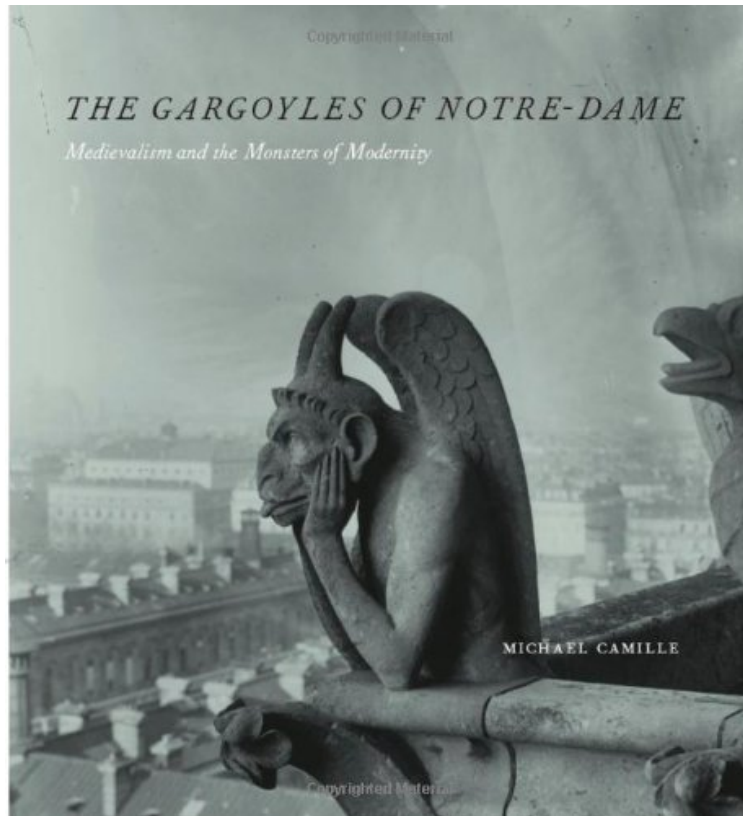


The Gargoyles of Notre-Dame: Medievalism and the Monsters of Modernity

Michael Camille

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



 Download

 Read Online

#2630997 in Books Example Product Brand 2009-06-15Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.10 x 8.50l, #File Name: 0226092453464 pages | File size: 23.Mb

Michael Camille : The Gargoyles of Notre-Dame: Medievalism and the Monsters of Modernity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gargoyles of Notre-Dame: Medievalism and the Monsters of Modernity:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. When a gargoyle becomes a chimera....By Le StrygeLet me start with a warning. Do NOT purchase this book if you are looking for a glossy coffee table book of pretty pictures. You will be very disappointed.If, however, you wish to read an intensely detailed and thorough examination of the many and varied interpretations placed on the 54 chimeras,...(NOT the gargoyles, despite the title), ...placed on the gallery of Notre Dame de Paris by Viollet-le-Duc from 1854 onwards, then this is for you.From their very first appearance, the "chimeres" have fired the imaginations of tourists, artists, politicians, doctors, psychologists of the insane,recorders of sexual deviation, other writers, early photographers and etchers, right up to movie makers and American writers of the gothic novel. Michael Camille examines each of the above groups and how they placed their own personal meanings on those amazing carvings by little known sculptor Victor Pyanet. The works are NOT, as so often supposed, original medieval works, nor even copies of pre-existing originals, but a collection of original fantasy so varied that they have become the stimulus for the wildly differing projections of so many groups. The true gargoyles, (the water-spouts),

receive only a brief mention here. This book concentrates on the 54 chimeres, ...and especially the most famous of all known as Le Stryge, featured on the cover. There are dozens of small illustrations in black and white of details, etchings, original designs, documents, photographs and other works inspired by Viollet-le-Duc's composite designs. Many you will not have seen before. This is an in-depth book for those who want to look behind the oft repeated tourist patter, or the trifling and often inaccurate pap so often found in glossy picture books on "Gargoyles". I see some that still identify these particular works as "medieval"!!! It's told in a scholarly but readable style, ...although the author does love to throw in the intellectual word every now and then. I found this book a wonderful addition to my collection, a most thorough and interesting study of a collection of works that still fascinate and inspire us today, ...even as they themselves now succumb to the decay caused by the pollution of the years. Just be warned,it's definitely NOT a coffee-table lightweight perusal. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Read By KEV Great book, explaining the symbolism on Notre Dame. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was happy to find the book By Carl-Erhard Lindahl The book is a bit difficult to find and therefore I was happy to get it. The condition of the book was correctly described. It took a rather long time to reach me and the explanation why it was so was a bit strange. But all is well that ends well

Most of the seven million people who visit the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris each year probably do not realize that the legendary gargoyles adorning this medieval masterpiece were not constructed until the nineteenth century. The first comprehensive history of these world-famous monsters, *The Gargoyles of Notre-Dame* argues that they transformed the iconic thirteenth-century cathedral into a modern monument. Michael Camille begins his long-awaited study by recounting architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc's ambitious restoration of the structure from 1843 to 1864, when the gargoyles were designed, sculpted by the little-known Victor Pyanet, and installed. These gargoyles, Camille contends, were not mere avatars of the Middle Ages, but rather fresh creations symbolizing an imagined past whose modernity lay precisely in their nostalgia. He goes on to map the critical reception and many-layered afterlives of these chimeras, notably in the works of such artists and writers as Charles Mryon, Victor Hugo, and photographer Henri Le Secq. Tracing their eventual evolution into icons of high kitsch, Camille ultimately locates the gargoyles place in the twentieth-century imagination, exploring interpretations by everyone from Winslow Homer to the Walt Disney Company. Lavishly illustrated with more than three hundred images of its monumental yet whimsical subjects, *The Gargoyles of Notre-Dame* is a must-read for historians of art and architecture and anyone whose imagination has been sparked by the lovable monsters gazing out over Paris from one of the world's most renowned vantage points.

The restoration of Notre Dame de Paris has always been controversial. Viollet-le-Duc and Jean Baptiste Lassus have long been cast as the handmaidens of nineteenth-century positivism, instilling a vision of rational structure and historical development on the cathedral only recently purged of its Revolutionary years as a Temple of Reason. Writing a history of the cathedral's bevy of gargoyles, Michael Camille brilliantly confirms Viollet-le-Duc's definition of restoration as both a word and thing of modern coinage. This last work of one of our times' great medievalists is, like Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris*, at once monumental and wide ranging, yet always focused on a demonic protagonist. Provocative, at times profoundly insightful, Michael Camille unveils the fantasies and anxieties of both Viollet-le-Duc and all the restorations since in the veils of meaning and emotions of France's most visited cathedral.