

REVIEWS

David Brazendale, *Lancashire's historic halls*, Second edition (revised). Lancaster: Carnegie Publishing, 2005. [ix], 277 pp. £10.00 pbk. ISBN 1 85936 106 4.

This is the second edition of a book first published in 1994 and is primarily a work of popular history, rather than a history of buildings. The author has used significant Lancashire buildings as pegs on which to hang important aspects of the history of the county. For example, the account of Speke Hall is partly a description of the house and a history of the Norris family, but also deals with the involvement of the Norrises' in the affairs of the rising borough of Liverpool. This technique starts with the casual interest that the local or the tourist might have in 'great houses', and gently leads it into the history of the county. In this way Mr Brazendale shows himself the consummate adult educator.

The book is beautifully illustrated and produced, is priced very reasonably, and is a credit to both author and publisher. It is not a work of original research, except in the case of Rufford Old Hall, and does contain, inevitably, both mistakes and omissions. For example, in his account of Whalley Abbey the author states that the founder of the monastery at its original site, Stanlow, was John de Lacy, baron of Halton and constable of Chester castle. In fact he was constable of the earldom of Chester, a much more prestigious office. More significantly, he omits to mention that Whalley Abbey, very unusually for a Cistercian foundation, had quasi-episcopal jurisdiction over the morals and religious life of lay people—the inhabitants of the forests of north-east Lancashire. The *Act Book of Whalley*, the record of this jurisdiction in the decades leading up to the Reformation, is not in his bibliography although it was published over a hundred years ago.

Overall this book is highly successful in what it sets out to do. It deserves to continue to sell well, and will, I'm sure, introduce many more intelligent general readers to the history of Lancashire through its buildings.

P. H. W. Booth, University of Liverpool

Peter Kennerley, *Frederick William Dwelly, 1881–1957: First Dean of Liverpool*. Lancaster: Carnegie, 2004. xii, 292pp. £20.00 hbk. ISBN 1 85936 133.

Born in 1881, Dwelly graduated BA from Queens' College, Cambridge in 1903, and after ordination and serving in curacies in Windermere and Cheltenham, he was appointed vicar of Emmanuel Church, Southport, in 1916, beginning his forty-one year association with Lancashire on which the larger part of Peter Kennerley's book concentrates, and it is in the recounting of the events of these years that the book's value lies.

At whom this substantial hardback is aimed is not clear. It is certainly no mere souvenir for a casual visitor to the Cathedral, and yet there are many illustrations (sadly often uncaptioned) more suited to such a book than to a serious biography.

To a loyal Anglican it is a reminder of a now largely forgotten servant of the Church of England in general, and the Diocese of Liverpool in particular, but it is no mere hagiography, as Dwelly's faults and weaknesses are no less hidden than his strengths and achievements are praised. But what of its usefulness to a historian? By retelling the story of one of its more senior servants, it serves as a commentary on aspects of the life and problems of the Church of England in the first half of the twentieth century, as well as an explanation of some of the customs and idiosyncrasies associated with the history of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral. At a time when the established church was still suffering from the crisis of faith of the nineteenth century and the further disillusionment brought about by the horrors of war, the Church of England in particular was also still trying to recover from the ritual controversies of those years, and the recognition, *post* 1906 that, *inter alia*, the form of Anglican worship needed revision.

Whilst at Queens', Dwelly had been dissatisfied with the formal nature of the daily services in chapel, and in his early years as a priest, he began to develop an imaginative approach, by the use of space, colour, movement, sound and silence, as to how it might be made more meaningful. During his time at Emmanuel, he had become involved with the Life and Liberty movement, an unofficial body created, largely by William Temple and Dick Sheppard, to stimulate changes within the Church, with its name being suggested by Albert Alexander David, Headmaster of Rugby, and subsequently third Bishop of Liverpool. Dwelly was also influential in involving Percy Dearmer in the movement, and they, with others, were behind the production of the so called 'Grey Book', one of three offered as contributions toward the Prayer Book revision attempts of the 1920s. Had the proposals that had been accepted by the three houses of the Church Assembly and also the House of Lords not been rejected by the narrowness of margins in 1927 and 1928, the subsequent story of Anglican worship might have been very different, and the present almost *laissez faire* situation

avoided. Kennerley gives us just a few tantalising glimpses of what might have been.

Bishop Francis James Chavasse had retired as second Bishop of Liverpool in 1923, after having watched the choir and eastern transepts of the new cathedral grow from their foundations to the point of readiness for use, and Albert David, who since the start of 'Life and Liberty' had been consecrated Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, was translated to succeed him. Confessing to having little expertise in such matters, and prompted by Canon Charles Raven, David invited Dwelly, whose imagination and abilities in designing and ordering liturgy were widely recognised, to draw up the service for the Cathedral's consecration and supervise the necessary rehearsals.

To fulfil this role, Dwelly was appointed 'Ceremonarius', and consulting a number of medieval precedents, and making them meaningful to the twentieth century, he compiled what one writer called a 'Grey Book *in excelsis*', and on 19 July 1924, the eastern end of the Cathedral was duly set apart to divine use. Kennerley manages to capture some of the liturgical excitement of this period, and describes the part that Dwelly had in designing numerous special services for Liverpool and elsewhere. He also includes illustrations of some of the distinctive Service Books themselves, one of which, designed by the sculptor E. Carter Preston, is cleverly adapted as the design for the dust jacket of his book. Having been many times congratulated on the form of the service, and undertaking a preaching tour in the USA, Dwelly was installed as a Canon of the Cathedral on 2 May 1925. He was appointed its Vice-Dean in 1928, and in 1931, when the Deanery and Chapter of Liverpool were formally created, Ramsay MacDonald submitted Dwelly's name to King George V to be the first to fill the post of dean.

After mentioning the award later that year of a Lambeth DD by Cosmo Gordon Lang, Kennerley launches, in virtually the same paragraph, into an analysis of the 'calamitous' (*sic*) breakdown, after nine happy years, in the relationship between David and Dwelly. Prior to 1931, the Bishop had also been Dean, with responsibility for both diocese and cathedral, and it would seem that his difficulties in surrendering the latter contributed not a little to the breakdown. Neither Kennerley nor those who were there at the time seem able to pinpoint any one cause, but the breach was to become both a local and a national scandal. One contributory cause was the so-called 'Unitarian Controversy'. Simply put, two prominent Unitarian ministers, Dr Lawrence Pearsall Jacks and the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, were invited to preach in the Cathedral, and given the position of their denomination regarding the divinity of Christ—a central plank of official Anglican teaching—their admission to the Cathedral's pulpit gave rise to considerable comment, criticism and finally censure. Jacks, a former Principal of

Manchester College, Oxford, delivered his sermons at a series of special, non-liturgical services held at 8.30pm on three Sundays in June 1933 and at the time no criticism of his doing so appears to have been offered. Redfern, on the other hand, was Minister of Ullet Road Unitarian Chapel and chaplain to Sir Sidney Jones, High Sheriff of Lancashire. One of the latter's duties was to attend to the well-being of HM Judges of Assize, including arranging the Assize Service, with which each sitting began. It was customary for the High Sheriff's chaplain to be invited to preach at such services, but Redfern's non-Trinitarian theology had precluded this elsewhere in the Circuit. Dwelly, mindful of Liverpool Cathedral's declared policy of inclusiveness, would have none of this, and offered the pulpit to Redfern, who delivered an 'entirely non-controversial' sermon at Morning Prayer on 22 October 1933 (Ellis, in his memoir of Redfern, cites him as giving the year as 1931, and somewhat surprisingly, Kennerley, while quoting much of Ellis's citation, makes no attempt to resolve the discrepancy).

Three days later, the rumblings began with a letter of protest from a local Rector but the real trouble began when Lord Hugh Cecil, a leading Anglican layman in the Church Assembly, petitioned Archbishop Temple of York to cite Bishop David to appear before him, and to charge Dwelly of encouraging or thinking lightly of heresy. Kennerley clearly shows that not all agreed with Cecil's petition, and makes little of the debate of Northern Convocation in June 1934, but his handling of the whole unfortunate episode and its aftermath, and also of a number of other occasions of dispute between bishop and dean, is helpful in illuminating the tensions within the church of the period, some of which exist to this day.

Bishop David retired from the See in 1944 and died in 1950. Dwelly, however, remained Dean until 1955 (he was Dean Emeritus until his death on 9 May 1957), his final years in office being marked by failing mental health. Before that, he had continued his fruitful friendship with Charles Raven, who had gone on to be Regius Professor of Divinity and Vice-Chancellor at Cambridge, and in 1947 he delivered one of the prestigious Hulsean Sermons at that University. Kennerley describes Dwelly's wartime activities, and his apparently harmonious relationship with Clifford Martin, the fourth bishop. The author is not afraid to touch lightly on the close friendship of Dwelly with his secretary and 'trusted lady companion', Christine Wagstaffe. He touchingly describes some of the strange effects of the dean's Parkinson's disease on his conduct of some services, and closes the book with a selection of *post mortem* tributes and his own assessment of 'the Dwelly legacy'.

If one of the marks of a good book is whether it makes its reader want to go and explore the subject matter further, then Kennerley undoubtedly succeeds, but two negative aspects of this volume, for which the publisher is

surely responsible, reduce its usefulness. The reader is hindered by the marked lack of differentiation between the author's text and quotations from other sources, and the absence of clear references makes further research more difficult. Space for these might have been achieved by a reduction in the number of superfluous illustrations.

Michael E. Brian, Liverpool History Society

Annelise M. Fielding and Andrew P. Fielding (eds), *Salt works and salinas: The archaeology, conservation and recovery of salt making sites and their processes* (Lion Salt Works Trust Monograph Series—Research Report no.2). Northwich: Lion Salt Works Trust, 2005. vi, 108 pp (+DVD). £9.50 pbk. ISBN 0 9538502 2 6.

Michael Nevell and Andrew P. Fielding (eds), *Brine in Britannia: Recent archaeological work on the Roman salt industry in Cheshire* (Archaeology North West, Vol. 7—Issue 17 for 2004–05). [Manchester]: Council for British Archaeology North West / Lion Salt Works Trust / University of Manchester Archaeology Unit, 2005. 72 pp. £10.00 pbk. ISBN 0 9527813 4 4.

During the last two decades the story of the Lion Salt Works project has been that of the optimism, imagination and tenacity of the Project Director. When this, the last open-pan salt works in Britain, closed down in 1986 the site at Marston near Northwich was purchased by Vale Royal Borough Council. The Lion Salt Works Trust was formed, and Andrew Fielding was appointed as Director.

At the outset it was absolutely clear that this extraordinary site had the potential to become an important and fascinating working museum. Also obvious to any visitor was the daunting scale of the structural repair, stabilisation and reconstruction which would be necessary. By pumping wild brine over many years the site had undermined its own foundations (not that it had much in the way of foundations), and the salt-laden vapour from the evaporating pans had attacked every component of the structure, producing a distinctive patina of decay. Who could be persuaded to sink restoration funds into a site which seemed to be on the brink of being swallowed up by the very ground it was sitting on?

Apparently undaunted by these thoughts, Andrew Fielding has led the project through many years of geo-technical surveys, structural analyses and restoration proposals. At last sufficient technical knowledge has been accumulated about the site and its subsoil to give confidence to submit a major funding application for the restoration project. In the meantime, the Trust has busied itself expanding the knowledge about the history and techniques of salt-making. For such an ancient industry, so essential to human survival over centuries, it is surprising how little research has

previously been undertaken. Not only is it an ancient industry, it is also prevalent throughout the world.

One of the Trust's research initiatives was an international conference held at Northwich in 2003, and the *Salt works and salinas* publication presents the conference papers. It is a well co-ordinated series of papers, beginning with a useful introduction to the subject, and including an account of the Lion Salt Works project so far. The chapters cover different historical periods and geographical locations, and demonstrate the similarities and differences to be found throughout the world. Contributions describe sites in Germany, Denmark, Colorado and elsewhere. Perhaps the Salins-les-Bains saltworks in south-east France has more in common with the Lion Salt Works than do many of the others. A similar style and layout of salt evaporation pans, but the French site differs in having large canopies over the pans. In northern Spain are to be found the deteriorating remains of a massive installation which relied on the sun to evaporate the brine as it flowed through a series of linked timber troughs covering an entire valley—another daunting but fascinating restoration project.

Historical re-enactments as demonstrations to audiences can often be criticised as having more to do with family entertainment than practical research. However the demonstrations of Roman and mediaeval salt-making which have been carried out at the Lion Salt Works over several years have clarified many issues about the practicality of the ancient techniques and materials used. This has led to more accurate archaeological interpretation of salt-making sites elsewhere. Chapters describe these re-enactments, including an unusual demonstration on the western shore of the United States which illustrated how the early nineteenth century explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark took the initiative to produce their own salt from sea water during their pioneering journey to the far side of the Rocky Mountains.

This book already seems good value for less than £10, but for your money you get a DVD thrown in as well! The new technology gives an opportunity to include many colour illustrations of sites mentioned in the book. Also shown is an animation of salt-making in Roman times, which is not entirely convincing in its attempt to recreate the authentic setting. A three-dimensional movie of a laser-scan survey of the Lion Salt Works and its structure is an excellent idea which again has not really worked—too fast and too fuzzy to appreciate the detail. But then, for that price what do you expect?

An earlier Council for British Archaeology conference in 2002, also at Northwich, led to the publication of *Brine in Britannia* as a special issue of *Archaeology North West*. Eight papers are included, which bring together a considerable body of knowledge which has been built up only in very recent years. To a large extent this has resulted from developer-led excavations

prior to new building, as part of the planning process. Not necessarily targeted at the Roman period or the early salt industry, these sites brought to light new information about the extent of the very early salt industry in Cheshire. Recent fieldwork in Middlewich and Nantwich is reported, and the findings compared with other locations including East Anglia. The value of practical experimentation and demonstration is also highlighted, as aids to identifying and understanding archaeological finds.

The papers raise a number of intriguing unanswered questions about the geographical extent, organisation, and social context of Iron Age and Romano-British salt-making in Cheshire, and in their final chapter the editors suggest an agenda for future research to tackle these wider issues. Hopefully this publication will encourage archaeologists and historians to explore these topics.

Ken Catford, Oxton

Michael Nevell and Ivan Hradil, *St Lawrence's Church [Denton] and the archaeology of the medieval timber-framed churches of England and Wales* (Archaeology of Tameside series, Vol. 4). [Ashton-under-Lyne]: Tameside MBC, 2005. [iv], 102 pp. £7.95 (+ £2.75 p&xp) pbk. ISBN 1 871324 30 0 (available from Tameside Local Studies and Archive Centre, Central Library, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7SG).

Lost in the urban sprawl to the east of Manchester is a little architectural gem surviving from the sixteenth century. Only within the last fifteen years or so has its historical importance become fully appreciated, as a result of archaeological and research work undertaken by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit on behalf of Tameside Metropolitan Council.

St Lawrence's Church in Denton dates from the 1530s, and is one of only twenty-nine mediaeval timber-framed churches and chapels which survive in England and Wales. The recent archaeological work has clarified a great deal about the historical development of the church, and also interestingly about the immediate surroundings of the chapel yard and later burial ground. The investigations have revealed the great extent of mediaeval timber construction which survives in the walls and roof of the original nave.

The research has been published by Tameside Borough in the fourth volume of the 'Archaeology of Tameside' series, of which other recent volumes were reviewed in *Transactions* 153 (2004), pp. 130–33. The same principle has been followed of setting the subject into its wider context, and this is one of the values of this series of publications. There are five chapters, of which the first gives a concise overview of mediaeval timber church building nationally, with references also to Europe and particularly

the early stave churches of Scandinavia. The English and Welsh examples fall into four geographical groups which can be defined as the Cheshire group (with by far the largest number, taking in the surrounding counties and including St Mary Trelystan at Forden, Powys—the only example in Wales); the Hereford/Worcester group; the Hampshire Group and the Essex group.

Chapter 2 explains the history of St Lawrence's Church, and does so in relation not only to its architectural development but also by setting the story in the context of the evolving religious and liturgical developments, including the strong local influence of Puritanism. This very helpful religious analysis is all too often missing from architectural histories of church buildings. One Puritan minister who greatly influenced the development of the church was John Angier who was minister of St Lawrence's for 45 years from 1632 until 1677. If you think that commitment was impressive, then wait until the narrative reaches William Parr Greswell who was the minister for no less than 63 years from 1791 to 1853!

The archaeological work in the 1990s is described in chapter 3, with a carefully explained interpretation of the findings. The work extended beyond the timber-framed church itself to include its immediate surroundings and long-demolished buildings such as the schoolhouse. Chapter 4 gives an account of the restoration of the church which commenced in 1993. The process revealed previously hidden architectural details including the surprising extent of surviving sixteenth century construction. The description is illustrated with drawings and photographs, but the latter are not always clear. For example the text refers to one photograph to illustrate the 'Tudor style' four-centred arch which was discovered in the north wall of the nave, but I could not discern this detail in the rather grey illustration. Misprints throughout the book include several instances of that old favourite, the 'principal/principle' confusion.

Very useful is the gazetteer in chapter 5 of all twenty-nine timber-framed mediaeval churches. Slightly confusingly, a list on page 30 names thirty examples numbered 1 to 29, with the number 21 used twice. Descriptions, usually with a photograph, are given of each one, and this feature adds greatly to the value and interest of the book.

There is no doubt that the archaeological work, and now this publication, have helped at last to give rightful prominence to this important mediaeval survival. The authors illustrate this point by referring to the original *South Lancashire* volume of Pevsner (1969) with its brief mention of St Lawrence's, and comparing it to the two-pages-long 'post-archaeology' description in the new 2004 edition. Similarly the paragraphs on Denton village in the North West Civic Trust's 'pre-archaeology' book: *The treasures of Lancashire* (1989) do not even mention the church (some thirty-five years earlier, though, Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh had been rather

more discerning in Murray's *Lancashire architectural guide* (1955) in identifying the 'special interest' of St Lawrence's mediaeval timber-framed nave).

With restoration complete, together with landscaping improvements to the surroundings, this fascinating little church can now be fully appreciated with the added benefit of this publication.

Ken Catford, Oxton

Clare Hartwell, Matthew Hyde and Nikolaus Pevsner, *Lancashire, Manchester and the South East* (The Buildings of England). New Haven/London: Yale UP, 2005. xx, 748pp. £29.95 hbk. ISBN 0 300 10583 5.

On the front cover of this excellent book is a colour photograph of Prickshaw, an eighteenth and nineteenth century fold of gritstone houses near Rochdale which sums up the strong and enduring vernacular architectural tradition of the region. The back cover has a picture of Daniel Libeskind's Imperial War Museum North on the south bank of the Ship Canal in Stretford. The contrast between the two encapsulates the exceptional diversity of the built heritage of south-east Lancashire, while the image of the IWM forcefully demonstrates the dramatic changes which parts of south-east Lancashire have experienced in the past twenty years. Between the covers is a 750-page treasury of information, analysis, comment and contextual explanation about the architectural history of the region, its celebrated monuments and its forgotten corners, its buildings of national and international significance and its homely and humble reminders of past ordinariness. In 1969 *South Lancashire* was one of the last volumes to appear as part of Pevsner's extraordinary publishing epic, a book which encompassed two conurbations and two cities of world renown, and all the manifold and varied bits in between. To many, especially since the early 1980s, the 1969 edition has been better than nothing but perhaps not entirely satisfactory, seeming too condensed and too limited to be really useful, and ignoring or downplaying some of the crucial themes in the extremely complex architectural history of half a county. There was also, perhaps, a faint sense that south Lancashire was perceived as being not entirely meritorious in architectural terms—culpably, for example, not enough good medieval stuff appeared to have survived—and sometimes almost the feeling (doubtless a very unfair one) that parts of the area were being covered more for the sake of completeness than because of their architecture.

Now, though, that niggling feeling has been swiftly and triumphantly banished by the first of three volumes which will cover 'real' Lancashire in the new, enlarged and more ambitious format which the Pevsner guides,

published under the protective wing of Yale University Press, have adopted. The recently-published Manchester and South-East Lancashire volume is an outstanding addition to an already remarkable second generation, and is wholeheartedly recommended. It is clearly advantageous that the county should be subdivided into three rather than two sections, not only because of the practical difficulty of fitting Liverpool and most of Merseyside in the same volume as Manchester and its conurbation, but also because the new arrangement permits a much greater focus upon the distinctive and individual history of the three parts of old Lancashire. In its format the volume follows what has become the 'new generation' Pevsner model, with a substantial and authoritative set of introductory essays which are sufficiently substantial almost to stand alone. They cover the geology and building materials; the archaeology and early history; church architecture up to the seventeenth century; domestic, collegiate and school architecture to 1700; the eighteenth century; the Industrial Revolution; the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the interwar years; the region 1945–1990; and recent developments. The chronological distribution of the sections is significant, because the authors have, most commendably, sought to bring the story to the immediate present, while paying special attention to themes, such as vernacular Pennine architecture, which have an importance in terms of surviving monuments from the past. These essays are fundamental to the success of the volumes, because they are much deeper, longer and more rounded than those in the first generation of guides. The descriptions of individual places are essential, of course, but a proper understanding of the context of each—and the relative merits of the region's architecture—can best be appreciated by careful study of the essays.

The geographical scope also makes sense. Given that traditional county boundaries are the framework for Pevsner volumes, it was inevitable that north-east Cheshire (including Stockport, Hyde, Dukinfield and Stalybridge), which might logically have been considered in a 'Greater Manchester' volume, could not be included. That was unavoidable, but the area chosen—Greater Manchester minus the Cheshire bits and Wigan Metropolitan Borough—is a reasonably coherent and realistic unit, and allows the city states (particularly Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham and Salford) to be seen in the context of the wider trends across the region as a whole, yet at the same time to be described thoroughly and systematically with a generous allocation of space to each. In 2001 Clare Hartwell published the first volume in Yale UP's parallel 'City Buildings' series, her superb book on Manchester. The present county volume unavoidably covers much of the same ground in its discussions and descriptions of the city centre, so the judgments expressed in the earlier volume are frequently found here too. The freshness, therefore, comes especially from the accounts of those other

towns around Manchester, too readily dismissed in the past but now given a proper and sympathetic treatment. One of the attractions is that the authors clearly know Lancashire and the places they write about, to a far greater extent than was the case in the 1969 version. That is appealing, and gives a greater sense of informed authority to their text. They are careful observers—noting, for example, that central Bolton, uniquely among Lancashire's larger towns, has no high-rise buildings so that the Victorian town hall is the dominating landmark, or that nineteenth and twentieth century Oldham had grand banks and indifferent public buildings. In such ways are readers encouraged to observe the obvious, a process which is far from commonplace in writing on architectural history, where all too often the esoteric detail of minor features receives far more attention than the general forms and context of a building or the wider observation of patterns and processes.

The place-by-place entries follow the now hallowed Pevsner form. For larger towns there is a brief introduction, and for the largest a short descriptive and contextual essay. The places of worship are then considered, followed by a section on public buildings, and then a description of each of the main streets with, in many instances, a perambulation. Finally, individual suburbs and outer areas are covered. For smaller places this general sequence also holds good, though necessarily without the more detailed perambulations and the suburban coverage. There are numerous illustrations, with a central section of 126 generally excellent colour plates, and dozens of smaller black and white maps, plans and drawings. As with other volumes in the rejuvenated series, the style is lively and approachable, and opinions are expressed freely and refreshingly, often in a delightful style. Who could fail to be won over by the following? 'Rochdale is an octopus rather than an amoeba. It has grown tentacularly, with open spaces between the tentacles. The spaces are the river valleys, still green though the earliest industry is to be found there, and the high ground. The tentacles—to be incorrect zoologically—all have a major road as their spines, and they reach out to touch the next towns'. What a perfect description, and how refreshing it is to read architectural history written with a sense of humour!

Alan Crosby, Preston

Barrie and Wendy Armstrong, *The Arts and Crafts movement in the North West of England: A handbook*. Wetherby: Oblong, 2005. xxii, 284 pp. £17.50 (incl. p. &p.) pbk. ISBN 0 9536574 6 9 (obtainable from Oblong Creative Ltd., 416B Thorpe Arch Estate, Wetherby LS23 7BJ).

For a movement which idealistically set out to bring harmony, to relate the building organically to its setting, to re-engage craftsman and consumer,

the Arts and Crafts has induced some fairly acid responses over the years. The movement's perpetual exercise in nostalgia, there from the start with Ruskin and Morris, has been condemned as damagingly anti-urban, enshrining an insatiable appetite for escape which ultimately led to Tudorbethan suburbia, the twentieth-century inanities of 'by-pass variegated'. Critic Jonathan Meades pushes the argument further, sensing that the generation of the 1850s and 1860s displayed such imaginative ingenuity ('they built a twee fiction but they built it beautifully') that those who followed had no choice but to ape them, relentlessly and badly. Even the more balanced architectural historian Joe Mordaunt Crook sadly sees Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft becoming an exquisite irrelevance, the movement generally (after vernaculars Gothic, Georgian, Cotswold, Byzantine, Picturesque and eclectic!) in a 'bucolic blind-alley'. And this year's rather splendid V&A exhibition on the 'International Arts and Crafts' produced a degree of sniping, specifically that the organisers, by following an unscholarly populist agenda, had failed in a rigorous definition of the English core of the movement.

The Armstrongs' handbook is a magnificent antidote to all this doom and gloom. Their gazetteer has been compiled over the past seven years during which they visited over eight hundred sites in the North West, the region being split into sections on Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Staffordshire. The main body of the book is followed by a biographical index of the artists and craftsmen who had links with the Arts and Crafts and whose work is identified in the sections of the gazetteer. The volume concludes with a bibliography, first of unpublished sources and then an extensive index of books and periodicals. Usefully, the authors asterisk titles which they recommend as providing a grounding in the Arts and Crafts movement.

A preface acknowledges that historians generally date the Arts and Crafts to the years between 1880 and the Great War. The Armstrongs have wisely taken a broader view in order to embrace influential work done from 1860 onwards while the movement was developing. In fact it could be argued that the Swedes began it all in 1845 with the foundation of their Craft Society, but the later date still allows for the inclusion of architects who set the trend towards a freer use of Gothic principles (Bodley, Paley & Austin, Douglas, Godwin, well represented in our region). And the polemical impact of Pugin, Ruskin and Morris can be reasonably explored. The substantial introduction admirably weaves the Arts and Crafts impact from Voysey and Baillie-Scott in the 'north' to Morris and Shaw at Leek in the study's 'south'. In terms of resonance it is a pity that North Wales is excluded, since Liverpool's Henry Wilson (Brithdir), Wilson/Lutyens protégé Herbert North (Llanfairfechan) and John Douglas (at his most arts-and-crafty in Deganwy and Maentwrog) make such a rich trio.

As it stands, the listings are splendidly comprehensive and they are accompanied by first-rate colour illustrations. Manchester and Liverpool City Centres each receive nine sides. There are five sides for Chester, which serve to highlight that City's urban transformation by many of the same hands who were creating Lever's Port Sunlight. There is a particularly good entry for Douglas's rarely visited Christ Church and I keep finding unfamiliar names—metalworker Henry Hiller, stained-glass artist Trena Cox—who will clearly repay investigation. Throughout there is a very healthy Arts and Crafts acknowledgement of the various contributors to the total work, a Morris principle somewhat lost in these days of architectural super-stars . . .

Alan Crawford, among our very best writers on the period, has commended this book not just for its scholarship but for the authors' enthusiasm, the sense of discovery evident as Wendy and Barrie Armstrong found one visit leading unexpectedly to another. They humbly suspect that there is more work still to be identified. And despite the reasonable City presence it remains true that the Arts and Crafts imagination was deeply rural. Alan Crawford has in fact described the countryside as the theatre of the movement's anti-modernism. Craft workshops were established in the Lake District (touched on here), Surrey and Sussex, and most of all in the Cotswolds. In Chipping Campden some 150 craftsmen, their wives and children, from Ashbee's East London Guild of Handicraft, arrived in 1902, although within six years the Guild was to face liquidation. Now the Armstrongs guide us into Ellesmere Port to show that at this time the Morris-worshipping Ashbee was also designing an estate of 52 cottages for the Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Company: they are not in prime condition but it is fascinating to check out a development that was never remotely in the Port Sunlight class. (Port Sunlight's entry in the gazetteer most helpfully assigns Lever's architects to their respective sites.)

Faced with a volume as richly unexpected as this, it seems petty to comment on a few production errors: the 'Reilly Plan' was surely for Birkenhead not Liverpool, while it might have been worth stressing that Reilly's leadership of the Liverpool School of Architecture (from 1904) implied a turning away from Arts and Crafts individualism towards a purer (ultimately American) classicism; Reilly's star pupil Herbert Rowse, sustaining craft tradition in the inter-war period by deploying Tyson Smith and Edmund Thompson, rebuilt the Philharmonic Hall 1936–9 not 1932; there is Hey for Hay (at Frankby, where surprisingly there is no mention of Grayson and Ould's much travelled 'Hill Bark') and Leigh for Knutsford's Legh Road—Pevsner's 'maddest sequence of villas in all England' is fairly judged here though, and that is the positive point on which to conclude—and recommend.

Graham Fisher, Bromborough

A. J. Gritt & J. M. Virgoe with C. P. Brownrigg, eds, *The memoranda books of Basil Thomas Eccleston 1757–1789*. (Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, vol. CXXXIX). [Manchester]: RSLC, 2004. xli, 214pp. £30.00 hbk. ISBN 0902593 587.

Basil Thomas was born in 1712, the fifth son of Robert Scarisbrick of Scarisbrick Hall. Like most of the children of these old Catholic gentry families of Lancashire he was educated in France, at St Omer and Douai, and then probably joined a Spanish merchant business in the east coast port of Valencia. By 1742 he had returned to Lancashire and soon afterwards inherited the Eccleston estate on the death in 1743 of his godfather, Thomas Eccleston, who was a great friend and first cousin of his father Robert Scarisbrick. He changed his name to Eccleston and settled down to manage the estate and share the income with Winifred Gorsuch Eccleston, the widow whose husband would have inherited the estate if he had not died in 1742.

The Eccleston estate comprised the greater part of the township of Eccleston, one of the four townships from which St Helens developed. It consisted of some 596 statute acres of demesne land centred on Eccleston Hall and about 2,000 acres let to roughly a hundred tenants on three life leases, about 175 acres of which were in the Burtonhead district of the adjoining township of Sutton. Most of the demesne was let to tenants at rack rents, but there was probably a small farm attached to the Hall. The annual value of the demesne land was probably about £385 (12s an acre) so that with the £100, approximately, of 'Lords' rents from the three life leaseholders, the total income was just under £500 p. a., as Eccleston tells us in an entry in August 1761. Of this he had to pay the fixed sum of £243 p. a. to Winifred Gorsuch, who lived in a house on the estate at Cowley Hill, of which she had a lease for her life.

Basil Thomas was an intelligent, organized man who actively managed the estate until he died in 1789. As well as the rents from the farmland and the 'fines' paid occasionally by the three life leaseholders, he derived additional income, probably from 1746 onwards, from the coal on the estate. We know little about his early years before the Memorandum Books begin, but by 1760 he was getting a rack rent of £235 p. a. from farms where the three life leases had 'fallen loose' or he had bought out the last life or lives, or from some small freehold farms in Eccleston which he had bought. The value of the demesne had also increased by about £70 so that the total agricultural income had risen from under £500 to £787. By the time of his death in 1789 the lands outside the demesne, let at rack rents, had increased to 490 acres, and with the aid of rising rental values the total agricultural income, including the demesne and 'Lords' rents, had reached £1,385 p. a. Between 1760 and 1766 Basil Thomas increased the size of his

own farm on the demesne from 134 to 254 statute acres and it remained this size until his death.

In June 1749 Basil Thomas married Elizabeth, the third daughter of Edward Dicconson of Wrightington. Four years later she died in childbirth, aged 22, but two of their three children survived to adult life. In 1778 their son, Thomas (b. 1752), went to manage the Scarisbrick estate. He was the sole male representative in his generation of three old Catholic families—the Ecclestons, the Scarisbricks and the Dicconsons. He inherited the Scarisbrick estate in 1786, Eccleston in 1789 and the Wrightington estate of the Dicconsons in 1807—a good example of the tendency at this time for a number of different estates to become concentrated in a single ownership, due to the amazing inability of many landowning families, in the eighteenth century, to produce healthy children who survived to adult life.

The Record Society has done well to publish these Books, as they are full of unusual material. The editors have made a good job of transcribing the text, and especially of arranging the many tables and their figures in an attractive way which makes them easy to understand. The Books are not diaries but note-books, in which Basil Thomas recorded things about the estate and his farm that he wanted to be able to remember and refer back to. So there are notes about much of the regular work on the farm, such as the date he started ploughing each year, the date he finished sowing, the number of ewes and lambs that he bought on an expedition to Shropshire and Wales, and the cost of marling, or manuring with 'soapers' waste'. But there doesn't seem to me to be enough information to allow one to understand the complex, interlocking nature of the farm and there is certainly not enough material to make farm accounts.

The editors suggest that Basil Thomas' farm was a commercial undertaking, but I have my doubts. He never contrasts annual sales with annual costs. Moreover, when he had bad years, for example with the dairy producing many defective cheeses, as in 1774, he doesn't record any action which he took to remedy the defects. Most real commercial farmers would have taken such losses much harder and would have taken trouble to improve their performance. In fact, many estates, like the Warburtons at Arley, were actually giving up farming in the 1760s, 1770s and 1780s, because farm produce of all kinds was becoming more readily available, due to the improvements in roads, canals and ports. Even before this time many of the gentry had taken to employing farm labourers who lived in cottages on their estate instead of housing their farm workers in the big house as Basil Thomas did. Perhaps he just continued farming because he enjoyed it or perhaps he wanted to have people around him. He may have felt lonely without a wife and children who, like himself, were all being educated abroad.

Apart from this unusual behaviour he pursued the same policies as most

other contemporary landowners. He tried to avoid renewing three life leases and bought out the last life if he could. He reorganized the old small farms into larger, more economic units, and used his rising rental income to build new farmhouses in order to attract good capital-owning tenants. On one enlarged farm of 84 acres he built a new house in 1785 which is illustrated in the book. He called it Valencia, apparently in memory of his time in Spain. He improved the water mills and the dams that supplied them. He may have continued to occupy the Hall and to farm the land because he had made some agreement to do so while Winifred Gorsuch was alive. His son inherited the estate on his death in 1789, and only two years after Winifred died in 1793 the whole estate was offered for sale, with the exception of the valuable rights to the coal beneath it.

A wide range of topics, as well as farming, make their appearance in the Books and the most important have been indexed in three groups—persons, places and subjects. As so many of all three are mentioned in the Books it was presumably felt that it would be too difficult and expensive to produce a complete index. One subject of great importance to the estate was coal. We discover that the estate let mining leases to several people, including Jonathan Case and John Mackay, but there is not enough information to enable the reader to get any idea of the tonnage extracted or the amount of royalties received. It would have been helpful if the editors had provided notes leading the reader to the archives which might provide more information.

These brief glimpses of coal mining development, and similar short notes on the arrival of the Sankey Navigation (Canal) on the estate in 1772 and the construction of a landing place on the estate in Williamson's tenement in 1774, are some of the very few indications in the Books that extraordinary events were occurring on Basil Thomas' estate in these years. A new industrial town was being created at St Helens and his lands in Ecclestone and Sutton were close to its centre. Perhaps part of the reason for the absence of comments on these developments was the fact that these Catholic landowners were excluded from government, a rule which had curious effects. We read, for example, that John Mackay, a Scotsman who had only arrived in the area in 1762, had become a JP by 1775, whereas Basil Thomas' family had been landowners in Lancashire for centuries and were far richer.

On one subject the Books do provide vivid evidence of the new social problems that attended the coming of industry. In 1758 the total cost of maintaining the Poor in the township of Ecclestone (3,569 acres) was £29 8s 0d, and in 1759 it was only £21 7s 4 1/2d. In 1786 this figure was £539 10s 9d, and the cost to the ratepayers had risen from 2d in the pound on the annual value of their 'estates' in 1759, to 51d (4s 3d) in the pound in 1786.

Landed estates are such complex structures that they are always difficult

to understand and in the case of the Eccleston estate the problems are compounded by the absence in this period of maps, surveys and accounts. Nevertheless it is unfortunate that the editors describe it as a small estate of 969 statute acres, when actually it was a fairly typical old gentry estate of around 2,600 acres. (My figures are derived from an analysis of the many rentals in DDSC 25/11–27, the 1720 survey in DDSC 25/9, and the surveys of a number of three life leaseholds in the Books themselves.)

My other criticism concerns the map on p. xix, which is a sad thing. Few details are marked—it does not show the Canal or the locations of the mines, the Glassworks, the copper Works or even the demesne lands of Eccleston Hall, and is actually wrong in showing the township south of Eccleston and Sutton as Windle when actually there were two, Whiston and Rainhill. But these modest defects apart, the main text is excellently presented and many local historians will enjoy reading it and will get a good feel for the way of life of a wide range of people in the eighteenth century.

Charles Foster, Arley

John Barratt, *The great siege of Chester*. Stroud: Tempus, 2003. 192 pp. £16.99 pbk. ISBN 0 7524 2345 2.

John Barratt is a prolific writer on the English Civil War. The focus of this interesting work is sharp. It discusses, in extensive detail, the fortunes of the North West's major city between 1642 and 1646. After an introductory chapter Chester's fortunes prior to the beginning of the siege in late 1644 are described in Chapters 2 and 3. The next seven chapters describe the efforts of Cheshire Parliamentarians to take the Royalist outpost that eventually fell on 3 February 1646. A concluding section highlights the experiences of Chester and its defenders and attackers after the surrender.

Barratt's book includes no new insights to interest the academic specialist. For example no attempt is made to emulate Mark Stoyles' book on Exeter, *From deliverance to destruction* (1996) which is strong on the political and religious dimensions of the struggle. As regards the subject matter on offer here the works on Civil War Cheshire by, amongst others: R. N. Dore, 'Sir William Brereton's siege of Chester and the campaign of Naseby' (*Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, 67 (1957), pp. 17–44); and his *The Civil War in Cheshire* (1996); A. M. Johnson, *Politics in Chester during the Civil Wars and Interregnum 1640–62* (1972) and J. Morrill, *Cheshire 1630–1660* (1974) have already placed Chester firmly in the political, administrative and strategic milieu of the first war in the North West and West Midlands.

In contrast Barratt's volume is specifically aimed at two readerships. The first encompasses those enthusiasts who delight in delving into the minutiae of the war's military history; the second the 'general reader' who has an interest in Chester's and Cheshire's past. These two audiences will not be disappointed. Barratt has a good grasp of all the relevant printed material and is particularly adept at cutting through the dense undergrowth of contemporary sources which characterises R. N. Dore's *Brereton letter books* (1983–1990). Arguably the best contribution is the 32 colour plates which allied to 'A tour of Civil War Chester' (pp. 172–75) provide an interesting insight into Civil War archaeology, now emerging as a distinct area of investigation.

The book includes other useful elements such as a lucid exposition of Chester's fortifications, 71 illustrations—some rather faint; various references to the role of women during the siege, and seven maps which serve to guide the reader through the many different facets of the siege.

However, several reservations can be aired. Rather surprisingly Barratt makes no attempt, in contrast to his previous work on Liverpool and Nantwich, to reconstruct the composition of the competing forces. This would have been especially useful with regard to the defenders—a lost opportunity. More serious is a lack of context. Many readers will have difficulty in determining how Chester's experience relates to the general military situation as it evolved in the North West during the first war. A sentence on p. 40 proves the point. 'As the war dragged on into the spring of 1643, so Chester became steadily more vital to the Royalist cause'. No attempt is made to explain this remark. Nor does Barratt include events in Lancashire such as the Royalist collapse of April–May 1643, which increased the pressure on Chester, the King's only port in the region. It could be said that events in Lancashire, so intertwined with its southern neighbours, receive scant attention.

Inevitably there are some minor slips. There is a mismatch between textual references and the footnotes 10 and 11. Three events are misdated: the battles of Middlewich (p. 42), and Ormskirk (p. 61) and the surrender of Liverpool (p. 67). Intriguingly each event is advanced by one day in the text—the chronology has the correct dates. But there are very few lacunae in what is an enjoyable and informative book that, with the aid of its good bibliography, should encourage readers to probe more deeply into this fascinating and important period.

Malcolm Gratton, Liverpool

Clare Hartwell, *The history and architecture of Chetham's School and Library*. New Haven / London: Yale University Press, 2004. ix, 149pp. £25.00 hbk. ISBN 0 300 10257 7.

Churches are the most common survival from the Middle Ages in Britain's industrial cities today and their presence is accepted all too easily without thinking of the history they represent. Much less common are other types of mediaeval building, especially when, as with Chetham's School and Library, they form an almost unparalleled example of their type—yet for many years the significance of the building seems to have been overlooked. 'Chet's' has always been there, of course, and has served the citizens of Manchester in different ways over the centuries; but its surroundings have never done it justice (Friedrich Engels remarked that the area contained 'unqualifiedly the most horrible dwellings which I have yet beheld').

Today it is a jewel in Manchester's crown, restored with Lottery funding, its surroundings graced by greenery and open space, and better integrated with the city centre—and with a sense of vitality and hope for a flourishing future that bodes well for its continued survival in the modern world. Clare Hartwell's book celebrates its history—concentrating on its architectural history but not ignoring the institutions that have occupied it for 350 years—in an attractive and accessible form. Typically, her publishers have provided plenty of space for the excellent illustrations (many in colour) and a generous page-layout that makes it a pleasure to read.

The origins of Chetham's lie in the fifteenth century and the establishment of a college of priests to serve St Mary's Church (now Manchester Cathedral). The college building, with living quarters for the warden and fellows, halls and other offices, is essentially what survives as Chetham's School and Library, with remarkably few significant alterations. The visitor today has a real sense of life in a mediaeval communal society which can hardly be matched elsewhere in the country, even in those university colleges or cathedral precincts that retain similar buildings.

This survival owes much to two men: the third Earl of Derby, who bought the college after the Reformation and persuaded Queen Mary and then Queen Elizabeth to re-found it, with Dr John Dee as the most noteworthy Warden; and Humphrey Chetham, who acquired the buildings in 1649 (the seventh Earl's estates were confiscated following the Civil War and he was executed in 1651). Chetham's purposes were not, like many who sought to benefit from such confiscations, to line his pockets or provide himself with a fine home, but were from the start charitable: he aimed to establish a school for forty poor boys and—more unusually—a public library 'for the use of scholars and others well affected to resort unto', both endowed with land to provide a continuing income. (He also provided chained 'desk libraries' for five local churches, of which four

survive today.) The school continued as a boy's grammar school for more than three hundred years, expanding into neighbouring buildings but retaining the old college as its core, and in 1977 it became Chetham's School of Music, one of the foremost schools of its type in the country. The library, now with over 100,000 volumes, many of great age and value but with continuing accessions of modern books, is similarly noteworthy as one of the most successful seventeenth-century libraries to survive in England; it must be counted among most interesting historic libraries of its period in Europe.

Clare Hartwell, as a skilled architectural historian, has used archival sources as well as the evidence of the buildings themselves to disentangle the development of the college, the school and the library since the 1650s: for while the building, as already noted, has seen no really significant changes there have been many adjustments over the centuries, not least to accommodate Chetham's foundations. Parallels are drawn with other survivals, notably at Wenlock Priory; and the notable crown-post timber roof and English Heritage's dendrochronological survey of the whole building are given separate attention in appendices. Another fascinating appendix by Janet Foster, Chetham's Library Archivist, transcribes the building accounts of 1656–8 which show in some detail how the library and school were fitted out (with chains for the books, and beer barrels presumably for the boys' sustenance), and adds to the liveliness of Clare Hartwell's main narrative.

This book is a worthy commemoration of a significant building and of a remarkable charitable enterprise, both set to continue through the twenty-first century in better state than ever. It is also an important contribution to architectural history, complementing the author's 'Manchester Pevsner' and demonstrating how a local study can illuminate practices nationwide.

Peter Hoare, Nottingham

Peter Aughton, *The transit of Venus: The brief, brilliant life of Jeremiah Horrocks, father of British astronomy*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2004. 210pp. £18.99 hbk. ISBN 0 297 84721 X.

Jeremiah Horrocks, as indicated in the title, discovered the transit of Venus across the face of the sun in 1639 and was the first to record the event. The transit also took place more recently in June 2004, hence the reason for this book. Horrocks' career demonstrates the progress of the scientific revolution, which was to lead to the pre-eminence of the northern Protestant states of Europe. He was a contemporary of most of the 'greats' in astronomy in the early seventeenth century like Galileo, Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler and was to be followed by Isaac Newton.

Although Galileo in Italy was making vast strides in astronomy his work was stifled by the Roman Catholic church. Religion and science did not always mix well, though this does not seem to have hindered Horrocks. The theory that he was himself a cleric at Hoole in Lancashire (between Southport and Preston) seems to have been disproved, though it was near here at Carr House, Bretherton, that he was to make his famous discovery of the transit that proved that his calculations were correct when it actually happened.

The background to Jeremiah's career reflects the tensions of the age he lived in. The advent of new instruments like the rapidly improving telescope which made the heavens clearer to look at, and the growth of scientific channels of communication which led to ideas being floated between scientists, culminated in the creation of the Royal Society. Yet on the other hand the influence of religion hindered rather than helped theories of the age and development of planet Earth. Jeremiah Horrocks lived in the same age as Archbishop Ussher of Armagh, who worked out that the earth was created in 4004 BC. Even Horrocks contested with Kepler that 'the world is most likely to be created in ye spring. God commanding ye Israelites at that time to begin their yeare. But his [Kepler's] was in ye summer' (quoted p. 77).

Peter Aughton also shows that Horrocks was far from having one claim to fame and had novel ideas on the parallax of the sun, the motion of comets and of the moon. It was his originality with new ideas and the testing of them in practice which led his close friends like William Crabtree to make sure that his work was not forgotten and led to his *Opera Posthuma* being published in 1672, thirty years after his death.

Everything in Jeremiah's brief life was conducive to a scientific career. His father and grandfather were watchmakers and his father lived in Toxteth Park, near to Liverpool, which was something of a nonconformist enclave at the time. The Ancient Chapel at Toxteth was founded in 1618, the same year as the birth of Jeremiah, when he is reputed to have been born at Lower Lodge Farm in Toxteth. He was later sent to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, a Puritan foundation, and he was allowed to develop and expand his astronomical inclinations. When the limitations of the time he was living in are considered this makes his achievement all the more exciting. He reflects the contradictions of the age, forward looking with new theories but then expressing himself in blank verse, of which Peter Aughton gives copious examples, while also giving evidence of the astronomer's very religiously inclined disposition. This makes his sudden demise in 1641 all the more poignant and as Thomas Hearn said in 1723, 'had he lived, in all probability, he would have proved the greatest man in the whole world in his profession' (p. 179). This book has been a labour of love for its author and in some respects it is a brave venture, championing a figure who had he

survived the physical odds of living in the early seventeenth century might have rivalled the great Isaac Newton.

The author is possibly better known for his 'people's histories, of Bristol and Liverpool but he has also written on Isaac Newton and Captain Cook and has a scientific background, so he is well grounded to write this history of this relatively unknown figure in the annals of astronomy. This is a handsomely produced book and includes figures, illustrations (many in full colour), a chronology, a glossary, notes, bibliography and an index.

Roger Hull, Liverpool Record Office

Jan Shearsmith, Karen Cliff, Vicki Masterson and Pat Southern, *Sale and Sale Moor*. Stroud: Tempus, 2002. 128pp. £10.99. pbk. ISBN 0 7524 2485 8.

Karen Cliff and Vicki Masterson, *Warburton, Partington and Carrington*. Stroud: Tempus, 2002. 128pp. £10.99. pbk. ISBN 0 7524 2476 9.

Ken Bowden, *Rossendale: The second selection*. Stroud: Tempus, 2002. 128pp. £10.99. pbk. ISBN 0 7524 2477 7.

Jack Smith, *Leyland: Then and now*. Stroud: Tempus, 2003. 96pp. £11.99. pbk. ISBN 0 7524 2672 9.

These four books show a variety of approaches to use of photographs in local history with the authors all using images for very different purposes.

The compilers of *Sale and Sale Moor* have produced an interesting history, illustrated by a good selection of photographs. They have identified important topics in the history of Sale which they wish to cover and have provided very useful historical summaries of each theme. The book is more an introductory history rather than a mere random collection of photographs. It is plain the authors wish to encourage more research and use of the Trafford Local Studies Centre whose image collection has provided the illustrations. Helpful details of books on the history of Sale are given. Although not footnoted, the sources used are clearly identified, again a great help to anyone who wishes to take their interest further. But the book is also welcome as it offers a flavour of Sale's development as a commuter town for Manchester.

Karen Cliff and Vicki Masterson adopt a similar approach for their book on Warburton, Partington and Carrington. Again they have themes they wish to explore, but in this case seem to have taken some modern photographs to illustrate them, presumably when older images were not available. The authors have used a very wide range of sources, such as maps, tithe records, land tax and estate papers, which are all clearly identified. Once again they provide helpful signposts for readers who wish to pursue an interest in these towns. There is, perhaps, quite an emphasis on the

church and manor and the illustrations tend to be of buildings rather than people, but the reader also learns about Partington's life as an overspill estate and the development of its chemical industry. The book reveals that Carrington had a useful past life as the home for Manchester's 'night soil' which led to the development of market gardening on Carrington Moss.

Ken Bowden's *Rossendale* is a more traditional book of photographs. It is a 'second selection' so he has tried to cover areas not included in a previous volume. He presents a variety of images—letterheads and other documents as well as photographs, including some very evocative pictures. He has a light touch and his captions are entertaining as well as informative. Past and present inhabitants of Rossendale are included—from prominent citizens to hawkers and vagrants—and their biographical details give a flavour of their characters. The author tells some interesting stories including a visit from George V and Queen Mary in 1913 when they were entertained in a weaver's house. This book shows us that Rossendale was the home of a slipper factory, Holland's pies and the 'last temperance bar in Britain'. The area's continuing musical tradition is well represented by a selection of old and more recent pictures.

Jack Smith's *Leyland* has a rather different purpose and is, perhaps, difficult for someone who does not know the town to review. He has selected old photographs of Leyland and then photographed the same scene as it is today. While this has a nostalgic appeal for people who remember the old views it has more limited interest for outsiders. The majority of his pictures are taken when street life was at a minimum, but he has occasionally reproduced a scene from the past with modern Leylanders replacing their ancestors. A nice scene of Vicars Field with two Edwardian children is accompanied by a view of the same spot with two modern youngsters. The cover photograph, a publicity picture of a very refined picnic beside a Leyland motor car, is accompanied by a picture of a modern picnic. This kind of 'then and now' photograph provides a contrast which is missing from the pictures which merely record physical change. The book shows us how the car has transformed towns like Leyland as the modern scenes are marked by wide roads or car parks. As a local studies librarian I was a bit distressed by the author's introduction which explained that 'tedious reading of old reference books about the town's history' was unnecessary for this book. Instead fifty years association with Leyland allowed Mr Smith to learn about the town from friends and colleagues and his photographs are obviously intended to stand alone.

Books of photographs always have an immediate nostalgic appeal which can often encourage the reader into developing an interest in the history of their area. Of these four books those about Sale and Warburton actively encourage more research while Ken Bowden's lively selection of photographs of Rossendale is also likely to spark an interest. The value of Jack

Smith's book is to encourage an interest in conservation as it shows up the lack of character in some modern developments.

Alice Lock, Tameside Local Studies and Archives

Sheila Dewsbury, *The story so far: The Manchester Academy of Fine Arts from 1859 to 2003*. Manchester: MAFA, 2003. 94 pp. £8.95 pbk. ISBN 0 9546440 0 X.

Manchester was slow to found a significant artists' academy or society in the nineteenth century. An early attempt was rapidly submerged in the Royal Manchester Institution which was controlled by patrons not by artists. But once established in 1859 the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts was successful. Its exhibitions gradually gained in importance as those organized by the Royal Manchester Institution and by the City Art Gallery declined. Admission fees were abolished in 1918. Outsiders could exhibit after 1931.

The Academy was friendly towards female painters at least from the 1880s and it accepted amateur artists from 1917 onwards. In 1881 it was largely responsible for the foundation of the Royal Cambrian Academy as a sort of rural offshoot in promising sketching grounds. Despite competition from the Manchester School of Art it maintained art classes until 1955. It generally took an inclusive rather than a partisan attitude towards new artistic movements.

This book establishes these basic facts entirely adequately, and it has some useful brief biographies of leading Academy figures as well as a full list of Academy members. Some excellent colour illustrations are included. There is however no serious analysis of the Academy's origins, functions, achievements or relationships with other city institutions. Space is wasted in general observations on Manchester's past with which even a non-specialist public would already be familiar. Some names are spelt incorrectly. There is insufficient detail in the account of the Academy's history, and this is particularly disappointing in a well designed official history written by the Academy's archivist.

Edward Morris, Birkenhead

Gomer Williams, *History of the Liverpool privateers and Letters of Marque with an account of the Liverpool slave trade, 1744–1812*; [with an] introduction by David Eltis. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2005. 740 pp. £55.00 hbk, £20.00 pbk. ISBN 0 85323 709 3 (hbk) ISBN 0 8523 789 1 (pbk).

This reprint of Gomer Williams' classic work is presented in an accessible paperback format (there is also a much more costly clothbound edition). The reprint successfully captures the essence of the original publication of 1897, leaving Williams' foreword intact, as well as the exhaustive names and subject index that characterises the first edition. Original sources used by Williams have been handsomely, if somewhat flimsily, reproduced as fold out facsimiles. One of the real values of this book is in its appeal to academic scholars as well as local historians.

Gomer Williams was a Liverpool journalist who, in line with his trade, evidently had a talent for collating disparate sources of material. David Eltis, who provides the key enhancement to this work by means of a new introduction, is professor of history at Emory University, Atlanta. Eltis is a profiled academic who sits comfortably alongside leading international experts in eighteenth century Atlantic trade. He is currently at work on a census of the Atlantic slave trade and an analysis of the identity of enslaved Africans captured during it. He is, therefore, well positioned to provide authoritative comment on Williams' nineteenth century offering.

Eltis provides a sound framework within which this new edition of Gomer Williams' work can be enjoyed. A succinct summary of privateering and slave trading activity eases the reader into the rather more sententious tone of nineteenth century language. Importantly, Eltis provides the context that Williams' work lacks. However, Williams makes up for this in the absorbing detail that has sustained this work as a crucial historical source for over a century. Eltis himself acknowledges the continuing importance of Williams' work and its amazing longevity. Quite simply, it remains the only comprehensive account of Liverpool privateering activity in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and a vital source for any serious scholar of the Liverpool transatlantic slave trade. It is not only the detail of the narrative that is invaluable, but also the appendices. These include transcripts of selected Letters of Marque granted to privateers and insightful copies of documents relating to the slave trade.

The chapters on Liverpool privateering include accounts of characters most often associated with such activity as a result of this work, such as Captain Fortunatus Wright. The subsequent chapters deal with the various wars that fell between Williams' period of study of 1744–1812 and Liverpool's position as a major privateering port. Williams constantly uses first hand accounts of key events to construct his history, giving the

reader a sense of immediacy. One of the reasons why this work retains such currency is because the sources used are directly and consistently quoted and referenced, rather than presented in anecdotal form through the author's own voice.

It appears an oddity that the account of the Liverpool slave trade is relegated to a strapline in the title of this work. But this belies the richness of important detail that Williams provides, including supporting information such as the list of all ships sailing from Liverpool to Africa from Liverpool's first involvement in the British slave trade until its abolition in 1807. Eltis takes the opportunity in his introduction to draw out the relationship between slave trading and privateering activity. He also contributes to the ongoing debates about the extent to which Liverpool's economic success was rooted in the slave trade and to what extent the slave trade and slavery paved the way for industrialisation. These debates will continue. What is astonishing is that a work of this age still has utility in contributing to them. Ultimately Gomer Williams was adopting a very particular moral stance when writing this work, and his purpose was to rouse public consciousness against, particularly, the wrong doings of the slave trade. That this work merits a reprint confirms the importance of this work in contributing to the study of the subject. The dependence on it also, however, points towards the fact that there is far more research into Liverpool and transatlantic slavery and Liverpool privateering that should be undertaken.

Rachel Mulhearn, National Museums Liverpool

David Shotter, *Romans and Britons in North-West England*, 3rd rev. and expanded edition. Lancaster: Centre for North-West Regional Studies, University of Lancaster, 2004. xii, 204pp. £13.50 pbk. ISBN 1 86220 158 2.

Here is another in the growing list of titles produced by Lancaster University's Centre for North-West Regional Studies, a collection which covers a wide range of regional interests at a level which will appeal both to the informed layman and the specialist; the books are produced to a commendably high standard and at a very reasonable price.

In *Romans and Britons in North-West England* Professor Shotter has considerably revised and enlarged a book whose second edition was published in 1997. The size has been almost doubled since then to reflect the rapidly changing picture which has emerged over the intervening years, regarding both Roman sites in North-West England and our knowledge of Romano-British history in general. Geographically the book covers an area which extends from Chester in the south to Carlisle and Hadrian's Wall in the north.

New discoveries and theories have had most impact on the beginning and the end of the Roman period, and both are examined in some detail in this book. Taking the early period first; the great upheaval which has taken place in recent years in our understanding of the Roman conquest of northern Britain has its roots firmly in the North-West—the crucial point being the very precise dating of Carlisle to AD 72, i.e. early in the governorship of Petilius Cerialis. As a result, our long-accepted views on the *curriculum vitae* of Agricola have taken a serious knock. Several generations of archaeologists writing about the Roman conquest of the North have based their views, however subconsciously, on a consensus about the events described—or, if we are truthful, hinted at—in Tacitus' biography of Agricola; now we have to recognise that this was a serious mistake. It is perhaps too early for archaeologists and historians to have thought through the full implications of this bombshell, but Chapter 3, *The Conquest*, gives a clear and balanced account of current thinking on what it all means, both in terms of constructing a new first century history of the area and in reinterpreting the dating evidence from North-Western sites. For this alone *Romans and Britons in North-West England* is essential reading.

In the later Roman period Birdoswald is now the key site, for excavations there have shown the fort gradually changing over time, from a place of power within a larger Roman world to a place of power in a very local sense. As part of an apparently seamless process it became less and less Roman. This discovery has created a notable shift in the way we think of the interface between 'Roman' and 'Dark Age'—it is no longer valid to talk of an identifiable 'end of Roman Britain' which can be defined or pinpointed in time. Chapter 7, *The Later Years*, brings together the results from recent excavations in the region which throw light on this murky period; just as importantly it lucidly incorporates them into a historical narrative which places events in fourth century Roman Britain in the context of a crumbling provincial economy and a slowly unravelling central administration.

As will have been gathered, the layout of the book is basically chronological. However, within this framework major themes are also explored in their own right—Hadrian's Wall and its extension along the Cumberland coast in Chapter 5, and the interaction between Roman and native in Chapter 6. Here the author steers a reasoned course in discussing the political, social and economic relationships between the two, ultimately coming to the conclusion that the relationship was mutually beneficial (p. 147); still, despite the hints from the Vindolanda tablets, it would be intriguing to know what the local farmer and the passing soldier *really* thought about each other.

It is in the nature of reviews to find some faults; in this book there are very few. On p. 70 the fragmentary building inscription from Chester

(RIB464) is described as Trajanic, yet it can be restored equally easily as Hadrianic—which would lead to a significantly different view of the development of the fortress. A more substantial complaint, but one which seems to be universal with modern printing methods, is the difficulty in making out details clearly in the black and white photographs; this is especially troublesome when they are aerial shots and significant features have to be identified (e.g. Plate 5.14 Biglands House on p. 85). This is a shame, since the book is generously provided with illustrations which are always relevant to the text. On a more positive note, *Romans and Britons in North-West England* certainly lives up to its claim to be a ‘substantially revised and expanded edition’ for every opportunity has been taken to assess the significance of recent discoveries and fit them into the bigger picture; e.g. the Shavington (Cheshire) lead salt pans with their inscriptions which hint at the involvement of the late Roman church in industrial production, something we would not have suspected without this new evidence.

Whose bookshelf should this volume occupy? Perhaps the easiest definition is to see it as a regional, more detailed, and, of course, more up-to-date summary of our contemporary knowledge after the manner of the great works of synthesis compiled for the whole of Britain by Shepherd Frere and Peter Salway. The prose flows easily and the ideas are lucidly expressed, yet an amazing quantity of information has been densely packed into the pages, making *Romans and Britons in North-West England* a book which deserves and requires careful reading, a book for those who already have some grounding in the subject and who will buy it as an easily accessible exposition of current thinking and an invaluable source of references.

Dan Robinson, Grosvenor Museum, Chester

Joseph Sharples, *Liverpool* (Pevsner Architectural Guides). New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 2004. xii, 332 pp. £9.99 pbk. ISBN 0 300 10258 5.

Lancashire, it goes without saying, is a county extraordinarily rich in good architecture, reflecting its varied history, particularly its strong Catholic connection and its place in the industrial revolution, not forgetting its powerful medieval background. There are, by national standards, a disproportionate number of fine churches and chapels of all denominations, with a weighting towards the nineteenth century. There are, too, many towns and cities which developed rapidly in that same period, born of the climate and its appropriateness for spinning and weaving. The crowning glories, for many connoisseurs of these things, are the great

metropoli of Manchester and Liverpool. Together with Bath, they now rejoice in new, independent, architectural guides; the two Lancashire towns taking as their starting point the original South Lancashire volumes of Pevsner's *Buildings of England*, published in 1969. This too is under revision, as part of the wider exercise to bring up to date and revise the whole series, which has taken on a new lease of life under the Yale imprint, and is being developed in a way which permits the extraction of these single city guides from the main body of the text. This is allowing a more detailed approach to be taken to the inner city areas, and both Manchester and Liverpool have gained immensely from the new approach. The revised volumes have also permitted the inclusion of much new scholarship after more than thirty years.

The Liverpool volume has just been published, complete with splendid and much needed new colour illustrations taken by English Heritage photographers, new maps and a number of useful building plans. Sharples is helped for the major dock section by Richard Pollard, and both authors follow the basic Pevsner approach to the organisation of their material. The substantive and important contextual historical essay still precedes the gazetteer, this time rewritten by Sharples, and there are set piece sections on the great buildings as well as a number of insets on useful topics, before a very useful series of walks or area specific sections. The book is largely confined to the pre-1835 borough and leaves the majority of the middle and outer suburbs to the county volume. This has its disadvantages, in that it means the omission of some major suburban churches and early to mid-twentieth century developments, especially in housing. All this will, we are led to believe, be covered in the revised Lancashire volumes. Positively, it does allow a very full and detailed coverage of the area covered by the text. But there are three exceptions to the geographical limitations and there are 'excursions': to Speke, Port Sunlight and Hamilton Square in Birkenhead. This might seem arbitrary, and in a way it is, but the author believes they are all sufficiently important to warrant both inclusion and exceptions to the general policy. It would be churlish to cavil.

Sharples uses both his own substantial scholarship and those of others with care, and his attention to detail is impeccable; his descriptions are clear and, in the best tradition of Pevsner, he permits himself from time to time a personal opinion, which may be idiosyncratic, even capricious; but that only serves to whet the appetite of the readers to go and see for themselves and make up their own minds!

Liverpool's architectural heritage is today more appreciated perhaps than it was thirty years ago. The dock buildings which have survived and in a number of cases have been reused, and some of the historic docks themselves, are valued and increasingly appreciated for what they are. The commercial 'down town', and the great string of public buildings, get the

lion's share of the text and of the perambulations. But the things which reflect Liverpool's endearing, if lunatic, desire to always think on the grand scale, especially the two (or is it really three?) cathedrals, are given considerable space. Sharples is not over keen on some aspects of the Anglican cathedral, a building, which puzzles many and tends to polarise opinion, but about which I personally have developed a great affection over the years. Although on the whole he is dismissive of the twentieth century contribution to the urban landscape—and it is difficult not to agree with that assessment—he finds more to admire in the restored Gibberd Metropolitan Cathedral, although even here he is disappointed by the sudden revelation of the whole interior as you enter, and finds that there are few further surprises as you explore the space. This of course is true of all centralised churches, from the Baroque onwards, and it is not until you circulate—literally—around the building that the real awareness of its scale is brought fully home to the visitor, and in that sense the building is a continuing revelation, in my experience. However, again the reader is encouraged to make up his or her own mind!

Good guide books are those which encourage curiosity and a desire to see for oneself. This attractive volume does exactly that: it makes Liverpool look good; it reveals the richness of the urban fabric; it aids exploration, street by street; it tells the story of the most important west coast port in England; but above all it highlights the architectural glories of one of our proudest cities. The accolades for Liverpool now come crowding in—City of Culture, World Heritage site; Joseph Sharples has done a good job and his book should be an essential companion to any intelligent visit to the city.

John Tarn, OBE, Caldy

Ordnance Survey, *Liverpool*, 5ft. (1:1056) plans [reduced to a yard to the mile], 1848. Sheet 24 (*Dale Street*, revised to 1864); Sheet 25 (*London Road*, revised to 1864); Sheet 29 (*Hanover Street*, revised to 1864); Sheet 30 (*Mount Pleasant*). Consett: Alan Godfrey, 2003–2005. Paper, folded, £2.20 each. ISBNs 1 84151 659 7 (Sheet 24); 1 84151 738 0 (Sheet 25); 1 84151 514 0 (Sheet 29); 1 84151 811 5 (Sheet 30).

For many years Alan Godfrey has provided a valuable service to local historians by gradually reprinting—in a reduced format—sheets from the 25in. Ordnance Survey maps of all parts of the United Kingdom. The north west of England has been particularly well served, with extensive and ongoing coverage of Lancashire and Cheshire. Most of the Liverpool and Wirral sheets have now been published and as well as Southport and St Helens maps of the further reaches of greater Merseyside are gradually

appearing (including Great Crosby, Blundellsands, Formby, Halewood, Prescott and Kirkby).

Commencing in 2003 with sheet 29 Godfrey has now produced reprints of the four 5ft plans covering the central areas of Liverpool, which were first published in 1848. These sheets—normally only viewable in record offices or local studies libraries after wrestling with massive folio volumes or unwieldy sheets pasted on to cardboard, and impossible to photocopy—can now be fitted into a pocket or handbag for instant access when walking around the areas concerned.

Through their large scale the maps allow the user to observe some of Liverpool's most distinguished buildings from above, thus allowing one to admire, for example, John Foster senior's monumental Custom House (Sheet 29), and to sorrow at the loss to Liverpool's built heritage of a building badly damaged by the Luftwaffe, but finally demolished by 1950s civic vandalism. The fact that Sheet 30 is taken from the original 1848 printing, unlike the other three which are reproduced from the 1864 revision, means that the Liverpool Workhouse is shown in its 'transitional' stage of rebuilding, whereas Sheet 24 shows both St George's Hall and the Library and Museum in William Brown Street (which would still have been Shaw's Brow in 1848). It seems a pity that for consistency's sake the opportunity was not taken to reproduce all the maps from the same edition.

It is interesting to contrast the more built-up urban townscape of Dale Street, London Road and Hanover Street with the larger houses with extensive gardens on the Mount Pleasant map, although even here there are many mean back-to-back houses and court dwellings, most notably and tellingly in the area adjacent to the workhouse.

The maps are clearly and well reproduced from the originals in the Royal Library of Scotland and they all contain informative historical notes on the specific areas by Kay Parrott. Although I have seen some reviews of other Godfrey maps which contain criticisms of the quality of the information given in the background notes, the standard of the essays for the Merseyside and West Lancashire sheets appears to this reviewer to be of a high standard, not least because they are written mainly by professional local studies librarians or archivists who have immediate access to the full range of primary and printed resources required to distil the history of the particular area covered by each map into an essay of some 1,000 words. I do feel, however, that the extracts from contemporary street directories—although interesting—could be reduced in favour of the provision of more bibliographical background to the essays.

John Tiernan, Liverpool

Peter Kennerley, *The building of Liverpool Cathedral: Centenary edition* [limited edition of 500 numbered and signed copies]. Lancaster: Carnegie Publishing, 2004. vi, 288pp. £35.00 hbk. ISBN 1 85936 108 0.

Peter Kennerley and Colin Wilkinson, *The Cathedral Church of Christ in Liverpool: Pictures from the first hundred years*. Liverpool: Bluecoat Press, 2003. 160pp. £18.99 hbk. ISBN 1 904438 18 0.

Of these two books by Peter Kennerley, the one written with Colin Wilkinson is likely to be the more enduring for those who know little about Liverpool Cathedral. It is more of a coffee table publication than a detailed history—full of some of the most beautiful photographs that, almost in themselves, tell the story of the building of one of the largest cathedrals in the world. Yet the short narrative and the accompanying captions are engagingly written and provide both a concise guide and first-rate explanation for the reader who will undoubtedly want to return again and again for another browse through its pages.

Two features make this book different from a run-of-the-mill popular history. First, is the way in which that history is consistently related to the contemporaneous development of the city in which it is located. From the decision to build the Cathedral, right through to the present day, the authors show how this is not just the story of an architectural jewel that towers above the city, but of a building that has continued to play a vital part in the very life of the city itself.

Second, is the way in which the book is very ‘people-centred’. Whilst there are many stunning photographs of the fabric, including the remarkable stained glass windows, what stay in the memory are the many more photographs that include people—whether stonemasons working on the building, or congregations and visitors enjoying the space they created. It is, therefore, far more than an account of architecture, stone and mortar; it is about ‘living stones’.

There are two shortcomings. First, it needs a map showing the many locations in the city to which reference is made in the text. Even a native ‘Scouser’ would be hard-pressed to know where all those places are or were! Second, the last two parts of the book dealing with ‘The Eighties and Nineties’ and ‘Today and Tomorrow’ are too brief to give a fair picture of the Cathedral’s more recent history. There is, for example, little or no reference to the paintings that have been installed in recent years, or about the development of the Western Rooms, the Embroidery Gallery, the Visitor Centre and the Refectory.

But these are small criticisms of what is otherwise a splendid and welcome addition to the range of books about this magnificent building, one of which, *The Building of Liverpool Cathedral*, was also written by Peter Kennerley. First published in 1992, this book was republished in 2004 in a

de luxe limited 'Centenary Edition'—replete with a most attractive binding and gold-edged pages—to mark the centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone in 1904. It carries on where the original edition left off by adding two new chapters that give an account of the 1990s.

As the author himself readily recognised, writing about 'living history' is a risky undertaking: 'The two additional chapters may well prove to be a highly subjective and idiosyncratic account . . . but I thought it would be a risk worth taking', he says. He was right on both counts! They are indeed both subjective and idiosyncratic, and also suffer from an acute attack of 'I-ititis' (much of the narrative being written in the first person singular), all of which makes them feel too much like 'add-ons' since they are in marked contrast to much of the original writing that precedes them—though the latter chapters of the original were also beginning to show similar signs.

As with the coffee table book, little is said in any detail about the many additions that have been made to the Cathedral since its completion in 1978. And, given that the building is now of an age that it needs constant repair, restoration and even alteration, it is surprising that so little is said either about the way in which the current maintenance team are setting about that mammoth task, or about developments that are being planned for the future.

But it was indeed 'a risk worth taking' since these two final chapters give a worthwhile if selective, and at times almost sycophantic account of the people, activities and services that have characterised the cathedral in that period. They show admirably how extensively, and innovatively, the great building is now being used.

In its earlier chapters, however, the book contains an outstanding and detailed account of the building of the cathedral. This is for the real enthusiast, and it is here that Peter Kennerley comes into his own since he clearly knows the cathedral inside out and makes its history really come alive. Once again, it is a very 'people-centred' and entertaining read, including graphic descriptions of both major events and people alike. The description, for instance, of what happened at the Consecration in 1924 when the King and Queen arrived fifteen minutes early, makes typically fascinating—even hilarious—reading.

So here are two important publications; the excellent coffee table book might inspire its readers to pick up the weightier tome, and if it does they will not be disappointed to find an account that reflects the infectious enthusiasm of its author. They may, however, be put off by a gratuitous and less than charitable remark by the author about being 'required to retire' from his post as Education Officer at the Cathedral when he became 65. That would be a pity since, despite this irrelevant comment, both of these splendid publications deserve the widest possible readership.

Peter Toyne DL, Caldye

Terry Wyke, with Harry Cocks, *Public sculpture of Greater Manchester* (Public Sculpture of Great Britain Series). Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2004. xx, 513 pp. £55.00 hbk, £25.00 pbk. ISBN 0 85323 557 0 (hbk), ISBN 0 85323 567 0 (pbk)

To a child growing up in Rochdale and Manchester in the 1950s, public sculpture was just something one accepted unquestioningly. No one said much about it: it was just there, dirty marble statues of men in frock coats standing on high pedestals, pink and grey granite drinking fountains that no longer worked and carved reliefs, scarcely legible on the buildings they decorated because of their velvety black coatings of soot. All the same, many of the sculptures made an impression on the imagination and contributed to a sense of place. The approach to Rochdale Library, where I spent many happy hours, was made memorable by a procession of stone people across the upper part of the building, and at the nearby crossroads stood a marble angel with enormous wings pointing upwards, a popular meeting point for courting couples. I remember the unexplained disappearance of the angel in the 1960s, and more recently, the Council's feeble attempt to restore some identity to the same road junction with The Spires, two miniaturised pastiches of Victorian church spires made of coloured metal and glass. Bus journeys to school in Manchester could be a dreary experience in the 1950s but there were clock towers, obelisks and war memorials to demarcate the different centres. Of the statues in Albert Square Manchester, it used to be said that if you wanted to know the way to Manchester Exchange Station, you had only to ask Gladstone, whose outstretched arm pointed the way.

Gladstone's arm is actually making a point during the debate on the Irish Home Rule Bill; that is how the sculptor Mario Raggi wished to represent him, for he had witnessed him speaking in this important debate in the Commons in 1893. The Rochdale angel is ministering to the needs of dumb animals—it was part of the Mackinnon Memorial Fountain, standing over drinking troughs for cattle and dogs, until its removal in 1961 to a council depot 'where it is presumed to have been left to disintegrate'. The figures in the frieze on Rochdale Library represent Science, Art and Literature, and are by C. J. Allen and J. J. Millson, sculptors whose work is found all over the north-west region.

These facts, and many more like them that can be gleaned from *Public Sculpture of Greater Manchester*, serve not so much to destroy the myths and personal associations that accrue around public sculpture, but to underline the importance of this form of art in enriching daily experience, in contributing to local distinctiveness, and above all in commemorating the history and people of the area in tangible form. Much of it may be of questionable aesthetic quality, neglected by the authorities and ignored by

passers by, but it is remarkable as historical evidence of who and what was thought important to commemorate in the first place, and what happened subsequently is indicative of changing attitudes to such commemorations. It was not only Rochdale's angel that was left to rot: John Cassidy's statue of the dialect poet Ben Brierly was pushed off his pedestal in Queen's Park Harpurhey in the 1980s and never put back, too expensive to restore, whilst Matthew Noble's Oliver Cromwell, once proudly standing by Manchester Cathedral now languishes in Wythenshawe Park. The fate of the Victoria Jubilee fountain in Albert Square Manchester was happier. After being exiled to Heaton Park in the 1920s, where it was utterly out of scale with the architecture of Wyatt's Heaton Hall, the fountain was restored to its original position in 1997. The statue of Abraham Lincoln by the American sculptor Barnard, a gift to the City of Manchester in 1919, was never very happy in its original site in Platt Fields Park, again out of scale with its surroundings, and was brought to a more prominent position in Manchester City Centre in 1986.

Perhaps the worst story of changing attitudes concerns the statues from Peel Park, Salford: Matthew Noble's three outstanding full-length portraits of major public figures Peel, Brotherton and Cobden. Erected in the 1850s and 1860s with publicly subscribed funds, they were removed in 1954 to make way for an extension to the technical college. Never re-sited, in 1969 they were sold in direct contravention of the deed of trust intended to preserve them for future generations. At the same time the collection of busts in Salford Art Gallery was similarly disposed of. Cobden disappeared, Peel is at Gawsorth Hall, Cheshire, and ironically Manchester City Council purchased Brotherton in the 1980s and relocated him to the banks of the Irwell where he looks forlornly across to his old constituency of Salford.

The neglect of things Victorian is a familiar theme that runs through this volume, all the more shameful as it was the Victorian age that more than any other shaped the history and physical form of Manchester and the surrounding towns covered in the book. But other stories can be read from the works here described. The rush to commemorate the dead after the First World War led to some notable memorials, not only the familiar Lutyens cenotaphs in Manchester and Rochdale, but splendid monuments in Stalybridge and Ashton. During the 1950s and 60s, the patronage of schools and universities resulted in some unusual sculptures by now forgotten figures such as Mitzi Cunliffe and Austin Wright. This tradition of patronage continued in the '80s and '90s when UMIST commissioned a number of well-scaled pieces on the theme of technology. The developers of shopping malls in the 1970s installed sculptures, mainly undistinguished, but one of the (few) virtues of the Manchester Arndale Centre was an outstanding piece by Franta Belsky, now alas dismantled. In the 1980s the

local authority peace movement produced sculpture of variable quality for the City Council, but the 1990s saw the commissioning of 'public art' as a regular part of urban regeneration schemes by local authorities and development corporations. These have had mixed success. Some pieces are simply dismal, whimsical or pretentious, and several have already become maintenance problems. But some fine works have been produced; my particular favourites, which combine urban scale and materials with a sense of appropriateness to their locations, include Peter Randall Page's fountain in St Anne's Square Manchester, Wendy Taylor's *Anchorage* at Salford Quays and Brian Fell's *Skyhooks* in Trafford Park. Newest of all, Thomas Heatherwick's *B of the Bang* with its explosive energy and super-human scale succeeds in giving an international profile to a previously nondescript area of East Manchester.

This is the eighth in the ambitious series of volumes intended to record the statues and monuments in public places throughout Britain. Its format is that of a catalogue raisonné: short introductory overviews of each town or city are followed by catalogue entries on the sculptures, including dates, materials, inscriptions, dimensions and references to sources. The format is flexible enough to allow groups of works to have their own short introductions, as in the case of the commemorative busts and statues at Manchester Town Hall. There are notes on condition—too many are described as 'poor'—and sections on works that are missing or have been removed or lost. An appendix gives brief biographies of the sculptors, including many whose careers were sustained by work in the Manchester region. But what is so fascinating about the entries on individual pieces is that they are not art-historical assessments pure and simple. They give a full context, describing the circumstances of each commission, the funding, the debates about subject matter and site, with liberal quotations from contemporary newspapers about the reception of the sculptures. The style is modest and scholarly, but the wealth of information makes this book of interest to anyone concerned with the history of the region.

Julian Treuherz, Keeper of Art Galleries, National Museums Liverpool

Littlebury Brothers, Publishers, *A guide to Liverpool, 1902*. Liverpool: Liverpool Libraries and Information Services, 2004. [xxvi], 238 pp. £11.50 hbk. ISBN 0 902990 23 3.

This book is the fourth in a series of reprints published by Liverpool Libraries and Information services leading up to the eight hundredth anniversary of the granting of letters patent to the town in 2007. It includes a reproduction of the original dust wrapper with its title *A new illustrated guide to Liverpool*. Twenty six new pages list those who subscribed to this

venture, thus giving some indication of those interested in the history of Liverpool, including names from Europe, the United States of America and Australia. The advertisements are retained from the original edition are not the least interesting pages with their illustrations. Some few of the firms and institutions advertising remain (including Boodle and Dunthorne and the University College—predecessor by two years of the fully-fledged university), but the vast majority of the companies are memories only. They include the Della Robbia Pottery and Marble Co., but also the relatively recently departed Russell's Watches ('famous wherever the British Flag flies') and the Bear's Paw Restaurant (although the Orchestral Band which played in the entrance hall is long forgotten). The majority of the advertisements are for hotels in the area and, although not an advertiser, the Adelphi is included in the chapter *Hotels in Liverpool*, where it becomes obvious why no advertisement is necessary, for after being taken over by the Midland Railway Company 'it is now universally acknowledged to be one of the most up-to-date and finest hotels in the world'. Such praise is a characteristic of the guide book genre; so too is the interest in technological advances ('in every room there is telephone', 'the sanitary arrangements of the hotel have been carried out on the most approved modern lines and are as perfect as the most skilful sanitary science can devise'). The three other main hotels are also described (North Western, Exchange Station and the Compton). These buildings remain but are no longer hotels.

Until recently had we found a dusty copy of this book lurking in our in-laws' book case or brought to our attention in a charity bookshop, it may have incited doleful but unseemly mirth. With the approach to 2007 and 2008 celebrations, and repairs to the city's roads and pavements plus the Duke of Westminster's schemes, much of this guide's high optimism can once more be read with a glow of satisfaction. 'On every side there are signs of improvement; first and foremost . . . you immediately see a great work in progress for the better-ment of this part of Liverpool [the Pier Head] . . . Liverpool is enlarging her borders and showing signs of progress. Fine buildings are on the way to completion and the Corporation . . . making praiseworthy efforts to clear away much unsightliness'.

This guide proposes to consider the past, the present and the future of the city and its region. As such books are inclined to say the past need not detain us long. It admits its debts to Sir James Picton and moves on. The future progress is indicated by a series of references to forthcoming developments, the first of which is the building of the Anglican Cathedral; an independent university is noted, and time is given to extensions to the museum. Tours of the city are given in the manner traditional to such guide books and these include accounts of the contents of the museum and art gallery, drawing attention to the major items of the collections. The writer complains when exhibits in these collections have been rearranged

but the major difficulty lies in current developments 'In view of the fact that before many months, possibly weeks, portions of the New Technical College and Museum building will be opened, great alterations are taking place in every department. It is therefore impossible to say that the present arrangements will hold for a great length of time'.

This is the great problem for the guide book writer: how much detail? The more given, the greater the danger of going out of date. In a reprint of a volume over a hundred years old this no longer matters. To us it is no longer necessary to change it, as it represents a picture of the city as it was: its shipping lines and their flags; shops and their customers; churches and their services (actually this volume is very thin on churches), and it is the present which interests us rather than the past or even the future. The social attitudes of the writers are important, but so also are the losses and gains in terms of buildings over time. Perhaps we should follow the directions for viewing the city with this book in one hand and the new 'Pevsner' in the other. In view of the re-publication of this work it is worth drawing attention to the general background study to Liverpool guide books, 'Liverpool guides, 1795-1914', by John Davies, published in *Transactions*, vol. 153 (2004).

J. E. Vaughan, Liverpool

Andrew White (ed.), *A history of Lancaster*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, second (revised) edition, 2001. 284 pp. ISBN 0 7486 1466 4.

Andrew White, *Lancaster: A history*. Chichester: Phillimore, 2003. xii, 164 pp. ISBN 1 86077 244 7.

Andrew White, *Life in Georgian Lancaster*. Lancaster: Carnegie Publishing, 2004. vi, 103 pp. ISBN 1 85936 102 1.

Of the three books under review, *A history of Lancaster* must take pride of place. It is the essential introduction to the history of the city, and this second edition adds a necessary chapter on Roman Lancaster, updates aspects of the final chapter on the twentieth century, and makes occasional adjustments elsewhere to take account of new work. The book remains more a collection of linked essays than a thematic interpretation of the city's history, and it lacks the kind of overview introduction or conclusion that would set it in context, at national level as county town (an interesting category that is now being explored comparatively, especially at Leicester University's Centre for Urban History, through the work of historians such as Denise McHugh and Paul Elliott), and at regional level as outlying industrial centre whose trajectory needs to be viewed against comparators both to the south in industrial Lancashire, and to the north

in Cumbria, as in the comparable but contrasting cases of Kendal, Carlisle and Barrow.

As it is, the book plunges straight into the Roman military site on Castle Hill, and terminates with a (highly relevant and apposite) comment on the importance of Lancaster's distinctive history and heritage to its future prospects, in a competitive international environment in which the global necessarily both challenges and feeds off the local. In between, the reader is presented with a chronological sequence of chapters by authors expert in their fields, who deploy a range of primary sources and a synthesis of thematic local writings to take the story through from the Romans to the end of the twentieth century, with a combination of rigour and readability that can have few, if any, parallels among the local histories of this kind of town. Wider historical controversies are introduced in the process, but in an incidental rather than a systematic way, until the final chapter latches on to the strong theme of the progressive loss of local control of civic destiny in the face of external pressures and events.

The individual chapters are all full, solidly referenced and highly competent, as befits the experience and expertise of their authors. Understandably, the interests of the individual authors come to the fore at times, perhaps a little at the expense of other themes. David Shotter and Andrew White struggle convincingly with limited sources in the first two chapters. Michael Mullett's chapter on 'reformation and renewal' from 1450 to 1660 focuses strongly on religious and political issues, while giving little sense of the town's economic and demographic dimensions. Catholics and Quakers are particularly prominent, and some colourful language is used in dealing with the executions of recusants and 'witches'. On the latter theme Robert Poole's edited collection *The Lancashire Witches: Histories and stories* (Manchester University Press, 2002) came out too late for its findings to be incorporated into the discussion, to which they would have added extra dimensions. Nigel Dalziel, covering the 'long' eighteenth century, offers impressive and sometimes original coverage of maritime themes, including shipbuilding and privateering, and gets around to some basic demography at the end of his chapter. He is not so strong on urban leisure, apparently confusing cock throwing with cock-fighting (which did not disappear here in the early nineteenth century), and some cross-reference to Peter Borsay's useful concept of the urban renaissance would have enriched discussion of the rise of polite society.

Mike Winstanley, covering the century after the French wars, does another very professional job, especially in the fields of retailing, housing and local government, but has surprisingly little to say about the local working class. Chartism, trade unions and related themes were subdued but not absent in Lancaster, and it is disappointing to see them practically ignored in this chapter. Finally, Steve Constantine and Alan Warde offer a

particularly strongly themed chapter, tackling the decline of local political cultural and economic autonomy since the First World War, but offering very limited coverage of the working class and labour movement or (for example) the relationships (formal and informal) between the university and the city. Questions of gender and family life are practically ignored, and Elizabeth Roberts's two books on these themes, using Lancaster oral history interviews, are not mentioned. More might also have been said about the relationship between Lancaster and nearby Morecambe, which did not begin in 1974, and the treatment of local government is rather bland, with no hint of the recurrent scandals associated with the Town Hall in the late twentieth century, not least surrounding the vexed issue of sustained air pollution from Nightingale Hall Farm. Despite the odd allusion to amateur dramatics or the local Quiz League, little sense is given of the changing everyday texture of local life.

Even so, this is an excellent book of its kind. The others under review are much more limited in scope and ambition. *Lancaster: A history* is clearly and entertainingly presented, imaginatively illustrated and has excellent production values. It is also episodic and meandering, a collection of vignettes covering aspects of Lancaster life in (apparently) no particular order, and broken up into short sections. It is entertaining and instructive to read of wagers and circuses, and (for example) very interesting to learn of the colony of Victorian washerwomen at Golgotha; and the extensive quotations and other supportive detail will be useful for sustaining other arguments as well as providing amusement in their own right. This is not a scholarly book in the fullest sense, and nor is it meant to be, but it will please and instruct its intended market, making the town's history appetisingly accessible in the process.

Life in Georgian Lancaster looks at the period of the town's greatest relative prosperity and importance, again in an episodic and anecdotal way, with more apparent shape and direction but a very simplistic approach to historical argument and generalisation: the text is clearly aimed at a readership with little or no prior knowledge. As such, this is again a useful exercise in making history accessible and whetting appetites. Both books also provide the 'history from the bottom up' element that is so conspicuously lacking in the edited *History of Lancaster*. It is to be hoped that this does not suggest a frame of mind that regards the histories of daily life and 'ordinary people' as fitting fare for the entertainment of the general public, but not 'serious' enough for sustained debate among academics. The change of nomenclature of a small Lancaster entry (what the Spanish would call a *portillo*) from 'Swap Cunte Lane' to 'Bashful Alley' (*Life in Georgian Lancaster*, p. 75) is entertaining in its own right, but it might also be made to contribute to extensive areas of historical debate on (for example) respectability and the representation and gendering of urban

space. The edited *History of Lancaster*, with all its virtues, lacks precisely this dimension of the imaginative (but scholarly) social reconstruction of everyday life. These three books present us with contrasting cultures of local and urban history, whose complementary virtues need to be brought together rather than, as here, kept in quarantined isolation. They should not, and will not, offer the last words on the history of this important town.

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Seth Linder, Caroline Morris and Keith Skinner, *Ripper diary: The inside story*. Stroud: Sutton, 2003. viii, 280 pp. ISBN 0 7509 2954 5.

William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens would have understood the background and content of this book. The destructive power of an obsession with a single issue makes for 'o'er leaping ambition' that drives the players in this sad and moral tale. The desperate litigants in the murky mists of nineteenth century Chancery London would immediately recognise the swirl of passion and confusion that kept the courts so busy and adversely affected so many in cases such as *Jarndyce v Jarndyce*.

The driving force is to identify 'Jack the Ripper'. The basic premise of the book is that a document of doubtful provenance may establish a tentative link between James Maybrick and the perpetrator of those notorious nineteenth century murders. It becomes apparent very quickly that the jury is not going to be out to consider the proposition because no reasonable Court would allow the issue to be determined on the evidence presented. The majority of those involved are swirled around in the eddies and currents that is the foetid pool of speculation and guesswork of 'Ripperology' folklore.

I could discern no benefit for local historians or researchers in this book. To be fair it has not been written with such in mind, but rather as a breathless expose of the greedy, gullible and mendacious. Phrases such as 'the historical find of the century' are simply not supported by the facts and the only intellectual refreshment to be obtained is the clinical analysis by the *Sunday Times* of the evidential problems facing the supporters of the basic premise in chapter two.

The photographs neatly illustrate the extent of the participants' interest and drive in their quest for recognition and acceptance. Liverpool landmarks such as Bluecoat Chambers and Rigby's Public House in Dale Street add some local colour to this dire tale. The index is clear and comprehensive and illustrates how the frantic enquiries into the provenance of the Diary touched, and occasionally tainted, the lives of local people and how no blind alley was left unexplored.

At the end of the day the connection between the Maybrick family and

Jack the Ripper remains unproven and the worth of this book is not in any historical research or contribution but as a cautionary tale for those who may become fixated with a single issue.

Robert Warnock, Oxton