

## Patrimony and Law in Renaissance Italy

Family was a central feature of social life in Italian cities. In the Renaissance, jurists, humanists, and moralists began to theorize on the relations between people and property that formed the ‘substance’ of the family and what held it together over the years. Family property was a bundle of shared rights. This was most evident when brothers shared a household and enterprise, but it also faced overlapping claims from children and wives which the *paterfamilias* had to recognize. Thomas Kuehn explores patrimony in legal thought, and how property was inherited, managed and shared in Renaissance Italy. Managing a patrimony was not a simple task. This led to a complex and active conceptualization of shared rights, and a conscious application of devices in the law that could override liabilities and preserve the group, or carve out distinct shares for each member. This wide-ranging volume charts the ever-present conflicts that arose and were a constant feature of family life.

Thomas Kuehn is Emeritus Professor of History at Clemson University. His previous publications include five books, three of which have been published with Cambridge University Press. *Heirs, Kin, and Creditors in Renaissance Florence* (2008) was awarded the Marraro Prize of the American Historical Association for the best book on Italian history. He has also published numerous journal articles and book chapters and coedited two volumes of scholarly essays.

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Thomas Kuehn  
*Clemson University*



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