

REVIEW

A NEW EDITION OF WILLIAM HERVY'S 1561 VISITATION OF SUFFOLK

At long last we have a scholarly edition of this, the earliest and most important of the Visitations of the county. For Hervy it was the first he made as Clarenceux King of Arms of which the College of Arms preserves an official record. There have been two previous editions, one of 1866-71 by J.J. Howard, who tackled only 21 of over 150 pedigrees; W.H. Metcalfe in 1882 published what was no more than a transcript. Miss Joan Corder has now produced for the Harleian Society a definitive edition with extensive biographical details of every family and full critical apparatus. All who are familiar with her *Dictionary of Suffolk Arms* know how methodically she works; fifteen years of devoted study have gone into this new two-volume Hervy, something for which we and future Suffolk historians will long be grateful.

Miss Corder does not make the mistake of tidying her sources, but prints what is there in the originals (College of Arms, and Iveagh, formerly Phillipps), deletions and all. Nor does she rearrange the pedigrees at will, and we are thus enabled to observe Hervy's working methods and speculate on the exact route he took and the places at which he sat to collect the evidence. This edition helps greatly too to elucidate the rather chaotic contents of the pocket book Hervy used in churches and houses during his stay in Suffolk, available as British Library Add. M.S. 4969 and in microfilm at Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. Each volume is available at £15, with £1.20 postage and packing, from the Hon. Secretary of the Harleian Society at Ardon House, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey.

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