

REVIEW

Naomi Field and Andrew White (eds.), A Prospect of Lincolnshire, Lincoln 1984. 145 pp; Price £6.50 plus £1.00 p & p from Naomi Field, c/o County Offices, Newland, Lincoln.

This book was produced in honour of Mrs Ethel Rudkin who was a pioneer of many aspects of Lincolnshire history and archaeology for over fifty years, and who sadly died very shortly before it appeared. One of her main areas of interest, the study of medieval and post-medieval pottery, is well represented in the volume. John Hurst provides an excellent review of the development of medieval pottery research in the county and a good bibliography together with a brief survey of the major elements of the pottery itself and an account of the contributions made by the main workers in the field, from Trollope in the 1840s to Mrs Rudkin for much of this century. Colin Hayfield reports on a small 12th century group from Redbourne, South Humberside, which although only 160 sherds (93 vessels) in size has an impressive range of material from Stamford and Lincoln to the south and Doncaster to the north-west. Hilary Healey presents a new account of the decorated jugs from the Roses kiln at Toynton All Saints, excavated by Mrs Rudkin in the 50s and 60s, including an analysis of their decorative traits and an up-to-date distribution of find spots in Lincolnshire. Full publication of this important kiln group is long overdue. Finally, the excavation report of the Eresby Manor House, Spilsby, by John Marjoram includes some interesting 15th to 17th century imports together with a range of local wares of the same period mostly deriving from kilns at Toynton and Bolingbroke.

The book is in A4 format with an attractive three-colour stiff card cover. It is pleasant and easy to read, with double justified columns on good quality paper and excellent half-tones. In range and quality this is a most appropriate tribute to Mrs Rudkin's life and work.

P. J. Davey