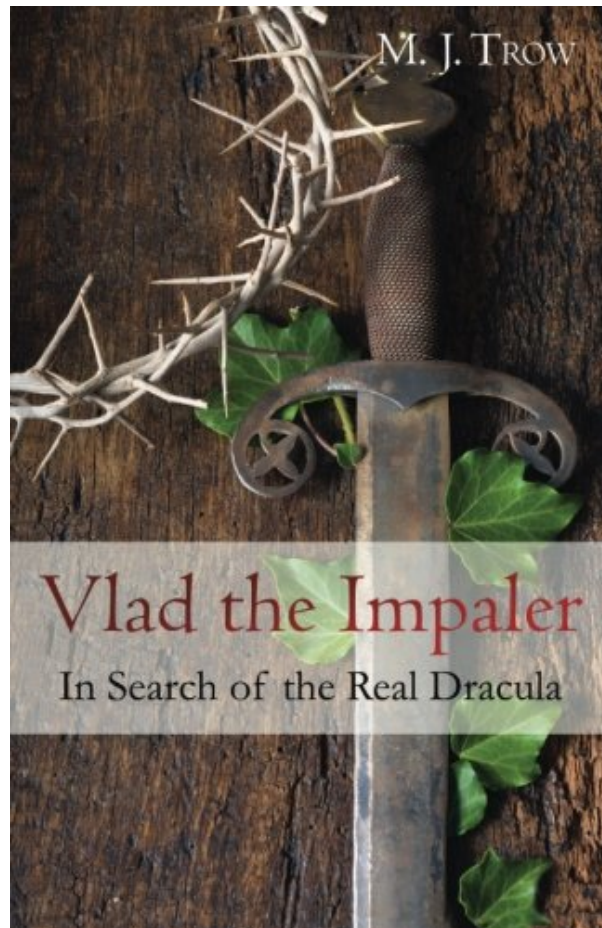
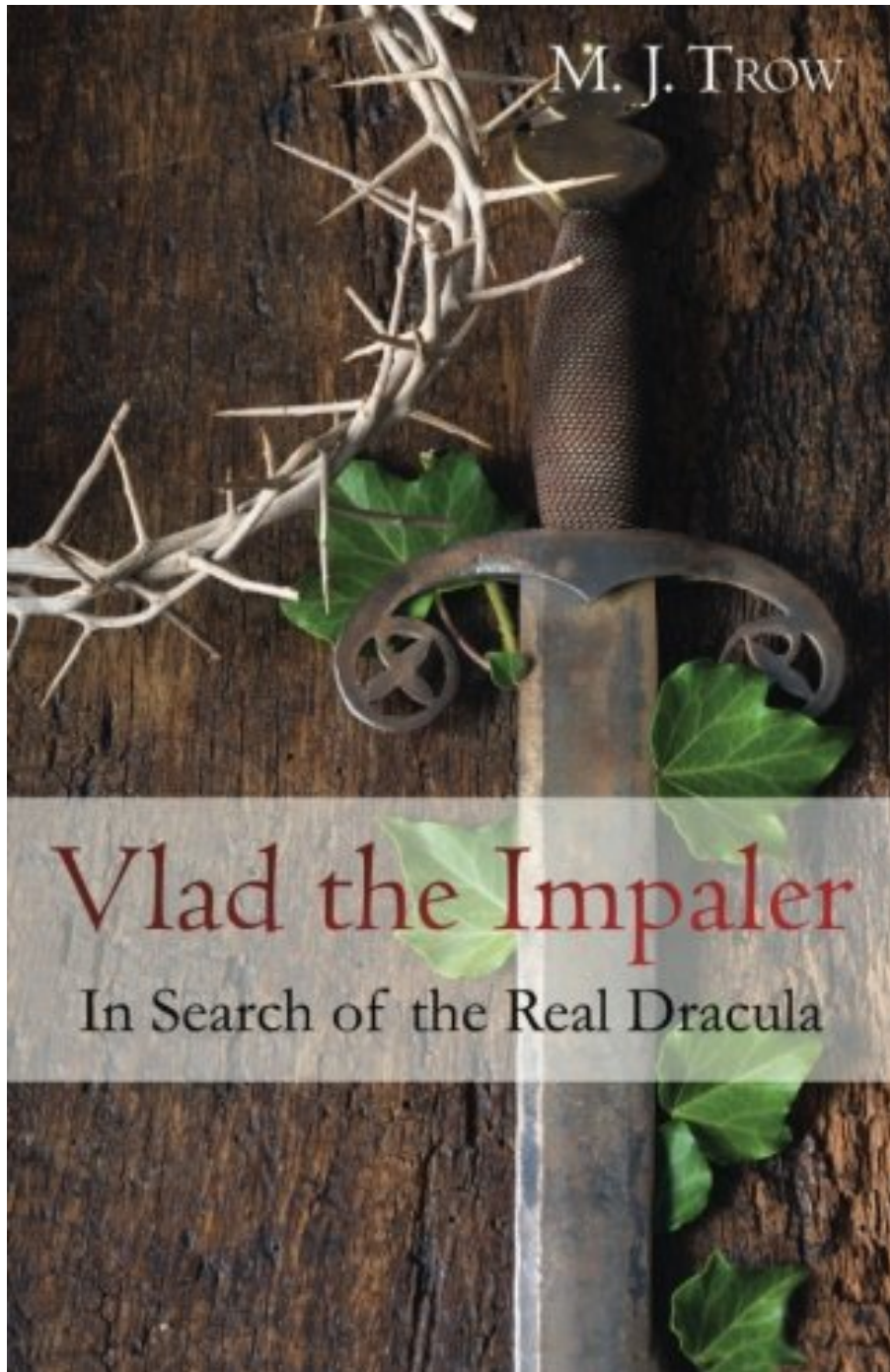


VLAD THE IMPALER: IN SEARCH OF THE REAL DRACULA BY M. J. TROW



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VLAD THE IMPALER: IN SEARCH OF THE REAL DRACULA

BY M. J. TROW PDF

‘Here begins a very cruel, frightening story about a wild, bloodthirsty man, Dracula the voivod ...’

Historian and crime writer M.J. Trow draws back the dark curtain of legend to look at the real Vlad Tepes, set against the background of his times. Later generations associated him with pure evil and accepted the stories of his murders, mutilations and impalements without question. And later still, thanks to Bram Stoker, he shifted his shape into the doyen of the undead, complete with haunted castles, terrifying bats and an unearthly aversion to sunlight.

The real Vlad Dracula lived in Transylvania, in the horseshoe of the Carpathian Mountains (today’s Romania) and ruled his state of Wallachia three times. Making war against the Ottoman Turks, rivals to his throne and keeping his people in check, his was a life steeped in blood. But was he ‘a prince more sinned against than sinning’? To Romanians, he is a hero on a white horse, a nationalist leader who carried out dreadful deeds in order to save the country he loved. To others, he was a rapacious homicidal maniac whose cruelty has no parallel, in his day or any other.

This stylishly-written and compelling narrative unravels the true story behind the image and takes us into the heart of the bloody, uncertain world of Medieval Europe.

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- 418 pages

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Vlad The Impaler Nails It

By Amazon Customer

Excellent research, background and perspective placing Vlad Dracula in his milieu. Maps and pics would have been helpful. Interesting and thorough.

44 of 44 people found the following review helpful.

This book could use better editing

By A Customer

I am no expert on Dracula but my historical sensibilities have been offended by several serious errors in the text. Here are just two examples: on pages 9-10 Mr. Trow writes:

"...Oliver Cromwell, whose head ... may or may not have been separated from his body..."

It is a well-known fact that Cromwell's head definitely had been separated from his body, and found its lonely grave only in 1960.

On page 123 we find the following fragment about Jan Zizka:

"...he had fought for the Teutonic Order against the Poles...

Losing an eye at Tannenberg in 1410 fighting for Wenceslas..."

These two incomplete sentences contain four mistakes. First, Zizka fought FOR the Poles AGAINST the Teutonic Order. Second, he did so at the battle of Tannenberg in 1410, therefore he couldn't fight there for Wenceslas. Third, the unnamed battle from the first sentence and the battle of Tannenberg/Grunwald are one and the same event. Fourth, Zizka lost an eye in his adolescence.

In short, this book could really benefit from knowledgeable editing.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Vampirism and the Real Dracula

By J. N. W. Bos

Although the book has several chapters about vampirism and Bram Stoker's Dracula, the remaining chapters about Vlad Tepes are very detailed and a good read. Vlad surely was one of the most cruel tyrants ever and his atrocities are described with much detail. Contemporaries wrote about the "untold abuses, sad murders and mutilations by the cruel tyrant Dracula" and the author discusses the sources and their reliability by their level of interest in blackening Vlad. According to Trow, many of Vlad Dracula's acts can be interpreted as efforts to enforce his own moral code upon his country and to strengthen and modernise the central government at the expense of the nobility, because they had repeatedly undermined the power of the Wallachia's rulers (and buried alive his elder brother).

An interesting section describes the 'usual' way of impalement and the most likely way used by Vlad in the case of mass impalements or when a mother was impaled together with her baby.

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