

nated the council, although it was obliged increasingly to share power with new families emerging from below. By the early sixteenth century the tripartite division had lapsed and the council had reverted to its old division into two classes of nobles and *populares*. By then the locus of political power within the council was shifting. The smaller council was becoming the real focus of authority, dominated by representatives of the most prominent families, and the larger council was meeting less frequently. And by creating a new class of officials, the Syndics, to aid in managing the city's business, the reform of 1433 produced another lasting change. At first the Syndics dealt mainly with legal matters, but by the end of the century they had effectively replaced the four Clavarii as the city's chief executive officials. Their number was now fixed at two, one elected from each class of members. They presided over council meetings, acted as the city's chief executive officials, and represented the city at public ceremonies.

Turin was now the effective capital of the new principality, for since the demise of the Savoy-Achaea line Pinerolo had lost what residual political importance it still possessed. When the dukes visited Piedmont their court now resided at Turin, in the castle built by Philip of Achaea, although the facilities it offered were woefully inadequate: for lack of space many courtiers and attendants had to lodge in the city's inns or with private citizens. It was also poorly furnished: tapestries had to be brought from the castle at Pinerolo to decorate the rooms for the wedding festivities of Amadeus VIII's daughter in 1428. On state occasions like this, the piazza in front of the castle became the scene of open-air festivities and tournaments, making Turin the ceremonial center of Piedmont, the stage on which the political rituals glorifying the ruling House were enacted. The city's ceremonial role underlined its newly-attained political importance as the administrative center of the Savoyard territories east of the Alps. The council set up by the princes of Achaea to govern Piedmont had been based at Pinerolo, but after 1418 it moved about peripatetically from place to place, like the university, until in 1436 Duke Ludovico I issued an edict fixing both these institutions permanently at Turin. The presence of the court, the governing council and the university established Turin unequivocally as the chief city of Piedmont. Their presence also accelerated the diversification of the city's social structure by introducing an influential new class of citizens that began to wield power alongside the old ruling families. As a result of its new political role, Turin's elite was becoming more complex and heterogeneous: professionals and bureaucrats had begun to supplement the noble clans that had long dominated political life.