The Cult of the Virgin Mary in Early Modern Germany

What happened to the fervent Marian piety of the late Middle Ages during Germany’s Reformation and Counter-Reformation? It has been widely assumed that Mary disappeared from Protestant devotional life and subsequently became a figurehead for the Catholic Church’s campaign of religious reconquest. This book presents a more finely nuanced account of the Virgin’s significance. In many Lutheran territories Marian liturgy and images – from magnificent altarpieces to simple paintings and prints – survived, though their meaning was transformed. In Catholic areas baroque art and piety flourished, but the militant Virgin associated with the Counter-Reformation did not always dominate religious devotion. Traditional manifestations of Marian veneration persisted, despite the post-Tridentine church’s attempts to dictate a uniform style of religious life. This book demonstrates that local context played a key role in shaping Marian piety, and explores the significance of this diversity of Marian practice for women’s and men’s experiences of religious change.

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The Cult of the Virgin Mary in Early Modern Germany

Protestant and Catholic Piety, 1500–1648

BRIDGET HEAL
For my parents (all of them)
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Abbreviations

ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

ABA Archiv des Bistums Augsburg
BPK Bildarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz
GNM Germanisches Nationalmuseum (Nuremberg)
HAEK Historisches Archiv des Erzbistums Köln
HAStK Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln
RBA Rheinisches Bildarchiv
StaatsAN Staatsarchiv Nürnberg
StadtAA Stadtarchiv Augsburg
StadtAN Stadtarchiv Nürnberg
SStBA Staats- und Stadtbibliothek Augsburg
USitBK Universitäts- und Stadtbibliothek Köln
WRM Wallraf-Richartz-Museum (Cologne)

EDITED PRIMARY SOURCES

CWE Collected Works of Erasmus (Toronto, 1974–)
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JOURNALS

CR  Colonia Romanica: Jahrbuch des Fördervereins Romanische Kirchen Köln e.V.
JbKGV  Jahrbuch des kölnischen Geschichtsvereins
JbVAB  Jahrbuch des Vereins für Augsburger Bistumsgeschichte
MVGSN  Mitteilungen des Vereins für Geschichte der Stadt Nürnberg