

II. Medieval Sport and Contests

II- 1

Russom, Geoffrey, "A Germanic Concept of Nobility in *The Gifts of Men* and *Beowulf*," *Speculum* (January 1978), 1-15.

For a good many years, Old English scholars suggested that the list of "talents" in these two poems were disorganized (because many Old English poems contained ordered lists of "talents" according to their worth), that the authors of the poems were Christian, and that the authors were steeped in Latin culture. Among the talents attributed to a man were: swimming, hunting, wrestling, chess, acrobatics, riding, swiftness of foot, and others. Russom argues against the Christianity and Latinity of the author suggesting a more obvious Scandinavian influence. Numerous Norse poems are used for comparison. A central theme of the poems in question is a lack of order for the "talents." A nobleman was a nobleman because he did these things; each was important unto itself. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 48 notes.

John Marshall Carter

II-2

Gransden, Antonia. "Realistic Observation in Twelfth-Century England," *Speculum* (January 1972), 29-51.

The twelfth century was a transition period for historical writing in England. Many significant historians such as William of Malmesbury, Symeon of Durham, Eadmer of Canterbury, and Gervase of Canterbury were motivated to write detailed descriptions of the life around them because of true Christian piety. Other historians such as Gerald of Wales, Walter Map, and William Fitzstephen began to write about people and places using unprecedented detail. The vivid descriptions of these historians are veritable mines of information for the modern researcher. Of the utmost importance for sport is the work of William Fitzstephen, biographer of Thomas Becket and itinerant justice under Henry II. Fitzstephen's description of London bristles with information about sport. Based upon primary sources; 137 notes.

John Marshall Carter

II-3

Strohmeyer, Hannes. "Physical Education of the Princes in the Late Middle Ages as Depicted by Two Works of the Styrian Abbot, Engelbert of Admont (1250-1331 A.D.)," *Canadian Journal of History of Sport and Physical Education*, 8, No. 1 (May 1977), 38-49.

The works of the Benedictine abbot, Engelbert, who resided in the monastery at Admont within Austria, reflect a tremendous pedagogical influence upon the physical education of the Austrian princes of the late Middle Ages. Abbot Engelbert advocated a harmony and bond between body and soul and ascribed five bodily values. He prescribed specific exercises and programs of physical education for the children of the princes and kings primarily as a form of war preparation. Partially due to Engelbert's belief in the social exclusiveness of physical education, little is known about this sphere of the Abbot's pedagogical influence. Based upon primary sources and secondary works (many in German); 49 notes.

Don Morrow