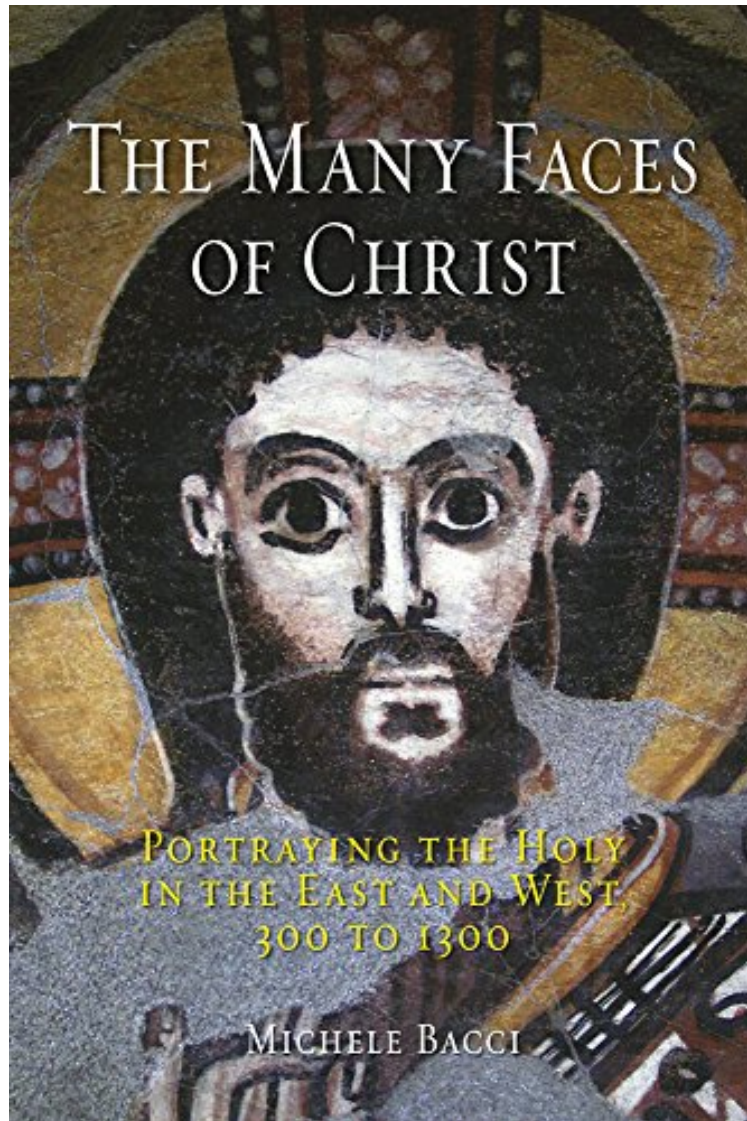


(Download) The Many Faces of Christ: Portraying the Holy in the East and West, 300 to 1300

The Many Faces of Christ: Portraying the Holy in the East and West, 300 to 1300

Michele Bacci

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Michele Bacci : The Many Faces of Christ: Portraying the Holy in the East and West, 300 to 1300 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Many Faces of Christ: Portraying the Holy in the East and West, 300 to 1300:

It is common to think of Jesus of Nazareth's main physical characteristics as including long, wavy, blondish hair

and a short beard. Yet the Holy Scriptures are silent about Christ's features, and his representations are hardly consistent in early Christian and medieval arts. The wearing of long hair, moreover, is explicitly condemned by St Paul as shameful and effeminate: therefore it is surprising that, notwithstanding the Apostle's authoritative judgement, the long-haired archetype came to be accepted, as late as the ninth century, as the standard iconography of the Son of God. In *The Many Faces of Christ* Michele Bacci examines the complex historical and cultural dynamics underlying the making and final successful establishment of Christ's image between late antiquity and the early Renaissance. Unlike earlier studies, the process is described against the background of ancient and biblical conceptions of beauty and the physical look as indicators of moral, ascetic or messianic qualities. It takes into account a broad spectrum of both iconographic and textual sources, and also looks at analogous processes in the Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Taoist traditions. This book will be of interest not only to specialists of late antique, Byzantine and medieval studies, but to anybody interested in the historical figure of Jesus and its shifting, controversial conceptions over the course of history.

"This rigorous and innovative study makes a vital contribution to an ongoing debate about the emergence and crystallization of a particular physiognomy for Jesus in Christian art. Drawing upon comparative material from other religious traditions in the ancient world, the author demonstrates an impressive facility with, and command of, a broad range of evidence. Bacci's fresh insights are compelling and will engage readers from a range of backgrounds and scholarly disciplines." —