

HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

GUIDELINES FOR BOOK REVIEWS

1. Reviews should be approximately 600-900 words, informative and engaging.
2. Remember the regional nature of the Transactions, so focus on content relevant to Lancashire and Cheshire (whilst acknowledging other content).
3. Include the bibliographic entry, number of pages, price and ISBN, as well as your name and institutional affiliation at the start of your review.
4. Give a concise summary of the content. This includes a relevant description of the topic as well as its overall perspective, argument, or purpose. Locate it within the current field of scholarship.
5. Introduce the author: are they an academic, well-known speaker, knowledgeable amateur? What is their connection to the book's topic, if any?
6. Give a critical assessment of the content, including your reactions, what strikes you as noteworthy, whether or not it was effective or persuasive, and how it enhanced your understanding of the issues at hand. Include its main strengths and weaknesses.
7. Avoid lists of minor imperfections (e.g., misplaced commas), but do not hesitate to draw attention to serious editorial problems and errors of fact or interpretation.
8. Review the book in front of you, not the book you wish the author had written. You can and should point out shortcomings or failures, but don't criticize the book for not being something it was never intended to be.
9. Be fair and even-handed.
10. How is the book interesting or relevant to members of the Society?