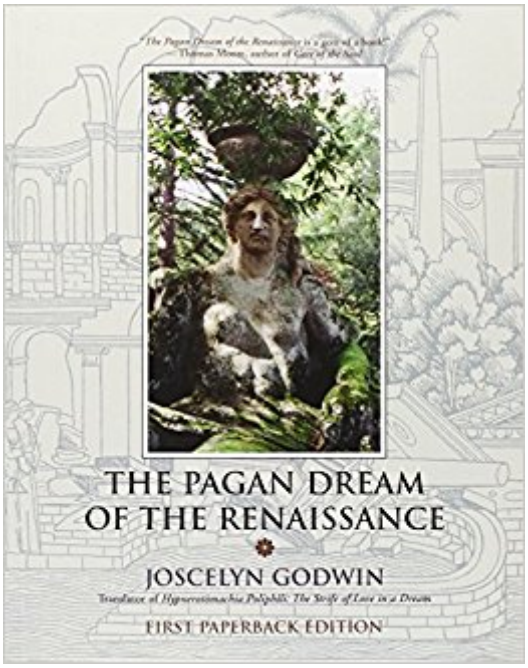
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The Pagan Dream Of The Renaissance



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Synopsis

The Pagan Dream of the Renaissance recounts the almost untold story of how the rediscovery of the pagan, mythological imagination during the Renaissance brought a profound transformation to European culture. This highly illustrated book, available for the first time in paperback, shows that the pagan imagination existed side-by-side -- often uneasily -- with the official symbols, doctrines, and art of the Church. Godwin carefully documents how pagan themes and gods enhanced both public and private life. Palaces and villas were decorated with mythological images; stories, music, and dramatic pageants were written about pagan themes; and landscapes were designed to transform the soul. This was a time of great social and cultural change, when the pagan idea represented nostalgia for a classical world untroubled by the idea of sin and in no need of redemption.A stunning book with hundreds of photos that bring alive this period with all its rich conflict between Christianity and classicism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joscelyn Godwin was born in Kelmscott, Oxfordshire, England on January 16, 1945. He was educated as a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford, then at Radley College (Music Scholar), and Magdalene College, Cambridge (Music Scholar; B.A., 1965, Mus. B., 1966, M.A. 1969). Coming to the USA in 1966, he did graduate work in Musicology at Cornell University (Ph. D., 1969; dissertation: "The Music of Henry Cowell") and taught at Cleveland State University for two years before coming to the Colgate University Music Department in 1971. He has taught at

Colgate ever since.

Interesting, but does not touch literature, only the visual arts. Even so it cannot compare with the classic Sezenec on the same subject.

The Middle Ages was dominated by Christianity. The title of the book alludes to this fact by stating the only way to be a pagan during the Middle Ages was in your dreams (imagination). The theme of the book is how classical culture and the Kaballah arose and sometimes blended with Christanity for the first time. The main characters and works are all included.Sometime during the 15th century, classical culture began popping up all over Europe. For example, The Strife of Love in A Dream was an early book printed by the Gutenberg press. It included pictures. Its plot was pagan.The Florentine Picture Chronicle by a talented, anonymous artist includes drawings of Adam and Eve, Achilles, Ganymede and many more in classical style. So Christian ideals were slowly blending with classical culture. This included architecture, drawing, sculpture, painting, etc.An example of architecture was the studiolo. A small room decorated with painting and imagery to inspire self-contemplation.

The Pagan Dream Of The Renaissance by academician and Western esoteric traditions expert Joscelyn Godwin is an informed and informative exploration of how pagan deities captivated the Renaissance European imagination during the Renaissance, to such an extent that symbols of pagan doctrine would sometimes exist side-by-side with official symbols and doctrines of the Christian Church. Enhanced with numerous black-and-white photographs of Renaissance era art and stonework that celebrated pagan deities pepper this scholarly and insightful text, The Pagan Dream Of The Renaissance is a highly recommended addition to academic Western History and Renaissance History reference collections and reading lists.

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