



# The Golden Legend

*Jacobus de Voragine , Richard Hamer (Introduction) , Christopher Stace (Translation)*

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One of the central texts of the Middle Ages, *The Golden Legend* deeply influenced the imagery of poetry, painting and stained glass with its fascinating descriptions of saints' lives and religious festivals. By creating a single-volume sourcebook of core Christian stories, Jacobus de Voragine (c. 1229-98) attracted a huge audience across Europe. This selection of over seventy biographies ranges from the first Apostles and Roman martyrs to near-contemporaries such as St Dominic, St Francis of Assisi and St Elizabeth of Hungary. Here, witnesses to the true faith endure horrific tortures; reformed prostitutes win divine forgiveness; while other women live disguised as monks or nobly resist lustful tyrants. Lucid and compelling, *The Golden Legend* offers an enthralling insight into the medieval mind.

## The Golden Legend Details

Date : Published September 24th 1998 by Penguin Classics (first published 1260)

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Author : Jacobus de Voragine , Richard Hamer (Introduction) , Christopher Stace (Translation)

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# From Reader Review The Golden Legend for online ebook

## Philippe Malzieu says

It was a time or religious holidays marked the seasons. Each day was dedicated to a saint. For the mass of fiddèle which could not read it was necessary to mark the spirits and to build the hearts. The account of the martyr of each saints ought to be exemplary. Voragine did not hesitate, it is terribly gore, so much gore that it is almost funny. I have read it when it has been published in the prestigious collection "La Pléiade". To read like a testimony of medieval piety.

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## Aurélie Knit & Read says

Un incontournable de la littérature chrétienne, plutôt à lire à titre consultatif que d'une traite car il est assez indigeste. Sa valeur historique est incalculable.

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## Alex says

The Penguin translation is BAD. No footnotes, they omitted some very important saints in lieu of lesser-known ones (St. Anne is missing from their translation).

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## Emily (Infinite Lives, Infinite Stories) says

Having to read this for a college course, you can guess that I was not all that enthused. However, to my surprise, it was quite interesting reading about the saints that I grew up learning about. I could take the time and review and everyone, unfortunately, I don't have that kind of time and probably neither do most of you reading this. The facts: It was interesting, insightful, and inquisitive. The writing is straightforward and understandable, which was a huge relief after we finished reading the Illiad. Though it is a challenge to keep all of the saints straight, I applaud you if you can without writing anything down.

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## Creikord says

La edición de Alianza Editorial no es recomendable. Es una selección de santos arbitraria: de 130 biografías que componen la obra original en esta monografía no llegan a 40, y las que aparecen están recortadas al antojo del editor.

Un saludo Enrique.

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## **Daniel says**

A classic from the Middle Ages about lives of the Saints. the Holy Lance with Saint Maurice.

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## **Alison Kudlowski says**

May be bias here...but this collection and selection of historically early saint's lives was written by a Dominican Friar started around his joining of the order in 1244. Not always historically accurate nevertheless it makes for facinating anecdotes of life and attitudes in 13th 14th century Europe. It is an invaluable tool for art historians seeking as ever they do...contextual landscapes of their subjects. In total 71 Saints are itemised together with their related feast days. A treasure of an historical find in its own right, it was regarded as one of the most widely available collections of medieval Europe completed in 1266. Apart from its invaluable material for art historians it is rich in myth which makes it entertaining for artists themselves...painters or the written word as it opens up a labyrinth which feeds the imagination.

Here is an example of a 'did you know'...that a result of a discussion between Sts Dominic and Francis caused Francis to create the Friars Minor, by saying they are named such 'to guard them from ever aspiring to become greater'.

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## **Mark Grago says**

If you want to know where most of the "legends" originated about the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, this is the book for you. There is a wealth of information on much Christian legend; however, nothing rooted in strong, historical fact. It can be argued that this work was an "early" bestseller as we know it today. A must for any serious Medievalist!

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## **Michael Mendez says**

I never knew the saints were this crazy

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## **Raúl says**

Compendio de apenas trescientas páginas que escoge solo treinta y cinco de entre las ciento ochenta biografías originales, y está destinado no tanto a la consulta del estudioso como a la lectura de principio a fin. Esto le aporta, por un lado, una virtud en cuanto que acerca al lector actual un texto medieval que de ningún modo se pensó para ser leído en silencio, sino interpretado en viva voz. Por otro lado, debido a las limitaciones de su propio formato, he echado en falta un aparato crítico que puntale el material y sirva para completar la información en él contenida, así como para explicar la razón de esta selección escogida por Alberto Manguel, pues el libro solo posee un brevísimo prólogo, ofreciendo a continuación el texto original, traducido al castellano, sin un solo pie de página.

Lo que nos puede interesar hoy de la 'Leyenda dorada', pese al estilo anquilosado, es que su lectura supone viajar en el tiempo hasta una de las principales fuentes de la inspiración artística e iconográfica de la tradición cristiana. Cada cual tenemos nuestras debilidades a este respecto, y en mi caso, mi entrada a este libro llegó a través de mi interés particular por el Bosco y sus Tentaciones de san Antonio.

Para leer la reseña y comentario completo: <http://cazadorgamusinos.blogspot.com....>

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### **Gavin says**

Potted lives of the saints and the reasons they became saints. This includes their days and other goodies. A dipping into type book and useful for reference if theology needs to be criticised.

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### **Jackson Cyril says**

Fun reading.

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### **James Violand says**

Other than the hyperbole inherent in this genre, this work can be inspiring. In the post-modern era of self satisfaction and situational ethics, it is refreshing to read about a time when the Good was appreciated and Evil was recognized for what it is. Demons prevail where God is ignored.

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### **Ebookwormy1 says**

This book came to my attention through two separate experiences in teaching middle ages history and literature. The first was reading Cervantes classic Don Quixote, which created an entirely new historical fiction genre. Cervantes alludes to the devotion of the masses to this work, which was second to the Bible in popularity. Secondly, in researching books for Valentine's Day, it turns out The Golden Legend is primary source material on this saint.

When I'm ready for this text, I would like to read this translation.

Don Quixote, Cervantes, 1605

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

The Story of Saint Valentine, Odden, 2007

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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