

Artisans and Craftsmen in Famagusta in the Notarial Deeds of Lamberto di Sambuceto and Giovanni da Rocha, 1296-1310

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This communication will examine the references to artisans and craftsmen in the notarial deeds of two Genoese notaries living and working in Famagusta in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century, when the town, the chief port of the Lusignan kingdom of Cyprus and a major *entrepôt* in the international carrying trade, was growing rapidly. Artisans and craftsmen, who included carpenters, cutlers, drapers, farriers, dyers, mercers, tailors, spinners, shearers of cloth, caulkers and furriers frequently figure in the deeds of merchants operating in Famagusta as witnesses, but also on occasion as lenders, borrowers, purchasers, sellers and testators. The deeds offer information on the professions they were engaged in, their religious affiliation, ethnic origin and relations, familial or commercial, with members of their own particular community, members of other communities, and with members of social classes other than their own, such as merchants, slaves and court officers. The notarial deeds of the above mentioned notaries have been used to-date, understandably, mostly to cull information on the merchants and their activities in Lusignan Famagusta. This communication, however, aims to redress the balance and focus on a social group hitherto overshadowed by the wealthier and more prominent merchant classes.