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Crime Fiction Set in the Middle Ages: Historical Novel and Detective Story

Joerg O. Fichte

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Abstract

In the wake of Ellis Peters' first Brother Cadfael Chronicle, *A Morbid Taste for Bones* (1977), there has been a veritable boom in medieval mystery stories. Since all authors proclaim to write historical crime fiction, they combine the two genres of the historical novel and the detective story. In doing this, they create specific images of the Middle Ages. The notion of what is medieval and how the Middle Ages can be used as a site for crime fiction is the subject of the first part of this investigation. Parts two and three analyze the conventions adopted from the modern detective story, especially the Golden Age clue-puzzle story and the hard-boiled school, and their use in medieval mysteries

About the article

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