

Edited by Hanna Gentili, Désirée Cappa, Finn Schulze-Feldmann,  
Lorenza Gay, James E. Christie

# Cultural Encounters

*Cross-disciplinary studies from the Late Middle Ages to the Enlightenment*

SERIES IN WORLD HISTORY

## About the editor

**Désirée Cappa** obtained a BA and an MA in Philosophy from the University of Calabria and a three-year postgraduate degree in medieval and Renaissance art history from the University of Pisa. She worked for four years at the Boboli Gardens Museum researching the sculpture collection and the iconographic program of the gardens. In Florence, she also took part in different projects with the Gabinetto dei disegni e delle stampe degli Uffizi and the Fondazione Memofonte. In the UK, after an internship at Sotheby's (Sculpture Department), she collaborated with various institutions such as the Garden Museum (London) and the Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge). She is also an editor at the *Albertiana*, the journal of the Société internationale Leon Battista Alberti (Paris). Cappa is currently writing a PhD thesis (funded by the European Union) on Pierfrancesco Riccio (1501-64), tutor and ducal secretary of Cosimo I de' Medici.

**James Christie** is a historian of science with interest in early modern astronomy and astrology. He has a BA (Hons) in Early Modern and Medieval Studies from the University of Sydney, and an MA in the Cultural and Intellectual History of Europe from The Warburg Institute. He is currently writing a PhD thesis on the relationship between astrology and the 'plurality of worlds' debate in the 17th century.

**Lorenza Gay** is an art historian with a particular interest in iconography and iconology. She is currently a PhD student at the Warburg Institute, and her research is focused on the depiction of the pagan gods in French illuminated manuscripts from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. She recently completed an MA at the Warburg Institute in Art History, Curatorship and Renaissance Culture in collaboration with the National Gallery of London. Prior to this, she received an MA in Art History (summa cum laude) and a BA in History from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan.

**Hanna Gentili** is a PhD student at The Warburg Institute. Her research focuses on the Italian cultural context of the late fifteenth century and the logical and rhetorical strategies adopted in the early modern interreligious dialogue. Other areas of interest include the early modern notion of linguistic identity and philosophy of music. She recently completed an MA in Cultural and Intellectual History (1300-1650) at The Warburg Institute. Prior to this, she received an MA (summa cum laude) in Philosophy and Forms of Knowledge and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Pisa.

**Finn Schulze-Feldmann** is a PhD student at the Warburg Institute. In his doctoral studies, he explores the reception of the Sibylline oracles in the context of the Reformation. He highlights the willingness to absorb the Sibyls as Christian prophets of pagan origin into the European culture of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as well as the theological debate about the appropriation of the Sibylline oracles as divine testimonies. After completing a BA in History and Musicology at the University of Potsdam, Finn obtained an MA in Cultural and Intellectual History from the Warburg Institute, London.

## Summary

This collection of essays contributes to the growing field of 'encounter studies' within the domain of cultural history. The strength of this work is the multi- and interdisciplinary approach, with papers on a broad range of historical times, places, and subjects. While each essay makes a valuable and original contribution to its relevant field(s), the collection as a whole is an attempt to probe more general questions and issues concerning the productive outcomes of cultural encounters throughout the Late Medieval and Early Modern periods. The collection is divided into three sections organised thematically and chronologically. The first, 'Encounters with the Past,' focuses on the reception of classical antiquity in medieval images and texts from France, Italy and the British Isles. The second, 'Encounters with Religion,' presents a selection of instances in which political, philosophical and natural philosophical issues arise within inter-religious contexts. The final section, 'Encounters with Humanity,' contains essays on early science fiction, political symbolism, and Elizabethan drama theory, all of which deal with the conception and expression of humanity, on both the individual and societal level. This volume's wide range of topics and methodological approaches makes it an important point of reference for researchers and practitioners within the humanities who have an interest in the (cross-)cultural history of the medieval and Renaissance periods.

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