

Of good Laws And good Men: Law And Society In The Delaware Valley, 1680-1710

BOOK REVIEWS

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revealed through her drawings of Caribbean insects, letters, and a self-portrait. Using these materials, Davis has reconstructed Maria's unusual and adventurous life, which was shaped by her science, art, religion, and her unusually strong sense of self.

Davis's examination of the unique lives of these early modern European women who found their center although they lived on the margins has made a major contribution to intellectual, cultural, and women's history, comparative religious history, and history of the new world. As important as the content and the lessons to be drawn from the women's lives and adventures, however, is Davis's prodigious research (140 pages of footnotes) and her methodology. Her analysis of the textual legacies of these women, written and visual, autobiographical and epistolary, her identification of similarities and differences, and her analysis of what the texts mean and how they work, what was said and not said, has both revealed the lives of real women and once again demonstrated Davis's virtuoso ability to make people who lived at the margins of their communities, whatever they may have been, central to our understanding of early modern culture.

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Of "Good Laws" and "Good Men": Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, 1680-1710. By WILLIAM M. OFFUTT, JR. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1995. xi + 340 pp. \$39.95.

In 1825 Thomas Jefferson labeled William Penn "the greatest lawgiver the world has produced." More recently, historians looking at his conflicts with the Assembly, the varieties of Frames of Government after 1681, and disputes over laws, oaths, and courts have downplayed Penn's legal acumen. Now, in an impressively researched and definitive account of the first thirty years of legal history in four Quaker-dominated Delaware River Valley counties (two in West Jersey and two in Pennsylvania), Offutt concludes that the legal reforms instituted by Penn (the "good laws") and the Quakers (the "good men") created a judicial system whose fairness was instrumental to the success of government. Neither the controversies over charters, right of government, George Keith, oaths, or governmental instability weakened the abilities of the courts to deliver what the inhabitants of a pluralistic society perceived as justice. The Quaker-created justice system gave Friends a legitimacy that enabled them to preserve dominance in Pennsylvania and West Jersey long after they became a minority.

Offutt bases his conclusions on two bodies of research: an analysis of all cases filed, settled out of court, dismissed, summarily denied, or tried by jury; and a demographic profile of the legal universe—the thirty percent of the population involved in the court system as plaintiff, defendant, justice of the peace, and juryman. He assesses the impact of the judicial system from the

Of "Good Laws" and "Good Men". Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, "Represents the best in the newest way of thinking about Colonial legal.Of "good Laws" and "good Men": Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, Front Cover. William McEnergy Offutt. University of Illinois Press, Of Good Laws and Good Men: Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, Offutt, William M., Jr.: Urbana, IL: University of Illinois.Arthur K. Steinberg; Of Good Laws and Good Men: Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, , American Journal of Legal History, Volume 40, Issue.Earlham CollegeAnthony Bing Of "Good Laws " and "Good Men ": Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, By William M. Offutt, Jr. Champaign.Of "Good Laws" and "Good Men": Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, (review). Jack D. Marietta. Quaker History, Volume 85, Number 2, Fall.Book Review: Of "Good Laws" and "Good Men": Law and Society in tie Delaware Valley, , by William M. Offutt, Jr.William M. OffuttJr, Of Good Laws and Good Men: Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, , Urbana and Chicago: University of.Of Good Laws and Good Men: Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, By William M. OffuttJr., Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois.Of "Good Laws " and "Good Men Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, By William M. Offutt, Jr. Champaign: University of. Illinois Press, Of "good laws" and "good men": law and society in the Delaware Valley, / William M. Offutt, Jr. Author: Offutt, William M. (William McEnergy), Read Of Good Laws and Good Men: Law and Society in the Delaware Valley, book reviews & author details and more at herzfokus-akademie.com Free delivery on.

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