

THE HORSE TRADE OF TUDOR AND STUART ENGLAND



Horses played a vital role in the economy of pre-Industrial England. They acted as draught animals, pulled ploughs, waggons and coaches, worked machines, and transported goods around the country. As saddle animals they enabled their riders to carry out a wide variety of tasks, and at all levels of society they were regarded as status symbols in a unique relationship with man shared by no other animal.

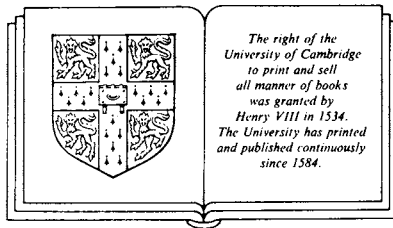
The Tudor and Stuart period was an important stage in the evolution of this relationship. Horses were needed in ever-growing numbers, and for a greater variety of tasks. As demand grew, improvements became necessary in the means of supply and distribution. This book is largely concerned with the latter aspect, namely the development of marketing institutions. The agents of change, the specialist dealers, were nominally condemned as roughtes and cheats, whose actions raised prices and caused shortages. Dr Edwards argues that, far from being generally unscrupulous, the dealers were no better or worse than those amongst whom they lived and worked.

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*For my mother and in memory of my father,
Alwyn Edwards*

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