

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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1. *Research on Hadrian's Wall* by Eric Birley. 319 pp. Titus Wilson & Son Ltd., Kendal, 1961. 37/6.

Every cloud has a silver lining, and in this case the printing strike of 1959 will cause generations of students of Hadrian's Wall to be grateful that it prevented the publication of a special handbook for the Eighth Pilgrimage, and instead Professor Birley was inspired to write this handsome volume giving a detailed survey of research on the Wall up to the present day.

The series of problems connected with Hadrian's Wall — and the complex structures associated with it — have attracted the attention of a long series of antiquarians and archaeologists down the ages, with the result that the literature on the subject has reached formidable proportions. All serious pilgrims and students will find in Professor Birley's book a most useful guide, both to the voluminous works of former antiquaries and to the fruits of a long series of excavations undertaken during the past century or so. Not only does he take stock of the progress already achieved by a notable series of scholars from Bede to the present day, but he also, in his characteristic, stimulating manner, indicates the directions in which future research will be most profitably pursued.

This book is not intended to be a guide to the Wall — for Professor Richmond's latest edition of Collingwood Bruce's *Handbook to the Roman Wall* could hardly be improved upon to meet that need — rather it is a guide to the problems raised by this complex frontier system and to the ways by which generations of workers have tried to tackle them. This book is intended for those who, having made their pilgrimage, are stimulated to delve more deeply into the problems arising from the structures they have seen.

This is a serious book, but Professor Birley's obvious enjoyment of the antiquarian sources is infectious: we learn that the great William Camden felt justified in altering Bainbrigg's careful measurement for the height of the Wall at Walltown Crags "sub silentio" from 11 to 15 ft. We are told of an anonymous writer's proposal to Queen Elizabeth I to build a similar wall to fortify the English border against the Scots. A hint is given of a slashing attack made in 1857 on Collingwood Bruce, the leader of mural studies last century, by "A Cumbrian"

(probably the Rev. J. Maughan, rector of Bewcastle). As early as 1741 we are told, Mrs Appleby (daughter of William Gilpin of Scaleby Castle) excavated the bath-house at Castlesteads, thus making her the first recorded female antiquary in the Wall region. There are many more such fascinating details.

The chapters on "Antiquaries" and "Research" and the "Register of former Antiquaries" give us a comprehensive introduction to all those who have worked *per lineam valli* and they show how the methodical study of the Wall began and developed. The accounts of the pilgrimages since 1849 reflect the great advances made in the techniques of archaeology and they illustrate how the study of the Wall has gradually become the preserve of the University of Durham, of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne and of our own Society all working together in close co-operation. It is fitting that Professor Birley, so distinguished a member of all these societies and the leading authority on Hadrian's Wall, should dedicate this book to the memory of F. G. Simpson who also held high esteem in these three societies for the tremendous advances brought in the study of the Wall by his long years of work during the first half of this century.

The rest of the book is devoted to a detailed study of the structures of the Wall and its outposts with full reference to the evidence of the antiquaries on each point. For those using this book as a springboard for further research there is no shortage of exact references to the antiquaries and of the exhaustive bibliographies to both printed and unprinted sources besides references to the results of recent excavations.

There are several valuable tables included in this work which show the present state of knowledge about the Wall sites and they also help to indicate the gaps which are still to be filled before a complete picture of the structures and sequences of the history of the Wall can be painted.

The volume is pleasantly illustrated with half-tone plates of the Wall itself and of the structures and objects associated with it, not to mention the great figures who have studied it. At the end of the book there is an interesting and useful series of plans and diagrams together with a sketch-map of the Wall area. We look forward to the appearance of the large-scale Ordnance Survey map of the Wall, which the Professor mentions, and which, with this book must adorn the shelves of all serious students of the Wall.

Professor Birley has shown the value of careful study of the records of antiquaries which will often shed new light on problems and prevent wastage of time on unnecessary research. The

Professor has shown that centuries of research have not resolved all the problems: the Wall still presents a challenge and he indicates the most profitable directions for research to be pursued in the future. This book contains the fruits of many years work both in the field and in the study and we are most grateful to Professor Birley for giving us the benefit of his great learning in this comprehensive yet compact survey. J.M.E.

2. *The Parish Registers of Kirkham, Part II (1601-1653)*, transcribed and edited by R. Cunliffe Shaw (Lancashire Parish Register Society, n.d.).

Our vice-president is to be congratulated on a predictably meticulous production; special attention may be directed to the introduction, in which Mr Shaw shows how the epidemics of 1623 and 1631 affected the growth of population in the parish. Dr Robert Dickinson has compiled indexes of names, of place-names and of "Professions, Trades and Miscellaneous Matters", and the volume (no. 99 in the series) is bound in the usual handsome style of this very valuable series.

3. *Prince Charlie and the Bonapartes* by George S. H. L. Washington, M.A., F.S.A., 35/-. (W. Heffer & Sons, Cambridge).

Our member and contributor to *Transactions*, Mr George Washington, here advances a theory that Napoleon was descended from Charles II. The most interesting part of this book, however, deals with the career of Charles Edward Roehenstart, who was undoubtedly son of Bonnie Prince Charlie's daughter Charlotte, Duchess of Albany.

4. *Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society's Transactions* (3rd series) xxxviii (1961).

Our honorary member, Dr R. C. Reid, contributes to this volume an important paper, of considerable interest to Cumberland genealogists. Pages 85-113 are devoted to a scholarly account of "The Border Grahams, their origin and distribution". This is not the last word on the history of this fascinating if turbulent clan, but at least Dr Reid has provided some substantial foundations for future building operations. Dr Reid, in collaboration with Mr W. F. Cormack, also writes on "Two Medieval Crosses at Kirkpatrick-Fleming", and in this paper gives us more useful Graham information. Our contributor, Mr W. A. J. Prevost, has transcribed Sir John Clerk's account of his journey from Penicuik to Carlisle in 1731 — the prelude to

his account of his travels from Carlisle to Penrith in CW2 lxi 202-237 — and to this Professor Birley adds a valuable footnote. Professor Birley is also the author of a paper entitled "Thomas Pennant and the Hoddam Castle Collection", which contains an account of a milestone not at Hoddam, which was found in 1766 near the Penrith-Roman road at Hesket. It was later in the collection of William Milbourne at Armathwaite Castle, but its subsequent history is not known.

5. *The Lake Counties, 1500-1830 — a social and economic history* by C. M. L. Bouch, M.A., and G. P. Jones, Litt.D., with contributions by R. W. Brunskill, M.A., A.R.I.B.A. 371 pp., three illustrations, three maps and plan. 42/-. (Manchester University Press, 1961.)

It is a great pleasure to welcome the appearance of this social and economic history of the Lake Counties. The book owes its origin to our former President, the late Canon Bouch, who, after the publication of his *People and Prelates* in 1948, began collecting materials for a social and economic history, on the same lines. Canon Bouch's work proceeded slowly, and, alas, his physical powers began to decline. By 1955 it was clear to him that he would not see the fruit of his labours, and he asked Professor Jones, who formerly held the chair of Economics in the University of Sheffield, to collaborate with him. The Professor agreed, and between 1955 and 1959, when Canon Bouch died, the authors were able to work together on some of the chapters, though Canon Bouch's share of the collaboration of necessity became less and less.

Professor Jones explains in a foreword that Canon Bouch died without seeing the work in the form submitted for publication, but he hopes "that the book is substantially what he would have wished it to be." Those of us who knew Charles Bouch will doubtless agree that the Professor's hope is justified, for this is an important work, and one of which the authors have good cause to be proud.

The criticism which may be levelled against the book is that it attempts too much, that it covers in less than 400 pages more than three centuries of the history of the Lake Counties. We think this is a valid criticism, and we should have liked to have seen the work expanded into three volumes at least. That criticism apart, let it be said at once that this is a book which is not only readable from cover to cover, but is also a valuable work of reference.

Of particular interest are the passages devoted to popula-

tion, agriculture and its improvement, the peasantry and enclosures. Herein one detects the work of Professor Jones, a master at analysis and summing up. On industry, too, the book is equally useful, revealing all kinds of out of the way information. How many know, for example, that in the late 18th century Cross Canonby had a glassworks, and Burgh by Sands a tobacco manufactory? Or that at Brampton there were at this time 30 leather workers in a population of 1,200?

These points remind us that the *History of Cumberland* to which William Hutchinson gave his name remains a gold mine, often too little explored. The authors have gleaned from it much richness, and they have also thoroughly quarried the invaluable 1829 *Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland* by Parson and White.

These two sources have yielded much of great interest, but the authors have also drawn extensively upon unpublished material. Their skill in collection, arrangement and analysis, is impressive. On population, for example, the work is particularly good, and herein one easily detects the hand of Professor Jones. It is interesting to note that by the early 19th century Cumberland "had become markedly urbanized . . . the representative Cumbrian [in 1811] was no longer the peasant on his small farm or the lonely shepherd among the fells. Out of a population of 113,744 some 51,000 depended directly or indirectly on agriculture for a living and over 53,000 on industry and trade. Westmorland was less urban, but in 1811 nearly one-fifth of its population was to be found in Kendal and over 29 per cent in that town and three others, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Kirkby Lonsdale."

As to agriculture, the book shows that it was not only the weather which prevented the industry flourishing. The farmers were for the most part too conservative to make changes, and moreover, many of them could not afford to spend money on improved methods. In 1771 Arthur Young noted that a great stretch of country between Penrith and Keswick was "much of it moors and quite uncultivated, though evidently capable of it."

Time, however, brought changes, and the people of the Lake Counties began to accept them as inevitable. The story is taken to the eve of the passing of the Reform Bill. We hope that Professor Jones may be tempted to continue and tell us about the next fifty years.

In a work of this kind the occasional printer's error is inevitable. We note on pp. 211-212 the Rev. Josiah Relph appears in the strange guise of Joseph Ralphe.

6. *Monastic life in medieval England* by J. C. Dickinson. 160 pp. 38/-. (Adam & Charles Black.)

Our vice-president's great knowledge of life in the monasteries in the Middle Ages is here displayed to the greatest possible effect. Writing for the general reader, Mr Dickinson re-creates the past in most vivid style and in the most urbane manner. His considerable knowledge of what remains of the English monasteries added to a lively perception, and the power to assess evidence, be it architectural or documentary, makes this an intensely interesting book. Not the least valuable parts come at the end — a useful glossary and a good bibliography, which will repay careful study.

Local readers will undoubtedly turn eagerly to read what Mr Dickinson has to say about the monastic houses in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North of the Sands. They will not be disappointed, either in the text, or in the really excellent illustrations.

Particularly interesting are Mr Dickinson's comments on the Dissolution, and on the state of things which existed in the years immediately before. Speaking of the failings of which the monasteries were accused, Mr Dickinson says:

"It is important to bear in mind the importance of a simple mathematical approach to the problem. With nearly a thousand monasteries existing in a period when lay society was far from refined in its manners, it was certain that the monastic life should be to some extent contaminated by the crudity of the age, for, as a bishop once properly pointed out, the main reason for the low standard of the clergy is the unavoidable necessity of recruiting them from the laity."

It is no doubt true that English monasticism might have continued its "somewhat lumbering way" till the 18th and 19th centuries, as did most of its Continental counterparts, had it not been for unpredictable actions of Henry VIII and his advisers.

We congratulate Mr Dickinson on having written a book which is scholarly and readable and comprehensive.

7. *The diaries and correspondence of James Losh*, vol. i, 1811-1823, edited by Edward Hughes. 194 pp. (*Surtees Society*, Vol. 171.)

This volume owes its being to the late Mr T. Gray, who drew the attention of Professor Hughes to the existence of some thirty volumes of the diaries kept by a well known Cumbrian, James Losh. These diaries were acquired by Tullie House, Carlisle, half a century ago, and occasionally they have been consulted by scholars. Now Professor Hughes has made a selec-

tion covering the years 1811-1823, and these extracts are here printed, together with a memoir of Losh's life. We are promised further extracts in a future volume.

Much of this volume is concerned with Losh's activities on Tyneside, but there are, of course, many passages dealing with Cumberland and Westmorland.

In 1821 he called upon Wordsworth, who "looks thin and old but is, I believe, in good health and seems to be contented with his situation. We both (from the wish I have no doubt to avoid unpleasant discussion) avoided the subjects either of general or local politics . . ."

From Wordsworth, Losh "went in a boat upon the lake and saw from it Mr Bolton's handsome house, which is less offensive and built in better style than I should have expected." Next day he breakfasted at Mr Curwen's on the Island, finding "Mr H. Curwen is a sensible man of extensive reading and very considerable general information, but his retired habits and an impediment in his speech render him unfit for a public life." On the return journey to Newcastle Losh noted:

"Stainmore interested me much. I have now known that wild district 40 years and in that period a great, tho' gradual and slow change has taken place, in its cultivation and appearance. Houses have been built at no great distance from each other nearly the whole way over it, the road has been made better in all respects, considerable tracts of land have been enclosed and many fields cultivated for the purpose of improving the pasturage. It strikes me, however, that much more might be done by planting large tracts with sycamore, birch, larch, Scotch fir, etc., which I have no doubt would grow and at no distant period improve not only the look but the value of this wild and extensive district."

We look forward to the appearance of the next volume, with, let us hope, an index covering both volumes.

8. *Clifford letters of the 16th century*, edited by A. G. Dickens. 158 pp. (*Surtees Society*, Vol. 172.)

Of considerable interest to local readers is this collection of letters written by and to members of the Clifford family. As an appendix Professor Dickens gives us Lady Anne Clifford's lives of the Veteriponts and Cliffords from Harleian MS. 6177 in the British Museum.

Of particular interest are letters written by Richard abbot of Shap, Lancelot prior of Carlisle, the abbot of Holm Cultram, Thomas Lord Dacre and William Lord Dacre. Professor Dickens contributes a long and interesting introduction, and each letter is carefully annotated.