

REVIEW

The Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese, 1250-1850, by E. A. Greening Lamborn. xxxi + 179 pp. and 64 plates, 5½ × 7½ inches. (Oxford University Press, for the Berkshire Archaeological Society. 30s. net.)

The claim of the publishers that 'no book similar to this has hitherto been written' is amply justified; and the Berkshire Archaeological Society is to be congratulated on sponsoring this valuable work, no less than the author for the material he has collected and the way he has presented it.

Mr. Lamborn is here able to indulge his well-known predilection for and skill in genealogy. It is especially valuable in this case, for it makes seemingly isolated pieces of heraldry take on a personality and gives them their proper local associations and setting.

The survey, of course, covers the three counties of Oxford, Buckingham, and Berkshire, though in this review we are more particularly concerned with the Buckinghamshire portion. The author, rightly, concerns himself almost exclusively with armorial glass in churches and chapels, since some limit had to be set to the bounds of such a large subject. Nevertheless, he does mention several examples in secular buildings. It seems a pity, therefore, that the glass in the hall window of the King's Head Hotel at Aylesbury is not included. This glass is admittedly much 'restored': nevertheless most of it is *in situ*, and is of considerable interest as an example of late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century work. Similarly, the glass from Place Farm, Wyrardisbury, now at Fulmer Grange, and the Kederminster panel in Langley Marish Church are not included.

In a work which is clearly of prime interest to the specialist, if not the expert, it is rather surprising that Mr. Lamborn takes so many pages in explaining the rudiments of heraldry. These very general remarks seem rather out of place in a work of this sort; the space might well have been used for listing the Oxford College glass, and the Windsor glass, which is deliberately excluded on the grounds that the former, at any rate, is adequately listed in the Royal Commission's Oxford City volume. More space is taken by the author's defence of his discipleship of the anglicising or simplifying of many heraldic terms—following St. John Hope's ideas. Though I must confess that Mr. Lamborn's rather naughty description of the late Mr. Fox Davies as 'propagandist-in-chief to the Heralds' College' gives me great pleasure!

On the other hand, the analysis and explanations of the technique of much of the later glass—the enamels, abradings, flashings, and finally the Edginton transparencies, etc.—are of great value and absorbing interest. I wonder if John Rowell of High Wycombe, the eighteenth-century plumber and glazier whose work occurs as far afield as Apethorpe in Northamptonshire, ever did any heraldic work that can be identified?

Since Mr. Lamborn made his lists, the Stoke Poges glass (or practically all of it) has been transferred to the Hastings Chapel, where it gains greatly in appearance, though it has not been very intelligently grouped. And the bomb-damaged chancel windows at Chesham Bois have all been rearranged and replaced, with some modern additions.

The illustrations are excellent, almost without exception; and the later, rather 'thin' glass reproduces surprisingly well. Most people are probably aware of the treasure we possess in the Chetwode shield of the thirteenth century, and the Bledlow shields; but I imagine few have appreciated till now the fine series of late armorial glass at Bradenham, Turville, Stoke Poges, Wotton Underwood, and elsewhere.

As Mr. Lamborn says, 'the heraldic treasures here recorded are but the vestiges of a squandered heritage'. We should, therefore, be all the more grateful for this learned and painstaking survey, and all the more zealous to preserve, and understand the significance of, what is left.

E. C. R.

SHORT NOTICE

A book which has some interest for Buckinghamshire antiquarians is *White Horses and other Hill Figures*, by Morris Marples. (Country Life, 21s.) This, in Chapter 7, pp. 137-158, contains a useful account of the Chiltern turf-cut white crosses at Bledlow and Whiteleaf. The author has assembled all the known facts and some of the theories about these figures, and his descriptions are well supported by the latest references—i.e. to Mawer and Stenton's *Place-Names* and Sir W. Lindsay Scott's article in *Antiquity*, vol. XI. There are diagrams and several excellent air and other views. It is a pity that Lipscomb, the county historian's name, has been wrongly spelt, an 'e' having been placed on the end.