

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910284440803321
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Titolo	The juggler of Notre Dame and the medievalizing of modernity . Volume 3 The American Middle Ages // Jan M. Ziolkowski
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Open Book Publishers, 2018 Cambridge, England : , : Open Book Publishers, , 2018
ISBN	1-78374-522-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (482 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	909.07
Soggetti	Medievalism Civilization, Medieval - Influence
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro; Contents; Note to the Reader; 1. The Tumbling Worlds of Henry Adams; Adams Family; Great Scott! Sir Walter; Gothic Harvard; Photographic Memory; Reluctant Professor; Five of Hearts; Self-Made Medievalist; 2. Our Lady's Tumbler in Mont Saint Michel and Chartres; The Nature of the Book; Madonna of Medieval France, La Dona of Washington; Universal Exposition of 1900; Old Paris; Dynamo and Virgin Suicide; Henry Adams as Jongleur; Unity and Multiplicity; Medievalist Dream of a Dying DC Dynasty?; 3. Britain and the Making of the American Middle Ages; The Goth Side of Washington Gothic Landscaping: Picturesque Perfect Trees as Nature's Cathedrals; Collegiate Gothic Havens; Ivy League and Ivory Tower; 6. Point Taken: Gothic Modernism and the Modern Middle Ages; The Origins of Gothic Skyscrapers: Top That; The Cathedral of Commerce; The Tribune Tower; Giving Gothic: John D. Rockefeller Jr.; "Not a Cathedral-Building Age" and Thorstein Veblen; Seeing Chicago in Gray and White; Hooting at Yale Gothic; World War I and Modernism; Notes; Notes to Chapter 1; Notes to Chapter 2; Notes to Chapter 3; Notes to Chapter 4; Notes to Chapter 5; Notes to Chapter 6; Bibliography Goths and the Meanings of Gothic(k) John Ruskin and William Morris; Richardsonian Romanesque; Saint John the Divine and Trinity Church; Cathedral Culture; Kenneth Clark; 4. The Boston Bohemians; Our Lady's Tumbler in Boston Bohemia; Charles Eliot Norton; The Knight Errant

and Copeland & Day; Fred Holland Day; Ralph Adams Cram, Great Gothic Almighty; Americanized Middle Ages; 5. The Rise of Collegiate Gothic; American Gothic Colleges: Ogive Talking; F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Gothic Jazz Age; Late Collegiate Gothic at Duke and Rhodes; Cathedrals of Learning

Sommario/riassunto

This ambitious and vivid study in six volumes explores the journey of a single, electrifying story, from its first incarnation in a medieval French poem through its prolific rebirth in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. *The Juggler of Notre Dame* tells how an entertainer abandons the world to join a monastery, but is suspected of blasphemy after dancing his devotion before a statue of the Madonna in the crypt; he is saved when the statue, delighted by his skill, miraculously comes to life. Jan Ziolkowski tracks the poem from its medieval roots to its rediscovery in late nineteenth-century Paris, before its translation into English in Britain and the United States. The visual influence of the tale on Gothic revivalism and vice versa in America is carefully documented with lavish and inventive illustrations, and Ziolkowski concludes with an examination of the explosion of interest in *The Juggler of Notre Dame* in the twentieth century and its place in mass culture today. Volume 3: *The American Middle Ages* hinges upon two figures influenced by the juggler: Henry Adams, scion of Presidents and distinguished cultural historian whose works contributed to the rise of medievalism in America during the Gilded Age, and Ralph Adams Cram, the architect whose vision of Gothic accounts directly or indirectly for the campuses of West Point, Princeton, Yale, Chicago, Notre Dame, and many other universities across America. *The Juggler of Notre Dame and the Medievalizing of Modernity* is a rich case study for the reception of the Middle Ages in modernity. Spanning centuries and continents, the medieval period is understood through the lens of its (post)modern reception in Europe and America. Profound connections between the verbal and the visual are illustrated by a rich trove of images, including book illustrations, stained glass, postage stamps, architecture, and Christmas cards. Presented with great clarity and simplicity, Ziolkowski's work is accessible to the general reader, while its many new discoveries will be valuable to academics in such fields and disciplines as medieval studies, medievalism, philology, literary history, art history, folklore, performance studies, and reception studies.
