

Work in Progress

Compiled by ALAN EVERITT

The following list does not lay claim to completeness. It has been compiled from the particulars given in response to a letter circulated to universities and local record offices. It is hoped to publish similar lists from time to time, and the compiler will therefore be glad to receive any information concerning changes of subject and additions to this list.

ADAMS, R. H., *Mount Place, Wellow, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.*

Land drainage, surface irrigation, and embanking of tidal lands in the British Isles, 1500-1930.

ALLISON, R., *3 Fullerton Road, Carshalton, Surrey.*

The changing landscape of south-west Essex, 1600-1850.

ASKEW, G. P., *School of Agriculture, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne.*

Field evidence of medieval and later land reclamation and drainage of Romney Marsh.

BAINES, MISS P. J., *Linacre House, Oxford.*

British agricultural developments in the inter-war period, 1919-1939, with special reference to the contribution of interest groups.

BAKER, A. R. H., *Department of Geography, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.*

Field systems in Kent.

Farming in France since 1800.

BAKER, D. A., *The Polytechnic, 309 Regent Street, London.*

Kentish agriculture and society, 1660-1830.

BATHO, G. R., *Department of Education, The University, Sheffield, 10.*

Crown and noble estates, 1500-1640.

BATLEY, MRS LILIAN, *227 Dobcroft Road, Sheffield, 11.*

A survey of the court rolls of the manor of Tinsley, Sheffield.

BEST, R. H., *Department of Agricultural Economics, Wye College, near Ashford, Kent.*

The changing location of intensive crops in Kent (with Miss Ruth Gasson).

A comparative analysis of changing land-use patterns in Britain and the United States.

BIRRELL, JEAN R., *Economic History Department, The University, Sheffield, 10.*

The medieval English forest.

BLACKMAN, MISS JANET M., *Department of Economics and Commerce, The University, Hull.*

The food supply of an industrial town: the marketing of foodstuffs in Sheffield and the surrounding area from c. 1750 to the end of the nineteenth century.

BLACKWOOD, B. G., *27 Ryder Crescent, Southport, Lancashire.*

A social history of Lancashire, 1625-60, with special reference to the gentry.

BLUNDEN, J., *Department of Geography, The University, Exeter.*

Agricultural enterprise in the Culm and red loam regions of Devon.

BOWEN, G. C., *R.C.H.M., Rougemont, Manor Road, Salisbury, Wilts.*

Five hundred acres of Celtic and strip fields and associated settlements at Fyfield, Wiltshire (with P. J. Fowler, *et alii*).

BUCHANAN, R. A., *Department of Geography, The Queen's University, Belfast, 7.*

The Irish peasant house.

- BUTLIN, R. A., *Department of Geography, University College, Dublin, 2.*
Agrarian and urban changes in the Irish landscape resulting from plantation schemes in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries.
- CARLIN, MISS M. N., *St Anne's College, Oxford.*
Christ Church, Canterbury, and its lands from the beginning of the priorate of Thomas Chillenden to the death of Henry VIII (1391-1547).
- CATCHPOLE, J. L., *The University, Durham.*
An analysis of farming patterns in selected areas of Sussex, 1801-1964.
- CHAMBERS, Professor J. D., *Department of Economic History, The University, University Park, Nottingham.*
The agrarian revolution, 1750-1850 (in collaboration with G. E. Mingay).
- CLARK, E. T., *Department of History, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.*
Agricultural investment in England in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.
- CLARKE, H. B., 3 *Pakenham Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15.*
Evesham Abbey estates in Domesday Book and surveys of the twelfth century.
- CLAY, C. G. A., *Trinity College, Cambridge.*
English landownership between 1640 and 1740.
- CLIFFE, J. T., 263 *Staines Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.*
The Yorkshire gentry from the Reformation to the Restoration.
- COLLINS, E. J. T., *Museum of English Rural Life, Reading.*
The Great Depression in arable England.
Historical farm records survey.
Agricultural innovation and output in eighteenth-century England (with E. L. Jones).
- COPPOCK, J. T., *Department of Geography, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.*
Agricultural changes in South-East England, 1877-1964.
Agricultural changes in Buckinghamshire, 1831-1961.
- COSSEY, F., 60 *Sycamore Avenue, Peterborough.*
Farmworkers' trade unions in the fenland area of South Lincolnshire, Huntingdonshire, the Isle of Ely, and the Soke of Peterborough, 1871-1882.
The manor of Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, from 1086 to 1802.
- DAVIES, J. *Trinity College, Cambridge.*
Landownership in Wales in the period 1850-1920.
- DAVIES, R. R., *Department of History, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.*
Economic and agricultural history of some Marcher lordships in Wales in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.
- DILLEY, R. S., *St John's College, Cambridge.*
Rural historical geography.
- DODD, J. P., 21 *Townfield Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire.*
Nineteenth-century agriculture.
The 1854 Crop Returns.
- DODGSHON, R., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
Agrarian change in Roxburghshire and Berwickshire, 1700-1820.
- DOUCH, R., *Institute of Education, The University, Southampton.*
Some aspects of the history of agriculture in the Isle of Portland.

- DYER, J. F., *45 Ashcroft Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.*
The investigation of field systems near Knocking Hoe, Beds.
- EMERY, F. V., *School of Geography, Mansfield Road, Oxford.*
Regional farming in Wales, 1500-1640.
Agrarian change in Gower, 1500 onwards.
- EVANS, B. M., *Department of Geography, United College, Winnipeg, 2, Manitoba, Canada.*
Agriculture and settlement in North Wales, 1545-1670.
- EVANS, Professor E. ESTYN, *Department of Geography, The Queen's University, Belfast, 7.*
Survival of primitive agricultural techniques, buildings, and implements.
- EVERITT, ALAN, *Department of English Local History, The University, Leicester.*
Northampton: market and county town, 1500-1760.
Northamptonshire gentry in the seventeenth century.
Leicestershire gentry in the seventeenth century.
- EYRE, S. R., *Department of Geography, The University, Leeds, 2.*
The limits of improved land and common pasture in north Derbyshire from medieval times.
- FIELDEN, K., *Christ's College, Cambridge.*
Richard Cobden and America.
- FINBERG, Professor H. P. R., *151 Park Road, Chiswick, London, W.4.*
The structure of rural society in the Anglo-Saxon period.
- FLETCHER, T. W., *Department of Economic History, 15 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, 8.*
The agrarian revolution in Lancashire.
- FOWLER, P. J., *Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Bristol, 8.*
Five hundred acres of Celtic and strip fields and associated settlements at Fyfield, Wiltshire (with H. C. Bowen, *et aliis*).
- FREEBODY, MRS NINA K., *Department of English Local History, The University, Leicester.*
History of Scraftoft.
- FULLER, MISS G. J., *Department of Geography, The University, University Park, Nottingham.*
Development of agriculture, population, and settlement in the Wirksworth hundred of Derbyshire between Domesday and the Black Death.
- FUSSELL, G. E., *55 York Road, Sudbury, Suffolk.*
The classical tradition in West European farming.
- GAILEY, R. A., *Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra, Co. Down.*
Innovation and traditionalism in rural Ireland.
- GASSON, MISS RUTH. See BEST, R. H.
- GENTLEMAN, H., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
The agricultural geography of a transect of Warwickshire, south-east of Solihull, as revealed by studies of tithe-maps.
- GLASSCOCK, R. E., *Department of Geography, The Queen's University, Belfast, 7.*
The 1334 lay subsidy.
Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland.
Settlement desertion in the middle ages in England and Ireland.
- GRANT, MRS B. F., *78 Twyford Avenue, London, W.3.*
Social and economic history of Wensleydale, Yorkshire.

- GREEN, G. H., *Department of Agricultural Economics, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leics.*
The agrarian and manorial history of Castle Donington.
Agricultural trade on the Trent in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.
Little empires on the Wreake, in settlement, expansion, and decay.
Aspects of the agrarian and manorial history of Loughborough.
- GURNEY, MISS R., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
Population and economic changes in the Derbyshire Peak District, 1801-1901.
- HABAKKUK, Professor H. J., *All Souls College, Oxford.*
English aristocracy and gentry in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- HALLAM, H. E., *Department of History, University of Western Australia.*
The agrarian economy of south Lincolnshire in the later Middle Ages.
- HALLAM, MRS S. J., c/o *Department of History, University of Western Australia.*
Native settlement types, field patterns, and population round the Wash in Roman times.
- HAMSHIRE, J. D., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
The evolution of rural settlement in Worcestershire, with particular emphasis on the medieval period.
- HARLEY, J. B., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
Printed and manuscript maps before 1850.
The Hundred Rolls of 1279.
- HARRIS, A., *Department of Geography, The University, Hull* (in collaboration with W. Matzat, University of Frankfurt-am-Main).
Pre-enclosure field systems in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- HART, CYRIL, *Chenies, Coleford, Glos.*
The archaeology of Dean Forest.
- HARVEY, MISS SALLY P. J., *School of History, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
The valuations, values, and money renders of estates in Domesday Book and some other early medieval texts.
- HAVINDEN, M., *Department of Economic History, The University, Exeter.*
English agricultural history in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- HIGGS, J. W. Y., *Department of Agriculture, Parks Road, Oxford.*
The agrarian history of England, 1750-1850.
The British plough.
- HILTON, Professor R. H., *School of History, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
Medieval European agrarian history with special reference to Midland England.
- HOCKEY, Rev. S. F., *Quarr Abbey, Ryde, Isle of Wight.*
Medieval Quarr Abbey and its estates in the Isle of Wight.
- HOLLAND, D., *19 Oswin Avenue, Balby, Doncaster.*
The evolution of settlement patterns in South Yorkshire.
The replanning and rebuilding of English estate villages during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- HOSKINS, Professor W. G., *Department of English Local History, The University, Leicester.*
Harvest fluctuations and English economic history, 1620-1760.
English harvests, 1086-1800.

- HOUSTON, GEORGE, *Department of Political Economy, The University, Glasgow.*
 Production, prices, and wages in Scottish agriculture since 1790.
 The history of the Scottish farmworker.
- HOWELLS, B., *Southlands, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire.*
 Rural settlement and agrarian economy of South Wales, c. 1100-1650.
- HUGHES, P. H., *Ministry of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, 4.*
 History of agricultural co-operation in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- HURST, J. G., *Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.*
 Gazetteer of deserted villages in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire (for the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group).
- HYMANS, P. R., *Worcester College, Oxford.*
 The legal aspects of villeinage between Glanvill and Bracton.
- JEFFREYS-JONES, T. I., *Coleg Harlech, Harlech, Merioneth.*
 Welsh agriculture, 1700-1900, with special reference to the enclosure movement.
- JENKINS, J. G., *Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff.*
 The Welsh woollen industry.
- JENNINGS, B., *Department of Adult Education, The University, Leeds, 2.*
 Economic history of Nidderdale and the Forest of Knaresborough.
- JONES, E. L., *Nuffield College, Oxford.*
 The economic history of English agriculture, 1660-1880.
 British and European responses to low agricultural prices, 1650-1750.
 Agricultural innovation and output in eighteenth-century England (with E. J. T. Collins).
- JONES, G. R. J., *Department of Geography, The University, Leeds, 2.*
 Rural settlement in Wales and the parallel implications for early settlement in England.
- KERNTHALER, E. A., *82 Pine Hill, Epsom, Surrey.*
 Landownership, land use, and agricultural development in Surrey during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- KERR, MISS BARBARA, *Grants Farm, Longthorns, Wool, Wareham, Dorset.*
 Agricultural history of Dorset, 1750-1850.
- KERRIDGE, E., *Department of Economics, University College of North Wales, Bangor.*
 English agrarian history in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.
- KEW, JOHN, *24 New North Road, Exeter.*
 The land market in early Tudor Devon.
- KING, E. J., *St John's College, Cambridge.*
 The estates of Peterborough Abbey in the Middle Ages.
- LAWTON, R., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
 Population distribution, structure, and movement in nineteenth-century England.
- LLOYD, HOWELL A., *Department of History, The University, Hull.*
 The gentry of South-West Wales, 1540-1640.
- LONG, W. HARWOOD, *Agricultural Economics Section, University of Leeds, 40 University Road, Leeds, 2.*
 The development of Yorkshire farming since the seventeenth century.

- LORRAIN-SMITH, R., *Linacre House, Oxford*.
The economy of the private woodland in Great Britain.
- LOWNDES, R. A. C., *Laburnum House, Great Longstone, near Bakewell, Derbyshire*.
The planning of early fields at Millhouse, Middleton, Westmorland.
- McHUGH, BRENDAN J., *Department of Geography, University College, Galway*.
Rural economy in selected Irish counties.
- McQUEEN, J. D. W., *The Scottish Milk Marketing Board, 95 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, C.2*.
The evolution of the Scottish dairy industry since 1935.
- MARSHALL, J. D., *Bolton Technical Teachers' Training College*.
Effects of industry on agrarian conditions, labour migration, farming, 1750-1850, with special reference to the North-West.
- MASON, MRS K. M., *Reynard Ing, Ilkley, Yorkshire*.
The history of British cheeses.
- MASON, L. M. E., *et alii, St Michael's House, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire*.
Social survey of a rural district in South Nottinghamshire.
- MATZAT, W. See under HARRIS, A.
- MEAD, Professor W. R., *Department of Geography, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1*.
Hedgerows and field boundaries.
Ridge and furrow.
- MILES, R. O., *Balliol College, Oxford*.
A study of English forestry and development in relation to amenity and plantation design.
- MILLS, F. D., *Department of Agricultural Economics, 7 Redlands Road, Reading*.
The National Union of Agricultural Workers: a case study of trade unionism in British agriculture.
- MINGAY, G. E., *University of Kent, Westgate House, Canterbury*.
Social development of rural Kent in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
Bank credit and farming in the nineteenth century.
The tours of Arthur Young.
See also under CHAMBERS, J. D.
- MOISLEY, H. A., *Department of Geography, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Northern Nigeria*.
Field systems and settlement forms in the Outer Hebrides.
- NEWTON, K. C., *30 Avon Road, Chelmsford, Essex*.
The manor of Writtle, Essex, 1066-1450, with special reference to the period after 1325.
- OLIVER, J., *Department of Geography, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea*.
Weather records and accounts for Wales and South-West England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
Agro-climatic relationships in Wales and South-West England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- OWEN, A. E. B., *79 Whitwell Way, Coton, Cambridge*.
Land drainage and reclamation in the Lindsey marsh.
- OWEN, T. M., *Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff*.
Peat in Wales.

- PANNETT, D. J., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
The significance of ridge and furrow in the agrarian landscape of Warwickshire.
- PERREN, R., *47 Swyncombe Avenue, Ealing, London, W.5.*
The effects of agricultural depression on the English estates of the Dukes of Sutherland, 1870-1900.
- PERRY, B. T., *Department of Geography, The University, Reading.*
Iron Age and Roman settlement and agriculture in Hampshire.
- PLATT, COLIN, *Department of History, The University, Southampton.*
The archaeology of the monastic grange.
- PONTING, K. G., *Department of English Local History, The University, Leicester.*
West of England cloth industry.
- POSTAN, Professor MICHAEL, *Peterhouse, Cambridge.*
The agrarian economy in the Middle Ages.
- PRINCE, H. C., *Department of Geography, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1*
Parkland in England.
- PRITCHARD, MRS C., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
Changes in land use in the Worcestershire parishes of Bockleton, Kyre Magna, and Tenbury from 1840 to 1950.
- RAMPTON, MRS V. W., *Department of Geography, The University, Nottingham.*
The development of the seaweed industries in the British Isles.
- REYNOLDS, MRS P. M., *Somerville College, Oxford.*
Rural depopulation in Warwickshire during the later Middle Ages and early Tudor period (c. 1332-1553).
- RIDSDALE, J. H., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
Changes in the agricultural geography of a group of parishes in north-east Worcestershire from c. 1750 to the present day.
- ROBERTS, B. K., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
Settlement, land use, and population in western Arden (Warwickshire) between 1086 and c. 1400.
- ROBINSON, G. G., *10 Ullswater Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire.*
An historical study of the Humberhead warplands.
- ROGERS, ALAN, *Department of Adult Education, The University, Nottingham.*
Lincolnshire gentry in the fifteenth century.
- ROGERSON, A. J., *Corpus Christi College, Oxford.*
Some West Riding landowners and their estates in the seventeenth century.
- ROLLINSON, W. R., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
Agrarian history and climate studies in South-West Cumbria.
- ROTHWELL, Professor H., *Department of History, The University, Southampton.*
Hampshire topography.
- ROWE, JOHN, *School of History, University of Liverpool, 8 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
Cornish agricultural history in the nineteenth century.
- ROWLEY, R. T., *Linacre House, Oxford.*
The history of the South Shropshire landscape, 1086-1800.

- RUSSELL, R. C., *11 Priestgate, Barton-on-Humber, Lincolnshire.*
The agricultural labourer in Lincolnshire in the nineteenth century.
The parliamentary enclosures of Lindsey.
- RYDER, MICHAEL, *Animal Breeding Research Organization, Field Laboratory, Dryden Mains, Roslin, Midlothian.*
The domestication and history of sheep.
- SCHOVE, D. J., *St David's College, 29 South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.*
Weather history since A.D. 800, with special reference to manorial accounts and local diaries.
- SHARLAND, J., *21A Hailgate, Howden, Goole, Yorks.*
The development of the rural landscape of Howdenshire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- SHEPPARD, MISS JUNE A., *Department of Geography, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London, E.1.*
Rural settlement in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- SHRIMPTON, C., *Trinity Hall, Cambridge.*
Landownership and the Essex farming community in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
- SIMPSON, E. S., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
The nineteenth-century agrarian history of the Cheshire dairying region.
- SMEE, MISS DORA K., *Department of Geography, Bedford College, London.*
The influence of soil and slope in 'ridge and furrow' history.
- SMITH, MISS A., *Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 7.*
The inter-relationships between town and country in Lancashire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- SMOUT, T. C., *Department of Economic History, 15 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, 8.*
Village planning in Scotland, 1740-1840.
- SPUFFORD, MRS MARGARET, *The Clock House, Keele, Staffs.*
Rural Cambridgeshire, 1520-1680.
The social and agrarian history of Chippenham, Cambridgeshire.
- STACY, N. E., *Magdalen College, Oxford.*
The estates of the abbey of Glastonbury, c. 1000-1200.
- STANLEY, M. J., *Department of Geography, The University, Edinburgh.*
The historical geography of the Warwickshire hundreds of Stoneleigh, Kineton, and Marton, c. 1300-1550.
- STAVELEY, M., *Department of Geography, The University, Reading.*
Pre-Domesday geography in Northern Berkshire.
- STEDMAN, M. B., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
Studies of land use and settlement in the Forest of Feckenham, Worcestershire.
- STEED, MRS VIOLET, *Lovell's II, King's Sutton, Banbury, Oxon.*
A study of field systems, assarts, and settlements in Wychwood Forest, Oxfordshire.
- STORRIE, MISS MARGARET C., *Department of Geography, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London, E.1.*
The evolution of landholdings and settlement patterns in the West Highlands and West Lowlands of Scotland.

- STURGESS, R. W., *Department of Economic History, 15 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, 8.*
Nineteenth-century landownership.
English agriculture, 1800-1850.
- SUTTON, J. E. G., *209 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, Reading.*
A survey of ridge and furrow in Berkshire and Oxfordshire.
- SWALES, T. H., "*The Jolly Farmers*," *Yaxham Road, Dereham, Norfolk.*
Sales of stock, goods, and chattels of Norfolk monasteries, vicarages, and lay rectories.
- SYLVESTER, MISS DOROTHY, *School of Geography, The University, Manchester, 13.*
Land use and field patterns, present and future, in East Wales and the Borderland.
- THIRSK, MRS JOAN, *History Faculty Library, Merton Street, Oxford.*
The social and economic organization of the forest areas in England and on the Continent of Europe.
Customs of inheritance and their influence upon the occupation of land.
- THOMAS, A. C., *Department of Archaeology, 19 George Square, Edinburgh, 8.*
Celtic and medieval fields with associated settlements from prehistoric to present times at Gwithian and Camborne, Cornwall (in collaboration with others).
- THOMPSON, F. M. L., *Department of History, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.*
History of surveyors and the Surveyors' Institution from the eighteenth century to the present day.
- THORPE, Professor H., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15.*
Comparative studies of forms and patterns of rural settlement in the British Isles and Europe.
The evolution of settlement and land use in the West Midlands generally and in Warwickshire in particular.
- TITOW, J. Z., *Department of Economic History, The University, Nottingham.*
The manorial economy of South-West England in the fifteenth century.
- TUBBS, C. R., *The Nature Conservancy, Furzebrook Research Station, near Wareham, Dorset.*
The ecological interpretation of former agriculture on acid soils in the New Forest and east Dorset.
- TURNER, A. D. J., *6 Standgrove, Ardingly, Sussex.*
The population of England in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, 1520-1642.
- VOLLANS, MISS ELEANOR C., *Department of Geography, Bedford College, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.*
Agriculture and settlement in the Chilterns in the fourteenth century and later periods.
- VOSE, E. K., *30 Avenue Road, Great Malvern, Worcs.*
The administration and economic development of the estates of Worcester priory.
- WEST, F., *Department of English Local History, The University, Leicester.*
The history of Wrangle, Lincs.
- WIBBERLEY, Professor G. P., *Wye College, near Ashford, Kent.*
Agriculture and land-use planning in Kent.
- WILLIAMS, L., *Department of History, The University, Leicester.*
The development of road transport in Cumberland, Westmorland, and the Furness district of Lancashire between 1800 and 1880.
- WILLIAMS, MOELWYN, *Department of English Local History, The University, Leicester.*
The agrarian history of Glamorgan.

WILSON, C. P. H., *North Woodcock, Peddar's Way, East Wretham, Thetford, Norfolk*.
Possible centuriation in England and Wales.

WORDIE, J. R., *17 Cramer Street, Stafford*.
Estate management in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with particular reference to the Leveson-Gower properties.

YELLING, J. A., *Department of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 15*.
The agricultural geography of eastern Worcestershire, 1550-1870.

YOUNGS, MISS JOYCE, *Department of History, The University, Exeter*.
Monastic lands in the sixteenth century.

Letter to the Editor

SHEEP BREEDS

SIR,—Dr Michael Ryder is to be congratulated on the originality of his approach to the history of sheep breeds in Britain. His article on this subject (AHR XII, pp. 1-12, 65-82) is a notable contribution to knowledge in this field. The techniques described by Dr Ryder, such as the microscopic examination of follicle remains in parchments, permit a more precise assessment than hitherto of the wool and other characteristics of sheep in bygone ages, though they do little to increase our knowledge of the factors underlying the evolution of different breeds. It is here, in seeking to explain the development of sheep types, that Dr Ryder's argument rests largely upon supposition, while his use of historical evidence is not entirely free from bias and misconception. This is especially so in his discussion of the evolution of long-woolled breeds, in which he takes me to task for stressing the direct influence of pasture on the nature of the fleece. He states that "There is no doubt that this change in the type of wool [i.e. the lengthening and coarsening of the staple], beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing into the eighteenth, came about as a result of a change in the type of

sheep, and was not a direct consequence of the increased feed resulting from enclosure." This is much too dogmatic. There is, in fact, very considerable doubt, and the evidence presented by Dr Ryder is hardly convincing. In sum, this consists of two statements: the first, by Sinclair in 1791, that farmers introduced larger animals after 1750; and the second, by Parry in 1800, that "if enclosures have diminished the fineness of the wool, this event has been not the natural effect of the food on the body of the animal, but the moral effect of the change of crop on the mind of the farmer", enabling him to choose "a grosser and more fashionable stock" (pp. 70-1). There are obvious dangers in using late eighteenth-century source-material in the interpretation of sixteenth-century agrarian history, and, in fact, the implication of Sinclair's remark is that Dr Ryder's theory, whatever its merits, is not applicable to the period before 1750. Moreover, as Dr Ryder is no doubt aware, the view put forward by Parry appears to have been held by few of his contemporaries, and those who wrote on the subject were generally of the opinion that enclosure, by increasing the amount of feed, directly influenced the character of the fleece.¹

¹ See, for example, R. E. Prothero (Lord Ernle), *English Farming Past and Present*, 1912, p. 81; E. C. K. Gonner, *Common Land and Inclosure*, 1912, pp. 340-2; W. Youatt, *Sheep, Their Breeds, Management and Diseases*, edn. 1890, p. 70; *An Enquiry into the Nature and Qualities of English Wools, By a Gentleman Farmer*, 1788, pp. 17-22; Hist. MSS. Comm. *Buckinghamshire MSS.*, p. 303.

Even if one disregards these weaknesses in Dr Ryder's arguments, his thesis provides no acceptable explanation of the origin of long-woolled breeds. If, as he claims, enclosure "did not in itself make sheep grow longer and coarser wool", but "enabled bigger and longer-woolled sheep to be kept", it follows that such sheep must have already been in existence before the depopulating enclosures of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. But Dr Ryder has been unable to find any evidence for this, and his acknowledgement that enclosure "allowed the full expression of a genetic potentiality to produce long wool" (pp. 70, 79-80) is tantamount to an admission that pasturage had a direct bearing on the nature of the fleece. The fact that enclosed lands were at some date stocked with long-woolled sheep does not in any way invalidate this conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. BOWDEN

Dr M. L. Ryder writes: I regret that Dr Bowden has taken exception to my explanation of his sound historical evidence in terms that would accord with biological laws. I do not question his conclusions regarding the increase in supply of long wool, only his interpretation of the means whereby this change came about.

To simplify the problem, there are three main fleece types: hairy (hill), lustre long-wool, and short-wool (down). And it is impossible to change from one to the other by changing the feed. I have given evidence (*Nature*, no. 204, 1964, p. 555) from the fibre diameter range in old wool that the short-wool and long-wool each arose from a common generalized ancestor with both medium and fine fibres in the fleece. They have evolved from the common ancestor by genetic changes in the proportion of different fibre types in the fleece, and I interpret the medieval long-wool as having a fleece similar in length to the modern Romney breed (p. 80).

In fact, contrary to what Dr Bowden says, I have found specimens with a fibre diameter

range typical of the long-wool (and others typical of the short-wool) in medieval (p. 68) (and even in Roman) wool, but unfortunately the parchment and textile specimens available preclude any measurement of length.

The biological explanation of Dr Bowden's evidence is that the better nutrition allowed selective breeding of the primitive long-wool for increased length. Although better feed will make wool grow somewhat coarser and longer, it quite clearly cannot change the *inherent* ability to produce long-wool, which is what Dr Bowden implies. A long-wool will still produce a longer fleece than a short wool, even when poorly fed. Indeed, the change was not one of length alone, and involved changes of a genetic nature in fibre characteristics such as the appearance of lustre. Enclosure allowed adequate control of breeding for the first time; so long as 'good' and 'bad' animals ran together on the commons, no selection was possible. It is apparent that considerable progress had already taken place by the eighteenth century because Sinclair and Parry refer to the introduction of long-woolled sheep following the later enclosures. I quoted Sinclair and Parry as being the only contemporary writers to anticipate modern laws of heredity and realize the true basis of the changes they observed. This controversy that has unfortunately arisen between Dr Bowden and myself was the same one which Parry's statement was intended to clarify, and which in the words of H. B. Carter (*His Majesty's Spanish Flock*, 1964, p. 420) rises wraithlike in succeeding generations, although today there is sufficient scientific knowledge to put the question of nature versus nurture beyond doubt. Without genetic selection, the variations revealed by changes of diet cannot be inherited.

The ultimate origin of the long-wool is, however, still in doubt, and it is unfair of Dr Bowden to criticize me for not giving a full explanation of this complicated problem which continues to puzzle biologists, when I did discuss various possibilities (p. 79).