

Hydro Electric Board there is hardly any coverage of the Second World War, or of the legacy of the important debates of the 1930s which set the tone for much of what was discussed in the 1940s and 1950s. There are also historiographical omissions: relevant theses by Mackenzie and Birnie and other work on industrialisation in the highlands by Perchard have not been cited. This means that much of the narrative of government policy has a rather hackneyed feel. Overall, the potentially interesting conclusions about the problematic relationship between 'economic development and cultural survival' on page 276 are not clearly articulated.

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Richard Goddard, John Langdon and Miriam Müller, eds, *Survival and Discord in Medieval Society: Essays in Honour of Christopher Dyer*, Turnhout, Brepols Publishers NV, The Medieval Countryside Series, 4, 2010. viii + 307pp. €85. 9782503528151.

This volume was conceived in order to mark the occasion of Christopher Dyer's sixty-fifth birthday. In determining the theme for this celebration of his scholarship, the editors faced the unenviable task of selecting from a body of work spanning several decades and encompassing a wide range of medieval subject matter. Nevertheless, since it is for his scholarship on the history of those who rarely figured in the historical record that Christopher Dyer is mostly known, it is fitting that this volume should focus predominantly, albeit occasionally abstractedly, on the peasantry, through the twin themes of survival and discord. Notwithstanding this tight thematic application, the contributors to this volume have produced a range of essays that manage to encompass most of the key subject matter favoured by Dyer throughout his career, whilst also acknowledging his proclivity for delving into more esoteric areas of historical enquiry usually ignored by others. This, in particular, is highlighted through Harold Fox's paper on lords and wastes. The collection of essays embraces the archaeological perspective, most notably through Astill's essay on settlement patterns. The urban environment is considered as well as the rural, with both settings being considered in Langdon's study of wages and their impact on survival. And, of great importance when considering the scholarship of Christopher Dyer, it incorporates both economic and social perspectives. In addition to the essays, there is a very useful bibliography of Dyer's work to date.

The section on survival includes a range of interpretations, as is fitting in a volume designed to highlight Dyer's varied interests. Essays range from a focus on settlement patterns, an exploration of seigneurial mentalities surrounding so called waste, and a number of studies concerned with the economy, specifically examining the overall national picture in the fifteenth century, urban credit, wages and their influence on survival, and the royal court's role in local economies. Turning to the section on discord, the themes covered naturally include local tensions and incidents of revolt. In addition to

a focus on England, a wider European emphasis has been included in essays from Bas van Bavel and Samuel Cohn. Jean Birrell's study of Alrewas in Staffordshire is especially interesting since it formed part of a small secular estate, a form of settlement that has been relatively rarely studied due to problems of documentary survival. This essay also represents an uncommon foray into the realms of peasant mentalities and highlights what is achievable through close scrutiny of manorial documents, particularly neglected sources such as surveys and custumals. Matthew Tompkins' essay on the peasant lessees of Great Horwood in Buckinghamshire is also notable for highlighting a rare example of collective peasant enterprise, and charting its development from initial fourteenth-century cooperation through to the self-interest of a very few almost three hundred years later.

Overall, this is a largely well-balanced volume, featuring studies from established and highly regarded scholars alongside emerging talent. The only very slight disappointment is the overriding emphasis on the late medieval period. Although this is the period considered most frequently by Dyer, he is nevertheless clearly a keen scholar of pre-Conquest events, contextualising later history accordingly, and so a more emphatic consideration of earlier concerns would have been a welcome addition.

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Elizabeth T. Hurren, *Dying for Victorian Medicine: English Anatomy and its Trade in the Dead Poor, c. 1834–1929*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. 380 pp. £65 hb. 9780230219663.

This important new exploration of the Victorian anatomy trade likens the history of anatomy to a dry stone wall whose crevices are packed with documents relating to the dispossessed poor. Elizabeth Hurren excavates these cracks and submits their contents to forensic historical scrutiny. The book is divided into seven chapters detailing the anatomy trade in St Bartholomew's Hospital, Cambridge, Oxford and Manchester. Chapter one revisits the Anatomy Act of 1832, whose impact is perceived as penalising the vulnerable in death for the crime of poverty. The Act was passed to stop the crime of bodysnatching and its intentions and impact are explored, enriched by an account of the trial of workhouse master Albert Feist who contravened the Act by trading corpses for profit. Chapter two explores Victorian death and dying. Hurren reviews historical literature on 'pauper funerals', compares these with 'anatomy burials' after dissection, and shows how the Poor Law and Anatomy Act worked in conjunction. She sheds light on how a death could throw a pauper family into financial crisis. Chapter three puts this legislation into context by taking the reader into the dissection room itself, and provides an overview of medical education in general and anatomical training in particular in the nineteenth century. The aim of the body trade was to match supply to medical student numbers, but this unpalatable if lucrative business was buffeted by local and national politics.