

## Summaries of articles

### **Trade Organizations and Regional Markets**

J. HOOCK

*This article analyzes the controversies and institutional choices which accompanied and facilitated the creation of a community of merchants in the city of Rouen at the beginning of the 18th century. This organization encompassed an important share of Rouen's large-scale commerce. Paradoxically, it brought with it an expansion of competitive markets while maintaining corporative control at the borders of its vast field of activities. But it seems that these united merchants were able to use these divergent approaches—competition and corporate control—to their advantage at different moments. The corporation's structures thus played roles which had much less to do with a particular trade than with the external conditions governing its existence.*

### **From Corps to Trade: the Corporation of Turin Tailors from the 16th to the 18th Century**

S. CERUTTI

*This article raises the question of the contexts in which Ancient Regime corporations should be analyzed. In order to understand the characteristics and evolution of the corporation of Turin tailors in the 17th and 18th centuries, a multi-levelled analysis was necessary including the investigation of family behavior, the prosopography of elites, the geography of social associations in urban space, and relationships between merchants and artisans. The corporation, bringing merchants and artisans together, was deliberately created with the aim of forwarding these groups' economic and above all political interests. The study of corporations concerns not only the economics but also the history of social associations and of the configuration of urban power.*

### **Corporations, "false workers" and the faubourg Saint-Antoine**

S.L. KAPLAN

*Operating outside the norms and controls of the corporate world, "false workers" were viewed by the guilds as socially illicit, politically seditious, morally cankered, and technically inept. Located in "hidden rooms" throughout Paris and concentrated especially in the so-called "privileged places" governed by seigneurial and religious jurisdictions, the "false workers" created a parallel world of work, seriously compromising corporate domination of the labor market (both by subverting and segmenting it) and the system of discipline that guaranteed social classification and stability. This study focuses on the genesis and development of "false work" in the largest privileged place, the faubourg St.-Antoine, which was a laboratory of socioeconomic experimentation long before it became the revolutionary quarter par excellence. This article examines the impact of the faubourg on the organization of work, the structures of production, the governance of the guilds, and the political history of the capital.*

***Offices, Corps, and the System of State Credit:  
The Uses of Privilege under the Ancien Régime***

D. D. BIEN

*The article treats mechanisms and principles that characterized state borrowing through venal offices. It describes how those offices, a resource that kings could and did create at will, served to attract capital from both their acquirers and, in turn, from others who advanced funds to the acquirers for their purchases. There is, further, a discussion of the king's successive demands of additional capital to be placed in the offices, and of a system of collective loans that the officers, clustered in corps, floated for the king. This borrowing, always at a rate of interest considerably lower than the king could obtain by himself, locked the state into a regime of privilege that survived until 1789. Finally, it is suggested that the autonomous corps created by the state formed in their members various habits of association that unwittingly contributed to democratic practice after 1789.*

***Guilds and the French Revolution:  
Three Examples from Lille***

G. BOSSENGA

*Under Napoleon, the attempt of three guilds, those of the bakers, the dry-goods merchants, and the linen thread spinners, to reimpose guild-like regulations on Lille's economy suggests that the abolition of the guilds did not necessarily serve the interests of the bourgeoisie. Members of the Napoleonic Chamber of Commerce, as well as local officials including the mayor and prefect, wished to restore crucial functions the guilds had played in the old regime, such as protecting local markets, controlling the quality of textiles produced for export, and securing the urban tax base. Thus, the laissez-faire position of the central government, which generally refused to sanction most of these protectionistic practices, did not represent the interests of important segments of Lille's bourgeoisie. The government's liberal policy, however, did facilitate the economic centralization of the state.*

***The Rialto Bridge : a Public Venetian Construction  
Project at the End of the 16th century***

D. CALABI and P. MORACCHIELLO

*In 1588, the Rialto bridge worksite opened in Venice, with the goal of spanning the Grand Canal with a 23 meter long and 7 meter high stone arch linking the center of political power at Saint Mark's with the important trade quarters. Three public officials ("proveditors") elected from amongst the Senate members represented the State, assuring its participation in all administrative decisions ; in accordance with the Republic's procedures, a magistrate position was created at the beginning of the enterprise and eliminated with its completion. The funds were public, but the technical expertise and day to day material realization were provided by the traditional craft associations. The sketches and blueprints prepared for the different aspects of the job, the work of the different bodies of guildsmen, craftsmen and workers, and all the elements of construction are brought back to life in studying the thousands of orders signed by the presiding public officials and the works' director Antonio da Ponte. These documents recount the organization and execution of the project.*

***The Great Urban Reorganizations of the 19th Century:  
Four Provincial Cities***

M. DARIN

*This study of the great reorganizations is related to an attempt to go beyond the traditional distinction between urban history and the history of spontaneous urban development. It examines how the interests, ideas and means of the actors "from above" and "from below" combine in the production of urban forms. The examination of urban reorganization in Montpellier, Nantes, Rouen and Toulouse demonstrates the important role played by small proprietors when compared with that of the prefects, mayors, engineers, architects, etc. The interaction between all of these elements led to the creation of wide boulevards which were less monolithic than is commonly thought. A close reading of these reorganizations allows us to see and understand the morphological subtleties which resulted from the introduction of these new urban forms into the former urban fabric.*

**Le Directeur-délégué de la Publication : Marc AUGÉ**

Imprimerie Nationale

Commission Paritaire des publications et agences de presse, n° 20816.

N° 2 - Dépôt légal : mai 1988

8.565.002.5