



Daily Life in Chaucer's England

Jeffrey L. Forgeng, Will Mclean

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The medieval world comes alive in this indispensable hands-on resource to life as it was actually lived?with authentic recipes, clothing patterns, songs, dances, and games. The first book on medieval England to arise out of the living history movement, it recreates the daily life of ordinary people, not just the aristocracy, by combining a hands-on approach with the best of current research. The how-to sections are all based on original sources and much of the material is made available here for the first time. The most basic facts of life are systematically covered in a readily accessible format organized for easy reference. Clearly illustrated with over 125 drawings, patterns, and diagrams, plus sheet music, it provides a treasure trove of information for classroom and library use and for those interested in recreating aspects of medieval life.

The work is organized into sections on *Chaucer's World* (social, religious, and economic aspects of life), *The Course of Life* (birth, childhood, and adolescence, education, marriage, and old age), *The Cycles of Time* (which concludes with a calendar of the medieval year describing the festivals and events of each month), *The Living Environment* (including houses, villages, towns, and travel), *Clothing and Accessories* (including instruction for making complete medieval male and female outfits and braiding authentic medieval lace), *Arms and Armor* (which describes medieval armor from the point of view of the wearer), *Food and Drink* (featuring a selection of recipes), and *Entertainments* (songs with sheet music and instructions for authentic games and dances of the period). A chronology of medieval England, a glossary, appendixes with information and ideas on organizing a medieval event, and suggestions for further reading complete the work. This is an indispensable resource for classroom and school and public libraries because it gives readers a true understanding of what it would actually be like to live in 14th-century England.

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