REVIEWS

THE ENGLISH MEDIAEVAL HOUSE. *By* MARGARET WOOD. *Pp. xxx+448, lx pls, 117 figs, 32pp. engravings. Phoenix House. 8 gns.*

Those antiquaries who are interested in medieval domestic architecture in England have long waited for the culmination of the research work carried out by Dr Margaret Wood (Mrs Kaines-Thomas) over the last thirty years. That our patience has been rewarded is evident now that this erudite, scholarly and comprehensive book on *The English Mediaeval House* is before us. It will undoubtedly provide the authoritative exposition of the subject for many years to come.

Since the days of J. H. Parker, who published four volumes on *Domestic Architecture in the Middle Ages in England* over 100 years ago, many more medieval houses have been discovered and measured drawings made. Together with the results of indispensable historical research in the documentary sense, these have enabled Dr Wood to present the subject in one intelligible framework. The matter has been arranged in a most convenient form whereby the hall, solar, chapel and kitchen, and their component parts such as oriels, doorways, fireplaces, staircases, roofs and internal decorations each receive a detailed discussion in separate chapters of the book. Each chapter contains plans and photographs and a list of examples arranged in chronological order. These lists give the essential information on dating, dimensions and references to published material. The bibliography is arranged on the efficient Harvard system: the use of which is much to be encouraged in the presentation of archaeological material. This system lists all references in one alphabetical bibliography and cites them in the text by name and date of the several sources.

As an example of the information given one may take the chapter on the Great Hall with its 86 references:

(1) *c.* 1210
Appleton Manor, Berks.
Internal dimensions (including screens passage): 38′ 6″ × 24′ 6″
Bays: 2½
References:
Wood (1935), 175–6, fig. 1, pls IA, XIA, (plans & illus.); Wood (1950), 7; Country Life (2) (plan & illus.).

(86) earlier C 16th
Beddington Hall, Sy.
Internal dimensions (including screens passage): 61′ 4″ × *c.* 33′
References:
Garner & Stratton (1929), 211–212, pl. CLXXXI.

This chapter is illustrated by seven plans and figures and six photographs. Similarly the chapter on the Solar has six plans and figures and seven photographs with six examples listed which date from *c.* 1160 to *c.* 1539. The book contains in all 117 text figures, 64 engravings and 252 photographs. The engravings are grouped together, somewhat inconveniently, in the centre of the book and are reproductions of those in Turner and Parker and are of use in illustrating some demolished or vanished buildings. There is a glossary and a useful page of drawings of comparative mouldings.

The following Berkshire buildings are mentioned and illustrated: Ashbury Manor, Sutton Courtenay 'Abbey', Appleton Manor, Fyfield Manor, the Checker and 26 East St Helen's in Abingdon, Charney Basset Solar, Bisham Abbey, Cumnor Place, and also the model of a 13th century hall in Newbury Museum.

The great value of this book is that Dr Wood now gives a much clearer view of the architectural tradition of the medieval house. The study is focussed on the development of the Hall (either ground- or first-floor) from the single room with a central hearth to the ultimate compact block of several rooms under a

single roof. The chapter on garderobes, the modern 'cloakrooms', presents a good deal of evidence on the sanitary arrangements which has hitherto been largely ignored in discussing the general layout of a medieval house. The provision of baths and a water supply was an act of hospitality provided not only in the King's house but also in that of lesser subjects: public baths are known as early as the 12th century. The chapter on roofs is a valuable exposition of the latest research and contains constructional drawings (including one of the roof at Sutton Courtenay 'Abbey') which will help to solve some problems of dating. There are 114 examples of roofs listed which date from 1200 to the mid 16th century. The dating of a timber-framed house can be done from looking at its general appearance and especially at the roof line but having at the same time some background knowledge of domestic development; one must also find out how much is due to alterations and additions to the original core. For the method of dating Dr Wood describes 39–43 The Causeway, Steventon, a very rare example of the house of a small freeman or yeoman of the mid-16th century. This has the original cross-bracing and ogee-cusped barge boards in the end wall of the cross-wing to the contemporary cruck hall.

The illustrations are well printed and arranged in the text, and the type format could hardly be improved.

To judge from its lucid and stimulating style, this book must surely find its rightful place on the shelves of every medievalist and should be in every school sixth-form library. P.S.S.

GEORGE IV AND ROYAL LODGE. *By* SIR OWEN MORSHEAD. *The Regency Society of Brighton and Hove*, 1965. *Pp.* 46+6 *illustrations.* 10/6d. (*Distributed by Bredon & Heginbotham Ltd*, 10 *East St, Brighton.*)

Our distinguished Vice-President, Sir Owen Morshead, who was for 32 years Royal Librarian at Windsor Castle has long made it his custom to record allusions to subjects about which information is not readily available. He has written papers and arranged for publication in our Journal several matters connected with the Castle, the Royal Borough and district. This latest essay in book form is another valuable addition to national and local history.

Royal Lodge was 'Lower Lodge' in the 18th century and is referred to by Lysons as 'The Dairy', residence of the architect and water-colourist Thomas Sandby. George IV became Regent in 1811 and found himself in need of a residence convenient to London and Windsor. He took on 'The Dairy' as a temporary home and occupied it at frequent intervals until his death. 'The Dairy' or 'Cottage' as it was called, was converted by Nash into a 'cottage orné', and additions and alterations continued to be made through the years, at very considerable expense. When George III died the Regent, now King, commenced even greater works upon it with Jeffry Wyatt as his new architect, and by 1825 it had become known locally as 'Royal Lodge'.

The Castle being under repair, it was hoped by the people of Windsor that the King would now spend more time in local residence. Recent acquisitions to the Windsor Guildhall collections show that they appointed a committee in July 1821 to celebrate the Royal arrival in the town, and a subscription was raised for this purpose. An ox was roasted on 'The Acre' (a habit which the town had acquired from the celebrations of George III's Jubilee in 1809). In 1823 the King's coming was celebrated again with a dinner for the poor. That year George IV took up residence in the Castle for the first time on October 1, spending two months there. The townspeople presented him with a loyal address.

With the Castle to fall back on, the King commenced further alterations to Royal Lodge. Money was now scarce and it was Wyatt's turn to be beset with the frustrations and difficulties which Nash had experienced on these works before him. The King was proposing to make the Lodge his principal residence for several years while he supervised further work at the Castle. But he kept close house as he

disliked being stared at and as time went by became somewhat of a recluse. 'He withdrew because he was unpopular and was unpopular because he withdrew'. In 1828 it was again hoped in Windsor that the King would reside in the Castle and in December of that year there was a town meeting to express some feelings on the matter. He did indeed come and stayed for five months, but hardly ever went out. Back in Royal Lodge in July 1829 he planned more alterations there, returning to the Castle in April 1830 and died there in July.

Sir Owen describes the changes to the building with interesting extracts from diaries and literature of the day, building up a picture of local Court life and the personalities associated with it. The King's 'Cottage' was all but pulled down by William IV and it was not until 1931 when a more glorious future commenced for it, the Duke of York (afterwards George VI) taking it over and making the old site once again a Royal home of grace and beauty. F.M.U.