

1: The Medieval Household: Daily Living C. C. by Geoff Egan

One of the most important functions of the medieval household was the procurement, storage and preparation of food. This consisted both in feeding the occupants of the residence on a daily basis, and in preparing larger feasts for guests, to maintain the status of the lord.

Sunday, 9 December Huusraet: Van Beuningen to the museum. These artefacts can in fact better be viewed online, as the display is on metres high stacks behind chicken wire. Nevertheless, it was an interesting visit and the museum shop contained a pleasant surprise: Berend Dubbe was president of this museum at that time and co-author of many articles in the exhibition catalogue. So, it might come as no surprise that the new book is a rewritten and slightly updated version of the catalogue, both for text and images. The book is easier to read, text and images are presented alongside, instead of after each other in the catalogue. Another pre for the book is that it is full colour throughout, instead of partly black-and-white illustrated like the catalogue. The out-of-print paperback catalogue now costs around Euro second-hand, while this new hardcover can be bought for only 50 Euro. The first two chapters in the book deal with medieval furniture. The first chapter starts with some notes on furniture production and moves on to storage furniture armoires, chests and dressoirs. The second chapter deals with tables, seating furniture, beds and chamber screens. These and other chapters are dressed with quotes from medieval legal documents and numbers of the different furniture items present in a household. I have to check this some time, as the castle is nearby. The book erroneously states that this museum is in Schloss Cappenberg, but it has moved back to Dortmund in I do not always agree with the author. Especially, on sleeping furniture he misses the point in my opinion. They were found behind the kitchen and in secondary rooms, while the main fourposter bed was found in the living room. These were also found in the secondary rooms, stables and behind kitchens. Butze in a farm around from the Luneburger museum village in Hosseringen. The Butze is situated in the hall, next to the kitchen. A medieval chest shown in a previous post is seen next the bed. The next chapters of the book deal with all kinds of household items, used for cooking, drinking, tableware, lighting, etc. Many of the examples of household items shown in the book are from the museum Boijmans van Beuningen. Glass tableware is far under represented, although a great variety existed in Burgundian times. It is also a pity that the last chapter other items is rather short and scarcely illustrated. Jewellery, games, writing materials, money are all part of the medieval burgess household and there are many Dutch examples available that could have been added to make the book more complete. Despite these shortcomings, this book is a well-illustrated addition to our library.

2: Castle Life - Officers & Servants in a Medieval Castle

*The Medieval Household: Daily Living cc (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London) [Geoff Egan] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book brings together for the first time the astonishing diversity of excavated furnishings and artefacts from medieval London homes.*

This entry will focus mostly on English households from about 1000 AD, but much of the information would also apply to continental Europe too. It is easy to see that a household does not equate to a family. In the Middle Ages for instance, a household might be a widow living alone. In most cases though, the household would consist of a family. The households of nobles and richer peasant families might also include servants, seasonal or permanent workers, as well as other people in the care of the family, such as wards, orphans or apprentices. Poorer households that were unable to afford servants would most likely consist of only the family. The Black Death, which hit Europe in the late 1300s, had a significant impact on household sizes. Before the Black Death the average household size was approximately five, whereas afterwards it was less than four. Structure of the Household Most households had a married couple at their centre. Marriage was very common because it was so easy – all that was needed was a verbal agreement. Men generally married later than women as they were expected to already be set up in a trade, such as on a farm, whereas women had their dowries provided by their father. It might take a few years before a man could provide for a family and so consider marriage. The man might be about 30, the woman in her early 20s or late teens, though ages no doubt varied across Europe. Younger girls were not considered ready to marry. The large age gap was the reason why there were so many widows, as many fathers died whilst their children were still young. In some cases, the mother was nearer the age of her children than the age of her husband, meaning that she could act as an intermediary in conflicts between the husband and his sons which were not uncommon, perhaps over land or inheritance. Historians previously suggested that large extended families would live together but this is now seen as unlikely. Houses were cheap, so many people moved out to set up on their own, especially after the Black Death when land and jobs were plentiful and wages were higher. Servants in the Household Servants and workers in noble families were part of the household. Their master was responsible for their good behaviour and they were also involved in pursuing any feud the master might be involved in. In continental Europe, many of the higher servants in noble households were actually members of the extended family of the lord; however, this was rare in England as it was seen as a step down. Servants often spent their whole lives working for the same family, resulting in the development of family-style ties of attachment. They could have affectionate relationships with their employers and even be bequeathed something in their will. Children and Families in the Household Very rich households often looked after many children – those of family, servants, wards and so on. They would employ a tutor who would educate the children together, so that bonds of fellowship developed between the children. It was rare for servants to be married as it created a second couple in the household, which could be seen as a threat to the stability of the household. In addition, alliance by marriage was considered more important than relationships with extended families. Another way they tied people to them was by patronage. Inheritance Concepts of inheritance differed over the country. There were two types: Partible inheritance – where land was split between all the sons. This led to small land holdings so that younger sons could provide for themselves to some extent, rather than relying on a trade or help from the inheriting brother which was not always forthcoming. Richer families who practised impartible inheritance could afford to set other sons up in a trade or buy them land. Alternatively younger sons could try to marry a widow or heiress, thus gaining a share of her money. They might well have been getting married simply for economic reasons. Households varied depending on location, the wealth and social status of the family as well as the method of inheritance they chose.

3: h2g2 - The Household in Medieval Europe - Edited Entry

The Medieval Household has 6 ratings and 0 reviews. One of a series of publications based on the Museum of London's collection of domestic objects used b.

Napery In addition to these offices there was a need for servants to take care of the hunting animals. The master huntsman, or the veneur, held a central position in greater noble households. The chaplains, confessors and almoners could serve in administrative capacities as well as the religious ones. Noble court The households of medieval kings were in many ways simply aristocratic households on a larger scale. In some ways though, they were essentially different. One major difference was the way in which royal household officials were largely responsible for the governance of the realm, as well as the administration of the household. One example of this is the Carolingians of France, who rose from the position of royal stewards – the Mayors of the Palace – to become kings in their own right. In Flanders, by the thirteenth century, the offices of constable, butler, steward and chamberlain had become the hereditary right of certain high noble families, and held no political significance. If a king was able to muster a substantial force of household knights, this would reduce his dependence on the military service of his subjects. This was the case with Richard II of England, whose one-sided dependence on his household knights – mostly recruited from the county of Cheshire – made him unpopular with his nobility and eventually contributed to his downfall. Greater nobles would have estates scattered over large geographical areas, and to maintain proper control of all their possessions it was important to physically inspect the localities on a regular basis. As the master of the horses, travel was the responsibility of the marshal. Everything in the noble household was designed for travel, so that the lord could enjoy the same luxury wherever he went. This could be a costly affair for the localities visited; there was not only the large royal household to cater for, but also the entire royal administration. The aristocratic society centered on the castle originated, as much of medieval culture in general, in Carolingian France, and from there spread over most of Western Europe. On the northern and western fringes of the continent, society was kin-based rather than feudal, and households were organised correspondingly. From historical and architectural evidence though, it is known that, even though castles were rare, the wealthy lived in palaces of varying magnitude, with chapels and gardens, and rich decorations of mosaics and frescoes. The patterns of marriage fluctuated greatly over the course of the Middle Ages. Even though most of the available evidence concerns the higher classes, and the source material for southern Europe is richer than for the rest, it is still possible to make some rough generalisations. The reason for this can be found in traditions brought forward from the Germanic tribes, but equally in the fact that habitation was confined to small areas, a factor that enforced restrictions on population growth. During the High and Late Middle Ages, girls were increasingly married away in their teens, leading to higher birth rates. This was particularly useful for girls, who could put the earnings towards their dowry. The floor was normally of earth, and there was very little ventilation or sources of light in the form of windows. In addition to the human inhabitants, a number of livestock animals would also reside in the house. Peasant houses became larger in size, and it became more common to have two rooms, and even a second floor. The fall of the Roman Empire had caused a catastrophic de-population of the towns and cities that had existed within the Empire. Between the tenth and twelfth centuries, however, a revival of the European city occurred, with an increase in the urbanisation of society. The members of these guilds would in turn employ young people – primarily boys – as apprentices, to learn the craft and later take a position as guild members themselves. Towards the end of the Middle Ages, the functions and composition of households started to change. This was due primarily to two factors. First of all, the introduction of gunpowder to the field of warfare rendered the castle a less effective defence, and did away with the military function of the household. This did not mean an end to the employment of domestic servants, or even in all cases a reduction in household staff. What it did mean, however, was a realignment whereby the family – in a genealogical sense – became the cornerstone of the household.

4: The Medieval Household / Historical Association

It is possible, using this catalogue of finds, to consider new insights into life in medieval Britain during this period and, as such, this volume is ideal for anyone with an academic interest in the period historically or archaeologically.

Its chief duties include assisting the queen in carrying out her responsibilities as head of state, organizing public ceremonies involving the royal family or royal residences, and maintaining and presenting the Royal Collection. Over time he became, as keeper of the great seal, responsible for the authentication of all major state documents and was, during the later Middle Ages, the principal officer of state. In France this primacy of position was achieved at about the same time by the constable, who, originally the master of the stables, became in due course commander in chief of the army. In modern times members of the Royal Household no longer hold government office but are concerned only with the organization of the various royal establishments and with personal and ceremonial attendance on the sovereign. Following their conversion to Christianity in the 7th century, Anglo-Saxon kings began to acquire a staff of learned clerks who could record their gifts to churches or to great men, the decisions of the king and his advisers, and the laws of the land. Very early in English history the royal household can be seen falling into three main divisions: A similar threefold division can be seen in all the royal households of Europe and in the households of great magnates in every land. King Eadred regarded his seneschals, chamberlains, and butlers as his chief servants, and upon his death he bequeathed them 80 golden coins. No constable or marshal is mentioned in his will by name or office. From his time until the end of the Anglo-Saxon period a considerable anonymity among officeholders can be seen. From the reign of Canute d. The indefiniteness of this title in no way indicates any lack of organization in the households of the last Saxon kings. A successful royal clerk could hope to rise to a bishopric, but there is no adequate evidence that before the Norman Conquest the writing office was ever styled the chancery or its head the chancellor. Like the household ordinances of the later Middle Ages, it is primarily concerned with the daily wage in money and the allowance of bread, wine, and candles due to each household officer and ignores the fact that the less important royal servants generally held land of the king in sergeantry. His second-in-command, the master of the writing office, had received tenpence, but Henry I increased his wage to 2 shillings and gave him appropriate additions to his allowance of bread, wine, and candle ends. After the hall came the chamber under the master chamberlain, but beside him stood the treasurer, each of these officers receiving the same pay and allowances as the seneschal and master butler. Below them were less well-paid chamberlains: The appearance here of the treasurer as the head of the new financial department, the exchequer shows that in origin the treasury was regarded as a household department. This does not mean that the treasure always traveled with the king. The chief constable had the same pay and allowances as the master chamberlain, but the marshal had not yet achieved the higher rate. The framework and many details of this organization continued to some extent from medieval into modern times. When the Constitutio was compiled the chancery and exchequer were still departments of the household. A hundred years later the enormous momentum of a developing nation had carried them out of court, and the household had been obliged to create a financial and clerical department of its own. The barons failed to effect the reform of the household which they had planned. Edward I elaborated the organization of the Wardrobe so that able young men could regard service there as a desirable career. Already at the beginning of the 12th century the chief household officers, important barons in their own right, had become too great to perform their household tasks as a matter of routine. On occasions of high ceremony, and in particular at a coronation, there was fierce competition among the greatest magnates of the land for the right to discharge any household duties which they could claim by inheritance. At a modern coronation the Anglo-Norman royal household for a moment once again comes to life. Richard I Coronation procession of Richard I in Every European kingdom was growing richer, and the need to make a display before foreign ambassadors forced every ruler into more expenditure than resources could easily allow. From the late 13th century households were also set up for royal children. The Middle Ages were punctuated by household ordinances, , , , which by insisting on economy and strict accounting had the common aim of enabling the king to pay his way. The Yorkist Edward

IV 183, enriched also with the lands of Lancastrian rebels, succeeded in achieving reasonable economy and magnificence, and his Tudor successors followed his example. The semiofficial descriptions of England in the late 17th and 18th centuries depicted a royal household which in minutest detail was essentially that of the medieval sovereign. The Royal Household in the modern era The history of the Royal Household in England from the mid 14th century has been mainly one of reorganization in order to achieve increased efficiency. Formerly there was much overlapping and confusion in the duties of the various departments. The prince consort undertook a thorough reorganization of the household in 1801, thereby effecting great economies and abolishing various sinecures and other abuses. In its main outlines, the household in the 20th century was essentially the same as it was in earlier times. The great officers were still the lord chamberlain, the lord steward, and the master of the horse. Until these three officials were appointed by the prime minister. Since then, in practice, they have been appointed by the sovereign, subject to the proviso that they do not vote against the existing government. The treasurer, comptroller, and vice-chamberlain of the household are always members of the House of Commons. Together with the lords in waiting, the captains of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, and the yeomen of the guard, these positions are political in nature and change with the government. All other appointments in the household are made by the sovereign. The help and impartial advice of their secretaries is invaluable, not only in dealing with their immense correspondence on home and Commonwealth affairs but in arranging and organizing royal programmes. The private secretary is supported by assistant secretaries and a press secretary first appointed by King George VI. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert as a youthful married couple. The lord chamberlain also oversees other departments, such as the ecclesiastical and medical households. Until this office was also responsible for stage censorship, a survival from the time when the lord chamberlain directed court entertainment. This was an office created by the prince consort, and it took over and coordinated the somewhat miscellaneous duties of the old Board of Green Cloth. The master of the household is responsible for the staffing and administration of all the royal residences. The whole of the financial side of the Royal Household is controlled by the keeper of the privy purse and personal treasurer to the sovereign. The ceremonial side of the latter, the annual distribution of the Royal Maundy, is carried out either by the sovereign in person or by the high almoner an office dating from the 12th century and always held by a high ecclesiastic. The last of the great officials of the household is the master of the horse, but that position is now almost entirely ceremonial. The crown equerry is in charge of the royal mews and of ground travel in its widest sense with the exception of rail travel, which is coordinated with the Royal Travel Office. One of the extra equeries, for instance, was responsible for air travel, a service instituted by King Edward VIII on his accession to the throne. Although it is a department of the Royal Household, it does not receive public funds. It is supported by admissions fees to royal properties such as Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, with additional income provided by related commercial activities. On all state occasions, most notably the opening of Parliament, the mistress of the robes is in personal attendance on a queen regnant. At other times the ladies of the bedchamber and the ladies in waiting, together with the equeries, take turns waiting according to a rota. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

5: Medieval household - Wikipedia

This is a well-written selective herbal, telling the uses of the herbs commonly used in medieval life at all strata of society. Very helpful, very informative, very.

Napery In addition to these offices there was a need for servants to take care of the hunting animals. The master huntsman, or the veneur , held a central position in greater noble households. The chaplains , confessors and almoners could serve in administrative capacities as well as the religious ones. Noble court The households of medieval kings were in many ways simply aristocratic households on a larger scale: One major difference was the way in which royal household officials were largely responsible for the governance of the realm, as well as the administration of the household. One example of this is the Carolingians of France, who rose from the position of royal stewards " the Mayors of the Palace " to become kings in their own right. In Flanders , by the thirteenth century, the offices of constable, butler, steward and chamberlain had become the hereditary right of certain high noble families, and held no political significance. If a king was able to muster a substantial force of household knights, this would reduce his dependence on the military service of his subjects. This was the case with Richard II of England , whose one-sided dependence on his household knights " mostly recruited from the county of Cheshire " made him unpopular with his nobility and eventually contributed to his downfall. Greater nobles would have estates scattered over large geographical areas, and to maintain proper control of all their possessions it was important to physically inspect the localities on a regular basis. As the master of the horses, travel was the responsibility of the marshal. Everything in the noble household was designed for travel, so that the lord could enjoy the same luxury wherever he went. This could be a costly affair for the localities visited; there was not only the large royal household to cater for, but also the entire royal administration. The aristocratic society centered on the castle originated, as much of medieval culture in general, in Carolingian France , and from there spread over most of Western Europe. On the northern and western fringes of the continent, society was kin-based rather than feudal , and households were organised correspondingly. From historical and architectural evidence it is known that, even though castles were rare, the wealthy lived in palaces of varying magnitude, with chapels and gardens, and rich decorations of mosaics and frescoes. The patterns of marriage fluctuated greatly over the course of the Middle Ages. Even though most of the available evidence concerns the higher classes, and the source material for southern Europe is richer than for the rest, it is still possible to make some rough generalisations. The reason for this can be found in traditions brought forward from the Germanic tribes, but equally in the fact that habitation was confined to small areas, a factor that enforced restrictions on population growth. During the High and Late Middle Ages , women were increasingly married away in their teens, leading to higher birth rates. This was particularly useful for girls, who could put the earnings towards their dowry. The floor was normally of earth, and there was very little ventilation or sources of light in the form of windows. In addition to the human inhabitants, a number of livestock animals would also reside in the house. Peasant houses became larger in size, and it became more common to have two rooms, and even a second floor. The fall of the Roman Empire had caused a catastrophic de-population of the towns and cities that had existed within the Empire. Between the 10th and 12th centuries, however, a revival of the European city occurred, with an increase in the urbanisation of society. The members of these guilds would in turn employ young people " primarily boys " as apprentices , to learn the craft and later take a position as guild members themselves. This was due primarily to two factors. First of all, the introduction of gunpowder to the field of warfare rendered the castle a less effective defence, and did away with the military function of the household. This did not mean an end to the employment of domestic servants, or even in all cases a reduction in household staff. What it did mean, however, was a realignment whereby the family " in a genealogical sense " became the cornerstone of the household.

6: Medieval Merchant's House - Wikipedia

The Medieval Household: Daily Living cc by Geoff Egan This book brings together for the first time the astonishing diversity of excavated furnishings and artefacts from medieval London homes.

The chapel was a part of every large household. Household chapels would be staffed by varying numbers of clerics. Chaplains, confessors and almoners could serve in administrative capacities as well as the religious ones. Clerics were chancellors in large households. The original chancellors were the Cancellarii of Roman courts of justice, ushers who sat at the cancelli or lattice work screens of a basilica or law court, which separated the judge and counsel from the audience. In medieval households they might be responsible for record keeping, accounting and finances. The households of medieval kings were in many ways simply aristocratic households on a larger scale. In some ways though, they were different. One major difference was the way in which royal household officials were largely responsible for the governance of the realm, as well as the administration of the household. The 11th century Capetian kings of France, for instance, "ruled through royal officers who were in many respects indistinguishable from their household officers. One example of this is the Carolingians of France, who rose from the position of royal stewards – the Mayors of the Palace – to become kings in their own right. Another example is the royal House of Stuart in Scotland, whose family name bore witness to their background of service. Eventually the central positions of the royal household became little else than honorary titles bestowed upon the greatest families, and not necessarily even dependent on attendance at court. By the thirteenth century, the offices of constable, butler, steward and chamberlain had become the hereditary right of certain high noble families. The royal household differed from most noble households in the size of their military element. If a king was able to muster a substantial force of household knights, this would reduce his dependence on the military service of his subjects. This was the case with Richard II of England, whose one-sided dependence on his household knights – mostly recruited from the county of Cheshire – made him unpopular with his nobility and contributed to his downfall. The medieval aristocratic household was not fixed to one location, but could be more or less permanently on the move. Greater nobles would have estates scattered over large geographical areas, and to maintain proper control of all their possessions it was important to physically inspect the localities on a regular basis. As the master of the horses, travel was the responsibility of the marshal. Everything in the noble household was designed for travel, so that the lord could enjoy the same luxury wherever he went. Even baths and window glass were moved around. Particularly for kings, itineration was a vital part of governance, and in many cases kings would rely on the hospitality of their subjects for maintenance while on the road. This could be a costly affair for the localities visited; there was not only the large royal household to cater for, but also the entire royal administration. It was only towards the end of the medieval period, when means of communication improved, that households, both noble and royal, became more permanently attached to one residence. Aristocratic society centred on the castle originated, as much of medieval culture in general, in Carolingian France, and from there spread over most of Western Europe. In other parts of Europe, the situation was different. On the northern and western fringes of the continent, society was kin-based rather than feudal, and households were organised correspondingly. In Ireland, the basis for social organisation was the "sept", a clan that could comprise as many as households, or individuals, all somehow related. Towards the end of the Middle Ages, the functions and composition of households started to change. This was due to two factors. First, the introduction of gunpowder to the field of warfare rendered the castle a less effective defence, and did away with the military function of the household. The result was a household more focused on comfort and luxury, and with a significantly larger proportion of women. The second factor was the early modern ascendancy of the individual, and focus on privacy. Already in the later Middle Ages castles had begun to incorporate an increasing number of private chambers. Once the castle was discarded to the benefit of palaces or stately homes, this tendency was reinforced. This did not mean an end to the employment of domestic servants, or even in all cases a reduction in household staff. What it did mean was a realignment whereby the family became the cornerstone of the household.

7: The Medieval Household in Christian Europe, c. c.

Recent archaeological excavations in Scandinavia provide us with a fascinating insight into the household and its function as a social focus for people of different medieval social estates.

Introduction to Life in a Medieval Castle Medieval life in a castle was harsh by modern standards, but much better than life for the majority of people at the time - in French the expression "La vie du chateau" denotes a life of luxury. The civilisation of the ancient pagan world had disappeared. Along with theatres, libraries, schools and hippodromes went luxuries such as running water, central heating, public baths, public lavatories, and sophisticated lighting. Christians did not need baths and they used dark corners for lavatories as God intended. Castles had basic lavatories called garderobes. Light was provided by candles or oil lamps, rarely by the sort of effective torches depicted in Hollywood films. In early medieval times fires were still placed in the centre of the the Great Hall 1, often with a sort of lantern tower above to let the smoke out. Later castles featured fires against the wall with a flue to carry the smoke away. Other rooms in a medieval castle , at least in later times, included solars ,a sort of early drawing room, and private cabinets for men and Boudoirs for women. As in modern Royal castles today, large medieval castles were generally divided into apartments so that each noble individual including children would have their own suite of rooms and their own household staff. Servants would have already risen, ensuring that fires were lit in the kitchen and great hall and preparing a small breakfast for the lower orders. The fist of the two main meals of the day for the nobles was not served until between 10am and noon. Food was prepared in large Kitchens, often in a separate building in order to reduce the fire risk. Food include cereals , vegetables, fish and other seafood , and plenty of meat and bread. Herbs and Spices were used extensively. Dairy products were popular, but fruit less so fruits were often smaller, tougher and less sweet than modern varieties. Puddings Sweets and Desserts on the other hand were always popular. Meals was regulated by some basic rules of etiquette , recognisable as the precursor of modern rules of etiquette. Diet was also regulated by Church teaching which prohibited the eating of various foods at different times of year, prescribing an annual round of fasts and feasts. Medieval Drinks included wine , mead , beer and spirits Each morning floors had to be swept, cleared of any debris, and basins washed out. Once the lord and his lady were up and dressed, chambermaids entered their bed chambers , swept the floor and emptied chamber pots and wash basins. Under the feudal system , the lord would need to carry out administrative functions, managing desmenes , accepting homage, carrying out ceremonies of commendation and collecting rents, fees and Medieval Taxes. A lord might be granted possession of more than one manor, barony or earldom so he had to divide his time among all of his properties. His powers were political, judicial, fiscal, and included the policing and defence of his territory. Like his king, he administered justice, inflicted punishment, collected dues from his subjects, and in some cases minted his own coins. The steward had substantial power of his own, because he had to know virtually everything that went on at the castle and in the surrounding estates. He had to be skilled at accounting and legal matters, as well as personnel management. Each of these individuals had their own, often large, staff to manage. Food production would need to be managed: Mills were originally water Mills and later windmills The lady of the castle was served by ladies-in-waiting and chambermaids. She spent much of the day overseeing their work, as well as supervising the activities in the kitchen staff. The lady also kept an eye on her large group of spinners, weavers, and embroiderers who continually produced a range of more or less fashionable medieval clothing. At 14, young boys became squires, and the lord placed them under the guidance of a knight who would teach them about chivalry, how to wield a sword, how to ride a horse into battle, and so on. Many knights became highly skilled warriors and spent peacetime ravelling to tournaments to pitch themselves into individual combat with other aspiring knights. Training for medieval warfare was important. Tournaments especially were good training grounds for real warfare, and could be enormously profitable. Soldiers were needed to provide a castle garrison. They were stationed in gatehouses and guardrooms. Individual members included the knights, squires, a porter to tend the main door , guards, watchmen, and men-at-arms. They might need to defend their lord and his household in an instant. Each soldier had his own place in an attack and his own skill to rely upon.

Some were crossbowmen, archers, lancers or swordsmen. Livestock roamed inside the stables, blacksmiths banged out ironwork in castle forges, soldiers practised their skills, and children played when lessons were completed. Various craftsmen worked in the inner ward, including cobblers, armourers, coopers who made casks, hoopers who helped the coopers build the barrels, billers making axes, and spencers accountants who dispensed money. Interior walls were used to support timber structures, like the workshops and the stables. Sometimes, stone buildings also leaned against the walls. Servants were constantly bustling, taking care of the needs of the household. Fires burned, and needed regular mending. Wells and cisterns offered water. At mid-morning, dinner was served. This was the main meal of the day, and often featured three or four courses, as well as entertainment. The evening meal, supper, was generally eaten late in the day, sometimes just before bedtime. Holidays - literally Holy Days - were times for letting loose of inhibitions and forgetting the stresses of life. The castle always had to be ready for an attack. If the lord of the castle found out there was going to be a battle, he brought more food to the castle in case of a siege. If the battle started and the lord was not at home, the lady organised the army. A siege was an army strategy; the attacking army surrounded the castle to stop supplies from coming to the castle. Usually a siege only lasted a few weeks, but could last months or even years. In BC the city of Carthage withstood a siege for 3 years.

8: The Medieval Household in Christian Europe, C. c. Managing Power - Google Books

The Medieval House in the Early Medieval Period - Noblemen and Women This medieval cottage from the thirteenth century, has been reconstructed by the Weald and Downland Museum, Sussex, England. It was inhabited by the Lord of the Manor, his family and servants.

9: Medieval household : Wikis (The Full Wiki)

The households of medieval kings were in many ways simply aristocratic households on a larger scale. In some ways though, they were different. One major difference was the way in which royal household officials were largely responsible for the governance of the realm, as well as the administration of the household.

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