

LADIES-IN-WAITING IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

Ladies-in-Waiting in Medieval England examines female attendants who served queens and aristocratic women during the late medieval period. Using a unique set of primary source-based statistics, Caroline Dunn reveals that the lady-in-waiting was far more than a pretty girl sewing in the queen's chamber while seeking to catch the eye of an eligible bachelor. Ladies-in-waiting witnessed major historical events of the era and were sophisticated players who earned significant rewards. They had both family and personal interests to advance – through employment they linked kin and court, and through marriage they built bridges between families. Whether royal or aristocratic, ladies-in-waiting worked within gendered spaces, building female-dominated social networks, while also operating within a masculine milieu that offered courtiers of both sexes access to power. Working from a range of sources wider than the subjective anecdote, Dunn presents the first scholarly treatment of medieval English ladies-in-waiting.

CAROLINE DUNN is Associate Professor of Medieval History at Clemson University, South Carolina. She is the author of *Stolen Women in Medieval England: Rape, Abduction, and Adultery c. 1110–1500*. She was awarded the Bonnie Wheeler Fellowship in 2020.

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CAROLINE DUNN

Clemson University



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For Paul, with love and gratitude

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Abbreviations

BL	British Library
CoA	College of Arms
CCR	<i>Calendar of the Close Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, 1272–1509</i> . 1892–1963. Reprint, Nendeln: Krauss, 1972
CChR	<i>Calendar of the Charter Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, 1226–1516</i> . London, HMSO, 1903–27
CPR	<i>Calendar of the Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, 1232–1578</i> . 1891–1963. Reprint, Nendeln: Krauss, 1972
CSP Spain	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Spain, 1485–1558</i> . London: HMSO, 1862–1954
CSP Venetian	<i>Calendar of State Papers Relating to English Affairs in the Archives of Venice, 1202–1675</i> . London: HMSO, 1864–1947
Howard Household	<i>Household Books of John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, 1462–1471, 1481–1483</i> . Ed. Anne Crawford. 2 vols. Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1992
Issue Roll	<i>Issue Roll of Thomas de Brantingham, Bishop of Exeter</i> . Trans. Frederick Devon. London: J. Rodwell, 1835
JRULM	John Rylands University Library, Manchester
L&P	<i>Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, 1509–1547</i> . London: HMSO, 1862–1932
Lisle Letters	<i>The Lisle Letters</i> . Ed. Muriel St. Clare Byrne. 6 vols. Chicago University Press, 1981
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
Paston Letters	<i>Paston Letters and Papers of the Fifteenth Century</i> . Ed. Norman Davis. 3 vols. 1971. Reprint, Early English Text Society Publications, s.s. 20, 21, 22, 2004–6

List of Abbreviations

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<i>Plumpton</i>	<i>The Plumpton Letters and Papers</i> . Ed. Joan Kirby. Camden Society, 5th ser. 8. Cambridge University Press, 1996
<i>Privy Purse</i>	<i>Privy Purse Expenses of Elizabeth of York: Wardrobe Accounts of Edward the Fourth</i> . Ed. Nicholas H. Nicolas. London: William Pickering, 1830
PROME	<i>The Parliament Rolls of Medieval England</i> . Ed. C. Given-Wilson <i>et al.</i> Internet version. www.sd-editions.com/PROME . Leicester, 2005
<i>Queen Isabella</i>	<i>The Household Book of Queen Isabella of England for the Fifth Regnal Year of Edward II, 8th July 1311 to 7 July 1312</i> . Ed. F. D. Blackley and Gustav Hermansen. Calgary: University of Alberta Press, 1971
<i>Receyt</i>	<i>The Receyt of the Ladie Katherine</i> . Ed. Gordon Kipling. Early English Text Society, 296. Oxford University Press, 1990
SJC	St John's College, Cambridge
SoA	Society of Antiquaries, London
<i>Stonor Letters</i>	<i>Kingsford's Stonor Letters and Papers, 1290–1483</i> . Ed. Christine Carpenter. Cambridge University Press, 1996
TNA	The National Archives (UK)