

Book Reviews

WOMEN'S LIVES IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE. A SOURCEBOOK.

Edited Emilie Amt. 1993. Routledge, New York and London, £35.00 (hardback), £10.99 (paper).

ISBN 0-415-90627-X; 0-415-90628-8

With the growing interest in women's history and the proliferation of college courses it has become increasingly important to have access to the source material, and Emilie Amt provides here a range of documents for the period 500-1500 from many parts of Europe and for all social groups – women of the nobility and peasantry, townswomen and nuns. The collection concentrates on women's everyday lives and activities, and queens and famous women have generally been omitted; this has the advantage of giving us texts which are on the whole less well known. Another deliberate decision has been to include women's writings where appropriate; some authors here like Christine de Pisan are famous, but the autobiography of Leonor Lopez de Cordoba presents a new viewpoint on Castilian politics c.1400.

A short introduction is provided on medieval Europe and on the sources, as well as an explanatory note to each document. It would have been helpful to those studying women's history to have a longer introduction in order to bring out the varieties of women's experience in place and time, and to put more emphasis on the changing nature and greater volume of sources from the twelfth century onwards. The documents are arranged thematically, and bring out the relationship between theory and actuality. Texts from the Bible and Church Fathers can be compared with the canon and secular law of marriage in Normandy, Sicily, Spain and Magdeburg. Regulations for nuns, such as the Rule of St. Clare, can be compared with the visitations of nunneries by Eudes, Archbishop of Rouen in the thirteenth century.

The book opens with a chapter on the heritage of ideas from the Roman and Germanic worlds before proceeding to discuss conditions of life. These include not only everyday work but the perils women faced; war and disease affected everyone, but the dangers of childbirth for women were universally realised and are brought out vividly by the female writer, Trotula of Salerno. The documents show the varied forms of the religious life (the nun, anchoress, beguine), but more stress could have been put on the importance of the Church in the life of laywomen at all levels. Inevitably because of the increase of written sources there is more on the period 1100-1500 than earlier, but it is important that many different types of source material have been included such as biography, letters, legal cases, royal inquiries, accounts, and archaeological material on housing. All this relates to Christian Europe, but a chapter has been included on The Outsiders: Jewish, Muslim and Heretic Women, and this throws welcome light on regions where these groups were an important element in society, notably Germany, Spain and

Southern France.

For those particularly keen on later medieval England, a number of documents will be of interest. A few of the Paston Letters and excerpts from the Book of Margery Kempe have been included. Much of the chapter on commerce makes use of fourteenth-century London material. Less well known are the household accounts of Dame Alice de Bryene, living in 1412-13 as a widow at Acton in Suffolk.

Putting together a volume of sources for a period of a thousand years calls for rigid selection in order to achieve a balance. There are always interesting documents which have to be left out. This volume widens our knowledge of medieval women and will provide a useful basis for further study.

JENNIFER WARD

PRINCES, PATRONAGE AND THE NOBILITY: THE COURT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MODERN AGE. Edited by Ronald G. Asch and Adolph M. Birke 1991. Oxford University Press for the German Historical Institute, London, £45.

ISBN 0-19-92050-7

This volume prints a range of papers on European courts of the early modern period, most of which were first presented at a conference near Cambridge in 1987. The shared assumption of the participants appears to be that 'courts' in the usual sense of the word are an early-modern creation – indeed that their appearance is one index of the emergence of the modern state. Most of the contributors are therefore explicitly looking for change, but very few of them seem to have much idea of the medieval antecedents of the courts which they are studying. The result, in several cases, is an apparent belief that because change *must* have occurred, the medieval court may simply be defined as whatever the early modern one was not. Thus, according to Asch, 'The medieval court lacked the specific role of the early modern court as a platform for the cult of majesty' (p.10) – a claim which ignores the medieval tradition of crown wearings, let alone the ritual chanting of the *Laudes* in the king's presence. Other contributors duck the matter of definition altogether and, like Schalk in his essay on the French court, simply talk blithely about the court becoming more modern without giving any real sense of what that might mean. In that particular essay there are hints that 'more modern' means 'less like a household', but since there is no discussion of what a household might be, the implied distinction raises more questions than it answers. So does the suggestion of Schilling, in an essay which is avowedly in search of general historical laws, that 'courtly structures were a necessary and integral part of the early modern period, a time of transition from the medieval state, where personal relations were more important than objective legal norms, to the rational modern state' (p.444).

Schilling is not the only contributor who takes it for granted that courts throughout Europe conformed to norms which outweigh any local differences. At first sight the collection seems to endorse that belief, with similar claims being

made for the role of courts across the whole geographical range. It is certainly true that courts were emulous places, and several essays testify to the influence of the fifteenth-century Burgundian court in setting standards for the rest of western Europe. But there remains a nagging sense that what we are really seeing in this volume is not so much the shared aspirations of courts as the shared assumptions of historians. Many of the contributors are looking at the court through the same pair of spectacles. Their starting point is almost always the premise that the emergent court is the sign of a newly centralising, absolutist state – and that the phenomenon is therefore resisted by the nobility, at least initially, as a threat to their own regional autonomy.

To most English historians of the court this model now seems staggeringly old-fashioned – and the English contributors to the present volume are rather obviously inhabiting a different world from that of their European colleagues. In part this is simply because the court has been the subject of more intensive study here. Several of the European contributions are still avowedly ground-clearing: descriptive rather than analytical. It also owes something to the insistence of English historians on looking at *all* the elements present within the court rather than focussing on the nobility – an approach which inevitably gives a very different perspective on the court's role and on its relationship with the country at large.

This is not, of course, to say that the English court provides a model which can be applied to the rest of Europe. The equation of court and centralisation may well make sense within the highly fragmented political structure of the Holy Roman Empire, for instance. But it is difficult to resist the conclusion that much too much is being taken for granted here, and that many of the contributors are fitting their descriptions of the court into an 'off the peg' model of its significance. For the medievalist this is particularly irritating in that one of the things being taken for granted is the absence of anything which could be called a court in the middle ages. This releases the contributors from any need to think seriously about continuities, and it is significant that the section of essays on the fifteenth-century courts of Europe is grouped under the general heading of 'The Origins of the Early Modern Court'. Of course change occurred – but it needs to be explored with much more sophistication and sensitivity than is usually the case in these essays. Exactly what is the difference between the courtiers of King Canute and the early-modern courtier from Hanover who produced the glorious piece of toadying quoted here: If God were not God, who could more reasonably expect to be God than our Prince?

ROSEMARY HORROX

ENGLISH NOBLEWOMEN IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES. Jennifer C. Ward. 1992. Longman, London and New York, £22 (hbk), £8.99 (pbk).

ISBN 0-582-05966-6 and ISBN 0-582-05965-8.

How many times are we told that there is little evidence for the activities of women in medieval records which were principally designed and written by men? And yet,

as Jennifer Ward demonstrates, there is no shortage of material provided one knows where to look for it and how to put it together. In fact, a variety of sources – particularly those relevant to household and estate administration – can be used to considerable effect in an assessment of what was expected of the noblewoman in the later middle ages.

Noblewomen have suffered overmuch from the historian's tendency to focus on them as innocent heiresses or scheming dowagers; this grand vision of extremes – of helplessness or domination, of sweet young virgin or wicked old hag – tells us a great deal more about our historians than it does about our noblewomen. One of the most interesting features of this book is that it shows women fulfilling a wide range of different roles throughout their lives, and stresses the importance of adaptability as the key to success for female nobles. The heiress did not remain an heiress forever, as if set in aspic. Nor was she often abducted and forcibly married; usually she made a sensible deal with someone who was considered economically and socially sound by her family, effectively setting up a solid partnership for the transmission of estates and the powerbases which went with them. Ideally, she found her partner tolerable until some degree of affection developed between them. As a wife, she sometimes retained control of the lands she brought with her to the marriage, and ran her own household as part of the new domestic arrangements; additionally, she was required to take over all her husband's responsibilities while he was away at court, on business or on campaign, and to go back just as quickly to her own duties on his return. The progression to motherhood usually meant a very practical approach to getting her children started in life, rather than any real involvement in routine childcare – she was simply too busy for it. Widowhood was an active time, taken up with executorship and securing and maintaining her rights to property; it also gave her the option to remarry, this time with a better chance to exercise her own choice, although age did not confer immunity from family pressure. Quite frequently, she chose the independence of continued widowhood instead, perhaps protected by taking on quasi-religious status as a vowess. It took years of experience and enterprise to achieve the slow rise from virgin to hag.

Something which comes across quite clearly is the function of the noblewoman as social cement. Her connections and influence were important to prospective husbands who were lacking in that department, as well as to her children who relied upon her to obtain placements for them in other households where they could develop their own system of contacts. She also had a leading role to play in dispensing hospitality suitable to the family's status, keeping in touch with friends and relatives, and petitioning in the right quarters on behalf of her social inferiors. In building their affinities, some noblewomen could match those of men; although they could not dangle the opportunity of military action, they still had a great deal to offer in terms of liveried employment as well as religious and artistic patronage. Indeed, one of their most attractive qualities was their ability to further the careers of the men who served them well. Moreover, their impact was substantially wider than the numbers on the payroll would suggest; both hospitality at home and travelling to pay visits or supervise estates resulted in social and economic stimulus over a wider region.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of Jennifer Ward's book is its conclusion that in many ways noblewomen were not much different from noblemen – that is to say, their overall circumstances and their administrative methods were the same.

The lands of both sexes were equally subject to changes in the weather and agricultural practice, just as both hired professional men to deal with the daily running of their business. Both, in effect, took on a managerial role which involved policy decisions and supervision of an almost exclusively male senior staff. The efficiency of the entire complex organisation which supported their lifestyle was dependent upon proper management, and in this noblewomen usually proved themselves perfectly competent. The improvements in provision for jointure and dower which took place in the middle ages, as well as the widespread nomination of wives as executrix, may reflect a general acceptance of their capability and common sense.

Dr Ward has asked unusual and interesting questions of sources which may be more familiar in other contexts, and has ably backed her arguments with material drawn from a wide geographical and chronological range. If she often relies on the records for Elizabeth de Burgh, for whom an unrivalled run of thirty years' worth of accounts survive, she nevertheless uses other sources where they are available. She also makes it clear exactly what the limitations of the evidence are, for the benefit of the less experienced reader, who is also provided with a glossary of terms.

HELEN BRADLEY

THE BAILIFFS' MINUTE BOOK OF DUNWICH, 1404-1430. Edited Mark Bailey. 1992. Suffolk Records Society, volume XXXIV. Woodbridge, £19.50.

ISBN 0-85115-306-2.

Urban decay is a problematic topic in late medieval studies partly because the notion implies some common causal and chronological pattern that no one has yet succeeded in identifying. In Dunwich we have an unambiguous example of urban decay, though one so distinctive as to have few immediate implications for other towns. The port was at its peak in the early thirteenth century, was already suffering from ravages of the sea by the 1280s, and had perhaps shrunk to less than a third of its former size by 1334. Most of the damage here had been done before the Black Death. By the time the surviving *Bailiffs' Minute Book* was being compiled, between 1404 and 1430, the town had contracted yet further. It remained a parliamentary borough, and the whole tone of its records is unambiguously and delightfully burghal, but it suffered from chronic financial difficulties. The inhabitants' main source of livelihood was sea-fishing.

The document edited here, principally in translation, is heavily concerned with financial matters. The accounts for the year 1424-5 were transcribed into the volume in full, and show that in that year the bailiffs handled an income of nearly £20, of which over half came from rents of property and stallage in the market (pp.127-8). For other years the book gives details of particular items of income and expenditure, rather than a total statement of the accounts, but the information is sufficiently consistent from year to year for some aspects of the town's history to be followed through in detail. There are details of the frequent local taxes levied

for various purposes. One type of tax was described as a 'land fine' (*finis per terram*) or 'a tax for the common use of the town of Dunwich' and was levied on households and property. Another type of taxation, the common dole, was imposed on fishing vessels. The details of these latter payments make a valuable contribution to material in print on east-coast sea-fishing in the late Middle Ages. There are brief notes of the meetings at which such local taxes were authorised. On 11 September 1412, for example, it was ordained with the assent of the whole community that each fishing boat should pay a penny at each of the fishing seasons during the coming year and that a land fine should be levied equivalent to fourpence in the pound. This was the same meeting at which the two bailiffs were elected (p.82).

The volume is of interest for the local history of royal taxation in the fifteenth century. Alongside details of taxes levied for the borough's own use, it contains lists of taxpayers contributing to the lay subsidies granted in October 1407, January 1410, October 1419, December 1421 and December 1429. It is well known that after 1334 the taxable value of individual towns and villages was fixed, and from then onwards the assessment and collection of lay subsidies can be studied only from surviving local records. The Dunwich evidence shows that the social basis for taxation was broader than it had been in the early fourteenth century, and contains unambiguous evidence that by the early fifteenth century royal taxes were (at least in part) chargeable against properties rather than moveable wealth. In the last of these assessments, for example, eightpence was charged against the 'messuage late Thomas Brantham', Simon Reders' attorney owed tenpence 'for his messuage', and sixpence was due from John Knolles 'for shop' (pp.138-40).

The editor's broadly based introduction, which discusses the topography, customs, government and economy of Dunwich in the light of wider debates about the period, is in itself a most valuable contribution to urban history. He supplies a map, a glossary of unusual terms and a catalogue of other documentary material relating to Dunwich in this period. There is also an index, whose principal subject entries, in approximately descending order of size, are Bailiffs, Fishing, Doles, Land Fines, Parliament, Coroner, Lay Subsidies, Charters of Liberty, Justices of the Peace, Fee-Farm, Burgesses. It is pleasing to have to hand such a source of detail about the practices and problems of a small fifteenth-century town.

R.H. BRITNELL

MEDIEVAL HOUSES OF WILTSHIRE. Pamela M. Slocombe. 1992. Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd., Stroud. £6.

ISBN 0-7509-0285-X

Wiltshire enjoyed a period of buoyant prosperity in the late Middle Ages, a prosperity reflected both in the number and quality of the surviving medieval buildings. With early engravings and clear modern photographs, Pamela Slocombe's book illustrates the often impressive exteriors of these buildings and the rich ornament of their interiors; the cusped and moulded timbers, the wall paintings and the decorative stone fireplaces. Much has survived because Wiltshire

has suffered only moderately from industrialization and re-development in the last 200 years. Even so, some pictures in the book remind us of tragic losses due to ignorance and indifference – negative attitudes that this book should help to dispel.

The book's stated aim is 'to help people to identify and date [architectural] features for themselves'. If the word 'people' implies general readers, then the book should succeed in helping them to identify medieval features, yet hardly to date them – beyond simply knowing their date is 'medieval'. To such readers the book offers a well-illustrated, clear and concise guide. It should also prove an attractive buy to those with a general antiquarian interest in Wiltshire.

About half of the 110, A5-size pages are taken up with illustrations, so that the remaining pages must encompass almost every aspect of Wiltshire houses from the Norman Conquest to about 1500. Such comprehensive coverage is, in a way, very commendable but, given limited space in a small book, it can lead to superficiality. For instance, a range of important historical themes is indicated, but cannot be adequately treated in the space available, so that on page ten, 'the fifteenth century' is covered in fifteen lines. It is not surprising in such a restricted space to find chantries dismissed in the sentence, 'Religion was very important and many chantries were founded'.

Those seriously interested in vernacular architecture, will welcome the useful summary of architectural features commonly found in Wiltshire, but will regret the limited references and bibliography. They will be disappointed, too, at the lack of adequate plans and drawings, so that the interpretation of buildings has often to be taken on trust. For example, we must believe that figure 6 represents a cruck building, even though neither crucks nor timbers of any sort are indicated.

In short, the author is to be congratulated on producing a useful introduction. It is to be hoped that, if time and funds permit, she will one day write the fuller account that Wiltshire's medieval houses deserve.

EDWARD ROBERTS

THE ART OF MEDIEVAL FRENCH ROMANCE. Douglas Kelly, 1992. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin, £51.95. ISBN 0-299-13190-4.

According to the author's preface the goal of his study 'has been to set forth what medieval romances say about how they were written and to integrate these statements into a coherent conception of the art of romance invention which those statements suggest'. This sounded an attractive approach and a good way of helping the reader to appreciate and better understand well-known French romances such as *Erec et Enide* and *Le chevalier de la charette*. To my regret, the book has not taught me more than a few scattered fragments of factual knowledge picked with difficulty among the tangled weeds of literary critical jargon.

And yet the beginning was hopeful: chapter one sets out to explain at length two words crucial to the art of romance composition, *jointure* and *iunctura*. The first, with its many versions used by medieval writers themselves, referring to the effective putting together, or consciously *not* putting together of narrative material

by adding or inserting, in order 'to bring out the qualities of a good plot'; the second, found in Horace and taken over by Latin medieval works on poetic theory, it's original meaning doubtful and probably ranging over all forms of artistic linking and joining: of letters, words, sentences, and whole sections of a work. (If this description is not correct the author is as much to blame as my ignorance).

Other sections, headed typically 'Antecedent Paradigms of Invention: Literary Paradigm and Historiographic Paradigm', look at the theoretical Latin works on poetry and prose to which the authors of vernacular romances turned for formal guidance, and at the way these authors used their narrative sources and coped with their diversity, facing the same problem as the historians of their time, who in fact often wrote romances themselves, such as Wace and Benoît de Sainte-Maure.

The attitude of the romancers to their sources is analysed. One is not surprised to read that they preferred written authorities, especially when these were thought to have been made by eye witnesses, and that they wished to incorporate as much material as they could. From source to finished romance, from marvellous adventure to exemplary lesson, the romancers' compository art is discussed, dissected and categorised, with only occasional remarks about the impossibility of classification, the diversity and subtlety of the meaning of words and the fluidity of terms used by medieval authors.

For the layman – even the eager, interested layman – the revelations of the medieval artists' own statements that this study is supposed to interpret are hidden behind a veil of incomprehensible, fashionably phrased, sometimes repetitious, sometimes apparently disjointed sentences, and punctuated by esoteric headings. Each page has on average five to ten French, Latin and English 'untranslatable' technical terms which have not really been explained and are sometimes sprung on the reader without any introduction; in such cases even patiently consulting the index for cross-reference and further information does not always help. Perhaps understandably, but none the less unfortunately, innumerable titles of romances are mentioned and familiarity with them taken for granted. Hardly any of the author's discoveries are drawn together or made more accessible by repeating or summarising them in simpler language; paragraphs succeed one another without any obvious relation between them; pleasantly lucid, more narrative sections are followed by general, literary-critical statements which only the trained insider will be able to appreciate and judge. I would like to sum up the problem of the increasing number of books like Professor Kelly's study: if 'paradigm' equals 'frame of reference' – as it appears to do these days – why not use the latter phrase, which everybody would understand?

I cite a paragraph at random with a paraphrase of what I *think* it is trying to say (p.99):

In the *Saisnes*, Jehan Bodel contrasts the "vain" and "pleasant" in Arthurian *matière* with the truth and meaning found in, respectively, French and Roman *matières*. Yet contextualizing Bodel, we know that by 1200 even Arthurian marvels had become the object of careful scrutiny by serious romancers intent upon drawing truth and meaning from what Marie de France calls their "obscurity". Further, their art is little different from that of the *Saisnes*. Indeed, we have seen that Bodel's preference for French and Roman subjects stems more from rhetorical parameters than from historical accuracy and thus seems to be essentially encomiastic.

[In the *Saisnes*, Jehan Bodel contrasts the 'vain' and the 'pleasant' of Arthurian stories with the truth and meaning found in those with French and Roman subjects. We know, however, that serious writers of romances, who tried to find the truth and meaning behind Arthurian marvels – which Marie de France calls their 'obscurity' – had become sceptical of these marvels even before Bodel's time. Moreover the art of these serious writers was much the same as that of Bodel in the *Saisnes*. Indeed, we have seen that Bodel himself preferred to use French and Roman subjects because he personally liked their rhetorical possibilities and not because he thought they were more historically accurate.]

Would there be any harm in using more simple language and structure sentences more clearly? Or would this reveal ideas that are feared to be too simple? Eventually it is readers' hesitation to admit that they have hardly understood one word in ten that allows authors to wrap themselves in such obscurity.

LIVIA VISSER-FUCHS

ENGLISH HANDWRITING 1400-1650: AN INTRODUCTORY MANUAL.

Jean F. Preston and Laetitia Yeandle, 1992. Mediaeval and Renaissance Texts and Studies. Binghamton, New York, £12 (pbk.). Available from Adam Matthew Publications. 8 Oxford St., Marlborough, Wilts., SN8 1AP. ISBN 1-85711-003-X

In the summer of 1983, fifteen American scholars gathered at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC, and spent six weeks together, during which time each of them transcribed four different manuscripts, most of them in the Folger, written between 1400 and 1650. Thirty-three of these are now reproduced here, the transcripts beside them, with an Introduction by the Editors and such further notes as are needed to elucidate the texts. Seventeen of the examples are followed by alphabets showing the several different forms of each letter which may occur in a mere few lines of an individual's handwriting. These were painstakingly assembled and pasted up by Professor Doris Adler and are something for which the beginner may feel particularly grateful.

The examples chosen cover a wide range of material and demonstrate the wealth of historical and literary material to be found in American libraries. The earliest is the first page of Robert Mannyng's *Handelyng off Synne* composed about 1303 and still in demand in 1400 when this handsomely illuminated copy was written on vellum for Sir William Clopton; the latest is the Prologue to a play in verse acted before Prince Charles (the future Charles II) at Cambridge in 1641, just before the outbreak of the Civil War – it is worth noting that the term 'Roundhead' is already in use. The examples have been chosen to show the variety of handwriting employed over two-and-a-half centuries, the gamut of difficulties with which the student may be forced to grapple, and the extraordinary delights that may be garnered with perseverance. It is enchanting to learn the names of the women employed to weave garlands of 'Roses and all other kindes of floures' to decorate the Banqueting Houses erected in Hyde Park to entertain the Marshall of

France when he came in the summer of 1551 to confer the Order of St. Michael on the young King, Edward VI, or to be advised by John de Feckenham, the last Abbot of Westminster who continued to care for the sick even after the dissolution of his monastery, that should you feel faint when taking the waters at Bath, you should comfort yourself with 'Some Ale warmed with a Toste', or green ginger, or "Yf need be Aqua vite'.

There are graver matters here too. Thomas Starkey, fawning, writes to Henry VIII that he is shocked by the future Cardinal Pole's reaction to the suggestion of a royal divorce; a deposition is taken from luckless members of the 'Family of Love' concerning their heresies; Lord Burghley writes to the Lord High Admiral in August 1588 concerning the threat from the Spanish Armada, and endorses the letter,

post hast
hast
hast
post hast for lief

The more mundane is here as well – the presentment of a jury at the court held at the Manor of Mapledurham, Oxfordshire, on April 4, 1594; the 'names of the craftes with in London' are listed; Lady Grace Cavendish sends baking pears to her aunt in an October c.1585. And there are flourishes of poetry and literature – Thomas Randolph writes a drama, *Aristippus*, for his fellow students at Trinity College Cambridge; William Hall of Christ's College writes a rather neat Ode lamenting the death of Thomas Hobson, Carrier to the University of Cambridge; a religious play is prepared, to be given before little Edward VI.

The examples of handwriting given range from the comfortably readable – 'The Statutes and Ordenauncys of the ... Garter' c.1560 – to the downright illegible – Queen Elizabeth sends 'skribled Lines' to James VI of Scotland to assure him that she had had no part in some mischief plotted against him. Those who are skilled in palaeography will enjoy the individual items; those of us who are less able will learn much and will become more competent if we will but find the time to work carefully through each example with its transcript.

ANN SAUNDERS

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 does not preclude its subsequent review.

BOOKS

The History of the University of Oxford. Volume Two: Late Medieval Oxford. Edited by J.I. Catto and T.A.R. Evans. 1993. 823 pages. Clarendon Press, Oxford, £90.

Seventeen chapters on all aspects of the history of the university from the thirteenth century to the Reformation. Includes maps and plans of colleges and their properties and other illustrations. Particularly interesting on the university's relations with kings and magnates in the fifteenth century.

Medieval Art and Architecture at Exeter Cathedral, British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions XI, 1993. 236 pages. Line illustrations, halftone plates and colour plates. Copies may be ordered from W.S. Maney & Son Ltd., Hudson Road, Leeds LS9 7DL. £31.50 (paper). £41.50 (cloth).

Seventeen articles on many subjects, from the building (The Iconography of the West Front) to its treasures (The Ring of Bishop Grandison).

Dorothy M. Owen, *The Medieval Canon Law. Teaching, Literature and Transmission*. 1993. 94 pages. Cambridge University Press, £25.00 (hardback).

Examines the choice of books available to medieval students, and the collections made by institutions and individuals, in universities in Western Europe, but especially Cambridge.

Winchester Cathedral Nine Hundred Years. Edited by John Crook. 336 pages, c. 200 illustrations. 1993. Published by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral, in conjunction with Phillimore and Co., approx. £37.50.

Twenty-four contributions on all aspects of the cathedral, including monastic history, architecture, sculpture, wall paintings, music and liturgy, ranging from the eleventh to the twentieth century.

ARTICLES

John M. Currin, 'Pro Expensis Ambassadorum': Diplomacy and Financial Administration in the Reign of Henry VII, *English Historical Review*, volume 108, number 428, July 1993, pages 589-609.

The development and details of the financing of embassies by the king's chamber, with many examples. Henry considered sending and receiving embassies as important as his

predecessors but had no resident ambassadors overseas and kept a tight control on expenditure.

Heather Falvey, *The More: Rickmansworth's Lost Palace, Hertfordshire's Past*, 34, Spring 1993, pages 2-16.

Based on a paper read during the Hertfordshire History weekend at Madingley, February 1992. Describes the architecture of the fifteenth-century house built by William Flete at the manor of the More, later owned by George Neville, Archbishop of York. Outlines the additions and alterations made to the building in the sixteenth century by Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII. Illustrated with plans.

Jonathan Hughes, Stephen Scrope and the Circle of Sir John Fastolf: Moral and Intellectual Outlooks, in *The Ideals and Practice of Medieval Knighthood IV*, ed. Christopher Harper-Bill and Ruth Harvey, pages 109-148. The Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 1992.

Sets out to analyse through their work the intellectual and moral attitudes of those men around Fastolf who were literarily active, their 'philosophy of life', their 'emphasis on reason and prudence' and 'interest in and understanding of individual psychology'. Discusses William Worcester's role, Fastolf's career and the latter's 'educational programme for his household'.

Mavis Mate, *The Economic and Social Roots of Medieval Popular Rebellion: Sussex in 1450-1451*, *Economic History Review*, volume 45 (1992), pages 661-76.

Concentrating on Sussex, this article aims to explain the social and economic factors that contributed to Cade's rebellion. For example, the parts played by comparatively prosperous yeomen and artisans, by young men not yet bound by family responsibilities, and the variety of the rebels' grievances, ranging from a pervasive resentment of seigneurial and judicial corruption to genuine hardship and increased taxation.

Christine North, *Arundell of Lanherne: A Case Study in the Acquisition of an Archive*, *Archives*, volume 20, number 89, April 1993, pages 71-7.

The story of the acquisition by the Cornwall County Record Office of a very important family archive containing over 20,000 documents of which the oldest are twelfth-century. Among them is a fifteenth-century inventory that includes *ij vatis for the lordys bathyng y mad of a bot of Malmesyn*; this prompts the author to add: 'did the Duke of Clarence after all die in his bath?' (Members of the family were conspicuous in the Yorkist period.)

Notes on Contributors

Helen Bradley. Ph.D on the Italian community in London 1350-1450. Archivist to the Haberdashers' Company 1990-93 and now working as research assistant on the history of the Saddlers' Company.

Richard Britnell teaches history at Durham University. He studies the social and economic history of the Middle Ages, and has written a book about Colchester between 1300 and 1525.

Rosemary Horrox. Author of *Richard III: A Study of Service*, Cambridge 1989.

Wendy Moorhen joined the Society in 1987 and is the Secretary and Research Officer of the Thames Valley Group.

A. J. Pollard. Professor of History, University of Teeside. Author of *North Eastern England during the Wars of the Roses: Lay Society, War and Politics 1450-1500* (1990), and *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower* (1991).

Edward Roberts. Lecturer, King Alfred's College, Winchester. Co-author of *Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area* (1988).

Ann Saunders, Ph.D., F.S.A., historian; author of *Regent's Park, The Art and Architecture of London* and other books. Hon. Editor to the Costume Society and the London Topographical Society.

Livia Visser-Fuchs is working on the literary background and propaganda of Anglo-Burgundian relations of the Yorkist period.

Jennifer Ward. Senior Lecturer in History at Goldsmiths' College, University of London. Author of *English Noblewomen in the Later Middle Ages*, Longman 1992.

Instructions to Contributors to the Ricardian

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Daniel Williams, The hastily drawn up will of William Catesby Esquire, 25 August 1485, *Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions*, vol. 51 (1975-6), p. 48.

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