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0521630010 - The Uses of the Past in the Early Middle Ages  
Edited by Yitzhak Hen and Matthew Innes  
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## THE USES OF THE PAST IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

This volume investigates the ways in which people in western Europe between the fall of Rome and the twelfth century used the past: to legitimate the present, to understand current events and as a source of identity. Each essay examines the mechanisms by which ideas about the past were subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) reshaped for present purposes.

As well as written histories, also discussed are saints' lives, law-codes, buildings, biblical commentary, monastic foundations, canon law and oral traditions. The book thus has important implications for how historians use these sources as evidence: they emerge as representations of the past made for very special reasons, often by interested parties. This is the first volume to be devoted fully to these themes, and as such it makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the role of the past within early medieval societies.

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## *Acknowledgements*

The present volume begun in July 1995 as a series of four sessions organized by the editors for the second International Medieval Congress in Leeds. Since then, however, the plan and content of this volume were changed drastically. Two of the contributors to the original sessions opted out of this publication; three scholars, who did not participate in our sessions at Leeds, were invited to contribute papers to this volume; and all the papers that were presented in Leeds and see light here were thoroughly revised, expanded and ameliorated. Thus, although the seeds of this book were sown in Leeds, the final result is significantly different from what was envisaged at that time.

This book could not have been published without the help and advice of many friends and colleagues. We wish to express our warmest thanks, first and foremost, to our contributors for their labour, enthusiasm and patience, and to those who participated in the discussions at the Leeds gathering. Special thanks should also go to Rosamond McKitterick and Mayke De Jong who constantly provided us with helpful advice and encouragement. We are equally indebted to William Davies and the staff of the Cambridge University Press for their interest in this book and for seeing it through the press. Finally, we should like to thank our wives, Racheli and Jayne, for their support and encouragement throughout.

*Yitzhak Hen and Matthew Innes*

## *Abbreviations*

CCCM	Corpus Christianorum continuatio medievalis
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum series latina
<i>CDL</i>	<i>Codice Diplomatico Longobardo</i> , 3 vols.: vols. I–II, ed. L. Schiaparelli; vol. III, ed. C. Brühl (Rome, 1929–73)
CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica
AA	Auctores antiquissimi
Cap.	Capitularia regum Francorum
Epp.	Epistolae
LNG	Leges nationum Germanicarum
PLAC	Poetae Latini aevi Carolini
SRG	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum
SRL	Scriptores rerum Langobardicarum et Italicum
SRM	Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum
SS	Scriptores
PL	Patrologia cursus completus series latina, 234 vols., ed. J. P. Migne (Paris, 1844–55)
SC	Sources chrétiennes
<i>Settimane</i>	<i>Settimane di Studio dell Centro Italiano di Studi sull'alto Medioevo</i> (Spoleto, 1953– )