

Medieval Occupations



Steven Smith
(& Halie Schouten)

Broad Occupations



Merchants and Traders



- ✓ The main thing that all traders had in common was that commerce was their main purpose. Other than that, there is not one thing that connects them all.
- ✓ Many traders traveled along trade routes from city to city selling goods.
- ✓ They were the middle men. They would buy from craftsmen and then resell the goods.

Merchants and Traders



- ✓ Merchants sold things for money instead of trading one good for another.
- ✓ The general public viewed merchants negatively because they didn't approve of their buying and selling for a higher price.

Craftsmen



- ✓ Craftsmen often had small families because of poor living conditions.
- ✓ The size of their household was dependent on their skill and income.
- ✓ They often had only 2 rooms in their houses. One for sleeping and one for general living.
- ✓ Usually they couldn't afford furniture, so their houses were unfurnished.

Craftsmen



- ✓ Craftsmen lived only slightly better than peasants.
- ✓ They would usually live in a neighborhood with other craftsmen for protection.
- ✓ Unlike merchants, craftsmen didn't use money, they often traded their goods for other goods and services.

Other Broad Occupations



- ✓ Some other general jobs/lifestyles include religious work (monks) and royalty (kings, queens, nobles, etc.).

Specific Occupations



Acrobat



- ✓ An acrobat was an entertainer.
- ✓ We still have people like them today.



Armorer



- ✓ This person would make armor for knights.
- ✓ An armorer had to be a specialist at his craft because all of the pieces of armor had to be uniquely fitted to the wearer.



Apothecary



- ✓ An apothecary can be compared to a modern day pharmacist.
- ✓ They were highly regarded because their job required a higher education.
- ✓ They made medicines from plants.
- ✓ Sometimes a priest became an apothecary in order to sell cheaper medicine to the poor.

1-800-Homeopathy's Apothecary



brings you
products from ®

BOIRON

-Heel®

HP 

nelsons

Bach

Similasan®


WELEDA

Artist



- ✓ Kings and Queens often employed artists.
- ✓ They painted portraits as well as heraldic designs.



Astrologer



- ✓ Medieval people thought of astrologers as mystical people.
- ✓ They studied the stars and planets.



Atilliator



- ✓ This person's only job was to make crossbows.



Bailiff



- ✓ The castle bailiff managed the estate or farm of the castle.

Baker



- ✓ The bakers made mostly bread because it was needed on a daily basis.
- ✓ Bakers made more money than other tradesmen.
- ✓ The really good bakers were employed by people of nobility.



Barber



- ✓ A Barber is one of the most versatile of all the occupations.
- ✓ They cut hair, but they also served as a dentist.
- ✓ In addition to those, they worked as surgeons and doctors!



Blacksmith



- ✓ Blacksmiths were one of the most important occupations in medieval times.
- ✓ The forged weapons and tools, as well as fixing armor and weapons.
- ✓ Even though they were so important, they were still included in the lower class.

1



Bottler



- ✓ A bottler did what you might expect, he bottled fine wines for storing and dispensing.



Butcher



- ✓ Butchers were necessary, but disgusting.
- ✓ Their yards were filled with livestock, carcasses, and animal skins.
- ✓ However, they made lots of money because people needed meat.



Butler



- ✓ The butler was responsible for the castle cellar in addition to the care of beers and other ales in the “buttery”.

1



Bower



- ✓ A bower, as you might have guessed, manufactured bows, arrows, and crossbows.
- ✓ This occupation is similar to that of the atilliator.



Candle-maker



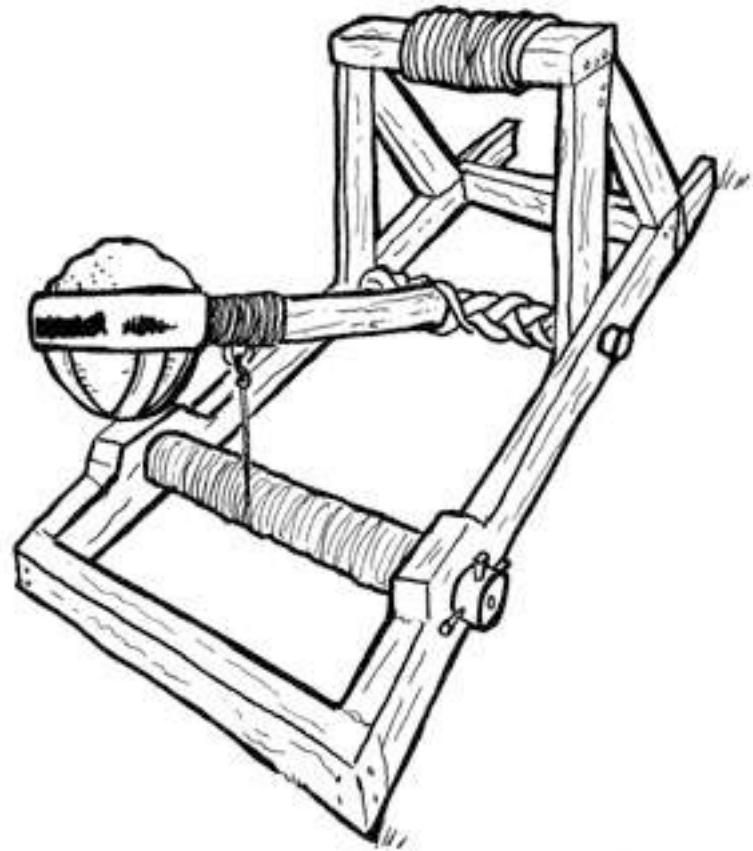
- ✓ This was an important profession because candles were used with torches to light buildings.
- ✓ Candle-makers were also the inventors of the first clocks, they had twelve lines in them that burned at a rate of one line per hour, which enabled people to tell the time.



Carpenter



- ✓ The carpenter was responsible for all wood pieces.
- ✓ He built furniture, roofs, wood paneling, and siege engines.
- ✓ They were elite tradesmen.



Castellan (ka-stel uhn)



- ✓ The castellan was appointed to be in charge of the castle.



© K. Machulewski

Chamberlain (cheym-ber-lin)



- ✓ This person was responsible for the king's budget, expenses, and revenues.



Chancellor

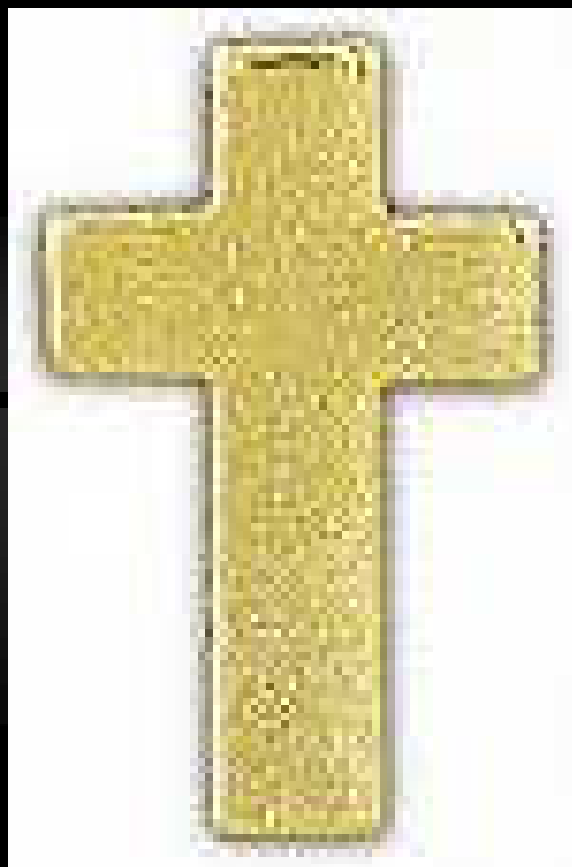


- ✓ The chancellor was the secretary of a person of royalty or nobility, like a king or duke.

Chaplain



- ✓ He was responsible for religious activities, especially the spiritual aspects of the lives of nobles and their families.



Clerk



- ✓ This person was employed to keep and manage accounts.

Clothier (kloth-yer)



- ✓ These people knew a lot about fine fabrics, so they made nice clothes for high class citizens.



Constable



- ✓ This is another name for the castellan.

Cook



- ✓ The cook prepared food in fireplaces and ovens for his employer.



Cordwainer (kawrd-wey-ner)



- ✓ A cordwainer is a medieval shoemaker.



Cottar



- ✓ This person was extremely low in status.
- ✓ They were usually the old and ill.
- ✓ They received menial tasks like swine herding or prison guarding.



Ditcher



- ✓ A ditcher was a laborer that dug ditches and castle moats.



Ewerer



- ✓ This person was employed to fetch and heat water for nobles.



Reseller



- ✓ This was the main type of merchant.
- ✓ These people acted as middle men.
- ✓ When somebody thought something was out of style, resellers would buy it (and fix it if necessary) then sell it to someone else later on.

