

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE YEAR

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“The Registers of Holme Cultram i, 1580-97,” transcribed by the Rev. F. B. Swift and edited by the Rev. C. M. L. Bouch; viii + 87 pp., 21/- (obtainable from Mr C. Roy Hudleston, Laurel Bank, Penrith). We welcome the appearance of a new volume in the Parish Register Section. In form it differs slightly from its predecessors, in that it includes an editorial preface (which gives a list of the printed sources for the history of the parish) as well as the transcriber’s. The present register is of unusual interest. It contains, under Marriages, the churchwardens’ accounts for 1584-93; those for 1591 are especially valuable, giving vicar Mandevile’s account of the repairing of the abbey church. The burial registers throw light on the incidence of plague at that time: the average yearly number of burials is 65, but in 1587 145 are recorded, in 1588 100, in 1596 131 and in 1597 as many as 208 during the period 25 March—15 August only; during the period under review 144 bodies were buried in the church. Eighty was evidently considered a remarkable age, for three deaths of that age are recorded, and none above it. This register agrees with other records in its evidence for manners and morals in 16th century West Cumberland. It records the baptism of the child of a mother condemned to die for felony, the burials of four who died by accident, four who committed suicide and one who had been murdered; but the most striking figures of all are those of illegitimate births: between 1581-7 there were 4 (out of 486 baptisms recorded), but between 1588-96 the figures were 112 and 885 respectively—that is to say, more than 12½ per cent. of the baptisms entered were those of illegitimate children. There are some quaint nicknames included, some of which can only be understood if one has an expert knowledge of the dialect; and it is interesting to note that pre-Reformation non-biblical Christian names continued to be given to children until the end of the century. The index is to be given at the end of the last volume for this parish.

“Lakeland and the Borders of long ago” by Walter T. McIntire, edited by Thomas Gray (Thurnam & Sons Ltd., Carlisle,

1948). Many of our members will remember our late President's regular articles in the *Cumberland News*, which ranged widely over the history and antiquities of our district; they were popular articles in the best sense of the word, serving to form and stimulate interest in a far wider circle of readers than he could reach in our *Transactions*. It was a happy thought of the proprietors of that newspaper to arrange for a selection to be reprinted in book form, and to entrust its preparation to our member Mr Thomas Gray, himself a mine of information on the literary sources. The result is an extremely stimulating book: it is divided into four main sections, on Carlisle and the border, kings and queens in Cumberland, Lake District sketches and "Old days, old things, and old ways" respectively, the last two being of particular interest to the student of social history (a subject on which there is still room for a great deal of further research by this Society). Each section is subdivided into chapters, originally written as separate articles for the *News*; it says much for Mr Gray's skill in selection that there is so much feeling of unity about the book. Each chapter examines either a single subject (e.g. 14: Ancient fisheries) or a group of related subjects (e.g. 18: Dove cots, old bridges and vanished churches), surveying the evidence, formulating conclusions and drawing attention to the directions in which further research is needed, and all with so clever a touch that the casual reader will hardly realise that he is being educated as well as entertained. There is a half-tone portrait of the author, in a very characteristic pose; and for 12/6 the 300 odd pages give extremely good value.

"The architectural setting of Anglican worship" by G. W. O. Addleshaw and Frederick Etchells (Faber & Faber, 1948). 288 pp. and numerous illustrations; 25/-. This book, by a canon of York and a well-known architect, breaks new ground. After describing the planning of church interiors before the Reformation, it notes the changes that resulted from that event; it shows how the Church endeavoured to fit the use of a vernacular liturgy and congregational worship, with a sermon, into the setting of the medieval church interior, and how the problem was solved by the retention of the choir screen as the dividing line, not between clergy and people as heretofore, but between an auditory or preaching church and a sacrament one. It also shows how these ideas were carried out in churches built between the Reformation and 1841. From it we see how much of the planning of a medieval church remained unaltered until Victorian times,

and that it was neither the Reformers nor Oliver Cromwell but our grandfathers who were responsible for much of the loss which we lament today. Understanding of the authors' thesis is much simplified by the provision of a large number of plans, including those of the two Brougham churches, Witherslack, Cartmel Fell and Ravenstonedale, while references to other churches in our district occur in the text. The book will be indispensable, not only to read but for constant reference, to all who wish to understand the story of our church fittings as well as of their walls and stones. C.M.L.B.

*Proceedings* of the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club, new series, vi (1948), edited by our members Messrs. J. Melville and J. L. Hobbs, includes notes (pp. 12-15) on antiquarian discoveries and re-discoveries in Low Furness during 1945-7, and a paper by the late W. B. Kendall, revised by the editors, which will be of great interest to many of our members: "The history of the hamlet of Salthouse" (pp. 21-40). Salthouse, at first a grange of Furness Abbey, in due course became a hamlet of four customary tenements, and a detailed account is given of its houses, the fields and their cultivation, and the families which farmed the land; the paper is a model one of its kind, and it is to be hoped that its appearance may stimulate the preparation of similar studies of other places in our area: such studies have more than a restricted local interest, for they throw much light on the changes in farming methods and in economic life in the days before the Industrial Revolution. Mr Hobbs also contributes an appendix to "Cocken: the history of a Furness village" (BNFC, old series, xii 51 f.), giving documentary evidence for the Commissioners' award of 1749 which divided the land purchased to augment the livings of Walney and Ireleth, and quoting two documents from the parish records of St. Mary's, Walney, which relate to the same property.

"Handbook to the Roman Wall" by J. Collingwood Bruce, tenth edition, edited by Ian A. Richmond (Newcastle, Andrew Reid & Co. Ltd., 1947); ix + 236 pp., numerous illustrations, bibliography and map, 10/6. All of our members who are interested in Hadrian's Wall are warmly recommended to secure copies of this book, particularly in the year of the Centenary Pilgrimage, to which it provides an indispensable introduction and guide. R. G. Collingwood's ninth edition, issued in 1933 has long been not merely out of print but out of date, so great and

widespread has been the progress of research on the Wall, not least that carried out by our own Cumberland Excavation Committee and reported on regularly in our *Transactions*. In the present edition Dr Richmond has gathered together and digested into a clear and concise summary the results of a long series of excavations, and has summarised the state of our knowledge of the Wall and its problems as it was in 1946. Since then there has been further progress, and those of us who take part in the Pilgrimage will have an opportunity of judging how far his conclusions, for example about the origin of the Vallum, must be modified; but the bulk of them will certainly stand without change. Particular attention may be directed to the new plan and description of the Willowford bridge (165 f.), and to the plans which illustrate how the remains of original turrets or, at Greatchesters, a milecastle underlie several of the forts; it is now beyond question that Hadrian's original scheme envisaged a wall with milecastles and turrets only, and that the forts were added piecemeal during the fifteen years or so after the whole project was begun in 122.

"Roman Britain" by Ian Richmond (Collins, 1947). 48 pp., 8 plates in colour and 22 illustrations in black and white; 5/-. This is a notable book, at a price which places it within everyone's reach. Our member's text is crisp and lively, and his view-point often shows the subject from an unexpected and highly individual angle; the illustrations have been chosen with great skill, and show such treasures as the Carvoran corn-measure (Chesters Museum) and the gilded bronze statue of Hercules from Birdoswald (British Museum), both in colour, while the half-tones include a fine air-photograph (by our member Dr St. Joseph) of the Roman fort at Whitley Castle, and a view of the Rudge cup. The text is divided into six chapters: the conquest, the pacification, tribal communities and the city-state, the impact of the new culture, economic developments and the causes of collapse each receiving a separate essay. Specialists may at times feel that Dr Richmond has over-simplified some of the problems of Roman Britain, especially perhaps in his final chapter; but specialist and general reader alike will join in welcoming this as the most stimulating short survey of the subject since the appearance of R. G. Collingwood's book with the same title in 1923.

*Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4th series, xxv (1947), contains three articles by members of this Society: "Figured samian from

Benwell, 1938" by Eric Birley, "The Herons of Chipchase" by W. Percy Hedley and "A medieval site in Weardale" by E. J. W. Hildyard and John Charlton (the latter paper is of particular importance, announcing the discovery and the initial exploration of what looks like becoming a key site for the study of medieval pottery and metal objects—its name is Cambokeels).

"Britain after Agricola, and the end of the ninth legion", by Eric Birley (*Durham University Journal*, June 1948), points out that there is no real evidence to support the widespread assumption of a disaster in which the ninth legion was destroyed, *circa* 117; it may well have survived to help in building Hadrian's Wall, and its final end need not have come in Britain.

"Dumfriesshire in Roman times" by Eric Birley (*D. & G. Trans.* xxv 132 f.); this surveys the evidence for the pattern of Roman occupation in Eskdale, Annandale and Nithsdale, and directs attention to some problems on which further research is needed.

"The status of Roman Chester" by Eric Birley (*Chester Arch. Soc. Journ.*, n.s. xxxvi 173 f.); there is evidence to suggest that a town, with its own structure of self-government, had been established at Chester by the time of Severus.

"Townend, Troutbeck: a property of the National Trust" by Sir S. H. Scott, Bart.; 8 pp. and one illustration. Our Senior Vice-President's name is sufficient guarantee of scholarship and interest; this is a most attractive pamphlet, surveying the history of the Browne family and the house it lived in, the furnishings of the house and how it finally came into the safe hands of the National Trust.