

The reason to use this title, which bothered me in another note of this day, is explained at the very end, pp. 195-196: Office became common to all the powerful, though it seems that some never got noble title. It absorbed the old nobility of later middle ages from above, and the rich merchants from below. The reason to specify bourgeois is simply that they all lived in the city; but the source of their strength was their ownership of the countryside, which is the subject of the ensuing part III of his work, pp. 199ff.

He reviews the history of Burgundian nobility. The 13th century sword almost totally replaced in 14th & 15th centuries, the golden age of Burgundy, by an army plus office nobility. This class in turn dissolved ~~by~~ after the French annexation, although its later ~~the~~ descendants show up in the new administrative nobility of the 16th ~~century~~ century & afterwards. In general, civil life prevails over ~~the~~ military by the 17th, in noble status, save for a few. The key to nobility was the Parlement.

177f Most arrived from the bottom. Some from great merchant families, more from the bar. Below this came ~~the~~ doctors, procurers & notaries. Both avocats & procureurs had special privileges. They were not noble, but since the mayor & sheriffs had to be non-noble, this class provided those officers. Above them were the greffiers au Parlement & even the huissier, premier huissier being noble. Even the sergents & conscierges of Parlement had special privileges. [At end of section, p. 184, he says that alongside Parlement & Chambre des Comptes (about which he had been speaking exclusively up to this point, evidently), the Baillage and the Trésor had equivalent offices & charges. He does not say whether the noble/non-noble distinctions applied there, too. Here, as recurrently, he lets his feelings that it's all one elite in the end overcome his obligation to be neat in distinctions.]

184ff Wealth the main avenue of social rise. 1665 charge of conseiller in Parlement cost 60,000 livres, a notable fortune. "L'examen imposé aux récipiendaires est de pure forme" [De la Cuisine, Hist. du Parl. I, 79 his source.] (p.185)
The positions in the évêché reserved to bourgeois were a frequent jumping off point for the parlementaires positions; "c'est la Chambre de Ville qui crée les notabilités urbaines." (p. 185) Some came from the administration of the other big towns of Burgundy; usually they'd spend time in over generations in offices there, when they moved up from merchant class. Few came from the country; "entre la vie villageoise et la vie noble, l'intermédiaire obligatoire fut la vie citadine." (p. 186)

191ff "Le patriciat fermé" The process of formation & reformation of the Burgundian nobility was gone through three times from 13th to 17th century, but with the final one, by the end of the 17th century the process was complete, "et la classe ~~deux~~ devient une caste." (p. 192). Social mobility had been rather quick in 15th and 16th centuries, but it slows down in the 17th. The stages become mostly mandatory "Il faut trois ou quatre générations pour parvenir de l'étude du procureur à la Grand-Chambre du Parlement." (192/3) Some very rich arrived rapidly; they "brûlent les étapes", (193).

193: In 18th century all seats in courts were ~~occupées~~ occupied by families established in dignities as if in patrimonial fiefs. "Le siège fleudelisé est devenu le bien patrimonial qu'on se transmet héréditairement, et pour on n'exige

plus ni la maturité de l'âge, (193/4) ni l'aptitude professionnelle. Les parlementaires de la fin du XVIIIe siècle ne sont plus ces vigoureux magistrats processifs et agressifs, qui, à l'époque de la Fronde, bataillaient etc."

On pp. 194-5 there are many quoteworthy statements about the degeneration of the 18th century parlementaires, ~~ending~~ ending with the statement that they had not been that way until recently, and by that meaning they were corrupted by the reign of Louis XIV. "Il faudra la Révolution pour rendre, aux énergies enfermées dans les foudres, le jeu libre, l'accès à la lumière et au pouvoir." (p. 195). Interesting are the details about the youth of the parlementaires, especially on the eve of the revolution; but he gives no source, and so it is very suspect. "Les titres sont la parure de jeunesse oisive. Ils ne récompensent plus des services." (p. 194).

Also, competition with the wealthy ceased, because these same parlementaires had all the wealth. "La noblesse parlementaire n'est plus qu'un patriciat fermé et impuissant. La ruine des Parlements est venue plus de la déchéance des caractères que de la rigueur des ministres." (p. 194).

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195-6, "Conclusion" On the difference between the legal, and ~~non~~ historical, differentiations of class which were not the valid ones of the time: the patriciat was distinguished by "l'habitude ~~des~~ du temps...et l'opinion populaire"-- a mysterious notion he doesn't really explain, it seems to me. Then on to explain the enigma, as set forth in the beginning of these notes. His ~~xxx~~ word seems to ~~xxx~~ be "qualité" as in "gens de qualité."--but he says that "bourgeoisie" is the safest term, "puisque tant d'honorables intéressés s'en sont tenus au mot et à la chose." The real power, then, is the fief they held in the countryside. "le siège de sa puissance et de son crédit."