

CONTENTS

Chronological Table of Contents • xi

List of Tables • xvi

List of Figures • xvi

List of Maps • xvii

Introduction • i

I. The Early Middle Ages • 5

1. The Grandeur of Rome • 6
2. The Roman Baths • 9
3. The Humble Townspeople: Graffiti and Election Notices on the Walls of Pompeii • 10
4. The Impact of the “Barbarian Invasions” on Fifth-Century Towns • 12
5. Gregory of Tours’s Ode to Dijon in the Sixth Century • 14
6. Toll Exemptions in French Towns • 15
7. The Raids of the Northmen • 16
8. The Magyar Raids • 19
9. The Creation of Bruges • 21
10. Otto I Grants a Market in Bremen to the Archbishop of Hamburg, 965 • 21
11. The Origins of the Saxon Towns • 22
12. The Customs and Rents of Hereford According to Domesday Book, 1086 • 23
13. Grant of Privileges to the Castilians, Mozarabs, and Franks of Toledo, 1086–1118 • 25
14. German Colonization in the East • 28
15. Archaeological Excavations in Tenth-Century York • 29

II. Communes, Government, and External Relations • 35

16. The People of Cologne Rebel Against Their Archbishop, 1074 • 36
17. The Formation of a Commune at Laon, 1116 • 37
18. The Customs of Lorris, 1155 • 41
19. The Lombard Communes As Viewed by a German Bishop • 43
20. Royal Charters Granted to Dublin, 1192–1229 • 45
21. Lübeck Is Made an Imperial City, 1226 • 49
22. The German Emperor Annuls All City Charters, 1231–32 • 50
23. Election of the Podestà, Consuls, and Officials of Volterra, 1224 • 52

24. The Magnates and the Rise of the *Popolo* and Guilds in Florence, 1207–1328 • 54
25. The Greater versus the Lesser Citizens in Bristol, 1316 • 60
26. “Mother” Towns: Breslau Adopts the Charter of Magdeburg, 1261 • 62
27. “Daughter” Towns: The Citizens of Culm Seek Advice from the City Rulers of Magdeburg, 1338 • 65
28. Brunswick Extends Civic Rule to Its Suburbs, 1269 • 67
29. Florence Expands Its *Contado*, 1202–89 • 68
30. The Struggle between the Guelfs and Ghibellines • 70
31. The Establishment of the Rhine League and of Its Peace, 1254 • 72
32. Decrees of the Hanseatic League, 1260–64 • 74
33. The Cinque Ports Confederation • 75
34. Parliamentary Summons to English Boroughs, 1295 • 78
35. The Pope and City Politics in Siena, Fifteenth Century • 79

III. Urban Society and Social Conflict • 81

36. Charter to the Non-Noble Knights of Burgos, 1256 • 84
37. Tower Fellowships and Factionalism in Florence • 86
38. Factionalism and the Concerns of an Exile, 1312 • 87
39. Commercial Status, Wealth, and Political Office in Medieval Exeter • 90
40. The Political Fortunes of a Florentine Merchant • 95
41. The Distribution of Wealth in Two Towns • 98
42. A Bondman Seeks Refuge in an English Town, 1237–38 • 99
43. Grievances of the Common Folk of Dublin, 1316–18 • 100
44. A Day in the Life of a Carpenter • 102
45. A Londoner’s Household Goods, 1337 • 104
46. Domestic Slaves • 106
47. The Revolt of the Commons in London, 1194 • 108
48. The Risings in Ghent and Bruges Against the Patricians, 1301–02 • 110
49. The Demands of the Ciompi in Florence, 1378 • 113

IV. The Urban Economy • 117

50. Market Regulations in Muslim Seville • 118
51. The Champagne Fair Towns • 121
52. Tolls at Southampton, c. 1300 • 124
53. Regulations on the Sale of Meat and Fish in Beverley, 1365–1409 • 130

CONTENTS

54. Shopping in the London Markets • 131
 55. Letter from the Genoa Branch to the Home Office of the Datini Company, 1393 • 133
 56. Restoring Prosperity to the Port Town of Bordeaux, c. 1465 • 135
 57. Regulation of Trade by a Merchant Guild, 1257–73 • 137
 58. Craft Guild Regulations: The Shearers of Arras, 1236 • 139
 59. Regulations of the Guild of Skinners in Copenhagen • 143
 60. Guild Apprenticeships • 145
 61. Dispute Between the Master Saddlers of London and Their Journeymen, 1396 • 148
 62. The Bakers of Coventry Strike, 1484 • 150
 63. Guild Rivalry in Florence, 1425 • 151
- V. Urban Finances, Jurisdictions, and Justice • 153**
64. Accounts of the City of Siena • 154
 65. The Town Accounts of Leicester, 1377–78 • 157
 66. Tax Declarations in Florence for the *Catasto* of 1427 • 161
 67. Winchester Pleads for Tax Relief because of Urban Decline, 1452 • 164
 68. The Jurisdiction of the Wardmotes of London • 166
 69. Proceedings in the Courts of Nottingham, 1395–96 • 172
 70. The Cost of Recovering a Debt in Marseille, 1331 • 175
 71. Feud and Vendetta: The Private Pursuit of Justice in Pistoia • 176
 72. Urban Punishments • 178
 73. The Dublin Prison, 1486 • 180
- VI. Marriage and Family • 181**
74. The Del Bene Marriage Negotiations in Florence, 1381 • 182
 75. Marriage in the Merchant Class • 185
 76. Contracting Marriage in York and Paris • 187
 77. Women, Family Relations, and Inheritance in Aragon • 191
 78. Women, Family Relations, and Inheritance in Magdeburg and Breslau • 193
 79. Wives at the Tavern • 196
 80. Childhood Deaths in London • 200
 81. Family and Household in Manosque, 1418–26 • 202
 82. A Comfortable Retirement for the Wealthy • 206
 83. Caring for the Aged in Medieval Exeter • 208
 84. Family and Households: A Demographic Perspective • 209

VII. Women • 213

- 85. Proper Behavior for a Young Townswoman • 214
- 86. Women and Gossip • 216
- 87. Women and Fashion • 219
- 88. Singlewomen in Coventry, 1492–95 • 222
- 89. Women in the Parisian Craft Guilds, c. 1270 • 223
- 90. Limits on Employing Women as Weavers in Bristol, 1461 • 228
- 91. Advice on Hiring Maidservants, c. 1393 • 229
- 92. Female Servants and Prostitution • 231

VIII. Religion, Piety, and Charity • 235

- 93. The Bishop of Speyer Gives the Jews of the City a Charter, 1084 • 236
- 94. Restrictions on Jewish Communities in English Towns • 237
- 95. Persecution of the Jews in Strasbourg and German Towns, 1349 • 239
- 96. Problems among the Clergy of Rouen Cathedral, 1248 • 241
- 97. The Beguines of Ghent, 1328 • 242
- 98. The Good Canon of Cologne • 245
- 99. A Popular Franciscan Preacher in Paris, 1429 • 248
- 100. Lay Piety and Reform: Peter Waldo of Lyons • 250
- 101. The Processions of the Flagellants, 1349 • 251
- 102. The Religious Fraternity of St. Katharine at Norwich, 1389 • 252
- 103. The Accounts of the Churchwardens in Canterbury, 1485–86 • 255
- 104. Religion, Morality, and Politics: Savonarola's Influence over the Florentines • 258
- 105. A *Maison-Dieu* in Pontoise, c. 1265 • 261
- 106. The Distribution of Alms in Florence, 1356 • 263
- 107. Charitable Bequests in Siena, 1300–25 • 265

IX. Education • 269

- 108. The Cost of Schooling, 1394–95 • 270
- 109. Niccolo Machiavelli as a Young Student • 271
- 110. Privileges Granted to Masters and Students at the University of Paris • 275
- 111. Town/Gown Controversies in Oxford and Paris • 277
- 112. A Student Riot at Oxford, 1388–89 • 279
- 113. Wooing Masters and Students from Paris to the New University of Toulouse, 1229 • 280

CONTENTS

- 114. Contract between the Town of Vercelli and the Students at Padua, c. 1228 • 283
- 115. The Foundation of the University of Heidelberg, 1386 • 284
- 116. A Scholar in Paris • 288

X. Entertainment and Civic Ritual • 291

- 117. Sports in London • 292
- 118. The Start of the Secular Stage, Exeter, 1348 • 295
- 119. Order of the Pageants of the Corpus Christi Plays in York, 1415 • 296
- 120. Trouble Behind the Scenes in York, 1420 • 300
- 121. Feast and Festival in Venice • 301
- 122. The Feast Day of St. John the Baptist in Florence • 306
- 123. A Wake in Oxford, 1306 • 309
- 124. Processions for Peace in Paris, 1412 • 310
- 125. Mayoral Elections in England • 312

XI. The Dangers of Urban Life • 315

- 126. Fires in Novgorod • 316
- 127. Famine Mortality in Bruges and Ypres, 1316 • 318
- 128. Discrimination Against the Poor in Siena During the Famine of 1329 • 320
- 129. The Black Death in Florence, 1348 • 323
- 130. The Plague in Edinburgh, 1498–99 • 329
- 131. The Urban Militia of a Spanish Frontier Town: Cuenca, 1190 • 330
- 132. Parma at War • 332
- 133. The Siege of Calais, 1346–47 • 336
- 134. Crime Prevention in London • 341
- 135. Criminal Courts and Punishment in Marseille, 1406–07 • 344
- 136. The Road to Ruin in Dijon, 1492 • 346

XII. The Urban Environment • 349

- 137. Air Pollution in Southwark, 1307 • 350
- 138. Regulations for London's Streets, 1297 • 350
- 139. Garbage Removal in English Towns, 1385 • 351
- 140. The Water Supply of Dublin • 352
- 141. The Sounds of the City: Bells, Horns, and Town Criers • 354
- 142. London Bridge, 1404 • 356
- 143. The Town Rents of Edinburgh, 1457 • 359

MEDIEVAL TOWNS: A READER

- 144. Building Regulations in London, 1189 • 361
- 145. The Rise and Fall of Urban Towers in Italian Towns • 363
- 146. Building Contracts for a Tavern and House, 1342 • 365
- 147. A Merchant's House in King's Lynn • 367
- 148. Clothing and Head-gear • 368
- 149. Medieval Fast Food • 371
- 150. Meat Consumption • 373

XIII. The Idealized City • 375

- 151. A Description of London, c. 1173 • 376
- 152. In Praise of Milan's Townscape, 1288 • 380
- 153. The Evils of the Big City • 383

Maps • 385

Index of Topics • 389

Index of Towns • 393

Index of Town Officials • 399

Sources • 401