

NOVA TEMPORA

FEBRUARY 1340 ISSUE

TOP HOME
TRENDS IN
MID 1340

*Important
Things
You Should
Know About
Serfs And Serfdom*

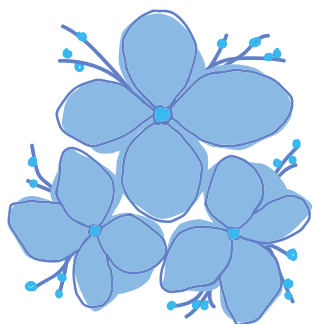
*The best
places in
Avonford*

BY SCARLETT HOLLINSE



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Barkóczy Anna



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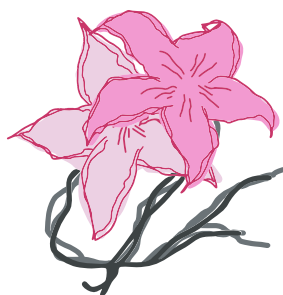


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Chek out our Home☒Culture heading!

We had the great opportunity to take a trip to the property of Sir Stanford Willard, one of the top suzerains known. If you are interested in the living conditions of such a lord turn to page 5!

BY BARKÓCZI ANNA

*super exclusive
report about
the Black
Death!*

Just now, just in our magazine!!

On page 13!!!

incredible, amaizing & true.

INTERVIEW WITH A SERF ABOUT THE
HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES OF
SERFDOM

Never heard of secrets about the
market before! From the perspective of
a real traveler!

On page 8!!

Are you sure that priest
can only pray?
In this article, you will get
answers to this and many
other things.

On page 7!

MAP OF AVONFORD



MAP OF THE VILLAGE



MANOR TOUR

AN EXCLUSIVE HOME TOUR WITH SIR STANDORD WILLARD
BY BARKÓCZI ANNA

For this week's paper I had the great honour to take a tour around the housing of one of the wealthiest suzerains known. Sir Stanford Willard is one of the top tenants-in-chief of the king, handing out land to lesser nobles, his vassals in return he was granted the military service of a certain number of mounted knights from the nobleman's private army. Having more vassals also means having a bigger army. The more vassals, land the more powerful they say. Well you might be asking, how to gain more land as an ordinary nobleman? The answer is pretty simple: If your fighting skills are on point you can receive rewards from the king, you could gain land. If war is not one of your strengths, you still have a chance at gaining more land by having a beneficial marriage. So if you are interested in the living conditions of a noble make sure you stick around for our article!

Our first stop is the resident of the lord, the castle of the manor. Unfortunately, Sir Stanford had some important things to discuss with the king so one of the serfs showed me around the property. The castle was built to mount a defence, since the most important task of the lord's is to defend the serf because without them, he wouldn't have any working power. The sturdy castle has thick stone walls and small slits as windows. The noble himself lives in the keep, the most secure part of the whole entire castle.



Surrounding the keep we can find ourselves in the bailey, which is multiple buildings, food stores, soldiers' quarters, workshops etc. I have even received a beautiful horseshoe as a little gift from this trip, that was made in one of the workshops here. We also stopped for a quick prayer in the chapel. The bailey is full of life, it is the centre of the social life here within the surrounding high walls, on the other side of which there is a moat, only crossable by going over a drawbridge. It made it attackers even harder to attack the castle.

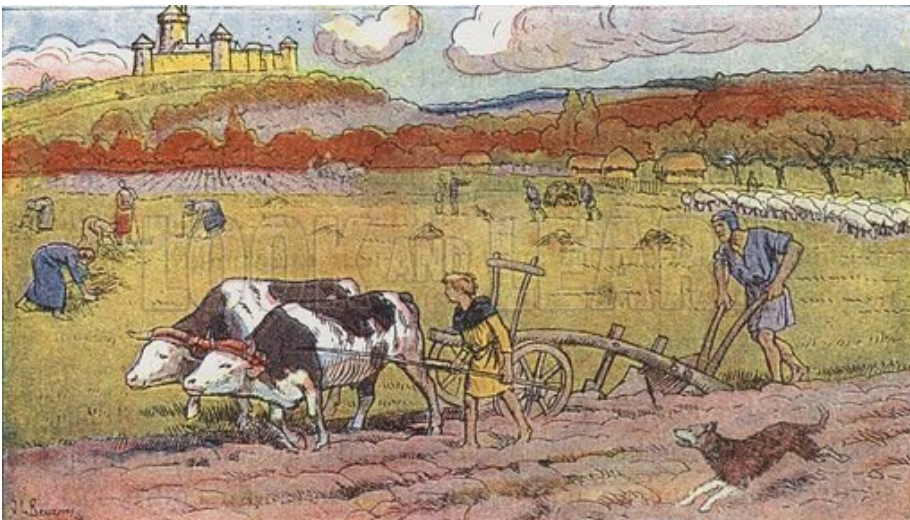
As we can see the castle is beautifully built, but because of the deficiency of windows and the lack of hygiene they are damp, smelly and incredibly cold in the inside. Still their living conditions are a lot better than the common people's. However, the main purpose of the castle is not to find comfort but to protect the lords.

The final step of our journey is the demesne. We took a long walk along the non-contagious land of the lord, which he kept for his own use. The serfs spend half of their week working corvée here, they spent the other half of the week working in their serf's plots.

I hope you enjoyed this short trip through the personal resident and the demesne of Sir Stanford Willard. In next week's paper we will take a tour to the homes of common people, so stay tuned!



Barkóczy Anna



A DAY OF A PRIEST

A INTERESTING ARTICLE
WITH FATHER SALVIUS BY
NÉMETH ÁRON

In today's column we can accompany Father Salvius for a day. He is the priest of Avonford. He was born here 59 years ago and he has been the priest for 8 years. Because of his job he doesn't have a family but he is not boring. He has a lot to do.

Every morning before the breakfast he prays. After the breakfast he always goes to the church and keeps worships for the people. The masses are held in Latin.

Father Salvius always prepares a lot for these to make everyone properly acquainted with the words of God. So after the worships he studies the Bible at home. Because the people pay tithes to the Church, the priest's church and houses are always in good condition. That's why he doesn't even have to worry about making a living. He keeps the weddings and the funerals too. He often keeps two weddings a week and sadly more than five funerals. Father Salvius also holds many baptisms because the town is growing greatly and the number of newborns are also thriving. But he does not always work, he has some free time too. When he can, he visits a Bath nearby and takes a break.

At the end of the day Father Salvius prays again and prepares for the next day. The priest live in a squirrel wheel but they don't mind it because they love helping people's soul and serving God.



Németh Áron

ALL THE COLORS OF THE MARKET

MARKET THROUGH THE
EYES OF A MERCHANT



I have been to many places in my life, I have travelled around Europe and Asia as a merchant of the Hanseatic League. My current destination is Avonford, in this season I'm trying my luck there. I will guide you through the town and show you all the little secrets of trade and market!

At this time of year many come to the city, all for the same reason: to trade. You can meet with the most different and weird figures, from Asia and all over Europe. Merchants, artisans and all kind of traders come to the city with the hope of selling their products. On the way to the city, there is already a mass of travelers going to the city, it's an important trade town located along one of the league's routes. As you get closer to the city the huge and impressive towers of the royal free city appear in the distance and you start to smell the massive stench coming from the city. When you get into the outer town, through the gate of the outer wall, the smell is almost unbearable, but you better get used to it

because it will only get worse as you get inner into the city. The streets are full of droppings and wastewater showing the lack of the sewage system and you should look where you step because if you are not careful enough, might step into some droppings.

Around the outer wall standing the watchful, attentive, often cruel, unmistakable soldiers watching the order among the mob. Their duty is to keep the order among the poor and the mob, for example stop fightings or catch thieves and they are sometimes violent against people.

The outer part of the town is the poorest, people settled here after they couldn't find any more place for themselves inside the inner wall, which what you reach when you get through this poor, outer part. There you can always find some suspicious and dark figures, beggars or prostitute. To get into the inner town, you have to get through the huge gate and the massive crowd there. As soon as I got in, I head to the marketplace to find a good spot for my stand

from where I can sell my products. I sell unique gems, jewels, spices, silk and other luxuries, most of them from China, and my main customers are the patricians of the town because they are the social estate who has property and enough money to pay for my goods.

The marketplace is the most crowded place of the town, everyone is here, the towns people and the merchants too. We come across a wide variety of people and tradesman, this place is full of different merchants trying to sell their weird and exotic products at high prices. Salesman trying to get people's attention with different kinds of advertisement and prices.

And there are the suspicious merchantmen who are selling curses or good luck to their products if you pay for them or the weird herbal who sell medicine for the broken hearts and love potions or even poisons.

On the other side, there are the simple peasants, who came from the villages surrounding the town, to sell their homemade products and the leftover of their crop and harvest, in the hope of collecting enough to buy their freedom from their landlords. They sell agricultural products such as axes, hoes, plows or breastcollar harnesses, clay pots, vowed cloth, raw wool.

Of course, you can find there the local guilds who are taking advantage of the economic prosperity and try to sell their products. The local guilds are actually one of the most important parts of the towns, the guild masters precious and perfect handywork boosts the city's trade and economy but often annoys some outside traders because guilds prevent outside traders doing business in the town who work and trade in the same fields as them, but this way they protect their market and prevent

competition, which is essential for them. You can find their shops in the guild streets where they live together but now, since it's trade time in the town they come to the marketplace as well.



The other thing, you would definitely find in the marketplace or around it is the street-kitchens, they are often moveable stands which sell different kinds of foods to the people, and the people here are always hungry. These street-kitchens have a good income from these different kinds of food, they sell for example fried meat, ragout, spicy vegetables and all sorts of weirdness. Once when I was in China, one of these street-kitchens tried to sell me roasted beetles and spiders, thankfully that's not typical here.

This place a cavalcade of sounds, colors, products, people, and stench combined, but here you should

be very careful and take care of your money and possessions because it's full of pickpockets and bastards who can easily rob you. Be careful in the narrow and dark streets especially with these figures!

During the time I spend in the city, I stay in an inn, near the marketplace. At the ground floor there is a pub and upstairs are the rooms. It has a nice price and the guests eating and drinking in the pub are also most of normal although I have run into one or two strangers.

If you are looking for some unique product or just a simple plate, I recommend you the marketplace! There you will find anything you want, and you can visit my stand anytime, I promise there are only interesting goods that are worthy to buy!!!

I have written some reports for newspaper and magazines in the past and I was honored to write for the popular lifestyle magazine Nova Tempora this time! I hope you enjoyed my little report and get some interests in the market!

Written by:

Daoming Feng (道明枫)

– Asian originated, travelling merchant of the Hanseatic League, with wide selection of luxuries and goods.

(Lengyel Lili)





THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO AVONFORD

EVERY PLACE YOU SHOULD KNOW
IN A ROYAL FREE CITY

Have you ever been wondering where to buy blue plates or where the most delicious bread is made? In this article, I will introduce you my lifestyle and guide you around the town, the shops and the daily life of a simple housewife.

As a housewife of a guild master, I have experienced and learned a lot about the town. My husband is working in one of the biggest guilds of the city, he is one of the masters of the Royal Guild of Bakers. He works in the bakery shop, called the Royal Bakery, at the baker's street and we live there too. We live in the inner city, inside the first walls.

I can say that our family life is very good, we are in a good financial situation, thanks to the economic and trade system of the town and the guilds too. One of the benefits of the town is the lump sum, so we are not afraid of the increase of the taxes because it's a permanent sum, the landlord cannot increase it from one month to another, so our financial situation is very good!

Every week, a lot of customers visit the bakery, both patricians and plebeians to buy the goods and delicacies of the bakeshop, which has a wide selection of bakery products. At the Royal Bakery, you can find any kind of delicacies, such as bread, buns, pies and tarts, bread rolls, pastry, flatbread, bagel and many other delicious goods. We also have a brand new product, made by my talented husband, it's called cinnamon roll. It is a very new product at the market, so if you want to try it out, come to the Royal Bakery and taste it!

My husband has a lot of work and fortunately he has some help in the form of a young apprentice. He lives with us and goes to the bakery with my husband every day, he learns a lot and works hard to become a master one day. Sometimes I also help them, my husband taught me how to decorate cookies and candies, so when it's a busy day, I help him if I can.

As a housewife, I also have some tasks to do during the day. We have two servants, they cook, wash,

clean and do the important things around the house. It is my duty to supervise these servants. They go to shop the essentials, but sometimes I go to shop as well. It is very important for me, to know where to buy the appropriate household tools, clothes and vegetables or spices. The best place to go is the marketplace, you can find it easily, it's in the middle of the town and around it there is always a big crowd. There people can find good and exotic products. Next to the marketplace, you can find the townhall, it's a big, massive and elegant building, stands out from the rest of the city. Near the townhall, there is an even higher and bigger building, which is the church. We are blessed by God to live such a good life and very thankful to the Roman Church to have such good and smart priests here, in our town. Of course, we go to church every week and pray to God diligently and regularly!

Beyond the church and town hall, are located the elegant and large houses of the rich and wealthy patricians of the city. We joined to this social estate when my husband became a master, but we didn't move to that part of the town instead we stayed in the baker's street with the other members of the guild, as it is appropriate.

At the other side of the marketplace, you can find the street of the waver's street and their shop, called the Woven Goods. There you can find the best clothes and cloth products of the city. I have all of my dresses and clothes from there!

As you are walking in the city, you should be careful of the holes and pits in the streets because you might not see them due to the droppings covered the streets. The streets are not paved so their condition is bad nowadays at some streets.

Next to the waver's guild, you can find the painter's guild and the potter's guild. The potters are the best

artisans and they make the best plates and often cooperate with the painters. . The potters make the pottery goods and give them to the painters who paint and decorate them, then they sell the beautiful pieces at the market. Of course, they share the benefits as the good partnership requires. The painters also make portraits of people, they painted my wedding picture of me and my husband.

If you discover the city, I highly recommend you the places I mentioned and warn you not to go to the outer town, outside the first wall because there live most of the poor plebeians and that part of the town is full of disgusting filth and it stinks so much in some places that you can only go there with your face covered.

I hope you enjoyed the little review of the city and got your interest some of the places I mentioned! Have a good discovery in Avonford!

Written by:

Scarlett Hollinse

- wife of a guild master in the baker's guild.

(Lengyel Lili)



THE BLACK DEATH NOW UP CLOSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE GREATEST DISEASE OF OUR AGE

Imagine living
between dying and diseased people, in a place
isolated from the outside world
where your only chance to survive is the belief
in God and hope in grace.

I am a nun and I live in the St. Anne's Monastery. It is located near the royal free city Avonford. In this article, I will introduce you the Black Death, the greatest disease of our age and tell the story how I've met it.

A part of our monastery has always served as a hospital, as a kind of homeless hostel, a refuge for those who could not go anywhere. And at the time of fairs, merchants and people coming to the city could also stay in our monastery. Or sometimes we take care of the ill people of the town.

Previously, there were also some little pandemics, which took away only the newborns and the old and weak people, but those illnesses weren't so serious compared to that what came after. The Black Death.

One day a young woman, called Julietta Harmone, came to our monastery, she was a nun from Florence, Italy. She escaped from the city, which had already been a morgue when she left it. Italian

people call the disease la moria grande which means the great death. There, in Florence, almost the whole city was wiped out, people were afraid of going out to the streets because they feared the sickness, so, if someone died in their family, they just put them out to the street. They didn't bury them properly. They couldn't even bury them anyway, no matter if they wanted or not because all the cemeteries were full. The streets became an ocean of dead bodies. Then, the thieves and beggars of the city emerged as the becchini, the corpse carriers who took the dead ones to mass graves in return for horribly high prices.

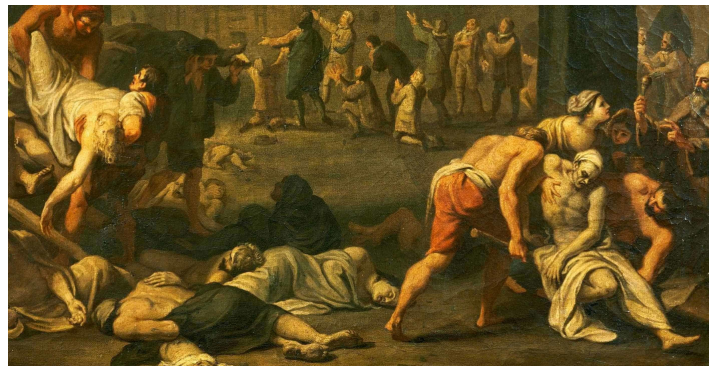


She told us her experiences in her monastery, where she worked with Italian doctors. They said, the sickness spreads by sight, if a sick person looks at you from the rays of their eyes you get the disease. They say, that's how it spread, and the best method of protection is to not be in a same room with a sick person. For protection, they told the people not to hold meetings, not to meet anyone, not to leave the house and not to come into contact with anyone. Despite all this, thousands died, the virus did not pick, killed anyone.

On the other hand, they discovered that who caught it once and miraculously survived did not become ill anymore and there were some people who were just immune to the virus and had never caught it.

The Italians said that it also spread in the air, so people should wear masks to protect themselves. Julietta mentioned that in the monastery they wrapped a strip of linen around their faces and washed their hands in vinegar water. This made their hand wounded and sore, but it seemed to be help at some point, at least the nuns didn't die. Although the doctors said it was just a waste of time and a pagan habit, unnecessary since the virus spreads through the air and eyes sight. They banned this practice, and everyone died. Julietta seemed to be immune, after these events, she managed to escape and came directly here, because one of our sisters is one of her last living family members.

Then the circle began to narrow, we heard about more and more similar cases and the epidemic got closer and closer. They first came to us from the neighboring village. Then from Avonford. Then more and more people came. Then they cancelled the fairs and markets. Here the same statements were made as in Italy, people should not contact with each other and should stay inside. After all, everything happened as Julietta told us.



The symptoms usually started with fever, chills, extreme weakness and thirst. Most of the sick people were really thirsty and nothing could quench their thirst. Swollen and painful lymph nodes apperades as huge, purulent blisters on the neck and armpits. Then their whole body was in pain and they just struggled with the pain and the illness and we could do nothing for them. Other symptoms are the vomiting, bleeding from your mouth, nose or rectum, or under your skin. Then the appearance of black and blackberry spots on the chest, arms, fingers, toes and everywhere throughout the body. It kills people in an average of five days.

In our hospital, we fight with the virus day after day, but the cemeteries have already been full, and hundreds of people died. This is even more horrible than I could ever imagined. We use linen stripes as masks and wash our hands in vinegar water but doesn't seem like stop the virus. All we could do is to help, calm and pray for the sick ones. At least none of us died from the monastery, this truly shows the grace, care and love of God.

Everyone should pray to God diligently and not come out. Be careful and safe! God may help us!

I hope you got new information about the Black Death and you could escape in time! Never forget to pray!

Written by:

Sarah Barrow - nun

in St. Anne's Monastery, located near to the town Avonford.

(Lengyel Lili)



A procession of flagellants during the Black Death. Note the bare backs and the whips.

SECRETS WE ALL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE MEDIEVAL TIMES

SERFDOM EDITION

We are heading outside the city wall to meet today's interview guest, who has caught our attention a few days ago while working on the demesne. Yes, dear Readers you guessed it correctly, we are about to give you an interview with the lowest layer of feudal society, the people who provide the basis of your food, the serfs. A lovely worker agreed to answer some of our question which might give us a wider range of view on the life of serfs and serfdom.

-Good afternoon! I'll be your interviewer today. Let's begin with the questions, shall we?

-Good afternoon! Alright, but please, make it quick, today is a very busy day we are in the middle of harvesting on the lord's land and I still have a lot to do on my plot.

-As you wish. You have mentioned before that you are working on the demesne at the moment, how many days do you have to work? Do you get anything in return or is it free labour?

-It depends on the season we are in, when it's not busy 2-3 days a week, but nowadays we mostly spend our whole week working on the land of the lord. We get protection and food from the landlord for our work, but other than that is completely free.

-Well, that's interesting, so you get protection and sometimes food from your landlord. Do you have to perform any services and give him anything other than free labour?

-What kind of question is it? Of course, we do. We have to pay several taxes throughout the year.

-How do you have to pay these taxes?

-We mostly have to pay the taxes in kind, giving honey, eggs, and most importantly grain to the lord. Sometimes we have to pay with money, but it is not common, food has more value.

-That does make sense. Is this all you have to pay? - No, obviously not. We have to pay the tithe to the Church, pay tax to the state, we have seigneurial taxes and on special days we have to give gifts to the landlord.

-What an insane amount of payment! Do you think it's fair?

-I have never questioned fairness. I've accepted that the Lord wanted me to live this kind of life and if I do everything the best I can, he will take me to Heaven.

-So as I understand you are religious right?

-Yes, just like everyone else here.

-Interesting. Do you have time to go to church? If yes, when do you usually go?

-I try to go to church every day at least twice, and once a week to confess. Religion is a very important part of my life.

-Who go to church more, men or women?

-For women it is common to go to church more than men.

-Does the landlord show that there's difference between the two genders?

-Yes, we mostly work separated from women. There are special occasions when we work together, but I can count those times on one hand.

-What a pity. It must be very hard to find someone to marry.

-We don't really have to deal with finding a wife. The marriage is arranged.

-That sounds horrible! What about love?

-Marriage isn't a question of love, more like a question of "wealth" and making children who can take our places on the fields after we are gone.

-How does a wedding look like? Is it a big occasion or a small gathering?

-Weddings are a great celebration in our life. The ceremony is watched over by the priest.

-What happens after?

-Everything goes back to normal, we go to work on the fields, eat and sleep.

-Well, that makes sense... and how does your house look like? Is it comfortable?

-The house my father built is located in our plot. It is made out of wood and the roof is thatched.

Comfortable isn't the word I'd use to describe it. The house is smelly, dark because there is a very little source of light and damp. It consists of one room

with not much furniture.

-That is not comfortable at all. I'm sure you are dreaming of moving to the city.

--You are right moving to the city does sound appealing, but unfortunately I am bound to land, I cannot leave this place. Becoming someone who lives in the city is a big dream of mine; I wouldn't have to worry about the taxes getting higher.

-I'm sorry to hear that, but I'm sure there are several positive things in your life.

-Yes, in fact there are. When doing corvée we get food from the landlord, he lets us collect deadwood from the forest and when there is a famine, he supports us. Also, we can sell our surplus at the market to get some extra money.

-Do you often have surplus?

-Well, it depends on the field we got and the quality of the harvest.

-What do you mean? You have another field to work on?

-Yes, there is a field near the border of the village where the community decides what to plant.

-Oh, I see. Thank you for being cooperative and answering all my questions. I feel like through this interview we got to know your life a little better. Have a nice day!

-Thank you for choosing me to be your guest. God bless you!



Buzás Szonja

THE POPULATION CHANGE IN EUROPE

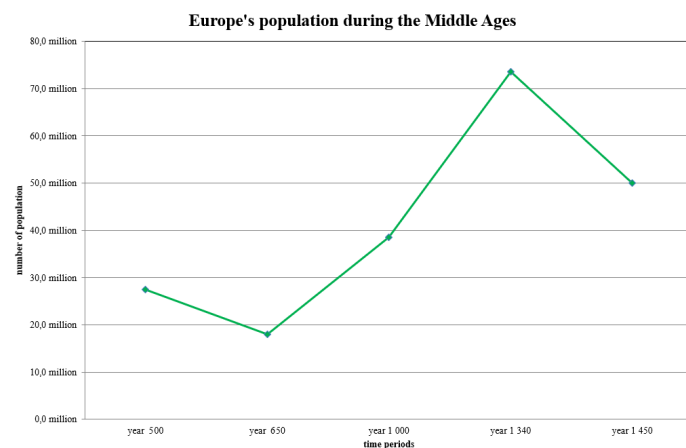
BETWEEN 500 AND 1450

During the rule of the Roman Empire, there were peace and prosperity in Western Europe for hundreds of years but, as everything, it came to an end and after a period of decline, the empire fell in 476. It weakened Western Europe and the barbaric tribes who came from Asia, got a chance to attack and conquer us. Because of the attacks and raids, and the lots of wars and battles the population fell between 500 and 650 in. A lot of people died in those years and the birthrate was also lower because of the horrible life conditions.

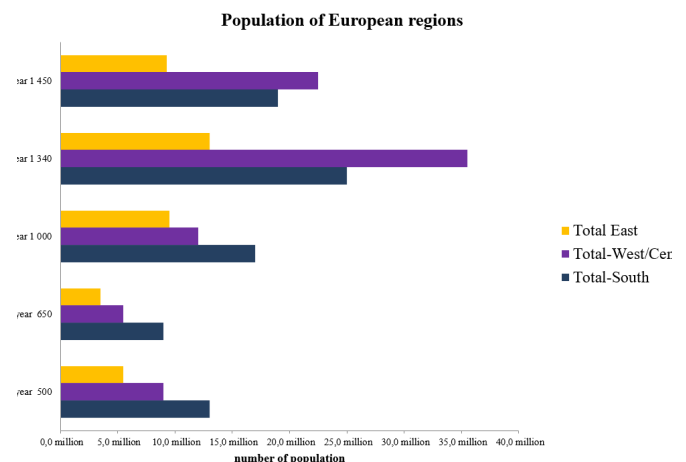
Then, people started to settle in towns, the economy rebounded, there were less famine and there was more food production because of the new agricultural developments and more trade as well, so people's life conditions became better and better. It resulted a big population boom between 1000 and 1340 especially around Western Europe.

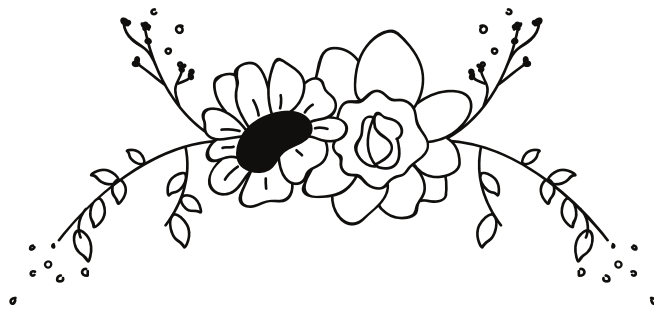
In the 14th century, the huge problem came. The Black Death struck Europe. It was a big and horrible disaster, which sacked through Europe. It spread fast, there were several outbreaks. The population decreased from 75-80 million to 55-60 million so, that means it killed around 20 million people. Whole families and villages were wiped out by this disease.

It was the short summary of the population change in Europe between 500 and 1450. I hope you enjoyed it and got some new information.

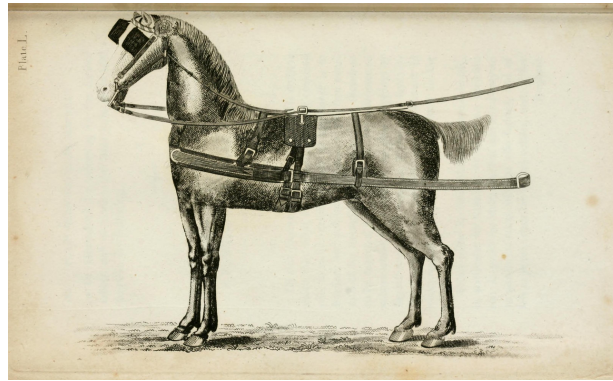


After these events, people started settling in small communities around a greater power which protected them and work for their subsistence. The population started growing again because people had enough food and their life conditions were far better than before.





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