

# MEDIEVAL FAMILY LIFE

The Paston, Stonor, Cely, Plumpton and Armburgh Papers

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# MEDIEVAL FAMILY LIFE

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These **Late Medieval** letter collections and associated manuscripts take the user into the world of medieval family, business, relationships, trade, politics and community.

The **Paston** letters have long been a subject of both literary and historical interest and are the largest of the collections and the best known of the five families. Their letters document the life of a gentry family during the War of the Roses. Hundreds of documents and letters exchanged between different family members cover in microcosm the dilemmas of a nation beset by war, disease and legal disputes.

The **Celys** were a merchant family, and crucial players in the wool trade between England and the Channel ports. This collection, which covers every aspect of their commercial dealings, will fascinate the economic and social historian.

The **Stonors** were a well-established gentry family in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. These documents cover the longest time period of any of the collections and throw light on both business and domestic issues.

The **Plumptons** were a dominant northern family. Their documents, which continue right through to the early sixteenth century, reveal a family entangled in the social and economic affairs of the region.

The **Armburgh** family material is primarily concerned with a dispute over a family inheritance.

A plethora of topics are covered in these unique manuscripts, from arranging advantageous marriages and inheritance, estate management and financial dealings, to women and their role within the family. Arguments between parents and children; births; deaths; acts of violence; law suits and everyday social and domestic life are all present in these fascinating manuscripts.

Full colour digital images of the original manuscripts are presented here alongside fully searchable transcriptions drawn from available printed editions. Students and researchers will be able to view the original manuscript side by side with printed transcriptions.

Extra resources including family trees, a chronology, a slideshow of medieval images from the British Library, and an interactive map make this a valuable teaching tool as well as a powerful research resource.

*“As sources for historical explication and exploration, it is hard to do better than to turn to these collections of family letters.”* Professor Joel T Rosenthal



## Participating Libraries



West Yorkshire Archive Service

Chetham's Library, Manchester

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**Other Medieval/ Early Modern collections include:**

*Medieval Travel Writing* and *Perdita Manuscripts: Women Writers, 1500-1700.*