A book which should find a place on every historian’s shelf is the paperback edition of THE NEW CAMBRIDGE MODERN HISTORY ATLAS edited by H.C. Darby and Harold Fullard (319 pp., Cambridge 1970, paperback edition 1974, £4.40). It provides clear and comprehensive coverage of the post-Renaissance world and although the local historian might find the section on the British Isles hardly detailed enough for local studies, it would be a very narrow attitude not to welcome this paperback version of an important work of reference. It provides invaluable background material as befits a volume originally intended to accompany The New Cambridge Modern History, but which also stands in its own right as a work of reference.

The reprint industry continues to bring out new editions of books, some of which have widely different use and value to the local historian. J. Charles Cox’s PARISH REGISTERS IN ENGLAND was first published in 1910 (290 pp., illus., reprint by E. P. Publishing Ltd., 1974, £3.75). Fortunately, the era of ‘culplable carelessness’ on the part of incumbents with parish registers in their care is now largely a thing of the past and this reprint of Cox’s book should be used with the sections on parish records which appear in the series of Archivist’s Reports of the Lincolnshire Archives Office. Another companion to the work of Cox is the guide to parish registers deposited in record offices and libraries, ORIGINAL PARISH REGISTERS IN RECORD OFFICES AND LIBRARIES (128 pp., Local Population Studies in association with the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Studies, 1974, £2.25 and £1.50 to members of the Local Population Studies Society). This lists original parish records deposited with institutions, rough books of register entries, duplicate books made simultaneously with the registers, and early replacement copies such as sixteenth century transcriptions from paper to parchment. It does not have details of original records still with incumbents, bishops’ transcripts, separate registers of marriage banns, later copies, and non-Anglican registers. It is intended, as the introduction makes clear, as a short finding aid rather than an inventory and is based on the situation in the autumn of 1973 and the spring of 1974.

The work of J. Charles Cox on parish registers still provides a basis for the present day local historian’s work and is part of an on-going tradition of local studies. The same cannot be said of another reprint, P. H. Ditchfield’s OLD VILLAGE LIFE (277 pp., illus., reprint by E. P. Publishing Ltd., 1974, £4.00). It is always useful to have a new introduction to reprinted material. However, anything except a radical re-write of this book, first published in 1920, would not bring it up to a standard which would meet the needs of the present-day local historian. In its time this was doubtless a useful piece of popularisation, but its archaeological sections are now hopelessly dated, whilst the historical material is in need of a drastic revision which would shatter the present format. Its present value is only as an example of a certain type of popular historical writing of the 1920s.

The great increase in interest in photographic source material is beginning to affect Lincolnshire and South Humberside. The publications GRIMSBY AS IT WAS by David Boswell and J. M. Storey and LINCOLN AS IT WAS by Lawrence Elvin (both 43 pp., Hendon Publishing Company Ltd., 1974, 93 pence and 96 pence respectively) provide fascinating insights into life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These are not just a nostalgic evocation of the past but provide important source material for the local historian’s work. For example, the photograph of Linton Place, which formerly stood off Ashton’s Court on the east side of Lincoln High Street says as much about housing conditions as a great deal of documentary evidence and the memorial post card to the five crewmen of the Grimby trawler Clitus is a striking reminder of conditions in the fishing industry at the turn of the century.

Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery have produced THE HEAVENS REFLECT OUR LABOURS (27 pp., Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery, 1974, 20 pence and postage), an illustrated account of the early iron and steel industry in the town, to accompany an exhibition of photographs with the same title. This is well illustrated from the Museum’s own collection and provides a useful introduction to the town’s development. Less central to Lincolnshire and South Humberside interests, but containing material of great local interest, proprietors in the nineteenth century of the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury is WANSFORD PAPER MILLS THEIR HISTORY AND ROMANCE by John L. Gilbert (18 pp., obtainable from the author at 12, Bushwood Road, Kew, 1974, 20 pence and postage). The mills were situated at Stibbington, eight miles west of Peterborough and manufactured paper for the Stamford Mercury, the Times and other newspapers.

The centenary history of the Lincoln Theological College, A HISTORY OF LINCOLN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 1874-1974 (39 pp. iv, illus., Lincoln Theological College, 1974, 50 pence and postage) is a co-operative account relating the history of the college and its buildings from its origins in the Old Palace as the Scholeae Cancellarii. Useful material for the student of local churches is to be found in the annual reports of the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust. The 21st Annual Report for 1973 discusses MASON’S MARES KNOLL, LINCOLN (visit by the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust, 15 pence obtainable from the Secretary, The Vicarage, Kirton Lindsey). Two new pamphlets deal with aspects of local monastic life and institutions. The 1972 Kitching Lecture LIFE AT BARDNEY ABBEY by Dorothy M. Owen (5 pp., Bardney Branch of the W.E.A., 1974, 15 pence, obtainable from the Secretary, 51, Station Road, Bardney) has been published by the Bardney Branch of the W.E.A. A. E. Kirkby and A. R. Taliby have produced an account of THE ABBEY OF ST. MARY AND ST. PETER, HUMBERSTON (49 pp., illus., Waltham Toll Bar School, 1974, 25 pence, obtainable from the School), which contains a report on excavations at the abbey site from 1965 to 1970. It is a pity that the illustrations in this publication have not reproduced well. Number 10 of THE EAST MIDLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BULLETIN edited by B. M. Beeby (53 pp., illus., University of Nottingham Department of Adult Education, 1974, 50 pence) provides an archaeological gazetteer for the region for 1967 and includes a 29 page section on Lincolnshire.

Gainsborough Public Library Local History Handbooks numbers 6 and 7 are a list of UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE THESIS IN THE LOCAL COLLECTION and a note and bibliographical guide to the life and work of HALFORD J. MACKINDER (1861-1947) (7 pp. and 5 pp. respectively, Gainsborough Public Library, both 1974). Mackinder was the son of a Gainsborough Medical Officer of Health who became Reader in Geography in the University of Oxford and successively and for some time concurrently, Principal of University College, Reading. He became Principal of the London School of Economics and also pursued a public and political career as a Unionist M.P., which culminated in a period as British High Commissioner in South Russia.

Ron C. Russell’s THE ENCLOSURE OF BARTON UPON HUMBER 1759-1860 (12 pp., illus., Lincolnshire Old, 1974, 40 pence, obtainable from the author at 11, Priests gate, Barton on Humber) giving those who missed earlier editions of this booklet an opportunity to add it to their collection of publications on enclosure by Mr. Russell.
Book Review


POETS AND HISTORIANS, by Mary Moorman, 16 pp., 1974, 40 pence. Tennyson, LINCOLNSHIRE AND AUSTRALIA, by Sir Charles Tennyson and Hope Dyson, 18 pp., illus., 1974, 55 pence. ALFRED TENNYSON AND SOMERSBY, by Sir Charles Tennyson, 15 pp., illus., 1974, 40 pence. TENNYSON AND HIS TIMES, by Sir Charles Tennyson, 16 pp., reprinted 1974, £2.25. (all published by the Tennyson Society).

The second volume of Tennyson in Lincoln reveals more of the impressive collection at the Tennyson Research Centre. It is divided into five sections, dealing respectively with Tennyson’s own works (collected and separate), biography and criticism, parodies, music based on Tennyson’s poems, and, finally, pictures, prints, photographs and maps, this last group covering nearly a thousand items. Not least among these are the collection of 200 photographs by Julia Cameron, an important visual record of Victorians and their time, and another 200 wash-drawings, mainly of Italy and Greece, by Edward Lear. There are close on a thousand works of biography and criticism, ranging from early Quarterly reviews to remote and difficult to obtain contemporary comments such as a 1964 issue of the South Atlantic Bulletin. The volume contains several fine illustrations, including some title pages, views of Somersby, Farringford and Aldworth and an impressive Doré illustration for Elaine. All the entries are succinctly informative, and Tennysonians now await the third volume on the manuscript material (and especially the 12,000 letters) with eager anticipation.

Sir Charles Tennyson’s and Mrs. Dyson’s latest collaboration, The Tennysons: Background to Genius, reads like Hamlet without the Prince. It is called in the preface the ‘history of a family’ and it traces the Tennysons from their origins in Holderness and Grimsby. It is particularly informative on the rise of the poet’s grandfather from Grimsby solicitor to country landowner at Bayons. These early chapters also raise speculation about the sources of that poetic power which was only most evident in Alfred himself. The authors are very reasonably sceptical of the alleged talents of Mary Tennyson (née Turner), the grandmother; the violence of the Clayton strain in the Tennyson ancestry may have had much more to do with it. After all, as Dryden told us, ‘genius is sure to madness near allied’.

Certainly that black blood marked for ill the life of George Clayton Tennyson, the poet’s father, and indeed those also of a number of his children — Edward, for instance, confined to a madhouse for nearly sixty years, and Septimus, memorable only for his declaration to Rossetti, ‘I am Septimus, the most morbid of the Tennysons.’ Somersby, that especially on a summer’s day seems so lush and so peaceful to the visitor’s eye, must by George Tennyson’s violence have been a place of nightmare in those terrible last years before 1831. What were the sufferings of Elizabeth Tennyson we shall never fully know, but they may have done much to endeart her still further to her children. At her death Alfred said, ‘She was the most beautiful thing God Almighty ever did make.’

What an ‘extraordinary brood’ they were! If their extraordinariness did not break out in poetry, it did so in religion. Both Horatio and Arthur underwent religious conversions in middle life. The girls seem to have been better balanced, though Emily, crastwhile fiancée of Arthur Hallam, was something of a domestic tyrant, even to insisting on calling her son after the unforgettable first love of her life.

There is a useful select bibliography of the prolific writings of the various members of the family. Three minor errors should be noted — Thorngumbald (p. 12); the Morant Bay riots in Jamaica took place in 1865 (not 1884) (p. 162); and the Bishop of Peterborough was Magee (not Macree) (p. 204).

Sir Charles and Mrs. Dyson have also produced a pamphlet as part of the Lincolnshire celebration of the bicentenary of Matthew Flinders. It is mainly about the correspondence and friendship between Tennyson and Sir Henry Parkes, five times Premier of New South Wales. Mary Moorman’s lecture traces her own distinguished Victorian ancestry that embraced the Trevleysans, Macaulays, Wards and Arnolds. It is sensitive testimony to the strenuous, enlightened lives of a brilliant intellectual aristocracy, the Oxford parallels of those Cambridge families who produced the generations of the Stephens and the Darwins. The other three pamphlets are all reprints, the two by Sir Charles characterised by his customary extensive and intimate acquaintance with his subject and by his usual incisive relevance.

ARThUR POLLARD

HULL

Books Also Received

REGENCY REVOLUTION, THE CASE OF ARTHUR THISTLEWOOD by David Johnson, 182 pp., Compton Russell, 1974, £2.75.)