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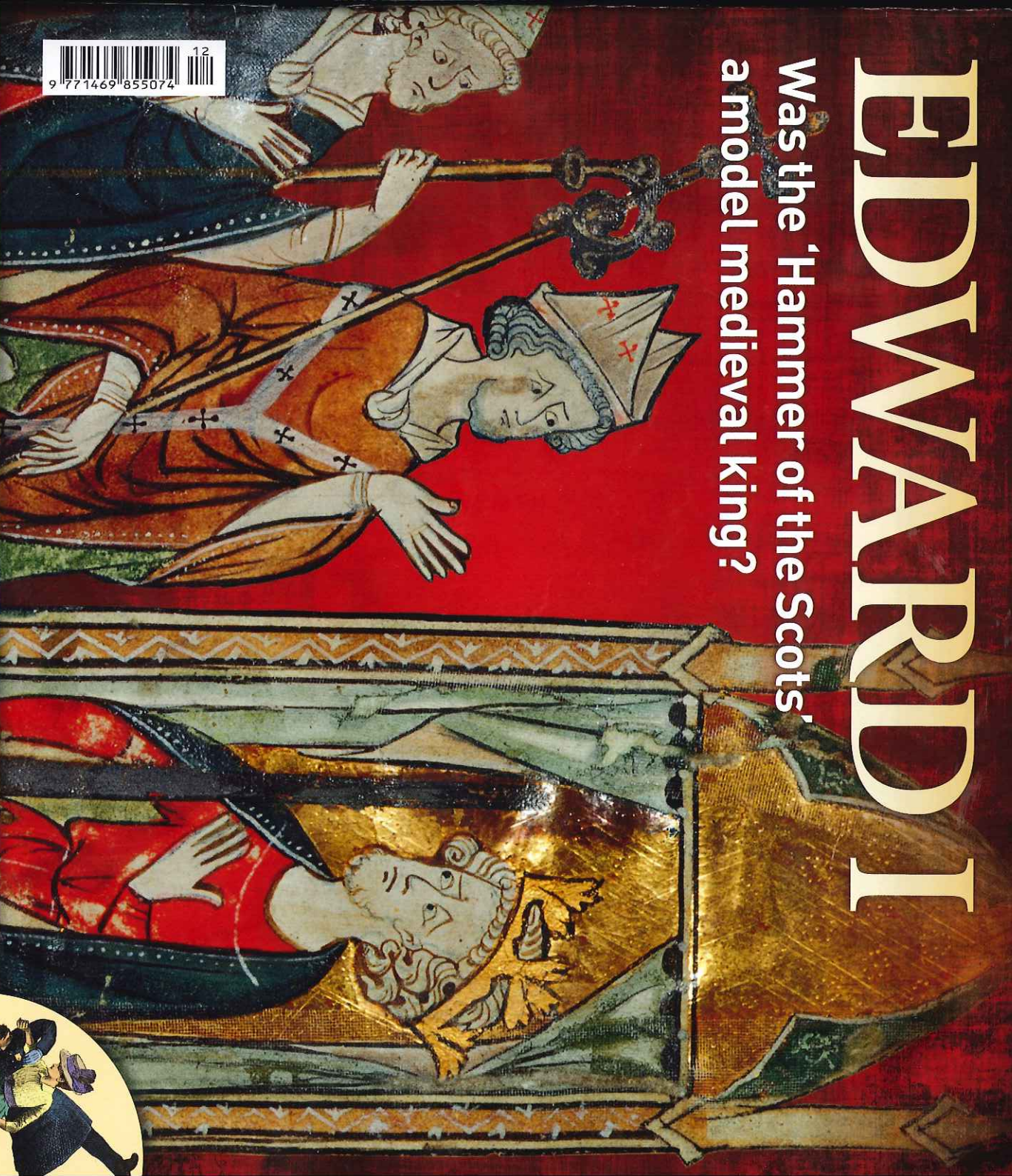
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Vol 13, no 11
December
2011



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IMMEDIATE MEDIA Co

Vol. 13 No 12 – December 2012

BBC History Magazine is published by Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited under licence from BBC Worldwide.

BBC History Magazine was established to publish authoritative history, written by leading experts, in an accessible and attractive format. We seek to maintain the high journalistic standards traditionally associated with the BBC.

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Jan-Jun 2012
71,403
NRS
July 2011 - June 2012
280,000

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POST Subscriptions & back issues BBC History Magazine, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DF Basic annual subscription rates:
UK: £51.35, Euro/Europe: £52.35, ROW: £55.70

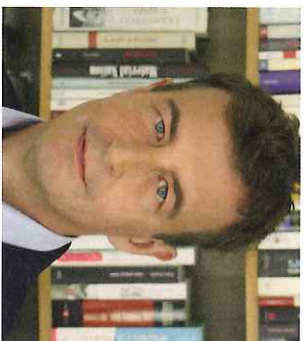
Editorial BBC History Magazine, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

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Our month in history

Here's what's been firing the passions of our contributors



Christopher Dugan

I recently finished reading Peter Ackroyd's biography of Thomas More: apart from giving a brilliant sense of the richness of European humanist culture, it brought home from the perspective of a 'loser' just how seismic the break with Rome was. I've also been enjoying the latest series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* It's a reminder of how harsh life was for most people until very recently. *Christopher writes about Benito Mussolini's willing followers on page 50*



Owen Davies

I have a long-standing interest in landscape history, so a day spent looking for some out-of-the-way prehistoric earthwork or deserted medieval village always gives me pleasure. But my favourite historical topic has to be witchcraft – it provides such deep insights into human nature. *Read Owen's feature on notable witchcraft trials on page 31*



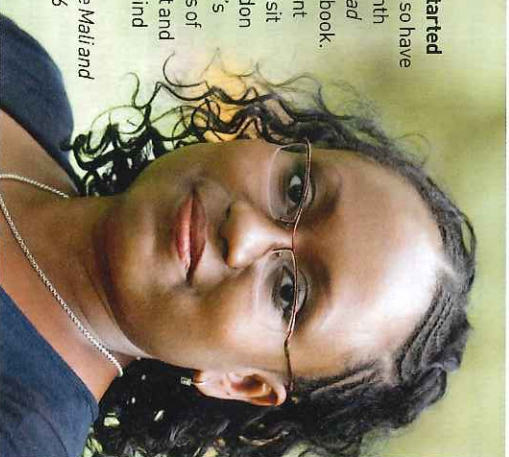
Emelyne Godfrey

One thing I'd love to have done this month is borrow HG Wells's time machine and visit the late Victorian era! As I haven't managed to do that yet, I've had to content myself with reading *How the English Made the Alps* by Jim Ring. I also enjoy watching reruns of the *Blackadder* series – I especially love the episode where a frustrated Dr Samuel Johnson, played by Robbie Coltrane, discovers he's omitted 'sausages' from his dictionary! *Emelyne writes about Jujitsu Suffragettes on page 44*



Spencer Mizzen (production editor)

My history highlight this month has to be a first ever visit to Windsor Castle. I'm not sure that my two-year-old son and baby daughter fully appreciated the sheer grandeur of the state apartment and beauty of some of the paintings on display, but they certainly made an impression on my wife and I!



Kandace Chimbiri

Believe it or not, I've just started studying hieroglyphs and so have spent much of the last month immersed in my *How to Read Egyptian Hieroglyphs* guidebook. I'm fascinated by the ancient Egyptians, and so love to visit the Petrie Museum in London whenever I possibly can. It's crammed full of thousands of objects from ancient Egypt and Sudan. Every time I visit, I find something new to enjoy! *Read Kandace's letter on the Malt and Sorotomo empires on page 6*