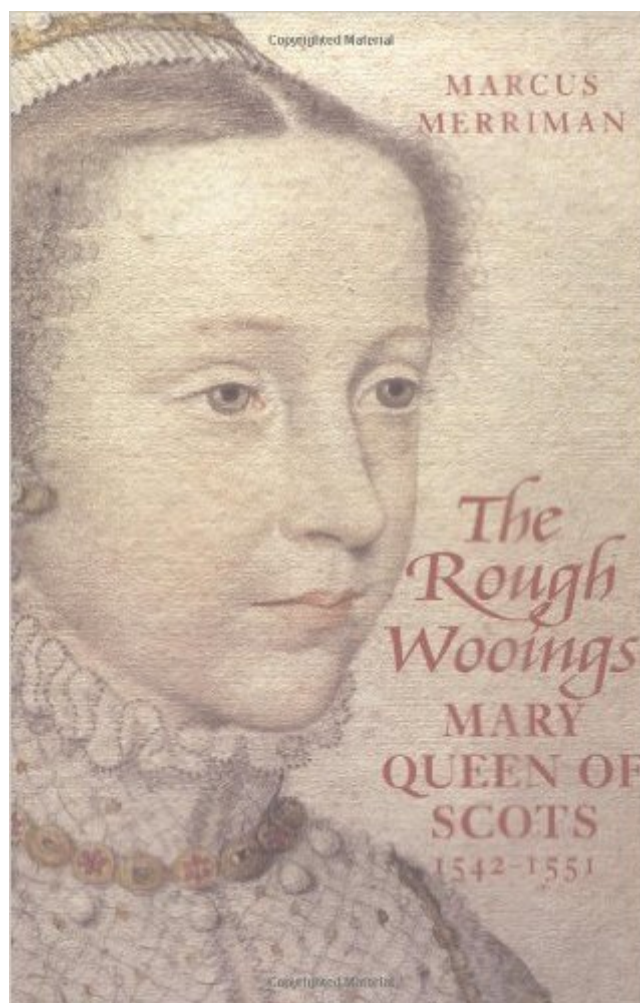


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The Rough Wooings: Mary Queen Of Scots 1542-1551



Synopsis

Mary Queen of Scots was a daughter of debate from the week of her birth. The Rough Wooings for her hand in marriage were the last major war between Scotland and England. This is the story of her beginning, which involves the major figures of early modern history - such as Henry VIII and Francois I.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Merriman's book is one of the few to concentrate solely on the attempts by England to force a dynastic marriage between Edward VI and Mary Queen of Scots. While it is clear Merriman is a man with lots of knowledge on the topic, it is even more clear that he doesn't have a clue how to present that knowledge in a clear, well-organized manner. Merriman states (in an introductory chapter about the conventions he will use for dating, money, and translations) "...what I am seeking to do is make the text accessible to students and the general public alike... I want this to be a book which both tells a story, but also teaches..."(xxix). Unfortunately, nothing he does from that point on makes these goals possible. I approached this book as a generalist. This is an era of which I have some knowledge, gained from several history courses. However, I have as much training in historical research as Professor Merriman and I still found his information nearly impossible to assimilate. It's clear that the book contains all the relevant material; however, the reader must sift through the entire book and attempt to put the material into some rational order all on their own. The arrangement of chapters has no clear outline, and, within the chapters, one tends to find "everything but the kitchen sink." There's no effort to make a clear, chronological, or even narrative approach to

the period; indeed, one of the first chapters deals with the 1550 Rouen Entrance of Henry II of France, while the effect of the death of James V isn't outlined until Chapter 5.

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