

unlisted site for medieval tiles and its tiles have not been described in detail, to my knowledge.

Representative fragments of all three designs, have been donated to Ipswich Museum by Miss Grubbe (Accession no. 1973-17).

L. S. HARLEY

*Royal Arms in Suffolk Churches.* The following are additions to my notes in the previous issue of the *Proceedings* (above, pp. 193-197).

Lady Jane Turnbull has told me of the following:

*Laxfield* The Anne Arms here were destroyed when they crashed to the ground in 1966.

*Tannington* An Elizabeth II set painted on copper, dated 1966.

*Worlingworth* George III, 1801-1816; mentioned in *Suffolk Churches*, p. 353.

*Wingfield* A Hanoverian set.

*Hemley* Mr. Leslie Dow points out the existence of George III Arms here: see *Suffolk Churches*, p. 268.

*Aldham* Elizabeth II, painted on wood and hanging over the north door.

D. N. J. MACCULLOCH

## REVIEW

University of Chicago Library, *The Sir Nicholas Bacon Collection: Sources on English Society 1250-1700, an Exhibition at the Joseph Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago, April- June, 1972.* Pp. x + 101. American Publishers Press, 1972. Price \$3.50.

Early in the 1920's the Bacon collection of documents from Redgrave Hall found its way to the University of Chicago. The archive comprised not only working papers from the Bacon estate and documents relating to the Bacon's family life and public offices, but also some exceptionally fine series of medieval manorial documents, many of them from the Suffolk properties of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey. The publication of this catalogue of an exhibition of items from the collection may possibly serve to reopen the wounds inflicted upon Suffolk historians when such an outstanding archive left the country. After all, should not their sense of loss be compared with the deprivation felt by art historians if the National Gallery were to be exported to New York, or the anguish of archaeologists were Stonehenge to be set up in Central Park?

This is not a calendar of the collection as a whole, but a catalogue of items which were chosen for exhibition. It consists of full or partial transcriptions of these documents, translations of some of them, and a few facsimiles. In addition there are short commen-

taries on each, largely the work of Richard M. Smith. These last are by far the most useful part of the catalogue.

One half of the catalogue is devoted to the medieval period, and rightly so in view of the exceptional quality and continuity of medieval material from some manors represented in the Bacon collection. Two features of the medieval scene are illustrated and discussed: demesne holdings of landlords, their administration, farm management and fluctuating fortunes; the peasant, his land, family, social relationships, and the stark facts of his life and death. We are given examples both of documents (extents and surveys) which portray landlord and peasant holdings at one point in time, and also of sources (account and court rolls) which set these static pictures into motion, giving insights into the changing circumstances of lords and their men alike. Some of the commentaries deal with topics which are familiar enough. Early account rolls are used, for example, to illustrate crop yields on demesne holdings and their provisioning with livestock and labour; a 13th-century survey is used as an illustration of that old East Anglian tenurial enigma the *tenementum*. Others discuss more novel topics and show how the Bacon collection is being employed in America to perfect new techniques of analyzing source material and to add a new dimension to the study of rural life in medieval England. Commentaries on the court rolls, in particular, bring us closer to the realities of peasant existence than historians of a few years ago would have thought possible. They explain the means by which facts recorded in manor courts may be used to obtain statistics on the number of sons in some families who survived their father's death (thereby providing information on the degree to which populations were replacing themselves over time); to illuminate other aspects of demography such as the incidence of illegitimacy and mobility in medieval England; to discover social linkings between individuals who acted as pledges for one another before courts; and to uncover patterns of trade between those who are recorded as parties in cases of debt. At last, through careful study of this type of document, the personal history of the medieval peasant is emerging from obscurity. The commentaries in this catalogue will serve as an introductory manual for anyone interested in pursuing him further, whether on Suffolk manors or on manors elsewhere in England.

The other half of the catalogue is concerned with documents from the 16th and 17th centuries. We are introduced to such subjects as the formation and management of landed estates in this period, methods of accounting, manorial customs, land tenure and the standard of living. Readers will also find in this section much which is diverting or of purely local interest. We learn, for example, that as Lord Chancellor Sir Nicholas Bacon had a wax allowance of £16 in 1573; that a hawk's perch was among the permanent fittings in the

hall of the Bacon's house at Thornage (Norfolk); that the parishioners of Coneyweston thought fit in 1613 to praise their minister for his 'godly life and honest conversation'; and much more besides.

Great care has been taken over the production of this catalogue but a few errors have inevitably crept into the text. To render *unde* as 'in which' (p.1), for example, or *apud* as 'upon' (p.16) is to read more into the original Latin than its authors may have implied. Here and there the commentaries might have been used to make specific points about some of the more interesting or perplexing terms used in the documents. But these are minor flaws. Taken together, all such faults of translation and omission form a cloud no larger than a man's hand which does not in the least obscure what is a carefully compiled and scholarly work.

This catalogue tends to dispel reservations about export in the past of a small number of English archives for academic use abroad. Uncontrolled traffic in single items for private collections, for sale as curios and for fabrication into lampshades must of course be abhorred. It is to be hoped that the Bill, recently sacrificed to Parliamentary timing, which aimed at regulating such piecemeal sales will be revived. Perhaps too the time has come to prevent any further purchases of major collections by university libraries in North America. But the existence of a few collections at a select number of universities in the United States and Canada surely furthers rather than retards the study of English history. Names of North American historians have always punctuated advances in English historical scholarship. We should not deny to a limited number of foreign universities archive collections which will continue to stimulate interest in English history abroad, to act as training grounds and as centres where new techniques of analyzing source materials may be generated. Calendars of such collections should, of course, be made available in England. Historians of Suffolk will always regret that the Bacon collection (for which very detailed calendars exist here) is no longer in this country. The catalogue under review should, however, make them aware that the excellent use which is being made of the collection at Chicago will in the long term benefit the history of Suffolk by suggesting new approaches to the study of the county's many remaining archives.

H.S.A.F.