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0521652391 - Defiled Trades and Social Outcasts: Honor and Ritual Pollution in Early Modern Germany

Kathy Stuart

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Defiled Trades and Social Outcasts

This book presents a social and cultural history of “dishonorable people” (*unehrliche Leute*), an outcast group in early modern Germany. Executioners, skinners, grave-diggers, shepherds, barber-surgeons, millers, linen-weavers, sow-gelders, latrine-cleaners, and bailiffs were among the “dishonorable” by virtue of their trades. This dishonor was either inherited, often through several generations, or it arose from ritual pollution whereby honorable citizens could become dishonorable by coming into casual contact with members of the outcast group.

The dishonorable milieu of the city of Augsburg from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century is reconstructed, to show the extent to which dishonor determined the life-chances and self-identity of dishonorable people. The book then approaches the study of honor from the outside in, by investigating how honorable estates interacted with dishonorable people, and how the pollution anxieties of early modern Germans structured social and political relations within honorable society.

KATHY STUART is Assistant Professor of History, University of California, Davis.

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Abbreviations

AHV	Archiv des Historischen Vereins
CM	Collegium Medicum
CM Prot.	Protokolle des Collegium Medicum
EWA	Evangelisches Wesensarchiv
GRP	Geheime Ratsprotokolle
HAP	Hochzeitsamt, Hochzeitsamtsprotokolle
<i>HDA</i>	<i>Handwörterbuch des deutschen Aberglaubens</i>
HHuStA	Haus-, Hof-, und Staatsarchiv (Vienna)
HWA	Handwerkerakten
Restitutiones	Restitutiones natalium ac legitimaciones
RP	Ratsprotokolle
StaatsAA	Staatsarchiv Augsburg
StadtA Munich	Stadtarchiv Munich
StadtAA	Stadtarchiv Augsburg
Stadtbed.	Stadtbedienstete
SStBA	Staats- und Stadtbibliothek Augsburg
Trauungsreg.	Trauungsregister
<i>ZHVS</i>	<i>Zeitschrift des historischen Vereins für Schwaben</i>

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Glossary

- Achtbuch* late medieval book of punishments
Bürgermeister mayor
Carnifex Latin: executioner
Ehelich legitimate
Ehrlich honorable
Ex opere operato Latin: by the act itself
Henkersknecht executioner's servant
Herrschaft lordship and domination
Malefizknecht, Malefizscherge police officer who deals with infamous prisoners
Nachtarbeiter “night-worker,” i.e. latrine cleaner
Nachtkönig “night-king,” i.e. chief latrine cleaner
Obrigkeit sovereign authorities
Pasquill insulting placard illegally displayed in a public place
Rechtlose lewte medieval outlaws
Sachsenspiegel mirror of the Saxons
Schwabenspiegel mirror of the Swabians
Stadtknecht bailiff
Stadtpir cone shaped civic symbol of Augsburg
Stadtrecht civic law code
Taubenreinheit “dove-like-purity”
Unehrlische Leute dishonorable people
Unehrllichkeit dishonor