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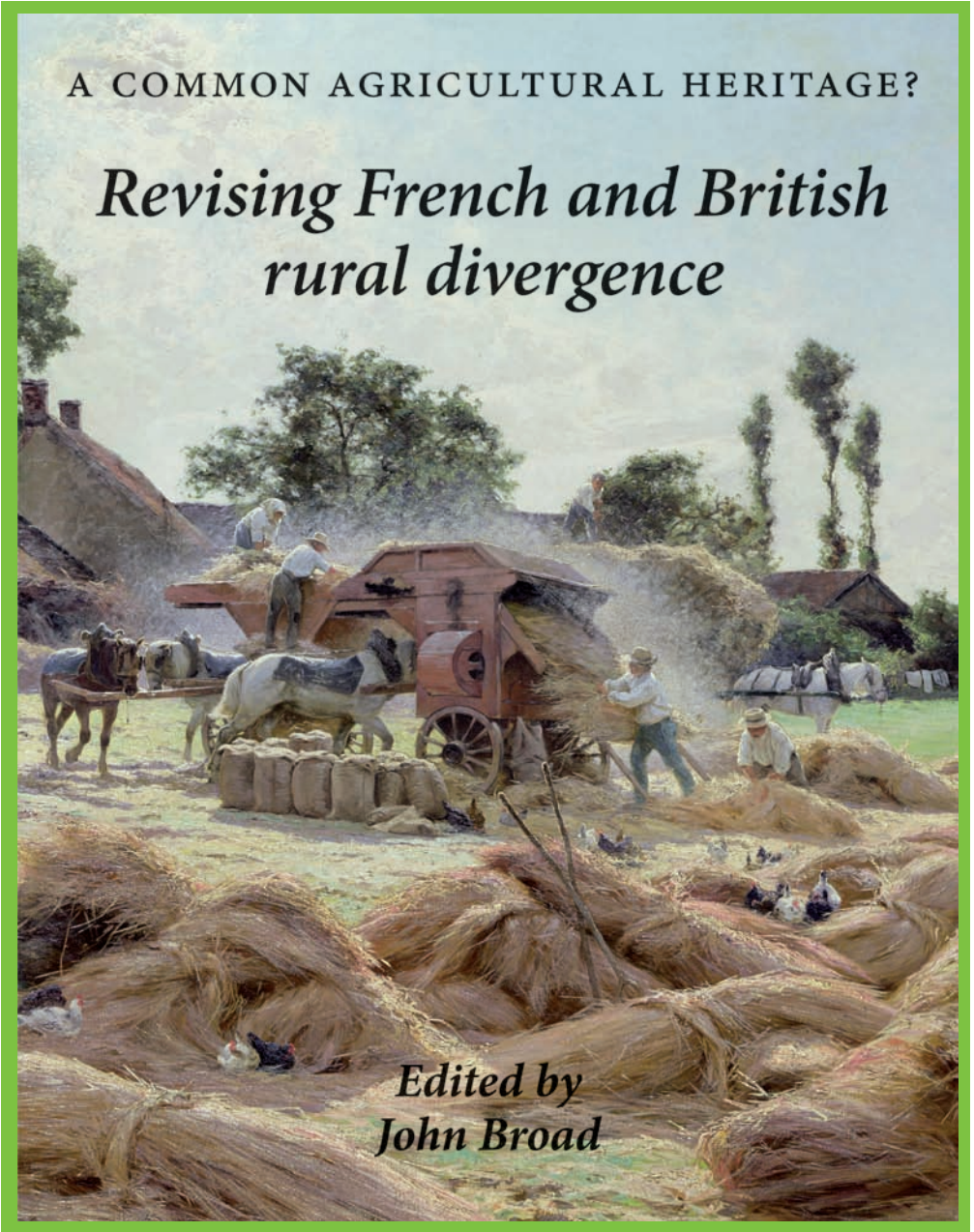
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Agricultural History Review 2010

A COMMON AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE?

Revising French and British rural divergence



BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2010

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY REVIEW

Editors

Prof. R. W. Hoyle (University of Reading)

Prof. H. R. French (University of Exeter)

A Common Agricultural Heritage?

Revising French and British rural divergence

For many years rural historians have followed the eighteenth-century agronomists and accepted that English and French agriculture were both quantitatively and qualitatively different. Where one was go-ahead and capitalist, the other was mired in outmoded institutions and low levels of productivity. This volume reflects the growing appreciation that the differences between the two were never so great. Thirteen chapters review key themes in the history of both countries, describing the international dimensions of knowledge exchange, challenging the myths surrounding peasantries and sharecropping, discussing in new terms the place of specialization in both nations and their adoption of technical innovations. It launches a new stage in our understanding by showing that England (and certainly Britain) was not as capitalist as is often supposed, and France far from backward. These essays strengthen our understanding of each nation's agriculture by showing how they responded in similar ways to the same challenges and opportunities.

The authors

Annie Antoine • Gérard Béaur • Allan Belmont • Richard Britnell • John Broad
John Chartres • Jean-Michel Chevet • Peter Dewey • Alun Howkins • Florent Quellier
Joan Thirsk • Michael Turner • Nadine Vivier • Susanna Wade Martins

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Previous supplements include R.W. Hoyle (ed.), *People, Landscape and Alternative Agriculture: Essays for Joan Thirsk* (2004) and Brian Short, Charles Watkins and John Martin (eds), *The front line of freedom: British farming in the Second World War* (2007).

Agricultural History Review publishes new and innovative work on the history of all aspects of rural society and agricultural change. Whilst the focus of the *Review* has traditionally been on England, it increasingly offers a coverage of the British Isles, Europe and North America. Recent and forthcoming articles include:

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- Agricultural change and the development of fox hunting • Farm rents and improvement in Scotland, 1670–1830 • Stints and sustainability: managing stock levels in England, c.1600–2006 • The Smithsonian bequest and early efforts to increase and diffuse agricultural knowledge in the United States • Higher agricultural education in Belgium and the development of a Catholic agricultural network, 1850–1914 • The dairy economy of a Swedish estate, 1874–1913 • The evolution of the minimum wage in agriculture in England and Wales, 1909–24 • Agricultural experiences in First World War Devon • The White Paper *Agricultural Policy* of 1926

The *Review* not only carries the best new writing in the field: it is also committed to writing which is accessible as well as challenging. It aims to attract not merely academics but also all those interested in rural heritage or who make their living from the land-based industries. It also publishes the most comprehensive range of reviews and an Annual Bibliography of recent publications in British rural history. Two parts of the *Review* appear annually. The *Review's* archive is available through the Society's website: in 2010 *Agricultural History Review* will also become a JSTOR journal.

From time to time the Society also publishes supplements which, like the *Review*, are free to members of the British Agricultural History Society. *A common agricultural heritage?* is the fifth of the supplement series.

The British Agricultural History Society, besides publishing the *Review*, and a bi-annual newsletter, *Rural History Today*, holds an annual residential conference at Easter (in Durham in 2010) and a Winter Conference on the first Saturday of December in London, both of which offer opportunities to hear and meet the leading practitioners of the discipline today. In 2010 the Society is organising the first international conference of rural historians, Rural History 2010, to be held at the University of Sussex in September, for details of which see www.ruralhistory2010.org.