



Daily Life in Elizabethan England

By Jeffrey L. Singman

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Students, teachers, and interested readers will find in this resource a vivid and intimate account of life in the Elizabethan age. The first book on Elizabethan England to rise out of the living history movement, it combines a unique hands-on approach with the best of current research. Organized for easy reference, it is enlivened with how-to sections?recipes, clothing patterns, songs and games, all gathered from original sources. This hands-on approach recreates the daily life of ordinary people, not just the aristocracy, and systematically covers the most basic facts of life in a readily accessible format. Clearly illustrated with 94 drawings, patterns, and diagrams, it provides a treasure trove of information for classroom and library use and for those interested in recreating Elizabethan life.

The work is organized into sections on the structure of Elizabethan society, the course of life (birth, childhood, education, marriage, old age, and death), the cycles of time (daily, weekly, and yearly schedules, including a calendar of the Elizabethan year), the living environment (houses, villages, towns, and travel), clothing (including instruction for making complete Elizabethan male and female outfits), food (featuring a selection of recipes), and entertainment (songs with sheet music and instruction for authentic games and dances). A chronology of Tudor England, a glossary, appendices with information and ideas on organizing Elizabethan feasts and fairs, and lists of suggested readings, videos, and recordings complete the work. This is an indispensable resource for classrooms and school and public libraries because it gives readers a true understanding of what it would be like to live in 16th-century England.

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Editorial Review

Review

... "provides a useful overview of day-to-day life in a particular period of the past in a similar sequence of chapters. Following a brief history of the era, an overview chapter discusses the social structure, governmental organization, religious establishment, and economy of the period. Subsequent chapters outline the cycle of life, from birth to death, and the cycles of time, moving through the day, week, and year as experienced by the people of that era. A final series of chapters discuss food, clothing, and entertainment. The strength of these books is their detailed portrayal of the life of earlier times and the opportunities provided to recreate parts of that life. The text is rich in many details. Recommended for all types of libraries." -Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin

About the Author

JEFFREY L. SINGMAN is an editor of The Middle English Dictionary at the University of Michigan. He is a practitioner of Elizabethan living history as a founding member of the University Medieval and Renaissance Association (Tabard Inn Society) of Toronto and Southwark Tryan'd Bands, an international living history organization. Singman has published and lectured on games, literature and game theory, medieval languages and literatures, and the Robin Hood legend.

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