

Prof. John H. Munro
Department of Economics
University of Toronto

munro5@chass.utoronto.ca
john.munro@utoronto.ca
<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/>

Revised: 29 August 2007

ECO 301Y1

The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

Topic No. 4 [9]: Urban Governments, Guilds, and Gender-Related Occupations in Late-Medieval European Towns, 1200 - 1500:

A. General: for medieval western Europe

- * 1. Sylvia Thrupp, 'The Gilds', in M. M. Postan, E. E. Rich, and Edward Miller, eds., Cambridge Economic History of Europe, Vol. III: Economic Organization and Policies in the Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1963), pp. 230-80.
- * 2. Bo Gustavson, 'The Rise and Economic Behavior of Medieval Craft Guilds: An Economic-Theoretical Interpretation', Scandinavian Journal of Economics, 35:1 (1987), 1 - 40.
- * 3. Peter Berezin, 'Did Medieval Craft Guilds Do More Harm Than Good?', The Journal of European Economic History, 32:1 (Spring 2003), 171-97.
- * 4. Charles R. Hickson and Earl A. Thompson, 'A New Theory of Guilds and European Economic Development', Explorations in Economic History, 28:2 (April 1991), 127 - 68.
- 5. James R. Farr, 'On the Shop Floor: Guilds, Artisans, and the European Market Economy, 1350 - 1750', Journal of Early Modern History: Contacts, Comparisons, Contrasts, 1:1 (Feb. 1997), 24-54.
- 6. Steven A. Epstein, Wage Labor and Guilds in Medieval Europe (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1991). See in particular chapter 4, 'Guilds and Labor in the Wider World', pp. 155-206; and especially chapter 5, 'Labor and Guilds in Crisis: the Fourteenth Century', pp. 207-56.

B. Guilds in the England, the Low Countries, Germany, Spain: Textiles and Other Crafts:

- * 1. Gary Richardson, 'Guilds, Laws, and Markets for Manufactured Merchandise in Late-Medieval England', Explorations in Economic History, 41:1 (January 2004), 1-25.
- * 2. Heather Swanson, 'The Illusion of Economic Structure: Craft Guilds in Late Medieval English Towns', Past & Present, no. 121 (November 1988), pp. 29 - 48.
- * 3. John Munro, 'The Symbiosis of Towns and Textiles: Urban Institutions and the Changing Fortunes of Cloth Manufacturing in the Low Countries and England, 1270 -1570', The Journal of Early Modern History: Contacts, Comparisons, Contrasts, 3:1 (Feb. 1999), 1-74.
- * 4. John H. Munro, 'Urban Regulation and Monopolistic Competition in the Textile Industries of the Late-Medieval Low Countries', in Erik Aerts and John Munro, eds., Textiles of the Low Countries in European Economic History, Studies in Social and Economic History, Vol. 19 (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1990), pp. 41 - 52.
- * 5. John Munro, 'Gold, Guilds, and Government: The Impact of Monetary and Labour Policies on the

- Flemish Cloth Industry, 1390-1435', Jaarboek voor middeleeuwse geschiedenis, 5 (2002), 153 - 205.
- * 6. David Nicholas, The Metamorphosis of a Medieval City: Ghent in the Age of the Arteveldes, 1302 - 1390 (Lincoln, 1987), chapter 6: 'Wool, Cloth, and Guilds', pp. 135 - 77.
 - * 7. Peter Stabel, 'Urban Markets, Rural Industries and the Organisation of Labour in Late-Medieval Flanders: the Constraints of Guild Regulations and the Requirements of Export-Oriented Production', in Bruno Blondé, Eric Hanhaute, and Michèle Galand, eds., Labour and Labour Markets between Town and Countryside (Middle Ages - 19th Century), CORN Publication Series 6: Comparative Rural History of the North Sea Area (Turnhout: Brepols, 2001), pp. 140-57.
 - * 8. Peter Stabel, 'Guilds in Late-Medieval Flanders: Myths and Realities of Guild Life in an Export-Oriented Environment', Journal of Medieval History, 30 (2004), 187-212.
 - 9. Alexandra F. Johnston, 'English Guilds and Municipal Authority', Renaissance and Reformation, new ser. 13 (1989), 69 - 88.
 - 10. Ephraim Lipson, The Economic History of England, Vol. I: The Middle Ages, 7th edn. (London, 1937): chapter VII: 'The Gild Merchant', pp. 264-307; chapter VIII: 'Craft Gilds', pp. 308-439.
 - 11. Sylvia Thrupp, 'The Grocers of London: A Study of Distributive Trade', in Eileen Power and Michael Postan, eds., Studies in English Trade in the Fifteenth Century (London, 1933), pp. 247-92.
 - 12. Ben R. McRee, 'Religious Gilds and Civic Order: The Case of Norwich in the Late Middle Ages', Speculum, 67:1 (January 1992), 69 - 97.
 - 13. Sheilagh Ogilvie, 'Guilds, Efficiency, and Social Capital: Evidence from German Proto-Industry', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 57:2 (May 2004), 286-333.
 - 14. Hilario Casado Alonso, 'Guilds, Technical Progress and Economic Development in Preindustrial Spain', in Paolo Massa and Angelo Moiola, eds., Dalla corporazione al mutuo soccorso: Organizzazione e tutela del lavoro tra XVI e XX secolo, Storia del Società dell'Economia e dell'Istituzioni (Milan, 2005).

C. Women, Crafts, and Craft Guilds in Late-Medieval Europe:

- *1. Martha C. Howell, 'Women, the Family Economy, and the Structures of Market Production in the Cities of Northern Europe during the Later Middle Ages', in B. A. Hanawalt, ed., Women and Work in Pre-Industrial Europe (Bloomington, 1986), pp. 198-222. See also M.C. Howell, 'Citizenship and Gender: Women's Political Status in Northern Medieval Cities', in Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski, eds., Women and Power in the Middle Ages (New York, 1988), pp. 37-61.
- 2. Natalie Zemon Davis, 'Women in the Crafts in Sixteenth-Century Lyon', in B. A. Hanawalt, ed., Women and Work in Pre-Industrial Europe (Bloomington, 1986), pp. 167-97.
- 3. John Munro, 'Textile Workers', in Joseph R. Strayer, et al., eds., The Dictionary of the Middle Ages, Vol. XI (New York, 1988), pp. 693-715.

4. John Munro, 'Textile Production for the Market', in Margaret Schaus, ed., Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia (New York and London: Routledge, 2006), pp. 791-95.
5. Margret Wensky, 'Women's Guilds in Cologne in the Later Middle Ages', Journal of European Economic History, 11 (1982), 631-50.
6. Maryanne Kowaleski and Judith Bennett, 'Crafts, Gilds, and Women in the Middle Ages: Fifty Years after Marian K. Dale', Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, 14 (1989), 474 - 88.
- * 7. William C. Jordan, 'Women and Credit in the Middle Ages: Problems and Directions', Journal of European Economic History, 17 (Spring 1988), 33-62.
8. Coredelia Beattie, 'The Problem of Women's Work Identities in Post Black Death England', in James Bothwell, P.J.P. Goldberg, and W.M. Ormrod, eds., The Problem of Labour in Fourteenth-Century England (York: York Medieval Press, 2000), pp. 1-19.
- * 9. Sandy Bardsley, 'Women's Work Reconsidered: Gender and Wage-Differentiation in Late Medieval England', Past & Present, no. 165 (November 1999), 3-29; and John Hatcher and Sandy Bardsley, 'Debate: Women's Work Reconsidered: Gender and Wage Differentiation in Late Medieval England', Past & Present, no. 173 (Nov. 2001), pp.191-202.
10. Shulamith Shahar, The Fourth Estate: a History of Women in the Middle Ages, 2nd revised edn. (London: Routledge, 2003).

QUESTIONS:

1. Define the nature of guilds in late-medieval western Europe: in institutional, legal, political, and social terms.
2. In late medieval western Europe, what was the relationship between urban governments on the one hand and merchant and craft guilds on the other? How did such relationships change over the course of the later medieval era?
3. What were the chief differences between merchant and craft guilds? How were each type typically organized. In each, and particularly in the latter, what were the roles of: master, journeyman, apprentice? How were such guilds, mercantile and craft, governed?
4. What was the role of women in late-medieval crafts and craft guilds? Did women ever succeed in becoming 'masters' in any crafts, apart from their role as widows of masters? Did they every succeed in occupying any positions of power in medieval craft guilds? What barriers did they face? How do you explain the organization of some purely female guilds?
5. Discuss the aims, objectives, and policies of late-medieval guilds: economic, social, cultural, religious, and political.
6. More precisely, what were the purely economic objectives of late-medieval guilds, merchant and craft, in terms of: creating local (urban) monopolies; controlling production and marketing; controlling prices; controlling entry into the profession or craft; regulating or stabilizing incomes; quality controls, etc.

7. Were late-medieval guilds obstacles to economic progress and development: were they necessarily opponents of individual economic initiative and enterprise; to technological innovation?
8. How did the urban textile guilds of the late medieval Low Countries differ from 'typical' craft guilds of this era?