

NEW PUBLICATIONS

WOLVERTON: A STUDY IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY. Moira Courtman M.Phil.(Lond.) 1968.

This is a study in five chapters. Chapter One is a survey of the immediate locality before the coming of the railway. It also contains a reconstruction of the town and country relationships in the early 1830's. Chapters Two and Four trace in detail the physical extension of the town stage by stage from 1838, the growth of population and the process of acquisition of services and urban amenities. Chapter Three describes the present-day layout, land-use and the visual aspect of the town. Chapter Five investigates the sphere of influence and delimits the area within which the rural population is served by or makes use of services and amenities available at Wolverton. Comparisons are made with the first chapter and its findings and show how the railway town became a service centre in a locality formerly orientated towards older market towns. The conclusion contains a restatement of town's problems and a discussion of the factors which gave rise to them. There is a resumé of the phases it has passed through to the present time when Milton Keynes, the Greater London overspill city that is planned to be built in North Bucks., threatens its continuation as a separate community.

The thesis contains 83 excellently produced maps and numerous photos.

THE LETTER-BOOKS OF SAMUEL WILBERFORCE 1843-68. Transcribed and edited by R. K. Pugh with the assistance of J. F. A. Mason. Buckinghamshire Record Society and the Oxfordshire Record Society, 1970.

A review will appear in the next issue of the *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

A HISTORY OF HUNTERCOMBE MANOR, by G. F. Thomas, M.A. Bucks. Education Committee, 1969, 7s. 6d.

The first warden of the Residential Adult Education College at Huntercombe Manor gives a scholarly account of its history, based on original documents which he quotes extensively. He begins with the Norman Conquest and ends with The Hon. Mrs. R. C. Boyle, maker of the garden and author of children's books. Mr. Thomas is devoted to Huntercombe and his enthusiasm and knowledge have contributed to the successful restoration of the house and garden by the County Council. The book is well illustrated with photographs and coats of arms of the owners reproduced in colour.

CHESHAM MILLENNARY FESTIVAL, 970 to 1970.

Local people combined to present a most varied programme of events. The historical exhibition displayed documents, original as well as copies, and an interesting collection of photographs of Chesham past and present. The handsome souvenir programme contains a lively account of "1000 Years of Chesham" by Mr. Arnold Baines.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE DIALECT, by H. Harman. S.R.P. County History Reprint Series. First published by Hazell, Watson and Viney Ltd., 1929. £1 15s.

This book has long been out of print. Its republication is timely. Dialect is now only spoken by old people and will soon disappear.

1870-1970. ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EDUCATION, by Herbert Green B.A. Wycombe Division of Buckinghamshire.

Mr. Green sketches the history of education in the area up to 1870, and then gives a detailed account of developments from the passing of the Elementary Education Act to the present day. The booklet is well illustrated.

HILLTOP VILLAGES OF THE CHILTERN, by David and Joan Hay. To be published by Phillimore and Co. Ltd. Spring 1971. About £2 2s. 0d.

A history of the villages of Cholesbury, Hawridge, St. Leonards and Buckland Common, with illustrations. G.R.E.

PAPERS BY DAVID RODEN.

"Field Systems in Ibstone, a township of the south-west Chilterns during the later Middle Ages", (*Records of Bucks*, Vol. XVIII, part 1, 1966).

"Fields Systems of the Chiltern Hills and parts of Kent from the late 13th to the early 17th Centuries", (*Trans. & Papers of Institute of British Geographers*, No. 38, 1966); jointly with A. R. H. Baker.

"Inheritance Customs and Succession to land in the Chiltern Hills in the 13th and early 14th centuries", (*Journal of British Studies*, Vol VII. No. 1. Nov. 1967).

"Woodland and its management in the medieval Chilterns", (*Forestry*, Vol. 41, No. 1, 1968).

"Demesne Farming in the Chiltern Hills", (*Agric. History Review*, Vol. 17, part 1, 1969).

"Fragmentation of farms and fields in the Chiltern Hills, 13th century and later", (*Medieval Studies: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies*, Toronto, Vol. XXI, 1969).

"Enclosure in the Chiltern Hills", (*Sartryck ur Geografiska Annaler*, Vol. 52, series B, 1969, 2).

Offprints of the above are available in the Library of the Society at Aylesbury.

In 1965 Dr. Roden submitted to the University of London a doctoral thesis having as its subject Studies in Chiltern Field Systems and the above papers stem from and supplement that original investigation. Taken together, they make a valuable and impressive contribution to our knowledge of the early agrarian history of the Chiltern parishes, a field which has hitherto escaped scholarly attention, except for the paper, in a narrower context, by Miss E. C. Vollans on the evolution of farm lands in the central Chilterns in the 12th and 13th centuries. (*Transactions and Papers Institute of British Geographers*, No. 26).

In the course of a brief notice it is impossible to do justice to Dr. Roden's arguments and conclusions, supported, as they are, by exhaustive documentation. It may

be said, however, that his researches have led him to the conclusion, surprising at first glance, that the Chiltern Hills was a region of fairly advanced agricultural practices in the Middle Ages. One gathers that the 13th century was the heyday of Chiltern farming, when extensive crop production on large demesne farms, often enclosed, was the normal pattern. Alongside this improved manorial economy, there existed an active peasant land market, which resulted in a more flexible system of land holding whereby some were able to build up substantial farms while others were consolidating their land. The paper on the history of enclosure is worthy of close attention for the new light it throws on a dark subject.

The importance of woodland in the Chiltern scheme of things hardly needs to be stressed and Dr. Roden's paper on woodland management in the medieval period is of special value. He brings out the distinction between private woods, profitable as a source of fuel particularly for the London market, and the common woods, which provided timber, pannage, and herbage for the villagers. Disputes about the ancient rights of the latter in woodlands are met with through the centuries.

Similar agrarian studies for other areas of the county are called for and no doubt will be accomplished in course of time; the trail has been most effectively blazed by the author of these very acceptable papers.

J.G.J.

WOLVERTON HISTORICAL JOURNAL. Published by Phillimore & Co. Ltd. for the Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. Quarto, 64pp. 15s. (75p.)

The Society is to be complimented on the dignified and handsome appearance of its journal in this new format. The contents, which are nicely balanced and of high merit throughout, fully justify the new garb.

THE SURVEY OF ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES. Vol. I. Introduction and Chief Elements, Vol. 2. The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire. By A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton. Cambridge University Press 1969. £4.50 each volume.

Both these volumes, the first two in a long series of county volumes were originally issued by the English Place-Name Society in 1925 and have been out of print for many years. It must be regretted that the reprinted is a photographic one of the first edition and no opportunity has been taken to revise the text in the light of much new knowledge accumulated in the last 45 years. However they remain invaluable reference books.