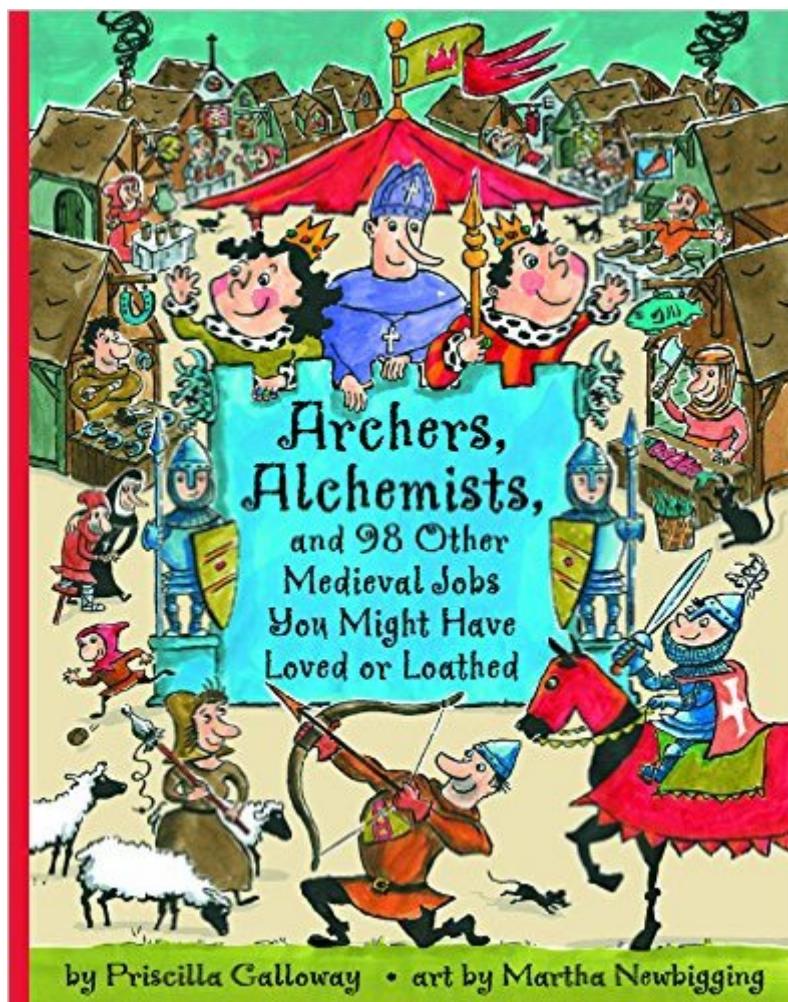


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# Archers, Alchemists: And 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved Or Loathed (Jobs In History)



## Synopsis

This book allows us to explore a popular fantasy. If we could go back in time to the Middle Ages, what would we want to be? A knight in shining armor? A princess in a silken gown? Most people's lives were far less glamorous but just as fascinating. Barbers cut off beards ... and sickly limbs; gong farmers cleaned out latrines ... and sorted through the excrement for dropped buttons or pennies. This fascinating and original guide presents 100 careers, described with historical accuracy and the author's renowned wit! Sidebars expound on intriguing elements of medieval life, including the Bayeux Tapestry, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, medieval cosmetics, and torture techniques! The art provides the reader with further opportunities to have fun and learn.

## Book Information

Series: Jobs in History

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Age Range: 9 - 11 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

On the plus-side, the author does have a lot of interesting details on various medieval jobs. Everything is covered from "Bread and Butter Jobs" such as butchers and bakers, through artistic and religious jobs. On the down-side, though, the author does at times show a surprising ignorance of her subject. For example, the first paragraph of the first section says, "The Roman Empire was kaput, finished, done. Vandals burned the ancient city of Rome..." In point of fact, this only marks the end of the \*Western\* Roman Empire. The Eastern Roman Empire (they never referred to themselves as the Byzantine Empire) continued for another 1000 years. She further states that it

was Arab countries that had "preserved records from Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome." Again, obviously not knowing that much of what Western Europe received of these records came from Eastern Roman lands. She goes on to state that, "Spain, an Islamic country for 700 years, was wonderfully tolerant of different religious views, though Christianity eventually put an end to that." If the author and her family had to live in Andalusia Spain as dhimmis, subject to punitive Jizya taxes, judicial murder (see the Martyrs of Cordoba), and even pogroms (including the Muslim anti-Jewish pogroms in Cordoba (1011) and Granada (1066), not to mention the massacre of Cordoba's Jews in 1148), she might have felt different. Don't get me wrong, too much of what happened in "Christian" Europe was too horrifying for words, but nonetheless that does not make her above statement true. So, while I did like parts of this book, I do not think that that it is a good one, and I do NOT recommend it.

This is a real gem. It wasn't in my original stash of medieval books, but now I consider this as a must have. It has a great summary in the beginning about the basic facts of medieval history in Europe (including a timeline) and explains why most history books fall short of giving us the big picture. I love how the jobs are categorized in a logical manner, and I further appreciate that it includes a very thorough index. Whether reading bits of this book in order, or whether referring to it while reading literature like Canterbury Tales, Robin Hood, etc., this has a plethora of valuable information presented in a witty and interesting way. I really believe this book can go far in extending students' understanding and appreciation of history (and modern times!). I will be collecting any other books in this series that I can find!

Fun book to read about the Medieval times. My children like all the books in this series and use it to go spring board deeper learning in jobs that fascinate them.

This is a great book! It makes understanding the middle ages, the people, the lives of the peasantry and others much easier for children. Excellent information in a simple, even silly (all the better!) style. Highly recommended for a basic understanding of medieval roles -- even for grown-ups.

I used this series of books for a quick and easy reference guide in case there was a little detail I couldn't remember or wasn't sure about. These do the trick!

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