

the Gothic; no changes in anything but the Justinian ran out of soldiers and so he took in some still more barbaric Germans who were called the Longbards because of their long beards, and he took them into his army. With the help of them he was able in the final part of the 20 year war to completely destroy the Ostragoths. So for a few years Italy was again part of the Roman empire. Then these Lombards who had come to know what ~~XXXXX~~ there was in Italy told their friends ~~XXXXX~~ were not in the empire, and they flooded into Italy from the north. So Italy is largely Lombard. They became assimilated with the Romans. But the Goths who were the original conquerors who were proceeding in civilization, they disappeared and had to start all over again. I don't think hardly anybody knows that today. I mean it's in any book. It seems to me it's as important as most of the other things in history and it certainly has a lot to show about what happened to Italy and what Italy is like.

~~Lady: Would you have any recommendation to me of things that I might pursue?~~

AAM: It depends partly on the particular area. It's hard to say. There are so many different areas. The earlier you say you have covered fairly well before the Greeks and Romans. There were (at least 30 yrs. ago) some very good summaries of Greek and Roman history. There was a book by an Englishman, Trever Roper, which came out in paper back which is a history of the Middle Ages which I found fascinating though when I finished it I did not remember much so I read it all over again. I found that very interesting for a summary of the Middle Ages.

There is a book that just came out last year about the 12th century-- a long book by some historian which got big write-ups. He evidently made it very interesting. I suppose it's written from the typical liberal viewpoint but it gave an idea of that section of history. The Development of the Christian West or something like that gave a pretty good general survey.

Lady: I have some books that were textbooks of my husbands that I'm hoping to read this summer which looked fairly good. Some of these books you mentioned that you read earlier in your ~~life sound like they would be particularly interesting to my 12~~ yr. old son, which is very interested in biography I've discovered which is typical to his age. He has enjoyed biographies of the inventors. He used to ~~XXXXX~~ think there was never anyone quite like Edison. He has enjoyed history generally. He nearly took Napoleon Bonapart as his hero. I had to do some explaining that he really wasn't quite as romantic as he might appear on paper! The book he had was A Child's History of the World. It looks as though it is a relatively old book. It's been republished. That came from Calvert. It had its drawbacks but it was interestingly written and it did tend to make heroes of the great men. One thing that has bothered me is the anti-hero philosophy that has become so rampant. You have to pull down Geo. Washington, etc.

AAM: I was disgusted with a book my wife and I read just recently The Inter-Varsity asked one of their girls (who was evidently something of a scholar) to take a year and write a biography of