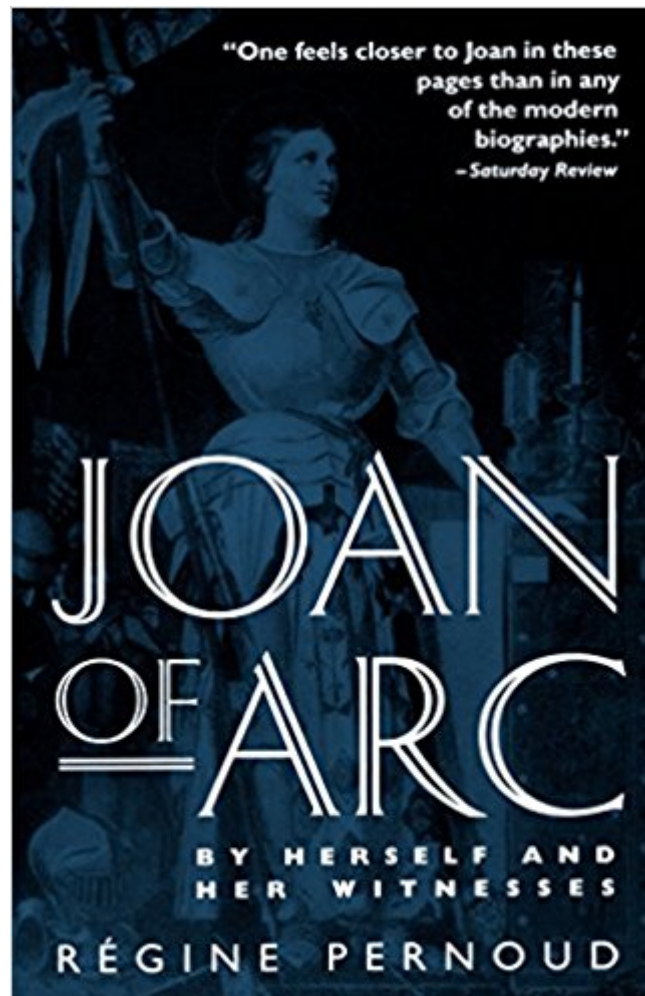




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Joan Of Arc: By Herself And Her Witnesses



Synopsis

Using historical documents and translated by Régine Pernoud, Joan of Arc seeks to answer the questions asked by Joan's contemporaries as well as us: Who was she? Whence came she? What had been her life and exploits? First published in the United States in 1966 by Stein and Day, this book reveals the historical Joan, described in contemporary documents by her allies as well as her enemies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One feels closer to Joan in these pages than in any modern biographies. (Saturday Review) This is historical biography as it should be written....The author used the letters, chronicles, and testimony at Joan's trial, to thrust the legendary aspects of this young girl's life into the background and create an alive, believable human being. (Library Journal)

Text: English, French (translation)

I absolutely loved this book. It was hard to put down. The author did an excellent job interleaving many quotations from Joan and other people involved with her life with his perceptive commentary. It would be hard not to fall in love with Joan after reading this book. It answered questions I've had about her for years, generated by the snatches of information about her that I had found from different sources in my youth.

Regine Pernoud, the renowned French archivist/historian has written rather extensively on the Middle Ages, the Knights Templar, the Crusades and at least 2 books concerning the famous story of Jeanned'Arc. One advantage in this book (and in the same author's The Retrial of Joan of Arc) is that Ms. Pernoud uses original source materials and also, with her expert knowledge of the times and places, gives an unsurpassed portrait of the besainted young French maid who ended the longest war in history and saved France from being relegated to a small Mediterranean nation or merely a footnote in British history. Brilliant scholarship !

Joan of Arc has been the subject of many biographies, movies, art, etc. What sets this book apart from the rest is that the reader gets to hear Joan's own words. This book strips away the mythology surrounding Joan and presents a real person to the reader. You get to see Joan as a human being with flaws as well as strengths - the chief of which being a tremendous amount of courage. The book is well written drawing you in as you experience Joan transform from a young girl seeing visions of saints to a young woman leading armies. Her betrayal by the king she supported is dramatically rendered through passages from the transcript of her trial. This book is well worth reading whether you have read other books about Joan of Arc or not.

Excellent, because it strips away the parts of the legend that have no basis in historical documentation, pointing out in some cases how this is necessary. For example, the part of the legend that has Joan knowing who is the real Charles VII on her first encounter with him despite his trying to trick Joan by having a fake Charles dressed like a king while the real Charles sat anonymously among courtiers, has no basis in any documented eyewitness account. The reason this book's strict historicity is important is because the historically documented story of Joan of Arc is far more easily understood without relying on any supernatural assumptions than the a-historical legend.

Pernoud is unquestionably a leading expert on Joan and the words that survive for us to examine her life through. Very well communicated and a terrific read.

I was delighted to be able to read about this amazing woman from the viewpoint of herself and those who testified of her. The story is very well written; the historical evidence woven together with just enough commentary to understand the political/historical climate and situation in which these events took place.

So far, so great.

Direct quotes from witnesses. A good presentation.

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