

THE PAGAN MIDDLE AGES

EDITED BY
Ludo J. R. Milis

Translated into English by
Tanis Guest

THE BOYDELL PRESS

CONTENTS

I.	Introduction: The Pagan Middle Ages – A Contradiction in Terms? <i>L. Milis</i>	1
	1. The traditional view of the Middle Ages	1
	2. The Middle Ages as a projection of one's own time	4
	3. 'The Pagan Middle Ages': more than just a provocation?	5
	4. A pattern to start with	10
	Bibliography	11
II.	The Missionaries: The First Contact between Paganism and Christianity <i>M. De Reu</i>	13
	1. A new package of beliefs and demands	13
	2. The missionary: motivation, origins and training	16
	3. First contacts in the field	17
	4. Adapting and disseminating Christianity	19
	5. The young church's integration into the structures of power	23
	6. Paganism's reactions to the expansion of Christianity	27
	7. Increasing specialisation and development of the parish network	31
	Bibliography	36
III.	The Evidence of Archaeology <i>A. Dierkens</i>	39
	1. Temples and churches	41
	2. Cemeteries	43
	3. Funeral rites	45
	4. Iconography and funerary material	47
	5. Amulets and phylacteries	51
	6. Remains of funerary meals	52
	7. Animal graves	53
	8. Christianity or paganism: a false problem?	54
	Illustrations	56
	Bibliography	64

IV.	The Shadow Realm between Life and Death	<i>C. Lebbe</i>	65
	1. Familiarity with death		66
	2. The cult of the dead in other cultures		68
	3. Contemporary voices		70
	a. The voice from Antiquity		70
	b. The penitentials of the year 1000		71
	c. The wild hunt		73
	d. What is riding through the air?		74
	e. Church, heresy and folk-belief		75
	f. The army of the dead		76
	g. Hellequin's band		77
	4. Clergy and people confronting the hereafter		77
	a. What are the clichés?		77
	b. Popular concepts before christianisation		79
	c. Resistance by heresies		80
	d. A real or seeming paradox?		81
	Bibliography		82
V.	The Medieval Sybil	<i>A. Waegeman</i>	83
	1. The classical sybil turns Christian		84
	a. In Antiquity		84
	b. Her place in the Middle Ages		85
	2. Visionary prophetesses of the Middle Ages		88
	a. The divine calling		89
	b. Ecstasies and stimulants		91
	c. Orthodoxy and reputation		94
	d. From preacher to politician		95
	e. The medium		97
	f. Looking into the future		100
	g. Female meekness and female leadership		103
	Bibliography		106
VI.	The Knowledge of Herbs	<i>V. Charon</i>	109
	1. The place of herbs in the cosmic view		109
	2. Passing on knowledge, or how old ideas remained dominant		114
	3. The oral tradition: a different path		119
	4. Powers, incantations and rituals		124
	Bibliography		128

VII. Purity, Sex and Sin	<i>L. Milis</i>	129
1. The church and its control of behaviour		129
2. Paganism in the penitentials		133
a. Burchard's <i>Corrector</i> and confession		133
b. The typology of pagan survivals		134
3. Detachment and sexuality		136
4. Sexuality and taboo		139
5. Corporality made culpable		142
6. 'Fas' and 'nefas', formalism and internalisation		146
Bibliography		148
VIII. Conclusion: The Role of Pagan Survivals	<i>L. Milis</i>	151
Index of People and Places		157