

## Book Review Guidelines for Authors

Book reviews are an important part of the *Royal Studies Journal*, and we are grateful for the time and effort our reviewers put into assessing new works in the field. Reviews must be an assessment of the work's contribution to the scholarship, and not merely be a summary of the book's contents. The reviewer's assessment should be fair, balanced, and with an absence of emotive language or any expression of personal animus. While we encourage a critical assessment of the work under review, criticisms should be balanced with an acknowledgement of the work's positive aspects and respect for the author's research and effort. The *RSJ* reserves the right to request revisions of, or to refuse to publish, reviews that do not respect these guidelines.

In order to assist with the production of your review, please observe the following guidelines when preparing your review for submission:

1. Start your review with the book's details:

Title of the Book (italicised). By author (or 'Edited by author/s'). Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication. ISBN (divided up with hyphens; usually found on back cover). Number of pages in introduction, preface, etc in lowercase Roman numerals + number of pages in book given in Arabic numerals. Price in £, € or \$, depending on country of publication.

Examples:

*The Daughters of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine*. By Colette Bowie. Turnhout: Brepols, 2014. ISBN 978-2-503-54971-2. xvi + 212 pp. €75,00.

*Elizabeth I's Italian Letters*. Edited and Translated by Carlo M. Bajetta. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017. ISBN 978-1-13744232-1. lxxvii + 285 pp. €89,99.

2. Format your review with 1.15 spacing, using the font Garamond, size 12, and with the text justified. Indent all paragraphs (except the first), and leave no blank lines (except before your affiliation). Do not add any spacing before or after your paragraphs. Use only one space after full stops.

3. **Do not use footnotes.** References to other books (**not** articles or chapters) should be within the body of the text. Years may be given without publisher details if the reference is to the book as a whole, or if the reference is for the readers' attention rather than to make an analytic point.

Examples:

... as was first raised by Susan Doran in *Monarchy and Matrimony: The Courtships of Elizabeth I* (1995), and has subsequently ...

This volume is a companion to his 2015 study, *Dissolving Royal Marriages, 860-1600*, which provided ...

4. References to passages in the work under review are to be provided in brackets: (25). Wherever possible, these references should be placed at the end of a sentence.

5. When using quotations, *RSJ* requires standard double quotes (“ ”), with punctuation placed inside the quotation marks.
6. Chapter titles should not be included in the review, paragraphs should be kept to a reasonable length, and centuries should be spelled out in words. Please consult the *RSJ Author Guidelines* for all other stylistic points and requirements.
7. A book review should be at least 800 words, **but no more than 1200 words**. Any changes to this limit must be by agreement with the Book Reviews Editor.
8. At the end of the review, leave a line’s gap and then give your name and affiliation details.

Examples:

*IVOR REVIEW*

University of Middlemarch (*if affiliated*)

*IVOR REVIEW*

Middlemarch (*if unaffiliated*)

9. Once completed, upload the review to the Royal Studies website via the Submissions section. Do not e-mail your review directly to the editors. The registration page can be found at the following address: <http://www.rsj.winchester.ac.uk/index.php/rsj/about/submissions>.

10. When submitting your review, please provide the title and abstract of your review as follows:

Title Examples:

Bowie, *The Daughters of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine* (Brepols, 2014)

Bajetta (ed. and trans), *Elizabeth I’s Italian Letters* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

Abstract Examples:

Review of Colette Bowie, *The Daughters of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2014).

Review of Carlo M. Bajetta, ed. and trans., *Elizabeth I’s Italian Letters* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

If you have any questions concerning book reviews, please contact the Book Reviews Editor, Dr Steve Donnachie, at [S.Donnachie@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:S.Donnachie@swansea.ac.uk); or Dr Philippa Woodcock, Assistant Book Reviews Editor, at [pwoodcock@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:pwoodcock@brookes.ac.uk). For queries concerning the journal’s style guide, contact the Chief Copy Editor and Production Lead, Aidan Norrie, at [aidannorrie@gmail.com](mailto:aidannorrie@gmail.com).