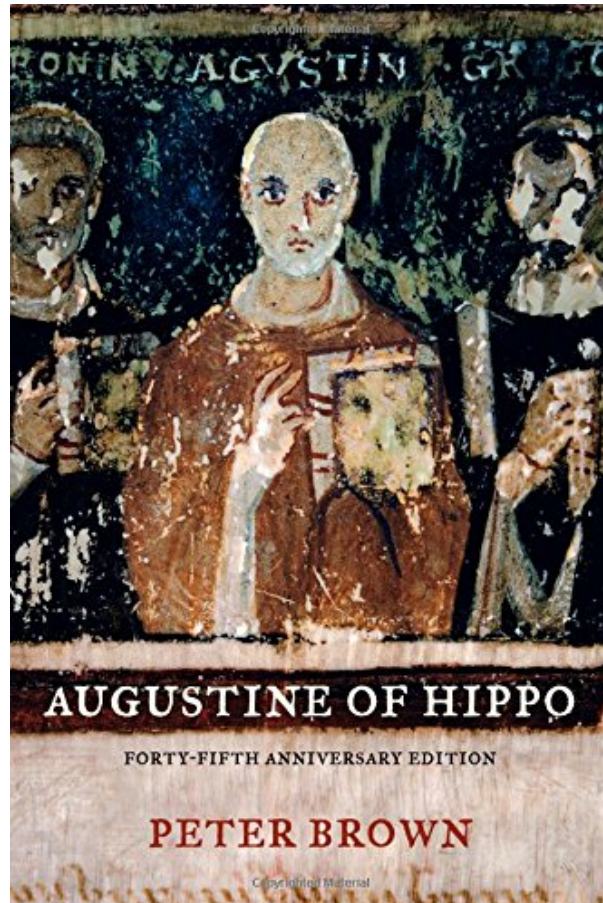
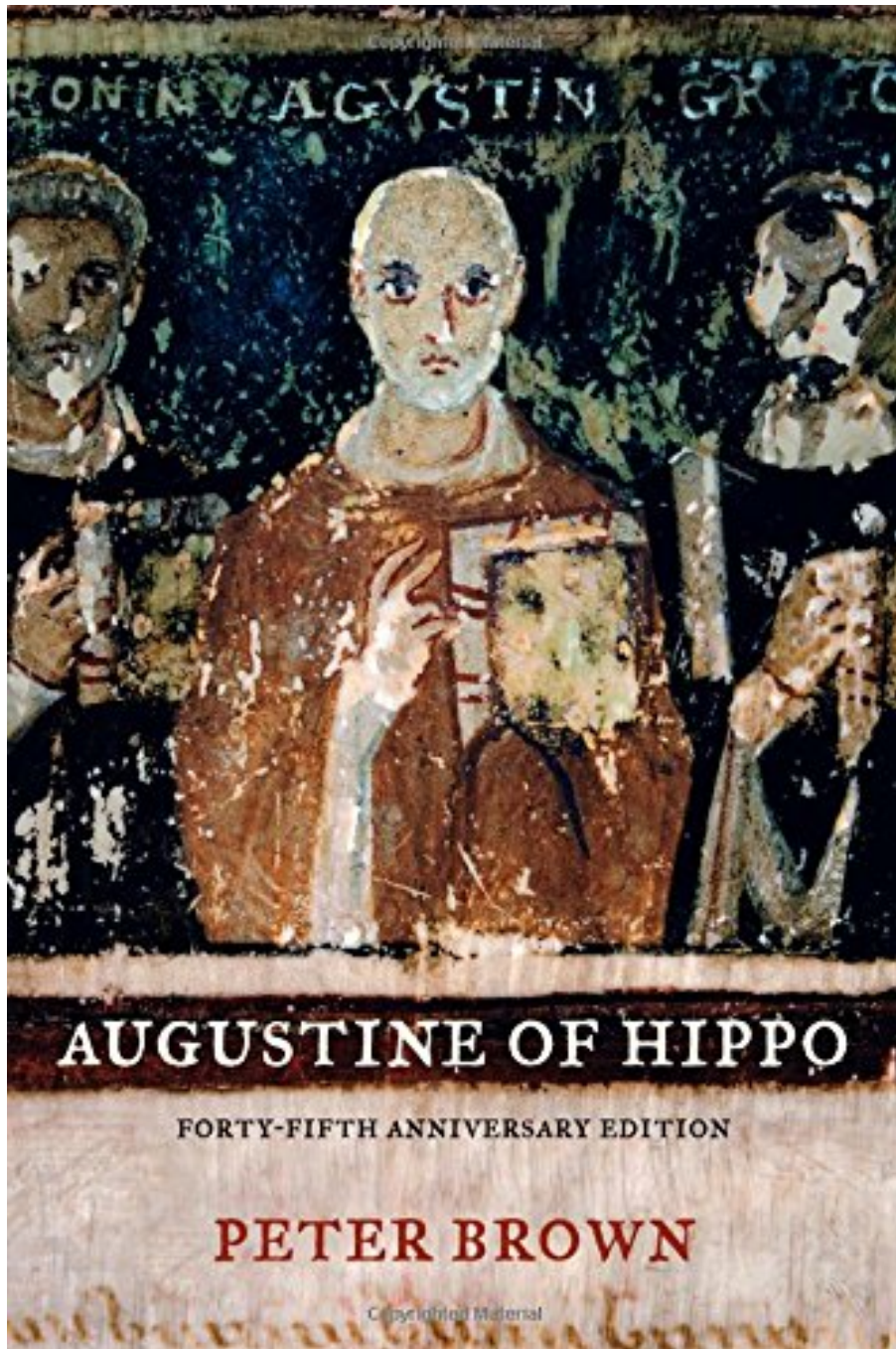


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This classic biography was first published forty-five years ago and has since established itself as the standard account of Saint Augustine's life and teaching.

The remarkable discovery of a considerable number of letters and sermons by Augustine cast fresh light on the first and last decades of his experience as a bishop. These circumstantial texts have led Peter Brown to reconsider some of his judgments on Augustine, both as the author of the Confessions and as the elderly bishop preaching and writing in the last years of Roman rule in north Africa. Brown's reflections on the significance of these exciting new documents are contained in two chapters of a substantial Epilogue to his biography (the text of which is unaltered). He also reviews the changes in scholarship about Augustine since the 1960s. A personal as well as a scholarly fascination infuse the book-length epilogue and notes that Brown has added to his acclaimed portrait of the bishop of Hippo.

- Sales Rank: #118152 in Books
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- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.30" w x 5.38" l, 1.43 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 568 pages

Features

- Biography classic

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The standard secondary source on Augustine

By Jacob

A very difficult read, but easily the standard secondary source on Augustine. The broad contours of Augustine's life are well-known, but Brown places them within a theological framework. He takes intellectual themes from controversies in Augustine's life (thus the Latin-ish chapter titles) and retells the story around these themes. It makes for somewhat difficult reading at times, but it is very illuminating.

I cannot imagine a better work that more neatly captures Augustine's **sitz im leben** than this work. He demonstrates Augustine's philosophical commitment to neo-Platonism by noting how many in Augustine's time, including the man himself, were embarrassed (initially; evidence suggests Augustine later worked himself out of this embarrassment) by the "earthiness" of the Old Testament. Of course, that is just one example.

More recent editions of this book (current printing previous printings) take into account not only recent scholarship on Augustine, but recent archeological finds of some of Augustine's letters and sermons. Peter Brown is the undisputed master of classical antiquity and this book clearly shows it.

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Also that Augustine was not always a nice person. Brown also clearly explains the doctrinal controversies ...

By William L. Scurrah

I prefer this biography of Augustine to the more recent one. Brown is clearly a scholar of immense erudition. He does an eloquent job of showing us Augustine as a human being, not merely a saint. Also that Augustine was not always a nice person. Brown also clearly explains the doctrinal controversies of the time and the factors that resulted in Catholicism being the "orthodox" version of Christianity in the western empire. Another point that comes out relevant to later history (especially the justifications for the Crusades): that the Middle East and North Africa were Christian territories long before the rise and conquests of Islam. And that the eastern churches were more theologically sophisticated than the western at the time of Augustine.

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By Andrés G. Niño, PhD.

Peter Brown's biography of St Augustine has enlightened half a century of scholarship, guided countless projects of serious students and served as a point of departure towards a spiritual pilgrimage for a general readership. For several years we had a group at St Mary's/Cambridge of advanced students and people in search of spiritual guidance and I always recommend them this biography that presents such a living portrait of Augustine. Particularly, chapter 16 on the Confessions serves the group as an introduction to the 'reading and experience' of the classic masterpiece. From there the road is open to explore various aspects of Augustine's life and work. As the group does taking up the Spiritual Exercises in the Confessions. .

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