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The Dominicans in the British Isles and Beyond

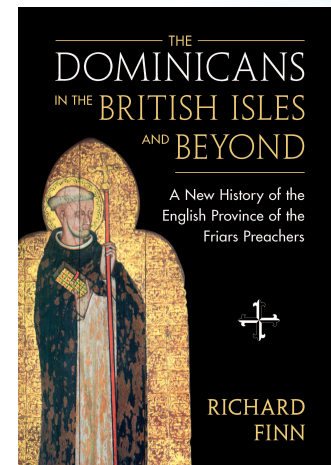
A New History of the English Province of the Friars Preachers

Richard Finn

Blackfriars, Oxford

The history of the Dominicans in the British Isles is a rich and fascinating one. Eight centuries have passed since the Friars Preachers landed on England's shores. Yet no book charting the history of the English Province has appeared for close on a hundred years. Richard Finn now sets right this neglect. He guides the reader engagingly and authoritatively through the medieval, early modern and contemporary periods: from the arrival of the first Black Friars – and the Province's 1221 foundation by Gilbert de Fresnay – to Dominican missions to the Caribbean and Southern Africa and seismic changes in church and society after Vatican II. He discusses the Province's medieval resilience and sudden Reformation collapse; attempts in the 1650s to restore it; its Babylonian Exile in the Low Countries; its virtual disappearance in the nineteenth century; and its unlikely modern revival. This is an essential work for medievalists, theologians and historians alike.

1. The Making of an English Multi-National: 1221–1348; 2. From the Black Death to the Tudor Suppressions: 1348–1559; 3. An Unorganised Mission: 1559–1655; 4. A European Foundation: 1655–1827; 5. Apostolic Missioners: 1655–1850; 6. The Re-makings of an Observant Province: 1850–1913; 7. 'Jarrett's Jam': The Re-Shaping of the Province: 1914–1963; 8. From 'Acute Agony' to 'Rebirth', 1964–2021.



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'While the Dominicans in medieval England have received various degrees of attention over the past decades, this book does a particular service in attending to the less remembered history of the Order from the Reformation onwards. Notably, it also covers the activities of the Province beyond the geographical boundaries of England proper, which includes not only Scotland, Ireland and Wales but also its "homeless" period in the Netherlands and its emergence within various British colonial territories. The scholarship is of a consistently high quality and the research is impressively comprehensive. There is also a welcome determination to bypass flowery narratives of the Order's past in favour of more complicated and occasionally less-harmonious accounts.'

Steven Watts,
Crandall University



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