

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-86448-0 - Crime and Justice in Late Medieval Italy
Trevor Dean
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CRIME AND JUSTICE IN LATE MEDIEVAL ITALY

In this important new study, Trevor Dean examines the history of crime and criminal justice in Italy from the mid-thirteenth to the end of the fifteenth century. The book contains studies of the most frequent types of prosecuted crime such as violence, theft and insult, along with the rarely prosecuted sorcery and sex crimes. Drawing on a diverse and innovative range of sources, including legislation, legal opinions, prosecutions, chronicles and works of fiction, Dean demonstrates how knowledge of the history of criminal justice can illuminate our wider understanding of the Middle Ages. Issues and instruments of criminal justice reflected the structure and operation of state power; they were an essential element in the evolution of cities and they provided raw material for fictions. Furthermore, the study of judicial records provides insight into a wide range of social situations, from domestic violence to the oppression of ethnic minorities.

TREVOR DEAN is Professor of Medieval History at Roehampton University. His recent publications include *Crime in Medieval Europe* (2001) and *The Towns of Italy in the Later Middle Ages* (2000), and he has written numerous articles on crime and justice in late medieval Bologna.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-86448-0 - Crime and Justice in Late Medieval Italy
Trevor Dean
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CRIME AND JUSTICE IN LATE MEDIEVAL ITALY

TREVOR DEAN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-86448-0 - Crime and Justice in Late Medieval Italy
Trevor Dean
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo
Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521864480
© Trevor Dean 2007

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-86448-0 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external
or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any
content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86448-0 - Crime and Justice in Late Medieval Italy

Trevor Dean

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*In memory of
Philip Jones,
1921–2006*

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page viii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	ix
Introduction	I
PART ONE: SOURCES	
1 Trial records	17
2 Chronicles	52
3 Fiction	72
4 Statute law	84
5 <i>Consilia</i>	95
PART TWO: DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS	
6 Insult and revenge	113
7 Sex crimes	135
8 Potions and poisons	155
9 Violence	168
10 Theft	182
Conclusion	200
<i>Bibliography</i>	204
<i>Index</i>	221

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to the following institutions for providing the funding and/or time that enabled this book to be researched and written: the Leverhulme Trust, for a Research Fellowship; the British Academy, for a Small Research Grant; and the School of Arts, Roehampton University, for a sabbatical semester. The archives and libraries in Bologna, Lucca, Modena, Reggio and Savona provided their usual efficient and helpful services. David Chambers kindly gave me access to some material from Mantua. Sarah Blanshei helpfully discussed with me criminal justice in Bologna. I would also like to thank Dr Stephen Bowd, Dr Fiona McHardy and Dr Magnus Ryan for kindly reading and commenting on various chapters of this book. The anonymous Cambridge University Press reviewer also made some useful comments, for which I am grateful.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the footnotes for references to archives in Italy:

ASBo	Archivio di Stato, Bologna
ASLu	Archivio di Stato, Lucca
ASMn	Archivio di Stato, Mantua
ASMo	Archivio di Stato, Modena
ASPi	Archivio di Stato, Pisa
ASRe	Archivio di Stato, Reggio Emilia