

**THE MANUALE
SCHOLARIUM: AN ORIGINAL
ACCOUNT OF LIFE IN
THE MEDIAEVAL UNIVERSITY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649518463

The Manuale Scholarium: An Original Account of Life in the Mediaeval University by Robert Francis Seybolt

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ROBERT FRANCIS SEYBOLT

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The Manuale Scholarium

AN ORIGINAL ACCOUNT OF LIFE
IN THE MEDIAEVAL UNIVERSITY

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN

BY

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CAMBRIDGE
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

LONDON: HUMPHREY MILFORD

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1921

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INTRODUCTION

STUDENTS of university life in the Middle Ages have long been familiar with the *Manuale Scholarium*. Several writers have used it as their chief source of information concerning life in the German universities of the later Middle Ages; others have based their accounts exclusively upon it. The comments of many investigators on its documentary value would seem to justify an attempt to make the *Manuale* available to a wider circle of readers.

The popularity of the *Manuale* among modern writers seems to be due to its interesting description of the freshman ceremony of initiation, in the second chapter. Kaufmann and Steinhausen refer to the *Manuale* only in connection with the 'jocund advent.'¹ This chapter, containing the earliest published account of the rite of deposition, is duly acknowledged by Rait and Rashdall.² A rather free and much abbre-

¹ Georg Kaufmann, *Die Geschichte der deutschen Universitäten*, ii, p. 233: "One gets a vivid picture of it from the description in the *Manuale Scholarium*, which presents the custom of the fifteenth century." Georg Steinhausen, *Geschichte der deutschen Kultur*, p. 458: "The much used . . . *Manuale Scholarium* affords a glance into student life itself, its oftentimes rough customs, and particularly the deposition."

² R. S. Rait, *Life in the Medieval University*, pp. 116-119; Hastings Rashdall, *The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages*, ii, pp. 629-631. Wilhelm Fabricius, "Die ältesten gedruckten Quellen zur Geschichte des deutschen Studententums," in *Zeitschrift für Bücherfreunde*, Jahrgang i (1897-98), i, p. 182, note 2: "The description of