

Wills and Inventories

Glossary and Notes

- Agricultural wages – 4d per day in 1500, 8d per day in 1600, 12d per day in 1650, 16-18d per day in 1750.
- A priest's salary or stipend - £6 per year in 1530.
- A coomb of wheat = 18 stone; a coomb of barley = 16 stone.
- Meslyn is a mixture of wheat and rye.
- Indulgence – “a grant of remission of the temporal punishment in purgatory”.
- Scala Coeli – an indulgence based on a mass in an abbey just outside Rome; first introduced into England in 1500 and widely popular by 1520.

Limitations of Inventories

- Only a small proportion of the population made wills – those with over £5 of property to bequeath.
- Many wills and inventories have not survived.
- A will may simply state “I leave all my worldly goods and possessions to and make him my executor”.
- Inventories may have been under-valued.