A LANDMARK HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN LONDON

THE REGISTER OF THE GOLDSMITHS’ COMPANY

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The deeds, along with wills which bequeathed property, reveal much about the precise location of properties and their inhabitants and help to present a social history of the time. For instance, charitable purposes were often the reason for monies or property bequeathed to the Goldsmiths, sometimes of an educational nature, or of almsgiving to the poor, or for the training and support of young goldsmiths and silversmiths. Many documents concern women, either acting solely in their own name or jointly with a husband, sometimes also appearing as daughters or sisters, and ample evidence appears of how much better their legal position was during the Middle Ages than it became later.

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- An introductory survey of property holding and property conveyancing in the Middle Ages in England, with an explanation of the types and varieties of deeds met with in the Register.
- Includes many notes that will guide readers and researchers to other documents in the archives of the Goldsmiths’ Company as well as to published sources.

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