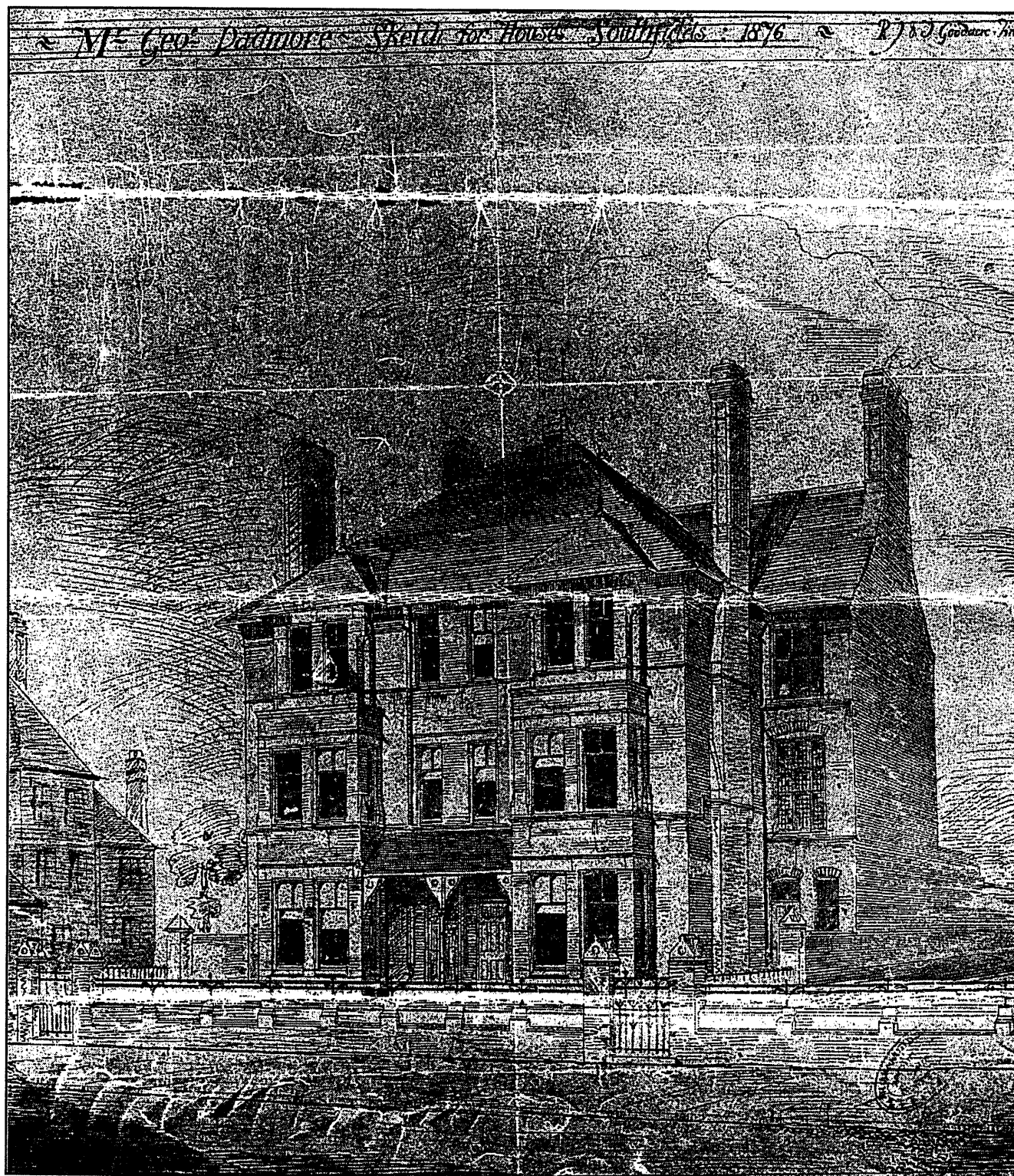


Friends of the Department of English Local History

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

NUMBER 6 • OCTOBER 1993



The Cover

A pen and ink sketch of the proposed front elevation of numbers 3 and 5 Salisbury Road (now Marc Fitch House) drawn in 1876 by the architects R.J. and J. Goodacre to the commission of the first owner Mr George Padmore. Reproduced by courtesy of the Leicestershire Record Office (see 'The History of Salisbury Road and Its First Residents', page 20).

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EDITORIAL

These are stressful times for universities; finances are stretched further each year and research time is constantly eroded by administrative matters, accountability studies and a host of other time consuming activities designed to frustrate academic staff. Nevertheless, these are also exhilarating times in the Department of English Local History, as this edition of the Newsletter demonstrates. Our assessment of Grade 5 in the University Funding Council's research selectivity exercise recognises the Department as a centre of excellence of both national and international importance (see below). Academic staff could pause for a moment of collective self congratulation following the standard of 'excellent' in the government's recent assessment of teaching in higher education departments (also see below). In addition to all of this, though probably because of it, the Department is buzzing with people coming from all over the country and indeed the world as our student numbers top the one hundred mark. The support given to the Department by the Friends is greatly valued and we are hoping to increase their number, so do please encourage your friends to become Friends. Last year our activities included a summer outing, a day which was made memorable by tour leader Clive Hart: read all about it later in this Newsletter.

We are sorry to announce a small increase in our membership fee, from £5 to £6. This is because rising printing and postage costs for the Newsletter have been eroding the amounts of money which we are able to spend on other Friends' ventures, including the W. G. Hoskins Studentship. We hope that you agree that membership at £6 is still excellent value. For this sum you receive a large Newsletter, free attendance at the W. G. Hoskins Lecture, the chance to attend next year's outing, and access to the facilities and Thursday seminars at Marc Fitch House (please

see later in this Newsletter for the dates of all these events). The W. G. Hoskins Studentship will eventually ensure that our subject is carried on into the future as well as providing an academic toe-hold for an aspiring scholar.

EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT

Abroad Thoughts from Home

Whether it be the outcome of a resurgent sense of nationalism across Europe or the demise of 'class' as a convincing version of historical causation, local and regional history - and not least *English* local history - is fast becoming a subject of intense interest on the continent. An invitation to Poland had regretfully to be declined a couple of years ago, but it has proved possible to give invited papers at Bilbao, Moscow and San Marino over the last three years, and thus both to gauge the climate of historical opinion in three quite different European contexts, and to experience the extraordinary hospitality that other countries, unlike this, are able to extend to foreign academic visitors.

It was, perhaps, significant that in 1990, the week of outside lectures by English (local) historians (including also David Hey, Kate Tiller and Raphael Samuel) should have been advertised in the Bilbao newspapers, with the lectures given in the city centre rather than at the University on the outskirts, and with simultaneous translations into both Basque and Spanish. There, history - especially recent history - is still treated as a matter of intellectual immediacy, as an essential element of intelligent political discourse in a way that is unimaginable here. A talk on English local societies in their territorial contexts - including the numerous parallels that it was possible to draw between the very similar coastal industrial economies of western Cumbria and the Basque country and their shared situations close to international boundaries - thus helped to justify the comparative Leicester approach in somewhat unusually exotic circumstances.

The 1991 Moscow conference on 'social history and problem (sic) of synthesis' was a rather different matter, involving as it did a team of English, American and West European historians seeking to share historical approaches that were independent of Marxian orthodoxies with a whole generation of Russian historians who had just been stripped of their previous theoretical certainties. Historian after historian strode to the podium to disassociate himself or herself, with much oratory and passion, from the crude interpretations of the past, and only later, when 'the West' had spoken, to return apparently to say that perhaps they had not been so wrong after all! In an academic climate where the same 'facts' tend to be continually re-circulated, it is clear that a new burst of archival research now seems indicated. Of the alternative 'histories' on offer, however, it was clear that the Leicester local history approach aroused a great deal of interest. Here after all was a method that, within the vastness of Russia, could be sensibly undertaken in closely definable spatial contexts and with ethnic, as opposed to class, variations of culture representing acceptable alternative forms of emphasis. Whether anyone would ever be able to apply it, however, seemed unlikely.

In the case of minuscule San Marino, a semi-independent, hill-top city state surviving on the sale of postage stamps and tourism (I identified only 2 genuine shops amongst at least 700 souvenir shops; and only 2 genuine vernacular houses not wrecked by a Disney-land approach to the restoration of historic monuments), the University - tiny as it is and, much influenced by Umberto Eco - had arranged an extraordinarily interesting and suggestive European conference on, appropriately, the origins of local territories. Leicester was involved because the W.G. Hoskins figure of Ancona and the Italian Marches, Sergio Anselmi - a great man - had already published an Italian translation of much of a recent article on 'Local history and national history', from that widely celebrated periodical *Rural History*, in the equally flourishing academic journal *Proposte e Ricerche: Economica e Societ  nella storia dell'Italia Centrale*. As well as speakers from Italy there was one scholar respectively from Spain, France, Germany and the U.K., the proceedings being all translated - into Italian of course! What emerged most strongly was the difference in chronological emphasis. Our sources and techniques for the earlier periods (and especially place-name studies) are so superior that it is now almost commonplace for us to seek to reconstruct small early territorial structures for at least the mid-Anglo-Saxon centuries, after which period, of course, the pace and strength of national state formation in this small island was such as to eclipse what otherwise might have become semi-independent entities like those city-states of Europe which so preoccupied the other speakers at the conference, all of whom, therefore, concentrated on later medieval centuries. In such company, the tiny peoples of, for example, 'The Tribal Hidage' faded into total insignificance, and Rutland vanished without trace!

It was salutary and helpful to be reminded of the fundamental chronological, constitutional and spatial differences that mark off the local parts of England from so much of the European experience. In the meantime, however, some of us are now beginning to concentrate on 'abroads' that are nearer home: the inter-linked but contrasted developments of Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man together with the English components of the Irish Sea province are there to be studied on one's very doorstep. Watch this space!

Charles Phythian-Adams

Official Recognition of the Department as a Centre of Excellence

In December the Department heard of its award of a Grade 5 in the University Funding Council's research selectivity exercise, an enquiry designed to provide a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the research being carried out in all university departments throughout Great Britain. At massive cost to the U.F.C. and, in terms of time to administration and teaching staff, all departments were asked to assemble statistics about research output, publications (sub-divided into strange categories) and grants awarded. The information was then assessed by teams of experts, one for each subject field. Grade 5 - the highest possible, described as 'some research of international excellence, the rest being of national excellence' - was awarded to only four other departments in the University: Physics, Astronomy, Genetics and Economic and Social History. On top of all this the Department also received a rating of 'excellent' (again the highest possible) in the Government's recent assessment of teaching in all higher education history departments: the funding Council's 'quality assessment' team of 'experts' made special mention of the dedication and enthusiasm of staff and students alike in the Department of English Local History. In short, it's often been said before, but now it's *official*.

Student Numbers Soar to New Heights

We can genuinely report that student numbers now stand at about 100. The M.A. course in English Local History continues to increase in popularity with a total of forty-one attending in the academic year 1992-3. Also at M.A. level, eight students (three from E.C. countries) attended classes on 'Early medieval landscapes', part of the Department of Archaeology's course in Landscape Studies financed by the European Social Fund. We help Archaeology too, by providing a third-year undergraduate option on 'Approaches to English Local History', which a fluctuating number of about sixteen students attended, including one from the joint Universities of Leicester and Nottingham exchange scheme. Our own E.S.F. Information Technology Scheme (see below) was initially attended by three students. Add to all of these our stalwart Ph.D. and M.Phil. students numbering twenty-nine in January 1993, and the total comes to somewhere in the region of 100. It can, in fact, be nudged over that figure by including the always-faithful Susan Harris who, having been awarded the M.A. some years ago, returned as an 'occasional student' to study additional options. There were also two students from the Department of Victorian Studies who attended Keith Snell's option on the modern period and another overseas student who worked with David Postles; we were also pleased to welcome two members of the public who attended our undergraduate option under a scheme designed to encourage Leicester people to study in the University as occasional students. We leave readers to try to work out the total numbers!

European Social Fund Information Technology Scheme

In the last academic year the Department initiated a new course funded by the European Community's Social Fund with the aim of promoting Information Technology in History. Funding was received to appoint three trainees. The course was designed to provide a high-quality training in Information Technology to history and geography graduates.

who have little or no previous experience of IT. Graduates must be selected from areas of social disadvantage and high unemployment within the European Community and it is expected that the skills acquired during the course will enhance their employment prospects.

There is considerable expertise in the application of IT to historical data in the Department and the E.S.F. trainees have benefitted from this experience through formal teaching throughout the year. Topics covered have included an introduction to computer hardware, a discussion of mainframe and micro computer operating systems, word processing and text manipulation, statistical packages, computer business graphics, database management systems, optical character recognition packages, computer cartography and Geographical Information Systems. There is a strong inter-relationship between formal training and practical applications of IT and as part of the course trainees routinely worked on research projects in the Department.

In the last year much of the practical IT work was centred on the Leverhulme-funded geography of religious pluralism project where each trainee was made responsible for the gathering, analysis and mapping of religious and socio-economic data for a chosen county. In addition, under the terms of the scheme, the trainees also went on eight weeks of placement to gain IT experience outside the university environment.

Trainees on the course are able to take advantage of the excellent computing facilities available within Marc Fitch House and the University more generally. Within the Department we have a room equipped with micro computers linked to the University mainframe and a range of software products and manuals. Further, with the arrival of the University's new Silicon Graphics mainframe, students have access to state of the art supercomputer facilities.

Paul S. Ell

Fifth Research Students' Workshop

The Fifth Research Students' Workshop was held on October 10th last year at Marc Fitch House on a cold, bright, energizing day which reflected the mood of the participants. Julie Dexter began the day by discussing the extent to which historians should make inferences from circumstantial evidence. In her study of the Somerset mining village of Coleford between 1850 and 1926 she has found evidence for anti-union behaviour by the Coleford miners in about 1890. Sixteen years after this date these miners were regarded locally as blacklegs and appear to have refused to support industrial action on the coalfield. The reasons for the dispute and the miners' attitude to it are unknown at present, as documentary material is poor for this period. Alternative sources such as newspapers were suggested and Julie continues to explore the idiosyncratic nature of Coleford's miners.

Throughout the day research methods were shared and discussed, and Jenny Bhatt stimulated debate about the design of questionnaires in historical research. Questions have to be formulated with great care; sometimes there would be a string of subordinate questions on a particular subject and where answers are being collected in the form of responses to a list of options, there should always be a category headed 'other'. She stressed the importance of coding responses for quick analysis. Julie Dexter offered her experience of interviewing and recommended that the researcher should

send a transcript of an interview to the interviewee, as that often provoked a supply of further information.

John Lovell, the Department's giant in railway history, is researching Far Cotton, an inner suburb on the south side of Northampton. Folk memory in the area suggests that Far Cotton was built by the railways for railwaymen and their families. Research, however shows that speculators built the suburb, for people who lived in the town and that few railway employees ever resided in Far Cotton.

After lunch Christine Vialls described how she stumbled upon a historian's treasure-trove in Northamptonshire Record Office - a collection of barristers' briefs relating to Poor Law cases; these have hardly survived elsewhere. She described how she has started to compile a database so that information from different cases can easily be brought together, allowing her to make a detailed study of the workings of the Old Poor Law.

The Department's own effervescent veteran, Terry Finnemore, on a rare visit to Marc Fitch House, illustrated his work on 'ritual activities' with slides of people riding the boundaries of Richmond, doing the Sheriff's Ride around Lichfield and beating the bounds of St Michael's parish in Oxford on Ascension Day (including a march through Marks and Spencer). There were also striking slides of boundary lanes, hoar stones and gospel trees.

The final session of the afternoon was devoted to a discussion about when and how to tackle secondary reading which is a special problem for part-timers who are pressed by the need to produce written work. The general conclusion was that when primary sources had suggested themes and questions, the reading of secondary sources could be done in a more open and critical frame of mind.

Meetings of part-timers have now developed a ritual of their own involving the consumption of delicious cakes and biscuits. Despite poor attendance last year, the gatherings enable members of the Department, who may live a long way from Leicester, to encourage one another and share knowledge and experience. Particular thanks must go to Jenny Bhatt and Julie Dexter for organizing the day so well. Robert Peberdy

Visit of The British Association for Local History

Last autumn we were pleased to welcome representatives from the British Association for Local History to Marc Fitch House together with some members from The Leicestershire Local History Society. B.A.L.H. members had travelled from as far afield as Cornwall and Northumberland to join us for what we hoped was an enjoyable and worthwhile day.

We were able to show the party some of the facilities at Marc Fitch House, including the Library and our rare books and the Map Room where we presented a small exhibition. We also introduced some of the Department's current research projects, including the Marc Fitch Fellow's work on surnames, and were able to demonstrate the advanced computer cartography associated with the geography of religious pluralism project. We were assured that it was worth travelling from Newcastle to Leicester just to hear about the latter!

We have been pleased that some members of the group evidently enjoyed their day enough to become Friends and we have welcomed them back to seminars and to use the library on open Saturdays. We thank B.A.L.H. for making a generous contribution to Friends' funds.

The Fourth W.G. Hoskins Lecture

The large crowd of Friends attending the fourth W.G. Hoskins Lecture in May were treated to a rich and lively presentation delivered by Dr Elizabeth Roberts, Director and Research Fellow at the Centre for North-west Regional Studies at Lancaster University, who chose as her title 'Companionate marriage: some oral history evidence'. Dr Roberts is the author of *A Woman's Place: an Oral History of Working-class Women, 1890-1940* (1984) and *Women's Work, 1840-1940* (1988) and is a well-known and exhilarating exponent of oral history. For this lecture Dr Roberts used oral evidence to question the ideal of the companionate marriage in the period between 1900 and 1970. Dr Roberts defined the term 'companionate marriage' very loosely as 'teamwork', 'marriage for sharing' and 'partnership'. Her studies have been mainly concentrated in North-west England, especially Lancaster, Barrow and Preston. The respondents were working-class wives, mothers and daughters, as well as husbands and sons. Those presented on tape varied in age, the eldest being born in 1885, through to the youngest born in 1944. Their voices told their own story, often demonstrating the mismatch between experience and academic theory, as well as the combination of humour and tragedy which makes up human lives.

From her findings Dr Roberts suggested that the great majority of working-class women before the First World War wielded significant authority within the home. Women, who exerted moral power and economic control over their husbands' earnings, also had influence outside the home, although the males' dominance there was far more significant. Oral evidence suggests that although it was not invisible at earlier dates there was greater companionship in marriage in the inter-war period resulting from an increase in the opportunities for leisure time and shared activities. As social attitudes changed and stigmas were reduced, it was not uncommon for working-class women to frequent the pub with their husbands or visit the cinema, which had been established just before the First World War. Despite these shared leisure pursuits, however, the norm was still a marriage distinguished by clearly defined gender roles.

Dr Roberts has not revealed any oral evidence to suggest that in the 1950's full-time working wives and mothers exerted more power and influence within their marriage than did their part-time or unpaid contemporaries although women's employment did affect marital relationships; in such situations the husband was more likely to help with domestic chores and role segregation became more blurred. After the war changing social attitudes to the ownership of money lessened women's control within the home as there developed a seemingly greater influence on individual rights coupled with a growth in real wages between 1945 and 1970. During this period it was common for a husband's income to be perceived as his own rather than the family's and significant financial decisions became the husband's prerogative.

Dr Roberts's lecture demonstrated the importance of oral history in the study of domestic history, and interest in the method was evident in the questions which followed and continued over the usual excellent tea at Marc Fitch House. Lara Phelan

Departmental Seminar Programme 1992-93: Autumn Term

Provincial lawyers with their grand town houses are typical of the 'town gentry' of the early modern period defined by Professor Everitt. The talk by William Champion (Victoria County History of Shrewsbury) on 'Litigation, status and the making of the legal town gentry in Shrewsbury 1500-1730' is part of his long-term study of the town's urban elite. By concentrating on the records of the local courts he has been able to follow the development of the town's lawyers. In the eighteenth century the classic attorney was a younger son of a minor gentry family. In the sixteenth century however, the typical Shrewsbury attorney was a craftsman who undertook legal business as additional work. The change came around the 1630's, by which time there were dedicated, professional lawyers, often designated 'gentleman'.

Dr Paul Hindle (Department of Geography, University of Salford) in 'Transportation in medieval England: roads and rivers', dealt with the myth that travel was so difficult, especially in winter, that few people travelled outside their own parish and that rivers were used for transport in preference to the road system. References to the location of the royal court show that King John moved on average twelve times a month and in the winter only slightly less often than in summer. Early maps show routes many of which are Roman in origin and which remained in use into modern times, although royal progresses were by no means confined to such routes. After using a modern geographical tool, the gravity model, and considering the records of purveyancing, Dr Hindle has changed from the view that rivers were of no use to the idea that they were part of an integrated transport system.

Dr Barbara York (King Alfred's College, Winchester) has been assigned the task of contributing a volume to the series on Anglo-Saxon England published by Leicester University Press. In 'The Making of Wessex' she dealt with the six counties of Dorset, Devon and Somerset to the west and Wiltshire, Hampshire and Berkshire to the east. This formed a late Anglo-Saxon region; can it be traced further back? By identifying early shire centres and some boundaries she is satisfied at least as to the existence of some 'core areas' showing continuity of administration, even if not defined boundaries. Professor Phythian-Adams suggested concentrating not so much on identifying territories as on defining peoples.

Our view of early modern Cumbrian society, coloured by Wordsworth's romanticism, depicts the 'statesmen' forming an ideal commonwealth of peasantry. In 'Class and community in the Georgian countryside: the diary of Isaac Fletcher of Underwood, Cumberland, 1756-1781' Ian Angus Winchester (Department of History, University of Lancaster), who has studied the short daily entries in the diary of one Cumbrian Quaker yeoman, suggested how such a man fitted into the two networks, of the local farming community and of the Quaker community with its wide contacts. These independent yeomen were more like minergentry. Fletcher drank tea out of china, bought mahogany furniture and in 1761 used a telescope to observe, with sons and friends, the transit of Venus across the sun.

Professor Robert Dodgshon (Institute of Earth Studies, University College of Wales) is likewise anxious to rescue his chosen area from being accounted a cultural backwater. In 'Western Highlands and Islands beforecrofting and the clearances' he argued that its development can be studied in much the same terms as lowland Britain. Where lack of information has been taken as meaning there was

change, it has been easy to assume that the farming practices that survive must date back to prehistory. But the records do survive, revealing the farming economy of many townships back to the eighteenth century and of some back into the sixteenth. Even the remotest parts of the region were occupied by townships engaged not only in livestock but also arable farming. About ten percent of the region was under crops. Lazybeds laboriously prepared by spade among the rocks and the breast plough are generally taken to be hallmarks of archaism. On the contrary they represent eighteenth-century innovations to raise productivity beyond what was already established and signify an effort to farm in response to the demands from the increased population. Some settlements involved patterns of enclosed grounds; so possibly the runrig system, rather than being a survival from antiquity, was the final example of nucleation before the reorganisation. Such was Professor Dodgshon's enthusiasm and the abundance of ideas crammed into his talk that it did not emerge until the discussion that the early arable farming was all undertaken by huge numbers of working horses.

John Goodacre

Departmental Seminar Programme 1992-93: Spring Term

The Spring seminar programme opened with a fascinating analysis of some of John Constable's paintings by Dr Stephen Daniels (Department of Geography, University of Nottingham) who entitled his seminar 'Love and death across of Suffolk garden: John Constable's paintings of his family's gardens at East Bergholt'. The way in which these paintings reflected the events of the artist's life were subject to minute scrutiny, for example, his use of sunlight and shadow in the gardens were shown to reflect periods of happiness or sadness in Constable's life. We were treated to a masterly and enthralling exposition of the way in which the artist used garden and landscape painting as a vehicle to express personal and domestic events.

Dr Clare Gittings (National Portrait Gallery) used every conceivable technological aid in her account of 'The life and death of Sir Henry Unton: an Elizabethan ambassador in his local context'. Two colour slide projectors were used simultaneously with a full sound system playing soothing Elizabethan music, a piece commissioned by Sir Henry Unton's grieving widow. Sir Henry's life and death is the subject of an enthralling painting which seems to telescope the whole of Elizabethan society within its 5ft. by 2ft.6in. frame, and which Dr Gittings analyzed in her seminar. Her recurring theme was of status, both in life and death, and she drew on the wealth of contemporary detail in the painting to illustrate her points. Questions led into the fascinating if macabre realms of the symbolism of death, fears of disembowelment, live burial and the economies of night-time burial.

It was a great privilege to be guided with effortless clarity and enthusiasm by Professor Margaret Harker (University of Westminster) through the intricate world of nineteenth-century photo-montage, composite photography, multiple negative combination printing and into the twentieth-century subconscious post-visualisation period of photography. She made it clear how, simultaneously, photographs could be both reliable and unreliable primary source materials for historians. The intention of early photographers was picture making, not picture taking, with a cerebral as well as visual content. They were not content to be dictated to by the limitations of their cameras and used photo-montage and combination printing from 1847. Professor Harker's paper

was an all too brief glimpse into the world of art and illusion which must be taken into account when cut photographs are used in research.

Professor Anthony Pollard (Department of Humanities, University of Teeside) introduced his seminar, 'Locality and politics in fifteenth-century England', by stating his belief that the county was an inadequate and inappropriate medium for the analysis of local politics in the late Middle Ages. He wished to explore new ways of studying locality and politics by examining ideas such as communal loyalty, the relative importance of community and family and the role of local elites. In the late Middle Ages political loyalty, thought and action at the local level were mediated through social networks which operated both vertically (linking lords and tenants) and horizontally (through kinship and local office holding). Professor Pollard stressed the importance of local lords and their links to the court, which provided the 'power sinews' articulating the political system. The importance of defining locality in terms of people's perception was central to Professor Pollard's argument. He used as an example his study of the Tees valley which, though marking a county boundary, was not perceived as a boundary by those people whose kinship links and commercial activities lay on both sides of the river.

Thomas Cain (Queen Mary and Westfield College, London) began his paper on 'Wapentakes, hundreds and manors: local administration in pre-Conquest Leicester' by admitting that he was likely to be 'flying a few kites'. Although the first mention of Leicestershire is in Domesday, its administrative structure suggests an earlier origin. It appears to have come into existence in the wake of the dissolution of the Mercian people, becoming a central linchpin of a defensive March protecting west Saxon England from an uncertain north. Peace under Edgar allowed for the development of wapentakes and hundreds, along with the creation of the machinery of local government. Finally it emerged from its by then outmoded role as a complete and functioning shire almost a century before the entry in Domesday.

News from the Map Room: a Map Room Database

Plans are under way to make the unique facilities of Marc Fitch House available to a wider national, and even international, group of scholars and local historians. To this end, all the departmental collections and eventually the library catalogue will be put onto a database which will be linked into JANET (Joint Academic Network). This will mean that it will be possible for our own staff and students to investigate the collections more quickly and easily from on-line terminals either in Leicester University or nearer their own homes. It will also make our collections available to scholars from other institutions and local history societies and will be of great benefit to the very many amateur local historians who may wish to search the collections from anywhere in the country. Access to Marc Fitch House will, of course, still be controlled by the existing opening and security regulations. This is an ambitious new scheme which is being developed with the help of the University's database officers at the Computer Centre, though most of the inputting will be done by staff and helpers in the Department.

Once the database has been set up, users should be able to search the Map Room catalogue, the collection of engravings, the collection of slides and photographic prints as well as the Marc Fitch Fund Library. It should be possible to search the collections in a number of ways, for example

by county or region, so that students will be able to view our entire collection of maps, engravings, photographs, books and articles on any region. It should also be possible to search thematically so that scholars with a particular subject interest can view our resources. This system will make the less well-used items such as dissertations and theses and the county map and engraving collections far more accessible to a wider range of people. Preliminary work on sorting and re-cataloguing the pamphlets and books in the Map Room has been under way since the summer and it is planned to begin developing the database this Autumn.

Bibliography of Local History at Leicester

In the last Newsletter preliminary mention was made of the proposal to publish an extended edition of *Local History at Leicester 1948 - 1978* as a contribution towards the Department's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1998. We would like the bibliography to be as complete as possible but, because of the large numbers of students who have passed through the Department since 1978, it is not possible for the compilers to undertake a search for the publications of past students. We ask, therefore, that all ex-students send bibliographical details of their publications to Margery Tranter or Rosie Keep at Marc Fitch House. It is important that title, name of periodical with volume number and date, place of publication, year and page numbers are given. We also need a brief abstract (say 150 words) indicating the subject in order that each entry may be correctly classified. If you are in touch with past members of the Department who are not Friends we would be grateful if you would encourage them to get in touch with us.

FUTURE EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Seminar Programme 1993-4

If you would like to come to any of the following seminars, you will be very welcome. They are held in the 1st floor Seminar Room at Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road. *We regret that it is essential that you notify the Departmental Secretary (Mrs Pauline Whitmore, Leicester 522762) the day before as there may be limits on the number of spaces available. It is hoped that it will not be necessary to turn away visitors who have not telephoned.* All seminars take place at 2.15 to 4.00 p.m. (approx), followed by tea.

4th November. The Gloucester port books and internal trade 1576-1765 (Dr Malcolm Wanklyn, University of Wolverhampton).

25th November. The administration of the estate of a Hampshire yeoman in the 1590's (Dr Peter Edwards, Roehampton Institute).

9th December. Oral history with Britain's Asian communities: problems and possibilities (Mr Donald Hyslop, City Heritage, Southampton).

16th December. Aspects of the economy and society in North Yorkshire: a study of Allertonshire, c. 1470-1540 (Dr Christine Newman, University of Durham).

20th January. Understanding enclosure: architecture and landscape in pre-industrial England (Dr Matthew Johnson, University of Durham).

27th January. The English Conquest: re-interpretation of Gildas's *De Excidio Britanniae* (Dr Nick Higham, University of Manchester).

3rd February. Other origins of the manor in England (Dr Rosamond Faith, Wolfson College, Oxford).

17th February. The rough and the smooth: rural scenes in the later eighteenth century (Dr Michael Rosenthal, University of Warwick).

24th February. 'Writ in brass': drink token, material culture and back-street enterprise in Victorian Britain (Mrs. Yolanda Courtney, Keeper of Social History, Leicester Museums).

10th March. Some questions in the early history of East Anglia (Dr James Campbell, Worcester College, Oxford).

Fifth W.G. Hoskins Lecture, May 7th

We are delighted to announce that the fifth W.G. Hoskins Lecture will be given by Dr Malcolm Ains University Lecturer in Historic Conservation in the University of Oxford. Malcolm Ains is an especially suitable choice, for he studied under William Hoskins at Oxford and has made a very special contribution to studies in vernacular architecture, a subject popularized by W.G.H. His title (provisional) is 'W.G. Hoskins and the Great Rebuilding' and the date is May 7th. It promises to be a very special occasion, so please enter this diary date now.

Conference on 'Seasonal Settlement', December 4th

The Medieval Settlement Research Group will be holding its A.G.M. in the Department on Saturday December 4th. Following the A.G.M. and a buffet lunch there will be a small conference with four brief discussion papers all on the theme of seasonally occupied settlements: Christophe Dyer of Birmingham University on Cotswold sheep-cotes; Peter Herring of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit on transhumance in Cornwall; Gillian Quine from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments on the shielings of the Isle of Man and Harold Fox on seasonal shore-line settlements in Devon. The precise venue in Leicester will depend on numbers and has yet to be decided.

There will be a limited number of places for those Friends who wish to attend: please write to Harold Fox in the Department by 13th November. A small charge for attendance at the meeting will be made to those who are not members of the Medieval Settlement Research Group, but the seasonal drinks at the end of the meeting will be free.

Friends' Outing to the Chiltern Open Air Museum

Next year's Friends' outing will be to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, the brain child of James and Miriam Moir, both ex-students of the Department. What James and Miriam have done at Newland Park, Chalfont St Giles, is to re-erect buildings which would otherwise have been destroyed: farmhouses and barns of course, but also a 1940' prefab and an Edwardian public convenience. In addition there are displays of an Iron Age hut and of fields cultivated in medieval fashion. Their efforts were rewarded in 1992 by much coveted 'Interpret Britain' award (also 'Loo of the Year' award, 1991).

The date of our visit will be Saturday June 25th and it is hoped that the event will attract many Friends from the London area. There will be no organised transport, but a co-ordinator will try to match the car-less from the Leicester vicinity with offers of lifts. Further details will be circulated in late Spring.

FUNDED RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT

Here we report on research funded from outside the Department: Charles Phythian-Adams's Arts Faculty Grant for research towards a regional chapter in the medieval volume of the projected *Cambridge Urban History of Great Britain*; Harold Fox's University Research Studentship to promote his work on the medieval economic and social history of the South-west; and David Postles's work on Devon and Leicestershire surnames and on English manorial surveys.

The Cambridge Urban History of Great Britain

The Faculty of Arts has made a grant of £8,000 to help finance a part-time research assistant to Charles Phythian-Adams who is to be responsible for the regional chapter on the Midlands for the medieval volume of the projected *Cambridge Urban History of Great Britain* (3 vols). Samantha Riches (who comes to us covered in academic glory from both Keele and York) is to help Charles over the next year to investigate all the places with some claim to an urban status, between 650 and 1540, within the old counties of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire; Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire; Lincolnshire and Rutland; and Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Given the complexity of this project, help from any Friends with relevant knowledge who would be willing to act simply as informants from any of these areas will also be warmly welcomed.

Research Funded by the Marc Fitch Fund: Devon

Page proofs are currently being received of *The Surnames of Devon*, text of which was produced early in 1991 and the galleys read in 1992. Any consideration of Devon might commence from the premise of centre (core) - periphery analysis, but such a proposal is complicated by the notion of where is a centre. In particular, the coastal regions of Devon had strong connections with 'France' and 'the Netherlands', whilst an Iberian presence was felt in specific ports, such as Dartmouth. One of the consequences may be a relatively higher proportion of 'French' nicknames and occupational bynames in Devon than in many other counties, extending down to peasant societies, as reflected in some medieval court rolls for manors in particular regions, although it is still not entirely clear if such names were attributed by peers. A further persisting influence was the nature of dispersed settlement, which had different consequences here for the pattern of toponymic bynames in the Middle Ages. A very high proportion of toponymic bynames in the Middle Ages derived from smaller settlement (even tenement names) within manors and parishes, whilst a much smaller element reflected migration. The significance of toponymic bynames is thus here quite different from patterns in, for example, the Midlands and other areas of relatively greater nucleation. Equally, such bynames were not predominantly borne, amongst the peasantry, by those of free status, but also by the unfree peasantry, since restrictions on migration were not an important variable in the attribution of toponymic bynames. A contrast can be clearly perceived here with Richard McKinley's findings for the different societies and regions of Oxfordshire, where, specifically in the hundred of Bampton in the Hundred Rolls of 1279-80, toponymic bynames were

predominantly borne by the free (as is confirmed by my own current chi-square analysis of the same source for two hundreds in Warwickshire, even including the Arden). Analysis of bynaming in Exeter reveals that hereditary surnames were becoming the norm amongst the *core* burgesses in the early thirteenth century. Finally, of the overall themes, persistent isonymy characterized particular remote or upland areas of Devon, such as Hartland Hundred and the parishes around Widecombe, through into the nineteenth century.

Leicestershire and Rutland

Research into Leicestershire and Rutland approaches the stage of serious analysis, since the major part of the pre-1550 data has been collected and input to the various databases. Currently, three files or tables are held: Leibar.dbf (about 12,000 data records for Leicester through to 1500) [dBase IV file]; Leics2.dbf (about 51,000 data records; and Rutland.dbf (the 1665 Hearth Tax for Rutland) [dBase III+ file]. Issues currently under consideration include: the pattern of bynames in a small town (Melton Mowbray); the development of hereditary surnames in Leicester; the development of the same overall; patterns of migration; and the pattern of patronyms and metronyms in the two counties in the middle ages (considering the framework suggested by John Sorensson).

English Manorial Surveys

Inputting has just begun on another long-term project, of all twelfth-century English manorial surveys (such as the Caen, Templar, Ramsey, St Paul's, Bishopric of Worcester, Burton Abbey and Peterborough ones). Data will be stored in Paradox 3.5. The schema has been designed, comprising three tables of files: 12thname; 12status, and 12detail. Every piece of information in the surveys will be included, although some will be in a summary form (for example, the description of works). The immediate objective is for a more subtle comprehension of twelfth-century personal naming processes and patterns and possibly a supplement to Thorvald Forssener's *Continental-Germanic Personal Names*, with a more detailed conspectus of their incidence geographically and by status of bearer.

Medieval Demography of West-country Manors

Following Harold Fox's E.S.R.C. grant to pilot a study of the early medieval (pre-1348) populations of two Glastonbury manors, this project has received an additional boost by the award to the Department of one of the University's much sought after Research Studentships. The appointment has now been: Michael Thompson began work in October and will research the economic and social background of a further five Glastonbury manors as a backcloth to the continuing demographic studies. His thesis will undoubtedly be a contribution to medieval history in its own right, for the manors selected, on the Polden Hills are all contiguous: very rarely does excellent medieval documentation survive for a group of this kind.

STAFF CHANGES

Margery

An era does not abruptly 'end'; it fades, or should fade, in a glow. That certainly will be true of Margery Tranter's long association with the Department which, although at last terminating in some titular sense, will thankfully be continued less formally over the coming years.

How else could it be? She has been so long a part of us that we could not see her suddenly go.

Margery came to the Department as an M.A. student in 1973, shortly after it had moved to the 18th floor of the Attenborough Tower and the M.A. course had been revised to give the most systematic and inclusive coverage of our subject that has probably ever been offered anywhere as a postgraduate training - to a point, indeed, that some of the junior staff used to joke that the students ended up better qualified in the subject than we were. In those days - because the literature was still restricted - everyone could study 'Urban and rural Communities' through from the Anglo-Saxons to the Victorians, and - in chronologically complementary lectures and classes - 'The methods and materials of English Local History', while everyone also had to take *both* medieval *and* early modern palaeography! On the visual side there were not only full courses on 'English topography' and on 'A selected region' (with 'to boot' a field course to either Kent or East Anglia), but even a specialized course on 'Vernacular architecture' as well. Field-trips were made every Wednesday. Unassessed projects were submitted by pairs or groups (Margery surveyed the Gartree Road with Clare Tester); dissertations were often related to the research interests of staff (Margery, as an Anglican rector's wife, with that touch of independence that she unobtrusively but consistently reveals, chose to cope with the mysteries surrounding the development of dissent in rural Derbyshire between 1662 and 1851 - a subject that has led to publications).

Her handling of that subject, inspired by Alan Everitt's current work on dissent; the latter's own desire for assistance with work he had in hand on country carriers and on the settlement history of Kent; *plus* the desperate need for an organizing mind to get to grips with the ever-expanding departmental map collection (in those days when some funding for this was still available) in the context of our spacious new Map Room, led to one of Alan's sagest decisions: to invite Margery to become an Honorary Research Assistant (later Associate).

We have never regretted it. First, Margery has mapped for us Leicestershire and Kent in the nineteenth-century, Rutland and Kent in the Dark Ages, and Cumberland for all ages. She has compiled endless lists of church, chapel and well dedications for medieval Kent and she has also pursued her own interests in nineteenth-century religion and, more recently - with the help of a richly deserved Leverhulme grant - the extraordinary history of the interlocking boundary(ies) of Leicestershire and Derbyshire. She compiled and has since sustained the bibliography of departmental writings (1948-78) that Alan Everitt introduced, and from which she later created the bibliography of writings that she contributed to Joan Thirsk's *Festschrift*. Second - and virtually single-handed - she took the map collection (old and new plus the odd topographical print) by the scruff of the neck; shook it vigorously but courteously; and, in-so-far as was possible within a system already partially determined, re-deployed it, catalogued it, and annually checked it (with Muriel Phillips who in latter years has often stayed with Margery when visiting the Department). If in such arrangements, perhaps, she took after her father, a dealer in antiquarian books, her own skills as a VI form teacher of Geography (at the Nottingham High School for Girls) have also found outlet to good effect. Thirdly, in seminar presentations, in conference papers and in map teaching for the Department - let alone in a private capacity as tactful

advisor on matters geographical or geomorphological to the uninitiated academic historians of the Department her contribution has been invaluable. (One might add here too her extraordinary knowledge of linguistics very occasionally deployed to devastating effect but with mischievous mien in discussions of seminar papers by visiting experts.)

For two decades, Margery has done all these things in addition to her school-teaching career, her role as the rector's wife, and as a tower of strength in the face of both family and personal affliction. To have had sufficient energy left to be able constantly to advise us from her wisdom - but only when asked - must be a matter not only for wonder but also for our deep appreciation and affection. Colleagues and generations of students (all of whom she seems to know alike have invariably been lent her ready sympathetic ear. Finally, as administrative whirlwind and financial tempest have seemingly raged around a small and sometimes vulnerable department, hers has ever been the still small voice of calm. For that above all, perhaps, we are deeply in her debt. Without her, in more senses than one, I sometimes wonder whether we could have survived.

Charles Phythian-Adams

Dr Paul Spencer Ell

As the academic year 1992-3 draws to a close, there is a sense of personal and academic loss in the Department. Dr Paul Ell is finally leaving us, for a job with the Department of Social and Economic History at the Queen's University of Belfast.

Paul first came to the Department back in October 1986, as an M.A. student. After successfully obtaining the M.A. in his own distinctive manner - indeed, his palaeographic skills are still recalled among staff - he went for a short period to work in the City of London, proving to be a financial world besmitten with the prevailing Thatcherite ethos just how the skills taught in local history can be relevant to city preoccupations. But after a year, and with his fortune now made, boredom struck: he needed something more stimulating, more *spiritual*, and recalling his former days he decided to move into a subject in which he could develop to the full the computing and statistical proclivities which he had already manifested during the M.A. course.

There are few examples of a fertile association between city-based quantitative skills and those of local history; but Paul found one in his Ph.D. project 'An atlas of religious worship in England and Wales: the 1851 religious census'. Completed with rapidity, thoroughness and innovative flair, this was an exceptional piece of work undertaken partly in this Department and partly in the Department of Geography at Birmingham University, from which he had obtained an E.S.R.C. studentship. In this work he employed the most sophisticated computerized quantitative and cartographic methods, undertaking a full analysis of all the published data from this remarkable census, and plotting the results with computerized cartographic packages.

This work then led to his joint research with Keith Snell into the local geography of religion and cultural region studied at parish level, for a series of counties chosen for their representative bearing on the national patterns of denominational dispersion. Funded by a large grant from the Leverhulme Trust, this work has occupied him over the past two and a half years: developing huge datasets on twelve English and Welsh counties, using 1851 and 1676 religious data, but now interpreting that data alongside a very complex range of other variables, to explore the socio-economic and

cultural contexts of religion. For the entire counties chosen, the project has now reached nearly 2,000 variables, for *every* parish: what must be one of the biggest (if not *the* biggest) series of historical datasets held on computer in the United Kingdom. In due course this work will appear in a very large, probably two-volume work, now being negotiated with Cambridge University Press.

Paul's work, then, has not been that of traditional local history. Hoskins and other famous scholars of earlier generations would be baffled and awed by the sophistication and complexity of the computing involved. The University Computer Centre itself has fought an apprehensive rearguard action against the English Local History take-over of computing space more commonly allocated to departments like Physics and Astronomy. Following Paul's initiatives, and with the support of David Postles, the Department became a training ground for European Social Fund Information Technology trainees (see Events Associated with the Department); personal computers and mainframe lines were widely installed, a new world had arrived; one of pads, disks and viruses, of GIMMS, SAS and SPSS; M.A. students were confronted with high technology displays during lectures, watching large-scale GIMMS cartographic projections of the 1851 Anglican index of attendances, or other such matters, unfold before their eyes; the gentlemanly pursuit of English Local History stood bewildered before such high-tech onslaught.

But now, perhaps, it's over. Paul is leaving, taking to Ireland his technical skills and penchant for modernisation, his openness to highly demanding computerised approaches, selling his Uppingham house and packing his books as I write. His friendliness and expertise will be sorely missed by staff and students alike. There may come a time when he will return. But for now, we all join in wishing him the best of luck in his new job, engaged in the design and analysis of historical datasets for Ireland akin to those he has done so much to create for England and Wales.

Keith Snell

Rosie Keep

From the beginning of the Michaelmas Term Rosie Keep will be taking over from Margery as Honorary Research Associate in the Department with special responsibility for the Map Room. Margery is truly the 'Mother of the House' and for almost a year Rosie has been her shadow in an attempt to absorb some of her wisdom about the Map Room, the Department and a host of other related and unrelated matters.

Rosie came into the Department in 1990 and completed her M.A. the following year. She progressed to Leicester from Birmingham University where she read Ancient History and Archaeology as a mature student, specialising in British archaeology with a particular interest in landscape archaeology. In an earlier incarnation she worked for seven years as a general reporter on various local newspapers with the West Midlands Press and more recently as branch Welfare Officer in Herefordshire for the British Red Cross. Her own particular research area is in medieval Herefordshire and she is at present working on a computer assisted analysis of The Red Book of Hereford, a thirteenth-century survey of episcopal manors. She is also editor of this number of the Newsletter.

MARC FITCH HOUSE AND ITS FACILITIES **Gifts to the Marc Fitch Fund Library and to the Map Room**

As usual you have been exceptionally generous. We therefore give warm thanks to: Christine Vials, Eileen Edwards, Elenor Vollans, Margery Tranter, Bob Borthwick, Gordon Forster, Melanie Parr, David Kaye, the Squire de L'Isle, Trevor Hill, Harold Fox, Peter Austin, Joe Kennedy, Cyril Hart, Mary Pearce, Peter Clark, Celia Swainson, Richard McKinley, Pete Kennedy, Chris Draycott, Roy Simcox, Mike Sekulla, Mr A. Pearce, Chris Starr, Marc Fitch, Tony Pollard, Charles Phythian-Adams, Roy Hubbarde and The Assistant Librarian, Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

Ken Smith and Angela Heathcote

With so much more to do in the Department, volunteers are always welcome at Marc Fitch House. This year has seen two new helpers join the team. Ken Smith, a retired architect, has begun to help in a variety of ways: he carries out some duties in the Marc Fitch Fund Library, thus releasing Harold Fox to make a long-needed onslaught on the F. W. Steer Room and to carry out a major re-shelving programme, and at present he is also helping Charles Phythian-Adams with a mysterious project on folk tales. Angela Heathcote, a student from the Department of Information and Library Studies at Loughborough University, is to produce a catalogue of the Library's rare book. Formally these were 'arranged' more or less as they were hurriedly shelved when we moved house, but now Ken has sorted them and Angela will produce card entries to a professional standard.

Library Openings on Saturdays

The Marc Fitch Fund Library will be open on the following Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.: October 30th, November 20th, December 11th, February 26th, March 12th, May 7th, May 28th.

OBITUARY

W.F., 'Bill', Hayes, 1926-1993

The Department was shocked and saddened in May to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Bill Hayes. He was a full-time M.A. student in the Department from 1990-1991 and had embarked on his Ph.D. immediately afterwards, thus furthering work on his beloved Torquay. After an army career Bill trained as a teacher and taught in Devon. His wide interests included involvement with the Dartmoor Pony Club and keen support for local cricket and football teams. However, it was a deep interest in local history for many years which led him to take secondment to gain his M.A., following which he started a very successful local history course at his school, inspiring the boys in their course work. Bill's enthusiasm for life and his gentle, quiet and attentive manner, coupled with a bubbling sense of humour and rigorous attention to academic detail, made him a delightful fellow student with a youthful curiosity and pleasure in life which belied his years. He is sadly missed by all of us who worked with him and enjoyed his company and is mourned by his family and pupils, who have lost an inspiring teacher and friend. Bill leaves a son, daughter and grandchild.

Marion Aldis and Cynthia Thomas

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1992

H.S.A. Fox

'William George Hoskins, C.B.E., F.B.A., 1908-1992', *Geographical Journal* 158 (1992) pp. 354-355.

ed. *The Origins of the Midland Village: Papers Prepared for a Discussion Session at the Economic History Society's Annual Conference, Leicester, April 1992*, 106pp.

'The agrarian context', in H.S.A. Fox, ed., *The Origins of the Midland Village* (1992) pp. 36-72.

ed. *Friends of the Department of English Local History Newsletter* 5 (1992) 27pp.

R.A. McKinley

'Medieval Latin translations of English personal bynames: their value for surname history', *Nomina* 14 (1992 for 1990-1), pp. 1-14.

Derryan Paul

'Catherine Chichester and Cardiganshire, 1705-1735', *Ceredigion: Journal of the Ceredigion Antiquarian Society* (1992), pp. 371-384.

C.V. Phythian-Adams

'Hoskins's England: a local historian of genius and the realisation of his theme', *The Local Historian* 22 (1992), pp. 170-183.

'Hoskins's England: a local historian of genius and the realisation of his theme', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 66 (1992), pp. 143-159.

'Storia locale e storia nazionale: il caso Inglese', *Proposte e Ricerche: Economia e Societa Storia dell'Italia Centrale* 29 (1992) pp. 28-43.

D.A. Postles

'The baptismal name in thirteenth-century England: processes and patterns', *Medieval Prosopography* 13 (1992), pp. 1-52.

The long recognised contraction in the active *corpus* of forenames from the late twelfth-century is reconsidered using a greater range of quantitative data than previously explored. Whilst the first part of the paper discusses the processes which may potentially have induced or assisted this concentration, the second presents the quantitative evidence in more detail and elicits further thoughts about possible regional differences. The intended next stage is a reconsideration of patterns in the twelfth century, expanding the data available in Thorvald Forssner's *Continental - Germanic Personal Names* and building more quantitatively on the excellent work of the late Cecily Clark.

'Tenure in frankalmoign and knight service in twelfth-century England: interpretation of the charters', *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 13 (1992) pp. 18-28.

Research often emanates from attempts to explain particular problems in seminars; this explains the origins of this paper. The literature on free alms in England, apart from some reinterpretation by Audrey Douglas in the late 70's, is

now quite dated despite the resurgence of interest in charters - those *private conventions* (Hyams after 'Glanvill') - to elucidate normative feudal society. Borrowing freely from work on free alms in France (earlier by Jean Yver, later by Emily Tabuteau), this paper examines again those notions about free alms far more inchoate, in lay eyes, than Douglas was willing to allow. The only way of getting to the core of the problem is to take the most intractable issue - knight service - and observe the empirical arrangements made. It has long been acknowledged that the doctrine of free alms of Bracton is entirely different from arrangements made in the early twelfth century, that 'Glanvill' represents another state in categorising alms as just another form of tenure. Agreement may be had with Yver that free alms in the early twelfth century was essentially a question of circumstantial will: giving free of secular services as far as could be possible without any pure doctrinal rules.

'The pattern of rural migration in a Midlands county: Leicestershire, c. 1270-1350', *Continuity and Change* 6 (1992), pp. 139-61.

McClure's seminal article of 1979 has largely been succeeded by similar studies examining rural-urban migration, although his most important contribution, partly concealed by the overall logic of his paper, may have been to initiate a discussion on rural-rural migration and migration into small towns using evidence only from Nottinghamshire. If heavy, but geographically circumscribed, migration contributed to the formation and persistence of localised societies, then rural-rural migration has considerable importance. That notion is considered in this paper.

'Brewing and the peasant economy: some manors in late medieval Devon', *Rural History* 3 (1992), pp. 133-44.

Until Judith Bennett's long anticipated book on brewing appears, tastily presaged in various papers, in collected essays and in *Past and Present*, there is a legitimate need for others to conduct research into local and regional patterns. This paper slightly preceded into print a more helpful one by Helena Graham (on Alrewas) and we all await Richard Smith's views on East Anglian brewers in more extended form. Addressed in this paper are some of those multiplex themes of brewing in a regional context: gender, life-cycle, the peasant elite and capital accumulation and by-employment for the poor.

'Demographic change in Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire in the Later Middle Ages', *Local Population Studies* 48 (1992), pp. 41-48.

K.D.M. Snell

'Settlement, poor law and the rural historian: new approaches and opportunities', *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 3 (1992), pp. 145-72.

This article develops an interpretation of settlement and the poor law from c. 1662 to the later nineteenth century, deploying a diagram to illustrate the many different categories of settlement cases and documentation and how they changed over time. It appraises further matters of settlement-law practice, stresses the centrality of settlement to the operation of the poor law, and enlarges upon the uses to which settlement documents may be put by those interested in the history of local rural societies and economies in England and Wales. In addition to analytical treatment here of settlement records, local administration and approaches to

the study of labour mobility, the article promotes a number of original ways for rural historians to handle and analyze other classes of poor-law records, such as overseers' accounts and rates. These latter, it is suggested, are a major source for historians of rural society, with considerable as yet unfathomed possibilities, and these deserve much further attention and scholarly study.

'Deferential bitterness: the social outlook of the rural proletariat in eighteenth and nineteenth-century England and Wales', in M. Bush, ed., *Social Orders and Social Classes in Europe since 1500: Studies in Social Stratification* (1992), pp. 158-84.

Annals of the Labouring Poor: Social Change and Agrarian England, 1600-1900 (new edn, 1992), 464pp.

ed. *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 3 no.1 (1992), and 3 no.2 (1992), 132 and 127pp (with L. Bellamy and T. Williamson).

M.A. DISSERTATIONS FOR 1992

Nial Adams

'The local Coventry society as revealed by five autobiographies.'

This study attempted to portray the local Coventry society of the early and mid twentieth century; to define its institutions, the nature of its material culture and the character of its consciousness. The evidence was provided by five autobiographies written by Coventry residents, selected from a sample of nineteen collected by the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum as part of its 'Partnership Project' in 1991. It was argued that unpublished autobiographies should be regarded as an indispensable source of evidence for local societies, yet few historians appear to be aware of their value. Local consciousness is a logical corollary of a local society, though few historians appear to be familiar with the concept; and that the local consciousness can be examined by using concepts of linguistic structure formulated by Structuralist and Post-Structuralist philosophy.

The study draws these threads together to produce a summary portrait of the local society paying particular attention to the abundant evidence contained in the autobiographies for those artisan values which, it is argued, are a major cause of the city's recent economic decline. Finally the limitations of the autobiographies as sources of evidence were examined by contrasting the study's findings with those reached by another project which examined the local consciousness - a questionnaire survey for the 'Who are the Coventry Kids?' exhibition - and suggests ways to make the contribution of unpublished autobiographies to the study of English local history even more productive.

Marion Aldis

'One man's Nuneaton, 1810-1845.'

An unpublished diary in Nuneaton Public Library was the memoranda book of a town official between the years 1810-1845. This covers the period of great change from the eighteenth-century paternalism to early nineteenth-century industrialisation and all the upheaval in attitude that the emergence of the 'working class' as a cohesive force brought. Details of the industrial life and ribbon trade of Nuneaton have already been well researched and documented

and can be found in the town library. However the diary throws light on aspects of town life unrecorded elsewhere. Through a close study of this unemotional and largely uncritical record of the events in the town, augmented by other diaries, memoirs and local newspapers, theatre handbills and the fictional works of George Eliot, whose early novels are very closely based on her memories of Nuneaton where she lived as a child, it has been possible to show not just another rather squalid mill town, but a town throbbing with varied activity which was almost a barometer of the well-being of the nation as a whole. The study concentrated on entertainment and transport.

Janice Brooker

'Prosperity and decline in fourteenth-century Hertfordshire: an evaluation of commerce, mobility and wealth distribution.'

The aim of this study was to compare the evidence of mobility and wealth distribution between two parts in Hertfordshire and to consider how they were affected by the influence of the metropolitan corn markets in London. Also looked at was the development and desertion of sites and the rise and decline of arable cultivation from Domesday to 1350. The principal sources used are the lay subsidy rolls of 1307-8 for the hundreds of Odsey, Edwinstree and Cashio, the Domesday of St Paul's (London) for the parish of Sandon, the extent of Codicote for 1332, and documents referring to the Westminster Abbey manor of Ashwell. Other evidence that was considered included place-names, vernacular architecture and moated sites. The dissertation concluded with information from the Nonarum Inquisitions of 1341, as an indication of declining arable production. The outstanding feature to emerge was the existence of distinct differences between the north-east and south-west of Hertfordshire, and the reversal of their fortunes after the Black Death and the agrarian crises of the early fourteenth century.

Christine Draycott

'The Soke of Peterborough: a study of the early history of Peterborough Abbey and its dependent local settlements, up to the time of the Domesday Survey, with special emphasis on the Anglo-Saxon period.'

Eileen Edwards

'The medieval market town of Solihull 1200-1580.'

The planted medieval borough of Solihull received its market charter in 1242 and became part of a network of small market towns in the wooded Arden region of North Warwickshire. Using deeds, court rolls and lay subsidy returns, the study looked first for evidence of non-agrarian trades and crafts, of examples of dual occupations, of the interaction between trades and agriculture and between the Borough and Foreign. From wills and inventories an attempt was made to gauge the standards of living of various income groups, including traders, farmers and minor gentry, the latter mainly resident in modest farmhouses, sometimes moated, in the Foreign. Court rolls and churchwardens' accounts show the part played by various ranks in the affairs of the parish, as jurors in the manor court, as ale-tasters and tithing men and as churchwardens and parish clerks. The church, with its well, standing in the market place, (along with the inn, the town hall and stocks), was an integral part of the town's life. Virtually everyone shared its fellowship, attended its worship, supported it financially and accepted its discipline.

A medieval town, according to R.H. Hilton, was 'overwhelmingly concerned with commerce and manufacture'. Solihull, with its road links to towns within and outside Arden, fulfilled this function, surviving plague, epidemics and depopulation, attracted burgage tenants, maintained its market, enlarging its church and remaining *Urbs in Rure* until the twentieth century, when housing estates and the car industry encroached on its farmland, heaths and commons.

Lois Edwards

'A Study of Coalville from the 1891 census returns.'

The aim of this study was to look at the town of Coalville in 1891 and to see what its main industries were, where the people who lived there originated from and, to a limited degree, how they lived. Coalville today is a small town, whose past prosperity and indeed existence originated from its mining industry. It is a relatively new town that began to develop after coal was discovered there in 1824. The information was limited as the main source used to build up a picture was the recently released census returns of 1891. Other contemporary sources included the *Leicester Journal* for that year, Wright's directory for 1890 and Kelly's trade directory for 1895. The results were obtained by taking figures from the census enumerators' books and analyzing them to build up a picture of life in Coalville. The main industry in 1891 was mining, the miners being employed at Whitwick and Snibston collieries.

The railway linked Coalville with the rest of the country and attracted an engineering works, an iron foundry and an elastic webbing factory; these in their turn attracted the smaller tradesmen. The people of Coalville mainly originated from Leicestershire, but others came from further afield. Coalville in 1891 was a town that was still growing and developing, was gaining a reputation for being the local market centre, and was attracting industries that would add to the diversification of the town.

Nigel Eveleigh

'Landscape and environment: their contribution to the evolution of settlement in early medieval Kesteven.'

This study has two aims. The first is to collate and interpret the evidence relating to the effects of topography and geology on the settlement and colonisation of Kesteven during the early medieval period. The second is to establish what effect the settlers subsequently had on that landscape. The basic tenet was that early human settlement is profoundly influenced by the landscape. Although social, administrative and political factors have to be acknowledged as important, the ultimate arbiter dictating the location of settlement has to be topography and environment. The study aims to demonstrate the pre-eminence of both topographical and environmental factors as the main determinants of Kesteven's settlement pattern. A geographic framework therefore had to be established to provide the constant against which the evidence could be studied. This baseline was essential for the conduct of a meaningful philological survey which was necessary for the identification of a chronology of settlement. These frameworks then allowed for an analysis of the information provided by the primary sources.

Len Garrison

'Post-war immigration and settlement of West Indians in Nottingham, 1948-1968.'

The concern of this dissertation was with the local historical context of the migration and settlement of

Jamaicans and other West Indian immigrants between 1948 and 1968 in the city of Nottingham. The first part sets out the background historical conditions of immigration using both secondary and primary documentary sources. The second part uses extracts from oral accounts to examine the experiences and the reality which confronted the new settlers. The essay concludes with an interpretation of the significance of the Black presence in post-war Nottingham and the effect on the lives of first generation West Indians in the 'Mother Country', and the City of Nottingham in particular.

Pamela Inder

'Topographical prints and the development of seaside resorts: case studies of Scarborough and Sidmouth.'

This study investigates the topographical prints of two seaside resorts, Scarborough and Sidmouth, up to the middle of the nineteenth century when prints began to be produced photographically. Late eighteenth-century Britons re-discovered their homeland, and British landscape became an acceptable subject for painters. Artists who produced works to be engraved for the lower end of the art buying market were found to be just as aware of prevailing artistic conventions. The role of local printmakers, artists, printers and publishers was examined, and some fascinating characters and hitherto unknown artists were brought to light. Local print publishers were found to be of central importance in the development of the two resorts: they ran bookshops and libraries, sold patent medicines and tickets for local entertainments, owned coffee shops and *camerae obscurae* sold music, hired out musical instruments and telescopes, ran art galleries and founded newspapers and most wrote guidebooks to tell the visitors what to do and see. The main sources of information were the prints themselves, studied in conjunction with contemporary guidebooks, visitors' writing and newspapers. The study of topographical prints adds a new dimension to our understanding of early resort development, and suggests many other lines of research.

Andrew Jackson

'The country house estate economy in decline: East Devon 1870-1939.'

This is partly a regional study examining the changing status of the country house, its landed estate, and its owner in East Devon; it is also an investigation of how the landed estate, on whose economic power the social consequence of the country house and its owner was supported, fared between the years 1870 and 1939. Based on the detailed and largely statistical interpretation of three sets of estate records, it analyzes the nature of the landed estate, and how its structure and its management responded to the pressures of the period. Amongst the factors considered are the depression at the end of the nineteenth century, the years of the First World War, the ever mounting fiscal demands, and the fluctuating economic conditions of the twenties and thirties. For East Devon, the period from 1870 to 1939 saw the slow but inexorable weakening of the status of the country house in the landscape and in local life. The period witnessed the instigation of a policy of rationing, restructuring and radical contraction, or, for some owners, complete disposal of their landed estates.

Jackie King

'George Eliot's legacy: local history revisited.'

This dissertation seeks to explore one new facet of the study of regional novels and the regions they write about.

It is accepted that regional authors are influenced by the place they live in and that their novels reflect and voice the culture of that area, and that local cultural history is continually changing to accommodate new ideas and new influences. This study looks at how one regional author, George Eliot, influenced and changed the culture of the Nuneaton area since her death. It investigates the way in which she can be seen as part-creator of a local identity and culture, as well as having been a participant in the on-going history of the area; and how she is also 'created' by a national and local cultural history through criticism and interpretation.

From the results of research, interviews and questionnaires, it seems that Nuneaton and its region have been profoundly influenced by the fact that it is the birthplace of Eliot. The town's geography and identity have been changed by the cultural repercussions of her life and work. It can be seen that she has affected the region as much as the region affected her, and that this is seen on a national as well as a local basis. National perceptions of the author created the literary construct we know as George Eliot. Local perceptions created biographical aspects that are different in focus but combine to make a total picture perceived by the majority of the population to be George Eliot, local regional author. There are long-term and important repercussions to be investigated from the author's connections with the region, and national and local perceptions of local history are affected by this.

Peter Langworth

'Glebeland and field systems in Cambridgeshire.'

Glebeland was established with the origin of local churches in the late Anglo-Saxon period. This dissertation examines the supposition that, in many villis, its extent and distribution may have remained largely unaltered, unlike normal common field strips. Analysis of glebeland, therefore, could provide interesting clues to the nature of early Anglo-Saxon field systems and, in particular, the origin of open-fields. Using estate maps and glebe terriers, the glebeland in a number of Cambridge villages (including potential minster sites) was looked at in detail. The study concludes that there are good examples of glebeland that have survived intact, and that demesne land may well be the most common origin of glebe allocations. In terms of field systems, it appears that in Cambridgeshire, which is not a typical open-field county, considerable piecemeal communal organisation of fields had already taken place by the tenth century. Most glebeland consisted of parcels that were larger than single strips, suggesting that here at least, single strips were rarely an initial subdivision of arable fields.

Maureen Massam

'Ballads and the 19th-century transition from Britain to Australia.'

Australia in nineteenth-century British consciousness was a place variously of punishment, refuge or a distant pastoral land. This study uses literary material, predominantly ballads, as a source of information, and employs historical accounts to reveal the progress of three groups of emigrants who between 1788 and 1900 left Britain to settle in Australia. The first group faced expiation for crimes ranging mostly from petty to minor, the second sought employment, and the third sought land. Each represented a response to national phenomena of changing demographic, social, cultural and subsistence norms in Britain. Assisted passage for those

not charged with crimes but without ready funds, plentiful and easily obtained land and certainty of employment enticed individuals from all groups to believe that personal fortunes could be transformed by emigration.

Tania McIntosh

'The decline of Stourbridge Fair 1770-1934: deliberate suppression or deliberate collapse?'

It has been suggested that in the nineteenth century popular fairs were intentionally destroyed by the authorities because of their desire to control society. A study of official documents, including council minutes, lease documents and toll receipts, demonstrated that the local authorities in Cambridge did not deliberately suppress Stourbridge Fair. Rather the council retained support for the Fair almost until the end. The reasons for the decline in its popularity were traced using local newspapers and diaries. Stourbridge disappeared for organic, long-term reasons not allowed for by a social control theory. The development of transport, especially railways, appears to have had a devastating impact on the Fair. There is no case for suggesting that Stourbridge Fair was a victim of conscious or unconscious ideas of local control. Its decline was long term, based primarily on changes in trading conditions and communications, and the fact that the Cambridge area was not wealthy or populous enough to support the Fair as a provider of pleasure.

Meriel Moore

'Stone quarrying in the Isle of Purbeck: an oral history.'

The aim of this study was to preserve an oral history of stone quarrying in the Isle of Purbeck. Emphasis was placed on how changing techniques and conditions affected the lives and work of the quarrymen, rather than on technical and engineering details. Taped interviews were recorded with a broad section of the senior and retired workforce and their families over the summer of 1992. Visits were made to a representative selection of quarries, on the cliffs and inland, underground and open cast. This research was augmented by documentation and archival material. New ideas and technologies have been slow to reach the quarries due to the geographical isolation of the Isle of Purbeck; however, in the post-war period, mechanization has greatly increased. During the lives of the old quarrymen, the traditional methods of underground quarrying have given way to open cast techniques, with machines replacing many of the old hand tools. In the Purbeck-Portland beds, the cliff quarries have become uneconomical and ceased production. Only Swanworth quarry remains, a highly different enterprise from the other quarries, producing roadstone on a commercial scale. There has always been strong family continuity within the quarries though this is now decreasing as community horizons broaden and other men come to work in the industry. However, a deep sense of the trade's long history still remains.

Karen Pagett

'Image problems: the ambiguous identity of Birmingham as represented in novels set in the city, c.1870-1950.'

The study of the regional novel as a genre has made slow progress, with only a handful of substantial discussions on the subject surfacing, even though the depth and detailed nature of the information provided by this literature could be enormously beneficial to the local historian. The aim of this study was to demonstrate the value of regional fiction to historical study by exploring novels relating to the city of

Birmingham. Perceptions of this city's history have tended to be rather one-dimensional - focusing upon its late nineteenth-century municipal government and little else. However the regional novels set in the city have been found to substitute a range of individual viewpoints. The period covered is from 1870 to 1950 and the fiction surveyed is used to elicit a variety of responses to Birmingham during this era - topographically, socially, and culturally. More than anything, this study established a division between those who viewed the city from the outside and rarely looked beyond its accepted identity, and native authors who brought more ambiguous and confused impressions to bear upon their work.

The task was rendered difficult due to the dearth of novels based on the city, and the fact that those which do exist are little known today. This in itself begged questions as to why the so-called 'second city' of Britain should suffer from a paucity of fictional representations. Part of this work addresses that issue, seeking factors inherent within Birmingham such as religious and political proclivities or educational policy. Utilising material including W.E.A. annual reports, catalogues from city libraries, reading societies and publishers' and commentators' views over the decades on what constituted Birmingham's literary heritage, it is established that, generally, the entire notion of the urban regional novel has been neglected by authors, readers, and historians alike.

Samantha Peet

'The magisterial elite of Southampton, 1550-1600.'

The aim of this dissertation was to examine the governing body of Southampton and to determine the extent to which the town was ruled by an oligarchy. The sources included the council minutes, charters, ordinances, records of the court leet and contemporary letter to the crown discussing the state of Southampton in the 1580's. Other primary sources were town records such as deeds, leases and parish records, central taxation records and wills. Southampton's economy in the second half of the sixteenth century was changing from being that of an international port to that of a regional centre for the Hampshire Basin and the south coast. The relatively prosperous 1570's and a new serge industry attracted a significant number of immigrants, but the port was declining by the 1590's.

Southampton's government comprised a mayor and twelve assistants, but it was a small group of senior aldermen who held the real power. There was a career path to be followed, but only a small group of burgesses, as distinct from freemen were eligible for office. Only merchants and gentlemen could become burgesses and those who ruled the town were among the wealthiest three per cent of household heads, although royal officials, gentlemen and some aliens were also very wealthy. The members of Southampton's magisterial elite had many social linkages with one another, including marriage, apprenticeship, areas of residence and friendship. Government positions were not hereditary, but having a relative or an old master who was a senior alderman did help certain careers. Southampton was certainly ruled by an oligarchic government.

Hilary Smith

'Communities of butchers and tanners of the Borough of Leicester, 1520-1640.'

This study's aim was to discover occupational and personal information about the butchers and tanners of Leicester between 1520 and 1640, and so to better understand

the town and its communities. Central to the thesis was the idea that we should not analyze butchers and tanners in isolation but should instead recognize their associations with many facets of Leicestershire's society. Networks of association between members of the same trade and among members of both trades were investigated. This was done by first analyzing the butchers' and tanners' physical environment: Leicester was placed in the context of the countryside, while the parishes within the town were investigated.

The borough records, which contain deeds and rentals, made it possible to ascertain where the butchers and tanners lived and conducted business. Secondly, aspects of their wealth and influence were analyzed through taxation records, probate documents, and records of local government. This was done in order to understand their roles as members of the town's governing body and the extent of their power. Thirdly, personal connections of family and friendship were investigated to determine if occupational associations also involved personal relationships; wills and probate inventories were useful for this analysis and it was found that butchers and tanners gained power and wealth during the period. Strong connections were traced both within and between the trades in their occupational and family lives. While they gained influence, however, they were still subject to community control. It is only possible to understand Leicester and its butchers and tanners by recognizing that they lived within many communities of association.

Brenda Turnock

'Land use in parts of Leicestershire as revealed in Domesday Book.'

This analysis attempts to portray in maps and diagrams the appearance of contrasting parts of Leicestershire in 1086. Six areas were selected for contrast - the Vale of Belvoir, the Welland valley, the Upper Sence (a tributary of the Soar), the South-East Uplands, the South-West Uplands and an area around Charnwood. Domesday Book was analyzed and the holdings of the tenants-in-chief aggregated vill by vill to accumulate the data on ownership, resources, population and valuations. Charts showing the proportions of land held in demesne and by the peasantry illustrated differences in the strength of manorialism between the northern and southern parts of the county. Patterns of ownership (sole or fragmented), natural and human resources, land utilisation and manorial valuations within each *pays* were portrayed. A series of maps showed a distribution of the resources of meadowland, ploughland, woodland and pastureland taking into account the soils, geology and location of each vill and giving some impression of land-use at the time of the Domesday Survey.

THE JOHN NICHOLS PRIZE

Awarded annually by the University through the auspices of this Department, the John Nichols Prize is open to submissions by any person interested in the academic study of English Local History. Since the upper limit is 20,000 words, the prize is particularly suitable for unrevised dissertations, unlike many other prizes and awards which are restricted to between 8 and 10,000 words. The prize is an open award and we particularly welcome submissions from outside this University or the formal academic world, though we do also encourage the entry of any M.A. dissertation

from within the Department which has already been awarded a distinction. Nevertheless dissertations earning a distinction are not automatically considered for the Prize and it is the responsibility of the authors to submit for the Prize formally.

Details of the award are as follows: the deadline for submissions is the end of December in each year. Before submitting you should write to David Postles in the Department indicating the broad nature of your research, after which you will be sent guidelines (please mark your envelopes 'John Nichols Prize'). A provisional decision about the winner is often made by the end of March, but this decision has to be ratified by the University. The award to the successful entrant is **one hundred pounds**.

ANNUAL FIELD COURSE, 1993

A Letter from Cumberland

Dear Friends,

Just a few lines to let you know what we got up to on our jaunt to the Lake District, sorry, Cumberland.

We arrived at Lazonby after an uneventful journey to find Charles on the adjacent railway platform announcing that what with cut backs and so on 'only two trains now passed a day.' Two hundred trains later I began to wonder if our esteemed leader was being somewhat economical with the truth! The evening saw an advance party of seasoned and experienced field workers sally forth to observe at close quarters local social bonding - in other words we went down to the pub!

Sunday arrived and with it the first official excursion on the '*pays a day tour*', subtitled '*learn as you pays*'. Apparently we went to Scotland but owing to the torrential conditions I cannot verify this; however I can confidently state that Longtown was such a miserable grey affair that it was promptly dubbed 'the most boring town of the tour'. The evening was spent confirming our earlier observances of local social bonding.

The next day Charles caused consternation in the group by announcing that the itinerary was to be tackled backwards! This was nothing to the confusion caused by our being asked to work out the morphology of the village of Cumwhitton. During the evening's fieldwork a stalwart of the forays appeared to be overcome with 'field course fatigue' and fell out of the pub - much to the amusement of the locals. On Tuesday we visited Inglewood where Charles explained points of interest while we vainly tried to peer out of grime-encrusted window.

Wednesday was the day of Our Leader's downfall for this was when our coach driver began to innocently, pleasantly and interminably relate the local history of the area, being particularly informative about clogs. Charles just could not compete, though he must have allowed himself a few internal chuckles when she got the bus stuck on a hump-backed bridge. The evening was spent cheering our wonderful football team to victory. John Hutchins won the sweepstake - a bitter blow to all.

Here my memory becomes somewhat hazy; perhaps I had one *pays* too many, but I think Thursday was the Solway Plain (flat, flat, flat). Carlisle more than made up for it. Here Charles delivered a thorough, detailed and inspiring talk on the history of the building - cracks and all.

Friday dawned and with it the shock realisation that the last *pays* was upon us. I seem to remember spending a couple of hours in bookshop at Whitehaven. Then on to Pica,

aply described by our coach driver as 'a one horse town and they shot the horse!' We soon dubbed it 'the most boring village of the tour'. During the evening we held an impromptu concepts seminar to discuss: (a) who was going to win the Grand National the next day (b) who was going to win the coveted bore(s) of the tour award.

The next day we went our separate ways. Most agreed that this had been a well-organized, informative and memorable week: and great fun. The real work was now to begin - writing it up.
Jo Wainwright.

THE FRIENDS' PEAK DISTRICT FIELD TRIP 1993

This year twenty or so Friends travelled to the Peak District in June for a fascinating field trip, the success of which owed much to the enthusiasm and expertise of our guide, Clive Hart. Even the weather improved after morning rain-storms threatened to stop the comfortable, well equipped coach in its tyre tracks. Clive took us to a range of sites of both period and type and gave a running commentary as the coach drove among the dales and edges.

Our first major stop was at Lawrence Field with its abandoned medieval field system and hamlet which is now a protected site. For some of the party the sight of one Dr H.S.A. Fox leading the field across the moor brought back happy memories and comparisons with Dartmoor. The settlement, which may have been a shieling has been partly excavated and late twelfth-century pottery may indicate its date. Our next place of call was Hope, a major royal and ecclesiastical centre for the area in the early middle ages before its partial eclipse by Castleton and Peveril Castle. The church at Hope has a good selection of gargoyles to protect it against malign spirits; alas the modern variety have caused the church to be locked. The settlement is documented as early as AD 920 to AD 940 and other early evidence in the area which Clive pointed out were Anglo-Scandinavian crosses and *eccles* elements in place-names.

Between Hope and Chelmorton we passed through Bradwell and Tideswell, the church of the latter being known as the cathedral of the Peak. Those interested in town plans were given a good example of an infilled market place and for the place-names scholars nearby Wormhill, 'a Scandinavian dragon', gave food for thought.

Chelmorton's strip fields and linear village plan along with its 'town bank' were well worth an extended stop; some twenty-two farmers still own dispersed strips here and the older houses are gable-end on to the street. Our guide's knowledge brought the village to life. He also used a seventeenth-century map and oral history to illustrate his talk - truly on this field trip all interests were catered for.

On the way to Bakewell *via* Flagg the industrial archaeology of a preserved Cornish beam engine also got its share of attention though the frustrations of the local historian were also illustrated as we found out why no major published account of the town is likely at present. Finally, just outside Baslow Clive showed us something which many only dream of, date stones in walls and gate-posts showing dates of 1853, 1856 and 1861 as the fields spread up onto the moor; this even had Dr Fox snapping away with his camera.

This brief account cannot really do justice to the day or our debt to Clive and warm thanks go to him for a

splendid tour. It is hoped that in future more Friends will join us on our annual outing.
Ralph Weedon

BOOKS WRITTEN BY FRIENDS

Elizabeth Edwards ed., *Anthropology and Photography, 1860-1920* (Yale University Press, 1992. Price £19.95).

Since its beginnings, photography has been a valuable resource for anthropologists in the recording of ethnographic data. This book, published in conjunction with the Royal Anthropological Institute, London, looks at the significance and relevance of still photography in British anthropology from about 1860 until 1920. It examines how photography provides evidence of the past and how this evidence is used in conjunction with other traditional forms of anthropological information, it also considers the reflexive and critical nature of the photographic 'way of seeing' within anthropology.

The book opens with five substantial essays on the nature of photography, visual perception, theoretical and historical approaches to anthropological photography and the photograph as a document. These are followed by twenty shorter essays by leading anthropologists and historians with special interest in visual representation. The essays examine the content and historical contexts of a range of 157 remarkable photographs, drawn mainly from the Institute's collections, many reproduced for the first time.

As a whole, the book establishes the intellectual and anthropological frameworks for the analysis of specific photographs and articulates a body of ideas about photography and the way in which it was perceived in anthropology. The volume encompasses many ways of thinking from the theoretical to the ethnographic and from the historical to the 'post-modern'. This pluralist approach stresses the complex nature of the photographic message and its interpretation within anthropology in a way that is as relevant to modern material as it is to the historical.

W.J. Petchey, *A Prospect of Maldon, 1500-1689* (Essex Record Office, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, 1991. 300pp. Price £7.95 + post and packing).

A succession of assiduous clerks served the borough of Maldon. The fortunate survival of a considerable portion of their files and registers provides an unusually rich archive for the Essex estuary port and market town of the book's title. Their records have retained enough material to show that its fairly numerically static population of some one thousand people, throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, was also highly transient. This study examines the effects of considerable population mobility on this borough's institutions, on its social and economic life and on the reception there of religious changes. In particular the interconnections of Maldon with its market area and also with areas as remote as Yorkshire and Devonshire have been assessed for their formative effects. The Ph.D. thesis (Leicester, 1972) on which this book is based was submitted just as the study of urban history began to blossom so this publication, which has been written as much for a general historical readership as for local people, associates Maldon's economic and social situation with recent research on contemporary communities, especially in respect of its commercial fortunes.

Celia M. Swainson, *Waterways of Derby* (Scarthin Books, Cromford, 1993. 64pp. with 23 black and white photographs, 5 reproductions of archive documents and 11 maps. Price £6.95).

The long and bitter struggle to open the River Derwent to navigation between its confluence with the River Trent and Derby, and the subsequent construction of the Derby Canal are the themes of this book. Although rivers had an important contribution to make in transporting goods before the era of canals, their role in the early stages of the Industrial Revolution has not been fully explored by historians.

The primary sources for this book include letters and documents from collections in local record offices, local studies libraries and private archives. The numerous maps available in these sources have been utilised to derive illustrative material. The fears and antagonisms of the Nottingham burgesses, jealous to maintain the position of their town as the head of navigation of the River Trent, are examined. Preserved in the records of the borough of Nottingham are their pleas for support addressed to other, local and distant, towns. The part played by the riparian landowners and their local members of Parliament is analyzed, and this illustrates that neither lobbying, 'wheeling and dealing' nor double crossing are solely modern phenomena.

After the River Derwent was opened up for navigation Derby quickly became an industrial town. The famous Silk Mill had pre-dated this navigation, but it is likely that the new form of transport made a big contribution to its success. Iron and copper mills were soon built close to the terminal wharves in the centre of Derby and an increase in the number of mills for the processing of cloth is noticeable. The raw materials for all these processes were available in the immediate vicinity of Derby and in the wider area of Derbyshire, but needed the impetus of easier transport for their final product before full use could be made of the sources.

Improvements in road construction and maintenance however, soon began to cut into the volume of trade on the river which, despite George Sorocold's suggestions for straightening, was a circuitous route dependent upon weather conditions and river water levels for its success. These drawbacks resulted in agitation for a canal link between Derby and the Grand Trunk Canal system, which became a reality 75 years after Derby's river navigation began. Needless to say, the canal proposals were opposed by the Derby boatmen, but industrial progress had overtaken them and a canal was constructed. This, in its turn, was soon followed by railway links which resulted in a decline in the use of the canal.

After this Derby ignored its river and most trace and documentary evidence of the old river navigation have been lost. Many years of painstaking research has therefore been necessary to uncover the details in this book. Thankfully Derby is now waking up to the potential value of its river frontage as an amenity for both tourists and the local inhabitants, so the book is able to look forward with hope.

Howard Usher, *Atlantic Adventures* (J.H. Hall & Sons Ltd 1992. 38pp.)

Documents have a habit of turning up in unexpected places; so it was no surprise to find the papers of a Sheffield ironmonger in the vaults of the Goldsmith's Hall in London

The ironmonger in question is William Sitwell and the papers were given to Sir Reresby Sitwell, who put them in the family muniments room at Renishaw Hall in North Derbyshire.

These papers told a fascinating story, worthy of a small booklet. William Sitwell was a merchant who made his living by trading in ironware and other goods with the New England colonists in the middle of the eighteenth century. The hardships suffered by the sailors who crossed the Atlantic in their tiny boats, carrying mundane items such as a load of coal from Newcastle to Boston, can hardly be imagined in the twentieth century. The papers illustrate vividly the difficulties of weather conditions or shortage of provisions added to which were the problems introduced by the Seven Years War of 1756-1763, when French ships preyed on the merchantmen and English sailors were to be found languishing in French goals, waiting for their ransom to be paid. Descriptions of conditions in the American colonies add to the interest. Sitwell died about two months before the American Declaration of Independence on the 4th July 1776.

LOCAL HISTORIANS IN THE MUSEUM WORLD

Greetings from an American Friend

Hello! Greetings from America (actually I am now in Scotland, but I am from the U.S.). Since finishing my English Local History M.A. at Leicester I have been busy obtaining my museum qualifications and putting that knowledge to use at the Chicago Historical Society. I attended the Cooperstown Graduate Programme in History Museum Studies in New York, 'Home of Baseball' and of James Fenimore Cooper. The museum studies programme teaches the skills needed for work in history museums; subjects cover research, collections management, exhibition work, museum education and administration. Background knowledge such as social history, decorative arts and material culture are an important part of the course. It is a practical, hands-on experience, where students work closely with the New York State Historical Society and Farmer's Museum obtaining practical skills such as photography and computer use. Students are expected to produce an exhibition on an assigned topic; our topic was Main Street and its role in a community. Main Streets are being abandoned in favour of shopping malls and vital parts of communities is being lost. The exhibition concentrated on the social, commercial, physical and preservation aspects of Main Streets. An important requirement of the programme was an eight-week internship. I worked at the Chicago Historical Society in the Department of Education and Public Programmes, which organises a variety of programmes for adults, children and senior citizens, concentrating on Chicago's social history and ethnic communities.

I recently married a Scotsman and am now living in Dundee and currently volunteering with Dundee Heritage Trust while job hunting.
Kristin Nurss

The Atlantic Slave Trade Gallery

The Atlantic Slave Trade Gallery is a museum project being developed at the Merseyside Maritime Museum, one of five centres which currently make up National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. The project, launched in December 1991 in Liverpool, is being funded by a grant

from the Peter Moores Foundation and is due to open in 1994. Its aim is to increase public understanding of the experience of black people in Britain and the modern world through an examination of the Atlantic Slave Trade and the African Diaspora. Mr Len Garrison of the Black Cultural Archive and Association of Caribbean Family and Friends Education Centre, who graduated from the Department this year (see 'M.A. dissertations for 1992'), is a member of the gallery's advisory committee. We shall look forward to hearing more about its development in the future.

Snibston Discovery Park: One Year Old

Snibston Discovery Park, Leicestershire Museum Service's newest museum, celebrated its first birthday in June this year. During its first year the Discovery Park welcomed 150,000 visitors, approximately one fifth of whom were from Midlands schools, colleges and educational institutions and the Park is rapidly establishing itself as an important educational and community resource for the county.

Museum displays are all linked into the National Curriculum in science, history, technology and geography and reflect the rich industrial heritage of the area. The county's scientific achievements are recognised in the display space dedicated to Leicester University's Genetics, Physics and Engineering Departments while the Textile Gallery has an area dedicated to the work of De Montfort University's fashion students. North-West Leicestershire's main local history societies have created a small community history gallery where they can display samples of their rich archival and photographic resources.

Making the local museum into a genuine community resource has to involve more than just displaying and interpreting historical objects and new technology from the county. Members of the local community have to feel that they can contribute to the ongoing development of the project and they are consulted about events created by the Museum which purport to reflect their cultural achievements. The importance of establishing genuine consultative efforts with local groups to enhance our educational and community provision was highlighted recently in the event put on to celebrate the Park's first anniversary. A show was staged which tied together all the threads that make up the Snibston tapestry - industrial heritage, local history, technology and the arts. A Manchester based performing arts company 'Walk the Plank' was commissioned to help create 'The Snibston Treat' - the name of the show was chosen by a local oral historian as reminiscent of the many Co-op, Sunday School and factory 'treats' or outings so common in many areas in the early twentieth century. Consultation with local people about the exact format of the show was the first priority and representatives from local schools, youth groups, drama clubs, playschemes, local history societies and centres for the elderly were all invited to have an input into designing and implementing ideas for the show.

The historic colliery buildings and pit tops formed the background to the celebration of working and leisure life in the county. The event itself consisted of two contrasting scenarios of work and leisure, with accompanying music and sound collage. The finale was the creation of a spectacular blazing exploding giant birthday cake and firework extravaganza. Leading up to the event over two hundred local people took part in a series of drama, music and art workshops and many of them performed on the night. For participating schools, the benefits were enormous as they were given the rare opportunity to have artists and

performers working with their students over a three week-period to produce something enjoyed by over two thousand people. Above all many people learned that a science and technology museum can be both fun and provide them with rich opportunities for arts-based activities.

Linda McKenna, Education and Interpretation Officer,
Snibston Discovery Park

A LOCAL HISTORIAN IN THE PUBLISHING WORLD

A Friendly Offer

I set up 'Paul Watkins Publishing' from my home in Stamford in 1988. At first it was to publish my own book, *Book-worm Droppings*, an amusing anthology of daft things overheard in second-hand bookshops, but the book sold well and I caught the bug. I now specialise in medieval and local history and, thirty titles later, still work from my book-ridden house. In rare moments of escape from publishing I am struggling to complete a comprehensive bibliography of the county of Rutland.

In the five years the business has grown steadily, sustained by considerable borrowing, since academic history is both expensive to produce and slow selling, though steady. Local history, however, can be a fast seller if you get the right book and when the book is about your home town there is not even postage to pay. Some of my titles have done well, others are slower; I am learning and it is pleasing that some have made major contributions to local history as a discipline. *The Street Names of England* by Adrian Room is the first general book ever published on this important subject (classifying street names for the first time); *A Reader's Guide to the Place-names of the United Kingdom* edited by J. Spittal and John Field is the first bibliography of UK place-name literature, 362 pages long; *Stamford Then and Now* by Martin Smith is a very imaginative approach to townscape, reconstructing buildings and some whole streets before and after twentieth-century alterations; *We Didn't Know Aught* by Maureen Sutton is a pioneer examination at a local level of the taboo in women's lives: sexuality, superstitions and death practices between the 1930's and the '50's.

I aim to produce the books well and a great deal of care goes into the editing and design of each. I use long-life paper on most titles and real cloth for the hardbacks.

I am pleased to offer to Friends a special 'friendly' ten per cent discount on any of my titles, ordered direct, post-free from 18 Adelaide Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE8 2EN (0780) 56793. This offer lasts only for the duration of this edition of the Newsletter. Just out is a new complete catalogue of our titles (with prices), sent free on request. We even take Visa and Access.

Shaun Tyas

NEWS FROM OTHER CENTRES OF LOCAL HISTORY

English Local History at Oxford

There can be no doubt about the extraordinary popularity and vigour of English Local History at the present time. This healthy state is reflected in the numbers of people joining local history societies as well as the number of academic establishments keen to develop the subject. This year Oxford University is to offer its first part-time degree programme - a Master of Studies in Local History. This taught graduate degree course will be based at the

University's Department for Continuing Education at Rewley House. This is a reflection not only of the strength of demand for local history, but also of the university's increasing concern to provide for mature students.

The course director is Dr Kate Tiller, University Lecturer in Local History, who will be supported by a team who have developed the course to combine a systematic training in historical research with the study of a range of major historical themes.

Since 1990 continuing education at Oxford has been formally linked to the collegiate system of the University and Rewley House offers a great range of part-time courses on many subjects, either on a residential or daily basis.

The Institute of Irish Studies

The Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University, Belfast was established in 1965 'to encourage interest and to promote and co-ordinate research in those fields of study which have a particular Irish interest'.

Over the years the Institute's work has focused mainly on the humanities and social sciences, especially such disciplines as Anglo-Irish literature, archaeology, geography, history, Irish language and literature, political science, social anthropology and sociology. Scholars in other fields have also worked in the Institute. The genuinely inter-disciplinary nature of the centre has proved one of its major strengths, backed by the wealth of experience among its Fellows, who come from many different countries overseas as well as from Great Britain and Ireland.

The Institute's primary role is to promote research, to communicate the results of research through weekly seminars and frequent conferences, and to publish, either under its own imprint or by individual authors. Since 1987 the Institute has also provided a B.A. degree in Irish Studies, a Master's degree and a Diploma in Local Studies, run in association with the Institute of Continuing Education. The Institute also organises an in-service course on cultural heritage for teachers in conjunction with the University's School of Education.

Of the Institute's three main activities, research, teaching and publication, the first is the most important underpinning the others. The aim has been to attract scholars of proven ability, to nurture and stimulate their talents and provide a reasonable social environment in which they can interact. From its inception the Institute has provided a number of research fellowships for open competition each year. Research Fellowships are awarded normally to senior academics and held for one year. Junior Fellowships, which are held for one year with the possibility of renewal for a second year, are usually awarded to post-doctoral candidates who are preparing work for publication. The candidate's proposed research must relate specifically to Ireland. In recent years demand for Fellowships funded by the University has increased enormously.

The Institute also provides facilities for project work. This has taken two main forms, of which the first were projects promoted by the Institute itself. Examples are the Ordnance Survey Memoirs and the index to the eighteenth-century editions of the *Belfast Newsletter*. The former involved first the preparation of an index, then a computerised database and finally publication of the parish surveys of Ireland undertaken by the Ordnance Survey in the 1880's. The *Belfast Newsletter* index is likewise intended to provide a computer database. A second group of projects has been initiated by external bodies, and the number of these

has increased as the Institute has become better known. Projects have included surveys of industrial archaeology, a feasibility study for an architectural archive, a survey of historical gardens and archive surveys for histories of the Irish Post Office and the City of Belfast. The Institute received a grade 4 in the University Funding Council's recent research assessment.

Institute Fellows, other members of the University and staff of associated institutions and visiting academics are invited to present their research in the Institute's seminar series. Conferences are also organised, sometimes on the initiative of Institute Fellows or in response to requests from local agencies, learned societies and voluntary bodies.

Publication has been a major function of the Institute since its inception. The Institute's list now includes an average of eight to ten titles a year, not including its major work, *The Ordnance Survey Memoirs* which, when complete, will number thirty-eight volumes.

NEWS OF RESEARCH ELSEWHERE

The E.S.R.C. National Small Towns Project

The Small Towns Project, directed by Professor Peter Clark and based at the Centre for Urban History, Leicester University, began in 1985, and has been supported by generous E.S.R.C. grants. The project has made use of the latest computer technology and has developed important new methodologies for the processing of historical data.

Research has concentrated on demographic, occupational and socio-cultural data. Occupational data, concentrating largely on material from commercial directories dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, now covers 200 small towns and over 3000 different occupations. All this material has also been computerised, and the mainframe database now contains demographic data covering more than 200 parishes. The project has collected static population information, which is now published in Peter Clark et al., *Population Estimates of English Small Towns 1550-1851*. Most recently, the Small Towns Project has been involved in the collection and computerisation of social and cultural data relating to a wide range of socio-cultural indicators.

The Small Towns Project has always depended to a large extent on the dedication of a band of volunteers around the country. It has also benefited greatly from funding provided by several bodies in addition to the E.S.R.C., notably by the E.C. which has supported several dozen postgraduate students who have contributed greatly to the collection of the projects' data.

Alastair Milne, E.S.R.C. Research Associate

A Moneyers' Names Data-base at St Andrews University

The British Academy's *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* project began in the 1950's with Sir Frank Stenton as its first chairman. Its remit was to publish and illustrate all known hammered (i.e. hand-struck) coins produced in the British Isles, from private and public collections; the collections themselves were not to be confined to the British Isles, since to date museums in Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Poland have added contributions from rich hoards filled by trade and plunder.

When the *Sylloge* had reached vol. 20 I was asked to compile a cumulative index volume. It was to include indices of mints, find-spots, and a chronological table of

types within reigns, but by far the largest part was the Index of Personal Names. Although this volume has to fulfil the function of a numismatic tool, I seized on this opportunity to produce an up-to-date dictionary of the moneyers' names which characterise most of the reverse legends of the coins of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman kings, giving all the forms in which the names appear. Indices 1-20 and subsequently 21-40 were produced on the old card-index method, and after the publication of vol. 39, in the mistaken belief that the law of diminishing returns must surely by now be active, I had typed out my cards. My howls of anguish as vol. 40 produced unparalleled treasures from the Stockholm collection of Harold and Harthacnut, necessitating page after page of re-typing when even scissors-and-paste would not cope, produced a sympathetic suggestion from our then Director, Professor Donald Bullough, that I might look into computerising my project. The decision of the Sylloge Committee to work towards a completely cumulative Index on the completion in ten to fifteen years' time of vol. 60, came as the clincher.

When given the requirements of such a database, Julian Crowe, the University's adviser to the computer-gormless Arts people, decided that Ingres, with its inter-relating tables, would be the most suitable programme. At the moment we have two tables (JoinDefs). The main one is the CLASS and COIN table (ClassCoin), which consists of a classification: Name-form; Cointype, which gives the chronological reference; Place, the mint where the coin was struck, when known; and a running reference number. Below this are set out all the examples of coins which conform to that classification, one to each row, identified by their volume and number in the *Sylloge*. Individual data particularise each coin, 'Owner' particularises coins which have no known find-spot - not the present owner, which is indicated by the *Sylloge* volume, but the first collector in its pedigree. Die-axis, expressed in degrees, usually indicates the relationship of obverse to reverse; coins struck from the same dies and therefore duplicates in most respects will nevertheless have individual die-axes and weights. Although these latter data are not seen as figuring in the published Index, they are included in the database as possibilities for future research.

Since a dictionary format, with head-words, will be required for publishing the personal names, another table, LemmaForm, refers Nform to Lemma. This table has as additional information the language of origin. All the material in the two published Index volumes is at present being entered onto this database, into which subsequent volumes will then be appended, either as further lines in existing tables or as new entries. From this the personal names dictionary will be extracted, and also the other required indices.

At the moment I am considering creating two other tables: one to contain bibliographical material, connecting with the head-forms, and the other to translate the CType information into chronological terms more intelligible to the non-numismatist. This presents some difficulties, since the degree of certainty of even a relative chronology varies enormously for different periods and reigns.

As well as being used for compiling the index volumes, it is hoped that the data-base will be used for numismatic and philological research in other ways. We are also hoping that eventually the material on personal names can be shared with the *Datenbank Mittellateinlicher*

Personennamen, and it would be available to any projected new *Onomasticon Anglo-Saxonicum*.

Veronica Smart, Institute for Advanced Historical Research, University of St Andrews.

A Database for Place-Names: the Nottingham Project

A five-year research project is under way at Nottingham University to establish a computerised database of English place-name material and to compile a new edition of *English Place-Name Elements*. The project, known as 'The survey of the language of English place-names', is funded by the Leverhulme Foundation, and is based closely on the work of the English Place-Name Society (E.P.N.S.). The county-by-county survey published by E.P.N.S. has now reached its sixty-sixth volume, with twenty-three counties so far covered and six others in progress. By making the bulk of this information computer-accessible, we aim to increase significantly its potential as a research resource.

The project began in January 1992 with the appointment of Carole Hough as the first full-time Research Associate. Other members of the project team are Barrie Cox as Academic Director, Christine Fell as Administrative Director, and Kenneth Cameron as Academic Advisor. A second full-time Research Associate will be appointed in 1994 for the final three years of the project.

The first year has been spent in designing the database, in collaboration with the Cripps Computing Centre at Nottingham University. After considering a number of possible options, we decided to use the INGRESS database management system, a powerful program which facilitates the rapid and complex manipulation of data. The database will be stored on the university mainframe computer, to allow access by outside scholars through the JANET network.

Our main priority is to allow maximum flexibility in interactive searching. The project is essentially interdisciplinary, and is intended to support research in a wide range of subject areas. At the simplest level, we want to be able to identify all occurrences of any place-name element. At a more sophisticated level, we want to be able to identify all place-names containing a particular element or group of elements (examples might include topographical terms, Old Norse words, Old English plant-names, or feminine personal names) in combination with any other element or group of elements, recorded within a certain geographical area and/or before a certain date.

The basic structure of the database is now in place, and we have begun to enter data on individual place-name elements. Each element has associated with it a range of information relating to language, part of speech, alternative spellings, cognates, meaning, and so on so that this information will automatically be linked with each place-name in which the element occurs. Later this year we shall move on to place-names themselves, starting with major settlement-names from the E.P.N.S. county survey, and progressing to minor names and field-names if time permits. Each place-name will be analyzed according to its etymology, date, location and structure, so that users of the database will be able to select from a wide range of search criteria.

When a sizable amount of material has been entered, the database will become useful as a research tool and we hope to make it available to other scholars from an early date. We shall also use it ourselves to generate the information needed to compile the new edition of *English Place-Name Elements*.

The form of publication for the new edition is not yet decided but possibilities under review include conventional book-format, microfiche and loose-leaf hard copy. Ease of updating is a major consideration, as we anticipate that this edition will itself require regular revision in the light of new research made possible by the database. Interim results arising from the project will be published as journal articles, or in the case of major studies, as part of a new series of monographs from the Centre for English Name Studies.

Carole Hough

THE HISTORY OF SALISBURY ROAD AND ITS FIRST RESIDENTS

In last year's Newsletter Harold Fox noted that the Department knew very little about the history of what is now Marc Fitch House. John Taylor and Cynthia Thomas responded to Harold's call for volunteer researchers to gather information to fill that knowledge gap. The following article reveals what has so far been discovered about the first twenty-five years of the existence of that pair of elegant villas, numbers 3 and 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester.

In the 1870's saw imposing red-brick houses being built ever further southwards along Regent Road and Upper New Walk towards Victoria Park. In 1882 the Park was laid out on what had been the race-course, the northern edge of which had already become a villa-fringed road named after Lord Granville, Gladstone's Foreign Secretary. Granville Road's first half-dozen residents comprised three boot and shoe manufacturers, a leather merchant's company manager, an architect and an ironmonger.

This well-to-do air of industrious respectability also pervaded the newly emerging residential road north of the Granvilleans' back gardens. First called Salisbury Street after the Conservative Foreign Secretary and later Prime Minister, perhaps to even the party political balance, its three pioneering heads of households were hosiery manufacturer Mr George Padmore, brewer Mr Thomas Watts and master draper Mr Samuel Squire.

The early history of Salisbury Road presents a problem because the first houses were not designated by street numbers, which only started to appear in the mid 1880's. However Mr Squire was undoubtedly resident in the large four-square detached house, soon to be number 1, at the New Walk end on the north side, that is to say, next to what is now Marc Fitch House. The Department's own premises, numbered 3 and 5, have the distinction of being the first pair of houses built in the road. Designed for George Padmore by the architects R.J. and J. Goodacre of 5 Friar Lane, the building plans were submitted to the Borough Council's Highways and Sewerage Committee early in December 1876 and approved a week later. It is clear from the plans that no road name had then been adopted; the location was simply designated by the district name of 'Southfields', a reminder that this was a late stage in Leicester Corporation's residential development of the large tract of open land called the South Fields and enclosed earlier in the century.

Although the architects' plans were drawn for 'G Padmore Esq' and officially approved before the end of 1876, it was not until May 15th 1877 that George Padmore formally purchased the 'parcel of land between Regent Road and New Walk' from the 'Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses

of the Borough of Leicester' at a price of £681.1s.7d. The villa pair was apparently erected between June and September 1877, when Mr Padmore entered into a one thousand pound mortgage on the property with 'Alfred Paget and Edwin Clephan, both of Leicester, gentlemen'.

The Goodacre firm, 'architects and brick makers of Lancaster Street', also designed Mr Samuel Squire's house, the plans for which were officially approved in March 1878. The house still bears a confirmatory date stone. Its plans also show Mr Padmore as the owner of the next-door property, which would suggest that Marc Fitch House was already built.

The next building to be undertaken - to plans submitted by architects Goddard and Paget in April 1879 - was the 'pair of villas for Mr John Hodges' on the south side of the road at the Regent Road end (now nos 12 and 14). This was probably the same John E. Hodges of T.W. Hodges and Sons, elastic web manufacturers, residing at Mayfield, Stoneygate.

The following year saw the approval of plans prepared by James Tait, 'architect at 28 Friar Lane', for the impressive terrace of five large-windowed houses (now even nos 2 to 10) opposite Marc Fitch House. The plans describe them as being 'built for Mr W. Stanyon'. Mr William Stanyon, boot and shoe manufacturer, was then resident in Granville Road and the building was almost in his own backyard; he moved later to Elm Croft in Victoria Park Road. His five Salisbury Road houses were always let to tenants. The remaining gap in the road, immediately to the west of Marc Fitch House, was filled in 1884 with another Goodacre designed pair of villas (nos 7 and 9). This building plot was inscribed, in the 1877 Padmore property deeds, as being owned by the Goodacre firm and since the architectural plans do not state for whom these houses were designed, they would seem to have been the architects' own speculative enterprise.

Of all the named developers of Salisbury Road only Messrs Padmore and Squire, who were the first two to build, seem to have actually resided in the houses built for them; and George Padmore, since he had constructed a semi-detached pair, let one to a tenant. All the other houses appear to have been built specifically for letting; sometimes, from street directory and voters' list evidence, with a fairly rapid tenant turnover.

Although not yet confirmed, it looks most likely that the Padmore family lived at no. 5 (rather than no. 3), moving from nearby Regent Road in 1877. The 1881 census return shows a family of six children, the eldest at 21 being the only daughter, Edith. The two oldest sons, George and Edward, apparently worked in their father's hosiery manufacturing business while the younger sons, Henry, William and John, were still at school. All the children were born in Leicester, as was their mother Mrs Emma Padmore, then 51 years old. The census entry for Mr Padmore's age is smudged enough to make it uncertain whether he was 50 or 60. With his place of birth shown as London, it seems probable he came to Leicester as a young man setting up both a family and a business. In 1881 he was described as a 'Hosiery Master' employing some 60 work-people: he carried on business under the name of G. & J.W. Padmore at 1 Rutland Street, Leicester. At home, though, the Padmores employed only one resident servant, Mary Hall, an 18-year-old 'domestic servant' from Donnington, Leicestershire.

The Padmore's tenant neighbours in the adjoining house, Mr and Mrs Frederick Watts, were relatively young with no children, recently married perhaps. The husband, a 28-year-old brewer and his wife Agnes, 20 years old, were both born in Leicester. A Leicester trade directory has an impressively phrased entry for a firm of 'Watts & Son, importers of wines and spirits, hop merchants, maltsters, brewers, etc., 30, 32 & 34 High Street, 19, 21 & 23 Silver Street and 3 Hotel Street'. Could the Padmore's tenant have been the '& Son'? To care for their domestic needs the young Watts couple had two living-in servants, a 25-year-old cook domestic, Claire Adam, and a housemaid, two years younger, Mary Sensical, the former Leicestershire born and the latter from Rutland.

The master draper at no. 1, Samuel Squire of the well known Leicester store Morgan, Squire and Co (which survived into the 1970's) was, at 33 years of age, the father of three young sons. The Squires had moved from their previous home at 2 The Crescent, King Street, perhaps in search of a more commodious residence to hold a family of five and three servants, all three from Leicestershire villages. While the Squire family remained in Salisbury Road for many years - a widowed Mrs Squire was still at no.1 in 1938 - there was a steady coming and going of residents elsewhere in the road.

At nos 3 and 5 both the Padmores and the Watts had moved on by the mid 1880's to be replaced respectively by the Sharples family (Richard Sharples, hosiery manufacturer) and the widowed Mrs Mary Rome. These in turn had left by the time of the 1891 census after which no. 5 was occupied by the Jacksons (45-year-old head of household, Edward Jackson, commercial traveller born in Boston, Lincolnshire, and wife Mary, from Leek in Staffordshire). No young Jacksons were recorded, but there was a 22-year-old general domestic servant, Teresa Deacon, born in Walgrove, Northamptonshire. Within three years the Jacksons had gone, to be replaced by the Henderson family (Duncan Henderson of D. Henderson & Co., boot manufacturers at 28 Queen Street), who remained for some years. In 1891 no. 3 was occupied by the widowed Mrs Mary Roberts, and her two sons, Percy and George (the former unemployed and the later an accountant), with their 22-year-old general domestic servant, Gertrude Horton. But then ten years later, in 1901, street directories present the familiar name of Padmore again resident in Salisbury Road, at no. 3 this time.

The property deeds confirm that the pair of villas now known as Marc Fitch House remained in Padmore ownership from the time they were built in 1877 until the middle years of this century. During most of that time the Padmores lived elsewhere, letting both houses to tenants. Present evidence suggests that the Padmores maintained full mortgages on both houses throughout this long period of ownership, presumably to raise business capital combined with tenancy income. The family's Leicester-based business continued but their residential whereabouts are still being charted. Already identified is Whiston Hall near Northampton, perhaps marking a particularly prosperous time in the family's business affairs. Our investigations are proceeding.

We are indebted to Richard Float, the University's Estates and Services Bursar, Mr Tyler of the University's solicitors Messrs Ironsides, Ray and Vials and the Leicestershire Record Office for information made freely available.

John Taylor and Cynthia Thomas

SALES ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS

We have the following Departmental Occasional Papers for sale, all proceeds going into our funds:

At £4.50 (post free) are:

Hart, *Early Charters of Essex*.
Allison *et al.*, *Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire*.
Allison *et al.*, *Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire*.
Hey, *Rural Metalworkers of the Sheffield Region*.
Hart, *Hidation of Northamptonshire*.
Hart, *Hidation of Cambridgeshire*.
Naughton, *Gentry of Bedfordshire*.
Phythian-Adams, *Continuity Fields and Fission*.

At £3 (post free) are:

Davey, *Ashwell*.
Finberg, *Local Historian and His Theme*.
Thirsk, *Fenland Farming*.
Barnes, *Clerk of the Peace in Cardine Somerset*.
Mooylan, *The Form and Reform of Local Government in Kent*.
Shumer, *Evolution of Wychwood*.
Morrill, *Cheshire Grand Jury*.

A small quantity of past issues (nos. 3, 4 and 5) of this Newsletter are available for £2 each. Please send all orders (no cheques initially) to Harold Fox at the Department.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Membership: Dr Anne Mitson, 61 Trowell Road, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2EJ.

Reservations for Seminars: Mrs Pauline Whitmore, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR. Tel: 0533 522762.

Contributions to Newsletters and Books for the Booksale: Please send these, marked 'Newsletter' or 'Booksale', to Marc Fitch House.

Editorial Team

Rosie Keep (Editor), Peter Austin (Deputy Editor), Harold Fox (Executive Editor), the University Reprographic and Photographic Units (cover and reproduction), Anne Mitson (distribution), Ralph Weedon (inputting etc.), Margery Tranter, John Goodacre, Hugh Keep (proof-reading).

AN APPEAL

We are looking for volunteers to join next year's Newsletter editorial team. Much of the inputting takes place in June and July so anyone wanting to join us should be available then. Familiarity with Wordperfect is an advantage. Please contact Harold Fox or Rosie Keep in the Department.

