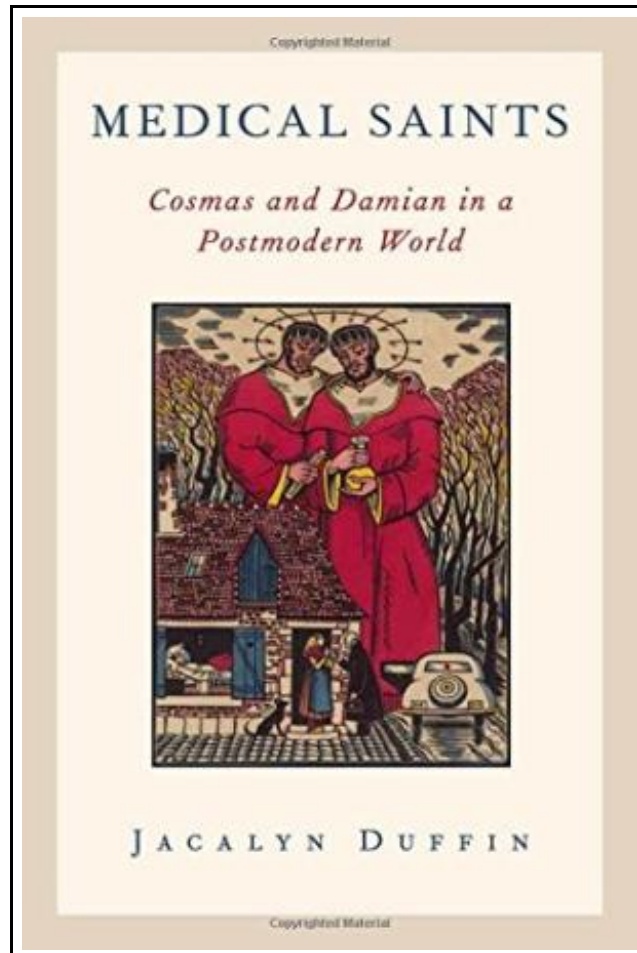# Medical Saints: Cosmas and Damian in a Postmodern World

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Reviews

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MEDICAL SAINTS: COSMAS AND DAMIAN IN A POSTMODERN WORLD

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Oxford. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Cosmas and Damian were martyred around the year 300 in what is now Syria. Called the Anargyroi ("without silver") because they charged no fees, they became patrons of medicine, surgery, and pharmacy, and the focus of cults ranging across Europe. They were popular in Byzantine and Orthodox traditions and their shrines are numerous in Eastern Europe, southern Italy, and Sicily. A past president of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Jacalyn Duffin offers a profound exploration of illness and healing experiences in contemporary society through the veneration of the twin doctor-saints Cosmas and Damian. She also relates a personal journey from her role as a hematologist who unexpectedly came to serve as an expert witness in the Church's evaluation of a miracle to her research as a historian on the origins, meaning, and functions of saints."A thoughtful and thought-provoking book that should prove valuable to a range of readers, including historians and sociologists of medicine and religion, as well as believers and skeptics of the miraculous."Journal of the History of Medicine 229.

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