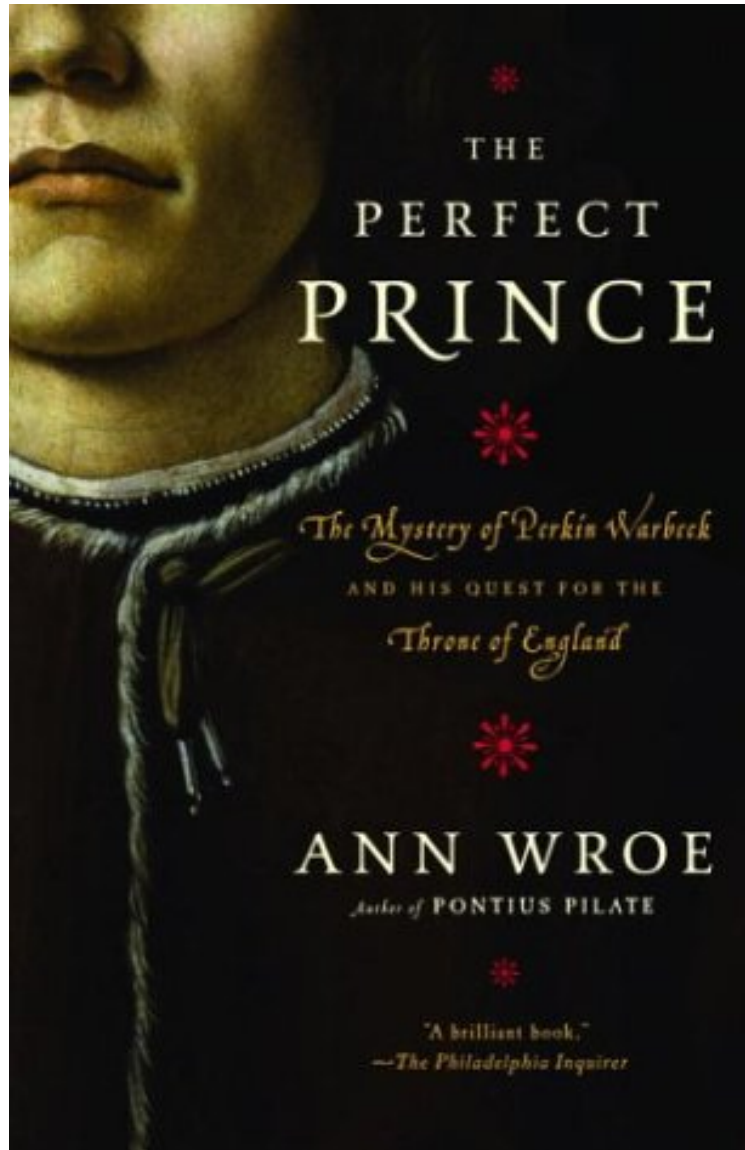


(Ebook pdf) The Perfect Prince: Truth and Deception in Renaissance Europe

The Perfect Prince: Truth and Deception in Renaissance Europe

Von Ann Wroe

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #939359 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2007-12-18Erscheinungsdatum: 2007-12-18File Name: B000XUAE80 | File size: 16.Mb

Von Ann Wroe : The Perfect Prince: Truth and Deception in Renaissance Europe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perfect Prince: Truth and Deception in Renaissance Europe:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Perkin - a 15th century "Anastasia case"?Von AmelrodeThe rightful king of England, a lost prince or just a boy trained to be a prince? Ann Wroe`s book leads us deep into the world of the end of the 15th century, when England passed from the

unruly times of War of the Roses into the hands of the Tudors. All know about the Princes in the Tower and their fate. Having read the history of the reign of the first Tudor King, Henry VII, I was of course aware that his rule was challenged but I did regard the "Perkin episode" rather as a footnote. Ann Wroe however points out that this was a rather serious challenge to the King and his not so stable rule, involving extensively foreign rulers and diplomatic plots, absorbing the King's energy, money and military forces. It was interesting to see how this man - whoever he might have been - manage in a short time to gain - sometimes only for a short period - the support of the rulers of France, Burgundy, Scotland and the King of the Romans. All these distinguished rulers seemed to believe that this man was indeed the Duke of York, Edward's IV second son who disappeared in the Tower of London. This reminds me often of the story of Anna Anderson who claimed to be the Grandduchess Anastasia in spite of the fact that she obviously she was not. As with her in the 20th century it seems that this man was what other wished him to be - and that indeed he became. Nevertheless, it is still puzzling that a boy from Touraine could have transformed himself into a prince and convince fellow princes that he was indeed the lost duke of York. But so did Anna Anderson. Ann Wroe describes a fascinating story and tries to put that into the context of the 15th century by explaining the symbolism of the time. However, I have to admit that sometimes she does too much of that and the story suffers from it. Less is sometimes more! Still some questions remain unanswered: if Margaret of York, the duchess of Burgundy and the real prince's aunt trained the boy to be a prince, could she really have wished for a nobody to be king of England, at a time where the blood royal was something very special, something divine and the gap between nobility and commoners very deep? And what about Elisabeth of York, the sister of the real prince, but Queen Consort of Henry VII and mother of the heirs to the throne? What was her attitude? Here Ann Wroe keeps silent. Here less is not more! All in all I can only recommend this book. It is "heavy reading" but worthwhile. It gives the reader still the opportunity to form its own opinion. And that I appreciate very much.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Amazing Exploration of a Great Mystery Von Monika Simon The name Perkin Warbeck is pretty familiar to anyone with an interest in the history of the period around 1500. His story, however, is usually presented only as an interesting and bizarre anecdote that is not worth exploring in detail. In this book Ann Wroe tells the tale of this mysterious figure and presents some truly astonishing facts: The official story (or rather stories) that he was the son of a boatman has gaping holes in it. Nonetheless, it still seems very unlikely that he really was Richard, Duke of York and younger son of Edward IV, as he claimed to be. Ann Wroe does not try to solve this puzzle, she simply presents the various facts and factoids she has collected from a wide variety of sources. The amount of research she has put into the book is truly astounding and the book full of amazing information. Not only did the author discover the most peculiar connections between the persons involved, not only does she show the many contradictions in the official version of 'Perkin Warbeck's' life, she also points out the strange inconsistencies in the behaviour of some of the young man's enemies, Henry VII included, who occasionally seemed to be unsure themselves how to treat him. However, the style of the narration sometimes gets in the way of delivering the facts. At least I found her flights of fancy irritating and the argumentation occasionally muddled. My guess is that this is an attempt to make the book more 'approachable', but it does distract badly from the truly fascinating story. The sources are listed in detail in the back of the book, for which I am grateful, though I really don't understand why proper references seem to have become so unpopular. Altogether, and despite of these drawbacks, this is a fascinating book and well worth reading.

Kurzbeschreibung In 1491, as Machiavelli advised popes and princes and Leonardo da Vinci astonished the art world, a young man boarded a ship in Portugal bound for Ireland. He would be greeted upon arrival as the rightful heir to the throne of England. The trouble was, England already had a king. The most intriguing and ambitious pretender in history, this elegant young man was celebrated throughout Europe as the prince he claimed to be: Richard, Duke of York, the younger of the Princes in the Tower who were presumed to have been murdered almost a decade earlier. Handsome, well-mannered, and charismatic, he behaved like the perfect prince, and many believed he was one. The greatest European rulers of the age among them the emperor Maximilian, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, and Charles VIII of France used him as a diplomatic pawn to their own advantage. As such, he tormented Henry VII for eight years, attempting to invade England three times. Eventually, defeated and captured, he admitted to being Perkin Warbeck, the son of a common boatman from Flanders. But was this really the truth? Ann Wroe, a historian and storyteller of the first rank, delves into the secret corners of the late medieval world to explore both the elusive nature of identity and the human propensity for deception. In uncovering the mystery of Perkin Warbeck, Wroe illuminates not only a life but an entire world trembling on the verge of discovery.

From the Hardcover edition.

From Booklist History readers probably close their books when Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at Bosworth Field during England's War of the Roses, but the dynastic struggle had a bizarre coda that Wroe rescues from obscurity. She recounts the odyssey of a young man who in the 1490s took in hand the Yorkist pretensions to the throne. He said he was Richard Plantagenet, displaced by Richard III as heir to Edward IV. Trouble was, little Richard hadn't been seen since big Richard clapped him into the Tower of London in 1483. But on the scaffold in 1499, the man who had comported himself with princely dignity

cleansed his soul and confessed himself a fraud from Flanders. Wroe pins down documentable truth and also envelops her readers into credulity about "Prince Richard," engendered from rumor, superstition, and faith in fortune's favor that gained him supporters among Cornwall peasants and continental potentates. In a compulsively readable way, Wroe imaginatively draws back the arras to discern the mysterious corners of history. Gilbert Taylor
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved
Pressestimmen
Ann Wroe is the best thing to happen to British history since Stonehenge.
Bernard Cornwell
Praise for The Perfect Prince
The world of history is all the better for having Ann Wroe in it. She is an explorer whose research takes her into the deep, hidden corners of human folly. She rescues the forgotten and illuminates the obscure. The Perfect Prince is the perfect biography: part mystery, part tragedy, and wholly absorbing.
Amanda Foreman, author of Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire
Wonderful...an entrancing and engrossing book, with a wealth of fascinating detail.
Allan Massie, Literary Extraordinary...[Wroes] knowledge is remarkable, and her writing...is sublime....[The Perfect Prince is] a master class in how biography, in the right hands, can breathe life into the darkest...pockets of the past.
Kathryn Hughes, The Guardian
A magnificent evocation of medieval Europe...Ann Wroe has conjured up a whole world, exploring the medieval mind-set with fluent erudition....This is one of the best books I have read on the Middle Ages.
Lucy Moore, New Statesman
Astonishingly detailed and moving.
Christina Hardyment, The Independent
Praise for Pontius Pilate
A splendid biography...meticulous and eloquent. In the course of this account, the reader discovers in a new way that evil and good are often deeply and mysteriously complementary.
Karen Armstrong
Sublime...For a long time this book will remain the definitive study of Pilate.
The Washington Post Book World
Compelling, eloquent, and vivid...In a superb blend of scholarship and creativity, Wroe brings this elusive yet pivotal figure to life.
The Boston Globe