

excellent chance of success, with the pope, for example, confirming only three out of the nine candidates appealed under Henry III. This is an excellent book, henceforth the leading authority in its field. It has implications well beyond the confines of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century England.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

NICHOLAS VINCENT

The world of St. Francis of Assisi. Essays in honor of William R. Cook. Edited by Bradley R. Franco and Beth A. Mulvaney. (The Medieval Franciscans, 11.) Pp. xvi + 247 incl. 34 black-and-white and colour figs + colour frontispiece. Leiden–Boston: Brill, 2015. €140. 978 90 04 27098 5; 1572 6991
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While I cannot claim to be a close friend of Bill Cook, I have seen enough of him over the years to recognise that he is both a good man and an extremely interesting one. More to the point, I have been consistently impressed by the dedication with which he has pursued his major scholarly passion, early visual representations of St Francis, and the quality of his work in that field. The essays collected in this *Festschrift* examine a wide variety of topics stretching from the thirteenth to the twenty-first century (though most involve St Francis in some way) and predictably vary in quality. Perhaps it was also predictable that my favourites should be essays dealing with Cook's major preoccupation. Bradley Franco contributes an essay entitled 'The functions of early Franciscan art' which clearly and concisely tells us just that, no small accomplishment; while Alexandra Dodson's 'Trial by fire: St Francis and the sultan in Italian art' raises questions so relevant to my own research that I barely resisted the temptation to fire off an email asking them. Yet the article that I most enjoyed pondering is one that barely mentions St Francis: Sarah Ritchey's 'Illness and imagination: the healing miracles of Clare of Montefalco', which offers insight not only into why doctors and healing saints could coexist in medieval Montefalco but also what modern doctors might learn from it all. Cook's own closing essay, 'My life with Saint Francis', offers disarmingly modest reminiscences and in the process provides an example of how, unwittingly, we often back into the very topics that will sustain us for the rest of our lives.

VIRGINIA TECH

DAVID BURR

Early commentaries of the rule of the Friars Minor, I: The 1242 commentary, Hugh of Digne, David of Augsburg, John of Wales. Edited by David Flood OFM; III: *Angelo Clareno.* Edited by David Burr. Pp. vi + 281, xlvii + 234. Bonaventure: Franciscan Institute Publications, 2014. \$99.99 (paper). 978 1 57659 236 6; 978 1 57659 305 9
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The evolution of the Rule of St Francis of Assisi and the tensions that accompanied its preparation and confirmation by Honorius III on 29 November 1223 are reflected in the order's rich hagiographical tradition. The scruples felt by an unnamed novice and by a friar named Richer about the possession of a psalter and other books feature in the *Compilatio Assisiensis*, which depicts the founder