

List of Books and Articles on Agrarian History issued since September 1957¹

Compiled by JOAN THIRSK

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

- BARRACLOUGH, GEOFFREY (ed.). *Facsimile of early Cheshire Charters*. Lancs. & Cheshire Record Soc. Publications.
- BAYLIS, C. F. *A short History of Edgware and the Stanmores in the Middle Ages*. Stanmore, Edgware and Harrow Hist. Soc., 5 Elmgate Gardens, Edgware.
- BAYNE, C. G., and DUNHAM, W. H. *Select Cases in the Council of Henry VII*. Selden Soc., vol. LXXV.
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- BONHAM-CARTER, VICTOR. *Dartington Hall: the History of an Experiment*. Phoenix House.
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- BRINKWORTH, E. R. C. *Old Banbury*. Banbury Hist. Soc., c/o Henry Stone & Son, Printers, Banbury.
- BUCHANAN, R. T. *Some Economic Problems of Livestock Marketing with particular Reference to Scotland*. Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, Edinburgh, 1957.
- COPLEY, GORDON J. *An Archaeology of South-East England: a Study in Continuity*. Phoenix House.
- CORDEAUX, E. H., and MERRY, D. H. *A Bibliography of Printed Works relating to Oxfordshire (excluding the University and City of Oxford)*. Oxford Hist. Soc., n.s., vol. XI.
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- DARLINGTON, REGINALD R. (ed.). *The Glapwell Charters*. Derbyshire Archaeolog. and Nat. Hist. Soc., Supplement to vol. LXXVI.
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- DORLING, M. J., and FOLLEY, R. R. W. *East Kent Horticulture*. University of London, Wye College, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, 1957.
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- EDWARDS, A. C. *A History of Essex*. Darwen Finlayson.
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- FINBERG, JOSCELYNE. *Exploring Villages*. Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- FREEMAN, T. W. *Pre-famine Ireland: a Study in Historical Geography*. Manchester U.P. 1957.
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE. *The Gloucestershire Landscape, 1577-1957*.

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- an Exhibition arranged by the County Records Office in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Gloucester.* Glos. Co. Records Office.
- GREAT BRITAIN. ROYAL COMMISSION ON COMMON LAND, 1955-58. *Report.* H.M.S.O.
- GREAT BRITAIN. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, AND FOOD. LIBRARY. *A Selected and Classified List of Books relating to Agriculture, Horticulture, etc., in the Library of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food.* H.M.S.O.
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Letter to the Editor

AGRICULTURE IN ROMAN TIMES

SIR,—Dr Applebaum writes: "While previous cultivation was mainly confined to chalk and limestone soils, Belgic settlement began to invade the medium loams."

I believe this may be true of certain areas which came under their influence. The Belgae, however, are not supposed to have arrived before 100 B.C. We have grain deposits from the coastal strip of West Sussex dating back to 350–250 B.C., showing that earlier immigrants had realized the value of this flat country.

Concerning the writer's summing up of the crops introduced by the Romans, namely club wheat and flax, the probability is that these two plants were reintroduced, as club wheat has been recognized in deposits from several Iron Age sites. Flax impressions in pottery come from Windmill Hill, Wilts (Neolithic),

and Westwood, Fife (Middle Bronze Age).

Dr Applebaum considers that "the level and productivity of Roman agriculture in Britain involved advances over the pre-Roman system." This no doubt applies to growing crops, but to what extent? Wheat was certainly the predominant crop, and in Roman days was grown more extensively than in former days, although the average cereal deposit on inspection portrays a very mixed one, wheat being the biggest constituent although other useful plants had evidently crept in such as *Bromus*. Little if anything was done to separate these seeds from the true cereals, and one must assume that plant breeding, or at any rate selection, had advanced very little.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. B. ARTHUR

'Cydweli', Court Wick, Littlehampton.