

A DICTIONARY OF
MEDIEVAL
OCCUPATIONS

Porter
Peddler

HOSTLER

SENESCHAL

Journeyman
Seiwife
Sexton Marquiss

CHANDLER

DRAPER

TEMPLAR

Brightsmith CAULKER

CORNELIUS CLIFFORD

A DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS

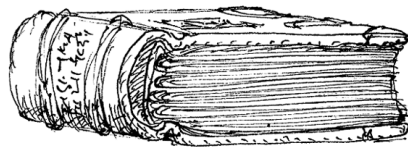
This dictionary or compendium seeks to answer a few simple questions: What's an Ostler? A Journeyman? A Reeve? It is a fairly comprehensive listing, with brief explanations, of some of the more common medieval and historical occupations, jobs, titles and the like that crop up when reading history, running games or gaming set in the past. There is an emphasis on Medieval words, but plenty from later periods are included. The list is by no means exhaustive, and does not include some of the obscure words that have now completely disappeared from common usage. We have also tried to avoid words in Latin, Old English, Anglo-Saxon & etc. where there is little chance of someone today having heard of the word or expression.

I hope you find it useful and worthwhile.

Best regards

Cornelius Clifford
By the Sign of the Dancing Puppet

First published in 2015 by DreamWorlds



Text and illustrations copyright © 2015 Cornelius Clifford

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

www . Dream-Worlds . co. uk

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Abbess

The Female leader or mistress of an Abbey of nuns.

Abbot

The male head or master of an Abbey of monks.

Academic

A scholar or learned person, especially of Philosophy.

Acrobat

A rope dancer or gymnast

Actor

A dramatic performer or mummer in a play

Administrator

The manager or steward of an estate

Admiral

A senior naval officer in charge of a fleet of ships.

Advisor

Someone who gives counsel to someone in power; a wise man or elder

Alchemist

An early kind of chemist, who seeks to transmute base metals into gold and discover the elixir of life.

Alderman

An elder, dignitary or chief amongst the people of a town or borough.

Alehouse Keeper

Seller of ale or beer from barrels in their own house.

Alewife

A female brewer and seller of ale on a small scale.

Anchor Smith

A skilled metal worker who makes ships' anchors.

Antiques Dealer

Someone who buys and sells antiques; furniture and objects that are more than 100 years old.

Antiquities Finder

An agent who seeks out ancient artefacts, often buying them from grave robbers on behalf of rich patrons.

Apothecary

A dispenser and seller of drugs and medicines.

Apprentice

A young person bound to his master in order to learn a trade or art from him. Apprenticeships usually last seven years, or until the apprentice becomes a journeyman.

Archer

Someone who shoots arrows with a bow.

Architect

The designer and supervisor of the construction of a building.

Arkwright

A maker of arks or chests.

Armourer

A maker and repairer of armour, plate (sheet metal) and chain mail, probably makes helmets as well.

Artificer

A maker of ingenious mechanisms and machines.

Artist

A painter of pictures; portraits, landscapes and so on.

Ash Man

The man who takes away the ash. In town houses without gardens disposing of ash from fires can be a problem, so a man collects the ash and sells it to farmers for fertilizer.

Assassin

Someone who kills others by secretive, treacherous means; a hired killer.

Assistant Cook

A chef or cook's helper, someone who does the drudgery in a large kitchen, chopping, cleaning and preparing ingredients for the chef to cook.

Astrologer

Someone who studies the movements and positions of stars in the heavens and interprets these, making predictions about the future.

Astronomer

An observer who studies the stars and planets in the heavens and records their positions and movements.

Auctioneer

Someone who sells chattels or livestock to the highest bidder in a public bidding auction.

Atheling

A member of a noble or royal family.

Axe man

Someone armed with an axe as a weapon for warfare rather than for cutting down trees.

Bag Man

Someone who lives out of bags or sells goods out of bags; a travelling salesman a bit like a tinker.

Baggage Maker

Someone who makes baggage; bags, cases and chests for travelling, also tents and camping equipment.

Bailiff

Sherriff's officer or an agent for a land-steward, might preside over a Lord's castle or manor in his absence.

Baker

Someone who makes bread by baking it in an oven.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Banker

Someone who keeps a bank; an institution for taking deposits and lending them out again in return for interest. A usurer or money-lender. Christians were forbidden to lend money for interest, which is why Jews often became bankers in the middle ages.

Barbarian Warrior

An uncivilised fighter or soldier, undisciplined and wild but probably very ferocious.

Barber

Someone who shaves faces and cuts hair, and extracts teeth.

Barber Surgeon

A barber who has progressed to performing minor operations; lancing boils, bleeding the patient etc.

Bard

A poet and singer, a teller of tales and sagas.

Bargeman

Somebody who operates and steers a flat bottomed, river going barge, carrying goods by water.

Barman

A man who runs a bar, selling alcoholic drinks.

Baron

Latterly the lowest ranked noble in the house of peers, but in feudal societies the highest ranking tenants-in-chief below the King are called Barons.

Baroness

The wife of a Baron, or a noble lady holding a 'baron's' title in her own right.

Baronet

A kind of junior Baron in later times, a title generally used much later than the medieval period.

Basket Maker

A person who makes baskets from reeds and withies.

Basket Man

A seller of, or dealer in, baskets, rather than a maker.

Bath House Attendant

A servant or slave looking after customers in a public bath house.

Beadle

A mace bearer and junior officer/official of a church, college or parish.

Bear Baiter

A man who keeps a chained bear and baits it to make it perform for the public

Bee Keeper

Someone who looks after bees in man-made hives and collects their honey to sell.

Beggar

Someone who begs for a living; asking for alms or charity, usually a mean or poor fellow.

Bell Founder

A maker of bells, these are cast, usually by pouring molten bronze into a sand mould.

Bellows Boy

A young child who operates bellows used to keep a fire or forge hot, especially in large kitchens.

Berserker

A Norse warrior filled with frenzied fury or battle lust.

Besom Maker

Someone who makes up bunches of twigs into a broom, with a hazel handle called a 'witches' broom.'

Bird Catcher

Someone who catches birds, usually for food, many small birds can be eaten; hence the rhyme; 'four and twenty blackbirds, baked in a pie.'

Bishop

A cleric or clergyman in charge of a group of churches, called a bishopric. Usually of noble birth, a Bishop is as powerful as a Duke in medieval society and can be very rich and influential.

Blacksmith

A smith who works with iron, heating the iron in his forge and then hammering it into shape on an anvil.

Blade Smith

A metal worker who makes blades, especially sword, knife and dagger blades.

Board Hearer

Someone who makes boards by 'hewing' tree trunks into planks, first by splitting with wedges and then trimming and smoothing with a special kind of axe.

Boarding Officer

A ship's officer responsible for controlling the boarding of passengers and cargo.

Boat Builder

A skilled carpenter or joiner who makes boats; smaller vessels for rowing, punting or sailing.

Boat Rigger

A craftsman who 'rigs' boats with ropes and lines to control the sails etc.

Boatswain, Bosun

An officer who looks after a ship's boats and their equipment, sails etc.

Bodyguard

A soldier or warrior who is employed or paid to protect the 'body' of a noble or important personage.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Bondsman

Someone who is bound, or bonded, to a master, effectively a kind of slave. A lowly type of peasant

Bone Picker

Someone who 'picks' the bones left over when an animal has been butchered. The scraps of meat produced in this way can be used in stews and pies.

Book Seller

A seller of learned books and scrolls.

Bookbinder

A maker of books, specifically binding the pages together between two thick board covered in skin or hide (thin leather.)

Bookkeeper

Someone who 'keeps books' of accounts for a merchant, recording financial transactions in these books or ledgers.

Boot Boy

A young lad who cleans boots and shoes.

Boot Maker

A maker of boots; riding boots, hunting boots, working boots and so on.

Bosun

An junior officer who looks after and commands a ship's boat and equipment, sails & oars. (Boatswain)

Bottler

Someone who puts or seals liquids (mainly drinks) into bottles, using corks or stoppers.

Bow Maker

A maker of bows for firing arrows.

Bowl Maker

A turner specialising in making wooden bowls, the most common form of eating dish for poor folk.

Bowl Man

A seller of crude wooden and pottery or stoneware bowls, usually bought from craftsmen for re-sale.

Bowman

An archer, someone who uses a bow, usually refers to soldiers armed with bows.

Box Maker

A craftsman who makes small wooden boxes, chests and crates.

Braider

Someone who braids or weaves strands of hair or threads into a thicker 'pig tail' or rope.

Brewer

Someone who brews ale or beer using hops, barley, yeast and water.

Brick Maker

A maker of building bricks, using wooden moulds and then firing the raw bricks in a brick kiln.

Bright Smith

A metal worker who makes 'bright' things such as decorative work or jewellery rather than a blacksmith who makes dull, cruder metal tools and weapons.

Broom Maker

A maker of brooms for sweeping; usually from twigs or rushes attached to a broom handle made of wood.

Brothel Keeper

Someone who keeps a house of 'ill repute' ~ a supervisor of prostitutes and 'ladies of the night.'

Brush Maker

Someone who makes small brushes for cleaning and brushing; anything from dust to paint brushes.

Buccaneer

A pirate or sea-robber; an adventurer of the sea.

Buckler

A maker of metal buckles for shoes, belts & etc.

Builder

Someone who constructs buildings, walls and the like, a less prestigious role than a stone mason.

Burgess

A freeman or citizen of a borough or town.

Burgher

Same as Burgess, a citizen of a town or borough.

Burglar

Someone who enters or breaks into a building, at night, in order to steal or rob from the owners.

Butcher

A meat seller, a shopkeeper who sells cuts and joints of meat.

Bursar

The person who keeps the purse; a treasurer.

Butler

A senior servant in charge of the 'butts' barrels or casks of wine and beer. In castles he cared for and doled out these alcoholic drinks to the household.

Button Maker

A maker of buttons for clothing, these might be from wood, ivory or bone, as well as brass or silver.

Cab Driver, Cabby

Someone who drives a 'cab' for hire; a two-wheeled cart with a covered cab to keep rain off of the passengers inside.

Cabin Boy

A boy who serves the occupants of a cabin on a ship; usually officers or important passengers.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Cadger

A carrier who collects country produce (from farmers for re-sale) also a kind of hawker or tinker.

Cake Seller

A street or market seller of cakes.

Candle Maker

Someone who makes candles; usually by dipping a wick into molten wax repeatedly. Cheap candles are made from animal fats, more expensive ones from beeswax.

Candlestick Maker

Someone who makes candlesticks, generally of metal but sometimes of wood and other materials.

Candy Man

A maker and seller of sweetmeats made with sugar; anything preserved in sugar, especially fruits.

Cape Maker

A maker of capes; attachments to a cloak that cover and protect the shoulders, or a sleeveless cloak.

Captain of the Guard

The officer in charge of a garrison or guard of a castle, town or city.

Card Shark

Someone who makes their way by playing cards or gambling, specifically; cheating in order to win the money from 'marks' or suckers.

Carder

Someone who 'cards' wool or flax, combing it with a teasel or a man-made comb designed for the job.

Cardinal

A senior church official directly under the Pope.

Carpenter

A man who makes things from wood using nails (or screws) to join the planks or beams rather than joints.

Carpet Bag Seller

Someone who sells carpet bags; roomy bags made from carpet, or heavy woven cloth.

Carpet Maker

Someone who makes; weaves and finishes, carpets or large rugs.

Carpet Weaver

A specialist weaver who weaves carpets.

Carter

The operator of a two-wheeled cart, someone who transports goods or farm produce in his cart for a fee or salary.

Cartographer

A maker maps by drawing lines and symbols on a piece of parchment.

Cartwright

A skilled craftsman who makes carts; two wheeled vehicles usually pulled by one horse or pony.

Cask Maker

Someone who makes casks, which are usually small barrels for holding liquor or strong wine.

Castellan

Governor or captain of a castle.

Cattle Thief

Someone who makes a living by stealing (and then selling) cattle or cows. This is a serious offence in medieval societies, for which the punishment is often hanging on a gibbet (by the neck) until dead.

Cattleman

A herder and tender of cattle and cows.

Cauldron Maker

Someone who makes cauldrons; a kind of deep, round cooking pot, usually with a curved handle and three small feet to help balance it in the fire.

Caulker

Someone who 'caulks' boats by hammering cloth or fibre into the gaps between the planks of the hull and sealing the joint with tar or something similar.

Cavalryman

A mounted soldier, usually armed with a sword or lance (spear) and some armour, such as a breastplate and helmet.

Cellarer

Someone who cares for a cellar and its contents, e.g. the stores, food, and drink stored on the ground floor or basement of a castle or palace. Later became known as a butler, or buteler.

Chair Bodger

A man (or woman) who makes chairs by turning rough green staves into legs, spindles and so on.

Chamberlain

The officer in charge of the private apartments of a King or high ranking noble.

Chancellor

The chief or important minister to the king or high noble, could be responsible for finances or act as a presiding judge.

Chandler

A dealer in candles, or a dealer in goods generally. Latterly someone who supplies goods; candles, ropes etc. to a ship or boat.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Chaplain

A junior priest presiding over a chapel, serving a noble in his castle or palace, in later times a priest attached to a regiment or ship's company.

Charcoal Burner

Someone who makes charcoal by the controlled burning of bundles of twigs. Charcoal when burnt a second time burns with a fierce heat and is used in the smelting of metal and production of steel.

Charwoman

A domestic servant hired on a casual basis to do cleaning or laundry work.

Cheese Maker

Someone who makes cheese from milk. They separate the curds (fat) from the whey (a watery residue) and then after mixing it with salt, press it over weeks, months or even years into a cheese.

Cheese Seller

Someone who sells, or deals in, cheeses

Cheesemonger

A dealer in cheese, might import or export it in quantity, or sell it to the public.

Chef

A highly skilled master (or chief) cook who prepares quality dishes, usually for a noble household.

Chest Maker

A carpenter who makes chests, boxes, crates and (probably) coffins as well.

Chimney Sweep

Someone who sweeps (cleans) the soot from chimneys. Whilst poorer, domestic dwellings often do not have chimneys until the end of the medieval period, many castles and palaces have them.

Churchman

Any clergyman or priest from the authorised church.

Cider Maker

Someone who makes cider by pressing apples to extract the juice and then fermenting this to make a rough alcoholic drink.

City Guard

One of the group of paid soldiers who guard a city, generally patrolling the city walls or gateways.

City Officer

An officer employed by the city in some official duty, such as collecting taxes, tolls and dues.

City Official

Someone with authority to act on behalf of the City; e.g. judging petty crimes and passing judgement. Or maybe inspecting goods to make sure the right duties have been paid.

City Treasurer

The official responsible for controlling the city's coffers, making sure any income is kept secure and paying staff and servants of the city from them.

Clay Man

A man who digs clay from the ground, processes or purifies it, and then sells the pure material to potters.

Cleric

Any kind of religious priest or ordained minister.

Clerk

Someone who writes things down; either money and figures, or letters, deeds, contracts and the like.

Cloak Maker

A maker of cloaks, cassocks and other outer garments designed to keep the cold and rain out.

Clock Maker

An artificer or engineer who specialises in making clocks which show the time of day.

Cloth Merchant

A dealer, importer or exporter of finished cloth, someone who buys and sells cloth.

Clothier

Someone who makes or sells clothes, usually to order to fit a particular customer.

Coachman

The driver of a coach; a four-wheeled, closed in wagon for carrying passengers.

Coastal Trader

A ship owner or merchant who is usually master of his own ship and trades in goods along the coast.

Cobbler

Someone who mends and repairs shoes, sometimes making them as well.

Cock Fighter

A persons who organises or enters his birds in fights between two cockerels (male chickens) or gamecocks. A popular 'sport' which involves betting on the outcome but cruel to the animals involved.

Codpiece Maker

Someone who makes codpieces; fashionable contrivances which pad, protect and exaggerate a gentleman's parts.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Coffin Maker

A carpenter who specialises in making coffins, or boxes designed to hold dead bodies for burial.

Coiner

Someone who makes or 'coins' money; usually forged coins, because only the King or someone with a license from him can mint coins legally.

College Bursar

The treasurer of an academic college, responsible for the finances of that institution.

Composer

Someone who composes music; a writer of music, often a musician, conductor or performer as well.

Con Artist

Someone who 'cons' people; obtains money from them by deceit.

Confectioner

A maker and seller of 'confections,' sweet snacks; preserved fruits and cakes.

Constable

A state officer (count of the stable) of high rank, often in charge of a castle on behalf of the King

Cook

A servant who prepares and cooks food in return for pay, not as prestigious as a chef.

Cooper

A craftsman who makes barrels, casks and butts for a living, using oak staves and metal hoops.

Copper Smith

A metal worker who specialises in working copper, usually beating this soft metal into pots and pans.

Copyist

A clerk who copies documents for a living, very important before the invention of printing.

Corn Merchant

A dealer who buys and sells corn, especially seed corn; high quality grain held back for next year.

Corset Maker

A maker of corsets; undergarments which enhance appearance by restricting the waist of the wearer.

Costumier

A maker of costumes; women's outer dresses and especially theatrical or specialised costumes, livery and uniforms.

Cottar

A peasant occupying a cot or cottage for which he gives service instead of rent; generally working the Lord's land for so many days a week or month.

Courtesan

A fashionable or high-class prostitute or bed mistress.

Cowhand

Someone who works with cows on a dairy farm, milking and cleaning and feeding.

Cowherd

A person who herds dairy cows; keeping them together, watching that they are not stolen and driving them back to the farm for milking.

Coxswain (Cockswain)

A sailor who steers a small rowing boat or is in charge of a boat and crew.

Crabber

A fisherman who catches crabs, or fishes from a small boat also called a 'crabber.'

Crossbow Maker

A skilled craftsman who makes crossbows and the bolts (short arrows) fired in them.

Crumhorn Player

A musician who plays a popular early wind instrument which has a curved spout.

Cup Bearer

An attendant at a feast who pours out and serves the wine or drink. Also to hunters before a hunt.

Customs Officer

A servant of the government who collects 'customs;' duties or taxes on imported or exported goods. Also responsible for catching smugglers; people who avoid paying the duties due with illicit contraband.

Cutler

Someone who makes, repairs and sharpens cutlery, especially knives that cut, hence cut-ler.

Dairy Maid

A young girl or unmarried woman (maid) who milks cows or processes milk into butter and cheese.

Dance School Mistress

A lady who teaches young girls and ladies how to dance elegantly. Dancing is an essential social skill.

Dancer

Somebody who dances for a living, probably as one of a group. Generally looked down upon by upright citizens as likely to be someone of 'loose' morals.

Dancing Bear Keeper

A man who keeps a dancing bear which he forces to dance for public entertainment.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Dealer

Someone who buys and sells things, a businessman who buys low and sells high.

Deck Hand

An unskilled sailor who works on the deck of a ship, rather than below decks or amid the rigging.

Delivery Boy

Small traders; butchers, grocers and the like, often have delivery boys; effectively apprentices who deliver produce direct to customers' houses.

Dish Turner

A maker of dishes and bowls by turning from wood.

Dispenser

Someone who dispenses (sells) medicines and drugs; usually cure-alls with dubious claims to heal.

Distiller

Someone who distils grain to make a strong alcoholic liquor like whisky, gin or hooch.

Ditcher

A poor agricultural worker who does the most menial of tasks; digging ditches around fields and by roads.

Diviner

A man who divines the future, tells fortunes, or the will of god by divining, also finding water or minerals using a divining rod (a kind of split wand.)

Dock Hand

A worker on the docks, loading and unloading cargo on and off of ships and boats.

Dock Master

The official in charge of a dock or docks; someone who decides when and where ships berth, allocates dock workers to load ships, ensures the proper paperwork and dues are paid etc.

Doctor

A medical man or teacher of divinity (a type of cleric) who has obtained a 'doctorate' from a university.

Doctor of Physick

An early medical practitioner who specifically cares for the sick in return for a fee.

Dog Handler

Someone who handles; controls and looks after dogs that need care; fighting dogs, war dogs etc.

Dog Whipper

A servant who keeps a pack of hunting dogs under control, he has a whip or club-like stick to keep the dogs in line.

Doge

The Venetian word for a Duke.

Donkey Man

Someone who leads donkeys, usually carrying some burden or goods in baskets or panniers.

Door Keeper

A guard or night-watchmen who sits or stands by a door and controls who goes through the door.

Door Ward

A more formal, maybe military, kind of door keeper.

Dowager

A noble widow whose son has inherited an estate on her husband's death. Often dowagers were moved out of the main castle or mansion and into a smaller 'Dowager House' on the estate.

Drama School Tutor

Someone running a drama school, teaching people to act or perform drama.

Draper

A dealer in cloth or cloth goods; buying and selling drapery and drapes.

Drayman

The driver of a low flat wagon (four wheeled and horse drawn) used for transporting heavy goods; especially barrels of beer (hence; a brewer's dray.)

Dress Maker

A lady who makes dresses, generally for the well-to-do or noble clients who can afford to have custom made garments.

Dresser

A servant who dresses his or her master or mistress, latterly called a valet (for gentlemen) or a ladies maid.

Drover

A man or woman who drives cattle or other animals, usually along old tracks or droves, to market.

Druid

A priest of the ancient Celtic religion, originally a kind of wizard or magician.

Drummer

A musician or player of a drum, or drums.

Duchess

The wife of a Duke, or a woman who holds the title and controls a Duchy in her own right

Duke

The (male) ruler of a Duchy; a territory usually the size of a county or larger, in some cases big enough to be a separate country.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Dung Collector

Someone who collects dung (animal waste), especially from the streets in towns and cities. This is not just to keep the streets clean, but also is a valuable source of fertilizer which can be sold to farmers.

Dust Man

The same as an ash man, someone who collects townspeople's ash and delivers it to farmers. Later became a collector of rubbish or garbage of any sort.

Dyer

Someone who dyes or colours cloth, generally wool.

Earl

A nobleman of high rank, originally a kinsman or close ally of the king. Latterly a rank between a marquis and a viscount.

Eel Man

A man who catches (usually with baited basket traps) eels in a river or estuary.

Eel Seller

A street seller or market stall holder who sells eels

Enchanter

A form of sorcery by one who uses enchantments to perform magic; putting spells into objects or potions by chanting, reciting verse, or singing.

Engineer

Makers and designers of machines and mechanical devices, including engines, siege engines & etc.

Esquire

An attendant or shield bearer for a knight; an apprentice or trainee knight, usually of noble blood.

Excise man

A tax collector who ensures the proper duties are paid on imports, exports and other commercial activities. The enemy of a smuggler!

Executioner

An official who's job is to execute (kill) criminals either by hanging (for petty crimes) or by severing the head (for treason & etc.) the latter is often reserved for noble victims.

Explorer

A traveller who hopes to discover new territories by journeying through them.

Faker

A deceiver who makes something appear as if it is something else, usually more valuable. Like painting a bronze coin gold and passing it off as real gold.

Falconer

A servant who breeds, trains and cares for hawks who hunt wild-fowl.

Farm Worker

A low status worker on a farm, usually a general dogsbody who might do any menial agricultural task.

Farmer

A man who farms or cultivates agricultural land; usually a tenant of a noble but with a deal of freedom and independence, so long as the rent is paid!

Farmhand

A farm worker who works by the day, for pay.

Farrier

Someone who shoes horses and treats minor ailments in horses and ponies.

Feather Dresser

Someone who cleans and trims feathers plucked from animals (destined for the table) which will be used to make feather mattresses, pillows & etc.

Fence Maker

A craftsman who makes fences, generally for farmers; these might be of riven (split) tree trunks, or poles, or woven hurdles (panels of woven withies.)

Fettler

A craftsman who trims or forms something useful from raw or rougher materials; could be whittling twigs into any number of things, or polishing and burnishing an object to make it 'in fine fettle' etc.

Feudal Lord

The master to whom you have to pay service (usually military) and give allegiance in return for occupying an area of land; a holding, farm, manor or estate.

Fiddler

A musician who plays the fiddle; a rustic violin.

Fief Holder

Some one who holds lands or a manor 'in fief' (land held in fee) to a superior lord or noble in return for feudal (usually military) service.

Fish Merchant

A buyer, seller, or importer of fish, usually in bulk.

Fish Monger

A fish seller, either in a shop or on a market stall.

Fisherman

A man who makes a living from catching fish (either in the sea, lakes, or rivers) which he then sells to a fish merchant.

Flag Maker

Someone who makes flags and pennants; important things in the chivalric age.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Fletcher

An arrow maker, or, more specifically, someone who fixes the fletches (feathers) on to an arrow or crossbow bolt which make it fly straight and true.

Florist

Someone who runs a flower shop selling flowers.

Flour Merchant

A seller and dealer in flour, he might buy from a miller or farmer and sell to bakers and townsfolk.

Flower Seller

A street or market seller of flowers.

Food Taster

A dangerous job for a servant of a King or high noble who fears he might be poisoned. If the food is poisoned the food taster gets it instead of the king.

Footman

A servant dressed in livery who serves his Lord at table, and walks beside or behind his coach. Often more a status symbol than useful servant.

Forester

A man in charge of a forest; an area of rough open or wooded ground put aside for hunting game.

Forge Man

A man who works a forge; a furnace where iron is heated before being forged or beaten on an anvil.

Forger

Someone who forges documents, contracts or identity papers, perhaps.

Fowler

A hunter or trapper of game birds or fowl.

Fraudster

An imposter who deceives, cheats, or pretends to be someone else, often for financial gain.

Friar

A member of one of the mendicant monastic orders, a wandering holy man preaching good works and selling indulgencies.

Fruit Seller

A market or street seller purveying fruits of all kinds.

Fruitier

A dealer in fruit, a fruit merchant or shop keeper.

Fuller

A bleacher and cleaner of raw woollen cloth, by using fullers earth to remove natural oils and dirt.

Fur Merchant

A dealer in furs; buys from hunters and trappers for re-sale to makers of fur coats and clothing.

Fur Seller

A market trader or street seller of furs or fur clothing.

Furbisher

A polisher who rubs up metal objects to make them bright, perhaps copper pots and the like.

Furnisher

A supplier and fitter of fittings of all kinds; especially furniture and furnishings.

Furniture Maker

A carpenter or joiner who makes furniture, usually from wood and generally to order.

Furrier

A dealer or 'dresser' of furs who cures and brushes them up before making them into garments for sale.

Gaffer

An older, respected man; the leader of a gang of workmen (female = gammer.) A shortened version of grandfather/grandmother.

Gambler

Someone who makes their way by gambling for a living; honestly or otherwise.

Game Dealer

A buyer and seller of game birds and animals; a middleman between the hunter/trapper and the public or meat retailer.

Gamekeeper

A servant who cares for the wild game on an estate; usually birds; woodcock, pheasants, partridges etc.

Gardener

A servant who tends gardens, growing flowers and vegetables, herbs and fruit.

General Merchant

A buyer and seller, or dealer, in all sorts of 'general merchandise' ~ anything they can turn a profit on.

Gentleman

A man above the rank of Yeoman; a well-to-do man who is refined and probably doesn't have to work for a living. Likely to have 'gentle' instead of rough hands.

Gilder

A craftsman who applies gold leaf or gold plate onto objects to make them look like gold.

Gipsy, Gypsy

A member of a wandering people or tribe thought to be from Egypt (hence gypsy) but actually originating from India.

Girdler

A maker of girdles and belts; a girdle being anything that 'girds' around someone's middle; a rope holding a monk's habit around his waist.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Glass Blower

A craftsman who forms molten glass into drinking vessels and cups by blowing into a metal tube.

Glazier

A man who sets glass into window frames, mullions and leaded window lights.

Glove Maker

A maker of gloves, using wool cloth, kid leather etc.

Glover

A maker and seller of gloves.

Goat Carriage Man

The driver of a goat carriage; a small cart for carrying light goods and parcels (but not people.)

Goat Herd

A herder of goats who tends to these animals much as a shepherd would of sheep.

Gold Smith

A metalwork who specialises in working gold into jewellery, golden cups and vessels etc.

Goose Herder

A herder of geese. Since geese eat grass, once their wings have been clipped, they can be herded like any other grazing animal. Flocks of geese are quite common in medieval societies.

Governess

A lady (usually of good birth) who cares for and teaches the younger children of a noble household.

Grave Digger

Someone who digs graves in return for money payment or a salary.

Grazier

Someone who grazes cattle, rears and prepares (fattens) them for the market or slaughter.

Green Grocer

A shopkeeper or stall holder who sells green stuff; vegetables, fruit and the like.

Grocer

A dealer in dried food and goods; originally grosser; a dealer in wholesale goods (i.e. by the gross.)

Groom

A servant in charge of the horses in a noble household; one who 'grooms' and cleans horses.

Guard

A soldier paid to guard a gateway or fortified place.

Guest House Keeper

Someone who rents out rooms or chambers in their house to guests.

Guild Master

A senior officer in a crafts guild, a 'master' of his trade who has produced his 'masterpiece' to prove his skill and competence.

Guttersnipe

A dirty, neglected child or street urchin.

Gymnast

An entertainer who leaps, jumps and performs feats of agility.

Haberdasher

A shopkeeper selling small wares such as ribbons, tape, pins and other fripperies.

Hag

An ugly old witch, a woman who uses magic, usually of a darker, unpleasant kind.

Hair Dresser

Someone who not only cuts hair, but also dresses it with curls and the like.

Handbag Seller

A seller, and probably maker, of hand bags; small bags with shoulder straps for carrying small things.

Handyman

A jack-of-all-trades; looked down upon by guild members, a handyman will have a go at fixing anything, although he might not be terribly skilled.

Hangman

A professional hangman, paid by the authorities to hang criminals by the neck until dead.

Harbour Master

A local official in charge of a harbour; organises the movement, loading and unloading of vessels, as well as making sure duties are paid & etc.

Harlot

A loose woman or prostitute.

Hat Maker

A maker of hats and head coverings of all kinds.

Hatter

A hat seller and possibly maker; someone who supplies fine and elegant hats to the gentry.

Haulier

A carrier of goods by road, usually on flat wagons.

Hawker

A travelling salesman selling goods by going from door to door. Similar to a tinker.

Hay Monger

A dealer or merchant who buys and sells hay; an important winter feedstuff for livestock.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Hedge Layer

A country worker who makes hedges; cutting part way through the trunks of shrubs and then pulling them over to interweave and 'lay' them, making a livestock-proof barrier.

Hedger

A farm worker who hedges or trims hedges.

Helmsman

A sailor who 'mans the helm,' holding the steering oar or ships wheel to steer a ship or boat.

Hemp Heckler

A worker who combs hemp to prepare it for making string, rope or linen.

Herald

A officer who makes public proclamations, arranges ceremonies and keeps a register of coats of arms.

Herbalist

A wise person who collects, blends and sells or proscribes herbs and herbal remedies.

Herdsmen

Someone who tends a herd of cattle or cows.

Hero

A man of distinguished bravery, a great warrior.

Hewer

A woodworker who hews wood; cuts away with an axe or adze in order to shape the log into a beam.

Higgler

Someone who bargains, haggles, or chaffers; maybe making money by driving a hard bargain.

High Priest

The chief priest or cleric in a temple or city.

Honey Dipper

Someone who collects night soil (human waste) to be utilised as fertilizer.

Horn Blower

A musician who plays a horn or hornpipe.

Horse Dealer

A merchant or dealer who buys and sells horses and ponies. Generally assumed to be dishonest.

Horse Thief

A professional thief who steals horses; probably in one locality to be re-sold some distance away. In medieval societies horses are incredibly valuable (worth about the same as a modest house!) which may explain why this crime is a hanging offense.

Hose Maker

A maker of hose; leg coverings or stockings, usually made from woollen cloth.

Hosier

A dealer or seller of hose, stockings and other knitted or woollen leg coverings.

Hospitaller

A member of a charitable brotherhood; the Knights of St. John; warrior monks who care for the sick, especially pilgrims.

Hosteller

The keeper of a hostel, a basic kind of hotel with rooms, could be an Inn, or even a kind of hospital.

Hostler or Ostler

A servant who looks after horses in an inn.

House Wright

A builder of houses, especially timber framed ones.

Hunt Master

The master of a hunt; he marshals the riders, dog packs and beaters, to orchestrate a successful hunt.

Hunter

A man who makes his living by hunting, either in the wilds or as a servant on the lands of a noble Lord.

Huntsman

A hunter and catcher of game, or a servant who controls a pack of hunting dogs.

Hurdle Maker

A country craftsman who makes hurdles; panels made from woven withies or canes to create temporary fencing, enclosures or gates.

Husbandman

A working farmer who works in tillage; ploughing the land to grow crops.

Illuminator

An artist who adds highly coloured illustrations to books, usually a monk.

Illustrator

An artist who draws pictures to illustrate books, especially to aid understanding or learning.

Informer

A giver or collector of intelligence and facts; usually a kind of spy, often in disguise, who informs an enemy.

Inn Keeper

The keeper, owner or landlord of an Inn, a place where travellers can sleep, eat and drink for payment.

Iron Founder

A specialist metalworker who melts iron down and casts it in moulds.

Jailer

The guard and official in charge of a jail where wrong-doers and criminals are locked up.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Jester

A professional buffoon, joker or comic who entertains a king or noble and his household.

Jewel Polisher

A craftsman who polishes jewels or 'cuts' diamonds; grinding down rough edges to create smooth sides or 'facets' and thereby increasing the value of the stone.

Jeweller

A maker or seller of jewellery; valuable adornment made from precious metals and stones or jewels.

Jobber

Someone who engages in a mean lucrative affair; a dealer who buys and sells for a profit.

Joiner

A woodworker who makes things out of wood using joints (rather than nails) ~ furniture especially.

Journeyman

Any worker who works by the day and has completed his apprenticeship. But not yet become a 'master' of his trade (guild.)

Judge

To pass judgement and inflict punishment on criminals. Usually a noble who administers justice in his own domain, although the King also sits in judgement on higher matters and can overturn the judgement of a noble.

Juggler

An entertainer who juggles; balls, flaming torches etc.

King

Originally 'elected war leader' (of a tribe) but latterly evolved into the most superior noble in a realm or country, answerable only to god, and a hereditary position as the most important person in the land.

Kitchen Boy

A boy who does menial tasks in the kitchen of a large house or castle; turning spits, scrubbing floors etc.

Knapper

Someone who knaps chips off flakes of stone; e.g. flints for tools, arrow heads & etc.

Knight

One of gentle birth and bred to arms, a noble warrior, often the Lord of a Manor or Estate. A mounted fighter with feudal rights (to bear arms) and responsibilities (to give military service.)

Knight-Errant

A travelling knight adventurer, on quests of chivalric love or honourable intention.

Lace Maker

A maker of lace; intricate weaving of threads to create a delicate garment or decorative item.

Lace Seller

A street seller or owner of a market stall selling lace.

Lady

A noble lady, the female equivalent of a gentleman.

Lady's Maid

A female servant who serves a Lady, generally by helping her mistress dress, brushing her hair etc.

Lamp Oil Man

A door to door seller, from a cart or barrow, of lamp oil, in large towns & cities.

Lancer

A mounted soldier or light cavalryman armed with a lance or spear, usually with a pennant on the tip.

Land Agent

An agent, usually of a noble lord, who controls, collects rent from, or latterly sells, land.

Laundress

A female who runs a laundry; taking in clothes and bed linen and washing it for others.

Laundry Maid

A servant who washes & irons clothes and bed linen.

Lawyer

A practitioner of the law, a solicitor, someone who defends or prosecutes the accused in a law court.

Layabout

A Ner'do well (never do well), a lazy good for nothing who literally lays about all day.

Lay Brother or Sister

Someone who observes the rules of a religious order (celibacy, obedience) but is exempt from the studies and religious services monks and nuns must perform.

Leather Goods Seller

A street seller or market stall holder selling items made from leather; belts, bags, pouches etc.

Ledger Man

The keeper of a ledger; the principle book of accounts of a merchant. Similar to bookkeeper.

Leech

A physician (doctor) who applies leeches to bleed the patient, which is believed (usually erroneously) to cleanse the blood and aid healing.

Librarian

The keeper of a library; a collection of books in a special room or building.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Lighter Man

The operator of a large open boat (or barge) used for loading and unloading ships without them having to tie up to a quay or dock.

Lobster Man

A fisherman who catches lobsters using special wicker pots left baited on the sea bed.

Locksmith

An artificer who makes, repairs and opens locks.

Longbow Man

An archer who uses a longbow; the most powerful bow used, with a great range and good armour penetration; a highly skilled and strong man.

Lord

The master or noble with control of a manor, village, estate or town, and who receives the income from it.

Lord of the Manor

The noble master or lord of a specific landed estate, usually cantered on a large house or mansion (hence manor) which can be fortified, or even a castle.

Lord High Executioner

The most senior of executioners who is responsible for cutting off noble and royal heads.

Lout

A clown or awkward fellow, clumsy and insensitive.

Luggage Maker

A maker of bags, trunks and chests of all kinds.

Lumber Jack

A tree feller; someone who cuts down or 'fells' trees with an axe or saw.

Lumber Man

Someone who processes lumber; sawing or splitting timber for use by carpenters and joiners.

Lute Maker

A musical instrument maker, in all likelihood not just lutes, but all stringed instruments.

Lute Player

A musician and entertainer commonly found at medieval feasts and festivities.

Mage

A magic user, or user of magicks

Magician

A performer of magic tricks & illusions

Magistrate

A judge who ensures the enactment of laws in the lower courts, often the Lord of the Manor.

Maid

A young woman who has not lain with a man; a virgin or innocent girl.

Man at Arms

A professional soldier, often a vassal of a Lord; someone whose main occupation is fighting.

Map Maker

A maker of maps by drawing lines and symbols on parchment or paper.

Marine

A soldier serving on a ship; a sea-soldier.

Mariner

A seaman or sailor.

Marshal

Officer charged with regulating combats and battles, a senior officer in an army.

Marquis, Marquess

A noble of a rank next below a duke; originally a prefect of the marches (border lands.)

Massage Parlour Keeper

Someone who runs a massage parlour.

Masseur

Someone, a servant or employee, who gives massages.

Master

A highly skilled craftsman who has 'mastered' his trade or craft.

Master Mason

A skilled stone mason and leader of the Masons (guild.) In medieval societies the master mason was equivalent to an architect in the sense that he drew plans, measured, laid out and supervised building projects, including cathedrals and castles.

Master of Hounds

A servant or officer in charge of the hounds of a hunt.

Meat Seller

A street seller or market stall holder selling meat.

Mercenary

A soldier for hire in return for money, sometimes unscrupulous and prepared to fight for the highest bidder. Occasionally outright bandits.

Mercer

A merchant or dealer in textiles or small wares.

Messenger

A servant or paid employee who delivers messages, often on horseback.

Midwife

A female or wise woman who helps with childbirth.

Milk Maid

A young girl who milks cows, or processes the milk.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Milk Seller

A seller of milk; generally by ladling it into the buyers' own container from a churn or container on the back of a milk cart.

Miller

A man (or woman) who has charge of a mill where grain; wheat, corn & etc. is ground, or 'milled.'

Milliner

A woman who makes and sells ladies headgear; hats and trimmings, especially ribbons.

Miner

A man who works in a mine; digging minerals from beneath the earth; metals, jewels & etc.

Minstrel

An entertainer, often a harpist, who sings or recites poems and tales, accompanied by his music.

Moll

A kind of prostitute found in harbour towns.

Money Lender

An early kind of banker, someone who lends money in return for interest. Strictly forbidden by the Church in medieval societies, which is why Jews are often money-lenders in Christian countries.

Monk

A hermit or member of a religious community which occupies a monastery.

Mosaic Maker

A layer of mosaics; made up of small coloured tiles (less than an inch across) set into a floor.

Mould Maker

A metal worker who creates moulds (of compressed fine sand) to cast metal weapons & decorative items.

Mountebank

A quack, a boastful pretender; who stands on a box and sings the virtues of some worthless remedy.

Mounted Sergeant

A soldier riding a horse or pony who is not one of the gentry, often as well armed as a knight

Music Tutor

A musician who teaches others the musical arts; how to play instruments or write music.

Musician

An entertainer who plays a musical instrument; crumhorns, lyres, harps, horns, hurdy-gurdys etc.

Mystic

A spiritual or wise person who seeks enlightenment and spiritual communion with their god.

Nail & Screw Maker

A skilled metal worker who specialises in making nails and screws.

Navigator

A sailor generally, or a skilled man who can navigate a ship across the open sea using stars, the sun & etc.

Net maker

A craftsman or woman who makes fishing nets by knotting and weaving string or twine together.

Night Soil man

A collector of human waste in a town; the contents of chamber pots, which is sold or used as fertiliser.

Night Watchman

A town or city guard who is on duty at night; and specifically keeps 'watch' for attacks and criminals.

Nun

A lady who has taken religious vows and joined a nunnery or religious order.

Nurse

A lady who cares for the sick or tends infants.

Nurse Maid

A servant who nurses; feeds and cares for babies and small children, in a well-to-do or noble house.

Nursery Maid

A servant who has charge of a nursery; a specific room housing the children of a noble family.

Oarsman

A rower of a small boat, usually one of a number (two, four, six) and working for pay or reward.

Offal Seller

A street seller of animal offal; livers, kidneys, hearts, chittlins (intestines,) lungs, and the rest.

Old Sea Dog

A retired sailor or navigator, generally bearded and often with a wooden leg or other disability.

Orator

A public speaker; in civilised societies likely to be a politician or leader.

Outfitter

Someone who 'fits out;' usually with the equipment for a voyage or journey but could be clothing.

Oyster Dredger

A fisherman who dredges (drags a weighted net along the seabed) for oysters; a common and popular dish in medieval cultures.

Packhorse Man

The owner and operator of packhorses used to carry goods in panniers and baskets slung on their backs.

Packman

A man who carries a pack, usually a travelling tinker selling small goods and trinkets.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Packsaddle Man

A rider who carries light goods, important messages and the like in his saddle bags. A courier.

Page

A servant, generally a young man or boy, who waits at table in a great hall; serving food and drink.

Painter

An artist who paints pictures with oil paint, or murals on walls with 'stucco.'

Palace Guard

A guard employed to guard a King or Emperor in his palace, usually the most elite and trustworthy troops.

Palladin

A knight-errant, a knight who travels seeking adventures; from 'knight of the palace.'

Pamphleteer

A writer and distributor of pamphlets; folded sheets of paper spreading news or publicising views.

Pannier Man

A carrier or merchant who transports goods in panniers (baskets) slung on ponies or donkeys.

Paper Maker

A maker of paper for writing & etc.

Parson

A junior priest or rector, the incumbent of a parish church or chapel.

Pastry Chef

A cook who specialises in making pastries, cakes and pies, in a large household or palace.

Pattern Maker

A craftsman who makes patterns or moulds in a foundry for the casting of metal.

Pawnbroker

A moneylender who lends money in return for holding goods or chattels as security. He can sell the goods if the loan is not repaid.

Peasant

A lowly farmer who is tied to the land and has use of the land in return for service to his Lord. Peasants are virtually agricultural slaves.

Peat Cutter

A worker who digs (cuts) peat from a peat bog, dries it in the sun and then sells it as fuel for fires.

Pedlar, Peddler

Someone who travels around with a back pack containing goods which they sell from door to door.

Perfumer

A maker and seller of perfume and fragrances.

Pewterer

A maker of pewter utensils; tankards, bowls, plates and the like. Pewter is a mixture of tin and lead.

Physician, Physic

A practitioner of the art of medicine, or physic. A doctor who proscribes medicine and treatment.

Pickle Seller

A street or market seller of pickles.

Pie Maker

A maker of pies; pretty much anything edible in a pastry case; meat pies, fruit pies etc.

Pie Man

A seller of pies from a hand cart wheeled about the streets so he or she can sell door to door.

Pie Seller

A street or market seller of pies.

Pig Herder

A herdsman who looks after pigs, often keeping an eye on pigs owned by many different people in return for payment or a share of the meat.

Pilot

A steersman or local expert who guides ships in and out of ports and harbours.

Pimp

A man or woman who controls prostitutes; protects them from violence but takes most of their earnings.

Pirate

A sea-robber; an adventurer who steals from (and often murders) others on, or by, the sea.

Plate Maker

A maker of shallow dishes used for the eating or serving of food.

Player

An actor or musician who entertains for a living.

Ploughman

An agricultural worker who operates a plough, usually pulled by oxen, latterly by heavy horses.

Plumber

A worker in lead who installs pipes, cisterns etc. for water and drainage, also lead work on roofs.

Poet

A writer of rhyming verse for entertainment.

Porter

A door keeper or gatekeeper, or; a carrier of burdens for hire, especially luggage.

Portraitist

A painter of portraits; pictures of individual people.

Post Boy

A young lad who delivers letters and messages.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Pot Boy

A boy in a pub, inn, or tavern who carries 'pots' of beer and ale to the customers.

Potion Maker

A maker of potions; herbal potions and drugs for healing, or magic potions and cure-alls.

Pots & pans Seller

A street or market stall holder who sells metal pots and pans, cooking pots, skillets and bowls.

Potter

Someone who makes pots from clay.

Pottery Seller

A street seller or market stall holder selling clay, earthenware, or stoneware pots, plates and dishes.

Priest

Someone who offers sacrifices or performs sacred rites and rituals, a clergyman below the rank of bishop and above a deacon.

Prince

A sovereign or ruler in his own right; someone of the highest rank, the son of a King, Queen or Emperor. The eldest Prince is the heir apparent to the throne, but younger brothers are still called princes and addressed as 'your highness.'

Princess

The daughter of a King, Queen or Emperor. In the age of chivalry (but not equality) a Princesses' role seems to be to marry a Prince from a different realm in order to build a more powerful state or dynasty.

Printer

An artificer who uses letters of metal type to press ink onto paper, creating books and pamphlets.

Prison Guard

A hired guard in a prison, usually harsh and brutal and corrupt, so eminently bribeable.

Prisoner

Someone who has been locked in a jail or dungeon for some felony or misdemeanour.

Professor

A teacher of the highest rank in a University; a wise and knowledgeable or learned person.

Prospector

An explorer who seeks precious metals and minerals.

Prostitute

A woman who makes her way by selling pleasure.

Puppeteer

An entertainer who operates puppets to tell a tale.

Purse Seller

A leather worker who makes purses; small leather bags or pouches for holding valuables and money.

Purser

A ship's officer in charge of cabins.

Quarryman

A man who works in a quarry; extracting building stone from the ground.

Queen

Wife of the king and or the ruler of a realm in her own right.

Quill Maker

An artisan who makes quills; a kind of pen made from a bird's feather.

Rag & Bone Man

A collector of rubbish or nearly worthless things which he re-sells or recycles into something else.

Rag Man

A dealer in rags or old clothes; one person's cast offs are another's luxurious robes.

Rat Catcher

A killer and trapper of vermin, especially rats.

Rector

A cleric or junior priest, a parson who preaches in a church on behalf of a more senior vicar.

Reeve

A high official, the chief magistrate of a district, a bailiff or steward.

Ribbon Maker

A person who makes ribbons.

River Boatman

A man who operates a small boat or barge on a river, usually moving or ferrying goods and passengers.

River Man

Someone who lives on the river; either in a boat or camping on the bank alongside his boat.

Riveter

Someone who joins together pieces of sheet metal with rivets; hammered pegs of heated metal.

Rogue

A vagrant, a rascal or mischievous knave.

Roofer

A workman who covers the roofs of houses and buildings using stone, slate or clay tiles.

Rope Maker

A maker of ropes and twine; this is done by twisting stands of plant fibre together. The trick is twisting each layer or level of strands the opposite way.

Roper

A rope maker.

Rover

A wandering or rambling person, a pirate or buccaneer, a robber.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Rower

A boatman who propels his boat using oars.

Rug Dealer

A buyer and seller of rugs and carpets.

Rug Maker

A weaver who makes rugs; floor and wall coverings made from coloured wool.

Rug Man

A street seller selling rugs from a barrow or pitch.

Runner

A messenger who runs quickly to deliver his message.

Saddler

A leather worker who makes and repairs saddles and other 'tack' for horses; reins, whips etc.

Sail Maker

A skilled artisan who makes sails from canvas or other robust cloth (even leather.)

Sailor

A person who lives by sailing boats on the sea; any worker on a ship.

Sapper

A military engineer who digs trenches and mines; tunnels beneath enemy fortifications intended to undermine them.

Sauna Attendant

A worker in a sauna who supplies towels, hot water, oils, skin scrapers and stokes the coals.

Sausage Maker

A maker of sausages using cheap cuts of meat (usually pork) mixed with breadcrumbs and herbs.

Sawyer

Someone who saws timber, generally using a saw pit.

Scholar

A pupil or student at a school or college.

School Keeper

Someone who keeps or runs a school; the owner and usually head master (chief teacher.) Students are charged a fee for attending.

Scribe

A professional writer and copyist. Someone who cannot write can go to a scribe and dictate their letters to him.

Scrivener

Another word for scribe or copyist, also a kind of money lender who charges interest.

Scroll Seller

A dealer and seller of scrolls; learned tracts, recipes, proclamations and magic spells.

Scrubber

Someone who scrubs (floors) with a stiff hand brush, a loose or rough woman.

Scullery Maid

A young woman who works in the scullery, next to the kitchen in a noble house or castle. Here washing up, cleaning utensils and vegetables is done.

Scullion

A servant for drudgery and menial tasks performed with a dish cloth or a broom.

Sculptor

A stone worker who carves or chisels stone into the likeness of figures; mainly people and animals.

Sea Captain

The captain or master of a sea going vessel.

Seaman

A sailor who goes to sea, a worker or crew on a ship.

Seneschal

A steward or major-domo; a trusted older servant who might be given charge of a castle & etc.

Serf

A person living in modified slavery; tied to the soil and one master. Latterly a peasant.

Sergeant

A junior officer or official of some authority but not a noble or 'commissioned' officer.

Serving Wench

A woman or girl who serves beer or ale.

Sexton

An officer of the church who rings the church bell, attends the clergyman and digs graves.

Shanty Man

An entertainer who sings shanties; songs with verses sung by sailors whilst doing repetitive tasks.

Sheep Shearer

A farm worker who shears sheep; trims or cuts off their fleeces (of wool) which are made into cloth.

Shepherd

A herder of sheep, a sheep herd.

Ship Builder

A maker of ships, effectively the architect, designer and foreman in a ship yard.

Ship's Captain

The master or captain of a sea-going vessel.

Ship's Chandler

A junior officer responsible for ensuring that a ship has all of the supplies needed before it sets sail.

Ship's Surgeon

A doctor or physician on a ship who tends to the crew and passengers.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Shipwright

A wright or carpenter employed to make ships.

Shoe Maker

A craftsman who makes shoes, usually from sewing leather onto a wooden former.

Shoe Seller

A retailer or shop owner who sells shoes.

Siege Engineer

A specialised engineer or artificer who builds siege machinery (catapults, ballista etc.) and works on the technical elements of a siege; building bridges, undermining, making battering rams and so on. Most siege equipment is made during the siege.

Silk Merchant

A merchant or dealer who imports silk (from the Orient) and then sells this delicate fabric locally.

Silver Smith

A metalworker who works in silver, making jewellery, silver chalices, bowls and so on.

Singer

A professional entertainer who sings 'for his or her supper;' generally giving concerts in halls or singing for tips in inns and taverns.

Skinner

A skilled worker in a slaughter house who 'skins' animals so that their skins can be made into leather.

Slaughterer

A kind of butcher who slaughters (kills) animals before they are butchered (cut up) into meat.

Slave Dealer

A buyer and seller of slaves; people who have been enslaved and are sold as chattels.

Slaver

A slave trader or dealer, but also someone who captures people and enslaves them.

Smelter

A metalworker who smelts (melts) ore, or metal bearing rock, in order to extract the metal.

Smith

Someone who forges (metal) with a hammer, or a skilled maker of anything.

Smuggler

Someone who secretly imports or exports goods illegally; without paying the proper taxes or duties. Also known as a 'free trader.'

Soap Maker

An artisan who makes soap from oils or fats and lye(from wood ash) plus some kind of natural scent.

Soldier

A paid fighter or military man of no rank (a private) in an organised army or company.

Sorcerer

A magician or wizard who gets his power for enchantments from evil spirits or demons.

Spearman

A soldier or warrior armed with a spear.

Spice Merchant

A dealer and importer of exotic spices; pepper, nutmeg, cloves etc.

Spinner

A worker who spins wool in order to make threads which are then woven into cloth.

Spinster

An unmarried woman or old maid. Or, a woman who spins wool into yarn; a spinner.

Spooner

A maker of metal or wooden spoons for eating and cooking.

Spy

A person paid to 'spy;' obtain information secretly, especially of a military nature.

Squire

A trainee knight; a young man of noble birth, a member of the landed gentry of low rank. The Lord of a single manor or village.

Stable Boy

A young lad employed in stables to care for, groom and muck out, horses.

Star Gazer

Another name for an astrologer; someone who foretells the future by studying the stars.

Steeplejack

A workman who climbs church steeples (and tall chimneys) in order to repair them.

Steersman

A man who steers; usually a boat or barge, or a ship with steering oars rather than a rudder.

Stevedore

A worker who loads and unloads ships and barges, in a dock or on a quay.

Steward

Someone who manages the domestic affairs of a family or estate. A senior servant or officer in charge of a castle or great house whilst the Lord is away.

Stocking Maker

A cloth worker who makes stockings or hose.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Stone Carver

A mason who carves stone into shapes for building.

Stone Cutter

A specialised worker in a quarry or on a large building project (such as a cathedral or castle) who cuts the stones into regular blocks using wedges and drills.

Stone Mason

A builder who works in stone, shortened to 'mason,' laying the stones to create walls and buildings.

Story Teller

An entertainer who tells stories or tales; like a bard but without musical accompaniment.

Street Seller

Any kind of seller who walks the streets with a tray or a hand cart full of goods for sale.

Street Vender

A seller of goods in the street, often from a tray.

Strumpet

A prostitute or brash, debauched woman.

Swain

A young man, a peasant, an admirer or suitor.

Sweet Seller

A seller of sweet things made from sugar or honey.

Sweetmeat Seller

A seller of sweetmeats; confections made or preserved with sugar; candied fruits etc.

Swineherd

A pig herd or herder and keeper of pigs.

Sword Maker

A maker of swords, a sword smith.

Sword Smith

A specialised metal worker who makes swords for the gentry (poor people are not permitted swords.)

Swords Master

A teacher of sword fighting and fencing.

Swordsman

A soldier or warrior armed primarily with a sword.

Tailor

Someone whose business is to cut out and assemble cloth into well fitting garments; suits, cloaks, breeches and doublets.

Tallyman

A small time loan shark who keeps a 'tally' of what he is owed by cutting notches on a stick or making marks on a slate with chalk.

Tanner

A leather works who tans the hides; immersing the animal skins in tannin, an extract from oak bark, and other vegetable substances to cure the leather.

Tapster

A barman or publican who draws off beer or ale from a 'tap' in a barrel or cask.

Taverner

A licensed seller (by the Lord, magistrate, or town burghers) of alcoholic drinks. Owner of a tavern.

Tax Collector

A paid servant of the government whose job is to collect and ensure the prompt payment of taxes.

Teacher

A paid tutor of children; teaching youngsters to read and write, or older children grammar and the classics.

Templar

A 'Knight of the Temple' a religious order with the object of protecting the Holy Sepulchre and pilgrims on pilgrimage. Founded during the crusades.

Thatcher

A skilled craftsman who makes thatched roofs using reeds or wheat straw.

Theatre Owner

A businessman who owns and runs a theatre for public entertainment.

Thief

A professional thief and criminal who makes his living by stealing from others. Likely to be hanged if caught in medieval societies.

Thresher

A farm work who threshes the grain from the chaff (dry husks) and straw.

Thug

A big bully, a robber or assassin; a man who lives by violence; bodyguards, bouncers etc.

Tile Maker

A specialised craftsman who makes clay tiles for floors, and roofs, especially coloured floor tiles for churches & other important buildings.

Timber Merchant

A dealer in timber; someone who buys trees (from the Lord or landowner) and has them shipped to somewhere else, or converted into planks and beams, for re-sale.

Tin Smith

A specialised metal work who uses tin; a widely used metal for covering and sealing softer metals, and for making vessels; cups, bowls, pans.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Tinker

A mender of brass or tin kettles, anyone who sells cheap or second-hand items, maybe door to door.

Top Sawyer

The man at the top end of the saw working in a saw pit to convert logs into planks or beams. The bottom sawyer (who is actually in the pit) gets showered with sawdust, so the top sawyer is of higher status, a bit like 'top dog.'

Torturer

A professional torturer who extracts information or confessions from a prisoner by way of inflicting pain.

Town Crier

A public official paid to read out public notices and pronouncements.

Trader

Someone who buys and sells things for a profit, buys low and sells high, a dealer.

Treasurer

An official or paid clerk who is responsible for the 'treasure' ~ a stash or hoard of accumulated wealth.

Tree Cutter

A forest worker who cuts trees down for timber.

Trencherman

A hearty eater; someone who eats well from his 'trencher,' a wooden plate or round board on which food is served and cut.

Trickster

A deceiver or cheat who makes money by trickery and illusion.

Trollop

A kind of loitering prostitute (who 'trolls' about.)

Trotter

One who trots, a messenger or runner perhaps.

Troubadour

A poet-musician who sings of chivalric love.

Trumpeter

A musician or military man who plays a trumpet, especially to signal orders to cavalry.

Turnspit

A small child whose job in a great kitchen is simply to keep the spit turning to ensure that roasting meat does not burn.

Undertaker

A man who literally 'takes you under;' i.e. buries the dead, also provides coffins, hearses and mourners.

Upholsterer

A professional craftsman who covers wooden furniture with cloth or upholstery.

Valet

A man servant, especially one who attends to a gentleman's comfort; helping him dress & etc.

Vassal

A retainer or dependant noble who holds land and renders homage to a superior noble who could be the King or Queen.

Verger

One who carries a verger (rod, staff or mace) of authority; the beadle of a cathedral church, a pew-opener or church attendant.

Vicar

A priest who holds authority as the delegate or substitute of another, a Bishop's assistant who performs rituals in his name. A senior clergyman.

Victualler

Someone who supplies provisions, or victuals, especially for journeys and voyages.

Viscount

An officer who acts as the deputy of an Earl, the title of nobility next down from an Earl.

Waggoner

The driver of a wagon or wain; a four wheeled vehicle for carrying heavy goods and produce.

Waiter

One who 'waits' at table; a servant who attends to the diners needs during a feast or banquet.

Waitress

A female waiter.

Warden

One who 'wards' (to watch in order to protect) the guards; an official responsible for a district or college.

Warder

Someone who guards or cares for prisoners.

Watch Man

A member of the 'watch' usually a night watch or guard who look after the security of a town or city.

Watchmaker

An artificer who makes watches; portable time pieces for telling the time.

Water Boatman

A boatman who plies his boat on water for hire.

Water Carrier

A carrier of fresh water, usually in a tank or large earthenware vessels on a two wheeled cart..

Water Seller

A street seller of potable (drinkable) fresh water.

Weaver

A craftsman who weavers strands of wool into cloth.

MEDIEVAL OCCUPATIONS & TITLES

Wench

A female servant, a maid servant or a harlot.

Wheelwright

A maker of wheels using wooden staves and rims plus metal hoops or tyres.

Whitesmith

Someone who works with tin by heating and then beating it on a former to create tin plates and bowls.

Whore

A common prostitute, an unchaste woman.

Wig maker

A maker of wigs; false hair pieces.

Wine Merchant

A dealer or importer of wine, an alcoholic drink made from fermented grapes.

Winkle Picker

Someone who gathers small shellfish, especially winkles, from an estuary for re-sale as food.

Witch

A wise-woman, a woman with supernatural or magical powers, a healer or herbalist.

Wizard

A wise, or wizened, man; a practitioner of witchcraft or magic, one who works wonders.

Wood Cutter

A farm worker who cuts wood in the forest, usually for firewood.

Woodblock Maker

An engraver who carves the reverse of an image into the surface of a wooden block which is then inked and used to make crude prints.

Wool Merchant

A buyer and seller, importer and exporter, of wool.

Writer

Someone who makes their way by writing; forming letters with a pen or quill upon parchment, paper or vellum.

Yardman

The worker in a yard, an enclosed workspace such as a farm yard or brewer's yard. Mainly concerned with moving goods, products and raw materials about.

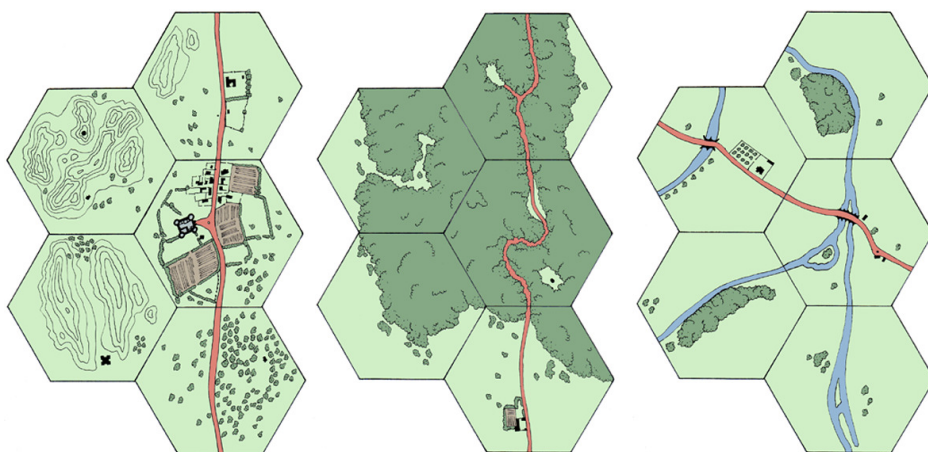
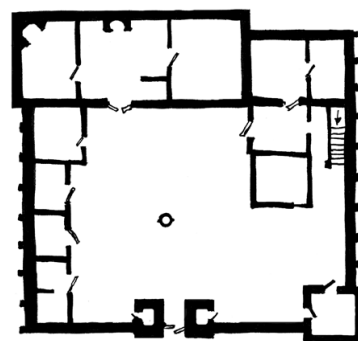
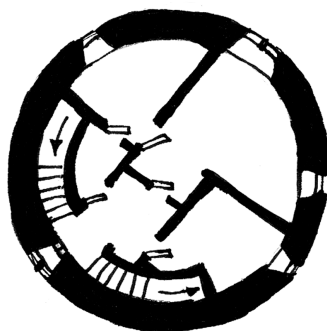
Yeoman

A common menial assistant, latterly a class of small scale farmers, the next grade below gentleman.

DREAMWORLDS

Fantasy Floorplans

Dreamworlds publish a wide range of fantasy and historical floor plans for all your gaming needs. Everything from castles to abbeys, manor houses to cottages, cave complexes and even an underground Dwarvish city!



Hex Tile Maps

A unique campaign mapping system from Dreamworlds.

Ideal for role playing and campaign games.

Check it out on DriveThruRPG; a free sample Pdf is available so you can try the system yourself.

Dreamworlds publish a wide range of gaming and role playing products. These are available to download online (as pdf eBooks) from the DreamWorlds page on Drive Thru RPG; <http://rpg.drivethrustuff.com/>

We hope you have enjoyed this book, please feel free to email us your feedback here: dreamworlds@albatrossart.co.uk