

Group for Regional Studies in Museums

NEWSLETTER NO. 4 : JANUARY 1978

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EDITORIAL

In launching this newsletter just over two years ago my predecessor emphasised the need to draw together the interests of a number of specialist disciplines in order to provide a coherent picture of local culture. These interests might include the work of the regional ethnologist, the dialect specialist, as well as the local, social, and architectural historian - often complimentary and overlapping but infrequently joined with the material evidence with which we, as curators, are most concerned. Yet the value of our material for research and interpretation relies to a large extent on the degree of supporting evidence derived from these sources, whether it be a tape recording of a craftsman's account of his work or documentary research setting that trade or craft into context.

Many of us are involved with the local history of those communities in which we have chosen to work. In some areas we find ourselves as the only body interested in the subject with deep commitments to extra-mural fieldwork and recording, whilst others find they are part of a well organised system made up of colleagues with their own specialist roles in record offices, libraries, planning departments and universities. Whichever category we find ourselves we have a special role to play with direct access to a large part of the raw material of the subject. Through the energy of our fieldwork we can develop our collections of local history material. Moreover we provide through our public displays an introduction to the subject - very often the only one - for our public, a large percentage of which will be local and, potentially at least, capable of being interested in their historic environment.

Yet somehow we cannot help wondering whether our local history museums have made as full a contribution as they might. There are of course, museums deeply involved with their local history, running the local archaeological and historical society and contributing a great deal to their community. But how many of us, I wonder, are still regarded as static as the objects in our collection by the members of that community which we serve. Our archaeological colleagues seem to have shouted louder about the threats to their sites below ground than we have to the equally alarming destruction of standing buildings. We have failed also to make an impact in local history manuals; search Professor Hoskins's works and you will find hardly a reference to local museums. In a recent popular publication by Dr. David Iredale, museums are presented as greatly helping the fieldworker. Yet only two paragraphs are devoted to the subject. In an otherwise excellent publication those paragraphs hardly begin to touch the subject of museums beyond public displays.

The Standing Conference for Local History has recently established a Committee to review the state of local history in England and Wales and "to make recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services". The Committee's request for information is published on page 2. Your Committee will be making a submission to this body in February; in the meantime members who wish to draw items for consideration to the attention of the Group's Committee are urged to do so as soon as possible. This is an important opportunity to present the opinions of those of us in local history museums. Let it not be wasted.

THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW LOCAL HISTORY

Since the end of the Second World War very considerable growth has taken place in the interest shown by people in local history as a subject of enquiry and of recreation. From its formation in 1948, the Standing Conference for Local History has been the only national organisation concerned solely with encouraging the study of local history and the provision of the services needed by those engaging in the work. The stage has been reached in the development of local history, and in that of the Conference itself, when it has seemed timely to set up an independent Committee "To make an assessment of the pattern of interest, activity, and of study, in local history in England and Wales; and to make recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services". Its Chairman is the historian Lord Blake, Provost of the Queen's College, Oxford University.

To enable it to conduct the enquiry, the Committee requires information and ideas from individuals, groups, organisations and educational bodies and establishments, concerned with local history. An invitation is extended to those who wish to make a submission in accordance with the terms of reference cited above. Submissions direct to Lord Blake, Committee to Review Local History, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU by February 28th or to the Secretary of the Group for Regional Studies in Museums as soon as possible for inclusion in the Group's submission.

It will facilitate the work of the Committee if those making submissions will incorporate in them certain information. Guidelines are given below.

INDIVIDUALS should head their submission with their names and addresses and lists of any relevant local, county or national organisations of which they are members. These details should be followed by short descriptions of the local history activity or work in which they are presently engaged. It will be useful if the Committee can be told of any limitations imposed on the interest which they can exercise in local history because of present organisational structures, or the nature or degree of the services available. People are asked to identify their needs and suggest if they can, how, and by whom, these might be met.

GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS should head their submissions with their names and addresses and give their dates of formation. These details should be followed by brief statements of aims, membership figures, and summaries on current activity and work, including publications. If groups/organisations are inclined to provide information also about their financial and administrative arrangements, this will be welcomed. If there are activities in which groups or organisations would wish to engage given certain conditions, i.e. necessary guidance, new or extended forms of support services, greater financial resources, it is hoped these will be mentioned. Please state the nature of what is thought to be required to enable the activities to go forward and make suggestions, if possible, about how, and by whom, the requirements might be met.

EDUCATIONAL BODIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS should head their submissions with their names and addresses. These details should be followed by short statements indicating the length of time in which they have been active in local history, and the form and extent of their current work. It will be of interest to the Committee to know of arguments for the development of any

services which they would like to see provided for local historians by their own or any other bodies. Similarly, the institutions should express any views they may have about facilities which, if available, would sustain them and their staffs in their work for local history.

IRGMA/MDA

The Museum Documentation Advisory Unit is interested in discussing with the Group for Regional Studies the problems of documentation in the subject areas covered by the group. We would like to hold seminars on the present and potential use of existing cards, such as the History Artefact and General Locality Cards, and the need for new subject cards. The MDAU is actively working on an Ethnography card (in collaboration with the Museum Ethnographers' Group) and the general field of the Decorative Arts. Should this work be of interest to any members of the Group for Regional Studies, they are more than welcome to join the appropriate working party. Please contact: Mr. Richard Light
Museum Documentation Advisory Unit
Duxford Airfield
DUXFORD
Cambridgeshire. CB2 4QR

THE NATIONAL TRUST AND THE DOMESTIC OFFICES OF COUNTRY HOUSES

The National Trust (Newsletter) no. 27 (1977) contains an article by Rosemary Joeke on the domestic offices of country houses entitled "Upstairs, Downstairs". The winds of change have obviously been blowing through the corridors of the National Trust for the last few years because two dozen Trust properties have now opened their kitchens or ancillary buildings. The writer emphasises the increased public interest in these quarters, an interest which has been highlighted by the now famous collection of servants' portraits at Erdigg. The opening of these rooms below stairs is to be welcomed if the public is to be given a full picture of how that particular country house and its estate was worked. One is left wondering to some extent how the furnishing of these rooms is being organised, how the collections are being catalogued and how much recording is being done of those who worked in the houses. Anyone with experience of this subject is invited to contribute to this newsletter.

SOUND RECORDING - A Regional Scheme?

Many curators involved with regional ethnology in their museums have long realised the value of tape-recorded material in the form of interviews, as a means of explaining objects in terms of a particular culture or environment.

The Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagans and the Imperial War Museum with their collections of sound recordings are good examples of this kind of work. Many curators would like to record elderly local residents or retired workers but they have neither the time nor the staff to undertake such an operation. A possible solution to this problem may lie in a project in the north west of England, where for some time a working party has been meeting to establish a regional sound archive to be known as the North West Sound Archive.

The initial Constitution is specific in its intentions towards regional studies for example - "To survey and record actively such items relevant to the life and character, history and traditions of the north west area" ... "to promote interest in and encourage sound and visual recording work in the north west area ..." and to "... establish a regional catalogue of the material included in the collection of the North West Sound Archive".

It is intended to provide a cassette loan service of copied material and eventually to provide a copying service for reel to reel users as well. The NWSA would not of course be restricted to purely oral history recordings but would include dialect studies, traditions and customs, regional folk music, drama, poetry and literature, characteristic sounds of the region including bird song.

A regional sound collection brings together recordings from a wide variety of sources, for example, local radio, industry, freelance sound recordings etc., which no one museum could reasonably be expected to do on its own. The storage of tape recordings presents problems of temperature and humidity control and this again is best tackled at a central location where the correct conditions can be maintained. Original recordings are made on $\frac{1}{4}$ " tape on reel to reel at $7\frac{1}{2}$ " per second tape speed to meet as far as possible professional broadcasting standards. Consequently, the sound recording equipment is far too expensive to be considered by most museums. The present position in the north west is that the recording equipment has been purchased by Greater Manchester Council on behalf of the NWSA for inclusion in a new public record office planned for the City of Manchester. At the time of writing negotiations are continuing to obtain at least one full-time professional member of staff to run the Archive.

Ultimately perhaps, similar sound archives could be established at regional centres and could be a vital source of material for the regional ethnographer working in museums.

Ken Howarth
Bury

Since sending this contribution Ken Howarth has published AN INTRODUCTION TO SOUND RECORDING for the oral historian and the sound archivist pp.62 Five very practical chapters on selecting equipment, techniques of recording, interviewing, copying tapes, storage and retrieval. Copies price 75p + 15p postage from North West Sound Archive, c/o 7 Sheaf-field Walk, Radcliffe, Manchester.

THE LLOYD-BAKER COLLECTION : an important Gloucestershire collection

When Miss Olive Lloyd-Baker of Hardwicke Court died in 1975 she left an agricultural collection of considerable regional importance. It is of major significance for the interpretation of Gloucestershire's rural past. She had gathered material from a variety of sources, tenant farmers, farm sales and antique auctions. Despite the absence of full documentation it seems that most of the 781 items in the collection came from the Vale of Gloucester.

The focal point of the collection is a group of sixteen farm wagons representing a number of traditional Gloucestershire types as well as timber wagons and flat-bed trolleys. The larger implements of husbandry include thirteen ploughs, six seed drills, five mowers and a variety of ancillary machines, such as winnowing fans. There is a very good group of dairying articles, a tack room including fourteen complete sets of harness and a harness-makers "horse". A blacksmith's forge (and tools) and a large number of miscellaneous craft and agricultural tools complete what must be one of the finest private collections of agricultural and craft material in the West of England.

Among these items a variety of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire implement and equipment makers are represented, such as Lister of Dursley. However, of particular importance is the equipment manufactured by Kells of Gloucestershire. This company originated in Ross, Herefordshire, but from 1851 were established at Barton Foundry in Gloucester. From here the ploughs, seed drills, winnowing machines and other implements which are prominent in the Lloyd-Baker collection were manufactured and distributed nationally and internationally.

The importance of the collection is heightened by the fact that in Gloucestershire only Gloucester City Museum has an agricultural collection of any significance in public ownership and that is neither as large nor as comprehensive as the Lloyd-Baker Collection. The opportunity was therefore clearly on hand to acquire and develop an outstanding monument to one of our foremost farming counties.

Miss Lloyd-Baker left no instructions for the disposal for the disposal of her collection and her executors resolved to offer the collection to H. M. Treasury in lieu of Capital Transfer Tax. H. M. Treasury sought the advice of the Standing Commission on Museums and Art Galleries with regard to whom to pass on the collection. A report was prepared for them, highlighting the collection's importance and urging that it should be kept in Gloucestershire, preferably at Gloucester City Museum.

In January 1976 Gloucester agreed in principle, to seek acquisition of the collection should H. M. Treasury offer it to them. A building scheme to house about half of it was subsequently budgeted for. However, H. M. Treasury failed to come to a quick resolution on the matter and events overtook them. Gloucester City Council adopted a policy of nil growth and the relevant museum staff member left and was not replaced until my appointment in April 1977. At the same time the sums allocated for housing the collection were 'frozen'. Thus by the beginning of 1977 no progress had been made, and the executors of the Lloyd-Baker estate were seriously considering withdrawing their offer of the collection to the Treasury and selling it privately, thus ensuring that it would be lost to public ownership and it would be dispersed.

The effect of this was twofold. Firstly it precipitated Gloucester Museum into once again approaching the City Council with a new scheme and, secondly, other local authority museums in the County showed a serious interest for the first time. Museums in Gloucestershire are organised on a district basis. It is in general the policy of the County Council not to become a museum authority, though it aims "to provide a museum service in communities which at present have no service through co-operation and by initiating exhibitions, etc. "Gloucester, Cheltenham and Cotswold (the Corinium Museum at Cirencester) district councils all support museum services. Stroud Museum is run by a private trust. The Forest of Dean has no museum service at all. Tewkesbury have recently closed their museum to save money. In the early 1970s Gloucestershire museums tried to agree on 'centres of excellence' to which material from the whole county could be sent. It was easily agreed that Gloucester should specialise in Archaeology and Natural History; Cheltenham in the Fine Arts; and Corinium in Roman Archaeology. But no agreement could be reached about Social History, and all four museums continued to collect material from the county, entirely independently of the others and the amount of official co-operation was negligible. The Lloyd-Baker question illustrates both the advantages and disadvantages of such a situation.

H. M. Treasury has indicated that it would be prepared to accept the Lloyd-Baker collection in lieu of capital transfer tax provided that a public authority will accept the ownership of the collection on the Treasury's terms. The basic conditions are that the collection must be maintained and displayed (preferably on a single site) and that a clear indication should be given of the authority's ability to conserve the collection to satisfactory standards as well as arrange for its full documentation within an agreed period. It seemed that only Gloucester had sufficient resources of staff, space and money to meet these conditions. But, having considered the Curator's reports the Gloucester Leisure Committee decided not to recommend the City Council to attempt to acquire any part of the collection. However, a sustained press campaign led to the Council instructing the Leisure Committee to reconsider their decision.

Fortunately, Gloucester's problems created sufficient time for both Stroud and Cotswold district councils to put forward alternative solutions. Stroud's proposals have not met with much approval and seem unlikely to be acceptable to H. M. Treasury. The Cotswold scheme has, however, been greeted with great enthusiasm in most quarters. It involves utilising a redundant Police Station and Prison at Northleach (a popular Cotswold village) where it is considered that there is sufficient space to house the whole collection. It is proposed to appoint a "craftsman/technician" initially with responsibility for conservation of the collection, though the Curator of Corinium Museum will have overall control of the new venture. It is intended to open five months in each year, beginning in 1980. Finally, the name of this new museum will be the "Cotswold Countryside Collection".

During October 1977 the situation has clarified; Gloucester City Council has finally decided not to seek to acquire any part of the collection on the grounds that the cost was too high. On the other hand, the Northleach scheme has been given both full Cotswold Council support and County Council support (they actually own the site). Thus at the time of writing it seems likely that, eventually, the Lloyd-Baker collection will end up as a branch museum at Northleach.

Considering that at the beginning of 1977 there was a real danger of the collection being lost altogether, we should be grateful that it has now found a home. However, the fact that it has taken two years to arrive at anything approaching a solution does seem to suggest a lack of co-operation at curatorial level and a lack of vision and failure to appreciate the requirements of regional studies. It is particularly ironic that while Gloucester Museum's scheme was being "effectively torpedoed from within its own ranks" (as the local press put it) Gloucester Civic Trust was launching a drive with Council support, to attract more tourists to the city!

One might be tempted to believe that the solution to Gloucestershire's problems would be a County Museum. At present the County Council seems disinclined to become a museum authority and in any case, there would no doubt be great problems in establishing its exact relationship to the present museum organisations. It has been suggested that the element of competition among the county's museums may be to the advantage of the museums service. If Cotswold District Council spends a large sum on a project one year, another district might spend a similar sum on a different project the next. A county service might find such spending prohibitive. However, at least complete coverage of the county would be assured which is better than a coverage depending on the priorities of each district council. And, of course, negotiations over collections of county-wide significance, such as Lloyd-Baker, would be much simplified to the benefit of all.

Stuart Davies
Folk Life Assistant
Gloucester City Museum
October 20th, 1977.

THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES 1977

(1) Report on the Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting, Dyffryn House, near Cardiff. March 18th-20th, 1977

The weekend was given a lively start with a talk by Geraint Jenkins on the Museum of the Welsh Woolen Industry recently opened by the Welsh Folk Museum at Dre-fach Felindre, Carmarthenshire. As an introduction to the aims of the Museum, Geraint Jenkins gave an excellent survey of the history of the Welsh textile industry from its early beginnings, through the 19th century mechanisation and its decline during this century. The new museum is designed to document the history and technological development of the Welsh woollen industry and is located in an old woollen mill in the village of Dre-fach, appropriately beside a small working mill. Dre-fach was chosen as the location of the museum as it is typical of the rural wool producing villages of Wales and in a county where cloth-making was a significant feature of the economic life. The village also contains within its boundaries an interesting selection of buildings which illustrate the progress of the industry from cottage workroom, through small attached workshop to the water and steam-powered mills. History trails through the village and along local streams will add an extra dimension to the displays within the museum itself.

The Saturday morning session concentrated on some of the problems facing museums in urban areas. David Sekers began the session with a review of his experiences in Stoke. The establishment of the pottery museum at Gladstone was the first serious attempt in the Potteries to preserve a typical manufacturing unit. Radical changes since the war have made considerable inroads into the historical landscape of the Potteries and an urgent programme of work is needed to document and record what survives. A similar programme of work is needed to record the working and social traditions of the area. The museum, too, in such an area should be more than merely a passive centre for visitors, but must seek to play an active part in the local community. Through displays, exhibitions, lectures, meetings, practical demonstrations, etc, it will be able to give the present resident community a link with the past traditions and hence a greater understanding of their contemporary problems, stimulating, perhaps, at the same time a more informed discussion on matters of conservation and preservation within the continuing programme of urban renewal in the area.

Stephen Price followed this with a paper on his work in the Birmingham suburbs. Predominantly rural until the First War most of Birmingham's suburban landscape belongs to inter war and post-war development. Although development is so recent the area has been influenced economically by Birmingham for at least the past century and as a result distinctive elements are added to traditional rural life. A programme of fieldwork is in hand in the city, recording standing buildings, interviewing farmers and craftsmen and attempting to analyse the problems of urban farming. The final paper in this session was given by Valerie Bott and was concerned with the situation in the London Boroughs. It is hoped to publish this paper in the next newsletter.

In the afternoon a session was held at St. Fagans on documentation procedures employed by the Welsh Folk Museum. Christine Summeril described the cataloguing and indexing methods for material objects. Arwyn Lloyd Hughes outlined the scope of the museum archive collections and the procedures for cataloguing and indexing and Elfyn Scourfield discussed documentation in the field, including recording and filming methods. This was followed by a tour of the museum, including stores, archives and workshops. The days programme was concluded with a demonstration by John Bevan of the newly acquired video-recording equipment at the Welsh Folk Museum. While relatively costly this was useful for recording from the television programmes about St. Fagans or of interest for archival purposes. In addition the screen can be used in conjunction with video camera equipment in making and showing filmed recording of crafts, trades, etc. and offers a cheaper alternative to standard cine recording techniques.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday morning. Elections were held for Officers and Committee following the retirement of J. G. Jenkins, Chairman; Peter Brears, Secretary and John Gall, Derek Jones, Graham Cruickshank and Brian Turner, Ordinary Members. The new Committee is, David Sekers, Chairman, Susanna Davis, vice-Chairman, Pamela Murray, Treasurer, Richard Langhorne, Secretary, Stephen Price, Editor and Ordinary Members, Gavin Bowie, Peter Brears, Valerie Bott, Garaint Jenkins, Chris Page and Bridget Yates. The Treasurer's report showed the Group to have a reasonable balance in funds of £69.67. Discussion then followed with the Editor's report on the nature of the newsletter. It was felt that this performed a useful purpose in keeping members informed of current activities and that its contents were best kept to short articles, notes and letters, longer pieces should be submitted to the Museums Journal or specialist journals such as Folklife. More contributions were urged from members. A number of further meetings were planned, including a specialist session at the Museums Association Conference at Bradford.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by a lively Open Forum discussion which brought the weekend to a close. David Sekers introduced a discussion on the policy the Group should adopt towards the present enquiry by the Standing Commission on regional centres (see Newsletter 3). It was felt that we should not lose our opportunity to put forward our views and it was agreed that a working party should be set up to look into the subject and draw up a document outlining future policy for our subject.

Vicky Airey brought members up to date on the progress towards setting up a Summer School in Ethnography (see Newsletter 3). This, it is intended, should draw on Swedish experience in the subject and the courses would be taught by visiting Swedish scholars. The Group was asked to give its support to this course and to consider becoming involved in its promotion. The need for such a course providing academic teaching in the subject was recognised and while a full-time university degree course would be ideal, a summer school would be a useful interim until such time as a degree course became available. There were some doubts whether the ethnographic approach alone would be suitable to deal with the later cultural problems of British society with its complexities and urban orientation. In general, though, it was agreed that the idea should be given strong support and the content of such courses could develop as practical experience was gained.

Richard Langhorne

(2) Bradford, July 15th, 1977

The Specialist Group meeting at the Museums Association Annual Conference consisted of three lectures from Yorkshire based speakers. In the first John Goodchild spoke about 19th century sources for social history. The wealth of documentation for the period was extremely well illustrated with Yorkshire examples. Peter Brears followed with a lively account of progress at the Castle Museum, York. Those of us who heard the speaker's account of what he found at York on taking up his appointment were heartened to hear of the progress that had been made in an extremely short time. The work of sorting and rehousing the collections had demonstrated clearly the extraordinary wealth and hitherto unrecognised importance of the Castle Museum's collections. The final lecturer, Clive Upton of the Institute of Dialect and Folk-Life Studies at the University of Leeds, outlined the work of this department, the relationship of folk-life and dialect studies and its relevance to museum personnel. Mr. Upton proceeded to demonstrate many of the points he had made by referring to his own work on the butchery trade in the Birmingham district, paying particular attention to the prevalence of back slang as a medium of communication between butchers.

(3) Skegness Seminar, 28th-29th October, 1977

The Skegness seminar owed much of its success to the varied programme organised very competently by Chris Page, Catherine Wilson and Paddy Burgess. Beginning at Church Farm Museum, Skegness, most of which opened in 1976 but the house only in May of this year, it was surprising to see what had been done on a budget of only £10,000. At present, except for the nucleus of the Best collection, it perhaps lacks a defined purpose. However, the addition of another barn for a local history gallery and the appointment of a person responsible for Church Farm - both planned for the future - would give local people more involvement and relieve pressures on the Lincoln staff.

An excellent "Lincolnshire style" lunch in the farmhouse helped everyone to savour the atmosphere of the early 1900s before Nevil Gurnhill, Assistant Amenities Officer for E. Lindsay District Council, gave an interesting account of the scope of his department and showed his own enthusiasm which must have helped gain the involvement of Lindsay District Council in the ownership of the Church Farm buildings.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was the visit to Robert Crawford's private agricultural collection at Frithville, where there were overwhelming numbers of tractors, threshing machines, fine traction engines such as the "Super Lion", vintage cars etc. Many museums would envy their resources as agricultural engineers when it comes to the restoration of large machinery. Many would have spent longer here, and it was a pity that darkness was beginning to fall when a brief look was made at the vast quantity of machinery awaiting possible restoration outside. The evening meal of traditional Lincolnshire fayre literally rounded off the day, and Chris Page obviously delighted in seeing newcomers' reactions to pickled samphire and fromarty.

Saturday's first excursion to Alford Manor House, run by the Civic Trust, showed the importance of local initiative, which in this case had rescued an Elizabethan timber-framed house and now being used as a local museum. Members of the Trust prepared an excellent lunch.

The visit to R. A. Thompson & Sons Millwright's workshop in Alford made one realise the difference between a living business and the dead feel that is often given when recreated in a museum situation. Few museum displays would include Victorian and 1977 tools along with extraneous items such as a pair of football boots. The old firm account book and the engine that drove the lathe were particularly fascinating, dating back to when the firm started.

After hearing the County Council's Windmill Policy from the Deputy County Architect, it was good to see this in practice at the five-sail tower mill at Alford, one of three working windmills maintained by the County Council. One disturbing factor is the lack of millers to keep the mills maintained, as there are somewhat ad hoc arrangements at both Burgh-le-Marsh and Heckington at present, and one wonders what will happen at Alford after Mr. Banks.

The day's activities were concluded with a visit to Aby watermill, now derelict, and bought by a private individual as part of a site for a trout farm. It would be nice to see the watermill restored to working order, but the owner has justifiable reservations about the expense involved and the question of public access.

In all, a thoroughly enjoyable two days, with both the advantages and frustrations entailed by packing such a lot into a short time. But full compliments to the organizers!

C. I. Morris
Norris Museum,
St. Ives.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(1) It is proposed to hold a small one day meeting in February or early March to look at standards of indexing and classification of social history material, and also at simple name terminology. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary, Richard Langhorne. The intention is to establish a working party in this very important field. The venue has not been decided but will be either London or Birmingham, dependent on response. Richard Langhorne would be pleased to receive copies of existing museum indexing and classification systems in social history from as many institutions as possible.

(2) The Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held in Birmingham in April and the theme will be urban museums. Details to follow.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

It is intended to ultimately produce in the newsletter a list of books and pamphlets relevant to regional study published in the previous year. Discussions are taking place on the most effective method of producing such a list. In the meantime the following may be of interest.

- Harding, Joan M. Four centuries of Charlwood (Surrey) Houses : Medieval to 1840 (1976) pp. 120 £3.00 Published by the Charlwood Society, Charlwood Place Farm, Charlwood, Surrey.
- Horn, Pamela Labouring Life in the Victorian Countryside (1976) pp. 292 £10.00 Gill and Macmillan
- Smith, W. J. "The cost of Building Lancashire Loomhouses and Weavers' Workshops : The Account Book of James Brandwood of Turton, 1794-1814" in Textile History vol. 8 (1977) pp. 56-76
- Sykes, Homer Once a Year : Some Traditional British Customs (1977) pp. 168 £5.95 Gordon Fraser.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Many of us find ourselves almost daily in need of bibliographic help. The Museums Association's bibliography issued ostensibly for intermediate students, Cosira's Select List of Books and Information Sources on Trades, Crafts and Small Industries in Rural Areas (1968) and Andrew Jewell's Crafts, Trades and Industries : A Book List for Local Historians (1968) help a great deal, but there are still many subjects, particularly in the urban field, not covered by these three sources. It is suggested that the newsletter provides a suitable vehicle for publishing bibliographies on specialist topics and that they should be strongly orientated towards the material evidence. Three preliminary bibliographies are offered here; the first two being kindly supplied by Andrew Jewell of the Museum of English Rural Life. Relevant illustrative material has been included in the third.

You are warmly invited to contribute in the following ways:

- a) Send us a list of omissions! Please remember that the emphasis should be on the material. The Group will issue revisions from time to time.
- b) Even better, offer a bibliography on a subject in which you have worked or are still working, if you think it would be helpful to your colleagues. Any offers, for example, bread baking, brick and tile making, malting?

(1) Agricultural Technology

Select bibliography of contemporary texts on crop husbandry farm mechanisation and general farming.

19th century

Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement. County reports under the title 'General view of the agriculture of ...' Published in two series, quarto and octavo, at various dates between 1793 and 1817. (For a complete list see R. O. McGregor, The historiography of English farming in Ernle, English farming past and present, London 6th ed. 1961 p. xci-cxv.)

Loudon, John Claudius An encyclopaedia of agriculture London 1825.

McConnell, Primrose Notebook of agriculture facts and figures
London 1883 and later editions.

Morton, John Chalmers A cyclopaedia of agriculture, practical and scientific. 2 vols. Glasgow, Edinburgh and London, 1855. (Probably the best of the many mid century agricultural encyclopaedias)

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Series of prize essays published in Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England between 1844 and 1870 under the title 'On the farming of ...' (For complete list see R. O. McGregor above).

Sheldon, John Prince Dairy farming : being the theory, practice and methods of dairying. London (c. 1880)

Stephens, Henry (ed) The book of farm implements and machines. Edinburgh and London 1858.

Stephens, Henry The book of the farm. Edinburgh and London. 1844 and later editions, the last revised by James Macdonald in 1908-9. (Illustrations and explanatory text are reproduced in Jewell, C. A. (ed) Victorian farming, a source book. Winchester 1975.

Interwar period

Bond, J. R. Farm implements and machinery. London 1923

Gulpin, C. Farm machinery. London 1938

- Davidson, J. Brownlee Agricultural machinery. New York and London 1931. (Useful reference for American products used in English farming).
- Nicholson, H. H. The principles of field drainage. London 1942
- Russell, E. John Soil conditions and plant growth. London 1927 (5th edition).
- Sanders, Harold George An outline of British crop husbandry. London 1939 (2nd edition with minor revision, 1949) [Classic exposition of arable farming technology.]
- Post war
- Bland, Brian F Crop production : cereals and legumes. London 1971
- Cooper M. M. and D. W. Morris Grass farming. Ipswich, 1961
- Davis, D. Bryan, D. J. and Finney, J.B. Soil Management. Ipswich 1972
- Duckham, A. N. Agricultural synthesis : the farming year. London 1963
- Duckham, A. N. (ed) Farming (4 vols). London 1963.
- Garner, Frank H (ed) Modern British farming systems. London 1972
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