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Review of *Documenting Warfare: Records of the Hundred Years War*, Edited and Translated in Honour of Anne Curry by Rémy Ambühl and Andy King (eds)

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Rémy Ambühl and Andy King (eds), *Documenting Warfare: Records of the Hundred Years War, Edited and Translated in Honour of Anne Curry*. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2024. xviii + 401 pp. ISBN: 978-1837650248 (hardback.). Price £110.00.

Professor Anne Curry stands among the leading scholars of the Hundred Years War. From her initial publications of the late 1970s through to the present day, Professor Curry has made an invaluable contribution not only to scholarship on this formative conflict, but the wider entangled histories of late medieval England and France more generally. This wonderful collection seeks to pay tribute to the honorand by exploring three core themes in her research profile: the editing and translating of texts, investigating the mechanics of warfare in the later Middle Ages, and exploring the course of the conflict itself.

General (and indeed specific) overviews of the conflict are not in short supply (the honorand having produced and contributed to a number of them); yet, discussions on the vast corpus of source material pertain to the war are often lacking. Therefore, this *festschrift* is unique in the sense that, rather than writing research essays on various topics relating to Professor Curry's research, the contributors have instead each taken a previously unpublished primary source, edited and translated it, and provided a detailed commentary on the piece. Broadly speaking, the volume is structured chronologically and the essays examine a variety of documents relating to the conflict from the 1340s through to the eve of the English collapse in the early 1450s. Four of the contributions deal with military indentures. The respective chapters by the editors, Andy King and Rémy Ambühl, explore how these contracts were drawn up by the aristocracy and crown in very different contexts, one in the Anglo-Scottish marches, the other in preparation for a campaign to France. Craig Lambert and Michael Jones both explore how fleets were raised during the conflict. Lambert's contribution offers a fascinating investigation into the mechanics of recruiting a fleet for the aborted expedition of 1450-1; the essay sheds a great deal of light on how the crown was able to marshal considerable naval forces during a period of profound crisis. Jones' essay makes for an interesting comparison and considers the role of the dukes of Brittany in planning a similarly aborted invasion of England in the late 1380s.

Several of the contributions offer masterclasses in how to reconstruct the military careers of particular individuals. Andrew Ayton expertly demonstrates how a prosopographical approach can be used to recover the military activities of Geoffrey Starling of Ipswich and the crew of his ship, the *Magdaleyn*. Adrian Bell, Herbert, Eiden, and Helen Killick's chapter reveals how the records of the Court of Chivalry are an invaluable resource for studying English military culture in the later fourteenth century.

REVIEWS

Using the will of William, Lord Borreaux, (who fought at and survived the Battle of Agincourt) as a case study, Michael Hicks offers a window into the neglected world of dynastic and financial concerns and how noblemen often sought to ensure legal and financial protection for their families in the event of their death in battle. Several contributions provide editions and discussions on pardons and violence. Valérie Toureille details a pardon granted to French villagers for the murder of three Welsh soldiers, offering a rare insight into how violence impacted the localities during this period. Justine Firnhaber-Baker explores a similar theme and investigates what a French pardon can tell us about the intersection of royal lordship and noble power during the 1360s. David Simpkin's chapter deals with a pardon issued by Henry V to William Halifax for killing another man. Intriguingly, the pardon reveals a great deal of information on the issue of military discipline and demonstrates how Halifax's impressive military record played an important role in directing the king's decision.

Three further chapters probe the financial dimension of the conflict in more detail. Malcom Mercer edits an inventory of the equipment which Lionel of Clarence took to Ireland in 1361: this source offers an important point of reference for comparing the levels of preparations (and investment) between English expeditions to Ireland and the continent. Dan Spencer's chapter examines an account relating to several military engineers from Germany who travelled to England in 1438 to show-case some of the latest gunpowder weaponry to Henry VI. In another fascinating contribution, Bertrand Schnerb explores the trade in horses, shedding light on the various types of horse and the role of the nobility in controlling the trade. Several of the contributors engage with diplomatic records. Guilhem Pépin investigates the ransom of the Gascon lord, Florimont de Lesparre, who was held captive by Juan I of Castile, and what the protracted ransom negotiations intersected with the course of Anglo-Castilian relations. Pierre Courroux's chapter examines the enduring nature of aristocratic power in late medieval France and provides an edition of the famous League of Aire, while Aleksandr Lobanov edits several letters dealing with the appointment of Philip, duke of Burgundy, as lieutenant of north-eastern France in 1429.

The final two essays each explore the theme of chivalry. Chloë McKenzie investigates extracts from the Great Wardrobe account and focuses on the life of Edward III's daughter, Isabella. Her French husband, Enguerrand de Coucy, was forced to resign his English lands and titles, including membership of the Order of the Garter; the chapter demonstrates how Isabella replaced her husband, becoming the first female member of the order, as well as how the conflict more generally shaped the composition of the order during the next century. The final chapter by Adrian and Marianne Ailes examines the quitclaim of Hamelet Smethewyk and what the document can reveal about the ongoing use of French in England during a time of hardening national identities.

Overall, this is a hugely impressive collection and a very fitting tribute to Professor Curry. The introduction on its own provides an excellent overview of the current state of research on the Hundred Years War: this essay (and the collection more generally) will be an obligatory point of reference for anyone undertaking research for the conflict for the first time; indeed, experienced researchers will also benefit from reading it!

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Lynn MacKay, *Women and the British Army, 1815-1880*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2023. 313pp. ISBN: 978-1837650552 (hardback). Price £95.

Harridans or saints? The women who had dealings with the British army during the nineteenth century were typecast as both extremes at various moments across the period, although Lynn MacKay aims to address these social stereotypes in her recent book, *Women and the British Army*. Like many works that examine military history through a gender lens, MacKay's goal is to overturn long-held assumptions about the beliefs and behaviours of men and women during her period of study – assumptions that frequently had their origin in contemporaneous literature and culture. In dissecting these, MacKay reveals women and the army co-existing (sometimes unwillingly) in responsive dialogue, with army officials attempting to shape the roles and responsibilities of soldiers' womenfolk according to the beliefs of the day, and the women not infrequently pushing back.

The most striking part of MacKay's work is the inventory of challenges that the nineteenth-century army wife faced. During this time, army officials were reluctant to allow many soldiers to marry: fears centred on men becoming cautious on the battlefield, as well as the concern that too many wives (and the inevitable children) would become a logistical and economic burden on the army's movements and finances. The army was also concerned with the respectability of the women who were associated with it, although (MacKay's research shows) contrary to contemporary stereotypes, most army wives came from respectable families. Nevertheless, in response to this worry, the few approved army wives – six out of every hundred soldiers at one point in the century – were expected to conform to the structures and protocols of army life.