Book Notes

Margaret Bowker *The Secular Clergy in the Diocese of Lincoln*, 1495-1520, Cambridge University Press, 1968, 45s. Based on extensive research among the diocesan and other records, this book gives a fascinating picture of the state of the large diocese of Lincoln at the end of the medieval period. After a chapter on the administration of the diocese, the greater part of the book is a study of the parish clergy, their standard of education, how they obtained their benedictions, their financial status, moral standards and the problem of non-residence and pluralism.

F. Henthorn, *Brigg Grammar School*, 1919-69, this continues the story of the school from the closing date of Mr. Henthorn’s previously published history. His narrative is followed by a series of reminiscences, contributed by various hands, and a list of pupils.

I. S. Beckwith *The Making of Modern Gainsborough—Book One*, Gainsborough Urban District Council, 1968. The first of a planned series of twelve booklets, this discusses the development of the town in population and size from Domesday Book onwards, with a brief glance at the evidence for the earlier settlement of the area.

Also from Gainsborough come Nos. 3 and 4 of Gainsborough Public Library’s Local History Handbooks by Mr. J. S. English, *Gainsborough’s Fairs and Markets* and *Notes on Some Gainsborough Artists.* These are intended as brief notes on the relevant information rather than as definitive studies.

*One Hundred and Fifty Years at the Lawn,* by Sister E. L. Melton is an account of the history of the Lawn mental hospital at Lincoln by someone who has worked there for twenty years.

Winston Kime *Skeggy, the Story of an East Coast Town*, Seashell Books, Skegness, 1969, 17/6. Although the author sets out to give a history of Skegness from the Ice Age to the present, it is not surprising that he should concentrate mainly on its development as a seaside resort over the last hundred years or so. The result is an extremely interesting and lively account of the town and neighbourhood.

Like Gainsborough U.D.C., the Stamford Development Committee aim to publish a series of pamphlets on the history of their town. The first of these is an illustrated booklet on the civic regalia by Alderman A. S. Ireson.

*The Drainage of the Black Sluice Area,* 1638-1969 was produced by the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board to celebrate completion of the Black Sluice Major Scheme in 1969. It is illustrated with reproductions of maps, and photographs old and new.

Mr. Rex C. Russell’s studies of enclosure in Lindsey continue with *The Enclosures of Searby, 1763-5, Nettleton, 1791-5, Caistor, 1796-8, and Caistor Moors, 1811-14.* (Published by the Nettleton Branch of the W.E.A.) and *The Enclosures of Market Rasen, 1779-8, and of Wraaby cum Brigg 1800-1805.*

The period we are covering has been a fruitful one in the production of church guides and histories of greater or lesser, length, detail and luxury of presentation. Pamphlets have come to our attention (and there are probably others which haven’t) for South Carlton, Gainsborough All Saints, Sleaford Congregational Church, Spilsby, Stow, and Waleot Methodist Church.

Our final book is not a specifically Lincolnshire one but it is one which must be familiar by now to innumerable local historians throughout the country. *The Parish Chest* by the late W. E. Tate, first published in 1946, now reaches its 3rd edition (Cambridge University Press, 1969, 75s.). The new edition has been revised to bring it up to date. With its information on the administrative background to parish records and on the material that they contain, this is a vital book for workers in many different fields. The only drawback is the price; surely if the publishers had had the courage to issue a much cheaper, paperback edition, they would have found a ready market among numerous potential purchasers who will not consider the book at its present price.

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