Renaissance Theatre: A Historiographical Handbook

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The Renaissance saw the introduction of the indoor theater, at first in temporary makeshift structures and later in permanent independent buildings. Italian architects studied Vitruvius and examined the remains of ancient theaters. The proscenium arch theater became the dominant model for later centuries. Theaters developed spectacular scenic effects, appealing to the senses and emphasizing perspectival vistas. From being a largely improvised and participatory experience, drama in the theater evolved into a fixed product in a fixed space, with the world of the play clearly demarcated from the ... Vince, Ronald W. 1984. Renaissance theatre: A historiographical handbook. Westport: Greenwood Press. Google Scholar. Wickham, Glynne.
The medieval drama had been an amateur endeavor presented either by the clergy or members of the various trade guilds. The performers were not professional actors, but ordinary citizens who acted only in their spare time. With the centralization of the population in the cities during the later part of the Middle Ages, the interest in secular drama began to increase. At the end of the medieval period, when there were still some guild productions, a rivalry developed between the amateur actor and the new profession...