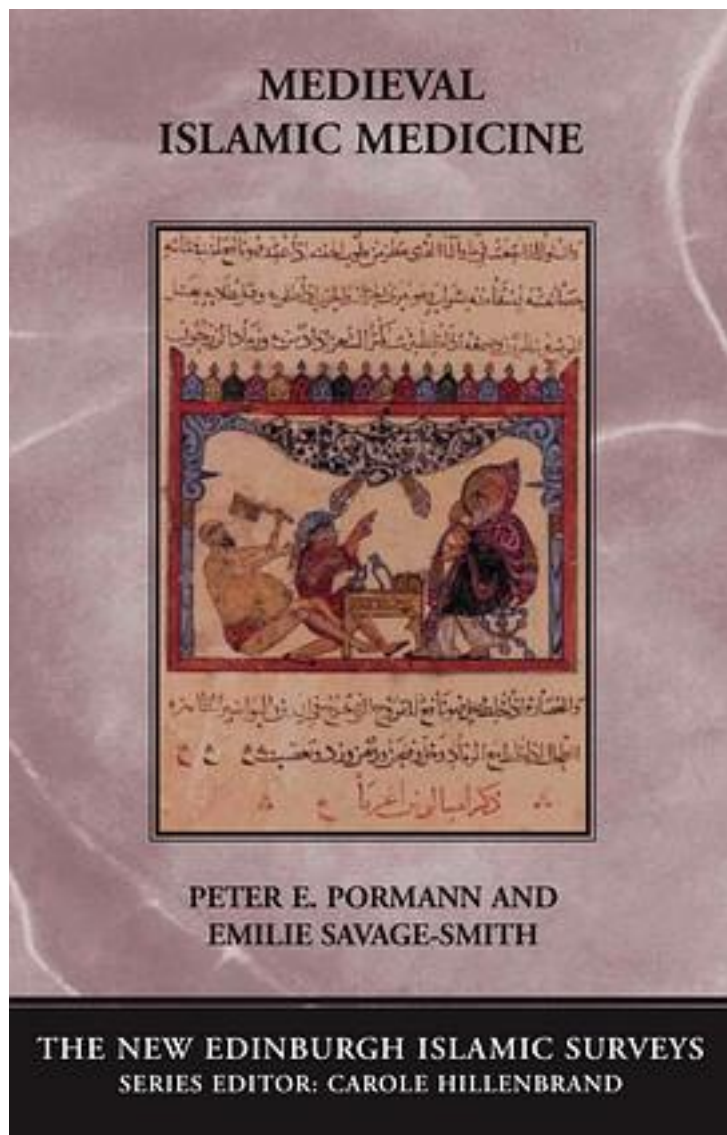


Medieval Islamic Medicine



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The medical tradition that developed in the lands of Islam during the medieval period (c. 650-1500) has, like few others, influenced the fates and fortunes of countless human beings. It is the story of contact and cultural exchange across countries and creeds, affecting caliphs, kings, courtiers, courtesans, and the common crowd. This tradition formed the roots from which modern Western medicine arose. Contrary to the stereotypical picture, medieval Islamic medicine was not simply a conduit for Greek ideas, but a venue for innovation and change. The book is organized around five topics: the emergence of medieval Islamic medicine and its intense cross-pollination with other cultures; the theoretical medical framework; the function of physicians within the larger society; medical care as seen through preserved case histories; and the role of magic and devout religious invocations in scholarly as well as everyday medicine. A concluding chapter on the "afterlife" concerns the impact of this tradition on modern European medical practices, and its continued practice today. The book includes an index of persons and their books; a timeline of developments in East and West; and a chapter-by-chapter annotated bibliographic essay. Pormann is the author of *The Oriental Tradition of Paul of Aegina's 'Pragmateia'* (Brill 2004) and *Al-Kindi's Philosophical Works* (OUP, 2007). Savage-Smith is senior research associate at the Oriental Institute, Oxford, and the author of *Magic and Divination in Early Islam* (Ashgate, 2004) and *Science Tools and Magic* (OUP, 1997).

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