

Theodore R. Durguee Junior High School
Baldwinsville, New York

FIRST FACTS
about the
MIDDLE
AGES

Written by
FIONA MACDONALD

Created & Designed by
DAVID SALARIYA

PETER BEDRICK BOOKS

Editor: PENNY CLARKE
Artists: MARK BERGIN
JOHN JAMES
MARK PEPPE

Produced by
THE SALARIYA BOOK CO. LTD
25 Marlborough Place
Brighton BN1 1UB

Published by
PETER BEDRICK BOOKS
2112 Broadway
New York, NY 10023

© The Salaria Book Co. Ltd
MCMXCVII

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the copyright owner.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication
Data

Macdonald, Fiona.

First facts about the Middle Ages / written
by Fiona Macdonald; created & designed
by David Salaria.

p. cm. — (The first facts series)

Includes index.

Summary: Surveys the dwellings,
occupations, food, religion, festivals,
cathedrals, clothing, diseases, and customs
that prevailed in Europe during the Middle
Ages.

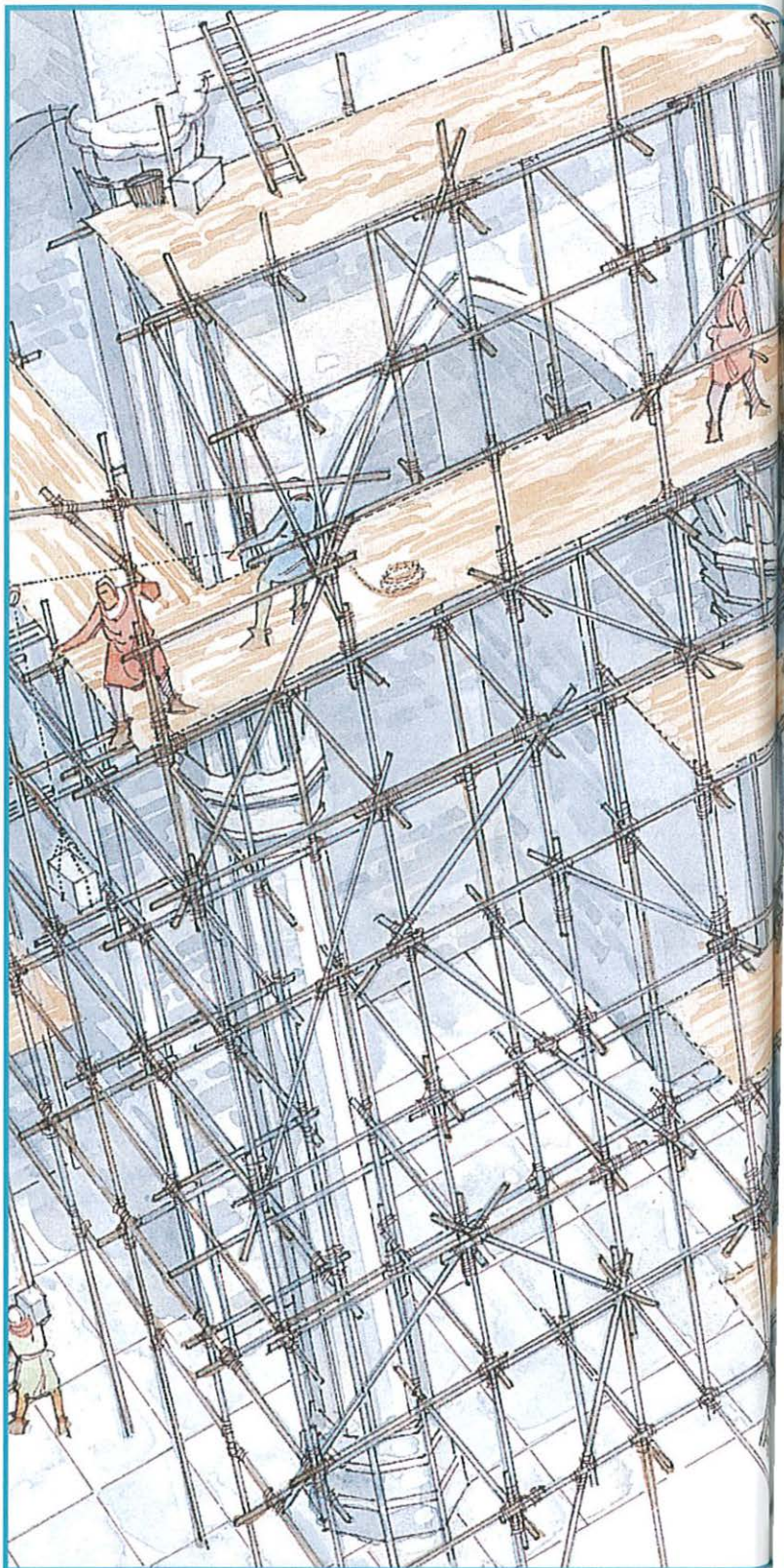
ISBN 0-87226-533-1

1. Middle Ages—History—Juvenile
literature. 2. Europe—History,—476-1492—
Juvenile literature. 3. Civilization, Medieval—
Juvenile literature. [1. Middle Ages—
History. 2. Europe—History,—476-1492.
3. Civilization, Medieval.]

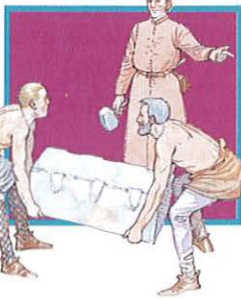
I. Salaria, David. II. Title. III. Series:
First facts (Peter Bedrick Books)
D118.M23 1997
940.1—dc21

97-7208
CIP
AC

First edition, 1997
Printed in Hong Kong.



FACT: IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS TO LEARN A TRADE



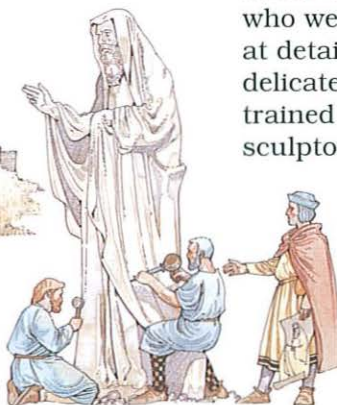
ARCHITECTS designed fine buildings like castles and cathedrals.



MASONS used heavy mallets and chisels to cut stone blocks into shape.



APPRENTICES and journeymen mixed sand, lime and water to make mortar.



STONE-WORKERS who were skilled at detailed, delicate work trained as sculptors.

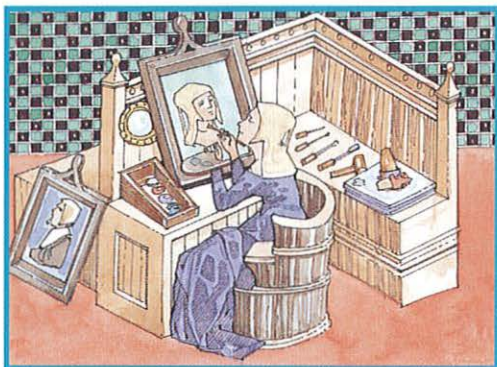
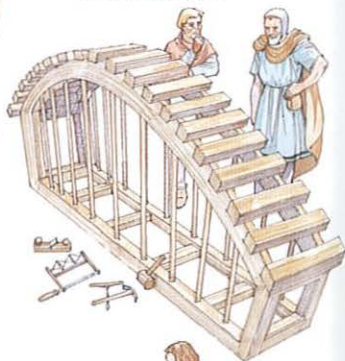
IN THE MIDDLE AGES almost everything, from delicate jewelry to lumbering farm carts, was made by hand. Medieval craftsmen and women were highly skilled.

Crafts took many years to learn. Boys (and a few girls) became apprentices when they were 7 or 8 years old. They went to live with a master-craftsman and his wife. The craftsman agreed to teach them his skills, to feed and clothe them. In return, the apprentices helped in the craftsman's workshop. After about seven years, apprentices became 'journeymen' – fully trained workers. Later, they might make a masterpiece to qualify as a master. Then they could open their own workshops.



BLACKSMITHS made and repaired iron objects, like tools and cooking-pots. Specially skilled metalworkers might become locksmiths.

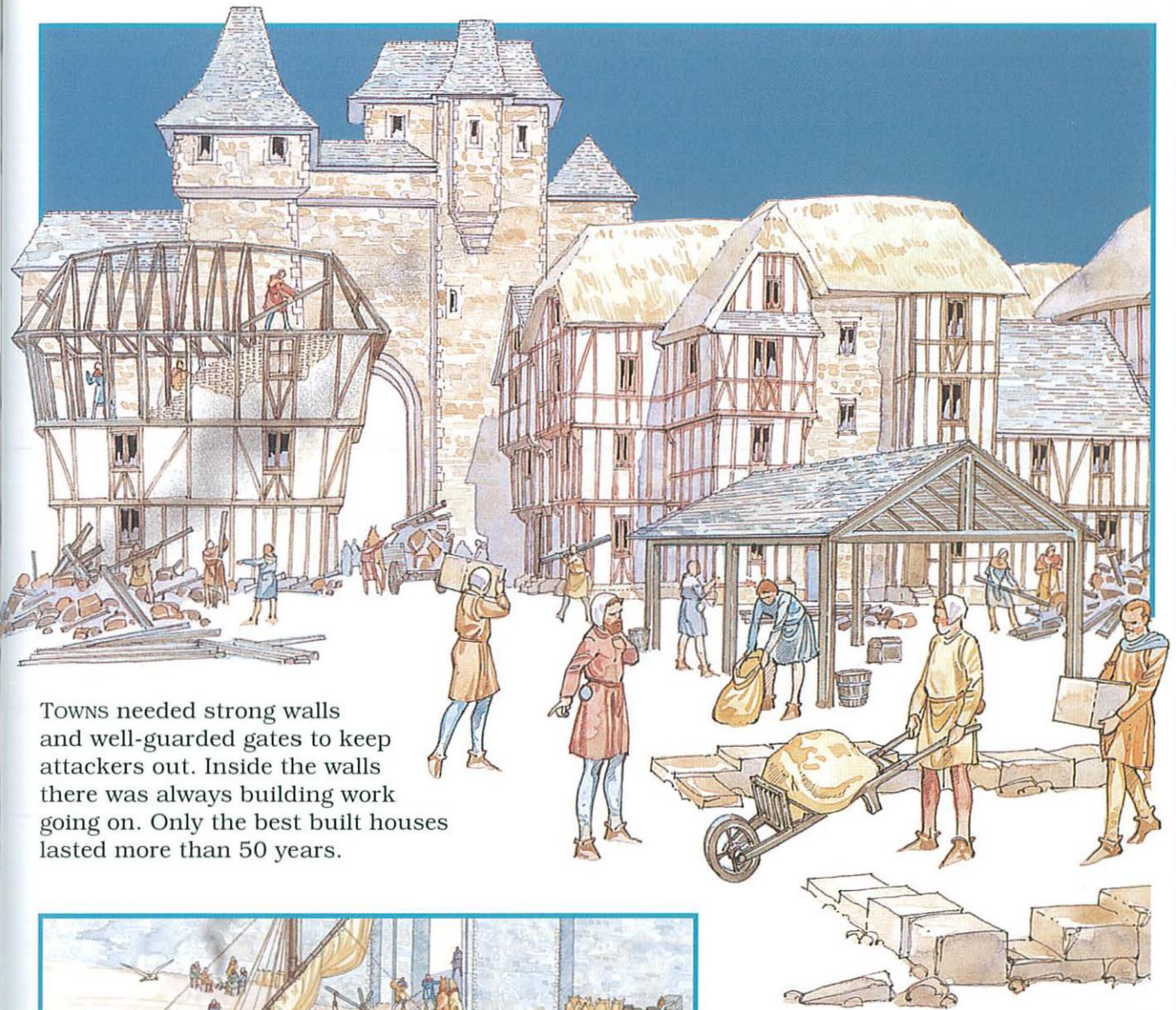
CARPENTERS (right) making a wooden frame to prop up a partly finished arch.



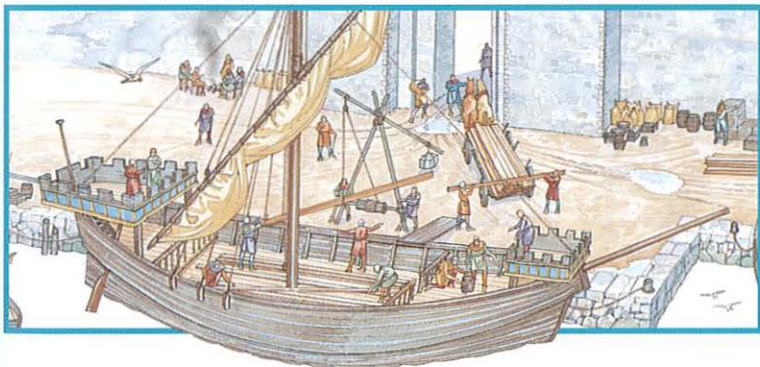
A FEW MEN AND WOMEN made a living as artists (left). They painted holy pictures on church walls and portraits, too.

GLAZIERS made stained glass windows by joining small pieces of colored glass with lead strips to make the design – usually a biblical scene.





Towns needed strong walls and well-guarded gates to keep attackers out. Inside the walls there was always building work going on. Only the best built houses lasted more than 50 years.



THE richest towns were usually centers of international trade, with a busy sea or riverside port.

SHIPS were the best way to carry heavy loads. Water transport was slow, but easier and safer than by land.

MEDIEVAL merchant ships were built with deep, rounded hulls to provide plenty of space for cargo.

Facts about Crafts:

Medieval towns were very small. Most had populations of less than 1000. But even so, you could find many crafts and trades, from weavers and dyers to candle-makers, tailors and goldsmiths.

Often there was little space inside the town's walls for new houses, so town houses were built several stories high. Many of the houses had shops, warehouses and work-rooms on the ground floor.