

CONTENTS

List of Tables.....	ix
List of Illustrations	xi
List of Abbreviations	xiii
Preface.....	xv
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Holland: a commercialising economy	3
1.2 An institutional approach	16
1.3 Research questions.....	22
PART I	
THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK: TRADE VENUES	
2. Fairs.....	35
2.1 Introduction.....	35
2.2 Fairs and transaction costs.....	36
2.3 Fairs in Holland: a chronological reconstruction	42
2.4 Economic function.....	51
2.5 Power and politics	62
2.6 Conclusions.....	72
3. Rural markets c. 1200–c. 1350: a late start?	74
3.1 Introduction.....	74
3.2 Urban intrusion or urban attraction.....	77
3.3 Lords and their involvement with rural markets	96
3.4 Conclusions.....	106
4. New institutions for rural trade (c. 1350–c. 1450)	108
4.1 Introduction.....	108
4.2 Seaside fish markets and the sea-fish trade.....	110
4.3 Rural weigh houses and the dairy trade.....	131
4.4 Conclusions.....	157
5. The Dordrecht staple	159
5.1 Introduction.....	159
5.2 The Dordrecht staple in an international perspective	161

5.3	Dordrecht and its neighbours.....	179
5.4	Conclusions.....	197

PART II

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK: RULES AND PRACTICES

6.	Weighing and measuring.....	201
6.1	Introduction.....	201
6.2	Control over weights and measures.....	203
6.3	Standards and standardisation	213
6.4	Enforcement.....	223
6.5	Conclusions.....	233
7.	Contract enforcement	236
7.1	Introduction.....	236
7.2	Merchant guilds.....	239
7.3	From divine judgement to <i>schepenenning</i>	249
7.4	Sureties.....	255
7.5	Public registration of debts	259
7.6	Conclusions.....	270

PART III

MARKET PERFORMANCE: QUANTITATIVE TESTS

8.	Market integration.....	275
8.1	Introduction.....	275
8.2	The impact of institutional and non-institutional factors.....	279
8.3	Methods and data.....	286
8.4	Price volatility	293
8.5	Price integration	301
8.6	Conclusions.....	311
9.	Market orientation.....	313
9.1	Introduction.....	313
9.2	Holland.....	317
9.3	Flanders	325

CONTENTS

vii

9.4	England.....	332
9.5	Conclusions	340
10.	Conclusions	343
10.1	Endogenous factors.....	343
10.2	Exogenous factors	352
10.3	Commodity markets and factor markets	355
Appendix A	Survey of fairs.....	359
Appendix B	Rural weigh houses in the north of Holland around 1400	387
Appendix C	Charters of urban liberties.....	389
Appendix D	Wheat prices.....	393
References.....		409
Index		439