.

The Hypogeum of the Aurelii - John Bradley 2019-01-31

This book examines the frescoes of one of the most enigmatic funerary monuments of ancient Rome: the three chambers of the Hypogeum of the Aurelii. This is the first study in modern times to examine all the extant images in detail.

The Care of the Dead in Late Antiquity - Éric Rebillard 2012-04-06

In this provocative book Éric Rebillard challenges many long-held assumptions about early Christian burial customs. For decades scholars of early Christianity have argued that the Church owned and operated burial grounds for Christians as early as the third century. Through a careful reading of primary sources including legal codes, theological works, epigraphical inscriptions, and sermons, Rebillard shows that there is little evidence to suggest that Christians occupied exclusive or isolated burial grounds in this early period. In fact, as late as the fourth and fifth centuries the Church did not impose on the faithful specific rituals for laying the dead to rest. In the preparation of Christians for burial, it was usually next of kin and not representatives of the Church who were responsible for what form of rite would be celebrated, and evidence from inscriptions and tombstones shows that for the most part Christians didn't separate themselves from non-Christians when burying their dead. According to Rebillard it would not be until the early Middle Ages that the Church gained control over burial practices and that "Christian cemeteries" became common. In this translation of *Religion et Sépulture: L'église, les vivants et les morts dans l'Antiquité tardive*, Rebillard fundamentally changes our understanding of early Christianity. *The Care of the Dead in Late Antiquity* will force scholars of the period to rethink their assumptions about early Christians as separate from their pagan contemporaries in daily life and ritual practice.

The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity - Scott Fitzgerald Johnson 2015-11

Late antiquity extends from the accession of the Christian emperor Constantine to the rise of Muhammad and early Islam (ca. 300-700 AD). This volume takes account of the scholarship published in the last 30 years and provide a foundational synthesis for students of late antiquity.

Baptism in the Early Church - Everett Ferguson 2013-09-26

This magisterial volume is a comprehensive survey of the doctrine and practice of baptism in the first five centuries of Christian history, arranged geographically within chronological periods. Baptism in the Early Church covers the antecedents to Christian baptism and traces the history of Christian doctrine and practice from the New Testament through the writings of the church fathers of the fourth and fifth centuries. The book deals primarily with the literary sources, though it also gives attention to depictions of baptism (primarily of Jesus) in various art forms and to the surviving baptismal fonts. Ferguson's thorough study points to the central importance of baptism in the early church. Many blessings were attributed to baptism, but the two earliest and most consistently mentioned are forgiveness of sins and the reception of the Holy Spirit; faith and repentance were necessary in order to receive these benefits. Jewish immersion rites, the practice of John the Baptist, the meaning of the words used for baptism, the literary descriptions, and the material remains argue that full immersion was the normal practice, and the evidence from art is consistent with this interpretation. Containing nearly everything currently known about the early Christian ritual of baptism, with extensive citations to the primary and secondary literature, Ferguson's *Baptism in the Early Church* is destined to be a standard reference work.