

Monday 18.30 to 19.30

Bramber House Conference Centre, Second Floor

Reception sponsored by **Brepols Publishers** and launch of the first volume in the series, *Rural Economy and Society in NorthWestern Europe, 500–2000: Social Relations, Property and Power* – **Bas van Bavel** and **Richard Hoyle** (eds), in collaboration with Stefan Brakensiek, Piet van Cruyningen, Christopher Dyer, Mats Morell and Nadine Vivier.

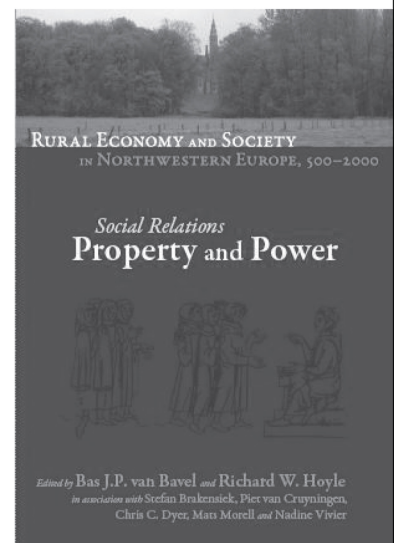
RURAL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IN NORTH WESTERN EUROPE, 500-2000

Social Relations Property and Power

Edited by **Bas J. P. VAN BAVEL** and **Richard W. HOYLE**
in association with Stefan BRAKENSIEK, Piet VAN CRUYNINGEN,
Chris C. DYER, Mats MORELL and Nadine VIVIER

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The organization of society formed a crucial element in the remarkable development of the countryside in the North Sea area in the last 1500 years. Vital questions are: Who owned the land? Who gained the profits from its exploitation? How was the use of rural resources controlled and changed? These questions have no simple answers, because the land has been subjected to competing claims, varying from region to region. In early times peasants mostly possessed and worked their holdings, but lords took much of the produce, and had the ultimate control over the land. In more recent times the occupiers and cultivators gained stronger rights over their farms. Neither lords nor peasants were free agents because communities governed the use of common lands. In the highly urbanized North Sea region towns and townspeople had much and increasing influence over the countryside. Change came from within society, for example from the tension and negotiation between lords and peasants, and the growing importance of the state and its policies. The volume also looks at the interaction between society and external changes, such as the rise and fall of the market, trends in population, and European integration.



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