

help her with the identification of the places listed below. Suggestions, with details of location or the printed source of the information, should be sent direct to her at 28 Railway Street, Beverley, HU17 0DX:

Cornwall: Chewyk, lordship (bailiff of) p.130, Deny, lordship & manor p.80, Esternayne (land in) p.149, Hermena, lordship & manor p.80, Magna Hendred, lordship & manor p.80, Nansirgh, lordship & manor p.80, Newland, lordship & manor p.80, Retire, manor p.266, Schrobhender, lordship & manor p.80, Trebighyn, lordship & manor p.80, Tremwelle, manor p.196, Tresedoron, lordship & manor p.80, Wellington, manor (late of the marquis of Dorset) p.196, Wigtobham, manor & lordship p.80

Essex: Alkesborne, manor p.153, Gildham, lordship & manor p.133, Legates p.283, Leth Ree (annuity from) p.125, Lytley (part of duchy of Lancaster) p.150, Lytelhay (probably the same as the above) p.118

Gloucestershire: Campden in the old, town p.250

Hampshire: Nasshefeld p.183

Somerset: Belton, manor p.216, Westcapelone, manor p.231

Yorkshire: Erle Orchard p.253

No county: Chereoverton parish (patrons, Peterborough abbey) p.62, Cropping, manor (E. Anglia) p.281, Kirkeby, town (free chapel of St Leonards in) p.127

Notes: All references are to the printed text of vol. 1.

Book Reviews

TUDOR YORK by David M. Palliser. Published by Oxford University Press, 1979. £12.50.

Historical accuracy involves more than an assembly of verifiable data. That an author should try to capture the "spirit of the age" may be asking too much, particularly for a general text. An easy acquaintance with the material is the best a reader can expect of an historian, accompanied by a demand that the writer know the relative value of his facts and can present them with validity of tone and context. All such expectations are fulfilled by Dr Palliser of the University of Birmingham. We have waited a long time for his book—derived from a D.Phil. Thesis completed in 1968—and there is no sense of disappointment. Studies of early modern English towns are few in number; Palliser's *Tudor York* is not only

a welcome addition to such studies, but it undoubtedly will become the standard text on the subject, supplementing and surpassing A. G. Dickens' chapter in the *Victoria County History* volume.

Palliser's task is daunting: he describes the work as a political, ecclesiastical, economic and social history of York, planned to present the urban community in its totality. He never forgets that York must always be presented in terms of its relations with its immediate hinterland and with the county as a whole. A sense of balance pervades the work: the sixteenth century was a period of economic depression and gradual recovery for the city, but Palliser remembers to mention York's financial and administrative strengths. Most important, he is careful to take a note of what the "Yorkers" themselves thought of their city and its condition. Such deference perfectly complements his diligent perusal of records from both the local and national archives.

His opening chapter sets the tone for the entire work. In "York and Its Setting", Palliser takes the reader on a tour of the city, through its crowded narrow streets and past the homes and shops of wealthy and poor alike. Even a stranger to York could not feel lost in Palliser's able presence. The following chapters all proceed naturally from that first introduction, with rarely a faltering step. His study of the relations between the city and the state begins with a history of Richard III's interest in York, the fate of the Council of the North under Henry VII, and how the patronage of Wolsey and Cromwell helped to relieve some of the city's financial burdens. Palliser is correct in asserting that local issues were the Yorkers' primary interest and that "national political issues were viewed from a local angle" (p.57). However, he fails to give a sense of the number of occasions upon which citizens relied on the central government. Yorkers appear with such frequency in national records, like those in the Public Record Office, for judicial and financial matters that Crown-urban relations probably deserve more mention than they have been given here.

Palliser's chapter on "Population, Poverty and Wealth" is crucial to his study, but difficult to follow and unavoidably based on supposition when the records have been less than helpful. Population dropped to c. 8,000 in this period, mostly due to plague, and until the end of the century replacement values were only a little over unity. York depended on immigration, most often from its own hinterlands. That the city became less of a "sink" by the 1550s is shown by the civic officials' concern for the large numbers of destitute and vagrants—an interesting way to prove population growth, but one with problems of its own. Palliser's observations lead to the discovery of who were the wealthy in town, where they lived, how much they paid in taxes and subsidies, and what civic responsibilities they held. The wealthy may have formed a small proportion of the urban population, but the dominant class was not so small: at least half of all adult males were free of the city, eligible to vote and hold office, and to carry on business in York. The finding is surprising: that York was not ruled by a tiny oligarchy suggests various conclusions about wealth and political power, although Palliser is probably wise not to pursue such threads in a study of this sort and without complete documentation.

The study of the Reformation in York is particularly fine, without going into details unnecessary for a general study. The religious legislation undoubtedly hurt civic economy, especially the building trades and glaziers. No records can truly

tell the effect of the Reformation on spiritual and intellectual life. Palliser carefully uses what survives, particularly wills, and does not neglect to point out the obvious: York was a small city dominated by the clergy, the Minister, and the latter's ecclesiastical functions. Civic officials made the initial mistake of supporting the leaders of the Pilgrimage of Grace. Such support was not repeated after 1536, but neither did York become a centre of the reformed religion. Weak leadership in the Anglican church accounted for "lukewarm Protestantism" (p.245) during the early years of Elizabeth. Aside from martyrs like Margaret Clitheroe, adherents to the traditional religion could always be found especially as suppression of recusants was more often hesitant than scrupulous.

By 1560, York began to see signs of recovery. The establishment of the Northern Council and Commission made the town a major governmental centre once more. County gentry considered York the social centre of the north. As a receiver of long-distance trade York was able to make an economic recovery. Never again would it be the second city of the realm, whose support was crucial to kings and lords. York had weathered more than one crisis and achieved a new stability. In recounting the changes of the sixteenth century, and in remaining aware of the relative value of his sources, Dr Palliser has made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the early modern town. *Tudor York* is a finely crafted work.

LORRAINE C. ATTREED

CASTLES by Sir Charles W. C. Oman. Reprint by Beekman House (Muller), New York, 1978. £4.95.

In their foreword the American publishers claim that what follows is "a comprehensive history of the castle" and a "detailed description ... of all the castles of Southern England and Wales". This is precisely not what it is. Rather the work consists of twenty-six pages of introduction (hardly space for "a comprehensive history"), and a gazetteer of many, though not all of the castles of the Thames Valley, the West Country, the West Midlands, and Wales and the Marches, in which section there is, incidentally, no "detailed description" of outstanding castles such as Caernarvon and Conway, Beaumaris and Rhuddlan.

But setting aside the publishers' advertisement, there is still much that is unsatisfactory in this book. The result of two journeys in 1924 and 1925, it was not, on the author's own admission, thoroughly researched or up to date when it originally appeared. In the introduction, Oman gives a fair definition of the castle—though subsequently in the gazetteer he includes edifices which are not castles according to that definition—and he then traces the origins of the word "castle". But, as with most works on the subject, his views on the castle's decline are too narrow, misguided and misconceived. He rightly reduces the influence of artillery as a causal factor, but in discussing the tendency to fight battles, not to mount sieges, he claims this was because "it had at last been discovered that a system of passive defence behind stone walls may protract a war, but does not decide it" (p.22). Quite apart from the fact that this shows a complete lack of understanding of the military potential, indeed purpose of the castle, and that Oman is indicting medieval man for taking centuries to realise what to him appears to be obvious, he is wrong to stress military factors as being the main cause of the castle's decline. The fact that the Wars of the Roses contained

relatively few sieges, as Oman notes, is not because fifteenth-century soldiers realised, where thirteenth-century soldiers did not, that in siege warfare the defence necessarily came off worse, which it did not—or that if it did, it necessarily spelled doom for the defenders, which again it did not. Rather it was for more complex reasons altogether: reasons involving profound if gradual changes in the whole nature and fabric of society as well as in the conduct of war.

In addition, both introduction and gazetteer contain their share of inaccuracies on points of detail. Thus p.15: "the Duke of Lancaster ... had no solid and connected block of lands anywhere"; p.20, where Caerphilly is described as the first "concentric castle of perfect style" (?); p.21, where it is claimed that after 1307, the only first-class castle built on a new site was Dunstanburgh; the dating of Chepstow's keep; the description of Kenilworth at the time of the siege of 1266.

On the whole, Oman's excursions into medieval history were unhappy ones. His *History of the Art of War in the Middle Ages* has long been ridiculed by military scholars, and it is certain that this book on castles makes no contribution to castle studies—indeed it probably never did beyond attracting attention to the subject. It is a book that should not, in my opinion, have been republished, especially given the number of superior works long since made available. As with the old photographs included as illustrations, it would have been kinder to let it merely fade away.

JAMES PETRE

JOHN ROUS, *THE ROUS ROLL*, with an historical introduction by Charles Ross. A facsimile of the edition printed for William Pickering 1859. Alan Sutton, 1980. £12.

It would have pleased John Rous to know that in 1980 his Roll was to be published in facsimile for a second time. He was in search of patronage when he compiled it, probably to coincide with the visit of Richard III to Warwick in 1483, and it was the same search that induced him to doctor his Latin version of the work into a shape more acceptable to Henry VII some years later.

John Rous was an antiquarian and a chaplain at the Chantry Chapel of Guy's Cliff near Warwick. His Roll is a compilation of all the benefactors, lords and ladies of Warwick up to 1483; for each there is a line drawing and a paragraph of information. The text is largely useless (except for presenting us with a fifteenth-century view of the past), being full of mythology and historical inaccuracies, many of which are pointed out in the new introduction by Professor Charles Ross. The drawings are the most enjoyable part of the work and are generally accepted as the work of Rous himself. They are delicate and decorative, showing each personage in a suitable guise: a royal benefactor holds the charter of his gift or the church he built, while a warrior grasps a sword. There is an attempt to convey an historical chronology through changes in the style of armour and clothes; many of the details are wrong or misunderstood but the attempt is there. Clearly Rous appreciated, however dimly, that historical characters should be shown in the costume of their own time, an idea that only received general acceptance in the nineteenth century. Rous may well have had access to old collections of armour in Warwick Castle and earlier representations of his heroes and heroines. (Dr Antonia Gransden made this point in a talk to the Society of

Antiquaries, March 1979). The most delightful aspect of these drawings are the animals, their eyes often turned lovingly on the earls and countesses treading them underfoot. There are bears, of course, in all shapes and sizes, the occasional boar and dragon, and lions as appealing as those in the north choir clerestory of York Minster.

Alan Sutton is to be congratulated on making available again in facsimile a work once, presumably, presented to Richard III or his Queen. The new introduction by Professor Ross brings the reader up to date with research done on the Roll and its author since the first edition was introduced by William Courthope. He is critical of the many faults of John Rous but pleads in his favour the description of Anne Beauchamp, the last Countess of Warwick. Anyone reading this description must agree with Professor Ross that in these sentences John Rous minted gold.

ANNE F. SUTTON

Notices of Books and Articles

The following list consists of recent books and articles, mainly published in the last twelve months, although earlier publications may be included. The appearance of an item in this list does not preclude its subsequent review. Items marked by an asterisk are in the Society's Library.

BOOKS

John Brooke-Little, *Royal Ceremonies of State*. 144 pages, illustrated. 1980. Country Life, £7.50.

Description of royal ceremonies as they are now and their history.

Robert S. Gottfried, *Epidemic Disease in fifteenth century England. The medical response and the demographic consequences*. 262 pages, figures. 1978. Leicester University Press, £10.

An important work based on a detailed study of wills.

R. W. Hunt, W. A. Pantin & R. W. Southern (eds.), *Studies in Medieval History* presented to F. M. Powicke. 504 pages. 1979. Greenwood Press, £21.95.

Includes K. B. McFarlane's "At the deathbed of Cardinal Beaufort" and C. A. J. Armstrong's "Some examples of the distribution and speed of news in England at the time of the Wars of the Roses".*

Gregory Kratzmann, *Anglo-Scottish Relations 1430-1550*. 296 pages. 1980. Cambridge University Press, £13.50.

Shows not only how the "Scottish Chaucerians" drew upon English writing but how Scottish writers such as Henryson influenced English authors of the early sixteenth century.

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Shows not only how the "Scottish Chaucerians" drew upon English writing but how Scottish writers such as Henryson influenced English authors of the early sixteenth century.

Alan Krieder, *English Chantries. The Road to Dissolution*. 279 pages. 1979. Harvard Historical Studies, £14.

Includes a study of the belief in purgatory so important in the establishment of chantries.

Thomas Legge, *Ricardus Tertius*, edited by Robert J. Lordi. Translated from the Latin. 500 pages. 1979. Garland Publications, New York, £27.50.

A new scholarly edition of this pre-Shakespearean play about Richard III by the Master of Caius College, Cambridge.

Peter Newton (ed.), *Corpus vitrearum medii aevi. Great Britain, Volume I The County of Oxford. A Catalogue of Medieval Stained Glass*. 272 pages, 56 plates. 1979. Oxford University press, £70.

The first of a series of such studies. All surviving glass is catalogued and described with details of heraldry and iconography.

Charles Phythian-Adams, *Desolation of a City. Coventry and the urban crisis of the late middle ages*. 350 pages, maps, figures. 1979. Cambridge University Press, £16.50.

The author takes the well-documented city of Coventry as an example of his controversial theory of a general urban "desolation" at the end of the medieval period. He traces the effects of this decline on the various groups of medieval society such as the household and guild.

Nicholas Pronay and John Taylor, *Parliamentary texts of the later middle ages*. 1979. Clarendon Press, £16.

Brings together contemporary accounts of English Parliaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, illustrating the work of Parliament, the position of the Commons and its representative character.

R. A. Skelton and P. D. A. Harvey, *Local maps and plans from medieval England*. 1979. Clarendon Press, £45.

Thirty maps, dating from before 1501, reproduced with an article placing each in its local and historical context.

ARTICLES

Margaret Aston, Huizinga's Harvest: England and "The Waning of the Middle Ages" in *Medievalia et Humanistica* (ed. P. M. Clogon), New Series: No. 9 Innovation and Change. Cambridge University Press 1979. Pages 1-24.

The effect of Huizinga's thesis on views of England at the end of the middle ages.

M. A. Hicks, The Neville Earldom of Salisbury 1429-71, *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 1977/8, volumes 72/73, published 1980, pages 141-7.

Describes the fate of the earldom and supporting estates from its creation in 1337 until 1492, concentrating on the years in the title.

Sir Ronald Roxburgh, Lincoln's Inn in the fifteenth century, *Law Quarterly Review*, volume 96, 1980, pp.51-72.

To be used with caution.*

Eryn Wynn Jones, Wales and Bosworth Field—Selective Historiography? *The Journal of the National Library of Wales*, volume 21 number 1, 1979, pp.43-75.

Points out that the Welsh support for Henry Tudor has been ignored or played down by historians. A little selective in its own right.*

Notes on Contributors

Lorraine C. Attreed. Research Officer of the American Branch. She did an M.A. at York on York's relations with the Crown 1377-1490 and has published on Richard's financial relations with that City. Now at Harvard.

Anne Crawford. Completed an M.Phil. thesis on John Howard, first Duke of Norfolk, in 1975 and now works as an archivist in the Bristol Record Office.

Richard Knowles, secretary to the Wakefield Historical Society, has a long-standing interest in monumental effigies and their conservation and in medieval armour. Author of several articles including "The Reidentification of a Harewood Alabaster" (1975).

James Petre. A member of the Society since 1967; qualified teacher; currently researching into the decline of the castle in England at King's, London; co-author of *Castles: A History and Guide*, to appear in October 1980.

Pauline Routh. A Yorkshire member whose particular interest is ecclesiology and pre-Reformation tombs and monuments. A member of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, her publications include *Medieval effigial alabaster tombs in Yorkshire* (1976).

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified advertisements can be accepted at 4p per word. It would be appreciated if advertisers forwarded remittances together with copy to be inserted to The Editor, 11 Eton Avenue, London N.W.3. Cheques or postal orders should be crossed and made payable to the Richard III Society.

Other advertisements can be accepted for publication in the *Ricardian* and anyone interested in taking space—full, half or quarter page—should contact the Editor.

The Monarchist League. All readers of *The Ricardian* would find much of interest in *The Monarchist*. Subscriptions, including full membership of The Monarchist League, £10.00 p.a. Full details and application forms available from the Principal Secretary, The Monarchist League, Secretariat, 15, Unthank Road, Norwich.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RICARDIAN

These are welcomed from all members on any subject relevant to the aims of the Society. These may be illustrated by photographs (glossy prints showing good contrast) or by line drawings. All contributions, including advertisements and letters, must be typewritten, with double spacing and adequate margins, on one side of the paper only. Permission must be obtained for the use of copyright material, but this is not usually necessary for short quotes. References and footnotes must be given in one sequence at the end of the article. They must take the form similar to the following examples:

J. H. Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, Vol. 2 (Cambridge 1892), pp.485-6.

B. P. Wolffe, When and why did Hastings lose his head? *English Historical Review*, Vol. 89 (1974), pp.835-844.

Details need not be given in full for second and subsequent references to the same source.

Contributions for the December *Ricardian* or *Bulletin* must reach Anne Sutton, 11 Eton Avenue, London NW3, by 30 September. This does not apply to articles which should be sent well in advance and can be sent at any time.