

Guilds and Guild classes

Forerunners of trade-unionism, the guilds would be fundamental to the establishment of a new middle class. The guild system, while having the possible error of "trapping" one in an apprentice role one did not savour, offered financial well-being and the economic rewards of the guild system were considerable. Guild-names emerged of which my own may be one and the idea of a sur-name, first-name business comes to have more meaning in this period.

Professions

Professional careers begin to have added meaning. Prior to this the only established profession that seemed to offer security was the clergy. But law, medicine and education offer increasingly attractive life systems. The professions are linked in a way to the newer developing mining and smithing businesses and while we do not speak of these as "professions" in the sense that we do speak of medicine, the career concept in a managerial role offered a better income and standard of living.

Education

Always a work of the church and the monastics, education had grown respectable and the universities were becoming the centres of their nations. Kings are proud to have the great teachers! Men of ability are enlisted, recruited, as you will, and drawn to the more attractive teaching works and positions. As far as we are concerned, this will draw some of the brain power away from the church and will open the halls of research, science, etc., to some of the thinkers. Some of the best theological education will come from university men (such as LeFevre in the Sorbonne), men who are clerics but are secularly employed and so free of the restrictions of the ecclesiology of the time. Erasmus, a further example of this class, had a dispensation to refrain from wearing the clerical garb and so, though a clergyman, walked about as anyone else might have walked in that age.

Social revolution

All of these factors and a few others will lead to a general resentment of the status quo with regard to both state and church. This reaction will come to a head in Germany with the Peasants' War. It is coupled with a distrust of clergy both within and