

## **Retrospective**

# **Beyond the Manorial Economy: Peasant Labour and Mobility in Carolingian and Post-Carolingian Europe**

*(edited by) Steffen Patzold and Paolo Tedesco*

## Editors' Note

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In June 2018, at the Center for Advanced Studies in Migration and Mobility in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages at the University of Tübingen, we held a two-day workshop on “Agrarian Change and Peasant Mobility in the Early Medieval West”. Ranging geographically from Flanders to North Africa, the papers addressed the hotly debated question of the apparent antinomy between political and agrarian structures based on firm control over rural labourers and economies that required a good degree of peasant mobility (both social and geographical) in order to continue to develop.

The Center’s seminars, workshops, and conferences have been hotbeds of ideas and new initiatives. One that emerged from this particular seminar was to bring a set of papers together to offer a cogent review of peasant mobility under the manorial economy. The editors of *JEEH* agreed to publish this collection in the “Retrospective” section of the *Journal*, which had already hosted similar work in the recent past.<sup>1</sup> The collection that follows consists of four essays: by Thomas Kohl (University of Tübingen), Alexis Wilkin (Université libre de Bruxelles), Nicolas Schroeder (Université libre de Bruxelles), and Laurent Feller (Paris I: Sorbonne). We are most grateful to all those at the Center who contributed in various ways

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<sup>1</sup> Tedesco, 2017.

to the publication of this collection (particularly Mischa Meier and Sebastian Schmidt-Hofner, but also Stefan Esders, Igor Santos Salazar, Daniel Syrbe, Ned Schoolman, and Lorenzo Bondioli), and to the editors of *JEEH*, who are always interested in what has to do with the Middle Ages.

We would like to conclude with a personal note. As we were bringing these papers together, we were deeply sorrowed by the loss of Guy Bois (1934-2019), one of France's most influential medieval historians. Guy was particularly noted for his contribution to the history of feudalism and the transformations of "Year One Thousand".<sup>2</sup> To recall the words of Georges Duby, the work of Guy Bois was bold, attractive, provocative, and it stimulated research, raising a hundred dormant questions,<sup>3</sup> as in the dispute triggered by his thesis of the "feudal revolution."<sup>4</sup> Some of these questions, still requiring answers, persist in the current historical debate.<sup>5</sup> Since this collection touches on themes that were at the core of his scholarly work on feudalism, as well as on the role of demography in the socio-economic systems of the Middle Ages, we consider it fitting to pay a tribute to his contribution by dedicating these essays to the memory of Guy Bois.

## References

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<sup>2</sup> Bois, 2000, 1992, 1984.

<sup>3</sup> Duby, 1992, x.

<sup>4</sup> Bourin, 1991.

<sup>5</sup> Patzold, 2012.

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