Suggestions for Further Reading

THE outstanding recent work on feudalism in its broad sense, that is, covering both the feudal and seignorial systems, is Marc Bloch, *La Société féodale*, 2 vols. (Paris, 1940). There are several briefer works of high quality. J. Calmette, *La Société féodale* (Paris, 1953) covers the same ground as Bloch in shorter space and simpler form. Carl Stephenson, *Mediaeval Feudalism* (Ithaca, N.Y., 1942) and F. L. Ganshof, *Feudalism* (London, 1952) are excellent studies of feudalism in the sense that the term is used in this essay. Bryce Lyon, *From Fief to Indenture* (Cambridge, Mass., 1957) is an important account of the decline of feudal institutions. Sidney Painter, *French Chivalry* (Ithaca, N.Y., 1957) deals with the life and ideas of the feudal class. Although difficult to classify, R. W. Southern, *The Making of the Middle Ages* (New Haven, 1953) is a stimulating essay on the formation of mediaeval society in the eleventh and twelfth centuries and should be mentioned.

Perhaps the best means of understanding the way of life of the feudal class is by reading the literature of the time. The *Chanson de Roland* is available in many translations, but the one by Dorothy L. Sayers in the Penguin Classics is especially readable. There is a good translation of *Raoul de Cambrai* in the Broadway Medieval Library. Although there seems to be no complete English translation of the *Lais* of Marie de France, there are a number of good partial collections. The romances of Chrétien de Troyes can be read in
translation in a volume of Everyman’s Library.

The first two volumes of *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe* (Cambridge, Eng., 1941, 1952) are standard works for agriculture, trade, and industry in the Middle Ages. P. B. Boissonade, *Life and Work in Medieval Europe* (New York, 1927) is an older comprehensive survey. The seignorial system is covered by the books of Bloch and Calmette mentioned above. The best description of life in an agricultural village is S. Bennett, *Life on an English Manor* (Cambridge, Eng., 1938). G. C. Homans, *English Villagers of the Thirteenth Century* (Cambridge, Mass., 1940) is a fascinating study of the same subject from a sociological point of view. Since mediaeval economic conditions were widely localized and diverse, regional studies are of the greatest importance to the student. Two recent examples of such works are Edward Miller, *The Abbey and Bishopric of Ely* (Cambridge, Eng., 1951) for England and Georges Duby, *La Société aux XIe et XIIe siècles dans la région mâconnaise* (Paris, 1953) for France.


The practical aspects of mediaeval living such as food, clothing, and shelter are explored in U. T. Holmes, Jr., *Daily Living in the Twelfth Century* (Madison, Wis., 1953). Contemporary works that show the life of other classes than the nobles are rather rare, but anyone who will read Langland's *Piers Plowman* or Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* will be well rewarded for his effort. They give a glimpse into the minds and lives of simple people that can be gained in no other way.
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