



Imagining Robin Hood: The Late Medieval Stories in Historical Context

A J Pollard

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A.J Pollard takes us back to the earliest surviving stories of Robin Hood, the stories, tales and ballads of the fifteenth century and he re-examines the story of this fascinating figure. Setting out the economic, social and political context of the time, Pollard illuminates the legend of this yeoman hero and champion of justice as never before.

Imagining Robin Hood examines:

- * what a 'yeoman' was, and what it meant to a fifteenth-century Englishman
- * Was Robin Hood hunted as an outlaw, or respected as an officially appointed forest ranger?
- * Why do we ignore the fact that this celebrated hero led a life of crime?
- * Did he actually steal from the rich and give to the poor?

Answering these questions, the book looks at how Robin Hood was 'all things to all men' since he first appeared; speaking to the gentry, the peasants and all those in between. The story of the freedom-loving outlaw tells us much about the English nation, but tracing back to the first stories reveals even more about the society in which the legend arose.

An enthralling read for all historians and general readers of this fascinating subject.



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