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Pragmatic Literacy and the Medieval Use of the Vernacular: The Swedish Example

By I Larsson, Inger Larsson

Brepols N.V. Hardback. Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Pragmatic Literacy and the Medieval Use of the Vernacular: The Swedish Example, I Larsson, Inger Larsson, Between 1150 and 1400 Sweden was transformed from a society which was predominantly reliant on oral communication into a society which increasingly deployed writing. Latin, the traditional language of government and records, was gradually replaced by vernacular Swedish. The watershed moment in this process was the drafting of national and town laws in the 1350s, an event which established Swedish as the language of the judiciary and judicial records. From this period written documentation was gradually integrated into legal procedure. Pragmatic Literacy argues that the Crown, the expanding bureaucracy, the editing of the laws in Swedish, and the laws' demands for written documentation in everyday transactions were the main driving forces behind the development in medieval Sweden of lay literacy for practical purposes. The book demonstrates how the early use of writing by the royal administration and the writing of provincial laws in Swedish created "centres of literacy" from which literate ways of thinking and acting spread both geographically and socially. It further illustrates how literacy moved beyond the confines of the clerical elite, by exploring how different...



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