

early printing presses. Each of the three main strands of the Franciscan tradition, the Observants, the Capuchins and the Conventuals, is well represented.

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Magic, science, and religion in early modern Europe. By Mark A. Waddell. (New Approaches in the History of Science and Medicine.) Pp. x + 220 incl. 36 figs. Cambridge–New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021. £19.99 (paper). 978 1 108 44165 0

JEH (73) 2022; doi:10.1017/S0022046922000355

To write an accessible and scholarly overview of religion, science and magic in early modern Europe is a daunting project. It involves two central tasks: to introduce readers to a collection of beliefs that are deeply unfamiliar and therefore require an effort of imagination to grasp; and to synthesise the various currents of pre-modern thought into a readable text without sacrificing too much nuance in the process. Mark A. Waddell succeeds admirably in the first task. He demonstrates persuasively that many of the preoccupations of early modern divines, natural philosophers and magicians involved recurring human questions, several of which are still pertinent today. His account of a world shaped by unseen forces, and the various attempts to understand and harness these forces, is presented with a vivid awareness of the common experience of early modern people and ourselves. He is, perhaps, less successful in the second task. Some of the discussion in the book—for instance, on the experimental approach to the supernatural developed by the English philosopher and churchman Joseph Glanvill—would gain depth from reference to more recent scholarship. The account of witchcraft sails close to some popular but problematic ideas about the subject: that venerable village healers and midwives were commonly accused of the crime, for example. None the less, this book will provide readers with a first step into a complex and rather beautiful world of lost ideas.

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Public opinion in early modern Scotland, c.1560–1707. By Karin Bowie. (Cambridge Studies in Early Modern British History.) Pp. viii + 294. Cambridge–New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020. £75. 978 1 108 84347 8

JEH (73) 2022; doi:10.1017/S0022046922000057

Fifteen years ago, Karin Bowie published an important book entitled *Scottish public opinion and the Anglo-Scottish union, 1699–1707*. Bowie's second book proposes to show how 'public opinion' emerged across the century-and-a-half preceding the Union. So what is 'public opinion'? Bowie quotes the introduction to a 2018 edited collection, which defines public opinion as 'the formation, communication, and measurement of citizens' attitudes toward public affairs' (p. 2). A significant further elaboration comes from Bowie's previous book, where she described public opinion as the 'constructed artefacts of a political process' (p. 3). As Bowie notes, the business of attempting to 'measure' opinion is almost impossible