typicality.” I remain convinced that the Saulx-Tavanes did not act very differently from other court nobles. The pressures and norms that guided or limited their actions were those of their milieu. Understanding this in sufficient depth, one does not need excessive determinism to conclude that there must have been other Saulx-Tavanes.

Finally, this book is not only a “study”; it is also a story. I hope that, despite digressions on various special problems in the social and economic history of France in this period, the central theme remains intact and visible. My purpose has been to blend narrative and analysis. The reader will be the judge of whether this goal has been achieved.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A. D. for Archives Départementales, Côte d'Or; series letter and bundle number to follow (e.g., A. D., E-1748).

Other departmental archives will be cited as A. D., followed by the name of the department and the bundle number.