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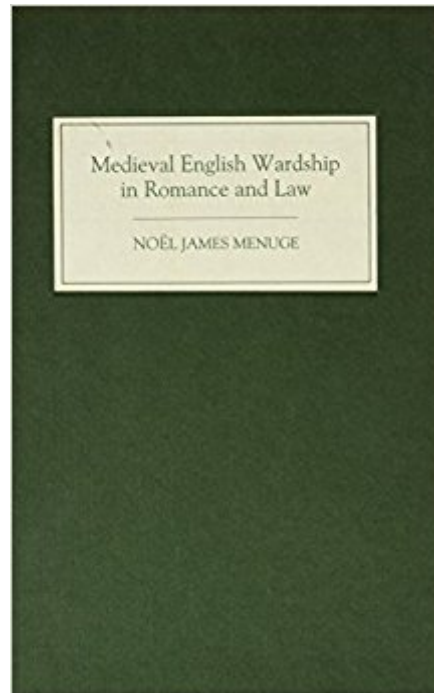# Medieval English Wardship In Romance And Law

Medieval English Wardship
in Romance and Law

NOËL JAMES MENUGE

Synopsis

Studies of wardship in medieval England have so far only seriously concentrated on legal concerns, thus overlooking the intricacies and subtleties of wardship discourse as they are revealed in romance literature. Menuge explores how wardship literature in romance may be used in studies of wardship, and how it may complement an understanding of legal history. Wardship discourse is examined in a variety of sources - legal treatises, cases, and romance - and is discussed in the light of medieval and current perceptions of wardship. Questions are raised as to why and how wards, guardians, lords and families are constructed in the sources, and how these may be read as 'narrative fictions' to tell us more about wardship construction and perception in author and audience alike. The issues addressed are those to do with inheritance, waste, legal age, marriage and guardianship care, while the dominant theme is the importance of the father and his legacy to the ward within this discourse.

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Customer Reviews

Deftly guides the reader through the themes of care, marriage, inheritance and waste, which resonate particularly strongly within both her chosen romances and her carefully selected legal material... An importaqnt new approach to medieval English wardship studies. --English Historical Review

NOEL JAMES MENUGE gained her D. Phil from the University of York.

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