



Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art

## *Start with Art*

### Medieval Europe

*Arts Integration Educator's Guide for Teachers and Parents*

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#### **CRAFTS IN THE MIDDLE AGES:**

Though most people that lived during the Middle Ages were serfs, the number of people working as tradesmen grew steadily during the later Middle Ages. Tradesmen were freemen, but were required to pay taxes. Crafters often guarded their secrets of their trade, passing them on only to family and/or apprentices. Crafters' secrets and their interests (such as wages) were guarded by guilds, special interest groups that offered membership to crafters of their trade. Gaining entrance to a guild was often through a lengthy apprenticeship and membership fees.

#### **Primary Documents:**

##### **“List of Florentine Crafts Subject to Tax, [in the year] 1316”**

*These are the crafts which are compelled to pay the said tax, or which were ordered to pay it to the commune of Florence:*

1. *Calimala*.
2. Combmakers.
3. *Arte della Lana*. [wool]
4. Rough carpenters and manufacturers of saddles for asses and mules.
5. St. Mary's Gate [silk].
6. Spicers.
7. Physicians.
8. Manufacturers of pack-saddles.
9. Furriers.
10. Retail wine merchants, as tax, 2 denarii per pound received from the sale of wine.
11. Butchers.
12. Cobblers.
13. Smiths.
14. Linen and yarn merchants.
15. Dealers in used and new locks.
16. Dealers in bedfeathers and mattress-makers.
17. Stonemasons and woodcutters.
18. Old clothes and linen dealers.
19. Oil, cheese, and grain merchants; chaff and fodder makers.
20. Armor smiths and sword smiths.
21. Tanners, wholesale and retail.
22. Helmet smiths and brass workers.
23. Bakers (for bakeovens).
24. Goldsmiths and flaskmakers.
25. Purse makers.
26. Innkeepers.
27. Chest and trunk makers.
28. Harness and beltmakers.
29. Coopers, barrel makers, coffin makers, kneading-trough makers.
30. Manufacturers of iron and wooden shields.
31. Saddlers.
- [32.]-33. Cloth-folders and finishers of French cloth.
34. Cooks, sellers of tripe, cooked beans, and bean-meal, vegetables, vermicelli, stews, etc.
35. Cloth-folders and finishers of Florentine cloth.

36. Tallow merchants and catgut makers.
37. Greengrocers.
38. Wagon or carriage makers.
39. Hat and cap makers.
40. Ass drivers, haulers of sand, lime, mortar, paving stone, tiles, slates, stones, and hewn stones.
41. Dyers of all kinds.
42. Painters.
43. Bowlmakers, dart makers, turners, spinning-wheel finishers.
44. Proprietors of bath rooms.
45. Hand porters.
46. Barbers.
47. Teachers of grammar, arithmetic, reading, and writing.
48. Makers and sellers of glass vessels.
49. Town criers.
50. Spiked helmet, buckle, and clasp makers.
51. Judges and notaries.
52. Money changers or bankers.
53. Parchment merchants and bookbinders.
54. Sewer cleaners and garbage removers.
55. Tailors, seamstresses, and menders.
56. Weavers of all kinds.
57. Journeymen and apprentices to dealers in merchandise.
58. Fletchers and arrow makers.
59. Public weighers.
60. Smelters and workers at furnaces, coin makers; as well as those who put the gold and silver in the furnaces; also the assayers in all money operations.
61. Packers.
62. Dicemakers.
63. City river fishermen.
64. Brick and lime burners, and makers of earthen vessels.
65. Manufacturers of glass vessels in the district.
66. Bell founders.
67. Wheel makers.
68. Lenders of draught mules.
69. Millstone makers.
70. Brokers of all kinds.
71. Workers in the quarry, and sellers of quarry products.
72. Crossbow and bow makers.
73. Basket makers.
74. Workers in the marble and sandstone quarries.

**“Gebhard, Bishop of Constance: Allocation of Serfs to Crafts, [in the year] 990”**

*On the episcopal domain of Gebhard, Bishop of Constance, encouragement was given to the serfs to learn crafts which would be of advantage to those dependent on the estate for their existence.*

After this he called his serfs together and chose the best among them and declared that they should be cooks and millers, victuallers and fullers, cobblers and gardeners, carpenters and masters of every craft, and he decreed that, on the day on which they took care of the brethren, they should be refreshed with the bread of the brethren, for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Moreover in order that they might work for their masters with a good will he added a gift of this kind, namely, that, if any of them, or of their successors, who is of their stock, should die, their goods should not be confiscated but their heirs might take the whole of the inheritance: but if any one of another family should succeed, he shall be deprived of this gift.

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