

**The Lost Companions and John Ruskin's Guild of St George**

A Revisionary History

Mark Frost

Pub Date: August 2014**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £60 / \$99**ISBN:** 9781783082834**Extent:** 264 pages**Size:** 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6**Category:** HISTORY /
Modern / 19th Century**BISAC code:** HIS037060**BIC code:** DSK**Rights Held:** World*This title is also available as an ebook***Description**

Incorporating a wealth of unseen material centred around the remarkable stories of William Graham and other 'lost companions', this work provides a new authority on the Guild of St George.

'This is an exceptionally important book which is startlingly original in its historical inquiry. The recovery of the "lost Companions" reveals a sharply different story that will have major significance for understanding Ruskin's political work.' —Francis O'Gorman, University of Leeds

'Deftly using a wide range of often unfamiliar or previously unknown sources, Frost completely rewrites the history of Ruskin's Guild. Meticulously researched, this study recuperates the role played by early Companions in attempting to realise on the ground the fertile ideas Ruskin was articulating in his books and exposes the damaging gulf that increasingly separated the Master from his disciples.' —Stuart Eagles, author of *After Ruskin*

'In a series of extremely well-written chapters, and using a wealth of material missed by those who have written about it previously, Mark Frost reveals the story of the Guild of St George. In the end, it is a tragic story, but a vitally important one for Ruskin studies, for Victorian studies, and for anyone interested in how the sometimes awful costs of good intentions come into being. It is a major contribution.' —James Spates, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York

This important work in Ruskin studies provides for the first time an authoritative study of Ruskin's Guild of St George. It introduces new material that is important in its own right as a significant piece of social history, and as a means to re-examine Ruskin's Guild idea of self-sufficient, co-operative agrarian communities founded on principles of artisanal (non-mechanised) labour, creativity and environmental sustainability. The remarkable story of William Graham and other Companions lost to Guild history provides a means to fundamentally transform our understanding of Ruskin's utopianism.

Readership: Undergraduate and postgraduate students and researchers, specifically scholars of Victorian and early twentieth-century literary, historical and cultural studies, as well as scholars of utopianism and alternative forms of social organization.

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About the Author

Mark Frost is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Portsmouth. He received his PhD from the University of Southampton.

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