

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

---

1. *Wigtownshire Charters* by R. C. Reid, LL.D.; 302 pp. (Scottish History Society, 3rd Series, vol. 51. T. & A. Constable Ltd).

In Article IX in this volume that distinguished genealogist Mr G. A. Moriarty writes of "the necessity of a study of the Scottish records when dealing with the early history of the English houses on the Scottish Border." Dr Reid's scholarly volumes serves to underline Mr Moriarty's dictum. The most casual glance at the index serves to show how essential it is to all who are interested in the history of our two counties.

Here are to be found references to the early history of the Curwens, the Boyvilles, Lancasters, Morvilles, Veteriponts, Vauxes and Suthaiks, to name only a few of the families about whom Dr Reid has something to say.

The introduction of 61 pages is scholarly and full of valuable information, and a fascinating curtain raiser to the documents which follow. There are over 350 of these, all prior to the year 1600. How many documents Dr Reid has examined in the preparation of this splendid volume one can only guess. The task must have been a monumental one, and we congratulate the author on bringing it to so triumphant a conclusion.

2. *Bankfield, Urswick* by J. Melville.

Our member Mr J. Melville has written this delightful little account of Bankfield, Urswick, now the property of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrong Ltd., and used by them as a guest-house.

As Mr Melville says, Bankfield itself has little history, but it is situated in a most interesting part of Furness, and is surrounded by many features of great historic interest.

Nothing is known of the house before 1822, when it was the home of Mr Richard Smith, a partner in the Ulverston Mining Company. It was Mr Smith who had the Urswick Cross and Stocks removed from land in front of the Derby Arms, because they interfered with the direct straight carriage-drive out of his front gates. One is glad to add that these two interesting monuments were not broken up but were built into a wall not far from the Bankfield front gates.

Mr Melville illustrates his booklet with pictures of Redman Hall, Urswick Church, the Grammar School, the tarn and the

Cromlech. All in all, a valuable addition to the history of a fascinating district.

3. *A Guide to Prehistoric England* by Nicholas Thomas; 268 pp., 69 illustrations in line and half-tone, 30/- (Batsford, 1960).

This is a very useful gazetteer to the prehistoric sites of various types which the author thinks that people *should* see; after some 20 pages devoted to a brief and informative survey, from palaeolithic times to the Claudian invasion of A.D. 43, and a short glossary of technical terms, the main body of the book is taken up by the gazetteer proper, arranged in alphabetical order of counties and, within counties and periods of occupation, of sites; at the end are a bibliography of excavation-reports and reliable field surveys, and a general index of sites. Mr Thomas's name and reputation are sufficient to recommend the book; as far as our own Society's territory is concerned, his preface makes acknowledgements to several of our members — Mr Blake, Miss Clare Fell, Miss K. S. Hodgson and Mr J. E. Spence — enough to confirm the care with which the author has made sure of including the key sites, in Cumberland at least (Northumberland has not come off so well, unfortunately).

School libraries in particular ought to make a point of getting this book, and ordering the companion work, *A Guide to Roman Britain*, which is announced to be in preparation; and it is warmly recommended to all of our members who are interested in prehistory.

E.B.

4. *The Archaeological Journal* cxv (1960) includes, at pp. 207-253, a full report of the Summer meeting which the Royal Archaeological Institute held, jointly with our Society, in July 1958. In general, it reproduces the accounts of individual sites issued with the meeting programme, including Professor Birley's paper on "The archaeology of Cumberland and Westmorland" (CW2 lviii 1-13); but Dr Peter Eden contributes an important new study of Lanercost Priory, illustrated by four of his own photographs, pp. 220-225, Miss Mary Baldwin adding a note on the conventual buildings, pp. 225-227, and providing a most stimulating account of Hutton-in-the-Forest, with plans, pp. 247-250.

5. *Chesters Roman Fort, Northumberland* by Eric Birley; 30 pp., illustrated, 1/6 (H.M. Stationery Office, 1959).

This Ministry of Works official guide-book gives a convenient conspectus of the evidence for the best preserved of the cavalry forts on Hadrian's Wall.