

REVIEW

THE FARNHAM POTTERIES, by P. D. C. Brears. Pp.17, Figs.7. Phillimore, 1971. Price 40 p.

One of the few surviving potteries that continue very much in the traditions of the nineteenth century and earlier is situated at Wrecclesham, near Farnham. Mr Brears, while curator of the Curtis Museum at Alton, made a special study of Messrs Harris' pottery, and this booklet gives a concise account of its history, methods of manufacture, and the various changes that have taken place since the pottery first began life (at Charles Hill, Elstead) in 1860. At that time the Harris pottery was one of many in the area, and the social and economic background of this nineteenth century industry makes fascinating reading. It is a pleasure to learn that the future of the Wrecclesham pottery is almost certainly assured by the entry into the business of new generations of the Harris family.

Mr Brears includes a considerable amount of technical information covering all aspects of the manufacturing processes at Wrecclesham from digging and preparation of the clay to firing the kilns, together with details of the types of ware produced there now and at different times in the past. This is particularly welcome, since it is in the sphere of practical details that many accounts of local industries fall short, leaving gaps which it is all too often impossible to fill in at a later date. The text is accompanied by clear and well-produced line drawings, and references are given in notes at the end. Altogether this is a very good all-round study, on a scale which will satisfy the interests of most students of local history.

F. W. HOLLING



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