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**Review Essay: Cole, Penny J. *The Preaching of the Crusades to the Holy Land, 1095-1270***

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Cole, Penny J. *The Preaching of the Crusades to the Holy Land, 1095–1270*. Medieval Academy Books no 98. Medieval Academy of America, Cambridge, Mass. 1991. xiv + 281 pp. \$35.00.

*The Preaching of the Crusades to the Holy Land, 1095–1270* is a straightforward account of the sermons used to exhort men to go on crusade, as well as of the preachers who preached them, and of the shifts in papal crusade policy reflected in the sermons. The account begins with an analysis of the discussion concerning Urban II's controversial preaching of the First Crusade and carries on through the disaster of Louis IX's crusade at Tunis. The author shows clearly that the character of crusade preaching changed from the time of Innocent III, when preachers began to encounter opposition. In response the papacy developed a theology of guilt and sin to underpin further crusade preaching and began to place more emphasis on collection of money for the effort, often by cynical means. The account is well executed and the scholarship is impeccable.

Such a focused account of crusade preaching makes clear the important role of the crusades — and of crusade preaching — in undermining the reputation of the church among the faithful. As opposition progressed, an increasingly bureaucratized church structure used institutionalized crusade preaching by consistently minor figures. Preaching became less inspired and more inclined to the moral blackmail of the faithful. The church's unconvincing attempt to account for failure, its consistent misrepresentation of the difficulties of the expedition, and its inadvertent imputation of impotence to God (for example, the theme of Christ's ejection from his inheritance) combined to make crusade preaching an increasingly pointless exercise. Herein lies a lesson evidently never learned by those who claim to speak for God and to direct society with knowledge of his purposes for man — failure is inexcusable.

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DeVries, Kelly. *Medieval Military Technology*. Broadview Press, Peterborough, Ontario 1992. xi + 340 pp. \$14.95.

One of the most admired topics in medieval history is warfare, and a large number of books for popular consumption have been written on the subject. It would appear that the topic is overworked, at least on a superficial level, and scholars too frequently have shied away from an area apparently tainted by reenactment groups, wargamers, and chivalric idealists. This is unfortunate, because many topics are poorly understood and need to be reexamined by careful scholarly scrutiny. Within this framework DeVries's contribution, *Medieval Military Technology*, is welcome.

DeVries says that his 'book is directed mainly at the general reader with the intention of serving as a textbook and as a reference guide for medieval scholars' (p x). Drawing on much recent scholarship concerning his topics, DeVries provides quite good coverage of his subject. The work is divided into four main topics: arms