



Speaker: While Florence was the center of the Italian Renaissance, Bruges became the favorite city of The Dukes of Burgundy, particularly, Philip The Good. The Medicis opened a branch of their bank in Bruges, and this created a pipeline for fresh ideas from Florentine culture. Bruges was the commercial center in the North.

The Court in Bruges was a cultural hotspot where all sorts of entertainment flourished, fueled in part by a zealous obsession with chivalry and all the accouterments that went along with it, including pageants, entertainers, celebrations, tournaments, and processions. The Court was known for its many poets, musicians, scholars, and painters, not to mention fashion designers, to attire the good people of the Court with gold-threaded cloth, ermine, jewels, and Brocade.

Unfortunately, at the end of the 1400s, the harbor in Bruges began to fill with salt, and the City without its deep Harbor began to dwindle.

Today, Bruges is one of the best-preserved cities in Europe as it remains virtually untouched from the time of the early Renaissance.

I hope that both you and I can make it over there someday as a tourist or a scholar. The photos are just spectacular of the City.

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