

Scholastic Humanism
and the Unification
of Europe

Foundations

VOLUME I

R. W. Southern

Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe, Volume I: Foundations

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to produce a definitive body of knowledge that would be as perfect as humanity's fallen state permits, and which would provide a view of God, nature, and human conduct, promoting order in this world and blessedness in the next.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Here the 'practical, intellectual and spiritual aspects' of twelfth-century history are discussed by a historian whose knowledge of the period and mastery of the art of writing are almost without equal." *History Today*

"The combination of synthesis with fresh and vivid work on detail is one of Southern's particular gifts ... The proportions of the book will fit harmoniously into the overarching structure outlined at the start of the book, but this volume can also stand just as well on its own - already a classic." *Reviews in History*

"The recovery of scholasticism therefore calls for two qualities: technical expertise, and lucidity of thought and expression. No historian combines these qualities more conspicuously than R.W. Southern." *Times Literary Supplement*

"This book is more than a synthesis of a life's work on twelfth-century Western culture by Britain's greatest medievalist - it is the most important book in recent decades on the twelfth-century renaissance and its significance. This is a book to be treasured and reflected upon for years to come." *Norman F. Cantor, New York University*

"That such a sweeping vision is expressed so lucidly, while simultaneously conveying the human details and experience of the period with a combination of sensitivity and scholarly rigour, justifies the description by its first reviewers: 'masterpiece.'" *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*

From the Back Cover

'This is the most important book in recent decades on the twelfth-century renaissance and its significance.'
—**Norman F. Cantor**, New York University

'The book is a model of how to combine forceful argument with elegant presentation, and is going to be an important vehicle for conveying an understanding of medieval thought and the Christian enterprise.'
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—**Michael Clanchy**, University College, London

At the beginning of the twelfth century a group of scholars began an enterprise of unprecedented scope. Their intention was to produce a definitive body of knowledge that would be as perfect as humanity's fallen state permits, and which would provide a view of God, nature, and human conduct, promoting order in this world and blessedness in the next. *Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe* reconsiders this enterprise, and its long-term effects on European History.

The whole work will be in three volumes. This first is concerned with the beginnings, in the years between 1060 and 1160, when the main lines of scholastic thought were laid down and its agenda established. The book explores the social, intellectual, and political conditions behind the establishment of the new system in

the great schools of learning in France and Italy, and the rewards that attracted experts who could both administer the system and make it known and acceptable to the generality of people whose lives were affected by it. *Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe* will be a work of seminal importance for the understanding of the civilization of the Middle Ages, and of the evolution of modern European societies.

About the Author

R. W. SOUTHERN was a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Fellow of Balliol, Exeter, and St John's Colleges, Oxford, and of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. His publications include: *The Making of the Middle Ages* (1953), *Medieval Humanism* (1970), and *St. Anselm, A Portrait in a Landscape* (1900).

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