

STUDIES IN  
CHURCH HISTORY

VOLUME 39

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THE CHURCH AND MARY

EDITED BY R. N. SWANSON

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For the Ecclesiastical History Society

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Volume 39

## The Church and Mary

Edited by R. N. SWANSON

The Virgin Mary makes only brief appearances in the gospel narratives, but over the centuries has been one of the most significant features of Christianity, and a constant influence on its evolutions. Her status and role were debated in the Christological controversies of the fifth century; since the Reformation, attitudes to Mary – devotional or hostile – have often provided a fault-line of confessional identity. More recently, with the emergence of feminism, Mary's function as female role model and status as antidote to Eve has provoked further debate and controversy.

This collection of twenty-eight articles by scholars drawn from Europe and America surveys and contributes to the continuing discussions of the role of Mary in the Church and its historical development. Ranging from early Byzantium to modern Ethiopia, examining issues including Reformation debates, local Genoese cults, and Victorian poetry, the volume demonstrates that Mary, despite her limited biblical role, has constantly been a dynamic and formative influence throughout the history of the Christian religion, and retains an important role in the modern Church.

Professor R.N. SWANSON teaches in the Department of Medieval History at the University of Birmingham.

THE CHURCH AND MARY

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PAPERS READ AT  
THE 2001 SUMMER MEETING AND  
THE 2002 WINTER MEETING OF  
THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

EDITED BY  
R.N. SWANSON

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