

Scholars and Literati at the University of Dole (1422–1691)

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This note is a summary description of the set of scholars and literati who taught at the University of Dole from its inception in 1422 to its transfer to Besançon in 1691.

1 THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Dole was established in 1422 by the Duke of Burgundy, Philippe le Bon (Philip the Good), in the capital of the region of Franche-Comté, namely Dole. The Holy Roman Emperor Othon IV conceived the idea of creating this university at the beginning of the thirteenth century. It is one of the oldest universities in France, together with the universities of Paris, Toulouse, and Montpellier. It was a small university with a strong faculty of law, attracting well-known professors from Italy and the Spanish Netherlands (today's Western Germany, Southern Netherlands, Northern France, and Belgium). However, because of multiple conflicts, diminishing resources, and the opening of a competitor for the law faculty, the University of Dijon, the University of Dole lost its reputation. At the end of the seventeenth century, the King of France, Louis XV, moved the capital of Franche-Comté and its university to Besançon (50km from Dole). The University of Dole was reestablished there, and renamed University of Besançon in 1691.

2 SOURCES

The history of the University of Dole is well documented. There are several sources from which we retrieved useful information about the scholars who taught there. The sources that correspond to our observation window and were used to build our dataset consist mainly of the following two books: Lavillat (1977), Beaune and d'Arbaumont (1870). We also added a few scholars to our data collection based on a variety of different sources, which consist of the following books and articles: Guénée (1981), Fourquet (1976), Michaud (1811), Applebaum (2003), Arabeyre, Halpérin, and Krynen (2007), Taisand (1721), de Feller (1783), Aschbach (1865), De Curzon (1919), and Labbey de Billy (1814).

3 SOME STATISTICS

Table 1 provides information regarding some descriptive statistics. The sample consists of 263 scholars and literati, spanning the period from the foundation of the university to its transfer to Besançon. The proportion of people with a known year of birth is relatively low due to the large number of obscure scholars documented. However, the percentage of scholars with a known date of birth increases over time, hence allowing to compute both the mean age at death and the mean age at appointment on a more representative sample. The same situation holds concerning the mean age at death, which has an increasing trend from 1527 to 1733, reaching its highest value, 73.5, between 1686 and 1733. Furthermore, we observe considerable growth in the life expectancy conditional on surviving until the age of 30 over time. In addition, although the mean age at death seems to rise sharply in the last two centuries of our analysis, the same does not hold for the mean age at appointment, which has a downward trend. The life expectancy conditional on living at least until

Period		nb.	% birth year	mean age	mean age	life exp.
Start	End	obs	known	at appoint.	at death	at 30
1348	1449	8	0			
1450	1526	58	10.3	29.8	67.5	63.5
1527	1617	143	13.3	33.3	59.2	56.5
1618	1685	50	16	32.5	64.6	60.5
1686	1733	4	50	32	73.5	89
1200	1800	263	13.3	32,2	62.9	65.1
		% birth place	median distance	% with	% with	
		known	birth-institution	Wikipedia	Worldcat	
1348	1449	12.5	128	0	0	
1450	1526	24.1	191	8.6	13.8	
1527	1617	44.1	191	5.6	17.5	
1618	1685	48	146	8	24	
1686	1733	25	103	25	25	
1200	1800	39.2	179	6.8	17.5	

Table 1: Summary statistics by period

30 remains around 60 years, precisely at 65.1 and corresponds to the overall estimate in the Holy Roman Empire (Stelter, De la Croix, and Myrskylä (2021)).

Table 1 also presents the places of birth of the scholars and literati, as well as the median distance between their birthplaces and the University of Dole. It also shows the share for each century of those who left a footprint either on Wikipedia or Worldcat. The proportion of individuals whose places of birth are known increases significantly from 12.5% when the University of Dole was established to 48% in the years before the University of Dole moved to Besançon. Furthermore, the share of scholars that left a footprint on Wikipedia or Worldcat reaches 25% in the seventeenth century. Finally, the overall coverage of the places of birth is 39.2% and thus mediocre. The median distance between the scholars' birthplaces and the institution is relatively high. It is precisely 179km across the full sample, with scholars from Italy and the Spanish Netherlands.

4 FIELDS

Figure 1 presents the dominant position that the faculties of law, theology, and medicine held in the early modern universities in Europe. The University of Dole was famous for its canon law and civil law faculty. It caught the eye of many highly reputed international scholars in law, like Anselme de Marenches and Nicolas Belloni. However, in the same faculty, there were also scholars who taught French and public law (Lavillat 1977). Regarding the field of humanities, according to Beaune and d'Arbaumont (1870), some professors taught philosophy, Hebrew, and Greek. There is no faculty for sciences such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, etc. Finally, the highest percentage of scholars are documented in the faculty of law, approximately 50%.

5 PLACE OF BIRTH

Figure 2 shows the different places where the active scholars at the University of Dole were born, by period. During its early years, the majority of scholars were born around Dole, in places in or around the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region. Concerning the first period, there were also scholars whose birthplaces were in the southeastern part of France, close to the border with Italy. In the period 1527–1617, the median distance between the scholars' birthplaces and the University of Dole remained stable compared to the period 1450–1526. However, scholars' birthplaces spread to central and south Italy, as well as to the Spanish Netherlands. In the seventeenth century, the birthplaces

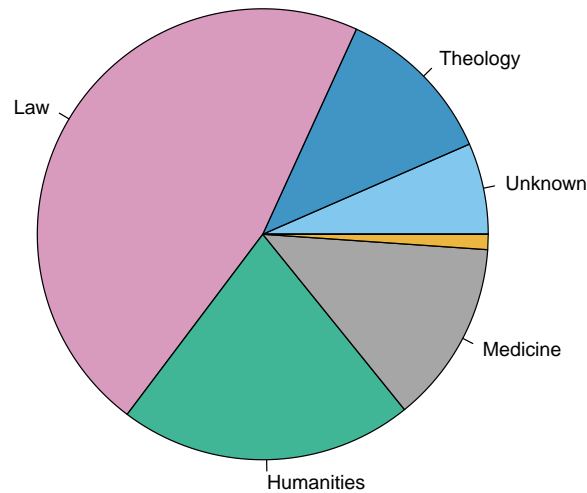


Figure 1: Broad fields at the University of Dole

were scattered, and the share of long distances dramatically decreased (see also Table 1).

6 HUMAN CAPITAL OF SCHOLARS AND LITERATI

For each person in the database, we compute a heuristic human capital index, identified by combining information from Worldcat and Wikipedia using principal component analysis. We also compute the notability of the university at each date by averaging the human capital of the scholars active in Dole 25 years before that date. The details are given in any issue of RETE from volumes 1–5. Figure 3 shows the names of all the scholars with a positive human capital index.

The orange line displays the notability of the university, based on how well published its top scholars were. The pattern that emerges is that of a weak university. There are very few scholars with a relatively high human capital index, such as Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, Charles Dumoulin, and Mercurino Arborio di Gattinara. Moreover, when comparing this graph with that of other universities, the scale of the vertical axis is different. Precisely, here the range is (0,10), while for top universities it is (0,14) to accommodate several scholars with an index between 6 and 14. In general, from the creation of the University of Dole until the beginning of the sixteenth century, there were many obscure professors who left few or no publications at all. When the university started attracting international scholars from Italy and the Spanish Netherlands around 1600, it seems that notability of the university grew.

7 TOP 5 PROFESSORS

We now provide a brief overview of the five professors with the highest human capital index.

Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim (Cologne 1486 – Grenoble 1535) was a renowned German scholar whose knowledge spanned a significant number of subjects. He studied at the University of Cologne, where he graduated with a Master’s of Arts at the early age of 16 years old. He started his academic career at the University of Dole in 1509 after traveling in Europe. His first work led people to see him as an early feminist and he acquired enemies over the years with his lectures and publications, as he was considered a heretic. After being expelled from the University of Dole in 1510, he taught at the University of Cologne and at the University of Pavia. Among his publications, the most famous are "De nobilitate et praecellentia foeminei sexus" and "De occulta philosophia."

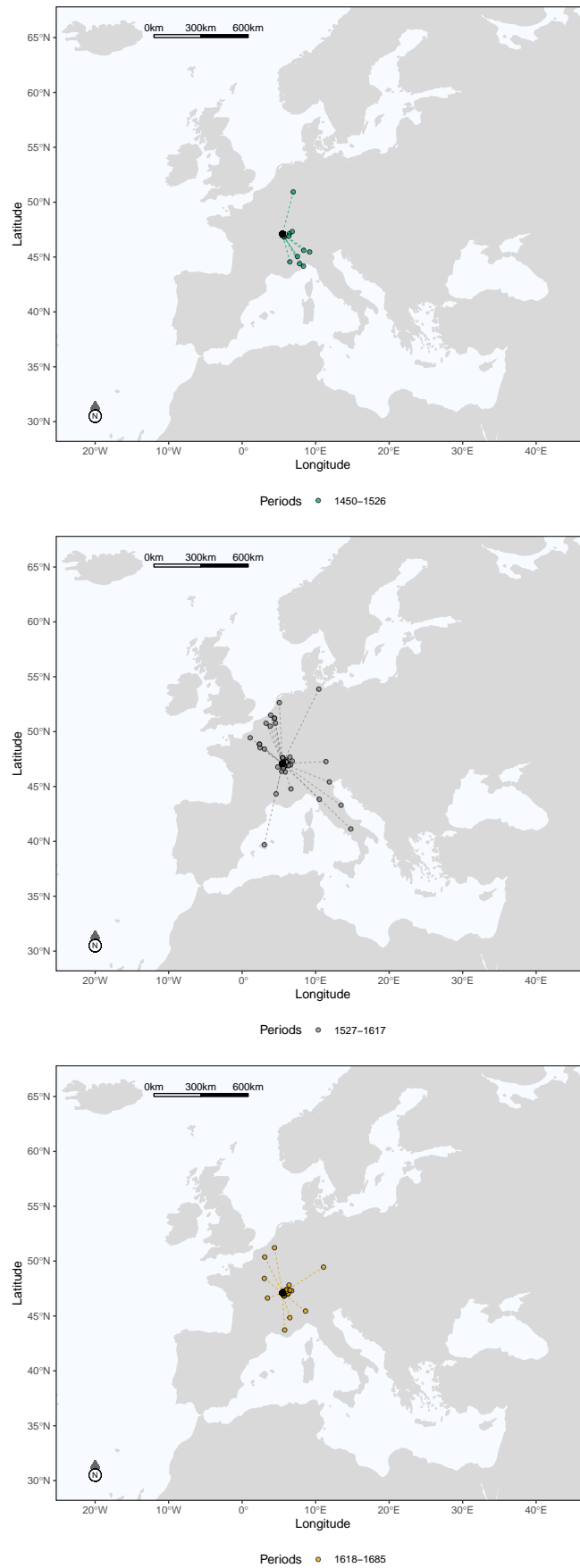


Figure 2: Places of birth of the scholars and literati at the University of Dole

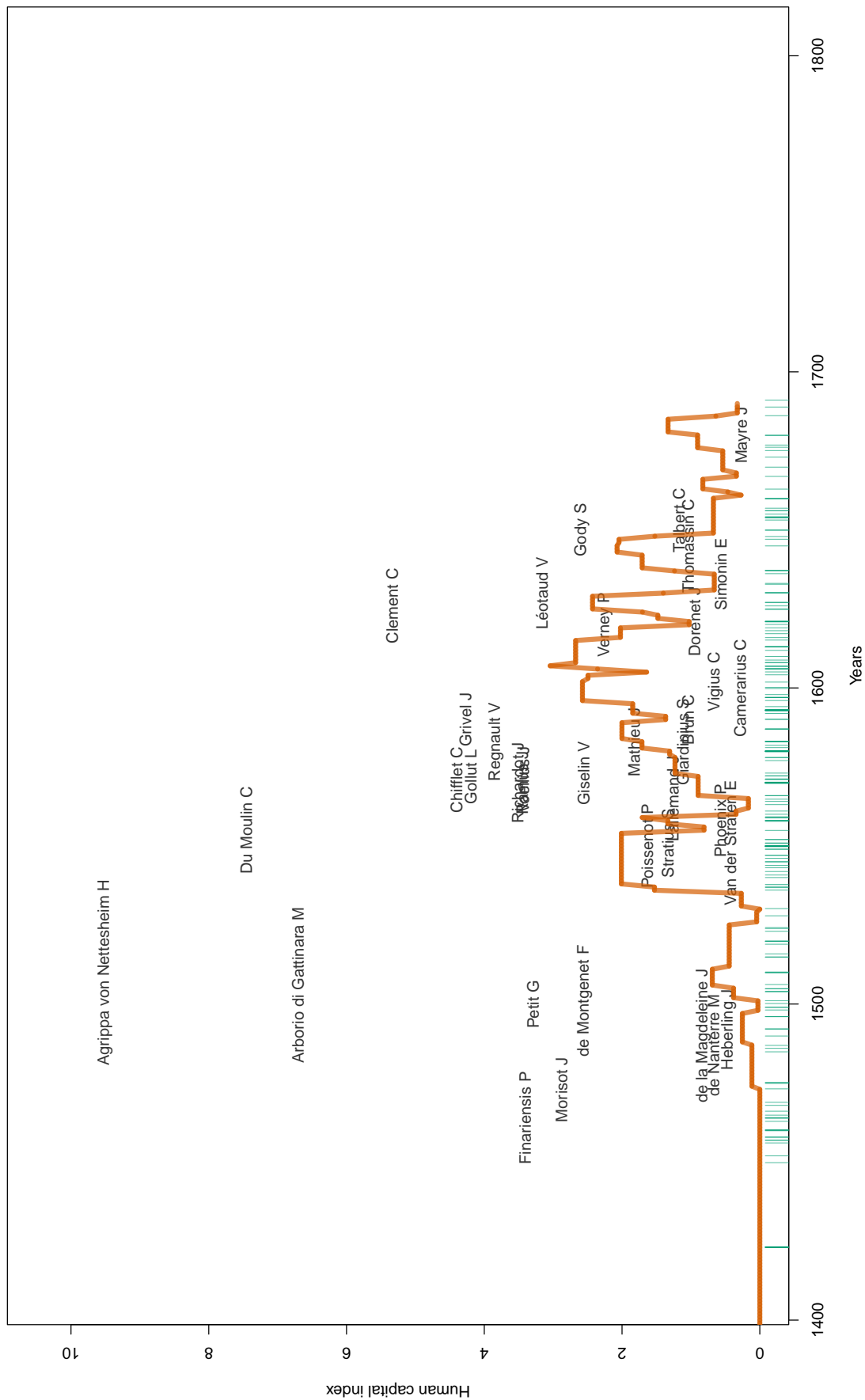


Figure 3: Famous scholars and university notability (orange)

Mercurino Arborio di Gattinara (Gattinara 1465 – Innsbruck 1530) was born in Italy and received training at the University of Turin. He was a jurist and statesman known for his remarkable political career. He taught at the University of Dole at the beginning of the sixteenth century and was a president of the Parliament of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. His most notorious publication is his autobiography (Gattinara 1915).

Charles Dumoulin (Paris 1500 – Paris 1566) was a French scholar who began his career by teaching law at the University of Orléans in 1520. He later taught at the University of Dole and the University of Tübingen. He was opposed to feudalism. In addition, his controversial publications made Catholics and Calvinists turn against him. His most significant publication is "Commentarii in consuetudines parisiense", published in 1638.

Claude Clément (Ornans 1596 – Madrid 1642) was a Comtois (i.e. from Franche-Comté) scholar who studied in Besançon and Lyon. He published several works on the topic of politics. He taught Greek and Latin at the University of Dole at the beginning of the seventeenth century and then moved in 1630 to teach in Madrid until his death in 1642.

Claude Chifflet (Besançon 1541 – Dole 1580) was a highly reputed French jurist. His second field of interest was numismatics, with a renowned publication related to this topic, entitled "De Antiquo numismate", posthumously published in 1628.

8 RELATED SCHOLARS

Beyond those who taught at the University of Dole, at least three important individuals are related to the university. They are counted in the data for all figures but Figure 3.

Justus Lipsius (Overijse 1547 – Leuven 1606) was a philosopher and humanist who taught at the universities of Jena (De la Croix and Stelter 2020), Leiden (De la Croix and Stelter 2021), and Louvain (Catoire et al. 2021). He is listed in our sources as a professor at Dole as well, but it was for a very short period.

Jean Charles della Faille (Antwerp 1597 – Barcelona 1652) was a Jesuit priest from the Spanish Netherlands, mostly known for his contributions to mathematics. He taught at several Jesuit colleges, including Leuven and Dole. Since the Jesuits were not incorporated into the university in Dole, we consider that he had a distant relation / weak link with the University.

Claude Rabuel (1669 Pont-de-Veyle 1669 – Lyon 1728) was a French Jesuit known for his comments on Descartes's *La Géométrie*. He taught at the Jesuit College in Dole around 1693.

9 FAMILIES OF SCHOLARS

We counted 6 father-son pairs among the professors at the University of Dole. Joachim II Camerarius (Nürnberg 1534 – Nürnberg 1598) was a German physician, botanist, zoologist, and humanist who spent a short period teaching in Dole, after teaching at the University of Bologna. Following his father's example, Joachim III Camerarius was also a scholar at Dole, where he taught Greek.

Considering Besançon as a continuation of Dole, some additional families appear. Claude-François Talbert (Pannessières 1611 – Dole 1675) was a scholar at the University of Dole's faculty of law, whereas his son Joseph Talbert continued the family tradition becoming a law professor at the University of Besançon. The Tixerand family taught law in the eighteenth century at the University of Besançon.

10 UNIVERSITY NETWORK

Here, we assume that when a professor occupied a position in more than one university over his/her life, this established a link between those universities. The universities with which Dole was linked in each period are displayed in Figure 4.

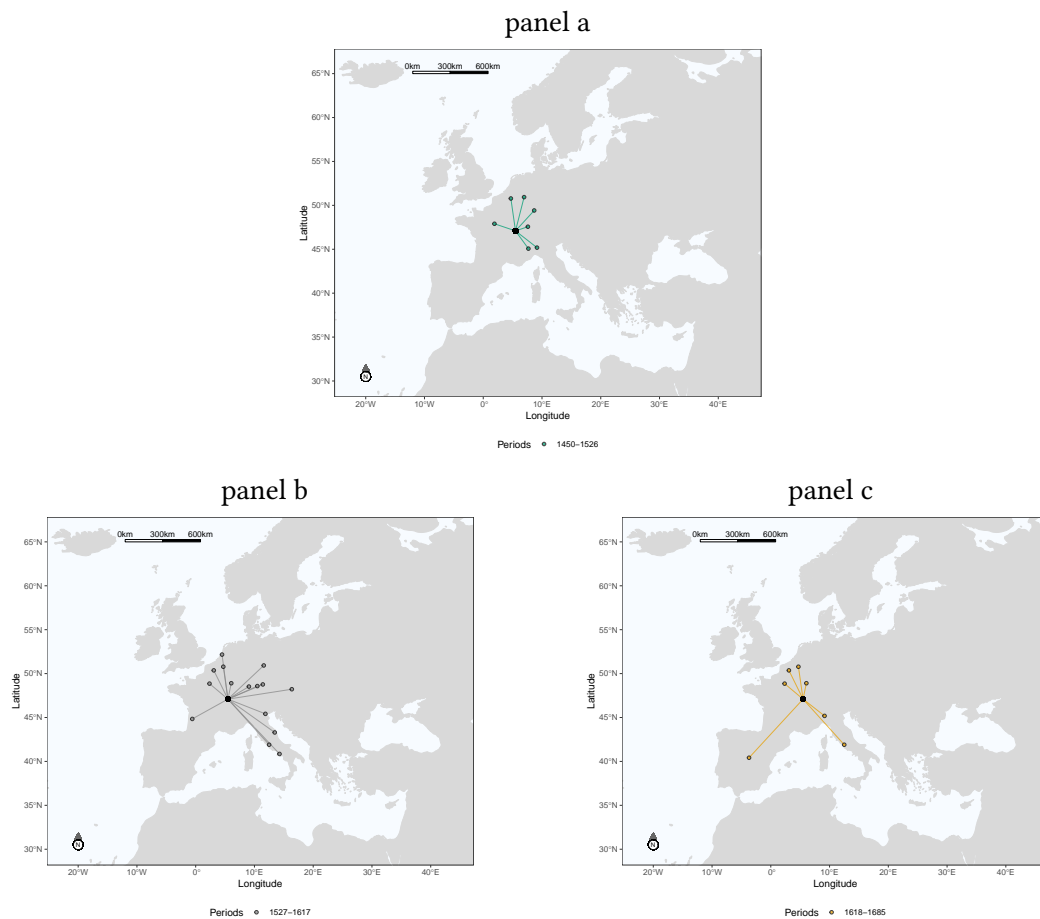


Figure 4: Links between Dole and other universities through scholars' mobility, by period

The university network of the University of Dole at the beginning included surrounding universities (Panel a). Already in the sixteenth century, the network expanded to include more distant places (Panel b). During the seventeenth century, French, Dutch, and Spanish universities were important (Panel c).

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