

Notes and Comments

CHANGES AMONG SOCIETY OFFICERS

As reported below, a new Secretary was elected at the Annual General Meeting, and a new Editor came into office. Dr Mark Overton of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne has replaced Dr John Chartres, Secretary since 1978, in that office. Members and readers should note that all correspondence should be addressed to the new Secretary.

With the retirement from office of Professor Gordon Mingay, Dr Chartres has become the Editor of the *Agricultural History Review*. As reported below, particular tribute was paid to the work of Professor Mingay as Editor at the AGM. He was only the third Editor of the *Review* in its thirty-one years of publication, succeeding Professor Herbert Finberg (1953-64) and Dr Joan Thirsk (1964-72) in 1972, having thus been the longest-serving of the three. Members will be pleased to hear that Professor Mingay will remain as a member of the Executive Committee of the Society.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM, 1984

The Spring Conference of the Society was held at Charlotte Mason College of Education, Ambleside, Cumbria, 9-11 April 1984. Papers were presented by Dr William Rollinson (University of Liverpool), 'Aspects of Rural Life in Cumbria in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries'; Dr John Langdon (University of Birmingham), 'Horses and the development of farm transport in medieval England'; Mr Donald Woodward (University of Hull), 'Life on a Yorkshire Estate in the 17th Century: Henry Best revisited'; Professor Jeremy Elston (University of Leeds), 'An agronomist's attempt to explain the changes in the yields of wheat in England and Wales from 1886'; Dr Peter Solar (University of York), 'Irish agriculture in the early 19th century: a reappraisal'; and Dr Tony Phillips (University of Keele), 'Farm building provision in England, 1850-1900'. Dr William Rollinson conducted an excursion along the shores of Windermere to Kendal and the Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry.

The thirty-second AGM was held on 10 April 1984. Dr Joan Thirsk was re-elected as President of the Society, and Dr E J T Collins re-elected as Treasurer. Dr M Overton was elected as Secretary, and Dr J A Chartres appointed as Editor. Professor G E Mingay assumed Dr Overton's seat as a member of the Executive Committee, and four vacancies on the Committee were filled by the re-election of Dr J H Bettey, Dr D G Hey, Dr P Roebuck, and Professor FML Thompson.

The Chairman, Mr M A Havinden, presented the report of the Executive Committee. The EC had met twice during the year, which had again proved very successful for the Society, with membership again rising, to 847, and with its finances in a very sound state. It had also been a successful year for publications, with the volume *Horses in European Economic History* edited by Professor Thompson out and selling well, and with another new publication, Dr Raine Morgan's *Bibliography of Farm Tools, Implements and Machines* just appearing, and on sale at the conference. In the light of the Society's sound financial position, and the steady flow of good articles, it had been decided to increase the size of the *Review* to 112 pages for the next two issues. The next Winter Conference would be held on Saturday 1 December, as usual at the Institute of Historical Research, on the theme 'Conservation of the Agricultural Past'. The next Spring Conference would be held at the College of Ripon and York St John, Ripon, 1-3 April 1985. It was hoped to hold the Spring Conference at Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, in 1986, and the views of members were invited on a possible conference in Northern Ireland in 1987.

He expressed very particular thanks to Professor Gordon Mingay for his work over twelve years as the Editor of the *Agricultural History Review*, who was now retiring from that office. The meeting joined in expressing its very special thanks and appreciation to Professor Mingay for his work, and welcomed Dr Chartres as his successor.

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts of the Society in reporting on another successful year, in which a small balance of income over expenditure had been achieved. Sales of the *Horses* volume had been encouraging, and already half of its costs had been recovered. The current very low level of the annual subscription to the Society was likely to be maintained, largely because of the substantial economy in printing costs made by the transfer from the Broadwater Press to the Leeds University Printing Service: Leeds provided a service of excellent quality and, since the transfer, had made only moderate increases in its prices. He drew attention to the copies of the 1983 Economic History Society Conference booklet, still available from the Secretary, and to the other recent and new publications, available at the conference. Thanks were expressed to Mr Arkell, the new 'business manager', who had computerized the accounts. The Treasurer reported on the problems incurred with the charities division of the Inland Revenue over the repayment of tax on the Society's

building society accounts, and that it had now been confirmed that repayment on premium-rate accounts was not permitted. The accounts were adopted, and the meeting congratulated the Treasurer on his skilful handling of the Society's finances.

Dr Chartres presented the Editor's report. Arrangements for the transfer of the editorial files had gone ahead smoothly, and a good stock of articles awaited publication: the current backlog was fifteen. The third bibliographical survey of the regions of agriculture in the USA was on its way, and the fourth and fifth in preparation. As a result of the quality and quantity of articles awaiting publication, the next two issues of the *Review* were to be enlarged.

At the conclusion of the meeting, thanks were expressed to the Principal and staff of Charlotte Mason College for providing the conference with excellent facilities and accommodation.

WINTER CONFERENCE, 1984

The Society's Winter Conference will be held in conjunction with the Historical Geography Research Group of the Institute of British Geographers on Saturday 1 December 1984, at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London. The theme this year will be 'Conservation of the Agricultural Past', and the speakers as follows: P F Brandon (Polytechnic of North London), 'New Approaches to Landscape Conservation'; J Sheail (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology), 'Nature Conservation and the Agricultural Historian'; P Fowler (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments), 'Buildings on the Farm'; and R D Bridgen (Museum of English Rural Life), 'The Preservation and Interpretation of Agricultural Object Material'. A copy of this programme together with the booking form is inserted in this issue of the *Review*. Enquiries should be addressed to Dr M Overton, Secretary BAHS, Department of Geography, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.

SPRING CONFERENCE, 1985

The Society's Spring Conference will be held at the College of Ripon and York St John, Ripon, 1-3 April 1985. The full programme and booking forms will appear in the next issue of the *Review*, but the speakers will be as follows: Mrs Christine Hallas (Askrigg), 'Agricultural change in nineteenth-century Wensleydale and Swaledale'; Mr Richard Hoyle (Corpus Christi College, Oxford), 'The Pilgrimage of Grace as

Peasant Movement'; Dr John Chapman (Portsmouth Polytechnic), 'The Impact of Parliamentary Enclosure: a Reconsideration of the Statistics'; Dr Brian Outhwaite (Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge), 'Progress and Backwardness in English Agriculture, 1500-1650'; Dr Cormac Ó Gráda (University College, Dublin), 'Patterns of succession to Irish farms after the Famine'; and Dr John Perkins (University of New South Wales), 'Contemporary German Perspectives on British Agriculture before 1914'. Mrs Hallas will be leading an excursion through Swaledale and upper Wensleydale. Any enquiries should be addressed to Dr J A Chartres, School of Economic Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

THE CLIOMETRICS SOCIETY

A new society, the Cliometrics Society, has been formed to cater for the interests of those involved with the new economic history. It proposes to maintain a list of members and their research interests, publish a periodic newsletter, and organize annual conferences. The first of its World Congresses is to be held in May 1985, and those interested should contact the Cliometrics Society, Department of Economics, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056, USA.

THE HISTORIC FARM BUILDINGS STUDY

In January 1984 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food commissioned a study of historic farm buildings, defined as those built before 1900, administered by the Council for British Archaeology, and undertaken by Mr Nigel Harvey. Its objective is to produce a handbook for the use of MAFF officials, and a series of advisory and training leaflets. It is hoped that these will prove of more general interest to all concerned with historic farm buildings.

The study is not to be based on fieldwork, but rather upon returns to enquiries by questionnaire. The handbook, the principal product of the study, will cover the following main items: sources of information on historic farm buildings (HFBs); lists of current research on the subject; rates of destruction of HFBs; methods of recording and dating; and areas requiring further research. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to contribute to this study, and questionnaire forms on which to return information are available from Mr Nigel Harvey, Historic Farm Buildings Study, 41 Corringham Road, Golders Green, London, NW11 7BS.

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AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

"History of Rural Life in America"

A special issue edited by Barbara R. Cotton

Papers from a symposium sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
the Agricultural History Society, and Florida A&M University.

Voices for Improving Rural Life: Alabama's Black Agricultural Press, 1890-1965,

Allen W. Jones

Rural Telephones in the United States, *Don F. Hadwiger* and *Clay Cochran*

Rural Life Among Nineteenth-Century Mormons: The Woman's Experience,

Leonard J. Arrington

Sisters of the Grange: Rural Feminism in the Late Nineteenth Century,

Donald B. Marti

Modernization as a Function of an Agricultural Fair: The Great Grangers' Picnic
Exhibition at Williams Grove, Pa., 1873-1916, *Warren J. Gates*

Watermills in the South: Rural Institutions Working Against Modernism, *Larry Hasse*

Self-Sufficiency and the Origins of the Marketable Surplus in the Rural North,
1860, *Jeremy Atack* and *Fred Bateman*

Self-Sufficiency and Rural Life on Southern Farms, *Louis Perleger*

Progressive Farm Families and Their Houses, 1830-1855: A Study in Independent
Design, *Sally McMurry*

The Country Visitor: Patterns of Hospitality in Rural Wisconsin, 1880-1925,

Jane Marie Pederson

Government Research Concerning Problems of American Rural Society,

Harold T. Pinkett

Professionalism in the Rural Social Sciences, 1896-1919, *Harry C. McDean*

The Machine Breakers: Farmworkers and Social Change in the Rural Midwest of
the 1870s, *Peter H. Argersinger* and *JoAnn E. Argersinger*

Black and White in the Rural South, 1915-1954, *Jack Temple Kirby*

Changing Concepts of the Country School as a Community Center in the Midwest,

Wayne E. Fuller

Education of Freedmen and the Role of Self-Help in a Sea Island Setting,
1862-1982, *Delo E. Washington*

The World Around Hampton: Postbellum Life on a South Carolina Plantation,

Carolyn Baker Lewis

Rural Life Along the Mississippi: Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, 1830-1850,

David O. Whitten

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the U.S.A. add \$2.00. *Single copy:* \$4.00 for individuals or students and \$7.00 for
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