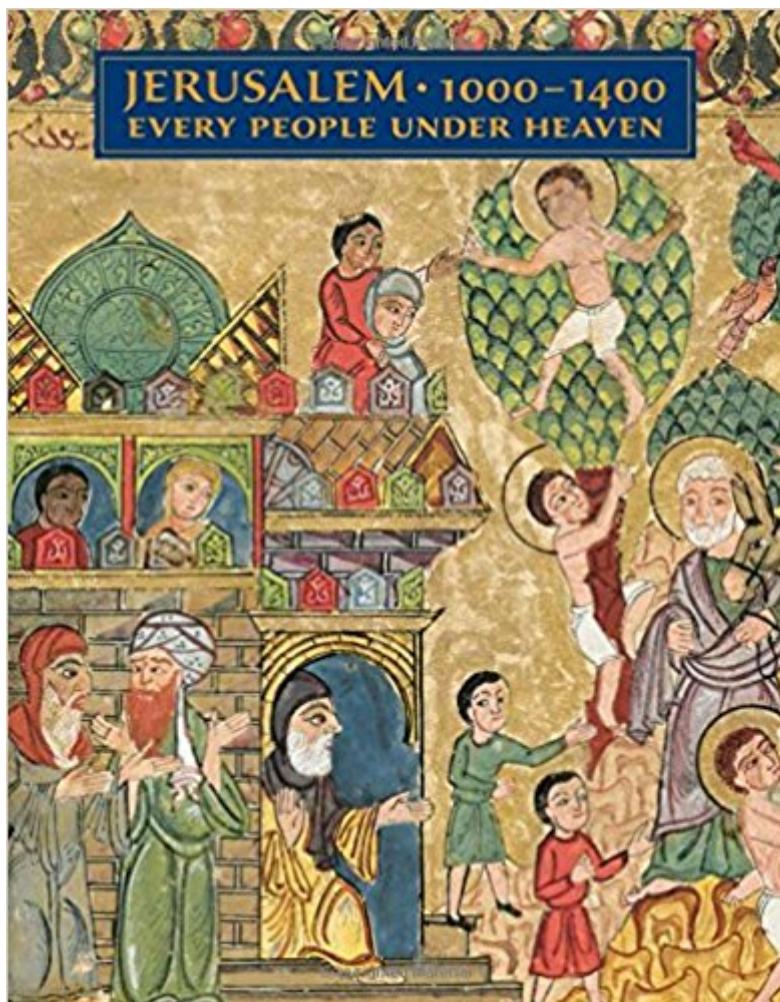


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# Jerusalem, 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven



## Synopsis

A comprehensive and timely exploration of the key role Jerusalem played in shaping the art and culture of the Middle Ages. Medieval Jerusalem was a vibrant international center and home to multiple cultures, faiths, and languages. Harmonious and dissonant influences from Persian, Turkish, Greek, Syrian, Armenian, Georgian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Indian, and European traditions invested Jerusalem with a key role in shaping the art of the Middle Ages. Through compelling essays by international and interdisciplinary experts and detailed discussions of more than 200 works of art, this beautiful, authoritative volume breaks new ground in exploring the relationship between the historical and the archetypal city of Jerusalem, uncovering the ways in which the aesthetic achievements it inspired enhanced and enlivened the medieval world. Patrons and artists from Christian, Jewish, and Islamic traditions alike focused their attention on the Holy City, endowing and enriching its sacred buildings and creating luxury goods for its residents. This artistic fertility was particularly in evidence between the 11th and the 14th centuries, notwithstanding often devastating circumstances—from the earthquake of 1033 to the fierce battles of the Crusades. Dazzling illustrations featuring new photography complement this unprecedented, panoptic story of Jerusalem in the Middle Ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Metropolitan Museum's much discussed new exhibition, 'Jerusalem, 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven,' as well as a beautiful catalog now offered to the public . . . present[s] the viewer with some of the most magnificent and meaningful artifacts. It is the

city's story told through its material culture." •Ruby Namdar, New York Times Book Review

Compelling essays and stunning images uncover the way in which Jerusalem inspired, enhanced, and enlivened the medieval world through art.

The Jerusalem exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is truly extraordinary -- I spent three hours there over two days, and plan to go back again at least one time. This beautifully produced book contains superb illustrations and very useful commentary. As a trade crossroads for centuries, this small sampling of 400 years contains over a thousand treasures from all over the known world -- even touching on the influences from China on pottery making via the Silk Road. One of many discoveries for me: Jerusalem is a "college town" -- dozens of schools and collections of important books from many different cultures. This book touches on the histories of several of those schools and libraries, and is a wonderful souvenir of a great exhibit. And, the exhibit has a very important objective: to weaken a dangerous and persisting stereotype; in the words of Thomas Campbell, director of the Met in the Forward: "From today's vantage point, Jerusalem seems destined to host unending, unrelenting conflict among the three Abrahamic religions that deem it holy: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Sectarian conflict is sadly the easiest tale to spin, but Jerusalem's history is much more nuanced." •The exhibit and this fine catalog makes a clear case for the mutual awareness of the different groups in the city and their efforts to maintain their own claims but to recognize the claims of others. Thus the emphasis on commerce, but also the many other ways the various claimants interact, both now and for centuries in the past. It's a wonderful correction to my own thinking -- I certainly have that stereotype in my mind even though I've been to Jerusalem and have seen the various faiths co-existing on the streets and in the buildings. The exhibit contains great beauty, and perhaps this message is the most beautiful and hopeful of all. Robert C. Ross December 2016 Read and enjoyed at the Member's Lounge on the second floor of the Met, one of the best benefits of an enhanced membership.

This is a beautiful, educational, and ever so interesting book, marking what has to have been an amazing exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art of artifacts relating to Jerusalem of 1000 to 1400. Anyone interested in that historically and religiously important city will be captivated by it. Anyone who, like me, is drawn to museums and old buildings, archaeology and its mysteries will

enjoy this...and likely want to own it. This is so much more than a list of artifacts and historical objects; it is a carefully produced history of the time, centered on Jerusalem which attracted traders, tourists (yes, tourists), students, religious of many different persuasions, and of course various warriors who swept in to take the city back and forth in control. It is a history lesson, a lesson in the many types of art being produced, particularly by followers of the three Abrahamic religions, and it is a lesson in the religious diversity of those times, when Jerusalem was open to all. The catalogue is divided into multiple sections with information provided by various experts on everything from trade patterns and their evidence in Jerusalem markets, to the variations in the worshiping sites for the Christians, Jews and Muslims, to books and authors, to jewelry design. (Of course I am giving the extent of the scope short shrift here, but want to give an idea of diversity.) After each narrative is a section with reproduction of appropriate artifacts and extensive bibliographical as well as additional historical information. This catalogue is a treasure trove requiring more than one read. Probably it would be best approached as a long term, on-going reading experience. I most definitely recommend this to anyone with an interest in this part of the world, this period in history, archaeology and the arts (in the broad sense). This exhibit dealt with the background of the creators/authors of many of the artifacts discovered so there is rich information about various European travelers as well as many from various parts of the Middle East and Asia. You will find hours of enjoyment. A copy of this book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review.

An exquisite testimony which reveals to the educated reader the extraordinary spiritual and cultural richness of the city of Jerusalem. The illustrations are equally outstanding and amplify the intellectual testimonies of the essays presented. I did not have the chance to see the exhibition the book is based upon, but I had the chance to be part of it, through the essays and illustrations. Disclaimer: Book offered by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Excellent book, shrink-wrapped to protect dust jacket from smudges, marks, tears, creases, etc. Just a really fine job.

Wonderful book full of the type of treasures from a good museum.

Slanted and prejudiced. Just like the exhibit.

great book lavishly illustrated

The best.

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