

# CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page vi
<i>List of tables</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>Weights, measures and places</i>	xv
Introduction	I
1 Late medieval society	10
2 Aristocratic incomes	27
3 The aristocracy as consumers	49
4 Aristocratic expenditure: making ends meet	86
5 Peasant living standards: modelling the peasant economy	109
6 Peasants as consumers	151
7 Urban standard of living	188
8 The wage-earners	211
9 Poverty and charity	234
10 The weather and standards of living	258
Conclusion	274
Medieval living standards - postscript	278
<i>Bibliography</i>	318
<i>Index</i>	327



## ILLUSTRATIONS

### FIGURES

1 The population of England, 1086-1786	page 4
2 Aristocratic houses of the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries	82
3 Chronology of building major churches, 1100-1500	102
4 Harvest workers' diet, at Sedgeford, Norfolk	158
5 Two peasant house traditions	162
6 Peasant house plans	164-5
7 Urban houses	
8 Building workers' wages, 1264-1532, expressed in terms of a shopping basket of consumables	217
9 The numbers of open-hall houses in Kent	303

### MAPS

1 Location of aristocratic households mentioned in chapters 3 and 4	52
2 The manor of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire, in 1299	111
3 Location of villages and manors mentioned in chapters 5 and 6	121
4 Location of towns and rural places mentioned in chapters 7 to 10	190

## TABLES

1 The social hierarchy in late medieval England	page 20
2 Some examples of aristocratic incomes	36
3 Expenditure on foodstuffs in late medieval households	56
4 Meat consumption in two aristocratic households	59
5 Some examples of expenditure by aristocratic and institutional consumers	70
6 Inventories of the goods of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, 1397	77
7 Reconstruction of the arable contribution to the budget of Robert le Kyng of Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire, 1299-1300	113
8 Size of tenant holdings in the Hundred Rolls of 1279-80	119
9 Mean yield ratios on the estate of the bishopric of Winchester, 1209-1453	126
10 Number of animals per tax-payer or per tenant, 1225-91	129
11 Long-term changes in the size of holdings	141
12 Annual corn allowances in maintenance agreements, 1240-1458	152
13 Corn allowances in maintenance agreements, 1240-1458, analysed by counties, in percentages	153
14 Animal bones from village sites, 12th-15th century, by percentage	155



15	Two peasant inventories	page 170
16	Values of chattels of felons from the Shropshire eyre of 1256	180
17	Urban goods and chattels. A King's Lynn tax assessment of c. 12-90	206
18	Daily wage-rates of building workers, 1260-1520	215
19	Bad harvests, 1208-1520	262-3
20	Index of real wages, 1208-1500, based on the number of units of work needed to buy a 'shopping basket' of goods	307
21	Mean height of medieval and modern populations	316
22	Shoe sizes: medieval and modern	317