

Book Reviews

DELLA HOOKE, *Anglo-Saxon Landscapes of the West Midlands: the Charter evidence*. BAR Brit Series 95, 1981. Obtainable from BAR, 122 Banbury Road, Oxford, 380 pp. £15.

This is a very important book that will be essential reading for most readers of this journal: it also has interest for anyone concerned with Anglo-Saxon studies in any shape or form. Dr Hooke has studied the boundary clause of the charters of the medieval diocese of Worcester with a thoroughness never before attempted. She has done this in a context of archaeological evidence, place-name study and topography, marrying the art of the historian with that of the geographer. There are dozens of helpful maps, though I regretted the omission of a version of the very first one (of estates in the Avon valley), with the Domesday royal demesne added. This would give us some idea of how complete the archives of the churches of Worcester, as we have them, are. There is also no index. I can see that an index for this book would be an enormous job but I think it would have been useful. Dr Hooke accepts the view of the late Canon Taylor that the shire system of the West Midlands was formed in the early eleventh century. I think it was much more probably the work of Edgar. The translated passage, pp 4-5, should be correctly referred to Liebermann's *Gesetze*, i, pp 454-5, and I am not sure that *tun* is correctly rendered by *manor*. But these are small blemishes in a generally most scholarly book.

The second half of the book is a close look at the principal words used in Anglo-Saxon agrarian vocabulary, and is full of insights into the nature of Anglo-Saxon farming techniques and estate management. What there is here is much too rich to summarize. But one must mention the discussion of the meaning of *hamm*, the establishment of the probability that *stow* means holy place, and her proof that the Anglo-Saxons went in for enclosing land on a large scale. The first half of the book ranges over more general issues. Dr Hooke notes that the scribes of the charters make mistakes in the boundary clauses that suggest they did not always know the locality. This has important implications for the study of where charters were written. She is very much a disciple of Professor Glanvil Jones, and has no difficulty in making a very strong case that the estates booked in the charters were already of some antiquity. By looking at estate bounds in connection with surviving iron-age earthworks she raises the probability that some of these arrangements do in fact go back to the iron age. She does not shirk Celtic

parallels, and has many useful points in favour of a maximizing of these parallels, and she develops a very strong case for rural continuity between Anglo-Saxon England and what went before. It is evident that the multiple estate was common enough in the West Midlands, and she has a fascinating discussion as to why a place so far west as Worcester was the 'capital' of the region. She is sceptical of the mass-migration of Anglo-Saxons into her chosen region and she takes the story of Roman and Saxon Withington further than the late Professor Finberg did. Altogether this is a book very much in the Finberg tradition. Herbert Finberg would have loved it, for its contribution to methodology as much as its palatable conclusions.

ERIC JOHN

LEONARD CANTOR (ed), *The English Medieval Landscape*. Croom Helm, 1982. 225 pp. 41 figs, 2 tables, 8 plates. £12.95.

Landscape history is a relatively new specialism, standing on the frontiers where archaeology, history and geography meet. This book is a collection of seven essays by five authors, all of whom are geographers and are presumably writing for a readership of geography students. This means that the book lacks some of the zest of the multi-disciplinary approach that can mark the best work in this subject; new landscape history is more than just an extension of old historical geography. Defining the scope of the subject for the purposes of this book has led to some problems. Everyone would agree that fields, forests and parks, marshes and wastes, settlements, and roads should be included, and there are essays here on all of these. More difficult to explain is the inclusion of an essay on 'castles, moated homesteads and monasteries', and the lack of any special treatment of lesser houses and churches. Agrarian historians will be disappointed that the whole problem of the organization of the landscape into estates, townships, and other land units, which has figured prominently in the new landscape history, does not receive much attention. This is symptomatic of the weakness of an approach that studies the man-made landscape but pays scant attention to the social relationships and productive forces that helped to create it.

The special contribution of the recent advances in landscape history has been to provide us with a new type of evidence, so that we can more readily identify those elements in the modern pattern of

fields and streets that date back to the medieval or pre-medieval periods. Such a method makes no more than a fitful appearance in these essays; for example, the essay on fields rightly puts much emphasis on the surviving ridge and furrow, while the author of the essay on roads relies almost entirely on documentary and cartographic evidence, not on surviving traces of medieval roads. This is unfortunate, because in other ways the discussion of roads is the most interesting in the book, developing new ideas and pointing to future research rather than being content to summarize existing knowledge.

The students who may use this book will find it puzzling that the authors contradict one another; the editor, for example, gives population figures in his introduction that differ considerably from those chosen by two of the authors (pp 18, 87, 89, 155). Some of the information is plainly wrong, like the population estimate for England of 4.0 or 4.5 million in 1377 (p 87). The editor and an author give different totals for the number of deserted villages, both of which disagree with the commonly accepted figures (pp 22, 120). Careless captioning of illustrations on pp 26 and 34 will give readers the impression that headland ridges are the main surviving features of medieval field systems, and that ridge and furrow is 'Celtic'. It is also to be regretted that more discrimination has not been used in borrowing material from other authors. A glaring example is a misleading map of changing medieval land use (p 93), which has been unnecessarily resurrected from obscurity to confuse readers.

This book offers students a great deal of information, most of it accurate, but it will give them little stimulation. While they will occasionally glimpse some of the insights that landscape history can provide, their main impression will be that this is a dull subject. Their gloom will not be relieved by the photographs, which have been reproduced so inadequately that they appear to have been taken at dusk.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

WILLIAM LINNARD, *Welsh Woods and Forests: History and Utilisation*, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, 1982, 203 pp. Illus. £7.

The appearance of this volume was eagerly anticipated, and then warmly welcomed, as the first major historical study of forests and forestry in Wales. The subject is surveyed from the Ice Age to the formation of the Forestry Commission in 1919, and the concluding Epilogue assesses the main historical processes which have been influenced both the landscape

and fluctuating attitudes towards woodland vegetation.

The extent of the chronological span prohibits the examination in depth of developments in several important periods: the climacteric events of the Black Death, Glyndwr Rebellion and Wars of the Roses are considered in two paragraphs with two references, both to the same source (p 44). Nevertheless, the author succeeds in presenting a coherent examination of the subject, and he understandably exploits his own impressive research-work, especially in the sections dealing with the medieval Welsh Laws (Chapters I and III) and the Hafod and Plymouth estates in the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries (Chapters VI, VII and VIII).

A skilful use is made of a variety of sources and techniques. Dr Linnard relies extensively on the results of pollen-analysis and archaeological excavation in Chapter I whilst the discussion of eighteenth-century trends (in Chapter VII) benefits from the author's use of estate records, travellers' accounts, topographical prints and official reports. Appropriate literary allusions are included throughout the volume. The Epilogue concludes with the quotation of extracts from two Welsh poems as illustrations of the marked change in attitudes displayed towards woodlands in Wales: the first is a sixteenth-century lament inspired by the felling of woods in Glamorgan by English iron-masters, and the second a twentieth-century attack on the planting of trees by an alien-based Forestry Commission.

The impact of other external factors, such as military and industrial requirements, is assessed in the discussion of the four main forest products: charcoal, shiptimber, tanbark, and pitwood (Chapter VI). The influence of Scots foresters on Welsh estates from the late eighteenth century onwards is also emphasized in Chapter VIII ('Professional Foresters and Private Estate Management in the Nineteenth Century').

The volume has been handsomely produced with an attractive, and extremely suitable cover illustration reproduced from a thirteenth-century legal manuscript (Peniarth MS 28) and depicting the medieval forest-management practices of coppicing and lopping. An index and six appendices, including a glossary of special terms, are presented. Numerous illustrations, figures and tables supplement and clarify the text but unfortunately a complete list of illustrative material has not been compiled.

Dr Douglas A Bassett, Director of the National Museum of Wales, surveys in his foreword to the volume the multi-disciplinary interest displayed over the years in this subject by members of the National Museum of Wales and its first major out-station, the Welsh Folk Museum. The National Museum, celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary, is to be con-

gratulated for the enlightened decision to publish a work which represents a valuable pioneering contribution to our understanding of 'one of the major natural resources of the county, one of the main forms of land-use and of natural habitat'.

D HUW OWEN

JOHN W SHAFFER, *Family and Farm: Agrarian Change and Household Organization in the Loire Valley 1500-1900*. Albany, State University of New York Press, 1982. 258 pp. Illus. \$39 hardback; \$12.95 paper.

To explore the past of one's own country is to discover another place; to examine the past of another country involves an additional distancing of a researcher from his goal, the attainment of which thereby becomes doubly difficult. The recent colonization by American academics of the study of French modern history illustrates both the potential and the problems of such excursions into the pasts of foreign parts; illuminating, culturally-immersed studies are forced to share shelf-space with works which tell a reader more about American historical scholarship today than about any aspect of French *civilisation* yesterday. Between them must be placed books like this one by John Shaffer.

The main thrust of Shaffer's study is demographic rather than agricultural but his concern is to examine the relationships between those two systems in one French *département*, Nièvre, from the early-sixteenth until the late-nineteenth century. An opening chapter discusses generally how modernization theorists have accounted for changes in family patterns and establishes the Nivernais as an historical testing-ground. Then follows a detailed examination of the legal, social and economic basis of family and household organization in the Nivernais, stressing the persistence until the mid-nineteenth century of large joint households and of their involvement especially in sharecropping. Shaffer argues that *communautés* — of perhaps 20 or even 30 people — developed initially in order to counter the divisive effects of partible inheritance but then adapted to meet the need for considerable labour forces on large farms held in *métayage*. During the nineteenth century (and especially after 1840) the joint household declined, Shaffer argues, in response to the transformation of agrarian structures, notably the growing number of small farms (products of the practice of partible inheritance) and a significant reduction in the overall demand for labour coupled with its increasingly seasonal character as farming focused upon meadows and pastures devoted to cattle-raising and fattening for newly-accessible urban markets.

Throughout his study, Shaffer usefully highlights the regional variations in household and agrarian

structures identifiable within the *département* of Nièvre, notably between the heavily-forested and relatively isolated uplands of the Morvan and the other, more agriculturally progressive and commercially connected, areas. Furthermore, his general argument is creditably founded on particular studies of two communes and grounded in surviving primary sources. Nonetheless, Shaffer's account remains often at a purely descriptive level, in part because he has refrained from considering interpretations other than the one advanced by himself. For example, rural emigration is seen definitively as a consequence of the decline of joint agricultural households rather than possibly related to the rise of employment opportunities in industries and towns; and the decay of joint households is assumed to have involved a shift from communal to individual life-worlds, although Shaffer has not considered whether any other forms of collective organization were being developed in the Nivernais while the joint household was being dissolved. Finally, it must be emphasized that this book is concerned with one French *département* and not with the Loire valley as a whole.

ALAN R H BAKER

GREGOR DALLAS, *The Imperfect Peasant Economy: the Loire Country, 1800-1900*. Cambridge, CUP, 1982. xi, 352 pp.

Gregor Dallas has written a book about rural society or, rather, about two particular rural societies, their evolution from the period of the Napoleonic Wars to that of the First World War, their resilience in the face of France's growing urban and industrial sectors. He eschews the familiar theme of gradual assimilation of rural communities into a larger, more complex society, and shows instead (the nuance is crucial) how peasant economies held their own within that society, and maintained their particular form of cultural identity under pressure. It is a very good book, because it refuses to accept stereotypes, questions established assumptions, provides the reader with a lot of useful information, and remains readable and good humoured throughout.

The Loire Country of the title consists of the Orléanais (105 communes in the Loiret) and of the Nantais (93 communes of Loire-Inférieure), regions not far removed from each other yet sufficiently different to provide grounds for suggestive comparisons of how country folk coped with circumstances that in some respects remained fairly constant over time. Within these areas and against their wider regional background, Dallas discusses demography, landholding patterns, commercial and other relations to urban centres, and the role of mediators —

especially large landowners, teachers and priests — whom he prefers to call 'connectors'.

Dallas is chiefly interested in the economic aspect of things. The data that he marshals lead him to conclude, among other things, that peasants managed their economy quite well; that migration, a solution of last resort, was always less than has been assumed and then directed rather towards new land (as in Sologne) than towards town; above all, that gloomy interpretations of nineteenth-century fragmentation of landholdings are unfounded, at least for peasants in his areas, for whom the relative decadence and dispatching of large estates owned by non-residents was a measure of survival and success. By dint of limitless familial effort, by using labour to replace the capital they lacked, and more intensive toil to make up for the modern equipment they could not afford, peasant communities survived the challenges of the century, gained ground at the expense of urban landowners, or — at worst — held their own; while peasant culture adjusted successfully and on its own terms to the possibilities and demands of the changing world around.

I disagree with some of the views Dallas expresses (St Nazaire *was* very soon perceived and resented at Nantes as a rival and a menace); but if I have a serious disagreement, it is with his view that demographic population study 'provides the surest, most complete way of fathoming out how the individual experience was related to society at large'. I would not dream to question the usefulness of the large-scale indications furnished by the computer studies that fed this book. Rich, and enriching, though it be, such information provides only partial understanding. It yields more when used in conjunction with more subjective data, which Dallas does not ignore, but tends to underplay. Yet individual experience *is* individual; even collective experience is not merely statistical, but communal. Statistics can confirm, or question, or complete, the impressions of lived experience; they cannot substitute for it.

Revealingly, the weakest chapter of this excellent book is about politics, because politics, which are largely about personalities, clans and memories, especially at the local level, lend themselves ill to abstraction. The discussion of 'collective violence' is superficial and unconvincing; the presentation of forest problems is one-sided and incomplete; so, on another level, are the glancing references to peasant 'superstition'. But Dallas rampages so cheerfully all over the show, and his enterprise and *brio* pay off most of the time, that he is bound to totter now and then. And it is far better to be debatable than to be dull.

Dull he never is, and suggestive always. Much shall be forgiven him for that. For that, and for his determination to do what too few others seem

willing to do: approach the history of town and country in harness.

EUGEN WEBER

DAVID FOSTER, *The Rural Constabulary Act 1839*.

Standing Conference for Local History, Bedford Square Press, 1982. 48 pp. £2.95.

This small but interesting booklet is concerned with one of the more important and controversial statutes of the nineteenth century. The first chapter is primarily devoted to a study of law enforcement in the early years of that century. It is essentially a summary of known information, with a few strands of original material. Dr Foster's analysis of the Royal Commission of 1839 is more substantial and provides useful insights into the influence of Edwin Chadwick and the categories of crime identified in the Report. The author shows how the evidence before the Commission was carefully selected and how the Report came to a revolutionary conclusion on the need for a national and centrally-organized police force.

The chapter on the Act itself is too short, and the reader should have been given more information on the preparations for, and on the actual character of, the parliamentary debates on such controversial legislation. This is a pity, for Dr Foster is good on Lord John Russell's difficult political position, and on the general opposition to the Bill in the country.

In the opinion of this reviewer, the last chapter is the most valuable section of the book. The author describes how 24 counties adopted the Act in the first two years of its existence, whilst another 11 did so during the subsequent 15 years. Many of these counties had a history of industrial and political conflict, but by no means all of them. The West Riding, Middlesex and Monmouthshire, for example, did not favour the Act. For Edward Denison, the Yorkshire MP, such opposition was simply a matter 'of pounds, shillings and pence'. But there was also much distrust of county policemen as agents of the central government. In a few counties serious attempts were made to abolish the force after it had been established though it proved impossible to raise the necessary two-thirds majority at Quarter Sessions.

According to Dr Foster, organized opposition to the Act lasted a remarkably short period of time. During the 1840s and 1850s people began to make extravagant claims about the efficiency of the new county forces, especially in the field of public order, and the relations between magistrates and chief constables were reasonably good. The leaders, religious and otherwise, of county society soon found

that professional policemen could control vagrancy and even help in the work of moral reformation. In 1853 Edwin Chadwick, a critic of the Act in 1839, was forced to admit that he was rather pleased with its outcome.

DAVID JONES

RUDOLF BIČANIĆ, *How the People Live: Life in the Passive Regions*. Edited by Joel M Halpern and Elinor Murray Despalatović. Research Report No 21, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, September 1981. 162 pp. Maps, tables.

In July 1935 the Croatian Peasant Party established the Peasant Economic Union (*Gospodarska Sloga*). Its function was to improve the material and cultural standard of the peasant's life and it concerned itself with such matters as the setting up of co-operatives, grain reserves and marketing organizations for peasant producers. Amongst its other functions was 'systematic research to discover the immediate and long-range economic and social problems of the Croatian peasants' (p 11, from the introductory essay by Elinor Murray Despalatović). The first fruit of this endeavour was Bičanić's *How the People Live*. It is a minor classic. Bičanić set off to make an in-depth study of conditions in one of the poorest regions of the country, that 'within a land triangle which stretches from Banja Luka to Split in Mostar' (p 1), a part of the 'Passive Regions', so called because there was no capital accumulation in the area. The result, now published in English for the first time with admirable introductory and concluding essays by the two editors, is a fully detailed and perceptive catalogue of the ailments which affected one of Europe's poorest agrarian areas at a time when agriculture itself was still reeling from the disastrous impact of the depression. The problems are generally familiar. Methods were hopelessly backward, land was parcelled beyond economic or social reason, peasant life was ruled and sometimes ruined by what

Bičanić called, 'The Tyranny of Custom', and above all there was the burden of debt. For the passive regions of Croatia there was also the problem of water of which the peasants had too much in winter and far too little in spring and summer. Bičanić's remedies for these ills are typical of the agrarian activist of the interwar period. He wanted less reliance on the merchant — what was the use of producing milk for commercial dairies if the prices given for the raw material by the merchant were so low and the prices charged by that same merchant for the finished product so high that not only could the peasant not afford to buy dairy produce himself but was forced, often by debt obligations to the merchant, to sell all his milk thus depriving his own children of that precious commodity? The better way to do things would be to remove the merchant's profit and the merchant by relying on co-operatives. Likewise Bičanić looked forward to a time when the peasant made more of his own clothing, either domestically or in small village workshops, for dependence on the capitalist market forced the peasant, and the state, to sell food abroad cheaply and buy expensive textiles; here the price scissors really hurt. Not only are Bičanić's agrarian credentials proved in the solutions he advocates but they are to be seen too in his moral attitudes. He disapproves strongly, and understandably, of a system which can encourage poor peasants to spend valuable cash on cosmetics when they are in desperate need of metal rather than wooden ploughs, and, like all good agrarians throughout eastern Europe, he had a robust dislike for the lawyer, the politician, the tax-collector, and the many other stock characters of the agrarians' chamber of horrors. Professors Halpern and Despalatović are to be congratulated on making available a work which is important and informative not only of the conditions studied but also of the attitudes which dominated an important political movement in eastern Europe between the wars.

R J CRAMPTON

Shorter Notices

RICHARD DUNCAN-JONES, *The Economy of the Roman Empire: Quantitative Studies*, 2nd edn. CUP, 1982, xviii + 414 pp. £25.

The first edition of Dr Duncan-Jones' volume of essays on wealth, agricultural investment and yield, prices and demography, published in 1974 at £7.60, was warmly received in this journal by K D White: 25 (1977), pp 53–54. The second edition is a photocopy of the corrected reprint of 1977 with the

addition of a few titles to the bibliography, a new appendix on Roman weights and measures, and 13 pages of supplementary notes. The great majority of the latter are bibliographical addenda of one to three lines. Only in three places are there more extended discussions (one to three pages) of criticisms or new arguments that followed the original publication.

M I FINLEY

P THOMPSON, L McKENNA and J MACKILLOP, *Ploughlands and Pastures: The Imprint of Agrarian History in four Cheshire Townships — Peckforton, Haughton, Bunbury and Huxley*. Cheshire Libraries and Museums, Chester, 1982. 112 pp. No price given.

This delightful little book skilfully combines thorough and careful field studies with equally competent examinations of maps, aerial photographs and estate documents to make an exemplary survey of four townships that straddle the Peckforton Hills. Here one may follow the history of farms and fields,

of buildings and hedges, and of cultivation and vegetation in wholly satisfying detail and with the assistance of a wealth of maps, diagrams and drawings. This work will be of inestimable value to agricultural and local historians and will afford all the more pleasure for that these places (with Beeston Castle also) constitute a favourite resort for the people of Crewe, Chester and other large towns in the vicinity. I heartily recommend both this book and the beautiful and fascinating district it deals with.

ERIC KERRIDGE

Books Received

IAN BECKWITH, *Three Studies in Seventeenth Century Rural History*. Centre for the Study of Rural Society, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, 12 pp. 25p.

C J BLISS and N H STERN, *Palampur: The Economy of an Indian Village*. OUP, 1982. 334 pp. Tables. £15.

PHILIP and BARBARA BULLER, *Pots, Platters & Ploughs: Sarratt Wills & Inventories 1435-1832*. Mrs B Buller, Little Bragmans, Belsize, Rickmansworth, Herts. £5 (+ p & p £1.20).

NICHOLAS P CUSHNER, *Farm & Factory: The Jesuits and the Development of Agrarian Capitalism in Colonial Quito, 1600-1767*. State University of New York Press, Albany, 1982. 224 pp. Maps and tables.

POLLY HILL, *Dry Grain Farming Families, Hausaland (Nigeria) & Karnataka (India) compared*. CUP, 1982. 306 pp. Figs, Tables, Plates. £25 (paperback £9.95).

JOHN W HOUSE, *Frontier on the Rio Grande: A Political Geography of Development and Social Pathology*. OUP, 1982. 268 pp. Figs, Tables, Plates. £17.50.

WILLIAM LANIER HUNT, *Southern Gardens, Southern Gardening*. Duke University Press, 1982. 180 pp. Illus. \$16.50.

INTERNATIONAL BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, three catalogues: 1. *Publications*; 2. *Book Selection*; 3. *Audio Visual Material*. IBRA, 1982. 25p for the three catalogues. Free to members.

A JAMES (ed) *Fareham Past & Present Book XI, Vol. II, Book XII, Vol. II*. Fareham Local History Group, 1982. 30p each.

W MINCHINTON (ed), *Agricultural Improvement: Medieval & Modern*. Exeter Papers in Economic History No 14. University of Exeter, 1981. 137 pp. £2.50.

J MOULLIN (ed), *Bulletin No. 37*, 1982. Cambridgeshire Local History Council. 31 pp. Subscriptions £1.50 individuals, £2.50 husband and wife, due 1 April.

ERIC RICHARDS, *A History of the Highland Clearances: Agrarian Transformation and the Evictions 1746-1886*. Paperback edn, Croom Helm, 1982. 532 pp. £10.95.

THEODORE SALOUTOS, *The American Farmer and the New Deal*. Iowa State University Press, 1982. 319 pp. Photographs, cartoons. \$25.75.

SIBYLLE SCHÜLER, *Die Klostersäkularisation in Kent 1535-1558*. Schöningh, 1980. 150 pp. DM29.

OWEN STINCHCOMBE, *Lucky to Survive: A Centenary History of Gotherington School*. Obtainable from Gotherington Primary School, Gotherington, Nr Cheltenham. 119 pp. Illus. £2.75.

ROBERT D STORCH (ed), *Popular Culture and Custom in 19th Century England*. Croom Helm, 1982. 208 pp. £13.95.

TELFORD COMMUNITY ARTS, *The Hadley Book in the words of Hadley people*. Telford Community Arts, 72 Southgate, Sutton Hill, Telford, Shropshire, 1982. 155 pp. Illus. £2.50.

MARTIN J WIENER, *English Culture & The Decline of the Industrial Spirit 1850-1980*. CUP, 1982. 209 pp. £4.95 paperback.

Notes and Comments

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM, 1983

The Spring Conference of the Society was held at Christ Church College, Canterbury, on 11–13 April 1983. Papers were presented by Mr A J Percival, 'Faversham and its Region'; Professor D N McCloskey, 'Corn at Interest: the Cost and Extent of Storage of Grain in Medieval England'; Mr J Bieleman, 'Rural Change in the Dutch Province of Drenthe, 1600–1800'; Sir John Habakkuk, Dr J V Beckett and Dr P Roebuck, 'Symposium: Post-Restoration English Landownership'; Mr J Young, 'Naval Timber, 1660–1860: Feast or Famine?'; and Mr J K Bowers, 'The Economics of Agricultural Support in post-war Britain'. Dr D A Baker conducted an excellent excursion to the Faversham Heritage Centre, the Shepherd Neame Brewery in Faversham, and to Mr Basil Neame's hop and fruit farm, near Faversham.

The thirty-first AGM was held on 12 April 1983. Professor Mingay, Dr Chartres and Dr Collins were re-elected as officers of the Society. Dr Joan Thirsk was elected as the President of the Society in the place of Professor Chaloner, who reached the end of a three-year term of office. The meeting expressed its thanks and great appreciation of Professor Chaloner's work as President. Professor Chaloner assumed Dr Thirsk's seat as a member of the Executive Committee, and four vacancies on the Committee were filled by the re-election of Dr D W Howell, Dr R Perren and Dr W J Rowe, and by the election of Dr H S A Fox.

Mr M A Havinden was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee, but in his absence Professor Thompson, retiring Chairman, presented the report. The Society had enjoyed another very successful year, with membership so buoyant that the print run of the *Review* had been further increased. The Winter Conference in 1982 had again been held at the Institute of Historical Research, which had now become the normal venue for these meetings, on the theme 'Capitalism in Agriculture'. The next Winter Conference will be on 'The Urban Consumption and Marketing of Agricultural Produce' and will be held on Saturday 3 December 1983 at the Institute. This conference will again be run jointly with the Historical Geography Research Group of the Institute of British Geographers. Just before the conference, the Society had acted as one of the first two subject groups to present a session to the Economic History Society Conference. This had been held at the University of Kent, 8–10 April 1983. Four papers, by Drs Overton, Collins and Turner, and Professor McCloskey had been presented to this conference in booklet form, and further copies were available from the Secretary. It seemed generally

agreed that the session had displayed the Society in a very favourable light. The Executive Committee had considered a report from the officers on the possible uses for the Society's accumulated surpluses, and were proposing to expand the size of the *Review* and to undertake a further publication venture in the issue in book form of the papers on the *Horse* presented to the international conference in Budapest. It was hoped to publish this volume during the summer. The next Spring Conference would be held 9–11 April 1984 at Charlotte Mason College of Education, Ambleside, Cumbria. At the conclusion of the report the meeting congratulated Professor Thompson on his election to the Presidency of the Economic History Society.

The Treasurer reported on another satisfactory year for the Society, in which rising postage and printing costs had again been accommodated without eroding reserves. The Society had a small surplus on the year, and there was no present need to raise subscriptions. Stocks of back issues of the *Review* were now generally low, and, subject to agreement with a Dutch firm, arrangements were being made to give them the right to reprint, in return for a decent royalty. Membership continued to rise, and allowing for new membership coming in at the beginning of the financial year, now stood around 850. It was with great regret that he had to report that Miss Gilliam Beazley, who had been for so many years the effective business manager of the Society, was to give up this work. The meeting expressed its thanks to her and agreed to make her a substantial gift in recognition of her services. A replacement had been found, and to ease administration, the Society was to computerize its accounting. The meeting appointed Mr A K Giles, of the University of Reading, as its auditor.

The Secretary presented the Editor's report to the effect that preparations for the next issue of the *Review* were well advanced before he left for the USA, and the past year had seen the submission of an exceptional number of good articles: after the publication of Part II a backlog of eleven articles would remain. In the next issue the second of the regional surveys of American agriculture would appear, by Fred Bateman on the northern states. The two librarians at the University of Kent who had compiled the annual list of articles had indicated that they wished to give up the task, and the Editor would appreciate offers to replace them. The Chairman drew attention to the late appearance of Part I and noted that the Secretary was taking matters up with the press. From now on, a slightly larger *Review* was to be standard, and attention was directed to the proposed supplement series, a notice

about which had appeared in Part I of the *Review*.

Thanks were extended to Dr Baker and to Christ Church College for the arrangements for the conference.

HISTORY OF THE ARMY ON SALISBURY PLAIN

The Army is proposing to commission a history of its associations with Salisbury Plain, and to this end is seeking information about the social, economic, agrarian, and environmental history of the area, both before the army arrived and afterwards. Members with information to assist this project, or historical advice to offer, should write to the Commander Education, HQ South West District, Bulford Camp, Near Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9NY.

ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE PAPERS

A very limited number of copies of the pamphlet produced for the 1983 Economic History Society conference is available from the Secretary. This pamphlet, *Agricultural History*, is of 73 pages, with card cover, and contains four papers: M Overton, 'An Agricultural Revolution, 1650-1750?'; E J T Collins, 'Agricultural Revolution in a Modern Industrial Economy: Britain, 1950-1980'; M E Turner, 'Sitting on the Fence of Parliamentary Enclosure: a Regressive Social Tax with Problematic Efficiency Gains'; and D N McCloskey, 'Theses on Enclosure'. Supplies are very limited, and sales will be made on a first come first served basis. Those requiring copies should write to the Secretary enclosing a cheque for £2 for each copy required (price inclusive of postage) made payable to the Society.

BRITISH COAL ROYALTIES

Coal royalties, together with surface wayleaves (the right to move coal across property), were nationalized in Britain in 1938 and compensation paid to the previous owners. Under grants made available by the SSRC, the Nuffield Foundation, and the University of London, data have been collected for compensation paid. The information is organized in much the same way as the assessments for compensation were made. In general, this involved determining the value to a landowner of the coal which would be worked for each colliery and from each piece of land owned. Accordingly, the compensation paid is detailed by landowner and by colliery. It is fully computerized so that, in principle, requests for information can be met. The data will be deposited in the SSRC Archive at the University of Essex. It should be of use in a wide variety of fields including the economic history of the coal industry

and of landed estates, the geography of these subjects and as a source of information concerning the distribution of wealth in the form of landed property. It will be invaluable to those wishing to undertake studies of mining or regions. Those interested in the data should write to: Ben Fine, Department of Economics, Birkbeck College, 7-15 Gresse Street, London W1P 1PA. Please state as precisely as possible what information is required and for what purpose.

CONFERENCE OF THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The 1984 conference of the Canadian Historical Association will be held at the University of Guelph, and proposals for session and for papers are invited by the organizers. Three areas have been selected for special emphasis at this conference: the eighteenth century; rural history; and the North American ethnic experience. Members wishing to offer contributions to the programme should write as soon as possible to Professor T A Crowley, Department of History, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1.

WINTER CONFERENCE, 1983

The Society's Winter Conference will be held in conjunction with the Historical Geography Research Group of the Institute of British Geographers on Saturday 3 December 1983 at the Institute of Historical Research. The theme this year will be 'The Urban Consumption and Marketing of Agricultural Produce' and the speakers as follows: Dr R H Britnell (University of Durham), 'Agricultural Trade and the market place in medieval towns'; Dr J A Chartres (University of Leeds), 'The modernization of agricultural marketing after 1640'; Dr G Shaw (University of Exeter), 'Food supply in Victorian cities'; and Dr P J Atkins (University of Durham), 'A comparative study of marketing and consumption in London's dairy and fruit and vegetable trades, c 1800-1914'. A copy of this programme together with the booking form is inserted in this issue of the *Review*. Enquiries should be addressed to Dr Mark Overton, Department of Geography, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

SPRING CONFERENCE, 1984

The next Spring Conference of the Society will be held at Charlotte Mason College of Education, Ambleside, Cumbria, 9-11 April 1984. Suggestions or offers of papers for the programme should be addressed with any more general enquiries to the

Secretary. The programme and booking forms will appear in the next issue of the *Review*.

HORSES IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

The Society is pleased to announce the publication on 16 September 1983 of a book *Horses in European Economic History: a Preliminary Canter*, edited by Professor F M L Thompson. This soft covered book of 212 pages prints revised versions of ten papers presented to the Eighth International Economic History Congress, Budapest, 1982, with an introduction by the Editor. A further notice about this publication appears elsewhere in the *Review* and an order form is inserted in this issue. Enquiries should be sent to the Treasurer.

THE HISTORY OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

A Symposium on the History of Soil and Water Conservation is to be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia, 24-26 May 1984. This symposium is organized jointly by the Agricultural History Society, the University of Missouri-Columbia and the Soil Conservation Service. It will emphasize the conservation of agricultural lands and water resources, and proposals for papers should be submitted

in two-page outline form to Douglas Helms, Historian, SCS-USDA, PO Box 2890, Washington DC 20013, USA, by mid-September 1983. Papers accepted for the symposium will be published in *Agricultural History*, and the selected authors will receive honoraria of \$200. General enquiries should be sent to Douglas Helms, or to Susan Flader, Department of History, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211, USA.

RECORDING FARM BUILDINGS

Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 October 1983. Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Shropshire

The second conference organized by the Institute of Industrial Archaeology on agricultural architecture will provide practical guidance and a forum on the requirements and techniques of recording farm buildings. The course chairman will be John Weller. Fieldwork will be combined with lectures and discussion and full accommodation for the weekend can be provided. For further details please contact Michael Stratton, Institute of Industrial Archaeology, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW. Telephone: (0952 45 3522 ext 32).

NEW PUBLICATION

Horses in European Economic History

Edited by F M L Thompson

The British Agricultural History Society announces the publication of a new soft-bound book, 212 pp, edited by F M L Thompson, *Horses in European Economic History: a Preliminary Canter*, now available from the Treasurer, BAHS, Institute of Agricultural History, The University, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AG.

Contents: 'Introduction', F M L Thompson; 'The Medieval Warhorse', R H C Davis; 'Horse Power', J Tann; 'The Supply of Horses in Great Britain in the Nineteenth Century', K Chivers; 'Horses and Hay in Britain, 1830-1918', F M L Thompson; 'The Farm Horse Economy of England and Wales in the Early Tractor Age, 1900-40', E J T Collins and D Hallam; 'The Delayed Decline of the Horse in the Twentieth Century', T C Barker; 'The Horse Trade in Tudor and Stuart England', P R Edwards; 'Horses in the Netherlands at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century', H Diederiks; 'The Role of Horses in a Backward Economy: Spain in the Nineteenth Century', A Gomez Mendoza; and 'Horses and Management of a large Agricultural Estate in Russia at the end of the Nineteenth Century', O Crisp.

PRICE: £4.50 (\$10) to members of BAHS; £6.50 (\$15) to non members.

ORDERS: to E J T Collins, Treasurer BAHS, Institute of Agricultural History, The University, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AG.