

ECO 2210Y: Topics in Later Medieval and Renaissance European Economic History

Topic No. 13: Late-Medieval Industry: The Woollen Cloth Industries and International Trade.

A. Woollen Cloth Manufacturing and the International Cloth Trade, 1290 - 1500

1. John Munro, 'Textile Technology,' and 'Textile Workers,' in Joseph R. Strayer, et al., eds., The Dictionary of the Middle Ages, Vol. 11 (New York, 1988), pp. 693-715. Reprinted in John Munro, Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries (London: Variorum, 1994).
2. E.M. Carus-Wilson, 'The Woollen Industry,' in M. M. Postan and Edward Miller, eds., The Cambridge Economic History of Europe, Vol. II: Trade and Industry in the Middle Ages, 2nd rev. edn. (Cambridge, 1987), pp. 614-90. (With a few revisions from the 1952 edition.)
3. Patrick Chorley, 'The Cloth Exports of Flanders and Northern France During the Thirteenth Century: A Luxury Trade?' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 40 (1987), 349-79.
4. John Munro, 'Economic Depression and the Arts in the Fifteenth Century Low Countries,' Renaissance and Reformation, 19 (1983), 235-50. Reprinted in John Munro, Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries (1994).
5. John Munro, 'Anglo-Flemish Competition in the International Cloth Trade, 1340 - 1520,' in Jean-Marie Cauchies, ed., L'Angleterre et les pays bas bourguignonnes: relations et comparaisons, XVe - XVIe siècle [Rencontres d'Oxford (septembre 1994), annual issue of Centre Européen d'Études Bourguignonnes, 35 (1995)], pp. 37-60. [Series: call number DC611 B771 C42]
6. John Munro, 'Industrial Transformations in the North-West European Textile Trades, c. 1290 - c. 1340: Economic Progress or Economic Crisis?' in Bruce M. S. Campbell, ed., Before the Black Death: Studies in the 'Crisis' of the Early Fourteenth Century (1991), pp. 110 - 48. Reprinted in John Munro, Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries (London: Variorum, 1994).
7. John Munro, 'Textiles as Articles of Consumption in Flemish Towns, 1330 - 1575,' Bijdragen tot de geschiedenis, 81:1-3 (1998), 275-88. With a Dutch summary.
8. 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 (February: 1999), 1-74.
9. John Munro, 'The 'Industrial Crisis' of the English Textile Towns, 1290 - 1330,' Thirteenth-Century England: VII, ed. Michael Prestwich, Richard Britnell, and Robin Frame (Woodbridge, UK: Boydell Academic Press, 1999), pp. 103-41.
10. John Munro, 'The Low Countries' Export Trade in Textiles with the Mediterranean Basin, 1200-1600: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Comparative Advantages in Overland and Maritime Trade Routes', International Journal of Maritime History, 11:2 (Dec. 1999), 1 - 30.
11. John Munro, 'The "New Institutional Economics" and the Changing Fortunes of Fairs in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: the Textile Trades, Warfare, and Transaction Costs', Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte, 88:1 (2001), 1 - 47.

12. John Munro, 'Medieval Woollens: Textiles, Textile Technology, and Industrial Organization, c. 1000 - 1500', in David Jenkins, ed., The Cambridge History of Western Textiles (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge and New York, 2003)
13. John Munro, 'The West European Woollen Industries and their Struggles for International Markets, c.1000 - 1500,' in David Jenkins, ed., The Cambridge History of Western Textiles (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge and New York, 2003).
14. Herman Van der Wee, 'Structural Changes and Specialization in the Industry of the Southern Netherlands,' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 28 (1975), 203-21.
15. A. R. Bridbury, Medieval English Clothmaking (1982): chapters 2 (pp. 16-26), 7-8 (pp. 86-105).
16. N. B. Harte and K. G. Ponting, eds., Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe (1983):
 - a) John Munro, 'The Medieval Scarlet and the Economics of Sartorial Splendour,' pp. 13-70. Reprinted in John Munro, Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries (London: Variorum, 1994).
 - b) Raymond Van Uytven, 'Cloth in Medieval Literature of the Western Europe,' pp. 151-83.
 - c) Hidetoshi Hoshino, 'The Rise of the Florentine Woollen Industry in the Fourteenth Century,' pp. 184- 204.
17. Emile Coornaert, 'Draperies rurales, draperies urbaines,' Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire, 28 (1950), 60-96.

B. Wool and the International Wool Trade:

1. Michael Ryder, 'Medieval Sheep and Wool Types,' Agricultural History Review, 32 (1984), 14 - 28.
2. Robert Trow-Smith, A History of British Livestock Husbandry to 1700 (London, 1957), chapter 4: 'Medieval Sheep Husbandry,' pp. 131-72. See also chapters 5, 6.
3. Eric Kerridge, 'Wool Growing and Wool Textiles in Medieval and Early Modern Times,' in J. Geraint Jenkins, ed., The Wool Textile Industry in Great Britain (London, 1972), pp. 19-33;
4. John H. Munro, 'Wool Price Schedules and the Qualities of English Wools in the Later Middle Ages,' Textile History, 9 (1978), 118-69. Reprinted in John Munro, Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries (London: Variorum, 1994).
5. Eileen Power, The Wool Trade in English Medieval History (London, 1941); or see Terence H. Lloyd, The English Wool Trade in the Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1977).
6. Robert Lopez, 'The Origin of the Merino Sheep,' The Joshua Starr Memorial Volume: Studies in History and Philology (a publication of Jewish Social Studies no. 5, New York, 1953), pp. 161-68.
7. Marco Spallanzani, ed., La lana come materia prima: I fenomeni della sua produzione e circolazione nei secoli XIII-XVII (Istituto internazionale di storia economica, Prato, Serie II, Florence, 1974). See essays by Melis, Carrère, Nahlik, Verhulst [HD 9905 A2I86 1974]

QUESTIONS:

58. **Questions on the role of the woollen cloth industries and trades in the economy of later-medieval western Europe:**
- a) Why were the woollen cloth industries the single most important form of manufacturing for medieval and early-modern commerce? How was the structure and organization of this industry related to foreign trade? What technological and organizational changes did this industry undergo from the 12th to 15th centuries: and how are those changes related to foreign trade?
 - b) What structural changes did the woollen textile industries and trades undergo during the period 1290 - 1340: in particular why did the composition of production and trade shift away from cheap and light textiles towards heavy-weight, costly luxury woollens?
2. Why did northern France, the Low Countries (Flanders, then Brabant, and then Holland) and Italy dominate the international production of and trade in woollen textiles until the 15th century; and why did they then lose that dominance to England? On the other hand, why did the English 'victory' take so long? Were the primary factors in England's success endogenous or exogenous to her own economy?
 3. How and why did England come to enjoy supremacy in the international wool trade -- in the supply and distribution of wools to cloth manufacturers? How and why did England begin to lose that supremacy to Spain, or to Spanish *merino* wools from the later 15th century?
 4. How, where, and why did the *nouvelles draperies*, *draperies légères*, and *sayetteries* come to supplant the traditional urban *draperies de luxe* as the major form of textile manufacturing in the Low Countries by the late 15th and early 16th centuries?
 - a) What are the key differences between the *nouvelles draperies* and the *draperies légères*?
 - b) In particular, for the latter, what structural changes in the European economy in general and international trade in particular once more favoured long-distance trade in cheaper and lighter textiles?