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12 Among the Parisian elite, at least, the only exceptions to this rule appear to have occurred when the mother was very young. For a general background on the laws of guardianship, see Olivier- Martin (1922-1926, 1:195-199); see also Lamoignon (1777:8-17).

13 Jacques Le Lièvre, studying notarial practice in the marriage contracts of eighteenth-century Parisians, found similar clauses in which parents claimed the right to retain each other's succession in its entirety. According to Le Lièvre, the right to retain only community property, as the law provided, was generally not respected. He points out the nullity of such clauses but adds that "the notaries seem to count on the good faith and loyalty of the dowered children" (Le Lièvre, 1959:74-75).

14 Only five of thirty-four contracts in which one or both parties was of artisanal or petty mercantile origin joined a woman to a man in the same trade as her first husband or father or one that was closely related.

15 N.C., article 279. Olivier-Martin concludes that the further restrictions added in 1580 did not have much importance (1922-1926, 2:299).

16 For example, Louise d'Ardenay, the widow of a merchant and bourgeois de Paris, gave her second husband, also a merchant and bourgeois de Paris, half a house and a tennis court which she acquired during her previous marriage and the other half of which belonged to her daughter from her paternal inheritance (A.N., Y87:108v-109v). Jacqueline Bau douyn, successively the widow of two butchers, gave her new husband, a merchant following the court, one-half of all of her lands (A.N., Y96:15v-17), and Ysabeau Lable, the widow of a petty officer of the Châtelet, gave her new husband, a bourgeois de Paris, her "héritages et immeubles" to become his lineage properties (A.N., Y102:53-53v).

17 Twelve of thirty-three contracts for 1540-1560; eighteen of twenty-five for 1570-1580.

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