

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCV, Maggio-Agosto 2011, Fascicolo II

Abstracts

LAURA BERTONI, *Regimen et administrationem quorum bonorum habere...*
La presenza femminile nell'economia pavese del XIII secolo

Female participation in medieval economic life has received uneven attention from historians, because of the scarcity of available sources. Recent studies in gender history, however, have helped to focus on women's presence and position in Italian medieval society, recovering part of the gap with English and French scholarship.

Researchers have started to take into account a plurality of issues and reading levels about the direct involvement of women in trade and business, the importance of female work, often "invisible", and the circulation of women's wealth in medieval society. This study provides, for the 13th century and according to available sources, a research on the participation of women in Pavia's urban economy, one of the most important town in central and northern Italy. Such approach aims to highlight women's involvement in the economy, especially for wealth management and participation in the commercial and financial sector and in urban crafts. The result shows a widespread presence at all levels, although barely visible, both in terms of contribution in direct employment and of investment in trade, finance and manufacturing.