

CUP Online Appendix 8: Analysis of a sample
of Sussex wills that left bequests to the poor,
1500–1560

	Direct bequests to the poor (N = 148)		Bequests to the poor men's box (N = 99)		Payments to the poor at funerals and obits (N = 171)		
	Food and/or drink only	Money, with or without food/drink	No. of bequests	Average amount given	Median amount given	Food and/or drink only ¹	Money, with or without food/drink
Years							
1500-46	6 = 33% of direct bequests in this period	12 = 67%	0			16 = 46% of such payments in this period	19 = 54%
1547-53	6 = 15%	33 = 85%	67	2s. 3d.	12d.	10 = 27%	27 = 73%
1554-60	12 = 13%	79 = 87%	32	2s. 1d.	12d.	27 = 27%	72 = 73%
Total, 1500-60	24	124	99			53	118

Note:

¹ Includes a few unspecified distributions to the poor at funerals.

General note

This sample includes wills from those 51 communities whose bequests are listed on pp. 1–50 of each of the four volumes of *Transcript of Sussex Wills . . . To the Year 1560* plus information about the town of Battle (vol. 41, 88–94), to obtain a fuller urban representation. Of the 52 places, 49 had testators who left something to the poor in one or more of the categories analyzed here; three had no testators who did so. Because the volumes do not indicate the total number of wills examined, we cannot calculate the percentages of people who left various kinds of bequests to the poor. The categories used in the printed volumes were “Obits, Services, and Doles,” which I separated into direct bequests and those given at burials and obits, and “Poor Men’s Box.” Generic bequests for charitable deeds/alms for “the good of my soul” were not counted here, nor were bequests to unspecified people “to pray for my soul”; the poor needed to be mentioned explicitly. Unquantified residual bequests were also not counted.