

The City Government of Strasbourg, 1485

City Council (Senate & XXI = Small Council):

- Ammeister: (6 presiding in annual rotation; also in XXI)
- Stettmeisters: (4 patricians, members of the XXI)
- The XXI: XV for domestic affairs + XIII for foreign affairs + 1-2 others
- Senators: noble patricians (10) + guildsmen (20) (elected for 2-year terms; ½ changed each January)

Powers: practical sovereignty; as a free city, Strasbourg pays no homage or taxes to the emperor; as an Imperial estate, it sends envoys to the Cities Chamber of the Imperial Diet, in which it has a seat and vote and consents to laws and taxes. The Senate, sitting separately (without the XXI), possess high (capital) justice over a considerable region.

Patrician Societies [Constoffeln]:

Old lineages; most are formally noble and eligible for knighthood and Imperial fiefs; organized into two societies [Constoffeln], which function as exclusive social clubs. At Strasbourg the social division between patricians and wealthy non-nobles is quite weak, but patricians are forbidden to engage in trade.

Schöffen & Amman (Assembly):

- Ruling Ammeister
- 300 Schöffen = 15 members each of the 20 guilds

Powers: Meets at Ammeister's call; can only approve or reject his proposition

Guilds:

the (20) Guilds, each ruled by a Guild Court of 15 masters of the guild's crafts, who are coopted for life, and who govern all craft and guild affairs. The guilds range in size from about 300 (the Gardeners) down to about 30 masters; each has its own guild hall, where the crafts are regulated (wages, product quality, sales, etc.). Some guilds consist mainly of merchants, some of artisans, some of agricultural occupations; most are socially mixed.

Commune:

(about 3,000) adult males possessing rights of citizenship; eligible for office at 25 if married, at 30 if single

Obligations: civic taxes; militia duty; loyalty to commune, obedience to magistrates; service in offices if elected or coopted.