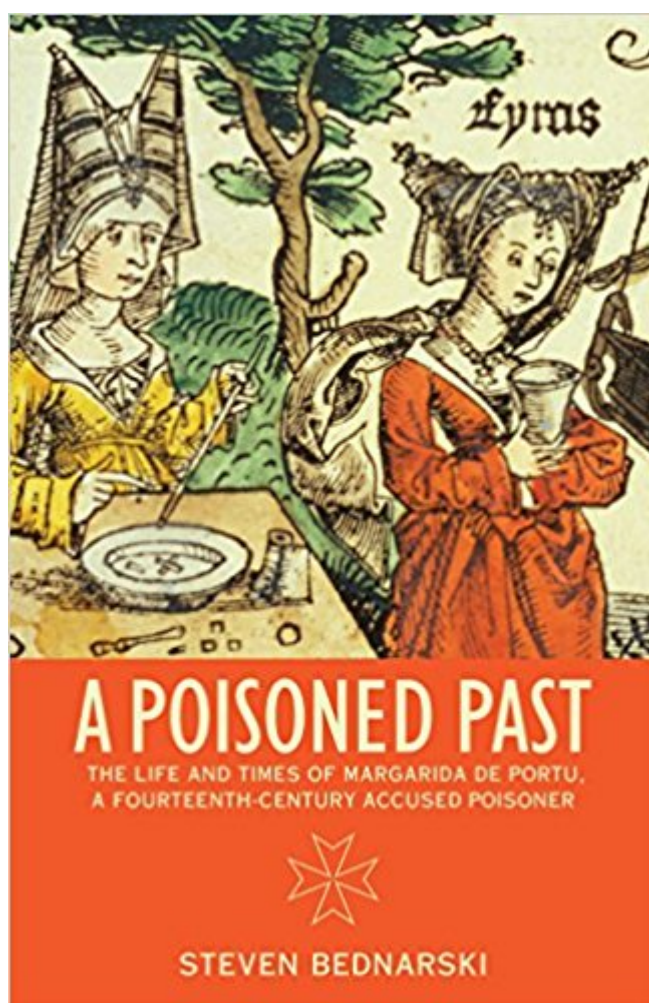


The book was found

A Poisoned Past: The Life And Times Of Margarida De Portu, A Fourteenth-Century Accused Poisoner (Thinking Historically)



Synopsis

This is the story of Margarida de Portu, a fourteenth-century French medieval woman accused of poisoning her husband to death. As Bednarski points out, the story is important not so much for what it tells us about Margarida but for how it illuminates a past world. Through the depositions and accusations made in court, the reader learns much about medieval women, female agency, kin networks, solidarity, sex, sickness, medicine, and law. Unlike most histories, this book does not remove the author from the analysis. Rather, it lays bare the working methods of the historian. Throughout his tale, Bednarski skillfully weaves a second narrative about how historians "do" history, highlighting the rewards and pitfalls of working with primary sources. The book opens with a chapter on microhistory as a genre and explains its strengths, weaknesses, and inherent risks. Next is a narrative of Margarida's criminal trial, followed by chapters on the civil suits and appeal and Margarida's eventual fate. The book features a rough copy of a court notary, a notorial act, and a sample of a criminal inquest record in the original Latin. A timeline of Margarida's life, list of characters, and two family trees provide useful information on key people in the story. A map of late medieval Manosque is also provided.

Book Information

Series: Thinking Historically

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: University of Toronto Press, Higher Education Division; 1 edition (April 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442604778

ISBN-13: 978-1442604773

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #80,320 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > France #55 inÂ Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Study & Teaching #69 inÂ Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Historiography

Customer Reviews

This book attempts to serve two purposes: tell the story of Margarida de Portu and teach university students about microhistory. Bednarski has achieved both these goals with a well-told tale, useful

pedagogical queries and suggestions, and appropriate documentation to support the arguments. (Mediaevistik) With *A Poisoned Past*, Bednarski has written a book that is engaging, entertaining, and learned. His study is geared more toward the advanced undergraduate student or beginning graduate student of medieval history, but novice and established scholars who work in the field of late medieval legal and social history and, to a lesser degree, medieval science, medicine, and magic, will find useful material between its covers. It would also serve quite well for graduate seminars focusing on microhistories, the intersection of gender and legal culture, and late medieval history writ large. Bednarski has also produced a book that is perfect for the classroom, the graduate seminar, and for anyone interested in how historians work. He has written a solid study and scholars and teachers who adopt his book for their own research and classes will find the life of Margarida de Portu to be valuable. For both the high quality of Bednarski's scholarship and his unwavering dedication to transparency and pedagogy, this book needs to be read far and wide. (H-France Review) *A Poisoned Past* is a welcome addition to scholarship and the classroom. This book could be used in just about any course—from the introductory to the more advanced. It is also well suited to a class on historiography or historical methodology. This volume should also be read by non-medievalists as it is a remarkable resource for teaching students about the past. Bednarski has given students and their instructors much to discuss and I am looking forward to having those conversations with my own students. (Amy Livingstone, *The Medieval Review*) This is a useful and lively study, in microhistorical mode, of a group of linked court cases from the southern French town of Manosque at the end of the fourteenth century. (Trevor Dean, *Speculum*)

Nothing better stirs the hearts and minds of modern students than a lively small story abrim with the strange stuff of life long gone. Steven Bednarski knows that well; he employs microhistory's wiles to catch his readers' imaginations and sharpen their scholarly wits. This is a charming way to teach good historical method. (Thomas V. Cohen, York University) Steven Bednarski has crafted an exceptionally thoughtful volume. Blending vibrant storytelling with methodological rigor, he guides readers through the personal experience of historical analysis in all of its various demands, occasional frustrations, and exhilarating discoveries. He simultaneously brings to life the detailed and intricate world of a late-fourteenth-century woman, and prompts vital questions about the very nature and limit of the historical enterprise. (Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane, University of Minnesota, Morris) Bednarski demonstrates through vivid prose a very human story of an ordinary medieval woman who finds herself caught up in murder accusations. *A Poisoned Past* is a fascinating introduction both to the lived realities of late medieval people and to the historian's craft. (Shannon

This is an interesting and unique look at the way history is "done." Bednarski shows and describes how he used primary source information to learn about an relatively minor episode; his look at what happened, and his analysis of the evidence, sheds light on several aspects of European history as well as on the craft of the historian in general. Recommended for those interested in the study and writing of history. Peter L. Belmonte Days of Perfect Hell: The U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October-November 1918 Italian Americans in World War II (IL) (Voices of America)

This is a good combination of primary source and analysis of historical methodology. Was it the most exciting I've ever read? No, but that doesn't mean I didn't learn something. I say buy it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Poisoned Past: The Life and Times of Margarida de Portu, a Fourteenth-Century Accused Poisoner (Thinking Historically) Positive Thinking: 50 Positive Habits to Transform you Life: Positive Thinking, Positive Thinking Techniques, Positive Energy, Positive Thinking,, Positive ... Positive Thinking Techniques Book 1) Thinking Historically: Educating Students for the 21st Century Casenote Legal Briefs: Constitutional Law keyed to Varat,Ã Â Amar, and Cohen, Fourteenth Edition and Concise Fourteenth Edition CRITICAL THINKING: A Beginner's Guide To Critical Thinking, Better Decision Making, And Problem Solving ! (critical thinking, problem solving, strategic thinking, decision making) Murder Cases of the Twentieth Century: Biographies and Bibliographies of 280 Convicted or Accused Killers The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York The Queen's Poisoner: The Kingfountain Series, Book 1 Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past (Critical Perspectives On The Past) The Art of Dancing, Historically Illustrated - To Which is Added a Few Hints on Etiquette; Also, The Figures, Music, and Necessary Instruction for the ... of the Most Modern and Approved Dances History of the Mennonites : historically and biographically arranged from the time of the Reformation, more particularly from the time of their emigration to America The Constitution - A Revolutionary Story: The historically accurate and decidedly entertaining owner's manual Sexuality, Marriage, and Celibacy in Byzantine Law: The Alphabetical Collection of Matthew Blastares: Selections from a Fourteenth-Century Encyclopedia of Canon Law The Art of Turkish Cooking, or, Delectable Delights of Topkapi. The historically renowned Ottoman cuisine -- on excellent dining terms with the modern American palate. Santa Fe in a Week (More or Less): A

Guide to Historically Significant Places, Events & Things to Do Art Across Time, Vol. 2: The Fourteenth Century to the Present, 4th Edition The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the Fourteenth Century The Golden Trade of the Moors: West African Kingdoms in the Fourteenth Century The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)