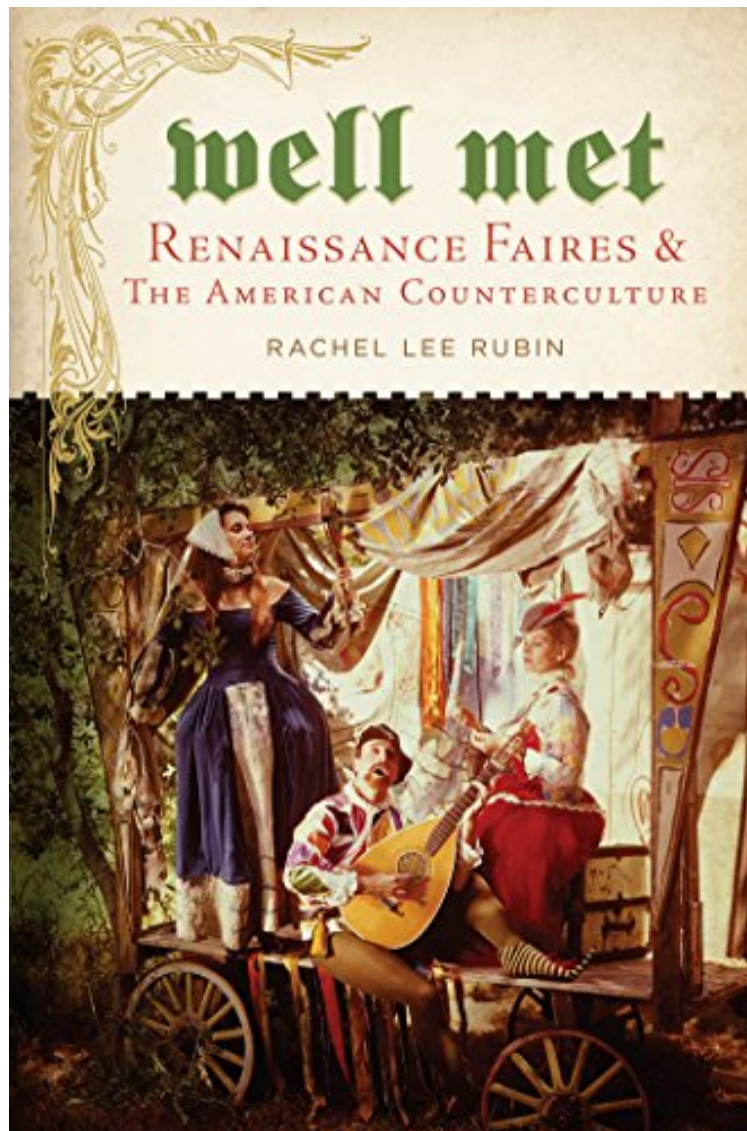


(Download pdf) Well Met: Renaissance Faires and the American Counterculture

## Well Met: Renaissance Faires and the American Counterculture

*Rachel Lee Rubin*

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#1734128 in Books NYU Press 2012-11-19 2012-11-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .94 x 5.981, 1.35 #File Name: 0814771386359 pages | File size: 18.Mb

**Rachel Lee Rubin : Well Met: Renaissance Faires and the American Counterculture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Well Met: Renaissance Faires and the American Counterculture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Was expecting something else.....By J. M. L. Smith Not what I expected. I thought it would be more about the history. Good insights though. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A terrific sociological look at the Renaissance Faire phenomenon By William Paley A terrific sociological look

at the Renaissance Faire phenomenon. I was fascinated by the information as presented, and the scholarship that was evident. If you love the Faire, this is worth reading. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It's a wonderful and personal journey. By John I was very much involved with this original Renaissance Faire. The Faire, and so many people mentioned in this book who made it happen, brought a lot of magic to my life that I will never forget. Reading the book takes me back. A real joy to read. John Reed

The Renaissance Faire a 50 year-long party, communal ritual, political challenge and cultural wellspring receives its first sustained historical attention with *Well Met*. Beginning with the chaotic communal moment of its founding and early development in the 1960s through its incorporation as a major family friendly leisure site in the 2000s, *Well Met* tells the story of the thinkers, artists, clowns, mimes, and others performers who make the Faire.

"Fascinating [and] forthcoming." -San Francisco Bay Guardian  
"Fascinating account of the evolution of a US institution." -Choice  
"A must read for anyone interested in a nonstereotypical view of the faire, its adherents, and why it retains its appeal decades after its inception." -Library Journal  
"Rubin's book is a trailblazer." -Colorado Springs Independent  
"[C]areful, informative, and thought-provoking . . . Well Met is packed with welcome detours into fascinating historical byways." -Slate  
"[T]he depth of her research, particularly from a historical perspective, is impressive, and the work will be a valuable resource for anyone doing research on Renaissance faires. Non-scholar fans of Renaissance faires will probably find it interesting as well, and appreciate finding a scholarly work that is not overly critical." -Journal of Folklore Research  
"Rubin effectively probes how the [Renaissance] fairs exemplify familiar aspects of the American counterculture. She also seeks to illuminate how they are important not only as a forgotten aspect of a completed history but also as vibrant contemporary affairs . . . They are, for Rubin, spaces of continued counter-cultural activity that, through constant renegotiations of the past, invoke visions of future potential renaissances for a United States stuck in the dark ages." -Michael J. Kramer, *Journal of American History*  
In its first decade, the Renaissance Faire unleashed a multi-colored sub-culture in direct revolt against the monochrome of postwar America. It was a home-grown explosion of fancy dress, Shakespearian improv, hand-made objects both useful and ornamental, and music ancient and obscure, much of it heard for the first time in the dusty lanes of the Faire. Rachel Rubin deftly reveals the impact the Faire has had on style, craft, performance, and pop culture over the past fifty years in a one-of-a-kind study that begins in the left-wing lanes of Laurel Canyon, continues through backstage conflicts and couplings, and concludes with the corporatized, commercialized Festivals and geeky Ren-fandom of today. *Well Met* is a must-read to revel in the true roots of Sixties culture. I know. I was there. -David Ossman, member of the Firesign Theatre  
"Rubin wins over readers . . . she argues compellingly." -H-Net  
"Academic but pleasingly readable." -Ander Monson, *LA of Books*  
"The strength of Rachel Lee Rubin's book is that she understands and celebrates this: the point of Renaissance fairs is that a lot of people find pleasure in them." -Durrants  
Anti-modernism remains one of modernity's most significant and lasting inventions, and in Rachel Rubin's *Well Met* the theme finally gets its due. In the odd but telling subculture of the Renaissance Faire, Rubin finds anti-modernism intertwined with some of the most important strands of twentieth-century American culture: waning traces of vaudeville, the rise of the counterculture, shifting gender arrangements and sexual practices, a hunger for usable pasts, a rising politics of theatricality, and the culture's impressive penchant for commercialized anti-commercialism. Rubin writes with deep insight and terrific humor; and as intelligent as the book is, it also embodies a joyful appreciation for the quirky inventiveness of its protagonists. I can't wait for the movie! -Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Yale University*  
About the Author  
Rachel Lee Rubin is Professor of American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is author of *Immigration and American Popular Culture* (with Jeffrey Melnick, NYU Press) and *Jewish Gangsters of Modern Literature*, and co-editor of *American Popular Music: New Approaches to the Twentieth Century and Radicalism in the South since Reconstruction*.