share' and the star dust. Audouard's novel benefits enormously from his willingness to celebrate this duality in his characters: their beauty and their treachery, their kindness and their cruelty. Abelard knows of his pupil's devotion to Heloise, so sets out to seduce her for himself. Heloise is no pure dove but describes herself as 'Abelard's Whore'. Yet still we find ourselves wishing there had been a different outcome, that Astrolabe, their son, had grown up with his parents; that Abelard had not died broken and defeated; and that Heloise had not had to reinvent herself as a passionless, sexless nun. I even wanted the fictional character of William to find love or at the very least have his love for Heloise recognised and affirmed. The novel may have suffered a little being translated from the French, literary conventions differing culturally, but for those interested in either the medieval period or iconic tragic romances, Audouard's novel provides a rich vein of beauty and emotion.

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Coredon, Christopher and Williams, Ann, *A Dictionary of Medieval Terms and Phrases*
(Cambridge, D S Brewer, 2004) 308 pages; RRP £25 paperback and £39.95 hardback; ISBN 1843840235

The reasoning behind *A Dictionary of Medieval Terms and Phrases* is to help the non-academic reader interested in medieval history to understand unfamiliar terminology that they may encounter and which impedes their understanding of the text. The dictionary is not intended to specialise in any one area of medieval history and as such cannot be entirely comprehensive. However, it covers a broad range of subjects from legal and ecclesiastical to the terminology of everyday medieval life.

The format of the dictionary is the standard alphabetical ordering, making it easy to use. There are approximately 3400 entries, heading terms or phrases are in bold and entries are well spaced for easy reading. Many of the entries go beyond a dictionary definition as they give examples, literary references, history and anecdotes. A cross-section of the languages of the period is represented, including English, French and Latin. Etymologies of the terms and phases are not given for every entry and, although this can be a disadvantage, it does make the entries easier to read for the intended audience. Cross-references to head-terms are indicated by an asterisk in the text of the entry, while other related cross-references are given at the end of appropriate entries. These cross-references often clarify or complete the exact meaning of the term. Extremely appealing are the references to terms that were used, and how they were used, in important manuscripts of the

time such as the *Domesday Book, Leges Henrici Primi* and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.*

Simple terms are put in a medieval context, particularly words that can be misconstrued from a modern context, for example, the word 'rape' is given two definitions: '(1) An administrative division of Sussex … (2) Originally the taking of a person or thing by force; if a woman was taken, the word did not necessarily imply sexual assault (which was a capital offence). The word was also used for elopement' (234). This simple definition is useful in understanding bibliographic material; for instance, accusations of rape against Chaucer can be understood from a different perspective. Terms like 'franklin' are given a clear definition, cross-connections and references to the *Domesday Book.* It also is cross-referenced to more interesting terms such as '*francigenare*' and '*vavasour*' which give an insight not only into the term but into its background. Phrases, for example, 'Merciless Parliament' and '*cartae baronum*' are given an informative and concise history.

This dictionary has many good points; in particular the clarity of the definitions and the cross-referencing are extremely well considered and interesting. The format, the readability, spacing of the entries, along with the quality of the print and paper make this a dictionary a pleasure to browse through as well as serving as a useful source for understanding individual terms and phases. There are omissions of terms and phrases such as '*computus digitorum*', finger reckoning or calculating used in computus and outlined in Bede's *Reckoning of Time.* Another omission is 'maze', originated from the Old English *mazen* meaning to bewilder, first recorded c 1385 by Chaucer in *The Legend of Good Women.* Given the broad range of the subject matter of the dictionary, omissions are not surprising. Overall, *A Dictionary of Medieval Terms and Phrases* more than fulfils its promise to be of assistance to any non-academic reader of history and as such should be found on the shelf of all avid readers of medieval history.

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Duncan, A A M, *The Kingship of the Scots 842-1292: Succession and Independence*
(Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2002) hardback; 381 pages; RRP £60.00; ISBN 0748616268

While the title indicates that this book covers the period 842 – 1292, the first two centuries are covered in the first 26 pages. The remainder of the book covers the rather scrambling nature of succession dominated by the hawkish attitudes of the English kings and the unfortunate failings of