

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

1. *The Register of Thomas Langley, Bishop of Durham 1406-1437*, vol. i, edited by R. L. Storey (Surtees Society, vol. 164, 1956).

This is the first of a series which will ultimately extend to several volumes; the documents transcribed in the present volume, covering the period 1406-1411, will be mainly of interest to specialists, but Dr Storey's introduction gives, in just over forty pages, an account of the administration of the medieval diocese which deserves to be drawn to the attention of our members generally. Documents relating to this Society's territory include a grant of indulgence to those offering prayers for the soul of Richard Salkeld of Wetheral, 28 December 1407 (no. 40), and a commission to command the prior and chapter of Carlisle to pay the pensions due to the bishop, 1 September 1410 (no. 145).

2. *Dumfriesshire & Galloway Transactions*, 3rd series, xxxiii (1956), includes the following papers by our honorary member Mr R. C. Reid: "Scott of Wamphray and their kinsmen" (pp. 18-28), "The archdeacons of Galloway" (pp. 66-72), "De Veteripont" (pp. 91-106, paying special attention to the Scottish branch of the family and making acknowledgements to Prescott, *The Register of Wetherhal Priory*, and to F. W. Ragg's papers in earlier volumes of these *Transactions*, for the English branch), and "A Mowbray service" (pp. 197-199). Other papers of interest to our members include "Early shipping references in Dumfries burgh records" by A. E. Truckell (pp. 132-175, adding abundant material for comparison with that studied by Mr R. C. Jarvis, CW2 liv 212-235, on the Cumberland side of Solway) and "Yvain, Ewen and Owein ap Urien" by John MacQueen (pp. 107-131, including a discussion of the location of Rheged, and of the history of St. Kentigern).

3. *Latomus*, xiii (1954), includes a study of A. Deman (kindly brought to the Editors' attention by our member Mr R. P. Wright, F.S.A.) of the Roman names of the forts on the Wall west of Greatchesters (pp. 577-589): on the basis of the Rudge Cup and the Amiens *patena*, in particular, he concludes that *Banna* must have been the name of Carvoran, not Bewcastle: *Fanum Cocidi* he assigns to Castlesteads, *Maia* to Stanwix (as

it original name, before the *ala Petriana* imposed its name on the place) and *Uxelodunum* to Bowness on Solway. Some of his arguments may not command instant acceptance, but the paper deserves careful consideration. In *Latomus*, xv (1956), "*Terra sigillata* from Tongres", by Eric Birley (pp. 215-221), reviews and discusses a number of recent publications of figured samian, with special reference to the products of Central Gaulish potteries.

4. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A* (General), vol. 118, part III (1955), includes "A statistical examination of the Megalithic sites in Britain" by Professor A. Thom, plans by the author including one of Castle Rigg near Keswick (fig. 4, p. 278); other circles in this Society's territory, discussed by him, include Setmurthy (C), Sunkenkirk, Millom (C), Boot (C), Long Meg and her Daughters (C), Glassonby (C), Tarn Moor, Helton (W), Oddendale, Shap (W), and Orton (W). It is hoped to include a paper by Professor Thom in an early volume of these *Transactions*, in less technical language than his statistical treatment called for.

5. *History of the Priory of Lancashire*; 190 pp. + 6 illustrations and 2 maps, 25/- (Littlebury Brothers Ltd., Liverpool, 1956).

Our member Capt. J. C. Maples, Very Eminent Prior, has written the history of the Province of Lancashire—which includes the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland—but after research he is obliged to acknowledge that there is as yet no evidence of any succession of masonic orders from the Knights Templar of the 12th century.

6. *Appleby. A History of the Borough of Appleby County Town of Westmorland*, by Martin W. Holdgate, M.A., Ph.D., Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge; 77 pp., 4 illustrations and a map, 6/- (J. Whitehead & Son (Appleby) Ltd., 1956).

Within its limits this is an excellent piece of work, though the author has relied entirely on printed sources. The first two chapters contain an admirable account of the tangled history of the Eden Valley before 1177.

The book is a great advance upon any previous history of the town.

7. *Sowerby of China*, by R. R. Sowerby; 58 pp., 5 illustrations and a genealogical table, 12/6 (Titus Wilson & Son Ltd., Kendal, 1956).

This is a biography of Arthur de Carle Sowerby, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., whom the author believes to have been descended from a local family. An interesting account of an adventurous life in China.

8. *Hawkshead church, chapelry and parish*, by T. W. Thompson, M.A.; 36 pp. + 4 illustrations, 1/- (Hawkshead Parochial Church Council, 1956).

This is an excellent piece of work, including a brief account of the church and its ornaments, with a history of the parish. There is a good bibliography and the booklet is wonderfully good value for a shilling.

9. *Map of Roman Britain*, 3rd edition; 43 pp. text, and map in full colours to the scale of 16 miles to one inch, 7/6 (Ordnance Survey, 1956).

Our honorary member Dr O. G. S. Crawford was responsible for the first and second editions of this indispensable basis for the study of Roman Britain; it is good to see what improvements further research, made possible by his pioneer efforts, and an enlarged archæological staff at Chessington have combined to make possible. A new feature of particular interest is the inclusion of a special symbol for "other finds of Roman material", providing a clear challenge to further investigation; this Society's territory is covered as well as the scale of the map can permit, but for the line of the Wall, and still more for its immediate hinterland in NW. Cumberland, a larger scale is really needed—and the next edition will have to add an appropriate symbol for the farms of native type, on which Miss Hodgson, Mr Blake and others have been doing such fruitful work recently. E.B.

10. *Barrow Naturalists Field Club Proceedings*, N.S. viii, 1956; 43 pp. and 4 plans.

It is a pleasure to welcome this volume of *Proceedings* from our sister society in the Furness district, though it is sad to have to record that it has taken five years (CW2 li 212) for the editor to collect sufficient original material to justify its publication.

The volume contains two contributions from our member J. Melville: one on the history of Hindpool, the other on "How long will Walney remain one island?" Both are excellent.

We hope another five years will not pass before we welcome volume ix.

11. *Four Worthies* (John Chamberlain, Anne Clifford, John Taylor, Oliver Heywood), by Wallace Notestein; 243 pp., 18/- (Jonathan Cape).

Prof. Notestein has written an excellent summary of the life of Lady Anne Clifford in this collection of four biographies.

12. *The Yesterdays Behind the Door : A Family Biography*, by Mrs Hicks Beach; x + 350 pp., 57 illustrations, 35/- (Liverpool, at the University Press, 1956).

Many years ago Mrs. Hicks Beach wrote *A Cotswold Family*, a fascinating book in which she told the story of her husband's family, the Hicks' of Gloucestershire. For many years she has been working on the history of her own family, the Christians of the Isle of Man and Cumberland, and those of us who have had the privilege of corresponding with her over the years and have known the loving, meticulous care which she has brought to her researches rejoice that this book is now safely in print. Let it be said at once that it is a volume which must find a place among any collection of local books. Having said so much, let me add that it ranges over a far wider field than Cumberland, Westmorland and Man, for the Christians and their kinsfolk had interests far beyond the North. Africa, India, Holland, the West Indies, claimed them as soldiers, sailors, administrators, explorers and merchants.

Nearer home, local readers will turn eagerly to the book to discover what Mrs Hicks Beach has to tell of her kinsman John Christian Curwen, perhaps the ablest member of an able family. She paints a memorable picture of him, brilliant, independent, far-sighted—it was he who first thought of National Health Insurance, though many, many years passed before an Act got on to the Statute Book—and with all his faults a lovable personality. Mrs Hicks Beach tells the story of another famous member of the family—the ill-fated Ilhain Dhône, whose fame is enshrined in Manx ballad. He maintained—and who shall say that he was wrong—that the court set up to try him was not competent and in the event he never was brought before it. Sentenced to death without trial, he was the victim of a bungle—the order from the Privy Council to deliver him up either arrived too late or was ignored—and within sight of Ronaldsway, his home, he was shot in January 1663.

Of another famous member of the family, Fletcher Christian of "Bounty" fame, Mrs Hicks Beach has less to say, perhaps feeling that the story of the mutiny has been told so often that it needs no re-telling.

In any event, the author has so much rich, unquarried material upon which to work—much of her information about the Law family, for example, is refreshingly new.

One of the saddest statements in the book comes on p. 19: "There were at Milntown old chests overflowing with deeds and other papers. In 1852, on the death of Deemster John Christian . . . his only unmarried daughter, Isabella, made a bonfire in the yard and burnt them all. She took great credit to herself for this performance which . . . occupied several days." So history perishes, and those who seek to reconstruct the past are frustrated. Luckily, enough records have survived to enable Mrs Hicks Beach to write a book which is as interesting as it is valuable.

C.R.H.