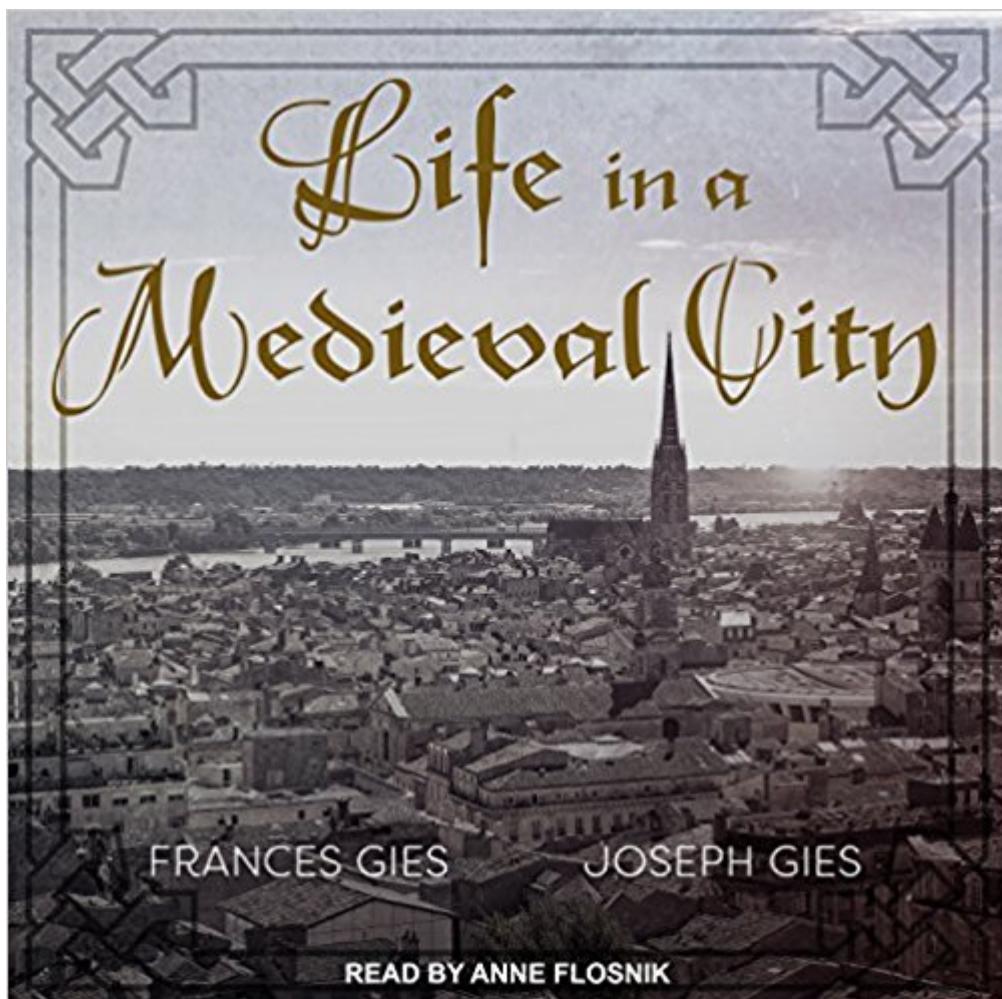


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# Life In A Medieval City



## Synopsis

Life in a Medieval City is the classic account of the year 1250 in the city of Troyes, in modern-day France. Acclaimed historians Frances and Joseph Gies focus on a high point of medieval civilization-before war and the Black Death ravaged Europe-providing a fascinating window into the sophistication of a period we too often dismiss as backward. Urban life in the Middle Ages revolved around the home, often a mixed-use dwelling for burghers with a store or workshop on the ground floor and living quarters upstairs. A developed economy, focusing on textiles, farming, and financial services, could be found in the town center, where craftsmen competed for business while adhering to the guilds' codes of conduct. There were schools for the children, though only boys could attend and the lessons were taught in Latin by a priest. The church was a hub of both religious and civic life; services were lively and filled with song, and baptisms and other special occasions brought neighbors together to celebrate. The weddings of wealthier townsfolk were lavish affairs full of song and dance and drinking that could sometimes last for weeks.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“ Some particular books I found useful for A Game of Thrones and its sequels deserve mention. . . . Life in a Medieval Castle and Life in a Medieval City, both by Joseph and Frances Gies.”  
---George R.R. Martin, author of the A Song of Ice and Fire series

Medieval history comes alive in Frances and Joseph Gies' Life in a Medieval City, used as a research resource by George R. R. Martin in creating the world of A Game of Thrones. Reissued for

the first time in decades, *Life in a Medieval City* is the classic account of the year 1250 in the city of Troyes, in modern-day France. Acclaimed historians Frances and Joseph Gies focus on a high point of medieval civilizationâ "before war and the Black Death ravaged Europeâ "providing a fascinating window into the sophistication of a period we too often dismiss as backward. Urban life in the Middle Ages revolved around the home, often a mixed-use dwelling for burghers with a store or workshop on the ground floor and living quarters upstairs. A developed economy, focusing on textiles, farming, and financial services, could be found in the town center, where craftsmen competed for business while adhering to the guildsâ™ codes of conduct. There were schools for the children, though only boys could attend and the lessons were taught in Latin by a priest. The church was a hub of both religious and civic life; services were lively and filled with song, and baptisms and other special occasions brought neighbors together to celebrate. The weddings of wealthier townsfolk were lavish affairs full of song and dance and drinking that could sometimes last for weeks.âœAn excellently written account of what is known of the life of medieval burghers.â•â "Library Journal --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I was looking for information on exactly this city during the 12th century and this book came very close to meeting that criteria. It helped me to imagine what characters living during this time would be influenced by. I was writing a short story that took place in Troyes back in 1185. This is one of the advantages of using , I can find books on any area of interest.

I absolutely love this book, and the other book by the Gies, *Life in a Medieval Castle*. Really informative, yet easy to read. A good sense of humor which never gets in the way splices the pages wonderfully. A true, well researched account of life, made easy for regular people to digest and enjoy. Divided into sections such as Trades, Home Life, and such, there is an amazing amount of detail. Seriously, go get this even if you're not interested in medieval history; it's a great coffee table/ bathroom/ traveling book. You can pick it up for five minutes, learn something, smile, and go about your day. Or you can sit down and finish the whole thing in one sitting, and still want to read it again. Just buy it

Great book!

We are using this book as part of our history curriculum this year. I'd bought a copy several years ago and just never got a chance to crack it open. I like the way the chapters are divided. It makes it

really easy to portion it out to go along with the different topics we'll be covering in our study of the Middle Ages. The wording might be a bit above the lower elementary grades but the subject matter could be easily explained because it's well-written and very easy for an older student or adult to understand.

This is one of the more pleasurable history books I've read ... probably my favorite book covering any topic in the Middle Ages. The Gies have a friendly writing style that makes you feel like they are your friends by the end of the book. That doesn't limit its educational value, though, which is full of useful, well-researched information. They successfully put together a package that makes one feel as though they are there. Read and enjoy!

Frances and Joseph Gies are experts in this field of study. They wrote a whole series of books on the middle ages, and I would tell you that if you study the middle ages, you need this book. It does not read like a text book. The whole series was wonderfully written, and if I could give it 10 stars I would. These books are a great resource to go to if you need to remind yourself of those little details that if you don't get right, they will mess you up.

I am not steeped in studies of history, but am writing a story and need background. This book was easy to read and clear in details. I like that authors' abilities so much that I may read something else they have written. I believe that this book might have wider appeal than to historians alone - that the ordinary reader might enjoy it.

A very nicely written piece of history. By splitting the different parts, work, politics, church into different chapters, it makes for a digestible format of what could be a lot of facts. Worth the read!

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