

Book Reviews

MYSTICISM AND SPIRITUALITY IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND. Edited by William F. Pollard and Robert Boenig. 1997. D. S. Brewer, Cambridge, an imprint of Boydell and Brewer, Woodbridge, £35. ISBN 085991-5166.

This collection of essays offers a comprehensive and coherent survey of medieval English religious literature: its diversity of genres and audiences, its forerunners and parallels. Arranged chronologically it reaches from the eleventh to the sixteenth century; it takes in the *Wooing* group, *The Cloud* author, Rolle, Julian and Margery Kempe; it embraces authors and movements as diverse as Pseudo Dionysius, Anselm, Aelred, Thomas Betson, Augustinians, Cistercians, Beguines and Lollards and audiences from anchoresses to the nuns of Syon, lay-folk and mystics. The spectrum is wide, the approaches as varied as the topics and the result a collection which provides an insight into English religious life and literature from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. The pervasive emphasis on traditions inherited from earlier centuries and on continental influences and parallels is a welcome corrective to the insularity of much work on this literature. There is no indication of how the collection originated (conference or invited contributions?) but the lengthy delay in publication has led to premature ageing, despite some updating of bibliographies and notes. But it is still a worthwhile and mostly very readable volume which surveys familiar ground, offers many new insights and asks some important questions.

Thomas Bestul surveys some of the Latin devotional literature of the eleventh and twelfth centuries by Anselm, Bernard and Aelred, itself indebted to patristic sources, notably Augustine and Gregory. He draws attention to the way these authors valued introspection and emotional experience, especially love and desire, in their search for God and how they held together scriptural exegesis, theological speculation, personal reflection and affective devotion in a way that did not survive the scholasticism of the thirteenth century but which continued to influence later devotional writers.

Robert Boenig explores the 'slow seepage' of the ideas of Pseudo Dionysius

from sixth-century Syria to fourteenth-century England via John of Salisbury, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure and the Rhineland mystics. The Dionysian emphasis on darkness, silence and unknowing was ubiquitous among fourteenth-century mystics. *The Cloud's* author was obviously indebted to Dionysius as René Tixier's analysis of its structure and key words makes clear. He shows how 'an apparently shapeless set of paragraphs with an extremely coherent purpose... imposes its own inner, hidden structure'. He then poses a key question: how far is such a composition a conscious authorial process and how far is it inspired by the fervour of the author's love of God?

Two essays focus on the early thirteenth-century *Wooing* group. Denis Reveney, in what is the most opaque contribution, contrasts Augustinian and Anselmian approaches to meditation — a topic touched on by Bestul — with reference to the anchoresses to whom they were addressed. Anne Savage offers a more penetrating insight into the 'tough, many-faceted spirituality' of the anchoresses with their heroic exemplars, saints Katherine, Margaret and Julian, and fired by their 'deeply physical desire for marriage to Christ'. She suggests that the anchoresses way of life and devotion pointed towards a specifically incarnational union with Christ of the kind exemplified in Julian's revelations.

Ritamarly Bradley raises questions about the choice of base text and consequent interpretations of Julian. She focuses on the word 'aseth' and its meaning: 'without denying the horror of sin and the helplessness of mankind she [Julian] views the redemption as a transforming salvation in Christ, in solidarity with him'.

William F. Pollard also takes a key phrase, the 'eye of the heart', and the evidence of the *Officium et Miracula* recorded in the 1380s-90s, to focus on Rolle's mysticism. He traces the blending of Augustinian and Dionysian traditions in his works and, in contrast to the negative assessment of David Knowles, claims Rolle 'as an authentic mystic, perhaps the foremost of the fourteenth-century spiritual writers'. Michael Kucynski considers Rolle as translator and exegete of the psalms and challenges the assumptions of medieval and modern commentators who have labelled his revisers as Lollard: they may have failed to understand the exegetical traditions to which Rolle was heir.

The flamboyant devotion of Margery Kempe, her idiosyncratic calling and her emphasis on felt experience often recall Rolle. By placing her in the context of European holy women such as Mary of Oignes and Bridget of Sweden, Susan Dickson points to many similarities, such as their tears and visions but also highlights differences over poverty and active charity. Dickman suggests that Margery's mystical marriage and the recorded experiences of her book were probably less about her mystical powers than the validation of her claim to be a holy woman.

In 'Medieval English Mystical Lyrics' Douglas Gray raises the question whether any of them can properly be described as mystical: 'they are usually very close to the themes, images and language of affective devotion, so close in fact that one wonders if their authors would have distinguished 'mystical' as a quite separate category' in the way it has been since the definitive writings of Teresa and John of the Cross in the sixteenth century. Again, Gray looks back to the devotional unity of Anselm and Bernard as well as to the ideas, language and experiences common to secular and religious love poetry. In common with several contributors he refers to the strong visual quality of much devotional writing and provides five reproductions of illustrated lyrics from the fifteenth-century Carthusian miscellany, British Library MS Additional 37049.

The collection concludes with Roger Ellis's survey of the Cistercian and Brigittine influences which helped to shape the spirituality of Syon Abbey, founded in 1415. From the broad context he attempts to characterise Syon's spirituality by focusing down onto the 'logo' used in their English publications and on individual works by Syon authors: Thomas Betson, Richard Whitford and John Fewterer.

As a whole the collection traces many of the traditions and influences that were drawn upon in the diversity of topics and genres that contribute to medieval English spirituality and sets it firmly in its European context. In addition to this broad sweep the contributors provide some exemplary close analysis, offer concise summaries, give new insights and raise important questions. It is a worthwhile and readable collection.

J. T. RHODES

LIVING AND DINING IN MEDIEVAL PARIS: THE HOUSEHOLD OF A FOURTEENTH-CENTURY KNIGHT. Nicole Crossley-Holland. 1996, Cardiff, University of Wales Press, £35. ISBN 0-7083-1368-X.

This book is a commentary on the combined manual of personal deportment, guide to household management and compendium of 380 recipes known since the fifteenth century as the '*Ménagier de Paris*'. Like Mrs. Isabella Beeton's renowned Victorian *Book of Household Management*, the *Ménagier* (the word as used in this title means something like 'book of housekeeping' rather than 'householder') is in fact a major source for social and economic history, as well as for the history of food and cooking.

For 150 years, ever since Baron Jérôme Pichon published his edition of *Le*

Ménagier de Paris: Traité de morale et d'économie domestique, composé vers 1393 par un bourgeois parisien (2 vols., Paris: Société des Bibliophiles Français, 1846; rpt Geneva: Slatkine, 1966; Lille: Regis Lehoucq, 1992), historians have pondered the identity of the ageing Parisian householder who, between June 1392 and September 1394 (Pichon's analysis), compiled this text for the expressed intent of aiding his young wife in learning her household duties. Nicole Crossley-Holland has combed the text itself for clues to the secretive author's identity and that of his wife, and for information that would allow her to reconstruct their house, household, and manner of life in Paris at the end of the fourteenth century. She has also examined a variety of French archival sources in her efforts to identify the author.

The result is a rather hybrid book, whose intended audience is unclear. In general tone, narrative style and level of discussion it is designed to appeal to a wide, popular audience. However, in content it is an extended commentary on the *Ménagier*, and thus is of limited use to readers unfamiliar with the text. Moreover, Crossley-Holland has perversely based her discussion on Pichon's edition of the *Ménagier*, despite the fact that copies of it are scarce in anglophone countries (Crossley-Holland herself had great difficulty finding one: see p. 1); despite the fact that anglophone readers are dependant on the abridged English translation published by Eileen Power (*The Goodman of Paris*, London: Routledge and Sons Ltd, 1928 and New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1928; rpt London: Folio Society, 1992); and despite the fact that, for textual scholars, Pichon's edition has long since been superseded by that of Georgine E. Brereton and Janet M. Ferrier (*Le Menagier de Paris*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981; rpt, without the Introduction, Notes or Glossary, but with facing-page translation in modern French by Karin Ueltschi, as *Le Mesnagier de Paris*, Paris: Librairie Générale Française, Livre de Poche, 1994). Furthermore, Crossley-Holland cites Pichon's edition by volume and page number only, without providing any concordance to the editions of Power or Brereton and Ferrier. As a result, none of her references can be followed up in any edition but Pichon's.

The bulk of *Living and Dining in Medieval Paris* (pp. 11-184) consists of Crossley-Holland's reconstruction of the author's town and country homes and manner of life. She discusses such topics as the plans and furnishings of the author's houses, the provisioning of his household, the cooking and gardening techniques he describes, and various domestic activities and technologies that he mentions. These chapters are entertainingly written and sparkle with the author's enthusiasm and insights, especially on the recipes themselves, reflecting Crossley-Holland's practical experience in testing the author's directions in the kitchen. (See, e.g., her comments on pp. 153-54, 157, 159, 214-15.) She also provides in three Appendixes a small collection of useful primary sources: an English

translation of a brief fifteenth-century French treatise on table manners (Appendix 2); a recipe for hippocras (Appendix 4); and a collection of 38 Paris street-cries of foodstuffs and household items, taken from the early sixteenth-century part-song 'Voulez ouyr les cris de Paris' by Clément Janequin (Appendix 5). There is also a useful Bibliography (pp. 227-36).

Crossley-Holland's analytical discussions, however, are often weakened by her reliance on untested assumptions. For example, in attempting to solve the riddle of the author's identity (Appendix 1, pp. 185-211), Crossley-Holland based her research on two very questionable assumptions (see p. 185): (i) that the author was a knight, and (ii) that he was a senior member of the household of the duc de Berry. The passages that she cites as evidence that the author was a knight (p. 4) are in fact ambiguous, which is why all the editors of the *Ménagier*, beginning with Pichon, have concluded that the author was more probably a well-to-do bourgeois. Crossley-Holland assumes that the author was in the service of the duc de Berry because he recounts some remarks made by Berry and some details concerning the consumption and preparation of foodstuffs in the duke's household. As Brereton and Ferrier pointed out, however (*Ménagier*, p. xxii), this information could have been obtained by someone who was not intimate with either the duke or his household.

Proceeding from these twin assumptions, and calling on a rather jumbled array of additional arguments (Appendix 1), Crossley-Holland identifies the author as one Guy de Montigny, a French knight who was in the service of the duc de Berry between 1370 and 1382-3, when he is described as one of the duke's *chambellans*. This identification is also very problematic. Despite some lively speculations (pp. 198-99), Crossley-Holland produces no actual evidence linking Guy de Montigny with the sire Jehan d'Andresel, with whom the author of the *Ménagier* says that he served at the siege of Melun in 1358-59. Nor, despite some lengthy discussion (pp. 202-8), does Crossley-Holland provide any direct evidence for Guy de Montigny's presence in Paris as a householder in the early 1390s or at any other time. One argument that she uses to locate the author's Paris house (pp. 203-4) turns out to be based on a manuscript misreading by Pichon (of 'Hautecourt' for 'Hantecourt') that was clearly identified and corrected by Brereton and Ferrier (*Ménagier*, pp. xxii, 321). Crossley-Holland does not trace Guy de Montigny's parents, marriage(s), date or place of birth, death or burial, will, or heir(s). In fact, apart from Montigny's knighthood and service with Berry, the main evidence that Crossley-Holland uses (pp. 185-92) to identify him as the author of the *Ménagier* is that Guy de Montigny may have come from either Bar-sur-Aube or Montigny-sur-Aube in Champagne, while the author recounts that he himself was known at Bar-sur-Aube. The identification of Guy de Montigny as the author is thus ingenious but inconclusive; there are far too many evidentiary and methodological gaps to accept it as given. Crossley-Holland also tentatively suggests (pp. 201-3) that the

author's young wife may have been a member of the Ghistelles family of Bruges, but acknowledges that the evidence is too slight for a firm identification.

In sum, this is an engaging but uneven book. It will be of greatest use and interest to readers who are already familiar with the text of the *Ménagier*, especially those few who have access to Pichon's edition. (Readers with access to the Internet can take advantage of the fact that Cindy Renfrew is currently putting the recipes from Pichon's edition of the *Ménagier*, together with Pichon's notes, on a Web site at www.pbm.com/~lindahl/menagier/.) For other readers, however, Crossley-Holland's linkage of her text to Pichon's may prove a frustrating barrier to their enjoyment, and employment, of this enthusiastic book.

MARTHA CARLIN

THE WARS OF THE ROSES. Bruce Webster. 1998. Introductions to History Series, University College London Press, distributed by Taylor and Francis Group, Rankine Road, Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 8PR. £6.50. ISBN 1-85728-493-3 (pb).

Bruce Webster's *The Wars of the Roses* is a booklet which is clearly aimed at students, and is likely to meet the needs of its intended audience. At under eighty pages of main text, it is a good length, and its bibliography, already restricted, can easily be reduced further by eliminating some of the less directly relevant material. It is also well and clearly written: a good read, in fact.

The 'problem' is outlined first: what was it that produced a succession of usurpations between 1399 and 1485, with increasing frequency towards the end? Was it simply a prolonged dynastic battle between the descendants of the usurping Henry of Lancaster and rival claimants, eventually known as the Yorkists? That was certainly how it was portrayed by and on behalf of the Tudors, and their version proved remarkably influential. There are alternative candidates, however. Dr Webster identifies: economic problems, resulting from a general downturn in trade and, for England, the decline of the wool trade; the dislocation caused by the end of the Hundred Years War; social changes precipitated by the Black Death, which reduced the control and wealth of landlords, enabled the middling sort and more enterprising peasants to improve their lot substantially, and made lords more dependent on retainers rather than on their tenants ('bastard feudalism'); the immediate problem of the collapse of royal finances; and what he rather curiously calls 'political events' — the absence of any mechanism by which dissatisfied subjects could oblige a king to pay attention to their grievances. To this should, in fairness to the argument as a whole, be added the threat posed by the 'overmighty

subject'. Bruce MacFarlane may have dismissed him as a mere shadow produced by an undermighty king, but at least one contemporary, John Fortescu, believed that subjects could be overmighty. Indeed, A. J. Pollard concluded, in his own booklet on the same subject, that it was precisely the financial weakness of late-medieval kings relative to their greatest subjects which made it so difficult for them to exercise power effectively.

Dr Webster favours the failings of kings themselves, although in Edward IV's case he is more inclined to blame the 'petulance and blatant self-interest' of the Earl of Warwick and Duke of Clarence. A problem with current attempts to analyse the reasons for the disruptions of the 1460s onwards is that they continue to be characterised by a faint whiff of '1066 and All That' (the reference to Warwick and Clarence's 'petulance' is an example of this). Although historians nowadays examine seriously the actions and claims of all the various contenders for power in Henry VI's reign in an attempt to understand their motives, this has not yet been done adequately for the period 1461 to 1483. Consequently, motive is an especial problem: Professor Pollard was clearly at a loss to explain the Duke of Gloucester's usurpation of the throne. Dr Webster does not even try, saying simply, 'we shall never know exactly what brought him to the path he took'.

To say this is not to criticise Dr Webster. He aims to summarise current research and to provide explanations consonant with current thinking. He is simply limited by that research and by that thinking. Modern historians may question the influence of Tudor propagandists on our predecessors, but we ourselves are still heavily influenced by fifteenth-century propagandists, including those who wrote on Edward IV's behalf. Consequently, like the contemporary Burgundian historiographers who also owed their opinion of Edward in part to that propaganda, we are puzzled that one whom we envisage as a capable, popular and amiable if self-indulgent king, who followed defensible policies, treated his subjects with reasonable impartiality, restored order to the royal finances, and whose reign ended in stability and general merriment, should have suffered a series of rebellions and the dreadful disloyalty of his younger brother.

Where Dr Webster probably is right is to emphasise the problem created when able and politically-active nobles were denied any real say in government. Relationships between kings and their subjects were not simply (*pace* Professor Ross) about the opportunities for the latter to obtain lands and offices from the king. Influence was vital, and of course not just influence in terms of being able to affect how one's followers were treated. It was almost certainly the absence of that influence at court, combined, probably, with a belief that there was a serious threat from those who did have influence, which tipped the balance in favour of rebellion in the cases of the Duke of York, his second son, and the Earl of Warwick. Gloucester, too, experienced something akin to a golden banishment in the late

1470s, and he may perhaps have feared to suffer the fate of his predecessor as duke and king's uncle. Moreover, as Professor Pollard pointed out, the tensions which helped to create the Wars of the Roses have to be viewed in a geographically wider political context: they were part of a general European problem of reconciling the ambitions and interdependencies of kings and their great men.

Finally, I have a few minor quibbles. For example, I could not help but feel that, given that so many battles were described as 'decisive', some of them were not. In particular, the battle at Mortimer's Cross, though useful for propaganda purposes, could have led to disaster. If we allow the Lancastrians involved any military judgement, they were presumably attempting to prevent the future Edward IV leading his forces to join the ragbag army with which the Duke of Norfolk and Warwick were trying to defend London. In that, they succeeded. Had Warwick and the other commanders been killed or captured by the main Lancastrian forces, it is unlikely that there would have been an Edward IV. But overall this is a booklet which can be recommended as a clear, straightforward and easily-digested account of the period.

PENNY TUCKER

TAKE A THOUSAND EGGS OR MORE: A Collection of 15th Century Recipes. (Two volumes). Cindy Renfrew. Second edition. 1998. Published and distributed privately by the editor, 7 El's Way, Sussex, NJ 07461, USA. \$27 to editor, plus \$2 p&p for outside USA.

These two volumes provide a veritable feast of medieval food. The 370 or more recipes were published previously by the Early English Text Society in Thomas Austin, ed., *Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery Books*, (Original Series no. 91, Oxford, 1888, reprinted 1964) but this new edition has a modernised version of each recipe placed alongside Austin's transcript of the text. Rather surprisingly the manuscripts were written in English. (Their references are: British Museum Harleian MS 279 (c. 1430) and Harleian MS 4016 (c. 1450), together with extracts from Bodleian Library Ashmole MS 1439, Douce MS 55 and Laud MS 533.) Cindy Renfrew has sorted the recipes by main ingredient and in Volume 1 she has adapted over one hundred of them so that they can be followed by twentieth-century cooks. Volume 2 contains those that have not been 'converted'. These mostly require ingredients that are extinct or protected species, such as lamprey or porpoise, or species that cannot be found in North America, including haddock and salmon. Helpful guidelines are provided for anyone wishing to tackle these recipes but (and it is a big 'but') quantities are rarely stated, either of ingredients used or

portions produced. As with many other types of historical document, the writers assumed a certain amount of prior knowledge in their readership. Some of the dishes are mouth-watering, and instantly recognisable, such as 'Sweet batter-fried pork' (vol. 1, p. 150) and 'Little loaves' (mince pies) (vol. 2, pp. 545-46), but others are not so appetising. Would you try 'Fish heads and livers with ginger and pepper' (vol. 2, p. 375)?

The recipes are illustrated by copies of apposite woodcuts and by quotations from medieval and Tudor literature. There are two glossaries, one of ingredients and one of phrases, and an extensive bibliography. Many French culinary terms were used in the original manuscripts but as they were spelt phonetically they were badly 'mangled' in the process; unfortunately the editor has failed to recognise, and correct, many of them. For example, surely 'Pears in compost' (vol. 1, p. 188) should be 'Pear compôte'? The books contain no information about either possible sources of supply for the many exotic ingredients or medieval feasting in general; whilst the latter has been dealt with adequately elsewhere, details of the former would be of interest. Such minor criticisms apart, these are delightful cookery books, which would be indispensable to anyone determined to recreate medieval recipes in their own kitchen; whether they would then want to eat them is another matter!

HEATHER FALVEY

'... WHERE BOTH HOSTS FOUGHT ...' — The Rebellions of 1469-1470 and the Battles of Edgecote and Lose-Coat-Field. Philip A Haigh. 1997. Battlefield Press, Heckmondwike, West Yorks., £10.99. ISBN 09-531213-0-5

This book gives an account of the military events of the period from spring 1469 to the Earl of Warwick's landing in France in April 1470. There are four Appendixes, discussing and quoting the chronicles used as sources; giving contemporary casualty lists, discussing the difficult question of the identity of Robin of Redesdale and describing 'private' battles such as that at Nibley Green. There are extensive notes and many illustrations, but no index.

The book itself is a disappointment. It is immensely detailed on the battles and on where they occurred, but so much use is made of extended quotations from original and modern sources that it is difficult to follow. The author should realise that a quotation does not necessarily prove a point nor remove the need to describe the course of events in modern language. It is also the author's task to decide on and explain these events, not to leave the reader to decide between alternatives.

Sources are given for the many quotations but not always page numbers and some notes give references to sources which the author certainly has not actually looked at. For example the date of Lord Pembroke's will does not occur in his inquisition *post mortem* (note 126) and contrary to the author's belief (note 52), Archbishop Thomas Bourchier's register does not contain a description of Isobel Neville's wedding to Clarence. In all this book may be useful as a place to find quotations of the sources but apart from that 'buyer beware'.

HARRY COOPER

DAILY LIFE IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES. Edited by Richard Britnell.
1998 Sutton Publishing Ltd., Stroud, £19.99 ISBN 0-7509-1587-0

Nine papers are brought together in this excellent collection. Five were originally given at the conference organised on behalf of the Richard III Society at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1996 by Peter and Carolyn Hammond. Four others were specially written for this volume. They cover many aspects of daily life in the Middle Ages, mainly but not exclusively in England.

In 'Dress and fashions c.1470', Anne Sutton returns to a subject in which she has a longstanding interest, the history of costume, paying particular attention to female dress. She sets out very clearly the limitations of the written and visual evidence — limitations which lead her to discuss North French and Flemish as well as English sources and to analyse some of the problems of terminology, including *atours* (tires). Her wide-ranging sources include sumptuary legislation, wills and chronicles, moral and didactic literature and romance. Especially well-documented is the change in men's fashion by the 1460s: exaggeratedly short coats, padded shoulders and long pointed shoes. Women's fashions never underwent such dramatic changes and are less easy to trace. They are to the forefront in the discussion of the text and illustrations of *Clériadus et Méliadice*, in a Flemish copy, perhaps associated with Edward IV.

Women are at the centre of the next two papers. Jennifer Ward's recent work on aristocratic women is extended in 'Townswomen and their households', a survey of the lives of rich and poor, young and old, married women, widows and prostitutes. Her study is enriched with a wealth of examples, dexterously handled. The main emphasis is on Englishwomen (from Bristol, Colchester, Coventry, King's Lynn, Nottingham, York and elsewhere, as well as London, Westminster and Southwark), but the author captures vivid details of household duties from the *Ménagier de Paris*: six ways to catch fleas, for example, the best being to fold up

robes and covers and press them tight. The statutes of St Nicolas du Bruille in Tournai (1460) and Jehan Henry's *Livre de vie active*, written for the Augustinian sisters of the Hôtel Dieu in Paris, are among the starting points for Carole Rawcliff's fascinating 'Hospital nurses and their work'. The relationship between spiritual and physical care is well-explored, as is the way the rich could hope to obtain grace through supporting hospitals and their work. Nurses tended male patients, so discipline was strict, even for the seculars of Henry VII's lavish foundation, the Savoy hospital. This is the most modern hospital to be discussed, but the conclusion looks forward to the belated medicalization of English hospitals in the 'brave new Protestant world' of the later sixteenth century.

Carole Rawcliffe's is the first of the papers specially written for this volume. Three others follow. The first, 'Religion and the Paston family', by Gillian Pritchard, is developed from an analysis of the *Paston Letters*. The two others focus on rural economies. In 'Peasants in Arden', Andrew Watkins studies a locality and its distinctive development. In spite of the economic depressions of the 1450s to the 1470s, the Forest of Arden in Warwickshire prospered in the main, because its woodland resources and pastureland could be successfully exploited. This seems to be generally true of woodland areas. 'A priory and its tenants' by Richard Lomas weaves general arguments from a compelling and detailed look at the surviving rent book of the bursar of Durham cathedral priory for 1495-96 and investigates the landlord-tenant relationship. Lucid explanations lead the reader through the intricacies of the estate and the rent structures. The actual mechanics of payment are then traced. The bursar secured 94% of his charge, 57% in cash and 43% in goods and services. The author concludes that payment in kind was a matter of choice, not a consequence of the bullion famine.

The remaining articles focus on towns, London and York. In 'Artisans, guilds and government', Matthew Davies writes on the development and structure of the city guilds in the fifteenth century. He ably explores their evolving relationship with the city authorities and with Crown and Parliament. The author makes good use of his recent work on the Taylors' Company, while city rivalries provide some entertaining anecdotes. Clive Burgess introduces 'London parishes: development in context', with a well-balanced overview of the nature of pious foundations by the laity and their doctrinal motivation, focusing especially on chantries. Exceptional documentary survival underpins his studies of two London Parishes in the later Middle Ages, St Mary at Hill and St Andrew Hubbard. At first sight St Mary, a rich parish with six or seven perpetual chantries and an annual income of around £100 appeared to be unusual in the degree of liturgical provision it could afford: lights, processions and music. St Andrew, a much poorer parish, without perpetual chantries, turned out, surprisingly, not to have lacked for vestments, music books, organs and singers. The churchwardens accounts do not tell the

whole story. Poorer parishes should not be written off and may have been better able to adapt after the Reformation. Many points of comparison with London emerge in Richard Britnell's well-rounded 'York under the Yorkists'. Topographical, economic and social perspectives are skillfully blended in this final study in the volume.

Sutton has a fine record in publishing late medieval and especially British history, including conference papers. This new book is a very welcome addition to their list and it deserves to be in many libraries and on many reading lists. Many of the papers excel in providing a compact survey of their subject and then adding new information and new perspectives. There are indeed, as the editor says in his brief introduction, numerous ways in which the separate papers (misleadingly styled 'chapters'), interlock. Nevertheless this remains a collection of articles, not a continuous study. The illustrations, including 8 colour plates, are on the whole well-chosen, but disappointingly there is no list of plates, no plate numbers and not all plate references are complete. The captions and plates to one article (Davies), have been transposed. The index is useful, but could have been a little fuller. It required a search to find the Maison Dieu in York (under York, Ouse Bridge); medieval toponyms are not always explained or indexed ('the Rood of Northedor and Seynt Savyour at Barmonsey', p. 75: St Paul's Cathedral, Bermondsey). An expanded bibliography would be welcome.

JENNY STRATFORD

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 Complete Peerage — or a history of the House of Lords and all its members from the earliest times, by G.E.C., volume 14, *Addenda et Corrigenda*. Edited Peter Hammond. 1998. Sutton Publishing, Stroud. £95. ISBN 0-7509-0154-3.

The Complete Peerage is the standard reference work for the peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland and the United Kingdom. It contains entries for every hereditary peer and peeress in her own right from the earliest peers of 1265 onwards. A great deal of research has been done since the first volume of this edition was published in 1911 and volume 14 corrects known errors and adds much new information to the previous entries. In addition it brings the hereditary peerage up to date, containing entries for all those not in the main work. It also includes a history of *The Complete Peerage* itself.

Peter J. Foss, *The Field of Redemore. The Battle of Bosworth 1485*. Second edition; foreword by Professor Ralph A. Griffiths. 1998. 80 pages. Illustrated. Kairos Press, 552 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire LE6 0HB. £5.95 incl. p&p from publisher. ISBN 1-871344-06-9.

This new and controversial interpretation and re-siting of the Battle of Bosworth first appeared eight years ago. Completely re-set, with new plans, illustrations and appendices of documents. The text has been extensively reworked as have the notes.

Martha C. Howell, *The Marriage Exchange. Property, Social Place, and Gender in Cities of the Low Countries, 1300-1550*. 1998. 278 pages. The University of Chicago Press, £41.50 (hbk); £15.25 (pbk). ISBN 0-226-35515-2 (hbk); 0-226-35516-0 (pbk).

The evidence comes from Douai, one of the wealthiest cloth towns of Flanders. The author charts the shift from a regime of marital property, where the widow inherited her husband's property, to one based on contract, where she only held for or with her husband's family, and the profound effect this had socially and economically, particularly for women.

Anne F. Sutton, *I Sing of A Maiden. The Story of the Maiden of the Mercers' Company*. 1998. 58 pages. Illustrated. The Mercers' Company, Ironmonger Lane, London EC2V 8HE. £5 incl. p&p, from the Company. ISBN 0-9521515-37.

A history of the maid's head which is the coat of arms of the Mercers' Company of London, 1300 to the present day. Contains over ninety colour and black and white illustrations of the maiden as she has been represented by artists over the centuries.

Anne F. Sutton, *A Merchant Family of London, Coventry and Calais. The Tates c. 1450 to 1515*. 1998. 75 pages. Illustrated. The Mercers' Company, Ironmonger Lane, London EC2V 8HE. £5 incl. p&p, from the Company. ISBN 0-9521515-45.

A history of the Tates in their several London parishes, and in the wool trade of the Calais Staple. They included three men who were mayor of London (four times) and John Tate III, the founder of the first paper mill in England. Their origins in Coventry and the many other fifteenth-century London mercers who came from that city are discussed. Pedigrees.

Christopher Thomas, Barney Sloane and Christopher Phillpotts, *Excavations at the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital, London*. Illustrated. MOLAS Monograph 1. Museum of London Archaeology Service 1997. £32. ISBN 1-901992-00-4.

Detailed and copiously illustrated account and analysis of the results of these excavations. It includes a history of site from the Roman period, and the development of the hospital from its first foundation to the post-reformation period. The hospital was founded by Walter Brunus or Brown and his wife Roisia, a leading citizen of London, c. 1197.

ARTICLES

Marc Boone, 'Destroying and reconstructing the city. The inculcation and arrogation of princely power in the Burgundian-Hapsburg Netherlands (14th-16th centuries)', *The Propagation of Power in the Medieval West. Selected Proceedings of the International Conference Groningen 20-23 November 1996*, edited by Martin Gosman, Arjo Vanderjagt and Jan Veenstra. Mediaevalia Groningana. Egbert Forsten, Groningen, 1998, pages 1-33.

The struggle for power between the Valois dukes of Burgundy and their towns: a discussion of how the princes' power was developed and an examination of the ideology which justified their actions (biblical and classical precedents were cited, with extensive reference to French royal ideology). The cases of destruction, sometimes exactly that, and of reconstruction under the prince's protection, are the abasements of Bruges 1438, Ghent 1453, Dinant 1466, Malines 1467 and Liège 1468.

Mary C. Erler, 'Syon's "special benefactors and friends": some vowed women', *Birgittiana*, volume 2, 1996, pp. 209-22.

Interesting details about two women, Alice Hampton, of Michinhampton, Glos., and Joan Marler, *neé* Smyth, of Coventry, their background and milieu, their benefactions to the Bridgettine house at Syon and Halliwell Priory, Shoreditch, and their life as vowesses — lay women vowed to chastity — in these religious communities. Brief mention of a third, Mabel Tempest.

Marianne Foncke, 'Een getijdenboek van Margaretha van York? Een confrontatie van twee getijdenboeken uit kringen rondom het Bourgondische hof', *Millennium*, volume 11, 1997, pp. 113-124.

Argues — unconvincingly — that the book of hours in the Royal Library in The Hague, known as the Hours of Catherine of Aragon, belonged originally to Margaret of York and was made for her before or during the early years of her marriage.

David Grummitt, 'The financial administration of Calais during the reign of Henry IV, 1399-1413', *English Historical Review*, volume 113, number 451, April 1998, pages 277-99.

This reign was a period of crisis in the administration of Calais with a mutiny of its garrison and the king was forced to borrow heavily from the Staple. Examines the financing of Calais under Richard II (reserving part of the wool subsidy to meet the costs of the Calais garrison), the crisis of 1406-07 as part of the general financial chaos of the early years of Henry IV, and the re-establishment of the earlier policy of reservation which the government had temporarily abandoned. This system of reservation was to reach its apogee with the act of retainer of Edward IV's government. The author disagrees with the frequent assertion that Calais was 'expensive'.

H.A. Kelly, 'Statutes of rapes and alleged ravishers of wives: a context for the charges against Thomas Malory, knight', *Viator*, volume 28, 1997, pages 361-419.

The definition of 'Rape' included abduction in the middle ages. This is a study of the statutes dealing with the offence in its widest meaning, particularly kidnapping, and especially of wives. Cases often turn out to be fictions used by the ex-husband and plaintiff, with the current husband as the defendant. The case of rape brought against the author of the *Morte Darthur* is examined in this context.

Pamela M. King, 'Corpus Christi plays and the "Bolton Hours" 1: tastes in lay piety and patronage in fifteenth-century York', *Medieval English Theatre*, volume 18, 1996, pages 46-62.

The Bolton Hours, York Minister Library MS Additional 2, is said to have belonged to the Bolton family of York which included a mayor of the city, 1431. The author examines this belief alongside the cultural interests of the city's citizens and its plays.

Richard Marks, 'Two illuminated guild registers from Bedfordshire', *Illuminating the Book. Makers and Interpreters. Essays in Honour of Janet Backhouse*, edited Michelle P. Brown and Scot McKendrick, The British Library and University of Toronto Press, 1998, pages 121-41.

A comparison of the register of the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity and Blessed Virgin at Luton (1475-1546) and that of the Fraternity of St John the Baptist at Dunstable (which only survives for certain years of the sixteenth century, although founded much earlier). The former guild was founded by John Rotherham, later Archbishop of York. Detailed analysis of illumination (illustrated). The close relationship between the books of the neighbouring towns is brought out, and the differences between the memberships and origins of the two guilds — and their London connections — are explored.

Notes on Contributors

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Jenny Stratford, FRHistS, is the author of *The Bedford Inventories. The Worldly Goods of John Duke of Bedford, Regent of France (1389-1435)*, Society of Antiquaries of London, 1993.

Penny Tucker has recently completed the medieval (1247-1633!) section of *The History of Bethlem Hospital*, a celebration of the Hospital's 750th anniversary in October 1997. Currently working on London's lawcourts.

Livia Visser-Fuchs is finishing a thesis on Jean de Wavrin's historical work and the reputation of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, in the Low Countries.

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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