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BOOK NOTICES, 2006

Tony Henderson, *My Country: Discovering North East England* (Newcastle upon Tyne, The Journal, 2005), pp. 144. numerous col. ills. ISBN 1-84547-094-X. Hardback £14.99.

For many years, through his columns in the Newcastle *Journal*, Tony Henderson has explored the natural and man-made heritage of our region, stressing its importance and often alerting us to threats to its continued existence. Here, in a magnificently illustrated volume, he introduces us to over 30 of his favourite locations, providing a brief (but accurate) history and weaving his descriptions around the owners, the archaeologists, the naturalists and the gardeners on whom these sites depend. With full details of locations and opening times, this is a most useful book for the car – and will make a very welcome present for exiled north-easterners. A second volume is planned.

Peter Ryder, *The Medieval Cross Slab Grave Covers in Cumbria* (Kendal, CWAAS, Extra Series, XXXII, 2005), pp. 214. numerous ills. ISBN1-873124-40-6. Hardback £20.00.

In recent volumes of *Archaeologia Aeliana* Peter Ryder has provided a fully illustrated catalogue of Northumberland's medieval cross-slabs. This followed on similar work he had published on material from Co. Durham and Yorkshire. Now, as a publication of our sister society, he has completed the northern circuit with a corpus of the Cumbrian material, all carefully illustrated by his own line drawings. These carvings are always at risk of neglect or thoughtless destruction – though it is hoped that this publication will make people more aware of their importance – and it is therefore good that we now have such a full record of this (potentially) very valuable source of historical information.

Stan Beckensall, *Place Names and Field Names of Northumberland* (Stroud, Tempus, 2006), pp. 159. 49 figs. ISBN0-7524-3647-3. Softback £17.99.

In the mid 1970s Stan Beckensall brought out two books on the place and field names of Northumberland. This single volume represents an expanded and up-dated version of those two works. Whilst we await the Northumberland volume of the English Place Name Society series, this provides a very useful collection of names. Particularly notable is the assemblage of field names, drawing upon a variety of estate records. Not all of the accompanying maps have reproduced well but, in general, their presence helps to illuminate the topography and interpretations offered. With attractive colour plates and an excellent index this is a valuable book.

David Cross, *Joseph Bouet's Durham Drawings from the Age of Reform* (Durham, County History Society, 2005), pp. 67. pls. 38. ISBN 0-902958-26-7. Softback £12.00.

A selection of drawings by the French drawing master Joseph Bouet showing the characters who shaped Victorian Durham and its University.

V. Haworth, *Robert Stephenson: Engineer and Scientist. The Making of a Prodigy, 1803–1859* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Rocket Press, 2004), pp. 90. numerous ills. ISBN 0-9535-1621-0. Softback £9.95.

Drawing heavily upon contemporary documents, this book seeks to draw attention to the engineering contribution of Robert Stephenson which has often been overshadowed by the career of his father, George.

Margaret Maddison (ed.), *Northumbria Building Studies, no. 5* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Traditional Architecture Group, 2005), pp. 42. numerous ills. ISSN 1740-5637. Softback £4 (from Mrs V. Boulter, 20 Osborne Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1JQ).

Studies of Lansdown House (Morpeth), Black Heddon House (Blackheddon) and a cottage at Newton Underwood.

Also received:

Richard Sharpe, *Norman Rule in Cumbria 1092–1136* (CWAAS Tract Series XXI, 2006), 77pp. ISBN 1-873124-43-0. Softback £5.00

Durham County Local History Society Bulletin 69 (2006). 64pp. ISSN 0012-7272. Softback £3.50.

For future review:

Gillian Cookson (ed.), [Victoria County History] *A History of the County of Durham, IV: Darlington* (Woodbridge, Boydell and Brewer) 288pp; 66 ills. ISBN 1904356265. Hardback £95.00.