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A vivid insight into the country life of seasonal activities of the year in the later middle ages

It takes a great leap of the imagination to realize how closely the lives of medieval people were bound up with the rhythm of the seasons.

Most medieval people, dependent for artificial light on inferior tallow candles, went to bed as the light faded, and got up early to make the most of the daylight. Their activities were dictated by the weather and agricultural needs. The medieval diet was much more subject to the seasons than ours, because food storage was difficult; crops were eaten when in season, and winter could be a very uncomfortable experience as food supplies gathered in autumn diminished.

In this gloriously illustrated book, the authors have drawn on a wide range of historical, literary, and art-historical sources to bring to life the seasonal activities of England and Europe in the later middle ages.

—from the publisher

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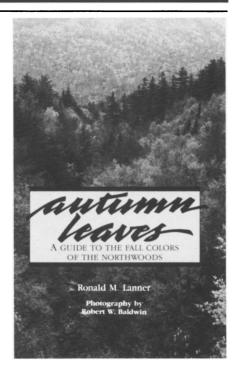
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"There is more to leaf watching than admiring colors and identifying species, and more to a forest than trees. Lanner's approach is unique in that he does more than tell us what trees we are looking at; he tells us what the trees are. That is, how they relate to the rest of the forest, what creatures they shelter and nourish, and what creatures affect them. Autumn Leaves is fascinating, authoritative and useful. The rough proof I received was read avidly, marked sparingly, returned grudgingly."

-Ted Williams, Audubon Magazine

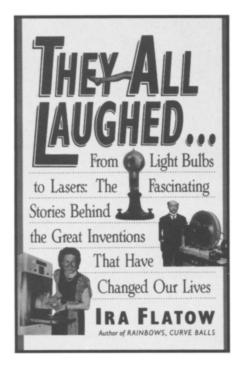
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- Ben Franklin's kite was never struck by lightning.
- Western Union laughed at Bell when he offered them the telephone. They thought it was a trivial toy.
- A melted candy bar led to the invention of the microwave oven.
 - Scientists bounced Silly Putty around the halls of their laboratory years before anyone thought to sell it.
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