

REVIEWS

Camden's Britannia. Surrey and Sussex: from the edition of 1789 by Richard Gough. Annotated and edited by Gordon J. Copley. 1977. xxvii, 80 pp; illus. Hutchinson. £7.50

The editor's declared purpose in preparing an annotated new edition of the Surrey and Sussex portions of Camden's *Britannia* is to bring this pioneer topographical work to a new public. It is the first new edition since 1789 (save for an edition of 1806, of which only vol 1 was revised, and a facsimile reprint of Gibson's edition in 1971). These readers are the 'ever-growing body of general readers who find pleasure and interest in the study of their own localities'. Dr Copley is at pains to point out that even if scholars 'high in their ivory towers' regard the project as a 'belated essay in effete antiquarianism' he is unrepentantly on the side of the amateur enthusiast. Yet in setting out on this formidable task — the Kent volume appeared simultaneously with the work under review — there need be no conflict of interests. Much of Camden's terminology, some of his place-names, even as translated in the 18th century, his allusions to events little known nowadays and some of his footnote references are in need of elucidation.

This allowed, the editor is naturally in a dilemma as to which edition of Camden to use. The original Latin would be out of the question for the general reader, and this leaves the translations of Philemon Holland (1610), Bishop Gibson (1695) and Richard Gough (1789): as the latest of these, able to inherit corrections made by his predecessors, Gough's version appears rightly to have been chosen. But from this decision results the feeling which this reviewer had of being suspended uncomfortably between the 16th and late 18th centuries. Both Gibson and Gough, besides making corrections in the text, made substantial additions: the original 4½ pages on Surrey in Gibson are followed by 2¼ pages of additions, the 4 pages in Gough by 13 pages of additions, largely incorporating Gibson's, although observations by Gibson and others were also incorporated by Gough into his text. But these additions Dr Copley has omitted from his edition on the grounds of space and concentrates his commentary for the most part on the original text, which it slightly exceeds in length. Anyone describing Camden's Surrey for the benefit of the modern reader cannot but be somewhat bitter about some of the changes over the centuries, but while it is useful to know (p 19) what survives of Beddington House and does not survive of Whitgift School, the note on Molesey (p 13) 'now a dreary spot' is banal rather than a record for posterity, and Mary Tudor's birth is placed at Woking instead of Greenwich (p 7). The notes swing back and forth to explain the past briefly and to comment on the present, often with generalizations, eg, on nominalism (p 7), and, more usefully, with comprehensive quotations from Leland's itinerary half a century before Camden.

The lack of a coherent sense of period is heightened by the illustrative material. Gough's edition was enhanced by undated maps by John Cary, but anachronistically the maps in this edition are revisions dated 1805 from the virtually unchanged 1806 edition (not mentioned by Dr Copley) and show the Basingstoke Canal and Surrey Iron Railway on the Surrey sheet. Similarly the

illustrations range from the Chertsey map of 1432 (no date is given here) to 19th century views, but only two, of Oatlands and Nonsuch are contemporary with Camden himself.

The bibliographical apparatus is somewhat curious: there is a list of abbreviated references, the full titles for which have to be sought in a general bibliography, which might more fairly be entitled a background reading list. In the latter periodical articles are entered under the name of the periodical and books under their titles. The index is of place-names only. Although curiously divided into preface, introduction and appendix, the essays on Camden, his work, sources and editors are useful summaries. Sussex (not considered in this review) is included in this volume, but Kent is a separate volume, of equal price, including the same introductory and bibliographical information (about a quarter of the present volume): the economics justifying the split and consequent duplication of information, when a single larger volume could have had a wider market and thus possibly have cost little more, seem strange.

In summary, it would have been preferable to have produced either a more strictly historical but nevertheless relevant work, explaining in more detail the terms and names for those unacquainted with Camden's world or the county as it was, or to have made a more general current description of the county illustrated for comparison by the words of the first travellers, Leland and Camden.

R.A.C.

S.E.D. Fortescue. *People and places: Great and Little Bookham*. 111 pp. Published by the author, 58 The Mount, Fetcham, 1978: £3 including postage.

We are indebted once more to Mr Fortescue for another attractive and lavishly illustrated account of Bookham similar in style to his first. It has been printed locally in clear type with, alas, many misprints, a dozen of which have been corrected on an errata slip. The Farquhar family name with two uncorrected variations comes out badly in this respect. Although not mentioned in the bibliography it is to the scholarly series of articles by John Harvey in the *Proceedings* of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society that we must look for the basis on which Bookham's history finally rests. This has left plenty of room for the popular monographs which Stephen Fortescue has now happily supplied. With four pedigrees and over a hundred illustrations tied to a map the story has again been continued well into the present century.

T.E.C.W.

W.D. Hooper. *Reigate, its story through the ages*. 217 pp, 1945, reprinted by Kohler and Coombs, 1979. Price £5.90.

The 1970s saw a great many out of print volumes republished in facsimile form. Some, like Manning and Bray's three volume *History of Surrey*, are still valuable sources and their reproduction has enabled a wider body of students

to obtain access to texts previously only available to them in reference libraries. Others, such as G.B. Brightling's *History of Carshalton* (1882) are entertaining and instructive as glimpses of the attitudes of the times of their original publication and are unlikely to be taken as authoritative expositions of the subject matter of their titles. Both these classes of reprint are to be welcomed and deserve to be successful.

With the reproduction of Dr Hooper's *Reigate*, however, we enter a different field. This volume has proved a popular work over the years, as its second-hand price has testified. It is not old enough to have acquired a period flavour in the way Brightling's *Carshalton* has done and is probably sufficiently recent to be regarded by the average reader as authoritative. However, much has changed since 1945. Our view of prehistory has altered dramatically. Work on the history of Reigate has progressed far — Dr Hooper's book has itself provided a valuable stimulus to this — and we are close to a point where a new synthesis could be expected. The largely unpublished documentary work of Dr Moss and Messrs Greenwood and Robinson, among others, the published work of Dr Dulake and the notable series of excavations in the town centre by Mr Williams, all need bringing together into a new history of Reigate.

For this reason the republication of Hooper's volume at this time is to be regretted. The market for local history is limited and it would be a brave author who attempted to compete with an apparently standard work still in print. It is unlikely that such an author would find a publisher even if he were to produce a manuscript. So what might appear on the surface as a 'good thing' has probably set back the possibility of a better history of Reigate by at least ten to twenty years. Many of us will not survive to read it.

D.J.T.

Alan A. Jackson (editor) *Ashtead: a village transformed*. 1977 (Leatherhead & District Local History Society) 237 pp. 36 illustrations, including plans. Now available as a 2nd edition, 1979, price £4.00 to non-members, 35p postage, from 4 Alexander Godley Close, Ashtead.

Although A.W.G. Lowther published a brief history of Ashtead in the *Ashtead Resident* in 1948–54 (reprinted *Proc Leatherhead Dist Local Hist Soc* 1949–60), when he died in 1972 he left a mass of papers on this subject to the Society of Antiquaries. In 1973 a team of enthusiasts organized the preparation of a book based on Lowther's material, data from other publications and original research, especially by J.E. Smith, Mrs J. Tappin, Paul Smith and G.J. Gollin. The resulting volume, edited by one of the eleven authors, reflects their enthusiasm for Ashtead.

The first eight chapters follow a fairly conventional chronological approach to the history, each chapter being written by a specialist in the relevant period. In the second half of the book various themes such as the churches, education, roads and railways are dealt with in depth. As a multi-authored work the editor has generated a very satisfying whole. The chapters complement each other and overlap is quite minimal.

The Roman section is of particular archaeological interest as there is published

for the first time a plan of the kilns and clay pits associated with the villa and tile works on Ashted Common. However, further details of the investigations by John Hampton must await full publication. It is unfortunate that the plan of the villa and bath house, based on Lowther's original drawings did not have its scale corrected. It is in fact about half the scale of the original version published in *Sy AC* and from the barely discernible line scale about a quarter of the stated 'one inch equals eight feet'.

In a brief discussion of the place-name evidence it is a pity the opportunity was not taken to consider the origin of the modern spelling Ashted. It is the reviewer's opinion that this 19th century affectation was invented by the Ordnance Survey when they first surveyed the area. This form took about fifty years to finally displace the previously standardized form Ashted.

For the serious student one of the more annoying features of the book is the lack of uniformity in the references. Some chapters lack them entirely, others use a combination of footnotes and abbreviated references in the text (note on page 35 the reference should be *Sy AC* 62, 44–53) while other chapters cite authors' names assuming the reader will locate them in the list of sources in the appendix. However not all these references are listed (eg p 56 cites Nichols).

There is a useful index, and a glossary to some of the less common words used in the book. The most glaring omission is an adequate map with street names. Even though he lived in the village for twenty years the reviewer still needed a street map to remind him of the local geography.

The authors, Mrs Healey and Messrs Blair, Galbraith, Gillies, Hampton, Harbott, Lever, Jackson, Moon, Renn, and Smith are to be congratulated on their efforts but, noting that the introduction states 'a great deal remains to be discovered about Ashted's past' we look forward to the next edition. Perhaps this could include mention of the earthwork on the Common, which is a listed Ancient Monument.

G.P.M.

M.A.B. Lyne and R.S. Jefferies, *The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman pottery industry*, CBA Research Report no 30, 1979. 77 pp, 53 figs. Price £8.50

This is an important publication, both for archaeologists in Surrey and for students of Romano-British pottery. The pottery of Alice Holt and Farnham was widely traded in southern England, particularly in the later Roman period, and a full assessment of the industry and its wares has long been needed. In this book, the authors present a corpus of the vessels produced, with maps, discussion and a gazetteer to show their distribution; a description of the various centres into which the industry was divided; and a brief discussion of various aspects of the industry, such as its organization, the exploitation of local raw materials, and the contemporary landscape.

The industry began c AD 60, producing kitchen wares for a civilian market that included London, Silchester and Winchester, but in the second century much of this trade was lost to black-burnished wares. The first part of the corpus deals with this early phase, and is based on material from an early waster dump in Alice Holt. The potteries continued to function after the mid-second century,

and from the mid-third century, in common with other late pottery centres, they enjoyed a boom, particularly during the latter half of the fourth century. The second portion of the corpus deals with the forms produced from the later second century onwards; the bulk of the material comes from sampling of waster dumps (fig 2 should have a more informative caption) and from earlier excavation of kilns, but the relative dating obtained has been augmented by the study of many stratified groups from towns and other sites. (This part is complemented by Martin Millett's recent account of the dating evidence for Farnham pottery recovered at the nearby 'small town' of Neatham, in *Britannia* 10.)

Unfortunately, the rest of the work contains much that is speculative and inadequately supported by the evidence. On p 13, in the section on the organization of the industry, the authors assume that the high output in the fourth century indicates that some kilns were operating full time: yet all the information available indicates that Roman potting was seasonal, and a graffito recently found at La Graufesenque (an industry at least as large as Alice Holt) tells us that potting was not carried out during the winter months. On p 14, the bath block of c AD 270 at 'Six Bells', Farnham, is interpreted as an establishment for the potters, the industrial equivalent of *coloni* — the 'mays' and 'probablys' do not obscure the fact that many important questions concerning the organization and status of craftsmen in the Roman pottery industry have been glossed over.

Later on p 14, in a discussion of the contemporary landscape, we are given a brief consideration of Welsh land tenure and its possible application in the area as though its likely relevance to Roman Britain was much more widely accepted than is the case. On p 17 there is an instance of the authors' idiosyncratic use of place-name evidence, which is invoked controversially (notably a suggested interpretation of *Vindomis* on p 57) and without reference to a specialist.

The authors are happier in the discussion of distribution and trade, and their suggestion that some of the vessels were marketed with contents is most reasonable. However, speculation appears again: notably on p 57, where local wine production is postulated, and p 60, where a series of hypotheses is used to argue the role of Alice Holt in late Continental trade. The complexities of Roman money supply in the later fourth century are dismissed in two summary sentences.

One of the best-known aspects of the authors' work has lain in the field of experimental kilns, and technical information on this is contained in Appendix 2. The section on kiln technology (p 17 ff) discusses the evidence for early clamp firing as well as the industry's later characteristic double-flued kilns. Many of the known kilns lie beneath later waster dumps, and a reconstructed section of one of these complexes would have been helpful here.

Most of the book's faults could have been avoided by firmer editing, and it is additionally unfortunate that careless sub-editing (Collingwood & Richmond was published in 1969, not 1971; Lowther's various articles appeared in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, not *Archaeologia* as the bibliography's '*ibid*' would suggest) and flawed printing (unequal spacing between lines; in the review copy, uneven inking; a muddle of lines on p 33) should mar what is, even today, an expensive publication.

Despite the reservations expressed above, the corpus and discussion of forms fill a long-felt need. The dating evidence for individual types will be invaluable

to excavators, and the section on distribution provides much new information on the importance of the industry's trade during the earlier period as well as in its better known late phase. The work as a whole is a very considerable achievement by two archaeologists who have devoted their spare time to it over several years.

J.B.

Southern History: a review of the history of Southern England. Published annually by Dawson Publishing. Subscription £10.00

The nature of this new periodical or 'academic year book' is made plain in the preface by the editor, J.R. Lowerson, of the University of Sussex. It is 'an attempt to rectify a major defect in the present pattern of English regional and local studies, with their overwhelming concentration on the midlands and the north'. The 'southern England' of the title consists of the coastal counties from Cornwall to Kent, with Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Surrey, and also the Channel Islands. With an editorial board of ten academics, an archivist and the general editor of the Victoria County History, its scholarly qualifications are very high, as are those of the contributors. If the eight articles in this first number are typical (we are promised archaeology and geography also) it will provide a vehicle for professional historians using local resources or events to test or illustrate general statements. The articles will, it is hoped 'foster similar and comparative studies elsewhere within the region'.

Certainly A.F. Butcher's 'Rent and the urban economy: Oxford and Canterbury in the later middle ages' has sent one reader back to the Guildford court books with new eyes. Peggy Jefferies, in 'The medieval use as family law and custom: the Berkshire gentry in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries', provides tentative answers for one county to the question 'when were uses commonly employed by the gentry and was their main purpose to provide for dependents other than the heir, or to evade feudal incidents, or what else?'. She throws light on 15th century family life in the process, but unfortunately this subject, which could well be pursued in other record offices, requires specialist techniques which place it out of the reach of most amateurs. M. Cherry, in 'The Courtenay earls of Devon: the formation and disintegration of a late medieval aristocratic affinity', studies the 'dynamics of patronage and good lordship' in the west of England through seventy odd years before 1450. This paper is closer to traditional local studies; it uses records of central government, as well as local deeds, to fill out a picture of a national figure on his home ground, which in its turn illustrates a national trend, in this case 'livery and maintenance'. In a study of 'The south-western rebellion of 1549' Joyce Youings, Professor of English Social History at Exeter, serves both national and local history: the attitude of the populace to the reformation may be impenetrably inaccessible, but the more individual voices we can identify the better. Dr A.J. Dyer's 'The market towns of southern England, 1500-1700' attempts to construct statistics but perhaps rather underestimates the significance of factors, such as status creations, which are not purely commercial. Dr J.G. Rule in 'Social crime in the rural south in the 18th and 19th centuries' brings a sociological approach to poachers and smugglers and the attitudes taken to them by their neighbours; material from places outside the chosen area is included. 'The management of four estates in the lower Ouse

valley, Sussex, and agricultural change, 1840–1920’ by Dr Sue Farrant uses the records of Stanmer, Glynde, Southdown and Wiston to examine and on the whole confirm general textbook statements about agricultural change. This is a type of study for which many local record offices can provide material, if not always in such profusion. A research student at the University of Sussex, S. Humphries, in ‘“Hurrah for England”: schooling and the working class in Bristol, 1870–1914’, sets us down in the middle of the ‘continuing debate between the newer school of Marxist or ‘revisionist’ historians and orthodox liberal historians’ in regard to the history of state education. He uses a wide variety of sources, including log books and interviews, and comes down on the Marxist side, showing that the provision of schooling, part of a ‘wider hegemonic process of ideological incorporation’, met with resistance, even to the extent of a ‘strike’ in 1911. The world of school in Bristol, while faced with many of the same problems as in Weybridge and Walton-on-Thames, such as poor attendance (see M. LeFevre in *SyAC* 71), appears much more violent and eventful.

‘One notable feature of the first three issues will be a series on regional and local history in the south, through the work of archive repositories, institutions of tertiary education and local organizations and societies.’ In the first W.N. Yates, Portsmouth City Records Officer and the reviews editor of this publication, provides a valuable survey of the history and facilities of record offices in the area covered and asks stimulating questions about their future role and, topically, the problem of finance. Perhaps one result of this survey may be that more local record offices will appear in the footnotes in future volumes.

There are 25 pages of book reviews, including notices of the Surrey Record Society’s *Ashley House building accounts*, edited by M.E. Blackman and the reprint of George Sturt of Farnham’s *A small boy in the sixties*. Then follows a very useful annual review of periodical literature, arranged under subject headings. Articles are included from 33 national and local journals, mainly published in 1977. Titles of selected local history pamphlets follow.

Local history has more practitioners today than ever before, at all levels, and those with an interest in the south will welcome this journal. Whether they come to it as potential contributors or simply as readers, they will find something of value, though students of Surrey history must hope that in future there will be more of particular relevance to their interests in the subjects of articles. Some may think the atmosphere unfamiliar. The parish pump absorption supposed to be characteristic of local history is absent from these pages. Is it indeed possible to detect a regional (if not metropolitan) indifference to the recalcitrant quirkiness of personal and local individuality?

The format is neat and the book well produced, but some of the misprints might be confusing, eg ‘where’ for ‘were’ (p 61) and ‘grown’ for ‘crown’ (p 69).

S.C.

Ashley House (Walton-on-Thames) Building Accounts 1602–1607, edited with an introduction by Michael E. Blackman, 1977. (Surrey Record Society, vol 29) xxix, 84 pp. £6 to non-members, plus postage.

Local record publishing societies face the constant problem of selecting for publication a record inevitably local in content but which must also be potentially

of interest to a readership outside the immediate locality from which the document derives. Few documents can be more narrowly local than the building accounts of a single house but local and architectural historians far beyond the bounds of Surrey cannot fail to find interest, pleasure and profit from this present publication of the Surrey Record Society. Even if the text at first sight presents a somewhat forbidding appearance, a short browse through its pages soon dispels this impression and Mr Blackman's discerning and illuminating *Introduction* highlights many of the most significant features and ensures that the reader will not quickly wish to put the book aside. Here is a wealth of information of building materials, their sources of supply, prices and quantities used, transport costs by water and by carting, wages for skilled craftsmen's work and daily rates for unskilled labour. The site of Ashley House is sufficiently far from London for costs and wages not to be unduly influenced by the capital and these, as shown in the accounts, are probably fairly typical of those obtaining in small towns and rural areas in other parts of the country.

The accounts are those of Richard Mason, who seems to have been in charge of the building operations. They comprise itemized entries, in considerable detail, first of quantities or 'parcels' of materials received and work performed, followed by a corresponding section of payments made, during the period 29 August 1602 to 31 March 1607. Patterns of local industries emerge, for most of the building materials came from suppliers near at hand. Bricks and tiles (for roofing and paving) were purchased in Egham, Chertsey, Esher, Kingston, Botley and Isleworth, riverside towns using the Thames for transport to within a mile of the building site. Building timber came from Chertsey, Chobham, Leatherhead and Weybridge. A Kingston glazier supplied the glass 'quarrels' for windows. Hair used in plastering came from tanneries at Staines and Weybridge, and a blacksmith from the latter, Richard Edmondes, provided most of the ironwork. Some nails, however, were bought at Staines Fair. It was only necessary to turn to London for supplies of deal boards, lead and plumbing work, and for quantities of paint, red, black, white, ochre, vermilion, indigo, umber and Spanish brown.

The second part of the accounts, payments for the goods received and work done, provides indications of the rate of building progress. For example, a load of 'pease straw to stuff the windows with' paid for in January 1603, shows that the walls of the ground floor had been built by then and suggests, as Mr Blackman points out, that work may not have continued through the winter. Payments for the week of 7 September 1603 record that the roof over the hall was raised by that date. Work on the porch with its stone columns was well in hand by the following month, as was also work on the great stairs. By the late summer of 1604 the interior was being fitted out and payments made for such items as 'wainscotes' for the 'skreene' and 'chipwood' for columns in the great chamber chimney piece. Among the earliest payments in 1602 are a number for demolishing an adjacent building (Ashley Farm) and architectural historians will be interested in the extent to which the old materials were re-used in the new house.

Some details of the external appearance of the house can be deduced. It was built mainly of brick (795,150 bricks were purchased) but hard stone from Headington in Oxford and Petworth in Sussex was used for the porch, gables, 'Cowrt' stairs and window surrounds, as well as for chimney pieces in the

principal rooms. Bars and casements were painted vermilion and the quantities of red and black paint 'for colloring of the brickworke' may, as Mr Blackman suggests, have been used for diapering.

By the autumn of 1604 the surrounding gardens and orchards were being planted and payments included arbor poles, osiers, hawthornes, hollies, birch, juniper, 'eglantine and such like settes for hedges', roses, herbs, fruit trees, trees for shade and 24 'sparrowpottes'. A coney warren, stocked with 59 coneys at 10s and 8s a dozen, was being constructed.

Ample information about wage rates is recorded. Highly paid workmen, at 18d a day, were the paviours and bricklayers engaged in pointing the windows and underpinning the great stairs. Masons and other bricklayers were paid 16d, carpenters 14d and unskilled and occasional labourers 8d or 9d a day.

In spite of the abundant detail contained in the accounts, no house is specifically named, the only indications being references to 'my lady' and to the delivery of materials 'at Ashley'. As a final bonus to the reader Mr Blackman, drawing on his earlier work on the history of Ashley Park and with much further research, has by a text-book piece of historical detection, identified the building in question incontestibly as Ashley House, built for Lady Jane Berkeley, wife of Henry Lord Berkeley and daughter of Sir Michael Stanhope, brother-in-law of the Protector Somerset.

Finally, the reader is well served by the carefully transcribed text and the short glossary of unusual words, while the clear, concise indexes of persons and places, and subjects direct him to such unexpected details as 'for the watchinge of the deale boordes one night at the water side before they colde be caryed, 6d.', and for the provision of 'rearinge gloves' for the carpenters at 4d a pair.

E.D.M.

Deposition book of Richard Wyatt, J.P., 1767-76, edited by Elizabeth Silverthorne, 1978 (Surrey Record Society, vol 30). Price £6, plus postage.

The 1235 Surrey eyre, edited by the late C.A.F. Meekings and prepared for the press by David Crook, 1979. (Surrey Record Society, vol 31), Part 1. Price £12.75, plus postage.

At a time when so many record-publishing bodies are far in arrears, the Surrey Record Society is to be congratulated on producing two useful volumes within so short a time. Though differing widely in date and editorial method, both are legal in nature. *The deposition book of Richard Wyatt* contains examinations, informations and depositions made before a single justice during a ten-year period, relating both to petty cases and the first stages of more serious ones. The entries, which concentrate on the Chertsey-Egham area, are rearranged chronologically and printed in calendar form, with a short, concise introduction and notes on some relevant legislation. Information on the subsequent progress of cases is supplied where relevant from other sources. As well as the references to people and places, the book is valuable for the wide range of cases it covers and the many unusual items of personal detail which it contains. In view of this it is perhaps a pity that subjects are not indexed more comprehensively.

The late C.A.F. Meekings attained during his career at the Public Record Office a knowledge of medieval legal records which was probably unrivalled in scope and thoroughness. His vast compilations for Surrey, already used to good effect in *Fitznells Cartulary* (with Philip Shearman, Surrey Record Society 26, 1968), make *The 1235 Surrey eyre* the most important work on medieval Surrey history to appear for many years. Volume 1 consists entirely of the introduction, preceding a second volume yet to appear which will contain the full Latin text and index. The typescript, left uncompleted at Mr Meekings's death, has been very ably revised for publication by Dr David Crook.

The first two-thirds of the volume, a meticulous analysis of the types of plea and methods of procedure which the roll illustrates, will be of considerable general use to legal historians. Readers interested specifically in Surrey will find Appendix II, a collection of biographies of important local figures concerned in the eyre, the most valuable part. Mr Meekings used all major extant sources for 13th century Surrey, and the biographies thus compiled throw a flood of light on the medieval history of the county. The careers of people whose very existence has hitherto been known only from odd references are revealed here in copious detail. This is a magnificent achievement; legal historians and local historians alike will look forward to the appearance of Volume II.

W.J.B.