

**ECO 2210Y**

**Topic No. 13:           Guilts in the Late-Medieval European Economy**

**General**

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. 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. Unfortunately, despite some nuggets of interesting information, a disappointing survey.
3. Charles R. Hickson and Earl A. Thompson, A New Theory of Guilds and European Economic Development, Explorations in Economic History, 28 (April 1991), 127 - 68. Rather astounding!

**Women, Crafts, and Craft Guilds in Late-Medieval Europe**

4. 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 (1988), pp. 37-61.
5. 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.
6. John Munro, Textile Workers, in Joseph R. Strayer, et al., eds., The Dictionary of the Middle Ages, Vol. XI (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, 1994).
7. Margret Wensky, Women's Guilds in Cologne in the Later Middle Ages, Journal of European Economic History, 11 (1982), 631-50.
8. 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.

**The Low Countries and England: Textiles and Other Crafts**

9. 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: The Organization of the Textile Trade, pp. 135 - 77.

10. Marc Boone, Hanno Brand, and Walter Prevenier, Revendications salariales et conjoncture économique: les salaires de foulons à Gand et à Leyde au XVe siècle, in Erik Aerts, Brigitte Henau, Paul Janssens, and Raymond Van Uytven, eds., Studia Historica Oeconomica: Liber Amicorum Herman Van der Wee (Leuven, 1993), pp. 59-74.
11. John H. Munro, Industrial Entrepreneurship in the Late-Medieval Low Countries: Urban Draperies, Fullers, and the Art of Survival, in Paul Klep and Eddy Van Cauwenberghe, eds., Entrepreneurship and the Transformation of the Economy (10th-20th Centuries): Essays in Honour of Herman Van der Wee (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1994), pp. 377-88.
12. Heather Swanson, The Illusion of Economic Structure: Craft Guilds in Late Medieval English Towns, Past & Present, no. 121 (November 1988), pp. 29 - 48.
13. Alexandra F. Johnston, English Guilds and Municipal Authority, Renaissance and Reformation, new ser. 13 (1989), 69 - 88.
14. 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 Guilds, pp. 308-439.
15. 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.
16. Ben R. McRee, Religious Gilds and Civic Order: The Case of Norwich in the Late Middle Ages, Speculum, 67:1 (January 1992), 69 - 97.

### **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?