



A native of Delaware, Benjamin G. Kohl was educated at Bowdoin College (A.B. with Honors, 1960), the University of Delaware (M.A. 1962), and the Johns Hopkins University (Ph.D. History, Feb. 1968). From 1966 until his retirement in 1998, he taught medieval and early modern history at Vassar, where he served as chair of the Department for seven years.

Among his edited volumes are *The Earthly Republic: Italian Humanists on Government and Society* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1978), edited with Ronald G. Witt; *Major Problems in the History of the Italian Renaissance* (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1995), edited with Alison A. Smith; and *On Witchcraft, An Abridged Translation of Johann Weyer's De Praestigiis Daemonum*, edited with H. C. Erik Midelfort (Asheville, N.C.: Pegasus Press, 1998). In addition, he has published a number of articles and several books, including *Padua under the Carrara, 1318-1405* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998) and a collection of fourteen of his papers, published as *Culture and Politics in Early Renaissance Padua* (Aldershot, Eng.: Ashgate, 2001). He was also an early pioneer in the field of digital publishing, producing in 2001 the CD-ROM, *Records of the Venetian Senate on Disk, 1335-1400* (New York: Italica Press).

Later in his career, Kohl's interests turned to issues of art patronage, historiography, and cultural history, as evidenced in essays on "Fina da Carrara, née Buzzacarini: Consort, Mother and Patron," in Sheryl Reiss and David G. Wilkins, eds., *Beyond Isabella: Lay Women Patrons in Renaissance Italy*, Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies (Kirksville, Missouri: Truman State University Press, 2001), 19-35; "La Corte carrarese, i Lupi di Soragna et la committenza artistica al Santo," *Il Santo, Rivista francescana di storia dottrina arte* 42 (2002): 317-27; "The World of Early Printing and Vassar College," in *Incunabula in the Vassar College Library* (Poughkeepsie, New York: Vassar College, 2003), 15-35; "Giotto and His Lay Patrons," in Anne Derbes and Mark Sandona, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Giotto* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 176-96, 275-79; "Cecilia M. Ady, the Edwardian Education of an Historian of Renaissance Italy," in John Easton Law and Lene Ostermark-Johansen, eds., *Victorian and Edwardian Responses to the Italian Renaissance* (Aldershot, Eng.: Ashgate, 2005), 233-55; and, as co-author, "Where History and Theory Interact: Frederic C. Lane on the Emergence of Capitalism," *Speculum* 79 (2004): 88-119.

After retiring, Kohl resided in Betterton, Maryland, where he spent time working on a book on the Governance of Late Medieval Venice. In addition to his work as a scholar, on the Eastern Shore Kohl taught in the local Elderhostel, directed The Hedgelawn Foundation, Inc. (a small charitable trust dedicated to the promotion of the humanities, historic preservation, and the visual and performing arts), served as the Secretary of the Town of Betterton Planning Commission, and drove for Food Link.