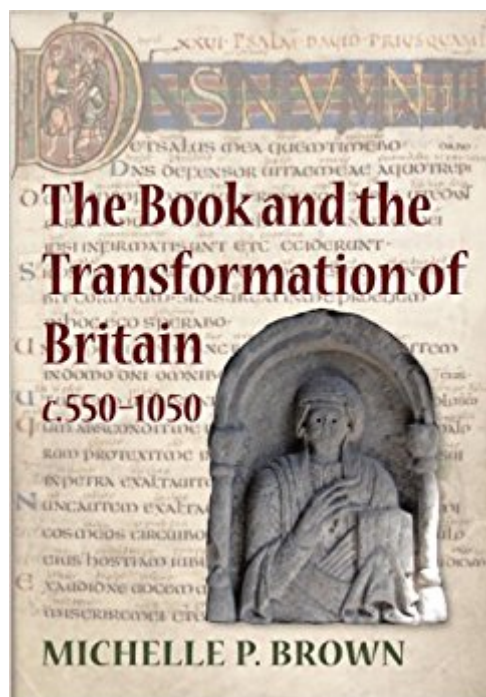




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# The Book And The Transformation Of Britain C. 550-1050: A Study In Written And Visual Literacy And Orality



## Synopsis

Between 550 and 1050 AD, the world of late Roman Antiquity was utterly transformed, becoming a patchwork region of independent states that eventually coalesced into empires and nations, each with distinct, emerging identities. In *The Book and the Transformation of Britain*, esteemed medievalist Michelle P. Brown explores the impact of this transformative era in British history by looking at the manuscripts and written records that were produced during that time. Brown's analysis of the changing of the British Isles pays particular attention to the role of the manuscript book, which was one of the greatest and most effective agents of change—one that also managed to preserve tradition. Through a close examination of written volumes and documents, Brown pieces together a fascinating and highly illustrated account of the literary culture of the time, including levels of literacy and its social perception.

## Book Information

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Michelle P. Brown is professor of medieval manuscript studies and course tutor to the History of the Book MA at the University of London, and she was previously curator of illuminated manuscripts at the British Library. Her other books include *The Lion Companion to Christian Art* and *The Lindisfarne Gospels and the Early Medieval World*, also published by the British Library.

Erudite and interesting insight on "literacy" as more of a continuum than a certain level.

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