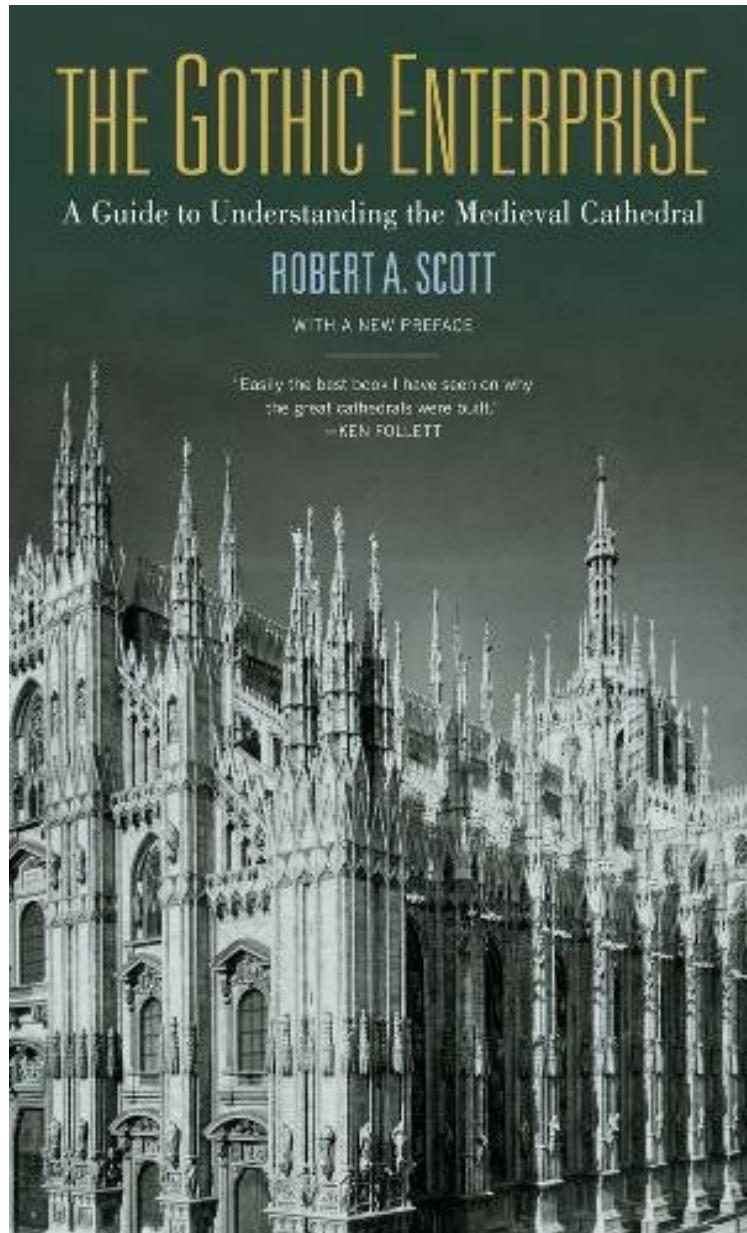


(Ebook pdf) The Gothic Enterprise: A Guide to Understanding the Medieval Cathedral

The Gothic Enterprise: A Guide to Understanding the Medieval Cathedral

Robert A. Scott

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Robert A. Scott : The Gothic Enterprise: A Guide to Understanding the Medieval Cathedral before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gothic Enterprise: A Guide to Understanding the Medieval Cathedral:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful read
By hobbes I am always in awe when I see the magnificent cathedrals in England and wonder just how did they get built? Robert A. Scott does a wonderful job not only of describing the construction of these cathedrals but also of the times in which they were built. He covers all the aspects of life back in the medieval ages. Knowing all that I know now makes me even more in awe of the majesty of these beautiful cathedrals. Nothing built today will be around in 100 years, let alone 600 years.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By JMMinks A good read before going to Europe and seeing the beautiful architecture
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A little disappointing
By whiskey Delta We all have our biases. The author's bias, for me, is a little too evident. If comment on values of a cathedral community are going to be expressed, it could, perhaps, be in the context or comparison to, the "outside" world values and practises.

The great Gothic cathedrals of Europe are among the most astonishing achievements of Western culture. Evoking feelings of awe and humility, they make us want to understand what inspired the people who had the audacity to build them. This engrossing book surveys an era that has fired the historical imagination for centuries. In it Robert A. Scott explores why medieval people built Gothic cathedrals, how they built them, what conception of the divine lay behind their creation, and how religious and secular leaders used cathedrals for social and political purposes. As a travelers companion or a rich source of knowledge for the armchair enthusiast, *The Gothic Enterprise* helps us understand how ordinary people managed such tremendous feats of physical and creative energy at a time when technology was rudimentary, famine and disease were rampant, the climate was often harsh, and communal life was unstable and incessantly violent. While most books about Gothic cathedrals focus on a particular building or on the cathedrals of a specific region, *The Gothic Enterprise* considers the idea of the cathedral as a humanly created space. Scott discusses why an impoverished people would commit so many social and personal resources to building something so physically stupendous and what this says about their ideas of the sacred, especially the vital role they ascribed to the divine as a protector against the dangers of everyday life. Scott's narrative offers a wealth of fascinating details concerning daily life during medieval times. The author describes the difficulties master-builders faced in scheduling construction that wouldnt be completed during their own lifetimes, how they managed without adequate numeric systems or paper on which to make detailed drawings, and how climate, natural disasters, wars, variations in the hours of daylight throughout the year, and the celebration of holy days affected the pace and timing of work. Scott also explains such things as the role of relics, the quarrying and transporting of stone, and the incessant conflict cathedral-building projects caused within their communities. Finally, by drawing comparisons between Gothic cathedrals and other monumental building projects, such as Stonehenge, Scott expands our understanding of the human impulses that shape our landscape.

"Offers an intriguing study of the historical creation of the medieval cathedral in Europe. . . . provides a fresh eye and an engaging entree to how and why, for a 300-year period, Europeans created these lasting monuments. . . . Recommended particularly for public libraries with an interest in art and architecture."--"Library Journal
From the Inside Flap
"This is easily the best book I have seen on why the great cathedrals were built. The breadth of Scott's scholarship is astonishing. As well as art history and architecture, he brings to bear his knowledge of subjects as wide apart as engineering, the sociology of religion, and the medieval economy. Only a handful of books truly throw light on the mystery of the cathedrals, and this is one of them."
Ken Follett, author of *Pillars of the Earth*
"Written in a lucid style and illustrated by dozens of sketches and photographs, this interdisciplinary survey is the best introduction to its subject now in print."
Gene Brucker, author of *Florence: The Golden Age, 1138-1737*
"Scott has given us a book of wonderful breadth and erudition with a refreshingly light touch. He describes vividly the social, political, and religious background to the great flowering of the Gothic cathedrals of Europe in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and the strange mixture of motives that drove this astonishing building program. He is equally interested in the hard practical mechanics of hewing timber, erecting scaffolding, quarrying stone, transporting and hauling these materials as he is in the religious and liturgical symbolisms and conceptual schemes of the architects and their royal paymasters. Gothic cathedrals are astounding monuments to the aspirations of the human spirit reaching out to the divine, and this is a splendid introduction to the medieval worlds that produced them, written by an enthusiastic guide who really knows his subject and loves it."
Hugh Dickinson, Dean Emeritus of Salisbury Cathedral
"Gothic architecture is notoriously difficult to represent verbally, but in Scott's book the joy so many people find in discovering these breathtakingly beautiful monuments is palpable."
Stephen Murray, author of *Notre Dame, Cathedral of Amiens: The Power of Change in Gothic*
"In this splendid book Scott writes precisely, clearly, and with a love for both words and his readers. Those who read these pages will come away enlightened, inspired, and with a more profound grasp of our civilization."
Neil J. Smelser, University Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley