

volume did little to bridge that particular divide. Knoppers also commented that “scholars of English Puritanism tend to treat America as an afterthought, if at all” (12), which is a very interesting observation, given that the essays that dealt with American Puritanism in the volume were left to the very end. Overall, although the theme of discontent seems a bit forced at times, *Puritanism and Its Discontents* will offer scholars of early modern British and American history important insights into the cultural constructions of Puritan identity and the Puritans’ radical impulse to reform.

Anna E. C. Simoni. *The Ostend Story Early Tales of the Great Siege and the Mediating Role of Henrick van Haestens*. ‘t Goy-Houten, The Netherlands: Hes & De Graaf Publishers BV, 2003. 232 pp. + 27 illus. Euros 75. Review by EDWARD M. FURGOL, NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER.

Simoni has written a valuable book for early modern historians. While the main events of Ostend’s three year long siege unfolds irregularly in the book, the volume’s contribution to cultural (not military) history makes it worthwhile. Simoni has produced a fascinating transmission of a major story of seventeenth-century Europe as produced by a number of publishers, or a historic-bibliographical study as she calls it (204).

The book proceeds in fourteen short chapters and three appendices to reveal a segment of early modern Europe from which many of us have benefited—contemporary printers’ coverage of the era’s events. Readers eager for a tale of a siege of the military revolution will only find it here incidentally. Instead, one learns how an event (like the siege of Ostend) became captured in larger printed works and how the stories crossed national frontiers. In the first chapter the author explains how Henrick van Haestens’ Dutch accounts of the siege (*Beschrijvinghe . . . Oostende* and *De Bloedige ende strenge Belegeringhe . . . Oostende*) served the printer Aert Meuris in filling gaps in the journal of Philippe Fleming

(secretary of Ostend's governors) when he published *Ostende Vermaerde* in 1621. [In 1615 van Haestens published an account of the siege in French called *La Nouvelle Troye*.] While historians have lauded the Fleming book as the most reliable source, they have wrongly slighted Van Haestens and failed to appreciate his value as a source for the Fleming/Meuris work (16, 20-24). Chapters two and three analyze how van Haestens sourced his work definitively from *Histoire remarquable . . . d'Ostende* (1604) and the German work from which it was translated, *Belagerung der Statt Ostend*. Simoni makes the important suggestion that the Dutch notary and agent in Cologne, Henricus Bilderbeke, authorized the two editions of the German work as pro-Dutch propaganda.

The next chapter continues the discussion of the German sources and explains van Haestens' decision to publish a new work on a siege that had ended a decade earlier as a combination of patriotic feeling and entrepreneurial initiative. [Contrarily as regards both the publisher went bankrupt in 1621 and moved to Leuven where he became a Roman Catholic.] The fifth chapter examines other sources used by the printer and traces many to the library of the academic Petrus Scriverius, whose works he had previously published. Chapter six provides the evidence for how Meuris used van Haestens' *Beschrijvinghe . . . Oostende* to flesh out the narrative of Fleming's journal. The next three chapters tackle the controversies and connections between van Haestens' Dutch books and Meuris' publication. Simoni posits the theory that the former saw a copy of Fleming's journal, suggesting that it came from a third party since Fleming despised van Haestens' work for what he considered inaccuracies such as its account of the celebration of the end of the first year of the siege (90-92). In chapters ten to fourteen Simoni details how printers enlivened their historical prose productions by the inclusion of poetry and maps and images (with all three elements being used by a succession of printers). The poems include works by the young Hugo Grotius and the senior Dutch academic and poet Daniel Heinsius. Chapters eleven to thirteen discuss the maps and illustrations used by van Haestens. Bilderbeke's *Belagerung der Statt Ostende* (1604-5) served as the source

of many since Van Haestens had purchased the copper plates after 1610, a common practice, which according to Simoni inspired new works on previously published subjects (149-50). Simoni details how van Haestens used these assets and supplemented them, painting a sympathetic view of the defenders in his books (153). Meuris republished them in Fleming's *Ostende Vermaerde*. The addition of these extra-narrative elements presumably enhanced a book's marketability. The last chapter summarizes the significance of the output of van Haestens and Meuris on the siege of Ostend.

Simoni's book benefits from a good provision of its own supplementary material. She makes the quotations in Dutch (and other languages) immediately accessible by translating them. Slightly annoyingly the notes appear at the end of each chapter—a totally unnecessary act by a publisher in the computer age. Idiosyncratically, their numeration of the notes continues throughout the book as opposed to restarting with each chapter. This novel approach (to the reviewer) maybe an attempt to identify particular notes with its chapter, but as the number exceeds 400 it is off-putting. In addition to the notes the book has a substantial bibliography, heavily weighted toward bibliographical and not military history. The author and publisher deserve praise for including twenty-seven illustrations from the books discussed. A modern map of the places mentioned in the text would have been welcome. The serviceable index provides particularly useful referencing for earlier related works.

What is the significance of Simoni's book? Does it add to the military history of the siege? No, many episodes of it are recounted. For instance, there are accounts of the plots against Dutch commanders (83-86), the presence of women either in the besieging forces or the town (chapter nine), special weapons (chapter twelve), and Sir Francis Vere's delaying negotiations with the besiegers (153-55), to name a few. Yet the work does not contribute to the literature on the military revolution. Simoni has produced an impeccably researched, meticulously delineated and generally well-written piece of cultural history—one that explains how patrons,

authors and publishers created their works. Equally important the reader receives insight into the linkage between publishing in the Low Countries, Germany, France and England. Intriguingly none of the contemporary publications on the siege of Ostend cited by Simoni appeared in the international language—Latin—all materialized in the vernacular.

Who will benefit from Simoni's study? The most obvious beneficiaries are those interested in print or early modern Dutch cultural history. However, reading it would be instructive to any early modern historian or post-graduate, because Simoni explains how contemporary printed works are often more complex than they might seem at first sight. Her analysis of economic and ideological forces indicates how a writer/printer might produce works for maximum sales or recognition. Those seeking a military history of the siege should read J. L. Motley's *History of the United Netherlands* (1869), or C. R. Markham's *The Fighting Veres* (1888). Simoni has produced a good book explaining the interaction of events on printing history.

Robert Poole, ed. *The Lancashire Witches: Histories and Stories*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002. xiv + 226 pp. Paper \$24.95. Hard \$74.95. Review by GILIAN PATON, CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY.

"The Lancashire Witches are not yet dead," states editor Robert Poole in his introduction to *The Lancashire Witches: Histories and Stories* (xii). Indeed from reading this collection of essays by experts on these well-known witch scares it is easy to see why this topic has enduring appeal. *The Lancashire Witches* covers a broad range of topics and is very much interdisciplinary in focus, with articles by scholars who specialize in various aspects of seventeenth-century history, such as literature, the history of the church, scientific history, economic and social history, Renaissance studies, and, of course, witchcraft studies. This work will certainly appeal to anyone with interest in seventeenth-century English life.