

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
Gift giving and reciprocity	5
Formal/informal, voluntary/involuntary	9
Informal support and credit	12
Themes and structure	13
Part I Social spaces and reciprocities	15
1 Parents and offspring	17
Parental investment	18
Unequal exchange	29
Gendered obligations	38
Conclusion	41
2 Networks of support	45
Kinship as a support system	47
Households and neighbourhoods	58
Patrons and friends	70
Conclusion	79
3 Parishes, guilds and associations	82
Informal parochial collections	84
Guilds as providers of welfare	95
Mutual aid societies	106
Conclusion	111
4 The charitable gift	113
Testamentary bequests	115
Lifetime gifts	122
Household charities	126
Associated philanthropy	134
Conclusion	140

vi	Contents	
	Part II The economy of giving	143
5	Cultivating the obligation to give	145
	Inheritance, gifts and the family bond	146
	Gifts, feasts and networks of trust	156
	Feasting and commensality in close-knit groups	169
	Controlling charitable gifts	180
	Conclusion	192
6	Honour and reputation	195
	The deference of written appeals	196
	Gift giving as status signals	205
	Displays of generosity	214
	Commemorating good deeds	227
	Conclusion	240
7	Discourses of giving	242
	Protestantism and the imperative to give	244
	Civility, liberality, reciprocity	255
	Funeral sermons, good works and gifts	261
	Conclusion	272
8	The perils of gifts	275
	Frustration, betrayal and the collapse of the family bond	276
	Spirals of resentment, insult and strife	286
	Cheating, abuse and the corruption of gifts	293
	Shame and humiliation	298
	Conclusion	304
	Part III The state, markets and gifts	307
9	Evolving boundaries	309
	Exclusionary practices and state control of mobility	310
	Dearth, plague and informal support	315
	Labour markets and migration to towns	321
	Conclusion	330
10	The invigoration of informal support	333
	State policies, gifts and networks of care	334
	The legal system and informal support	347
	Markets, consumerism and gifts	352
	Urban identities and beyond	366
	Conclusion	372
	Conclusion	376
	<i>Bibliography</i>	390
	<i>Index</i>	418