

DOCUMENT 1**“A Description of London” William FitzStephen**

This is a description of London during the late 12th century.

Amongst the noble and celebrated cities of the world, that of London, the capital of the kingdom of England, is one of the most renowned, possessing above all others abundant wealth, extensive commerce, great grandeur and magnificence. It is happy in the salubrity of its climate, in the profession of the Christian religion, in the strength of its fortresses, the nature of its situation....

On the east stands the Palatine tower, a fortress of great size and strength, the court and walls of which are erected upon a very deep foundation...On the west are two castles strongly fortified; the wall of the city is high and thick, with seven double gates, having on the north side towers placed at proper intervals. London formerly had walls and towers in like manner on the south, but that most excellent river the Thames, which abounds with fish, and in which the tide ebbs and flows, runs on that side and had in a long space of time washed down...the walls in that part. On the west also, higher up on the bank of the river, the royal palace rears its head, an incomparable structure...situated in a populous suburb, at a distance two miles from the city.

Adjoining to the houses on all sides lie the gardens of those citizens that dwell in the suburbs, which are well furnished with trees, spacious and beautiful.

On the north side too are fields for pasture, and a delightful plain of meadow land, interspersed with flowing streams, on which stand mills, whose clack is very pleasing to the ear. Close by lies an immense forest, in which are densely wooded thickets, the coverts of game...

The artisans of the several crafts, the vendors of the various commodities, and the laborers of every kind, have each their separate station, which they take every morning. There is also in London, on the bank of the river, amongst the wine shops... a public eating house: there every day, according to the season, may be found viands of all kinds, roast, fried, and boiled fish large and small, coarser meat for the poor, and more delicate for the rich such as venison, fowls and small birds.

According to the evidence of chroniclers London is more ancient than Rome: for, as both derive their origin from the same Trojan ancestors...Hence it is that, even to this day, both cities use the same ancient laws and ordinances...

NOTES & SUMMARY**DOCUMENT 2****Henry I England Monetary Regulations 1108**

Beginning with the reign of Henry I, who realized the great advantages of a sound and plentiful supply of money, and continuing with that of Henry II, English money reached a higher level of perfection which was maintained until the time of Henry III.

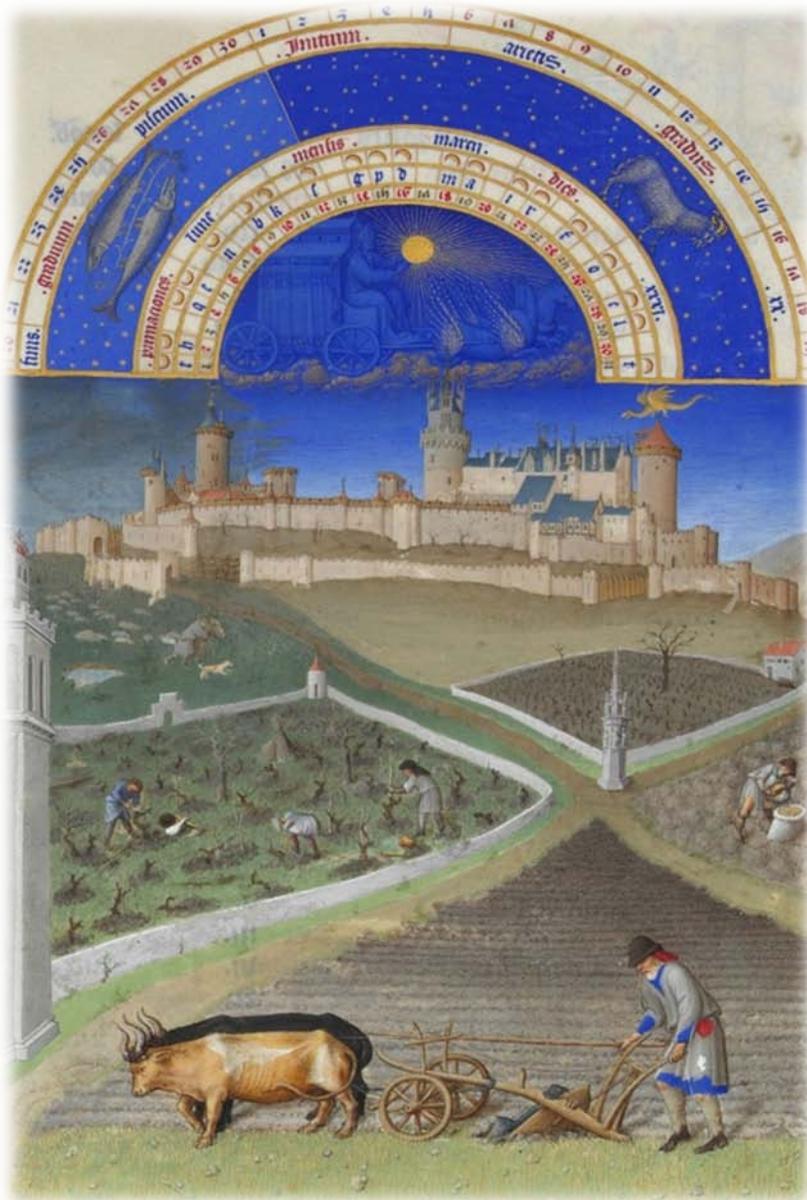
Henry, King of the English, established a lasting peace and decreed such a law that if any one were taken in theft or robbery, he was hanged. He also decreed that false and bad money should be amended, so that he who was caught passing bad denarii should not escape by redeeming himself but should lose his eyes and members. And since denarii were often picked out, bent, broken, and refused, he decreed that no denarius or obol, which he said were to be round, or even a quadrans, if it were whole, should be refused. By reason of this he did much good throughout the whole kingdom, because he did these things to relieve the land of its troubles forever.

NOTES & SUMMARY

DOCUMENT 3

THE HEAVY PLOW – c. 1200 C.E.

NOTES & SUMMARY





 *Medieval Trade Networks. Italian, Flemish, and German merchants tied northern and southern Europe to the eastern Mediterranean and beyond through networks of trade routes and markets that crossed religious, cultural, and political boundaries.*

DOCUMENT 1

Metalogicon, John of Salisbury (c.1115-1180)

NOTES & SUMMARY

The standard curriculum of medieval schools was based on the intensive study of the seven liberal arts divided into 2 programs: the **TRIVIUM** consisting of Latin grammar, rhetoric, and logic, and the **QUADRIVIUM**, consisting of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. Here is a description of the liberal arts curriculum of the Middle Ages.

While there are many sorts of arts, the first to proffer their services to the natural abilities of those who philosophize are the liberal arts. All of the latter are included in the courses of the Trivium and Quadrivium. The liberal arts are said to have become so efficacious among our ancestors, who studied them diligently, that they enabled them to comprehend everything they read, elevated their understanding to all things, and empowered them to cut through the knots of all problems possible of solution. Those to whom the system of the Trivium has disclosed the significance of all worlds, or the rules of the Quadrivium have unveiled the secrets of all nature, do not need the help of a teacher in order to understand the meaning of books and to find the solutions of questions. They (the branches of learning included in the Trivium and Quadrivium) are called "arts" because they...strengthen minds to apprehend the ways of wisdom...They are called "liberal," either because the ancients took care to have their children instructed in them; or because their object is to effect man's liberation, so that, freed from cares, he may devote himself to wisdom. More often than not, they liberate us from cares incompatible with wisdom. They often even free us from worry about (material) necessities, so that the mind may have still greater liberty to apply itself to philosophy.

DOCUMENT 2

European Universities 12th - 15th Century

NOTES & SUMMARY

