

EDITORS' NOTES

A Newly Discovered Letter of Dr Thoroton

Only a few original letters and papers have survived of Dr Robert Thoroton, the 17th century antiquary after whom the Thoroton Society is named. A small collection, including historical notes written by him on the reverse of letters from his medical patients, is held by Nottinghamshire Archives (M 493-4) and other records are in the possession of his heirs, the Hildyard family of Flintham Hall. Another letter has recently come to light in the hands of a private collector, and a photocopy has been acquired by Nottinghamshire Archives (DD 2175). Dated 20th April 1674, it was written by Thoroton from his home at Car Colston to Sir Robert Southwell, Clerk to the Privy Council at Whitehall. By coincidence it appears to be the follow-up letter to a similar one between the two correspondents already held by Nottinghamshire Archives dated only twenty days earlier and relating to Sir Robert's family history (M 23,760). The main interest of the newly discovered letter lies in Thoroton's complaints about the charges and behaviour of the Newark postmaster, presumably in excuse for the late receipt of the earlier letter!

50th Anniversary of Nottinghamshire Archives

Nottinghamshire Archives celebrated its 50th Anniversary during 1999. The present service, which is the result of a merger in 1975 between the former County Records Office, the former Nottingham City Library Archives Department and the Nottingham City Archives, moved into purpose-built premises in Castle Meadow Road in 1993. It now stores some five miles of local historical records dating back over 800 years which are available for public consultation. Since 1998 the service has been run by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of both the County and Nottingham City Council. As part of the Anniversary celebrations, a series of displays and 'roadshows' was held at differing venues around the county, including a highly successful open afternoon in September. A short history of archives and ar-

chives keeping in the county since the Middle Ages has been written by Adrian Henstock, Principal Archivist, entitled *Muniments Evidences and Writings: the History of Archives in Nottinghamshire* (Notts County Council, 1999). It is available from the Archives, price £1 (£1.50 post free in UK).

New Publications

Following the publication in 1996 by Nottingham Civic Society of the result of a new archaeological and architectural study of the development of Wollaton Hall by Pamela Marshall (*Wollaton Hall: an Archaeological Survey*), a further volume has been published by the same author. This includes an abridged version of the architectural study linked to the history of the Willoughby family who owned the Hall. *Wollaton Hall and the Willoughby Family*, (Nottingham Civic Society, 1999) is obtainable from bookshops or the Castle Gatehouse shop price £11.25.

Wollaton is one of six country houses featured in a booklet by Mike Higginbottom, illustrated by old and new views of the houses involved (the others are Rufford, Newstead, Holme Pierrepont, Thrumpton and Bestwood Lodge). *Nottinghamshire Country Houses: Past and Present* is published by Nottinghamshire County Council, price £3.95 (£4.50 post free in UK).

A detailed archaeological and historical account of Nottingham Castle written by Chris Drage was published by the Thoroton Society as its *Transactions* for the year 1989. A second edition of this volume has now been printed by Nottingham Civic Society in association with the Thoroton Society. The original text has been reproduced with the addition of a new introduction, details of recent archaeological discoveries and an index, all by Dr Trevor Foulds. It is available from the Castle Gatehouse shop or Nottinghamshire Archives, price £18.50 (£12.95 to Society members) plus £1.50 p&p in UK. This volume is complemented by a shorter and

attractively illustrated booklet also from the Civic Society: *Nottingham's Royal Castle and Ducal Palace*, by Andrew Hamilton (1999).

Also reprinted in response to popular demand is *Sherwood Forest in 1609: a Crown Survey* by Richard Bankes, ed S N Mastoris and S M Groves, published as Vol 40 of the Thoroton Society's *Record Series*. This includes twenty maps of Nottinghamshire parishes and is available from the Society c/o Nottinghamshire Archives, price £29.95 (£25 to members) plus £4 p&p in UK.

An unusual anniversary was celebrated in the village of Keyworth in 1999 with the publication of an handsome history of the parish's enclosure in 1799, aided by a grant from the Millennium Awards for All scheme. The Parliamentary Enclosure movement was well represented in Nottinghamshire in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and had a significant effect on many villages. Not only were the old open-field strips replaced by modern enclosed hedged 'fields' but often the process had a profound social and economic effect on village life. The Keyworth Enclosure Act was passed in 1798 and the Award made public in 1799, and the Keyworth and District

Local History Society marked their two hundredth anniversary with both a day school and the new publication. *A Village Transformed: Keyworth, 1750-1850* has been compiled by John Atkins, Bob Hammond and Peter Roper, and is an excellent study of the effects of the enclosure on a typical Nottinghamshire village. It also serves as a model for enclosure studies elsewhere in the County and further afield. It is published by Keyworth and District Local History Society c/o Keyworth Library, Nottingham NG12 5FF price £7.50.

A local history of a more unusual nature has been published by Nottinghamshire County Council in conjunction with Warwick Business School. *Local Statesmen: the Story of Politics in Nottinghamshire County Council* (price £9.99 plus £1.50 p&p in UK) is written by the current Chief Executive, Peter Housden, and is a history of County Council politics from 1968 to the present day. Similar in approach to Nick Hayes' study of Nottingham City politics between 1945 and 1966 (published 1996), it is remarkable for being based on oral history interviews with six major local political personalities of the last thirty years, some now retired but others still active, and set into its wider political, economic and social context.