

## Summaries of articles

### **The culinary system in the Encyclopédie**

Jean-Claude BONNET

*Reading the Dictionnaire Encyclopédique according to its system of cross references, I see three configurations appear. The historical and moral sector presents a history of cooking and an evaluation of this art. It permits us to identify certain inconsistencies between actual alimentary practice and the way it is spoken about.*

*The second sector treats problems of nutrition with respect to the constitution of natural sciences. The Encyclopédie proposes a discourse on the body, on the relations between nutrition and sexuality, discourse characteristic of a knowledge which is both biological and dietetic.*

*The third sector is the most homogeneous: it develops the technical problems of food production. The culinary system in the Encyclopédie points up a particular mode of receptiveness to orality: a learned game which associates "connaissance" and "gourmandise" and which precedes the gastronomic era.*

### **Semantics and medieval society: the verb adouber and its evolution in the 12th century**

Jean FLORI

*The quantitative analysis of the verb adouber and of its derivations in the twelfth-century French chansons de geste reveals a noticeable evolution in the meaning of these words. This is not simply a literary or linguistic evolution; it is evidence of a change in social thought pattern.*

*Since the appearance of these words in the French language, they have applied to mounted fighters. But at the beginning of the 12th century, their meaning was purely utilitarian or professional. In the course of the century, they took on a more ceremonial coloring. There was a tendency to use other words—armer, ferarmer, ferverstir—to designate the utilitarian sense, while adouber was progressively restricted to describing the first conferring of arms on a young man entering the body of knights. Towards the end of the century, the word adouber took on an even stronger social, hierarchical, almost initiatory value. It became a word indicating "class" even "caste".*

*This evolution corresponds to, illustrates and confirms the transformation of knight-hood itself; originally a professional group, knights tended to form a body and then a closed caste, forging an ideology, specific rites and a special language which set them apart from the rest of society.*

**Popular religion and folk culture**

Jean-Claude SCHMITT

*Chanoine Étienne Delaruelle († 1971) left a considerable corpus of historiography. In his wake, historians of medieval religion no longer concerned themselves uniquely with the élite but took interest in the masses, no longer studied only institutions but also manifestations of piety. Twenty-four articles of É. Delaruelle have recently been collected and republished. They not only provide an opportunity to appreciate the richness of his work, but call for critical reflection, an appeal which is equally valid for his numerous disciples. The vagueness of concepts used (what does "popular" mean?), a priori judgments on the nature of "popular religion" (affectivity, naïveté, primitivism, childishness) reveal a lack of knowledge of folk culture and a failure to appreciate the extent of the conflict between the culture of the populus and that of the clerics in feudal society. A theory of the way in which feudal society functioned, coupled with an anthropological approach could lead to a formulation of other interpretations of the phenomena studied by É. Delaruelle (ex.: the question of christianization vs. acculturation) and noticeably enrich the field of medieval studies.*

**Prices and salaries (Paris in the 16th century)**

Micheline BAULANT

*The financial accounts of various communities—hospitals, convents, boarding schools—constitute an excellent source for the history of prices in Paris during the 16th century. These are the only accounts which provide prices other than those for cereals and thus comprise the indispensable complement for the Mercuriale; they also list salaries.*

*Prices, be they food or "industrial" products, rose almost continuously from the beginning to the end of the 16th century, but the peaks and the amount of increase over the century varied considerably with the product; nevertheless, the most rapid overall increase occurred between 1561 and 1575.*

*The salaries rose as well, but during the first third of the century, and in some cases until 1560, they were overtaken and never again caught up.*

*The factors contributing to this increase and to the imbalance between prices and salaries are multiple: monetary and political factors, misfortunes of war, the development of Paris and, above all, a slow return to a demographic situation which differed from that of the 14th and 15th centuries characterized since the Black Death by a sparse population.*

**Notarial activity: a socio-economic indicator**

Jean-Paul POISSON

*Studying the fluctuations of the general activities of notary publics and analyzing the evolution of a number of key types of acts which are the most revealing of economic life*

## SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

*and confidence in the future, proves to be a good means of coming to understand the socio-economic situation of a region. After having used this method elsewhere (in particular in examining the repercussions of Law's system) the author makes a detailed study of three notary publics' offices in Paris from 1645 to 1655, which he uses to elucidate the economic situation in Paris during the Fronde. With the exception of the purely material effects of the two Paris blockades, the crisis is much less evident than is generally claimed. A re-examination of the predominating theories concerning the severity of the economic crisis in Paris at the time of the Fronde is indispensable.*

### **The Centième Denier**

Gérard BÉAUR

*Real estate transactions during the thirty years preceding the Revolution were studied in two groups of parishes located in an important agricultural region near Paris: the Beauce. The study was based on more than 8 000 acts collected from the files of the Registry (Enregistrement), called at that time Centième Denier, and treated by computer.*

*The analysis shows that the sales were not a matter of chance. On the one hand, property changed owners according to a seasonal pattern, the low point occurring clearly during the summer months (and August in particular). On the other hand, a rather striking coincidence appears between the conjuncture of crops (cereals and viticulture) and the annual fluctuations in the number of sales; each high point coincides with a high rate of transaction. However, the real estate market depends simultaneously upon the conjuncture, the structure of land holdings and the social groups which are present. Thus, due to their very nature—the size of the property sold, the greater or lesser mobility of real estate and the greater or lesser equivalence of the land sold—there was a contrast between the large cereal growing properties and the small vineyards. The latter alone reacted to the crisis of 1789; the small wine growers were hard hit and forced to sell their fields. This is a partial explanation for the unrest which reigned in the French countryside at the outbreak of the Revolution.*

### **Les vaches maigres. A significant essay on the economic crisis (1970-1975)**

Georges FRIEDMANN

*Around 1970 the industrial societies, or at least the most developed ones, entered a period of "crisis". Some of the symptoms included: deterioration of the model of the liberal capitalist society (the United States), which also became the symbol of the crisis of single dimension growth; disintegration of belief in "Progress" and questioning of the very validity of the concept; acceleration of inflation. Have we entered the "post-industrial" era? The authors doubt it; they denounce the way in which industry wastes grey matter on gadgets and recommend multi-dimensional growth aided by "free planning" for which they outline a program and means of implementation; at the same time, they criticize all forms of excess to be found in all areas. In any case, the crisis cannot be surmounted without the existence of a strong European Community.*