

Professor H. P. R. Finberg

THE British Agricultural History Society has lost a much respected editor and loyal friend with the death of Professor H. P. R. Finberg on 1 November 1974. In the early days of the Society's foundation in 1953 Professor Finberg gave it his warm support, and as soon as the officers of the society were elected, he was invited to become the first editor of the AGRICULTURAL HISTORY REVIEW. Professor Finberg had been a publisher before he took up his academic appointment as Head of the Department of English Local History at Leicester University; he also had a high national reputation as a typographer. To have so distinguished an expert in the field of publishing and history was a singular good fortune for the Society, and the design of the REVIEW bears the imprint of his high standards. Professor Finberg remained as editor until his retirement in 1965 but he continued thereafter on the Executive Committee of the society, and for its members their last sight of him was at the meeting on 26 September when they little suspected that his death was so near.

Professor Finberg's historical writing was centred upon agricultural and rural history and he was a recognised master of the art of unravelling Anglo-Saxon charter boundaries on the ground. But more than this, he was a master at deciphering their deeper meaning. Among his most celebrated writings was his essay on *Roman and Saxon Withington*; it was the study of a single parish, but it gave a new

turn to the debate on the Roman legacy in rural England and the continuity of rural settlement into the Anglo-Saxon period.

In 1970 the Society published a special Supplement to its REVIEW (volume 18) entitled *Land, Church, and People* in honour of their former editor. A glance through the bibliography of Professor Finberg's work, included in that volume, demonstrates the depth and breadth of his agrarian interests. Even after his retirement he continued actively with his writing. Professor Finberg had been responsible for launching the idea and laying the plan for the *Agrarian History of England and Wales*, and until his death he was its devoted and meticulous editor. He had the satisfaction of seeing volume IV, 1500-1640, published in 1967, and in his retirement he succeeded in completing his own writing for this work which appeared as volume I, part ii, A.D. 43-1042, in 1973. Finally, this summer, Professor Finberg's volume in the Paladin series, *The Formation of England, 550-1042*, appeared, written in the same compelling prose and in the polished style that one always associated with him.

Professor Finberg was a man of many parts but we are especially grateful for his contribution to Anglo-Saxon agrarian history and for his services to the British Agricultural History Society which were unique.

JOAN THIRSK

Back Issues of the Review

The following back issues of the Agricultural History Review are out of print: Vol. 2; Vol. 3, part 2; Vol. 4, part 1; Vol. 5, part 1; Vol. 10, parts 1 and 2; Vol. 11, parts 1 and 2; Vol. 12, parts 1 and 2; Vol. 13, parts 1 and 2; Vol. 14, part 1; Vol. 17, part 1.

Members wishing to dispose of back issues are asked to write to

The Treasurer, British Agricultural History Society, Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 2AG.



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We specialize in, and our stock consists solely of, books on Rural Life—rare, out-of-print, and new books with the emphasis on the Rural History of Britain. Our stock in fact ranges from rare Early Farming works, through scarce out-of-print books concerning Rural Life and Rural History, to the current new books in these fields. In addition we are also concerned with the life, conditions, and development of rural and peasant communities in all countries.

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SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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Source Investigation Projects

The SSRC Economic and Social History Committee is interested in sponsoring small-scale research projects (normally involving a few months' work by a single researcher) into classes of public records the contents of which are not yet described in detail. Payment will be in the form of an SSRC consultancy, framed in terms of the number of working days put in, thereby allowing maximum flexibility.

The object of this scheme is to make generally available a systematic indication of the various types of material—or alternatively, information about the distribution of a particular category of data—in classes of records generally considered too complex or voluminous to warrant a time-consuming search by those interested in something specific. It is hoped that such projects—under the supervision of historians already familiar with the records or the relevant topic—will produce facilities of use to researchers in general, avoiding the duplication of effort and the intensive searching and listing of records by individuals. The principal examples of classes which lend themselves to such a search are legal records, often identified solely by the name of litigants or listed in categories which do not necessarily relate to the pattern of their use to or by historians; but there are no doubt other classes where a detailed listing would provide a most useful facility as well. It should be stressed that the intention is not to emulate official calendars, lists and indexes, but to direct resources to documentary classes where more modest explorations of unworked material would assess the potential usefulness of a class.

The SSRC has recently agreed to finance two such projects—one for five months, the other for up to one year. Both involve material in the Public Record Office. The first is an investigation of Exchequer Bills and Answers (E 112) for the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. These appear to contain much valuable information on the character and organisation of domestic trade, wartime shipping, privateering, etc. The expected result will be a listing and summary of items of general economic and social interest. The second project relates to seventeenth-century Decree Rolls in the Court of Chancery (in series C.78), which are not indexed by subject-matter or geographical area. Among many other types of data, these contain records of private enclosure agreements. The bulky character of the rolls has so far prevented historians making systematic use of them to identify enclosures relating to particular areas, while there is no information on the total number, chronology or distribution of enclosure agreements. The object of the project will be to produce a check list of enclosure agreements, together with any other information which can be conveniently compiled, for use by economic historians.

Economic and social historians who feel that similar work, of general use, might be undertaken with respect to classes of public records in the Public Record Office, the Scottish Record Office or any other repository are asked to contact the Secretary of the Committee, Social Science Research Council, State House, High Holborn, London WC1R 4TH.

Forthcoming publication

Ransomes of Ipswich

A history of the firm and a guide to the records

by D. R. GRACE and D. C. PHILIPPS

To be published by the Institute of Agricultural History in February 1975
at £2.25 (plus 25p postage and packing).

Copies may be obtained from the Institute of Agricultural History,
The University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AG.

THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Articles and correspondence relating to editorial matter for the *Agricultural History Review*, and books for review, should be sent to Professor G. E. Mingay, Editor, *Agricultural History Review*, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent.

Correspondence about conferences and meetings of the Society should be sent to Michael Havinden, Secretary, British Agricultural History Society, Dept. of Economic History, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, The University, Exeter, EX4 4PU, Devon.

Correspondence on matters relating to membership, subscriptions, details of change of address, sale of publications, and exchange publications, should be addressed to Andrew Jewell, Treasurer, B.A.H.S., Museum of English Rural Life, The University, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire.

Correspondence on advertising should be sent to E. J. Collins, Museum of English Rural Life, The University, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire.

Amendment to Section 4 of the Constitution

In order to overcome the difficulties and delays which have beset the Society's finances in these inflationary times by having the amount of the annual subscription specified in the Constitution, and which has involved the cumbersome procedure of a Constitutional amendment each time it has been necessary to alter the subscription, the Executive Committee propose to move the following amendment at the next Annual General Meeting:

That section 4 should be amended to read:

'There shall be an annual subscription due on 1st February. The amount of the subscription shall be determined by the Executive Committee'.

The British Agricultural History Society

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The Society aims at encouraging the study of the history of every aspect of the countryside by holding conferences and courses and by publishing *The Agricultural History Review*. Its revised constitution was inserted as a separate leaflet in Vol. XIV, part II of the *Review*.

Membership is open to all who are interested in the subject and the subscription is £3.50 due on 1 February in each year. Details may be obtained from the Treasurer.

The Agricultural History Review

EDITOR: G. E. MINGAY

RUTHERFORD COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF KENT
CANTERBURY, KENT

The Review is published twice yearly by The British Agricultural History Society and issued to all members. Single copies may be purchased from the Treasurer for £2.00. Back numbers to Vol. 20 (1972) are £1.50 per issue, except for the Supplement to Vol. 18 (1970), *Land, Church, and People*, which is £2.00. Articles and letters offered for publication should be sent to the Editor. The Society does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed by contributors, or for the accidental loss of manuscripts, or for their return if they are not accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.