

Gender, Sex and Culture
Dr. Leanna Wolfe

Spring 2016

Quiz #14

Marriage, A History: ch. 6

Aristocratic Marriages in Early Medieval Europe

1. T/F Byzantine rulers often selected their wives at a “bride show.”
2. T/F Byzantine rulers did not need to enter political marriages to consolidate their power.
3. Who were the eunuchs in the Byzantine world and what roles did they play?
4. T/F Wives played the role of *peace weavers* in Germanic and Viking societies.
5. Why was the practice of polygamy valuable to rulers in the early Middle Ages?
6. Why did medieval kings need to produce plenty of sons?
 - a. rivals would be tempted to assassinate the king if he lacked an heir
 - b. some sons might not be interested in becoming kings
 - c. young men suffered high death rates in war
 - d. young men were likely to die in hunting accidents
 - e. some sons might not be loyal to their fathers
7. T/F Having too many heirs to the throne could be as much of a problem as having too few.
8. T/F The medieval Catholic Church imposed monogamy on its followers for political reasons.
9. What were Christianity’s matrimonial principles?
 - a. prohibited polygamy
 - b. restricted divorce
 - c. banned homosexuality
 - d. limited remarriage
 - e. required pre-marital virginity
10. T/F Aristocratic families pressed for church endorsement of their own matrimonial arrangements.
11. T/F The salacious details of marital disputes in the Middle Ages were kept private.
12. What sort of test was used to determine whether someone had been an adulterer?

13. Why did medieval kings continue to carry on affairs (and father additional children) once they were married?

14. How was incest defined during the medieval period?

15. T/F When women in medieval Europe married they would lose control of their property.

Marriage, A History: ch. 7
Marriage Among the Common Folk of the Middle Ages

1. T/F For the first eight centuries of its existence the church did not impose rules or expectations for how the lower classes should conduct their marriages.

2. T/F Medieval peasant families considered childlessness to be grounds for taking a new mate.

3. T/F Medieval women were typically penniless following a divorce.

4. T/F In the early Middle Ages most clergymen did not take vows of celibacy.

5. T/F In the 12th century the church held that a marriage was valid if it was entered by mutual consent and sealed by engaging in sexual intercourse.

6. What did proper marriages in the 13th century involve?

7. T/F Secret weddings became commonplace in the 13th century.

8. T/F Clandestine (secret) weddings were not considered to be valid by the medieval church.

9. Under what conditions were medieval couples free to remarry?

- a. a spouse had engaged in spiritual fornication
- b. the marriage was annulled
- c. a spouse was found to have engaged in extreme cruelty
- d. a spouse had engaged in adultery
- e. a wife had failed to produce an heir

10. How was a man's impotence (in order to secure an annulment) assessed?

11. How was prior *consent* used to get maneuver out of one marriage (and into another)?

12. T/F Feudal lords had the right to deflower the daughters of their serfs.
13. T/F Feudal lords could prevent their serfs from marry a partner from another manor.
14. Sexually active unmarried women were required to: (select those that apply)
 - a. pay a fine for each out of wedlock child they produced
 - b. take regular STD tests
 - c. pay a fine for each time they had sex
 - d. wear a scarlet A, to signify that they'd practiced adultery.
15. T/F It was rare for a peasant man or woman to carve a life out as an independent single person.
16. T/F The geography of village life made marriage a very public matter.
17. T/F There were social as well as economic reasons that dictated choice for mates and in-laws.
18. How were previously born children incorporated into a couple's subsequent marriage ceremony?
19. T/F Women who did not marry the out-wedlock fathers of their children were considered damaged goods.
20. T/F In medieval peasant society marriage (and not childbirth) marked the transition into adulthood.
21. T/F When medieval women married their legal standing would become restricted, while for men, theirs would be expanded.
22. T/F Merchant families used marriage alliances to raise capital and build business networks.
23. How did untimely deaths affect peasant marriages?
24. How did the church's doctrine of mutual consent affect marriage choice?
25. T/F Women's memoirs and letters were unlikely to be published if they were critical of their husbands or fathers.
26. T/F In the Middle Ages women were thought to be the lustier sex.