Ban and Arrière Ban: Tales of Scottish Chivalry

The ban and arrière ban were two interconnected systems of military service that formed the backbone of the Scottish military system during the Middle Ages. These systems were based on the feudal concept of feudalism, which obligated vassals to provide military service to their lords in exchange for land and protection.



Ban and Arriere Ban by Andrew Lang

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 191 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Print length : 117 pages Lending : Enabled Paperback : 73 pages

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Hardcover : 384 pages



The Ban

The ban was the more elite of the two systems, and it consisted of the king's feudal tenants-in-chief, who were the most powerful nobles in the kingdom. These tenants-in-chief were obligated to provide a certain number of men-at-arms to the king's army, and they were also responsible for leading their men into battle.

The size of the ban varied depending on the size of the kingdom and the number of tenants-in-chief. In the 13th century, the Scottish ban consisted of about 1,000 men-at-arms, but it grew to over 2,000 men-at-arms by the 15th century.

The ban was a formidable fighting force, and it played a major role in Scottish military successes during the Middle Ages. The ban fought at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and the Battle of Otterburn in 1388.

The Arrière Ban

The arrière ban was the less elite of the two systems, and it consisted of the king's feudal sub-tenants, who were the lesser nobles and freeholders in the kingdom. These sub-tenants were obligated to provide a certain number of foot soldiers to the king's army, and they were also responsible for leading their men into battle.

The size of the arrière ban varied depending on the size of the kingdom and the number of sub-tenants. In the 13th century, the Scottish arrière ban consisted of about 10,000 foot soldiers, but it grew to over 20,000 foot soldiers by the 15th century.

The arrière ban was a less formidable fighting force than the ban, but it still played an important role in Scottish military successes during the Middle Ages. The arrière ban fought at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and the Battle of Otterburn in 1388.

The Role of Ban and Arrière Ban in Scottish Society

The ban and arrière ban played a vital role in Scottish society during the Middle Ages. These systems provided the king with a standing army that could be used to defend the kingdom from invasion and to suppress rebellions.

The ban and arrière ban also helped to maintain social order in Scotland. The obligation to provide military service created a sense of responsibility and loyalty among the Scottish nobility and freeholders.

The ban and arrière ban were eventually abolished in the 17th century, as the Scottish military system was modernized. However, these systems left a lasting legacy on Scottish society, and they continue to be remembered as a symbol of Scottish chivalry.

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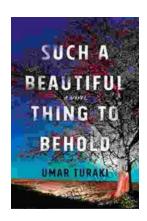
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