Book Reviews

SALT: THE STUDY OF AN ANCIENT INDUSTRY, 94 pp., illus., Colchester Archaeological Group, 1975, £4.00.

Man may have no physiological need to add extra salt to his diet, but the mealtime request to 'pass the condiment' and the use of salt as a preservative have long been with us. In these islands, before the exploitation of rock salt, our long and varied coastline gave ample opportunity to extract salt from the sea by various means.

Lincolnshire has a long basically submerged coastline. Until the stormy 12th-13th centuries it fronted a lagoon protected by low offshore islands - almost ideal conditions for saltmaking. It should not be surprising therefore that five out of the twelve papers on British saltmaking (and out of a total of twenty five papers presented) in this Report are from Lincolnshire, given by members of this Society.

The 1860 Lincolnshire Archaeological and Architectural Society Reports and Papers was the fundamental base, but the papers presented in 1974, which sprang from it, clearly demonstrate the advances made in our knowledge of sites. The work by Brian Simmons and Betty Kirkham for example show that saltmaking in Iron Age and Roman times in particular was even more extensive than formerly thought, and that much further work remains to be done. The brief record of detailed excavation work carried out by Hilary Healey shows the value of the skilled archaeological approach (a pity that it was spoilt by typographical repetition of six lines).

But all workers in Lincolnshire readily recognise Ethel Rudkin as the 'doyen of salt' in the county. It is through her enthusiastic interest that a number of workers have come to take an interest in the subject and it is a fitting tribute that she should make a substantial contribution to the conference. In this she was able to demonstrate evidence for different periods and methods of saltmaking. She also pointed out that it was a seasonal job, an important fact often forgotten.

Reading the papers one is struck, as were the ninety two delegates to the conference, by the interesting similarities over a wide area which ranged from Cumbria and Cheshire to Colombia, Poland and Japan. In the latter the affinities with Europe become more striking.

'Salt people' may be regarded as loners, in which case the study weekend served a particular purpose. But the Report makes available to a wider audience the results of a valuable stage in summing up our knowledge on this basic human need of salt, the processes and means of supplying it.

D. N. ROBINSON

VICTORIAN LINCOLN by Sir Francis Hill, x + 341 pp., illus., Cambridge University Press, 1974, £9.50.

With the publication of Victorian Lincoln Sir Francis Hill brings to a conclusion his history of Lincoln. His aim has been 'to know what happened in Lincoln, and how it came to be what it is, and put the results into narrative form.' Victorian Lincoln teemed with life - the life of the surrounding countryside as well as its own developing industries. The book provides a vivid portrait of the people and events in the city in the nineteenth century. Development and change brought social and political tensions. A widening electorate created problems for the people who might have regarded themselves as the city's traditional political leaders, as the rousing proceedings following the 1868 election showed. (The non-specialist reader might have found some indication of the mechanics of nineteenth century elections useful at this point).

There was friction between the corporation and the dean and chapter over the running of the city grammar school, another old-established arrangement which was failing to meet the requirements of the nineteenth century. Even in the cathedral close change was in the air. When Chancellor Benson came down the hill to start his evening classes for the four hundred working men and lads who blocked the street outside the Central School in Silver Street it was perhaps a sign that life in the city was altering in fundamental ways which could not be ignored or avoided by anyone.

Sir Francis describes these changes in terms of the people who took part in them. We are given a series of vivid pen portraits of the personalities who made and changed Victorian Lincoln. It is perhaps inevitable, in view of the nature of the sources available, that we learn more of the leaders of social and civic affairs than the people who contributed to the work in the factories and the1.

The use of the population census returns to tell us something of the occupations of the people of Lincoln. It would have lifted many of them from relative anonymity to have taken this analysis further. Where did the men who manned the factories and their wives come from, the villages of the county or further afield? Were the factory operatives men who had begun their lives on farms and moved to find greater opportunities in the city? How many generations did it take for them to lose their roots, or did this ever happen in a city so intimately connected with the surrounding countryside? When did these migrants start to develop habits and attitudes which might be described as 'urban'? The emergence of new forms of political life, for example the appearance of socialist candidates in municipal elections, might be taken as one sign of this sort of change.

We learn of the rich social life nurtured in the nonconformist chapels, which overlapped into political and educational spheres. The Mechanics Institute, despite its dirty books, stifling smell and smoke-blacked ceiling was another sphere of social activity. Its high-minded aims were a contrast with the development of bicycle sports and football - the latter seen as 'a means of combating the degeneracy of town life.' The Lincoln Football Club was formed in 1884 by a union of three older clubs. It first acquired a professional player in 1886 and moved to the Sincil Bank ground in 1895. Was this move a sign that the sport was developing into an entertainment for mass spectators rather than amateur players, and if so what does this tell us of the people who followed it? How and why were their attitudes different from the men for whom the Mechanics Institute was intended? It is significant that it was the clerks of Clayton and Shuttleworth's who formed the Stamp End Cricket Club in 1854. Cricket was also patronised by the Monson family. It might be worth asking why football, for all the beneficial effects it was said to have, did not seem to attract similar patronage. Was this another small sign that the county families, under the pressure of diminishing incomes from their estates by the end of the century, were no longer interested in what went on in a city whose ethos was increasingly alien to their way of life and interests?

Charlotte Palmer who died in 1849 was the last of the old county society who lived in the Minster Yard. The railways gave the gentry of north and south Lincolnshire the opportunity to go their different ways so that they no longer wanted whatever unity a social life based on the city could bring.

Victorian Lincoln raises many fascinating questions - a reflection of the rich canvas which Sir Francis has painted. No doubt others will examine in greater detail various aspects of the development of Lincoln in the nineteenth century, but whoever does this will have to ignore the insights of this book and will have a framework for their work. It is a pity that they will look in vain for a bibliography, which would have been a valuable addition to a book so rich in references in its footnotes. Moreover, the reader who is not familiar with the geography of the city might have found it useful to have encountered the map printed on page 53 at the beginning of the book.

The author's aim, which has been amply fulfilled, was to give 'interest and pleasure to my fellow-citizens and others; and if my books are of value to scholars concerned with the same or wider themes so much the better.' This might be a suitable text to inspire any local historian.

R. W. AMBLER

HUMBERSTONE
A good description of an attack on a lonely country house is provided in a letter from Sir Edmund Anderson of Lea written in March 1758 describing an attack by anti-militia rioters on his home at Eilden. His son, Sir Edward, was killed at the Battle of Stockingdon in September 1759. L.A.O., Anderson MSS. 5/2/128.

There is no record of proceedings being taken against rioters in Lincolnshire as there was in Yorkshire where 14 rioters were tried at the York Assizes in 1758. Five were condemned to death and one actually executed. Public Record Office (subsequently P.R.O.) Assizes 41/4.


Ibid., pp.129-31; Stamford Mercury, 11 Jan 1793, information sought from Sir Francis Hill, op. cit., p.165-7.

Lincolnshire County Library, Headquarters, Banks Collection, subsequently Banks Coll., 5/1/43, anon. (Sir. J. Banks)

Outline of a Plan of Defence against French Invasion : Intended for the County of Lincoln, April 1794.

Ibid. There are few reports of disturbances in the county at this time although a requisition was made in 1794 to allow the use of seafaring men in the militia to man the seaports.


Banks Coll. 5/1/27.

Thomas Colman, (1745-1826), second son of John Colman of Horncastle, recorded as a member of the county committee of the Quakers, 1778, 1780-1, 1798-1807, lieutenant, J.P., chairman of Quarter Sessions. Lincolnshire Archives Committee, Archivist's Report, 19, pp.10-11.

Banks Coll. 5/1/27.

House of Commons Journal, 1796; Hall Packet, Nov. 1. 1796. The constable of Revesby was issued with orders to draw up a list of all men between 18 and 45 by the chief constable on 13 Oct. 1796. The lists were to be presented at the George Inn, Horncastle on November 5th when the ballot was to be taken and appeals made. Banks Coll., 5/1/4. The Hull Packet, 1796, reported the speech of Pitt in the House of Commons in its edition of 22 Oct. 1796, and it printed an abstract of the Bill on 29 Oct.

Banks Coll., 3/1/2, 16, 27. At Lincoln and Gainsborough the meetings were not held as the deputies did not turn up. P.R.O. HO/50/26 Nov. 1, G. Tarham.

Banks Coll., 5/1/2; P.R.O. HO/50/26 7 Nov. T. Colman.

Banks Coll., 5/1/2.

Ibid., 5/1/11 and 27.

Ibid., 5/1/5 and 37; P.R.O. HO/50/26 11 Nov. duke of Aosta; C. Freyst, op. cit., p.171; Rev. Edward Walls (formerly Godd), 1739-1815, lived at Spilsby.

P.R.O. HO/50/26 7 Nov. T. Colman.

Banks Coll., 5/1/6.

Ibid., 5/1/5.

P.R.O. HO/50/26 7 Nov. T. Colman.

Banks Coll., 5/1/57.

Ibid., 5/1/10 Mrs. Dashwood of Well, to T. Colman 9 Nov. 1796; P.R.O. HO/50/26 11 Nov. Sir. J. Banks.


Banks Coll., 5/1/9-9a, 15; P.R.O. HO/50/26 9 Nov. duke of Portland.

Banks Coll., 5/1/27; P.R.O. HO/50/26 Sir John Banks, 11 Nov.

A 'cat' was an instrument with four projecting spikes, used to scatter shot on the ground and so lame the cavalry.

Banks Coll., 5/1/20, 27; P.R.O. HO/50/26 14 Nov. Sir J. Banks. Banks was dismissed when later the rioter Catlliff was convicted at Lincoln from Spilsby in a post-chaise. Banks Coll. 3/1/27.

Ibid., 3/1/37-38; L.A.O., Monson 7/50 Calendar of Prisoners Lincoln Assizes March and July 1797; Stamford Mercury, 18 Nov. 1796, and 17 March 1797.

Banks Coll. 3/1/37-38.


Banks Coll., 3/1/24, 27-28, 32.

Ibid., 3/1/34, 25.

For a discussion of the role of the volunteer forces at this time see J. R. Western, The Volunteer Movement as an Anti-Revolutionary Force 1793-1801", English Historical Review, xlvii, 1955, pp.603-614.

68 Banks Coll. 3/1/32b, 17, 27; P.R.O. HO/50/26 19 Nov. R. Ellison.

69 Banks Coll. 3/1/27.

70 Ibid.

71 Ibid., 3/1/20, A 'crimping house' was a brothel or gaming house established with the intention of decoying and entrapping men in order to force them into the army, navy or merchant service.

72 Banks Coll. 3/1/5.

73 Ibid., 3/1/27. In 1794 Banks had reproduced a plate showing how pikes could be manufactured by local blacksmiths when in time of invasion, there was need to arm the populace. anon. Outline of a Plan of Defence, op. cit., Banks Coll., 5/1/43, plate missing.

74 J. P. Dunhabin, op. cit. As in 1757 the anti-militia riots were widespread throughout the country. They were recorded in Nov.-Dec. 1796 from the counties of Cambridge, Cumberland, Buckingham, Gloucester, Lancaster, Merioneth, Norfolk, Northumberland, Shropshire and Worcestershire. J. R. Western, The English Militia in the 18th Century, pp.294-295.

75 Banks Coll. 3/1/32.

76 Ibid., 3/1/34, 36.

77 Ibid., 3/1/32.


Book Review

MEDIAEVAL CRAFTSMEN by John Harvey, vii + 231 pp., Blus, Batsford, 1975, £5.50.

The very considerable debt which antiquaries and historians already owe to Mr. John Harvey for more than a score of published works is much increased by this magnum opus in which he covers the whole range of craftsmanship in the middle ages, collecting, sifting and analysing the material from innumerable original sources. The dictum which he lays down in the Introduction that 'The social standing of skilled craftsmen ... was a good deal higher than might be imagined' and reiterated in the Epilogue ('The craftsmanship in his contribution to society, was closely equivalent to the professional middle class') is irrefutably supported by the mass of evidence adduced. So many fascinating lines of thought are suggested or pursued that it is impossible to do more than merely indicate some of them in a short review.

For example, the motives which lay behind mediaeval craftsmanship are clearly set out in a felicitous paragraph, showing that these men, in spite of their human ambitions, their trade disputes and their conflicts, 'never forgot that at any moment their souls might be required, and that a strict account was due'. Many hoary myths are exploded as, for example, the once popular belief that skill in design and execution lay chiefly with professional churchmen, or the oft-repeated fallacy about chestnut roofs.

The arrangement of the book has much to commend it. After dealing with the organization of mediaeval craft guilds, the training and methods of work of craftsmen and their shops, the author goes on to examine materials and methods of building. Craftsmen of construction in stone, clay and timber respectively are seen at work and many interesting sidelights appear e.g. the almost traditional quarrelsomeness of stone masons and the fact that the word 'millwright' first occurs as late as 1481.

Two valuable chapters are devoted to craftsmen of enrichment in painting and metalwork, although, as Mr. Harvey says, no hard and fast line can be drawn between construction and enrichment.

There is a comprehensive bibliography of nearly 200 works and seven closely printed, double-column pages of references. Particular mention should be made of the splendid illustrations, both for their selection and their reproduction. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Harvey has produced a work which is likely to remain a classic of its subject for many years to come.

P. G. BINNALL

HEMSWELL
Tudor Lincolnshire by G. A. J. Hodgett, xxv + 212 pp., illus., History of Lincolnshire Committee, 1975, £4.00.

The Englishman's pride in his own antecedents has furnished most counties with at least one county history written at some time between the 17th century and the present day. For Lincolnshire, however, no such work exists and it has been left to the History of Lincolnshire Committee to embark on the publication of a county history which shall summarize the present state of knowledge and also incorporate some new research by the authors. The student of Lincolnshire history, finding that no materials for a particular parish or family are in print, will continue to look enviously at the manorial descents and lists of incumbents of the great compilations for other counties ranging from Dugdale to the Victoria History. Nevertheless he will have an invaluable aid, a concise survey of the county's history as interpreted by modern scholarship as a background and a spring-board for further exploration. 

Tudor Lincolnshire is the third volume to appear in this series intended to span the period from prehistoric to present times and it examines how this remote, overwhelmingly agricultural county faced in the age of Renaissance, Reformation, and Counter-Reformation. Mr. Hodgett begins by describing the agriculture and social structure under the early Tudors, surveying geographical regions, crops, and types of landowners. He examines the parish clergy, laymen, monasteries, and cathedral of the pre-Reformation church. He traces events leading to the dissolution of the monasteries and the Lincolnshire rising of 1536, when for two weeks the county was in the forefront of national affairs. The causes of the rising, mainly but not entirely religious, are analysed. The effects of the dissolution on the monasteries and farms and on the structure of society are investigated. Viewing rural society and the land in the second half of the century, he considers the landed gentry, estimates of population, husbandry, and drainage. In spite of some enclosure and consolidation of arable to pasture, husbandry seems to have changed little. Industry was confined to goods required in agriculture and to the making of leather and textiles.

Transport was by road and by water and trade was mainly centred in the ports of Boston and Grimsby, both in decline. Discussing local government, Mr. Hodgett describes the instruments by which the Crown ensured that its policies were carried out in the county, ranging from the lord lieutenant to the officers of the parish. The members of parliament for the county and for the boroughs were chosen by men of local importance in whose interests the crown might be brought to bear on central government. The boroughs had their own forms of government and these are described. A chapter on education reveals new schools being founded and old revived. The household of Katherine, Baronesse Willoughby de Eresby, at Grimsthorpe, the first in the county, is examined in a discussion of domestic life which also considers the houses of farmers, peasants and clergy. Looking at the Elizabethan period, it seems that to a large degree the county accepted this middle way, compromise in doctrine with continuity in the administrative machinery. Some, however, refused to conform: Catholic recusants and Puritans.

Both the layman and the specialist will be grateful to Mr. Hodgett for a useful and comprehensive work. He has attempted 'to study the history of the county in all its facets and to avoid devoting undue attention to any one aspect', and has achieved this. All the material is available in print and to the manuscripts sources which survive. He has diligently culled material from the printed sources and the secondary authorities. He himself is an authority on the dissolution of the monasteries and its effects. He has been severely limited by the fact that no records of the justices in quarter sessions nor papers of the landed families relating to the government of the county have survived. In view of this lack, he wisely concentrated on the government of Lincoln city and he has made a careful study of the 16th century minute books of the corporation and of the customs drawn up in 1480 which determined the constitution of the Tudor city. He also selected for study the detailed accounts of the Grimsthorpe household in 1560. No comparable accounts for gentry families survive and he has used printed extracts from the estate book of Thomas Cony of Bassington, merchant of the staple and landowner. He has also turned to documents to show how the Elizabethan poor law operated in one parish by a study of the accounts of the overseers of the poor at Levertor, while he illustrates the changing nature of the open-field economy from a survey of Kirkby Underwood in 1595. This is not an easy book to read. It might have been easier had there been a coherent theme, an argument to follow. All the material could well have been used for a study of the structure of society and this would have given the work a unity. Inevitably the desire to be both comprehensive and concise results in lists of names, such as those of M.P.'s, without much to hang on to the names. Indeed we never hear or see the people of Tudor Lincolnshire, pulsating and alive, nor experience the excitement of that age. Mr. Hodgett refrained from providing an account of Lincolnshire worthies, he said, because much has been written about them previously and he could not add to our knowledge of the lesser known without long research. One wonders whether court records such as those of Star Chamber may not include some verbatim utterances of these men, speaking the English tongue at its most expressive. It is sad that so few of their letters have survived. Seventeen plates show their portraits, architecture, and other creations, but the author himself provided little visual description. From the wealth of probate inventories he could perhaps have selected a few which would have enabled him to describe homes of various kinds so that the reader could have seen them. Where he has gone to original sources, his material is not always sufficiently digested. Details have been transcribed but have not been imaginatively selected to build up a living picture. We know the measurements of the strips at Kirkby Underwood, but cannot see that countryside. Probably owing to haste the writing sometimes fails to hold the attention. Mr. Hodgett is apt to assume that the reader shares his own knowledge and to refer to persons or subjects without explaining them, though explanation sometimes follows later. In the account of the Lincolnshire rising, for example, Bellow and Milburn appear on p.27 with no introduction and only on p.31 are we told that they were Cromwell's agents. The statute of uses is referred to on p.29 and 34 but is nowhere explained. Lord Hussey is a key figure, but we are not quite clear what bearing his reference to his wife (p.34) is somewhat cryptic. The reader is further discouraged by a sentence beginning 'The font and origo of the rebellion ...' (p.35).

Elsewhere a sentence like 'The dean and chapter ...' had the responsibility of filling vacancies that occurred in the peculiaris' (p.176) could have been expressed in words intelligible to the general reader. An earlier more informative list of Lincolnshire recusants than those referred to on p.181 is contained in the first recusant roll, 1592-3, published by the Catholic Record Society (vol. XVIII, 1916). The statement (p.19) 'The whole diocese had fifty-eight canons ...' is misleading as the prebends were not all within the diocese. The reference to Thomas Taylor as recorder of the bishop (p.181 and plate IV) is a slip and he is correctly termed registrar on p.174.

A transcript of a diocesan return made to the Privy Council in 1563 of the parishes and hamlets in the county with numbers of families forms a useful appendix. A map shows religious houses and principal gentry seats by symbols. It is large enough to contain the names and without them is of limited use. Unfortunately the index is incomplete.

MARY FINCH
THE BP BOOK OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY by Neil Cossons. 496 pp., illus., David & Charles, 1975, £4.95; THE SHELL BOOK OF INLAND WATERWAYS by Hugh McKnight. 496 pp., illus., David & Charles, 1975, £4.95; FIELDWORK IN INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY by J. Kenneth Major, 176 pp., illus., Batsford, 1975, £2.95 paperback, £4.50 hardback; EXPLORING OUR INDUSTRIAL PAST by Kenneth Hudson, ix + 214 pp., illus., Teach Yourself Books (Hodder & Stoughton), 1975, £1.75 paperback; BRIDGES OF BRITAIN by Éric de Maré, 136 pp., illus., Batsford, 1975, £4.95.

We now have four general books on industrial archaeology: Hudson (1963), Raistrick (1972), Buchanan (1972), and now Cossons. All cover the same kind of ground and all follow the same broad lines: a preliminary discussion of what the author conceives industrial archaeology to be, a brief résumé of the course of the industrial revolution, and a more detailed (but still necessarily compressed) description of the progress of technology, arranged by industry and/or by period. Of the four, Cossons seems the best; not merely because his views on the function of industrial archaeology accord most closely with this reviewer’s, but because his historical sections are the most fully and satisfactorily illustrated by reference to surviving examples — his gazetteer, in effect an index to sites mentioned in the text, has over 500 entries. A book like this, however, cannot hope to please everybody. So wide is the field that someone’s pet industry is almost bound to be squeezed out by lack of space; and many major activities which are commonly thought to belong under the industrial archaeological umbrella — agriculture and workers’ housing — are omitted altogether. One can quibble in many places, too, with detail and interpretation, and there are a number of plain mistakes that could seriously mislead. There were less than twenty blast furnaces in 1760 — the true number is more likely six; there were perhaps 1000 steam engines in 1800, the authority putting figures of somewhat higher; he means from mines; dates are misquoted; and some grid references are awry. But overall the book, which was no doubt fiendishly difficult to write, triumphantly overcomes its faults, for it presents a brilliant distillation of fact that should enthuse the newcomer and taunt the more expert with his own ignorance.

Its companion volume, the Shell Book of Inland Waterways, is equally a delight. Hugh McKnight has produced a not dissimilar compendium of facts and advice of value to the historian, archaeologist and boatman, seasoned and novitiate alike. He gives us 200 pages on the history of the waterways, their engineering, buildings, operation, boats (commercial and pleasure), flora and fauna, and so forth; no better summary has appeared since Roll’s Inland Waterways of England (1950), and McKnight goes further by covering Wales, Scotland and Ireland too. Nearly 500 pages are then devoted to a gazetteer, astonishingly comprehensive considering its scope, which embraces the main points of interest on all the waterways still navigable. Much of this material is of course available elsewhere, but nowhere can so much be found compressed between a single pair of covers. The history may be derivative — we hardly expect startling revelations in a book like this — but the descriptions of things visible, be they scenery, aqueducts or pubs, are quite clearly based on extensive personal experience, even on the most remote and least frequented byways. True, there are occasional minor lapses from accuracy — what book like this can avoid them? — such as the statement that the bridges of Boston — the Witham Bridge and three on the Maud Foster Drain — were by Telford; and events have sometimes overtaken McKnight, as in his laudable wish that Brayford Pool be tidied up without the loss of any of its warehouses. But nothing can detract from the value of this book: like Cossons’, it is attractively produced, well organised, readable, extremely useful, and, for its size and by current prices, cheap.

If Cossons simply describes the raw material of the industrial archaeologist, Kenneth Major tells us how to handle it. His advice is wise and eminently practical, culled from his own long experience in researching industrial monuments in the field. Illustrating his themes with examples of his own work, he suggests fruitful lines of research, different kinds of campaign in fieldwork, the methods best adopted in surveying and photographing buildings and machinery, library and archive sources, and ways of publishing and lecturing. Much of what he says is relevant, too, to non-industrial recording — to the student of vernacular architecture, for example. Though a professional architect himself, Major shares that constant frustration for the problems of those less expert and perhaps less well equipped. Apart from a series of misprints of place and personal names, the only complaint is that the book could have been longer. There is no categorically right or wrong way of going about fieldwork or documentary research, since so much depends on the site and the worker; and in time every practitioner builds up his own experience. But everyone, whether beginner or veteran, should want to know how others go about the task, can only benefit greatly from Major’s down-to-earth hints, and must wish he could have displayed more of the cards that are surely tucked up his sleeve.

Kenneth Hudson’s book is not a very satisfying one. The style, in places journalistic, may not suit everyone’s taste. Apart from a useful list of museums and societies concerned with preservation and recording, his practical hints for the potential industrial archaeologist are bitty and pallid. And his main theme, that industrial buildings and equipment are more than just things, is far from being actually built, equipped and worked on them as to their architect, engineer or owner, while an eminently tenable one, is argued in a distinctly simplistic way. A remark like ‘it is as absurd and unfair to talk of Wren’s St. Paul’s or Wolsey’s Hampton Court as it is of Brunel’s Great Western Railway’ begs many questions. He quotes a number of instances of ‘industrial history in the round’, dealing not with industrial archaeology but with other history, as such and his comments form a useful appendix to Major’s. But all too often he forgets that industrial archaeological investigation and the recording of oral history are parallel pursuits, both contributing towards the same end, and that for periods beyond living memory — and in many cases beyond reasonable documentary coverage — the buildings and machines which he tends to decay as inanimate and dumb may be our only source. Industrial archaeology is not an end in itself, but let it yield what evidence it can. Nor is it Hudson well served by his publishers, for this is an infuriating book to use. The table of contents is innocent of page numbers, and the lengthy captions to the illustrations are printed in a typeface so similar to that of the main text that the reader is frequently inveigled into mistaking one for the other.

When Éric de Maré’s Bridges of Britain was first published in 1954, a breath of civilising air was breathed into the hitherto stuffy atmosphere of antiquarian and technical study of bridges. This admirable work being almost unobtainable now, we are treated to a new edition. It is much altered from the original, and by no means to the good. The splendid illustrations — mostly by de Maré himself — are brought up to date by the inclusion of a fair number of modern bridges: this is undoubtedly a gain. On the debit side, their total is reduced from 156 to 128, and the heaviest loss is in the text: about 150 pages in the first edition, some 90 in the new. This is a great pity, because de Maré captures the spirit of bridges, their designers, builders and users as successfully in words as in photographs. The present text is far from worthless, but it is vastly less valuable than before, a mere minion to the illustrations instead of an equal partner. Nor is he free of errors, and some old prints have suffered from half-tone rather than line reproduction. De Maré’s approach is not primarily a technical one, but aesthetic and utilitarian at the same time; he follows Palladio in dictum that ‘Bridges ought to have the self-same qualifications as we judge necessary to all other
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excavated by John Wacher at Silver Street or the important
series of excavations carried out at the Bishops' Palace by the
Department of the Environment.

However, this booklet is still a major contribution to the
archaeology of Lincoln. It fills the need for a layman's
guide to the archaeology of the city's historic past, and is
detailed enough to be of value to archaeologists.

Miss Colyer is to be congratulated on the production of
such a useful piece of work.

CLYN COPPACK

BARRON, PYRAMID AND TOMB by Leslie V. Grinsell,
240 pp., illus., Thames and Hudson, 1975, £5.75.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ATLAS OF THE WORLD by David
and Ruth Whitehouse, 272 pp., illus., Thames and Hudson,
1975, £5.75. ATLAS OF ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGY
edited by Jacqueta Hawkes, 272 pp., illus., Heinemann,
1974, £6.50.

Leslie Grinsell's contributions to archaeology as a field-
worker, a museum curator and a scholar, are well known
and widely respected and Barrow, Pyramid and Tomb is a
worthy addition to his impressive bibliography of
archaeological publications. The book embodies results of a
lifelong study of funerary practice and monuments and is in
two parts, analytical and regional. The analysis of funerary
practice in Europe and the Mediterranean world draws on archaeological and
documentary evidence of all periods and presents a
fascinating and valuable survey. Questions such as the
 treatment of the body, sacrifice, grave-goods, the breaking
of funerary objects, tomb robbing and evidence of ritual
or the belief in after-life, are all examined in a manner
which is both concise and comprehensive and information
 gained from an amusingly wide range of sources is
masterfully combined.

Since so much of our knowledge of ancient societies is
gleaned from the evidence of burials, the first part of this
book contains essential information for all archaeologists irrespective of their specialisation.

The second part contains a brief description of some of the
principal groups of funerary monuments visited by the
author during his researches. Although some important
groups of European monuments are omitted, as an
essentially firsthand account of sites this section is both
impressive and informative. The book is well illustrated
and a substantial bibliography enables the student to examine
in greater detail the numerous leads provided by the author.

The Archaeological Atlas of the World is very much a
reference work. By means of 108 maps, over 5000
archaeological sites in all parts of the world are located.
Each map is accompanied by a brief summary of the
archaeology of the region represented but space permits
only a very small percentage of the sites named on the maps
to be mentioned in the text. Undergraduates and academics
may find it useful to have this book available for occasional
brief reference.

In contrast, the local archaeologist looking for an easily
read, but nevertheless reliable, introduction to world
archaeology will find the Atlas of Ancient Archaeology more
to his taste. A number of eminent contributors have
described 170 important archaeological sites in Europe and
the world and many illustrations help to make this an
attractively produced book.

G. C. KNOWLES

A GEOGRAPHY OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN
by P. J. Perry, 187 pp., illus., Batsford, 1975, £6.50 hard-
back, £2.95 paperback.

This book, the Introduction tells us, is directed at 'students
in their last two years at school and their first and second
years at university or college'. Its theme is a challenging one:
the geography of Britain during an age of exceptionally
rapid and profound change. Dr. Perry brings expertise and
enthusiasm to the mammoth task of producing a
coherent story from a large and varied body of source
material. One admires his deft handling of this, but at the
same time regrets that so much of potential interest had to
be compressed into fewer than 200 pages. The result is an
informative but at times somewhat breathless survey.

Generous notes and illustrations, together with suggestions
for further reading, serve to extend the text and may induce
readers to build on the author's foundations.

The main substance of the book lies in the six chapters
which trace the changing character and distribution of
extractive and manufacturing industries, of population and
communications and agricultural activities. For some
readers the most interesting sections may well be those
which deal with less familiar aspects of the changing scene:
with the chemical industry, for example, or with paper-
making or the leather trades. But for those who wish to
know what happened to mining or to iron and steel, there
is also something (though Dr. Perry appears to have a steel
industry on the Jurassic orefields of the East Midlands as
early as 1853 and mining, other than for coal, receives
short shrift). A lively account of 'movement and mobility'
contains information on banking and retail trades as well as
canals and railways.

Local historians may feel that this book does not meet
their needs. It may, even so, provoke them into asking
questions that they would not otherwise ask. Should a
second edition be called for, it is to be hoped that a number of
misprints, mis-spellings and repetitions will be corrected.

A. HARRIS

LOCAL HISTORY AND FOLKLORE A NEW FRAME-
WORK by Charles Phythian-Adams, 99 pp., Bedford Square
Press for the Standing Conference for Local History, 1975,
85 pence.

As the result of interest shown in the subject of Folklore at
a meeting of the Standing Conference for Local History and
the Folklore Society in 1973, Mr. Phythian-Adams has
produced this booklet which is aimed at helping to fill
the gulf between historians and folklorists.

It is an interesting paper from a modern point of view,
and useful to the student, with a good bibliography. The
division of the year for the celebration of certain events and
customs is helped by a calendar of 'variously observed days'
which to hang one's findings. If this is the new framework
then it is as old as sin, but just given a new name and viewed
from another angle; although there are plenty of good points
to be picked out for study.

In any treatise on folklore reference is always made to
the permissive licence at annual holiday times with stress on
the eve of May Day, and here (p.23) the parish registers are
referred to for possible study. This would need a search over
a wide area and I am sure would prove nothing. So the
'deferred milkmaids' are safe. I have collected descriptions
of such comings and goings over a great number of years but I
have never heard of anyone getting in the family way at
such times. Our country people had their own remedies,
which were very simple, and they used them. There was also
the wise woman of the village to fall back on, with her
knowledge of herbs to induce abortion etc.

It is indeed foolish to underestimate the deep knowledge,
under certain heads, of the villager, which was the
consequence of intimate study of nature and natural causes
and effects. Reading this booklet shakes up one's ideas and
then beds them down again more firmly than ever. Although I
felt that my own particular sphere of work had been well
swept under the carpet, yet I enjoyed it.

ETHEL H. RUDKIN
Notes and Documents

THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN NORMANBY-BY-SPITAL

C. 1830-1900.

R. J. Olney

Despite the apparent wealth of surviving material, both printed and manuscript, the local historian of rural England in the nineteenth century is aware of some distressing gaps. It is particularly difficult to find manuscript letters or statements by labourers. Their views of their social and economic predicament, and the small village organisations that they formed to better their condition, are for the most part undocumented. Yet the odd survival suggests that some villages had a tradition of working-class activity. The labourers built up their experience over many years, in battles with employers, parsons and charity trustees.

Such a village was Normanby-by-Spital, for which a document of exceptional interest, dating from the 1830s, has recently come to light. It is a notice announcing a labourers' meeting, and was preserved because somebody intercepted it and sent it to the Lindsey magistrates sitting in petty sessions at Lincoln. No related papers survive with it, however, and there is no indication that legal proceedings were taken.

[This is to give Notice to yeare will be Notices for Every Workin man for the a State ment of wayges in this niber hund and if every Man dont a Peare at this Meting Shall Suffer the Meting Shall be held on the [217th] of November 1854 in the nue laine Owmby the Start we Make to Saxby to the gover to Pul all wages Doum but whe are Dermand [i.e. determined] of betr wags or els Whel shall begin to buckhead them all for he his the preser [i.e. oppressor] of this contry and likewise docter Dod the Choorch yard Rober of Scotland the pre Mucky boy got the parson Daughter with A young Bastord but we will Son send him to rob the Scotth Church yards again. Late hi whod have you to raise wages before its to[o late . . .]

The notice was written at a time when farmers, faced with low corn prices, were attempting to cut down their labour costs. The introduction of the New Poor Law added to the discontent of the agricultural poor, and the autumn and winter of 1834-5 was a time of rick-burning and threatening letters in Lincolnshire. In part the Normanby notice is a threatening letter, with its deeply felt grudges and violent language. But it is not proposing an isolated act of arson but rather a form of co-ordinated industrial action, and in this lies its particular significance. The labourers were to meet to discuss their grievances, and then go in a body to present themselves and their case to one of the largest employers in the neighbourhood. It was no doubt hoped that if he saw sense and restored their former wages, smaller farmers would follow suit.

By itself the notice is of course no proof that the proposed action took place. Proof comes, however, from a newspaper item published just over forty years later. The newspaper was the Labourers' Union Chronicle, organ of the National Union of Agricultural Labourers, and the contributor was probably the secretary of the Normanby branch.

There has been considerable excitement among the agricultural labourers in this village for a number of years. About forty years back a large number of men held a meeting in the new lane, between Owmby and Normanby, to consult as to what steps they could take to better their circumstances, for at that time many had nothing but hard work to subsist on. The feeling between the employers and the employed was anything but good. About twenty-five years ago the labourers tried to establish a labourers' club, which they then thought was a great necessity, and they felt it their duty to combine for that and other purposes, but they did not succeed.

. . . . When the sound of Joseph Arch reached Normanby, and of what he was doing, the labourers called a meeting, and at the first meeting fifty-nine joined, who were willing to give 5d. per week. They had no delegate to help them at that time, nevertheless, they formed their plans and carried them out, giving their employers due notice that, on 4 March, 1872, they wanted 3s. per day, and to work on the nine hours' system.

A successful strike followed.

As an account of the events of 1872, this may be a little misleading. The initial movement at the Normanby labourers had been too early to be influenced by the 'sound of Joseph Arch', and it was only subsequently that they formed themselves into a branch of Arch's National Union. But the older memories were remarkably accurate.

Many of the Lincolnshire union branches formed in 1872 failed after only three or four years, but activity continued at Normanby. There was a strike in 1878. In 1885 there were newspaper reports of the activities of George Jubbs, of Owmby, a farm workers' leader who had procured a seat on the Normanby school board, and who addressed meetings in the county on the allotments question. During the brief union revival of the early 1890s, Normanby was one of the places where meetings were held.

What were the features of life and work in Normanby that fostered these radical activities? In the first place there was an absence of upper-class social control: the principal landlord was an ecclesiastical absentee, the dean and chapter of Lincoln, and the incumbent was non-resident. In the second place Normanby, although not a very large village (it had 430 inhabitants in 1841), had a good-sized population of farm workers, some of whom probably went out each day to farms in close parishes such as Saxby. Nonconformity was strong, and in 1864 the Free Methodists (many of whom must have been labourers) spent the amazing sum of £1,000 on a new chapel.

As in other villages with radical traditions, there was a charitable endowment to provide a bone of contention and a training in agitation at a parochial level. The National school received £16 a year from a charitable trust to provide for the free education of sixteen scholars. There was trouble over this charity as early as the 1830s, when the charity commissioners arrived to find Normanby up in arms over a project by the trustees to move the school to Owmby.

Despite recent interest in the phenomenon known as the 'Revolts of the Field', that eruption of rural unionism in the early months of 1872, little is yet known about the local, as opposed to the national, origins of the movement. Studies of village communities may well help to explain why some places rapidly became centres of union activity in 1872, whilst others remained quiescent. Normanby may be exceptional for the survival of a certain type of evidence, yet as a village of militant labourers it may have many parallels both in Lincolnshire and in other counties.

Footnotes

1. Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincoln (Lindsey) Petty Sessions, papers for 1854, LNPS 1/60.
2. Probably John Walter Dudding (c.1794-1861), of Saxby and later of Howell. He farmed over half the parish of Saxby, according to the land tax returns of 1831.
3. To buckhead a hedge is to lob off the top branches, so as to leave branched stumps about three feet high (Edward Peacock, A Glossary of Words used in the Wapentakes of Manley and Corringham, 1889, p.77).
4. The identity of this enemy of the people is a mystery, and his connection with the wages question (as opposed to his connection with the parson's daughter) is left obscure.
Presumably he was a medical practitioner. Suggestions will be welcomed.

In Harriet Martineau's *Dearbrooke* (1839), Dr. Hope says

"There is a report abroad about me, sitting out of old prejudice about dissection. Some of my neighbours think that dissecting is the employment and passion of my life, and that I rob the churchyard as often as anybody is buried" (I p.117).

5

"Prey" is possibly the start of a longer word which the writer found he could not spell and so abandoned.

6


7

Labourers' Union Chronicle, 16 January 1875.

8


9

Charity Commissioners' Reports, County of Lincoln, 1819-1919, pp.410-11. The date of the visit is not given. The trustees included J. W. Dudding.

**Book Reviews**

**RUSTON AND HORNSBY LOCOMOTIVES** by Eric S. Tonks, 92 pp., Illus., The Industrial Railway Society, 1974, £2.00.

Mr. Tonks had been visiting Rustons annually for eight years before I joined them. His holidays were devoted to the pursuit of industrial locomotive records. Each year he departed with bulging files — and satisfied smiles! Even so, I am most impressed by the coverage of Rustons' locomotive business that Mr. Tonks has achieved in this book.

The reader is given an interesting word picture of the locomotive works at Lincoln, with brief reference to its previous use for the building of First World War fighter planes, followed by peace-time motor cars. The book describes the production of some 6,500 locomotives (more than any other builder), from 1901 to 1969. The author had the advantage of many long sessions with senior Ruston locomotive men in all departments. The reader, consequently, is given first-hand reports of the many firsts in this story. For example, a Ruston locomotive was the first to be awarded the government certificate for use in goody mines.

I was a little disappointed to find only a passing reference to the twenty eight narrow-gauge oil locomotives built by Ruston, Proctor & Co. during the First World War for use in the coal factories — especially as two of these machines are probably the oldest British-built oil locomotives in preservation. One is at Lincoln's Museum of Lincolnshire Life. However, they were Ruston-Proctor products and this book deals specifically with Ruston & Hornsby Ltd.

The book is well illustrated, presenting seventy five photographs, and line drawings of four models. Some enthusiasts would no doubt prefer to see more of the latter. Separate chapters deal specifically with design and development; Rustons classification scheme; the numbering system; the company recording practices; and sales data. Appendices present a complete numerical list of locos and batches of numbers within each class, with production dates. This section is a mine of information.

Altogether a fascinating account of Rustons' locomotive business, written efficiently and in pleasing style. I looked in vain for details of locos in preservation — but there must be scope for another book devoted to that subject!

R. E. HOOLEY

LINCOREN


This book represents the results of research in the archives of the Earl of Scarbrough at Sandbeck and Skegness, and describes how economic, social, and family considerations were inter-related in the acquisition and development of the Lumley and Sanderson estates in Durham, Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire.

The Lumleys were prominent Durham landowners as early as the twelfth century, and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries acquired wealth and influence through exploitation of collieries beside the Wear at Great Lumley. The Sandersons also originated in Durham, but during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries accumulated considerable estates in north Lincolnshire and south Yorkshire. By 1608 Sir Nicholas Sanderson, first Viscount Castleton, possessed lands in several Lincolnshire parishes, including Fillingham, Saxby, Reasby, Stainton, Newball, Toft Newton, Willoughton, Gainsborough, Scroberthorpe, Kirton, Tetney, Theddlethorpe, Skne, Frisby, and Boston. Later in the century the marriage of Nicholas Sanderson, son of the fourth Viscount, to Elizabeth Wray, heiress to Sir Christopher Wray, brought the family extensive properties at Glentworth and Winteringham.

The Lumley and Sanderson estates were united in 1739 in the person of Thomas Lumley, third Earl of Scarbrough, and in 1760 there began a period of heavy expenditure on rebuilding at Sandbeck, and on improvement of agricultural land by enclosure, drainage, and conversion of rough pasture to tillage. Glentworth is studied in detail to illustrate the process of improvement, and to assess the roles of the landowner and the more substantial tenants such as the Codr family.

Rising expenditure led to mortgage debts, and the sixth Earl enforced economies and stricter rent policy. Rents were advanced sharply in 1809, and when tenants complained of their distress after 1815, he accused them of extravagance and profiteering during the War years, and ordered his agent to discharge those persistently in arrears. The author suggests that little was done to encourage greater efficiency amongst the tenants, and that progress was therefore slow during the first half of the century.

The ninth Earl sought to compensate for declining agricultural profits during the late nineteenth century by developing Skne as a sea-bathing resort, and Mr. Beastall describes the process of laying down roads, leasing out building plots, providing amenities, and building the hotels and pier. Returns were initially modest, and the author emphasizes that non-agricultural sources of revenue such as the coal trade and urban development were secondary to income from tenants land, and that fluctuations in farming fortunes mattered most to the landlord.

Mr. Beastall's profound knowledge of the Scarbrough archives provides a valuable insight into the development and management of an estate which has not hitherto attracted detailed attention from historians. The Lincolnshire properties comprised over 11,000 acres, and the author's discussion of agricultural change and of landlord-tenant relationships will be of particular relevance to those interested in the agricultural history of the county.

There are occasions where one might have wished the author had drawn upon a wider range of sources to supplement estate records, notably in the section on agriculture after 1815, where reference to local newspapers and farm accounts might have revealed more fully the significance of the inelasticity of rents and the importance of tenant capital in fostering improvement. One has reservations about some of the observations on tenant rights, and it is surprising that so little is said about the custom in Lincolnshire when we know that on other estates this was a prominent factor behind the advances in Lincolnshire farming practice after 1815. A more conspicuous point is the sometimes inaccurate and inconsistent spelling of Lincolnshire place-names.

These are minor qualifications, however, and those of us interested in estate history in Lincolnshire will be grateful to Mr. Beastall for his work on the Scarbrough papers, and one hopes stimulated to follow his example with respect to the many as yet undокументed estates in the county.

A. E. READMAN

CICHESTER
BOOK REVIEWS


The English countryside is now receiving considerable attention from both economic and social historians. The two groups are, however, divergent and sometimes even antagonistic in aims and methods. The economic historian is inclined to lament the 'exaggerated concern with the details of the welfare of labour', which prevents the social historian from appreciating fully the function of labour as a 'factor of production'. The social historian, on the other hand, may find the theories and statistical tables of the economic historian too cold-blooded, and may prefer to concern himself not with yields per acre but with what it meant, in terms of human labour, to get in the harvest; not with wage statistics, but with what it was like to bring up a family on ten shillings a week.

Where these two groups share common ground, however, is in their recognition of an ever-growing range of local sources. The economic historians use local archival evidence to test the old hypotheses about the 'agricultural revolution', 'high farming', and 'the Great Depression'. The social historians are now adding the recorded memories of old people to their stores of source material. Among the latter is Raphael Samuel, whose introduction to Village Life and Labour sets out in a clear and provocative way his view of the historian's job. This volume is promised to be the first of a series on social and labour history, the fruits of the History Workshops held at Ruskin College, Oxford, over the past eight years. Of the three essays in this first instalment, Mr. Samuel's own contribution is, as one would expect, the most authoritative. He describes, in fascinating if occasionally repetitive detail, the life of the inhabitants of Headington Quarry, a small hamlet near Oxford, around the turn of the century. Here is oral history at its best, supported by an impressive range of printed and manuscript sources. One of his themes is the seasonal nature of much of the local employment, and the versatility of the working people in switching from one job to another. It is a subject which might well repay investigation for Lincolnshire. What did farm workers do during the hard times of winter unemployment? Did they take to fishing, or try to London or the Burton breweries, as some Suffolk workers did? The blanket description 'ag. lab.' in the census enumerators' returns could cover a multitude of occupations, some less legal than others.

In the same volume David H. Morgan discusses the place of harvesters in nineteenth-century village life, and deals usefully with such matters as the organisation of harvest labour, the varying methods of payment, the importance of gleaning, and the introduction of machinery. Harvesting also comes into Jennie Kitteringham's account of how girls and young women could add to family incomes, either in field work or in domestic industry. She could have said a little more about family structure, and about the moral attitudes of contemporaries to certain kinds of rural female employment. Some of those who condemned the 'immorality' of agricultural gangs were certainly unable to see past their own class prejudices. But it has to be said that the fields were traditionally the place for lured jokers and rude sport, and also that the rural working class was itself divided on the issue. Respectable labourers did not like to see their womenfolk become hardened to field work.

Of course in Lincolnshire, a county peculiarly devoid of rural industries, there was often not much choice. Even domestic service meant more often than not the rough work of a farmer's household. L. J. JoneIas another type of comment to make on the relative absence of cottage industry in cereal-growing regions such as the Lincolnshire Wolds. In an article that first appeared in 1968, he notes that the processing of agricultural products 'offered little scope for transformation into manufacturing industry'. It was the agriculturally poor areas which developed cottage industry in the search for alternative employment, and cottage enterprise which in its turn provided the spur to the expansion of large scale industrial expansion. Professor Jones has now reprinted that article, together with other pieces (not all so directly relevant), in a book entitled Agriculture and the Industrial Revolution. His concept of the way in which English agriculture developed between about 1660 and 1870 is cogently argued, and serves to remind the local historian of the need to keep his eye on broader themes.

Historians of Law and Order are naturally more concerned with the industrial than with the agricultural revolution, and it is the Plug Plot Riots of 1842 which take the centre of the stage in another recently published volume of essays, this time by a group of (mainly young Oxford) historians. In Popular Protest and Public Order, edited by John Stevenson and Roland Quinault, it is the two pieces contributed by the editors which Lincolnshire students may perhaps find most useful. Mr. Stevenson discusses the food riots of the Napoleonic period, relating them to contemporaneous communications and the operation of the food market. Mr. Quinault analyses the Warwickshire county magistracy and its role in keeping the peace between 1830 and 1870. He touches on several important themes -- the composition of the bench, the clerical justices, problems of administrative co-ordination, the clash of rural and urban interests (Birmingham versus the County), and the influence, often exaggerated by previous writers, of the Home Secretary on local peace-keeping efforts. Even in Warwickshire, however, the suppression of riots formed only a small part of magisterial duties, and there is a danger of seeing routine administrative problems too much in terms of 'security'.

Pamela Horn, the author of The Victorian Country Child, knows a good deal about Warwickshire, and from her Oxford base she has also explored Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire sources. But her book lacks the vividness of a local study, which at the same time fails to present a freshly-argued view of her large and important subject. After a description of a small boy's fall from his stilts, we get the rather flat comment, 'Many other small boys no doubt shared his misfortunes'. Where the book is most helpful is in its very clear account, from the children's own viewpoint, of the horrors of Victorian village school education. What with cold school rooms, rampant germs, ogre-like Inspectors, and frequent 'holidays' for field labour, it is surprising that literacy increased as much as it did. Farm workers' children were often cold, bored or hungry, and, if that were not enough, they were savagely treated by their elders if they got into trouble. A Wiltshire lad who stole 'three pennyworth of turnips from a heap in a field' was sent to prison for ten days with hard labour, followed by five years at a reformatory school. He was ten years old at the time of his sentence.

In The Days We Have Seen, George Ewart Evans continues his conversations with octogenarian East Anglians, and as usual captures some instructive reminiscences. He has the knack of getting people to start talking, and then of letting them continue with the minimum of prompting and interruption. There are chapters on common rights, the hay trade, inns and pubs, coastal shipping and the autumn herring fishing season. Unlike Mr. Samuel, however, Mr. Evans fails to provide much scholarly framework on which to hang his oral evidence. When he does pursue an historical argument, it tends to have something sly about it. He maintains that
the period of the first world war marked a decisive break with the ‘old culture’ of the countryside. Fearing that this may be a slight over-simplification, he turns for reassurance to C. S. Lewis. Here we are moving away from the confines of history and into the realm of myth. At the same time as he laments the decline of an old folk tradition, he is trying to create a new one.

R. J. OLNEY
LINCOLN

LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH AND WRITING by David Iredale, 225pp., illus., The Elmsfield Press, 1974, £4.90.

Dr. Iredale’s book is sub-titled ‘A manual for local history writers.’ It contains chapters on different classes of record, e.g. estate papers, town books, church archives, quarter sessions and business records, as well as chapters on certain selected topics and/or methods e.g. houses, industrial archaeology and field work. There is a good deal of sound advice on the methods of systematic research and orderly recording. Recommendations about further reading are sprinkled throughout the text, and gathered into a comprehensive bibliography at the back of the book.

Dr. Iredale defines his target readership by writing early in the book that ‘local historians are in the main intelligent but part-time researchers.’ Interested amateurs will find parts of the book very useful, e.g. the chapter on archives, which were formerly Dr. Iredale’s professional concern. Other sections, however, are too compressed to be intelligible to the beginner, and produce statements such as ‘Concords, often called fines, are enrolled from 1182 to 1834 and deal with land titles.’ The amateur may also be intimidated by the enormous burden of research thrust upon him from the very first chapter. For example, the section on lead, tin and copper mining, which runs to just over one page, includes the following advice:

Try to discover all mine buildings, dams, watercourses and wheels. The tracks and railed-ways leading across the site and to the main road or railway must be sought. Details should be drawn on plans, described in words and photographed. Finally seek the name and nature of the vein of ore, the owner and the lessee, approximate dates of operation, estimate of productivity . . .

For even a small mining field, this work could take a part-time researcher several years, and require a sophisticated knowledge of the history of techniques of mining, ore dressing and smelting as well as of the commercial organisation of the industry concerned. Dr. Iredale no doubt intended to offer a wide range of possibilities to the amateur researcher, but his repeated use of imperatives and his understatement of the problems involved in the proposed research projects leave the reader with a different impression.

Some of the statements in the book are inaccurate or misleading. We are told, for example, that ‘a township is in origin a fortified enclosure’ (p.4) and that after 1834 ‘all people needing [poor] relief - aged, impotent, vagabonds, children - were sent to a central workhouse’ (p.195). Dr. Iredale’s knowledge of agrarian history, a key aspect of his subject, leaves something to be desired, and results in rather naive jottings such as the following (p.69)

Villagers created the open fields as they cleared forest or heath. Working alongside each other through much of the farming year to produce arable crops, they created intermingled unfenced strips of land. This is enclosure from the waste for arable, meadow and pasture. As such it is looked upon as a sign of progress and well-being. By contrast there is a tightly-written section on conveyancing (pp.141-4) which is comprehensive but makes few concessions to the beginner.

A few minor comments might be made. Water wheels included breast wheels as well as overshot and undershot wheels. Not all tithe was paid in kind before the 1836 Tithe Act. The proceedings of the Assistant Tithe Commissioners can be found in the Public Record Office, reference R.18. Some probate inventories survive much later than ‘about 1740.’ There were manorial, as well as ecclesiastical, probate jurisdictions.

On balance the book is something of a curate’s egg. There are many good things in it, but it would be better read in conjunction with the work of Hoskins and Finberg than separately.

The book is well produced. ‘Arnkel’ for ‘Arkel’ on p.86 is the only misprint which I noticed. There is an adequate index.

BERNARD JENNINGS
HULL

THE ARCHITECTURAL INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY by John Glaug, xvii + 548 pp., illus., A. and C. Black, 1975, £8.50.

Since there are so many histories of world architecture, one must expect any new book of that kind to be based upon ideas that do more than reiterate old ground. On the other hand, to attempt to forge a relationship between political, social and economic history and the architecture of the area concerned, inevitably leads to a tendency to oversimplify, at least because there is a natural temptation to consider only the best, and authors in consequence only occasionally consider the middle or lower ranks of buildings. Yet from the wider point of view, these are as important in the overall context as is the fine architecture especially created, for a limited number of wealthy clients.

This book therefore makes challenging reading, not least because of a number of debatable comparisons and captions. It is essential for those who are not familiar with architectural history to check Mr. Glaug’s opinions against readily observable fact e.g. is Mr. Kipling’s bricklayer of 1910 (p.21) really so archaic a figure even in 1976?

Similarly the English counterpart given for the Villa Rotunda is Chiswick House rather than Mereworth Castle, and of the two doorways illustrated (pp.218 and 219) that at Compton Wynates is of one period, that of York of two. (The latter doorway has the monogram of James I and an oversized armorial panel of Charles I). One might also query the caption to Plate 39, a view of Chambord, which, it is claimed is of an impeccably symmetrical composition, or the statement that thousands of Victorian jerry builders, freed by the repeal of the window tax in 1851, followed Ruskin’s advice and ‘deliberately restricted the admission of daylight by filling window openings with tracery!’ This latter judgement might be better restricted to ‘model’ country cottages.

The book is amply illustrated from a commendably wide range of materials — reproductions of old line engravings and drawings, showing reconstructions of ancient buildings, juxtaposed with modern photographs illustrating the present appearance of the structures etc. There is much to be learnt, simply from a careful study of these pictures, about the different ages which produced them — the early antiquarian anxiously recording buildings in danger (e.g. pp.201, 222), architectural historians striving for accuracy (e.g. Plate 8, 13 right), the modern tourist beset by lack of time and problems of lighting (e.g. Plate 32), or the National Tourist Offices equally aware of the subtleties of publicity (e.g. p.139).

How intriguing therefore to gauge the rapidity of change by comparing Mr. Glaug’s own view of New York in Plate 35 with that on the cover.

IVAN HALL
BEVERLEY

Grimsby Pastures' Committee MSS; West Marsh: building leases (144). Also, Select Committee on Town Holdings: Minutes of Evidence (535), QQ 8024-96.


Local Government Board Inquiry, Co. Borough of Grimsby Incorporation Scheme, 1908, Minutes of Evidence of Charles Smith, Master of Sidney Sussex College, QQ 5680-5764.

Grimsby Observer, 16 November, 1909.

Grimsby Observer, 4 October, 1871.

Grimsby Observer, 15 October, 1875, 25 September, 1878.

Grimsby Observer, 12 March, 1875.

P.R.O., B.T. 31/2481/12743; Grimsby Observer, 26 June, 1872, 5 July, 1876, 6 August, 1875, 22 October, 1879.

P.R.O., B.T. 31/2557/11892; Grimsby Observer, 18 December, 1872.

Grimsby Observer, 3 May, 1876.

P.R.O., B.T. 31/2927/1032; Grimsby Observer, 6 September, 1876.

P.R.O., B.T. 51/2949/10724.

P.R.O., B.T. 31/2927/11044; Grimsby Observer, 31 May, 1876.

A search through the Register of Deed Companies, Companies' House (Department of Trade and Industry), London, 1981.

S.C. on Town Holdings: Minutes of Evidence (535), QQ 8302-94.

Grimsby Observer, 2 July, 1875.


Ibid.; Grimsby Observer, 19 May, 1886.


Grimsby Observer, 13 August, 1875.

Grimsby Observer, 7 February, 1877, 21 March, 1877, 30 May, 1877, 10 October, 1877.

Grimsby Observer, 15 July, 1885, 12 August, 1885, 26 August, 1885, 7 October, 1885.

Grimsby Observer, 10 February, 1886, 9 June, 1886.

Grimsby Observer, 13 June, 1886.

See, for example, Grimsby News, 20 June, 1913, 22 May, 1914.

The Society is indebted to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, for financial assistance towards the publication of this article.

Book Reviews


PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE IN MODERN ARCHAEOLOGY by David Brown, 262 pp., Teach Yourself Books (Hodder and Stoughton), 1975, £1.50.


Books on archaeological method, while no substitute for first-hand experience under proper guidance, can help to stimulate, and to formalise the ideas and principles applied. For many of the younger generation of archaeologists, Graham Webster's Practical Archaeology, first published in 1963, represented the most readable introduction then available to excavation and other techniques. The book was written as a companion volume to Piggott's Approach to Archaeology, more theoretical in content. Dr. Webster has now produced a revision (P.D.D., of the 1963 edition demanded, as he acknowledges in the Foreword, by the considerable advances made over the past ten years or so in terms of both excavation techniques and scientific aids. Accordingly the sections on these and other subjects have been brought up to date, but Webster
has not attempted to re-write the book completely to fit into the ‘rescue’ situation under which most practical work now takes place. The book remains a judicious blend of principle, practice, and illustration, and the price reasonable.

One of Webster’s training school pupils, David Browne, still only in mid-twenties, has produced a pocket-sized eclectic compendium of current principles and methods, packed with useful information, (hopefully) superseding the earlier Teach Yourself Archaeology. What the younger scholar lacks in wisdom and readability is partly compensated for by thoroughness of treatment. The book is aimed at those with little knowledge of archaeology, but the introductory chapter on ‘Archaeological Concepts’ is rather jargonistic: this might well discourage all those without considerable resources of both intellect and enthusiasm. At the same time, there is some justification for Browne’s premise that archaeology is a science in its own right, not merely a branch of another subject, and that as such it requires its own terminology. There are chapters concerned with ‘Finding an Archaeological Site’ and ‘Excavation’, while after half of the book is devoted to the post-excavation processes of conservation and scientific analysis. Useful bibliographies accompany each chapter, and there is a general bibliography and a list of museums at the end. While I cannot recommend this book without reservation to the beginner, it serves a good purpose in showing just how complex archaeology has become, and is good value at the price.

Just as Browne’s book reflects the impact of the natural sciences on archaeology, the new book by Aston and Rowley, both trained as geographers, shows the multidisciplinary approach necessary in settlement studies. ‘Landscape Archaeology’ is a relatively new concept, concerned particularly with understanding the part man-made features have played in the evolution of the landscape. This book is concerned with features dating to the period c.400 - c.1750, which have been comparatively neglected. The authors also feel that here is an ideal opportunity for groups of interested part-time enthusiasts to make a positive contribution — in recording the evidence before it is lost for ever. There are useful chapters on techniques of recording, containing much of the basic material that the amateur enthusiast will require, and on the use of maps and of aerial photographs. Further chapters look at aspects and objectives of work in ‘Towns’, in ‘Villages’ and in the ‘Countrieside’. The practical worker will also appreciate the various appendices, especially those which help to standardise and systematise recording. In short, there is a great deal of sound practical advice here to aid the beginner in a relatively new field of work. Errors are minor. Although this is basically a practical manual, and serves its purpose as such, a single reading should enhance anyone’s appreciation of the ‘landscape’ around him.

MICHAEL J. JONES


The glossary at the beginning of this book goes a long way towards explaining what it is all about. It is about rescue archaeology — ‘rescue’ with three meanings. It is about the contribution to British archaeology made by RESCUE — the Trust for British archaeology; about ‘Rescue’ archaeology, that is, about the national problem; and about the organization and problems of ‘rescue’ archaeology, viz. the investigation of sites which are threatened with destruction, rather than of sites excavated specifically as research projects.

The book is addressed to anyone who is interested in archaeology for whatever reason, and has been compiled by a galaxy of the archaeological ‘greats’ of our time. Twenty archaeologists, most of them at the time of writing on the committee of RESCUE, provide personal statements about different aspects of rescue archaeology in the 1970s. Each contributor’s idiosyncrasies are respected, and not surprisingly the range in quality between different contributors is great. Some, (admittedly only one or two), contributions have obviously been thrown together.

Others, notably the brilliant statement by Biddle on the future of the urban past, the hair-raising survey on the scale of the problem by Philip Barker, and Cecil Hogarth’s interesting chapter in which he assesses the role of archaeology in the wider conservation movement, are worth the ninety pence for the privilege of reading them alone.

The book is not concerned only with the analysis of the problems of particular sites or enclaves of archaeological activity, but it tries to show, as Biddle outlines in his foreword, how realization of the scale of the disaster — for so it must fairly be described — emerged, and how action has been taken, within a specialist profession, in the wider public world, and at the doors of government, to secure an effective response to an accelerating problem.

Its scope is very wide: it touches on, for example, the changing role of the amateur vis-à-vis the new professionalism in field archaeology; the situation regarding training (Graham Webster) and how the grossly inadequate facilities can be improved; the role of conservation and museums (Ken Barton and David Leigh), with the telling statement that on average in 1972 six new posts for conservators were advertised every month (this serves to highlight the incredible shortage of trained back-up personnel); and the legal framework. We have still, as Biddle points out, ‘one of the least adequate legal frameworks for antiquity of any civilized and of most undeveloped ... countries’.

And how does this affect Lincolnshire? If I write in the vein of the contributors to this book and add a twenty-first personal statement on the subject, I hope I may be forgiven for doing so. The controversies surrounding the archaeological and environmental problems and possibilities of Lincoln in the years 1971-74 in which, inevitably, I figured, honed large in the thoughts of the RESCUE committee during these years, and the threats to the archaeology of the city were in the forefront of the nation’s archaeological problems. When contributions to the book were being prepared, many of the city’s problems were as yet unresolved. In part they can be paralleled by Peter Addyman’s lucid survey of the tasks facing archaeology at York, and the need to set up a permanently constituted excavation unit, with director and well-qualified specialist assistants, premises, and a laboratory, the nucleus of a team of labour, and funds to undertake major round-the-year excavations in the expensive and difficult conditions normally met within the city ... . But the strictly archaeological problems were only part of Lincoln’s crisis, and Lincoln’s case is not analyzed, partly because our bishopric must bow to the superiority of York’s archbishopric, and partly to protect the innocent!

There is much to interest those concerned with the predominantly rural aspects of archaeology in Lincolnshire, and here obviously a great deal remains to be done. In times of economic stringency limited resources must be used to their full advantage, and only by co-operation of all parties — field archaeologists, the museums, specialist knowledge available in the county and the region, and the full realization of the role of the amateur, can some of the difficulties be overcome.

Biddle’s foreword was written in October 1973, two years after RESCUE was founded; in it he says that if the book ‘achieves its purpose it will soon be out of date’. Indeed a lot has happened since then, but alas, most of the problems are still the same. ‘Rescue excavation is not primarily money, machinery, people, and stripping of large sites; it is research, writing, conservation, workspace, and storage’ (Ken Barton). In Lincolnshire we still have a long way to go, and this book should entertain and inspire everyone who would like to see it go the right way. It makes impelling reading. Time is not on our side.

CHRISTINA COLYER

LINCOLN 53
BOOK REVIEWS

OLD ENGLISH HOUSEHOLD LIFE by Gertrude Jekyll, 224 pp., Illus., Batsford, 1975, £3.95.

This is a reprint of a book first published in May 1925. The Chapters I enjoyed most were those devoted to cottage furnishing and to people and costume. Here Miss Jekyll is obviously very familiar with her material and speaks from first hand experience. This is of great value as she started collecting information as early as 1904 when people were alive who could remember well back into the nineteenth century.

However, the book deals with a wide variety of country subjects, and in my view the variety is too wide. There are good detailed descriptions of one or two items - for instance how to make rush lights and how to make a five-barred gate - but other items are dealt with very superficially. For instance a chapter of thirteen pages is devoted to 'Cottage Candlelight' but the whole subject of 'Cottage Construction' only merits nineteen pages. The choice of subject matter also appears rather arbitrary and one wonders why, for example, a chapter on bridges appears in a book on household life, a chapter which, incidentally, scarcely does justice to the subject. It is however difficult to criticise the contents of a book which was first printed 50 years ago when the criteria for choice may have been very different.

There has been no attempt to update this book in any way and whilst one can sympathise with Miss Jekyll's regret that 'perhaps a few years hence we shall no longer see the jolly teams of horses starting out for a day's work' it does sound rather strange to our ears. Her constant inferences that everything new was bad, and everything old was good, becomes rather tedious towards the end of the book. Again, though, it is perhaps unfair to judge this book by present day standards and by present day thinking.

The book is profusely illustrated - 277 plates in all - and these are of considerable interest. Unfortunately they suffer by being reprinted from a book of this age and many are dark and indistinct.

The main value of this book lies in its first hand descriptions of a way of life that has long disappeared and despite its shortcomings should be enjoyed by the casual reader and more serious student alike.

CATHERINE WILSON
LINCOLN


This volume of essays, by its refreshing and often original examination of a number of historical problems, is an appropriate and fitting tribute to the pioneering achievements and wide ranging interests of W. G. Hoskins. It is only regrettable that Professor Hoskins, who has done more than most to bring recognisability to the term 'local history', is here honoured by a book that pays scant attention to the local community and that bears the unfortunate (but badly appropriate) title of 'essays in regional history'.

Nevertheless, most of the contributors pursue lines of enquiry with which Hoskins himself was concerned. Three contributors, for example, examine aspects of agricultural and social change in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a theme to which Hoskins directed much of his attention. Robert Newton, writing of Tudor Northumberland, identifies the political and economic pressures that brought about the dissolution of feudal society along the Border and facilitated the transition to economic growth and agricultural improvement. Joan Thirk's study of the adoption and diffusion of tobacco-growing in England reveals a close, if uneasy, alliance between landlord, cultivator and merchant and describes the important role played by Henry Somerscales, a native of Lincolnshire, in these early speculative ventures. More generally, she argues that the slow diffusion of agricultural innovations was determined not by the ignorance and stubbornness of the peasantry but by the economic and social constraints of cultivation. Michael Havinden underlines the importance of lime and growing crop yields and, in his account of the development of liming in Devon, suggests that favourable economic conditions were more likely to stimulate its adoption than the pressure exerted by landlords.

Professor Hoskins' work on local demography and harvest fluctuations is developed in David Palliser's examination of the chronology of dearth and disease in Staffordshire between 1540 and 1670; his study reveals that even following the worst years of crisis mortality, loss of population was swiftly replaced by a rise in the birth rate: the long-term growth of population was not unduly hindered.

The Great Rebuilding of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which Hoskins first identified, is the subject of Derek Portman's admirable study of vernacular building in the Oxford region, an excellent example of how probate inventories may be used to yield evidence on the development of rural housing and the improvement of living standards. The aesthetic and functional aspects of vernacular architecture are also discussed in Hope Bagenal's article on the rationale of traditional building.

Hoskins' work on urban history and topography is also acknowledged in four studies of urban growth. Roy Millward writes of the period of commercial and urban expansion in Cumbria between 1600 and 1800 which he finds manifested in the development of new markets and towns and in the topographical and social changes that overwhelmed the old established centres. Professor Hoskins' oft-voiced lament at the lack of any detailed study of the people and capital involved in town building has not gone unnoticed and three contributions to this volume throw valuable light on this difficult subject. Christopher Chalklin approaches the problem by looking at the men responsible for the creation of four new towns in the seventeenth century (Whitley, Deal, Portsea and Tunbridge Wells); Ron Neale discusses the contribution made by the architect and planner John Wood to the elegant and ostentatious development of eighteenth century Bath; and, by way of contrast, Maurice Beresford examines the work of Richard Paley in providing high density, working class housing in the East End of Leeds.

Finally, readers of this journal will be particularly interested in Julian Cornwall's article on John Langholme of Conisholme, one of the minor gentry of Lincolnshire, who Cornwall considers more truly representative of his class than the more polished and prosperous group of rising gentry. Mr. Cornwall capably assembles the meagre facts relating to Langholme's short life (c.1493-1528) and effectively places Langholme in his social context. In matters of interpretation, however, Cornwall is too easily tempted into unwarranted speculation, particularly in his handling of the inventory evidence. For example, his contention that Langholme was being hard pressed for cash and was having to sell off his assets to satisfy his creditors is unconvincing and requires much more substantiating evidence. His narrative, too, contains some rather dubious statements: those acquainted with the nature of marshland farming will be particularly surprised at his assertion that 'There was nothing unusual . . . in Langholme's failure to sow any wheat in the autumn' or that 'Pigs were not much kept in the marsh'. Despite these shortcomings, however, the cautious reader will find much of interest and value in Mr. Cornwall's study.

These few inadequate remarks will give some idea of the variety and richness of this valuable collection of essays: it is to be hoped that the price of the volume does not deny it the wide readership which it deserves.

MARTIN WATKINSON
SCARTHO
Notes on Contributors

R. W. AMBLER has been Lecturer in History in the Department of Adult Education of the University of Hull since 1970, working on the local history of Lincolnshire and South Humberside.

P. J. ASPINALL, Research Fellow at the University College of Swansea, is working on the effect of short building leases on urban land development and housing morphology in several nineteenth century English provincial towns.

C. P. G. JOHNSON joined the staff of the Lincolnshire Archives Office in 1971. He is interested in urban history and has been a part-time tutor of W.E.A. classes.

D. R. J. NEAVE, a native of Lincolnshire, has been W.E.A. Tutor Organiser in North Humberside since 1968. He is at present chairman of the East Yorkshire Local History Society.

R. J. OLNEY was, until December 1975, an archivist with the Lincolnshire Archives Committee and is now an Assistant Keeper with the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.

B. B. SIMMONS worked as an amateur archaeologist in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire before joining the Car Dyke Research Group. He is now the joint director of the South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit.

MARTIN WATKINSON is a postgraduate student attached to the Department of English Local History of the University of Leicester, working on a thesis on economic and social change in north-east Lincolnshire 1540 to 1914.

A. J. WHITE is the Keeper of the City and County Museum, Lincoln. Before coming to Lincoln he was on the staff of Lancaster City Museum as Assistant and later Keeper of Archaeology.

Book Reviews

NUMISMATICS by Philip Grierson, 211 pp., illus., Oxford University Press, 1975, £1.50 paperback, £3.95 hardback.

The study of coins and medals, or numismatics, is many sided and it is often difficult for the uninitiated, without access to a large collection, to gain an insight into the subject. On the one hand there is a proliferation of popular catalogues concerned with superficial lists of series and their values, and on the other hand the specialist studies of mints and issues which demand much basic knowledge to be intelligible.

Whilst general introductions are few and mostly long out of print, so that this new book by Professor Grierson represents an important step forward for the historian or general reader anxious to look beyond the disc of metal. Professor Grierson holds chairs of numismatics at both Brussels and Cambridge universities and his teaching experience enables him to identify and answer most of the questions likely to be posed by his reader.

An enormous amount of information is compressed into this book. The early chapters skilfully summarise the Western and Eastern coinage traditions which, with the exception of China, owe their origins to the development of coinage in the East Greek states. Then the formal description of the coin is dealt with to explain what the specialist catalogue entry is actually saying. Important to the understanding of a coin is its method of manufacture and the characteristics of the ‘hammered’ and ‘milled’ processes are discussed in some detail.

For the archaeologist and historian the chapters on ‘Coin Finds and Hoards’ and ‘Numismatic Techniques’ are essential reading. Grierson identifies three categories, the chance find, the hoard and the excavated coin, and discusses the limitations of the dating evidence provided. Above all he stresses the need to have coins examined by an expert numismatist rather than the local ‘expert’ to ensure that the full significance of a coin is always interpreted in the context of recent research.

A chapter describes the great mass of minor numismatic material, the jettons, tokens, coin weights and medals. The final chapter deals with numismatic scholarship and discusses the growth of private and public collections and the way they can be used through published catalogues and private visits.

To complete the book is a brief glossary of numismatic terms, and a well chosen bibliography on world coinage which is a masterpiece of compression in only three pages.

Few books of similar size can contain so much diverse information. No serious archaeologist or local historian can afford not to have this volume on his or her shelves.

ANTONY GUNSTONE LINCOLN

RECENT WORK IN RURAL ARCHAEOLOGY edited by P. J. Fowler, 160 pp., illus., Moonraker Press, 1975, £5.25.

Though many chapters of this book will be of peripheral interest in the study of Lincolnshire history and archaeology certainly Peter Wade-Martins’ chapter nine ‘The Origins of Rural Settlement in East Anglia’ should be essential reading for all serious field workers and walkers in the county. He details with clear text and accompanying maps the way in which the wealth of pottery, coins, and other artifacts lying on our arable fields can, when properly recorded, mapped, and considered alongside the available historical, geographical, and place-name evidence, be made to shed a light on the development of settlements, and the settlement pattern, in an area. For instance where and when were the first settlements founded? Have settlements moved, and if so when and where to? Have there been, and if so when, more than one settlement in any of the parishes of an area?

The work of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group since the early 1950’s, work which has involved a heavy commitment to field-walking as well as archaeological excavation, has in two decades added enormously to our understanding of the medieval village and landscape. It is clear that our understanding of the Saxon and Roman countryside would be revolutionised by a similar commitment, and that many of the answers are lying each winter on the ploughed fields of eastern England, or, dare one say it, in dusty boxes in field-walkers’ attics.

Happily the amount of excavation in Lincolnshire and South Humberside is on the increase as archaeological units are formed and more money becomes available. Wade-Martins points out however that this must be accompanied by a similar upsurge of detailed fieldwork, and further that ‘Excavated settlements not placed in their regional contexts . . . are of limited value’.

There is now no excuse for treating field-walking as an interesting way to spend Sunday afternoons in the countryside — a way of collecting boxes of sherds and coins which may impress the ignorant friend, but all too often are not even reported to the nearest museum. The potential value of fieldwork in our county is enormous and Wade-Martins here points the way in which this potential can be realised.

Christopher Taylor’s chapter on Roman Settlement in the Nene Valley also has much relevant information for Lincolnshire students of this period.

GEOFFREY F. BRYANT BARTON-ON-HUMBER
BOOK REVIEWS

THE ORIGINS OF EUROPE edited by Desmond Collins, 347 pp., illus., George Allen & Unwin, 1975, £6.95; BRITISH PREHISTORY: A NEW OUTLINE edited by Colin Renfrew, 348 pp., illus., Duckworth 1974, £2.50 paperback, £6.95 hardback; THE NORTHERN BARBARIANS, 100BC - AD500 by Malcolm Todd, 222 pp., illus., Hutchinson, 1975, £5.50; PALAEOECONOMY edited by E. S. Higgs, 244 pp., illus., Cambridge University Press, 1975, £8.50.

Books on archaeology for the general reader appear in ever-increasing numbers. It is not so often, however, that new books can be recommended as warmly as the three which form the main subject of this review.

It is clear that the depth and complexity of modern archaeological scholarship make difficult the kind of widely-ranging single-author surveys that seemed natural to earlier generations. The first two titles overcome this problem by having different periods assigned to different specialists. Some lack of uniformity between sections is an inevitable result, but much is gained in accuracy and authority.

The most ambitious work, edited by Desmond Collins, is The Origins of Europe, with chapters on Early Man, Later Prehistory, Archaeology and the Classical Mind, and Mediaeval Europe to the twelfth century. Collins' section on the Palaeolithic is a brilliant survey of a field in which rapid progress has been made recently and which is moving towards common agreement in such matters as Pleistocene terminology (p.60). Collins also deals extensively with human origins outside Europe, particularly in east Africa. These chapters are perhaps the best short introduction to the Palaeolithic period now available. Ruth Whitehouse is similarly up-to-date and authoritative on the origins of farming and the development of agriculture and early urban societies in the Neolithic, Copper and early Bronze Ages. The later Bronze Age and Iron Age sections, however, are weak, and some essential ingredients are missing, such as the Scythians in eastern Europe. Martin Henig's section would have been better with more continental European archaeology and less of the classical mind, but there is a good, if unnecessarily short, chapter on Roman Britain. David Whitehouse contributes a masterly summary of mediaeval Europe, and a most skilful exercise in selection and compression. There is a fine balance here between the general picture and historical detail.

The book contains a few errors in the text (p.193, for example: the Mycenaean collapse in the twelfth century B.C. can hardly be attributed to the Santorini volcano eruption, which took place some three centuries earlier), and in the illustrations (e.g. Map 14: Trelleborg is in western Zealand, Denmark, not in southern Sweden; Roskilde, likewise, is on Zealand, and not in Jutland).

The second work of collaboration, British Prehistory, a new outline, edited by Colin Renfrew, is the first general work on British prehistory for thirty years. The title and cover descriptions should have explained that the contributions are the published versions of papers given at an extra-mural conference held at Sheffield University in 1972, which explored the impact on British prehistory of radiocarbon dating and tree-ring analysis.

Renfrew first describes some earlier trends in British prehistoric archaeology, and proclaims, from 1968, a new phase in the history of the subject. Chronology now can be left in the care of radiocarbon laboratories, and 'we can all go on, the chronological problems being solved, to talk of something more important', the social and economic processes within 'sub-systems' such as technology, demography, etc. Such optimism is beguiling, but it is noticeable that those actually contributing to the new outline approach their tasks more conventionally, and for the most part follow firmly in the established traditions which include radiocarbon chronology and typo-cultural comparisons. Radiocarbon dates and their calibration do indeed allow opportunity for a reappraisal of British prehistory, particularly with regard to the beginnings of farming (now thought as early as c.4000 B.C.), the duration of the Beaker Culture, and the development of the early Bronze Age in southern Britain. But radiocarbon dates are still few in number, and there are still many periods, regions and groups of artifacts without them. Will it ever be possible, or desirable, to study the Bronze Age without considerable regard for its metalwork, and can the chronology of Bronze Age metalwork ever be left to radiocarbon? Colin Burgess, judging from his chapter on this period, does not think so. New concepts and techniques do not necessarily invalidate old ones, and archaeology should make use of all possible methods of enquiry.

Of the individual contributions, Paul Mellars' survey of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic is excellent, and Colin Burgess' account of the Bronze Age is a tour de force, with nearly four hundred additional notes and references. Isobel Smith on the Neolithic keeps closer to the conference theme. Andrey Hemshall's chapter on Scottish chambered tombs (a surprising inclusion until the conference origin is recalled) usefully summarizes her larger work, rightly introduced by the editor as 'the most impressive contribution to British prehistoric archaeology for many years'. Barry Cunliffe concludes with a very brief chapter on the Iron Age.

British archaeology is inevitably concerned with parallel and related events on the continent, and in southern England there is a natural interest in the archaeology of France and Iberia, and of the eastern Mediterranean. And on the edge of the North Sea basin, our enquiries might well be directed as much to the Low Countries, Germany and Scandinavia, when trying to view our own problems in a wider context. One value of Malcolm Todd's The Northern Barbarians, 100 B.C. - A.D. 300, is that it brings together a vast array of recent work in northern Europe in a convenient and accessible form. The theme of the book is the archaeology of the early Germans and related peoples during their period of contact with the Roman empire, in a territory which stretched from the Rhine to the Vistula and from Bohemia to southern Sweden. These people posed to the later La Tène Celts at times a threat no less severe than that of Rome, their ultimate conqueror. For Rome, the northern barbarians were a power to be reckoned with in the hey-day of the empire no less than at the end, when the imperial frontiers were crumbling. And the same northern regions gave birth to the Angles, Saxons, Frisians and Jutes, whose migrations to Britain disrupted a predominately western European connexion that had characterized these islands since the Bronze Age.

After an historical introduction, Todd's concern is with ceramic groups, settlements and agriculture, technology and crafts, armament and warfare, and gods and sanctuaries. Sites like Fochterloo and Wijster (Netherlands), Fedderesen Wierde (Germany) and Grønsgaard (Denmark), provide inspiration for a style of excavation for the most part yet to be seen in Britain. Remarkable evidence for field systems and wooden ploughs from Denmark, or iron-smelting furnaces in the Lysa Gora, Poland, offer unique insights into ancient technologies. This book is a key to an important field hitherto largely ignored in Britain.

In the fourth volume under review, E. S. Higgs and his colleagues follow J. G. D. Clark's pioneering interest in the economic aspects of prehistory. Established as a British Academy research project on early agriculture, they take their scope to include animal husbandry in the broadest sense, with the result that more than a third of the volume concerns man's relationships with animals of the Upper Palaeolithic period. The Introduction claims the pre-eminent value of the palaeoeconomic approach, although the natural enthusiasms of a closely-knit research team about the importance of its own work should not deter readers from recognizing the contribution that these authors are making to prehistoric archaeology. Of course early economy is of vital interest, but they make the claim that it is the key to prehistory. The case for the superiority of palaeoeconomy at a theoretical level seems to rest upon the assumption that short-lived developments in prehistoric times are 'trivial', and are less worthy of study than long-term trends.
Further, that since palaeoeconomy deals with long-term trends, modern ethnographic or geographical evidence can be used in constructing predictive models (pp. 33-4) more confidently than in other branches of archaeological enquiry. Both assumptions, in fact, are questioned by many thoughtful archaeologists.

The basis of much of the work described in the book lies in ‘site catchment analysis’ — in which it is assumed that a human community will have exploited resources in a territory up to two hours’ walk from its settlement, and a farming community similarly up to one hour’s walk. Again, the technique involves assumptions which are unlikely to be proved, but does draw attention to the need to study a settlement in the context of its potential economic environment. Regional studies in the volume deal with Bulgaria and Italy. It would be interesting to see the method argued out on more familiar ground in Britain.

JEFFREY MAY
NOTTINGHAM

THE TOWNS OF ROMAN BRITAIN by John Wacher, 460 pp., illus., Batsford, 1974, £9.50.

John Wacher gives the aims of his book at the outset, as first to examine and define town function in Roman Britain and apply this definition to Romano-British sites; secondly to consider the foundation of towns, their political affiliations, development and decline; thirdly to illustrate their individual character and surroundings. The book is not intended as a complete inventory of discoveries but is deliberately restricted to a consideration of coloniae, municipia and planned vicus, later to become civitas capitals, all of which had been recognised administrative functions at the time their status was granted.

The chronological development of the civitas capitals is traced and there is a useful section up-dating previous accounts of the end of Roman administration and showing that there is increasing evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation of towns as more excavators focus attention on this period. The author dismisses in a few terse sentences recent attempts to appraise the sphere of influence of towns by studying their spatial distribution and trade patterns. Clearly there are two schools of thought about the value of such approaches which are demonstrated and discussed in the proceedings of the Oxford conference on the small towns of Roman Britain, and such a categorical dismissal of new lines of enquiry seems somewhat peremptory without some discussion of the pros and cons. One misses sections to deal at some length with the Iron Age background and to compare and contrast with towns in the continental empire. Suggestions about the relationship of the smaller towns to those with charters could also have possibly sparked off new lines of enquiry amongst students of Roman Britain. But it is perfectly clear that if all these subjects had been included the book would have had to run to two volumes.

To turn to some points of detail, the various sections discussing water supplies are interesting in their combination of old neglected ideas and new ones. The author clearly considers that the source of Lincoln’s supply lay considerably further from the colonia than the Roaring Meg Springs which Hugh Thompson suggested as the source in the report of his excavations. Although one can agree that, on general grounds of probability, the story as we know it is incomplete, Wacher adds no positive evidence for his suggestion that the supply had its origin in the Wolds, in order to give a gravity feed, rather than relying on constant pumping which the adverse gradient from Roaring Meg would require. But in a sense this is exactly the sort of provocative idea we would hope for from this book, to make us examine established ideas anew. Given this, it is sad to see the old idea of the Car Dyke as a canal aired once more (the reviewer is also guilty), without at least some discussion of the new theories of Brian Simmons and his workers who have been intensively studying the middle stretch of the Car Dyke and the adjacent settlement pattern.

On the other hand, it is good to see that the old and carefully worked out ideas of Keay and Clarke about Leicester’s water supply have been given their due place. Knighton Brook is likely to have been diverted into the Roman channel known as the "Tall Dyke", of which only one small section now survives at the junction of Saffron Lane and Aylestone Road. Formerly it was known to exist right to the southern limit of the town. The Roman engineers responsible need no longer appear the incompetent ignoramuses that they are made out to be in Miss K. Kenyon’s Jewry Wall report. It is also good to have a summary of the conclusions of the author’s important excavations on the site of the large late second century market which succeeded private houses on the insula north of the forum.

The major series of excavations in the colonia at York by the York Archaeological Trust at the Bishopthorpe site, which amplify the results of Ram's work in the adjacent chuchyard, giving further evidence of major buildings in the eastern part of the colonia, were presumably too recent for inclusion. Wacher champions the idea that the massive bath-house in the colonia was part of the complex of the imperial palace. It would have been a very suitable site, overlooking the river and the legionary fortress on its other bank, and high enough above water level to be in no danger of flooding which was liable to affect settlement nearer the river. It seems unlikely that the water supply for the colonia came from the Burdyke on the other side of the river. This would have required a complex crossing of the river, technically possible but perhaps unlikely as a supply for the above-mentioned bath-house which stands at about the highest point in York. It does have to be admitted, however, that an alternative source giving a gravity feed would have to be quite some miles to the west.

The book is well laid out with a detailed bibliography which will be of great use to students of the period. Some of the photographs have not reproduced very clearly and one or two of the line drawings could have been further reduced to occupy one rather than two pages. There is no doubt of the great value of the book, though inevitably some of its contents will be quickly out of date.

J. B. WHITTELL
BARROW ON HUMBER

THE PURITAN TOWN OF BOSTON, AND OTHER PAPERS by Mark Spurr, iv + 36 pp., illus., 1972, 45 pence; BOSTON AND THE GREAT CIVIL WAR by A. A. Garner, vi + 70 pp., illus., 1972, 84 pence; BOSTON POLITICS AND THE SEA 1632–1674 by A. A. Garner, vi + 54 pp., illus., 1975, £1.20, all published in the History of Boston Series, Richard Kay Publications.

Attractively produced, well illustrated, moderately priced - the History of Boston Project is to be congratulated on presenting local history in an ideal format. These are three recent contributions to the series which over the past four years has been producing booklets ranging over all aspects of the town’s history and development. The aim is simple and thoroughly admirable: all papers are the work of individual authors; they are submitted to professional authority (though whether professional advice is accepted or not lies with the individual authors!), and ultimately the accumulated material will lead towards the eventual publication of the proposed History of Boston. A system such as this allows individual local enthusiasm and experts full range to pursue their special interests, and at the same time contains them within some sort of framework.

Boston, after London the greatest of the east coast ports at this period, presents a magnificent chance for such a scheme to succeed admirably, for it presents a subject of local interest which is also of national importance. Moreover, the task of the local historian since the work of Hoskins
and Finberg and their successors in the Department of English Local History at Leicester has been made easier by the whole range of academic expertise now readily available for the study of local history.

The three booklets under review present both erudition and entertainment, in the best tradition of local history. Mark Spurrell writes vividly of life on Puritan terms in the town, of example, Sunday worship of five hours where 'There were as many sleepers among the flock as sometimes was forced to wink or nod.' He has made good use of printed sources, and the Eleven Years are dealt with sympathetically. A. A. Garner supports his account of Boston during the succeeding eighty four years with useful sketch maps, reproductions of contemporary material, and short biographical notes, and as a result gives a clear chronological survey. The first booklet also contains an interesting and not discussion by P. Dover on 'Signature Emblems, Marks and Brands in the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries.'

But it is disappointing to have to say in conclusion that if chronology and biography are strong, analysis and critical comment are less apparent. The most obvious weakness - and it is a serious one since it detracts from the standing of local history as an academically serious and professional study - is a failure to relate any of the subjects here touched on to recent discussion of similar questions elsewhere. This is particularly true in the case of A. A. Garner who might have made use, for example, of Alan Everett's recent work on the Civil War, and of the approach which would put political history into a social and economic context. It would also have been interesting and rewarding if Mark Spurrell could have shown us how the Boston that he knows in the 17th century fits into Christopher Hill's thesis on the relationship of Puritanism and society. Without this attempt to relate their immediate work to related work going on elsewhere such local research must ultimately be impoverished, and the potential of an admirable project remain unfulfilled.

ESTHER DE WAAL

LIVING ON THE HUMBER, KEELING TO SHIPBUILDING by Harry Fletcher, with an introduction by L. T. C. Rolt, 144 pp., illus., Faber and Faber, 1975, £4.25.

First hand accounts of the lives of working people are rare. Furthermore, the literature of the Humber is deplorably sparse. Mr. Fletcher's autobiography is thus doubly valuable. He begins with a detailed account of childhood aboard a Humber Keel, tells of his apprenticeship in a Hull shipyard, of the frustrations of the Depression and then of employment at a large-building yard in Thornie. People, places and processes are described with a clarity and directness which many authors might envy, and the book is of much more than local interest.

Harry Fletcher left the keels at the age of 14, and never went Captain. Whilst he has supplemented his recollections by conversations with other keelmen, he does not attempt to give an exhaustive account of the way in which the keels were rigged and sailed. Inevitably a few inaccuracies occur. Keels were not planked with larch, though cob boats were. Lock keepers had no sign bills of lading, but pass notes which keels received from the toll office. We receive the impression that the Keel Mary Ward traded to Sheffield, though the dimensions quoted would not have permitted her to do so, whilst the sizes quoted for leeboards are much smaller than was normal. In sailing days there were thirty one locks to Sheffield, not twenty eight. The term demurrage is wrongly applied, and the steam keel which carried Hewitt's beer from Grimsby was named, not Carabine, but more appropriately Grasshopper. Nevertheless there is much fascinating detail on the way in which the ships were worked and the cargoes they carried. The greatest interest of this part of the book lies in the admirable picture it gives of the lives of the keelmen and their families. The wives washing in the canal-side lobbies, or knitting the traditional guernseys, the desperate struggle by a man and a boy to retrieve a broken mast, the systems of horse towage and of hauling by hand, the hazards of fog and tide, the delights of Thorne water sports or of sea-piece cooking on the cabin fire: all are faithfully and vividly recorded.

The author's account of his apprenticeship at Earle's shipyard in Hull, of the methods of plating ships at the time of the First World War, and of conditions of work. But the skills, no sooner acquired, became redundant, and Mr. Fletcher goes on to describe the indignities and insecurity suffered by the unemployed. Between 1922 and 1938 he had over forty different jobs, and as he kept a detailed account of his earnings over the years, we can appreciate how real were the anxieties suffered by so many between the wars.

A Life on the Humber is a valuable piece of social history, and if it proves to have set a trend, its value will be greater still.

JOHN HAINSWORTH

ELLERKER, NORTH HUMBERSIDE


An excellent book for the beginner in the detective work of house history and ownership. No attempt is made to gloss over the difficulties attendant on the search of documentary evidence; the pitfalls and advantages for exciting discovery are well set out. It is only when one reads Part II, 'Architectural Evidence', that any shortcoming is evident. Although reference is made (p.54) concerning the removal of part of an older, timber framed house to become part of another, existing, house in 1614 (and that in an appendix, not the body of text) the complexity of structures and building phases is insufficiently stressed. The re-use of materials and even the transfer of whole buildings is referred to (p. 21); however the falsification of age in the manner of George Devey, 1820-1886, is not discussed. One has only to examine the estate villages and their cottages ornées and not so ornée to discover this quite easily, once one is made aware of the fact. Osby Manor in Lincolnshire is quite the most eloquent building in this respect. Although the reader is encouraged to examine stonework closely in his research, brickwork is dealt with rather scantily (and a reference to Nathaniel Lloyd, A History of English Brickwork, whose research is now fifty years old!), Brick bonding, other than the orthodox, can betray the idiosyncracies of a particular craftsman or estate.

In addition to the publications and works of reference suggested in the text and footnotes it would be well to add Vernacular Architecture, the journal of the Vernacular Architecture Group, edited by Mrs. Barbara Hutton of 22, Clifton Green, York;

Apart from these minor criticisms the author has managed to compress a vast amount of helpful guidance and information into a very small format. The scope does not go back further than four hundred years because, rightly, he does not expect his readers to have a good working knowledge of the specialised Latin and palaeography used earlier in domestic archives; here it is obvious that the student must himself become competent or consult an expert. He dismisses 'quite modern buildings' as either 'notorious' or implies that their history lies in printed sources. My chance encounter with a twenty note book in a private library has just given evidence that the great Edison, who unsuspectedly had toyed with cast concrete houses from steel moulds in 1910, had connections with the basic design of one small house in Lincolnshire 'poured' rather than built in 1913!

DAVID L. ROBERTS

ORBOST, ISLE OF SKYE
In the course of 1975 this Society launched its new series of Occasional Papers in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. Number One, EXCAVATIONS AT THE BISHOPS PALACE, LINCOLN, 1968-72 by Hugh Chapman, Glyn Coppack and Peter Drewett (62 pp., illus., Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, 1975, 80 pence to Society members, £1.25 to non-members plus postage in both cases) is an account of work at the Bishops Palace, which revealed the buried parts of the building. In the course of the work a considerable quantity of pottery was discovered which adds to our knowledge of the medieval pottery of eastern England. LABOURING LIFE ON THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS, A STUDY OF BINBROOK IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY edited by R. J. Olney (Occasional Papers in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Number Two, 59 pp., illus., Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, 1975, 55 pence to Society members and 85 pence to non-members plus postage in both cases) describes the life of agricultural workers on the farms and in the village of Binbrook in the middle of the nineteenth century. The Lincoln Record Society's volume for the year ending 31 August 1974 was Volume VII OF THE ROLLS AND REGISTERS OF BISHOP OLIVER SUTTON edited by Rosalind M. T. Hill. The volume contains Bishop Sutton's Ordination Lists from 19 May 1290 to 19 September 1299 (sv + 192 pp., the Lincoln Record Society, 1975, details of price available from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Lincolnshire Archives Office, The Castle, Lincoln). The twenty second ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE OLD CHURCHES TRUST 1974 by Eric Thornley (11 pp., illus., the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust, 1975, 20 pence, obtainable from the Secretary, Kirton Lindsey Vicarage) has an account of Lincolnshire churches as well as a report of the Trust's work in 1974. BARDNEY ABBEY PAPERS, FIRST SERIES (19 pp., the Association of the Friends of Bardney Abbey, 1975, 50 pence plus postage, obtainable from the Treasurer, The Pharmacy, Bardney) contains a number of papers on aspects of the Abbey's history and relating to its preservation. The present interest in the Abbey site is put into the context of other work in a paper on 'Bardney Abbey Site 1909-1974' by Peter B. G. Binnall. Another local campaign by the Grantham Canal Restoration Society has also resulted in a useful publication, THE GRANTHAM CANAL TODAY, A BRIEF HISTORY AND GUIDE by Chris Cook and Brendan Keith (279 pp., Macmillan, 1975, £15.00) is not on the same grand scale, but is an extremely useful source of reference for the period it covers. It gives the local historian the lists of ministries, details of political parties, parliamentary reform, elections, the civil service, the armed forces and the press in the period and provides a framework for work on the nineteenth century. STEINBERG'S DICTIONARY OF BRITISH HISTORY edited by S. H. Steinberg and I. H. Evans (Edward Arnold, paperback edition 1974, £1.80) has brief accounts under alphabetically arranged headings of historical topics. Contributors are identified — a useful guide in a reference work of this kind to probable pitfalls in the way a subject is approached.

There are, however, no bibliographical entries to accompany the texts, which would have been helpful for the local worker who wished to follow up a topic. None the less at the price this is a handy publication to have. It is often helpful when working with maps to have some indication of the activities of the men who made them. The DICTIONARY OF LAND SURVEYORS AND LOCAL CARTOGRAPHERS 1550-1850 Part I (108 pp., Dawson, 1975, £6.00) has sought to include details of 'all persons likely to have measured land or made maps of land in areas of less than a complete county in Great Britain or Ireland between the indicated dates'. This is only carried up to the end of the letter I. It is a pity that a work of reference of this kind could not be more substantially produced for the price that is asked. At the present rate of progress it will be an expensive undertaking to purchase a complete set of the dictionary, but it is to be hoped that reference libraries will be able to obtain copies for use by local students.

The local historian is faced with the problem of keeping up with general developments in historical studies. Using some of the good paperback material which appears it is still possible, despite rising prices in this field, to acquire a good working library of history books at a reasonable price. A collection such as THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN BRITAIN IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION edited by Arthur J. Taylor (iv + 216 pp., Methuen, 1975, paper covered edition £2.50, hardback edition £5.40) presents a series of important papers collected in a handy form with an introduction which surveys them. There is also a select bibliography. Similarly, ESSAYS IN SOCIAL HISTORY
edited by M. W. Flinn and T. C. Smout (ix + 289 pp., Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, 1974, paper-covered edition £2.50, hardback £6.00), which has been initiated by the Economic History Society, brings together important essays on aspects of social history 'at present scattered in journals and symposia of varying degrees of familiarity and accessibility.' All but one of these has a bibliographical note which takes account of work which has appeared since the original article was first published, an indispensable part of a work of this kind. The collection POPULATION IN HISTORY, ESSAYS IN HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY edited by D. V. Glass and D. C. Eversley (ix + 692 pp., Edward Arnold, paper edition 1974, £3.50) is a mixture of earlier papers and new or revised work. The book not only covers work on population studies in Great Britain, but also Europe and the United States. It is the sort of collection in which every local worker will find useful background material and includes three essays by the late J. D. Chambers on the population and economy of the Midlands.

Collections of documents with an introduction, often aimed at what is described as the sixth form and undergraduate market can provide useful insights into the flavour of a particular period and sometimes help to widen the horizons of the student. The balance of the introductory matter and actual documentation varies and there is a danger of the extracts from documents being scrappy and a poor substitute for real work on actual source material.

ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF PRE-INDUSTRIAL ENGLAND, 1500-1700 by Rosemary O'Day (190 pp., A. and C. Black, 1975, £2.10) and THE PURITAN IMPULSE, THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION, 1590-1660 by M. M. Reese (128 pp., A. and C. Black, 1975, £1.85) place greater weight on the introductory matter and less on the extracts from contemporary documents. Neither of the introductions is, however, supplied with references. On the other hand J. T. Ward's THE AGE OF CHANGE, 1770-1870 (xvi + 199 pp., A. and C. Black, 1975, £4.75) devotes more space to documents, which are categorised for ease of reference, but again substance seems to be sacrificed to the quest for variety.

Among the new paperbacks are a useful set published by Fontana. In CAPITALISM AND MATERIAL LIFE, 1400-1800 (462 pp., Fontana/Collins, 1974, £1.75) Fernand Braudel ranges across the world in his survey of the quality of life in the period. The insights this book offers are important and Braudel's approach has much to offer the local historian, so this paperback edition of the English translation is to be welcomed. The Fontana Economic History of Europe continues with THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEEN CENTURIES edited by Carlo M. Cipolla (640 pp., Collins/Fontana, 1974, £1.50) whilst POLITICS AND THE NATION 1450-1600, OBEDIENCE, RESISTANCE AND PUBLIC ORDER by D. M. Loades (484 pp., Fontana/Collins, 1974, £1.25) has appeared in the Library of English History series. Penguin Books continue to make available in paperback important titles which were previously published in more expensive hardback editions. Noteworthy among these are THE MEDIEVAL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY by M. M. Postan (vii + 296 pp., Penguin, 1975, 80 pence) and Christopher Hill's study of such seventeenth century radical groups as the Diggers, Ranters and Levellers THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, RADICAL IDEAS DURING THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION (431 pp., Penguin, 1975, £1.00). The paperback edition of THE AGE OF THE VIKINGS by P. H. Sawyer (x + 275 pp., illus., Edward Arnold, 1975, £2.95) is the second and revised edition of this book, which has important material which should be taken into account by the student of Lincolnshire history.

A valuable aid to research in local history is LATIN FOR LOCAL HISTORY, AN INTRODUCTION by Eileen A. Gooder (x + 147 pp., Longman, fifth impression, 1975, £2.75). It is intended to help students who have little or no knowledge of Latin to read local records. There is a select word list and practice material from documents. THE PREPARATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS by Leslie Grinsell, Philip Rahatz and David Price Williams (105 pp., John Baker, second (printed) edition, 1974, £2.75) gives a useful point of reference for the potential writer of archaeological reports, even if he or she does not follow all its detailed suggestions. A GUIDE TO THE ROMAN REMAINS IN BRITAIN by Roger J. A. Wilson (xvi + 365 pp., Constable, 1975, £2.95) is a region by region guide to the visible remains of Roman Britain apart from linear works such as roads, frontiers and canals, native settlements, sites such as mines and quarries and antiquities which are claimed as Roman but of which the Roman date is unlikely or unproven. The book is more than a gazetteer and has precise information on how to find the remains described. It is a pleasant travelling companion and its notes, for example, on Ancaster, Caistor and Horncastle may help more visitors to find and interpret the Roman material which is to be seen there. The Illustrated London News has a particular interest for Lincolnshire readers because of the connection of its founder, Herbert Ingram, with Boston. The files of the journal contain a great deal of illustrative material of potential interest for those willing to search them. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, SOCIAL HISTORY OF VICTORIAN BRITAIN by Christopher Hibbert (159 pp., illus., Angus and Robertson, 1975, £4.20) includes pictures of a demonstration of steam ploughing which took place near Louth in 1857 and of machinery made by the Lincolnshire firm of Hornsby. It is a pity that the book contains no discussion of the way the illustrations were composed — a topic of some importance for the social historian who may see them as potential source material. A list of the precise locations in the paper of the illustrations used would also have been helpful.

Henry Stephens' The Book of the Farm, of which the third edition was published in 1876, despite its bias towards Scottish practice, is a fascinating source book on agricultural techniques in the nineteenth century. This has been edited by C. A. Jewell and published as A SOURCEBOOK, VICTORIAN FARMING with an Introduction by E. J. T. Collins (ix + 138 pp., Barry Shurlock, 1975).

Finally, two periodical publications which are of especial note. The new journal SOCIAL HISTORY, which is to appear three times a year (Number One January 1976, 138 pp., Methuen, annual subscription to individuals in Britain £7.85), is international in its coverage and articles in the first issue range from East Anglia in the 1840s to late nineteenth and early twentieth century Provence. The URBAN HISTORY YEAR BOOK (188 pp., Leicester University Press, 1975, £5.00) is an important source of reference for the local town historian, which brings together a wide range of information on current work on urban history in a handy format.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS ALSO RECEIVED


CASES OF CONSCIENCE, ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO RECUSANTS AND PURITANS UNDER ELIZABETII and JAMES I by Elliott Rose, viii + 266 pp., Cambridge University Press, 1975, £7.00.

ENGLISH VILLAGES by John Burke, 199 pp., illus., Batsford, 1975, £3.50.


JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY, Volume I, Number 1, 155 pp., illus., April 1975.

PAST AND PRESENT, A JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES, Number 68, 150 pp., The Past and Present Society, August 1975, £1.50 plus post and packing.

RESCUE NEWS, Number 10, 12 pp., illus., The Trust for British Archaeology, Winter 1975, 15 pence.


THE MAKING OF MODERN BRITAIN, LIFE AND WORK FROM GEORGE III TO ELIZABETH II by T. K. Derry and T. L. Jaffray, 348 pp., illus., John Murray, reprinted 1971, no price.


THE YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL, VOLUME 47, 154 pp., illus., The Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 1975.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Volume XCIII 1974, 214 pp., illus., 1975.

WOAD IN THE FENS by Norman T. Wills, 29 pp., illus., Industrial Archaeology Sub-Committee Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, 2nd edition 1975, 50 pence plus postage.