

Reviews

Map of Roman Britain, 3rd ed. Chessington : Ordnance Survey, 1956. Pp. 43, 5 maps and a folding map. 7s. 6d. net.

At first glance this is a new map, elegant in appearance, in its discriminating use of colour, its larger format, attractive layout, full explanatory text and additional maps. Nevertheless it is fundamentally the same map first produced in 1924, the work of that energetic, single-minded and single-handed archaeological officer to the Survey, O. G. S. Crawford, a venture so successful that a new edition became necessary only four years later and it became the forerunner of a series illustrating the archaeology of other historical periods. After the war a well-chosen team of assistants was engaged to repair the damage caused by loss of material and with able direction it was thus possible to seize a great opportunity provided by greater facilities, a notable public interest in archaeology and by many discoveries, not least those of air-photography, the pioneer in the use of which for archaeology had been O. G. S. Crawford. Thus we now have a map developed almost, but not quite, out of all recognition of the 1924 map. The scale is the same but the whole of Scotland and eastern Ireland are included. The symbols have been so elaborated by colour and device that the general picture of distribution of the various types of remains—forts, fortlets, camps, signal-stations, towns of various kinds and smaller settlements, villas, farms, bath and other buildings, barrows, temples, mausolea, potteries, kilns, mines, salt works, Celtic fields, aqueducts, canals and of course roads and milestones—is now much more definite and significant though, as is pointed out in the text, the picture still represents only what is known of Roman Britain for the whole four hundred years and not one at any given moment in that period. The additional maps illustrate partly the sources of information—Ptolemy's Geography and the Antonine Itinerary—partly enlarged pictures of different areas—an industrial complex, a region of small farms and another of country houses, and for this last purpose North Oxfordshire is the chosen area, no doubt because the material lay ready to hand in the *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, vol. I and in *Oxoniensia*. It is to be hoped that further regional maps of this kind will be issued—nothing could be more useful.

The explanatory introduction is so full that it can be regarded as a general introduction to the subject, the sections on the Countryside and Canals being particularly valuable and instructive. The list of Roman place-names with their sources is useful though perhaps it would have been wiser to omit those with a query which is apt to be forgotten. Neither has a list of literary sources without critical commentary much value ; for instance the map to illustrate the Antonine Itinerary reveals the difficulties caused by text-corruptions and lacunae and its general inadequacy as a guide to the roads in the third century, e.g. there is no direct road from London by Castor to York, which must have been one of the most used roads at any time. Lastly, the topographical Index, perhaps the most important section which enables any site to be identified easily where the category is small and the English name can be given, with difficulty among the crowded symbols of villas and

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buildings and even pottery kilns, unless a complete set of the one-inch maps with National Grid-marks is available. For the local archaeologist there is no difficulty; the student of the whole subject will find it necessary to make for himself an alphabetical list of English place-names.

Thus this map, the work of a team financed by the State, not only provides a model of precise research admirably presented, but it also marks a great advance in the study of one aspect of the history of our island—and all for the price of 7s. 6d. The Survey is certainly to be congratulated on its energy, its promptitude and its production.

M. V. TAYLOR.

The William W. Clary Oxford Collection, a descriptive catalogue. Ed. Grace M. Briggs. Printed for the Honnold Library of the Associated Colleges, Claremont, California. 1956.

Mr. William W. Clary, a senior partner of one of the leading law firms of Los Angeles, had as a young man an ambition to come to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, but, knowing no Greek, he was unable to qualify for admission to the University. Those who met Mr. Clary on his recent visit to Oxford regret this unfortunate result of the University's former insistence on Greek, but the Associated Colleges of Claremont in California have reaped compensating advantages. For Mr. Clary's interest in Oxford survived, and after he had graduated from Pomona College, Claremont, and had settled down to his successful career as a lawyer, he began as a hobby to collect books about Oxford University. These he has presented to the Honnold Library of the Associated Colleges of Claremont and the catalogue now published shows how valuable a collection of this kind can be. At first Mr. Clary's interest was in the quality of Oxford education, in the effects of Oxford scholarship on English thought and in the organization of colleges at Oxford which in some ways influenced the development of the Associated Colleges of Claremont. But his Oxford collection illustrates every facet of the history of the University, and his introduction to the catalogue is an interesting commentary on the history of this University by a man who looks at Oxford with 'respect for learning and veneration for age', but with a shrewd appraisal of Oxford's individual, and sometimes rather odd, contribution to higher education.

The catalogue is, appropriately, printed for the Honnold Library by the Oxford University Press, and is edited by Miss Grace Briggs, Assistant Secretary of the Bodleian Library. The form and lay-out are admirable and the editing impeccable. Since there is no published bibliography covering the history of the University, this catalogue is in a sense a pioneer work. The books are classified under two main heads to illustrate two distinct, but closely related, themes. One is the University itself, its history, organization and inner life; the other, the impact of the University on the thinking and culture of the outside world. Many of the books are naturally well-known to readers of this journal and Mr. Clary would be the last to claim to have made any original contribution to the history of the University. But this subject catalogue of his collection lists many minor works which are otherwise likely to be overlooked, and the lists of books relating to Oxford in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are of particular interest. These include selective collections of books on, for instance, Methodism and the Oxford Movement. But even more

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important are the biographies which throw light on social history and on education. A good history of Oxford in the nineteenth century must draw heavily on contemporary biographical material and the Clary collection shows how rich and unexpected these sources may be. Many may know of Augustus Hare's *Story of my life* as a 'source', but how many people, other than those who browse through the Clary Catalogue, know that there is interesting material on Oxford and Balliol in the seventies in H. K. Moore's *Reminiscences and reflections from some sixty years of life in Ireland*, and who, looking for an account of social life in Univ. in the early nineteenth century, would expect to find it in *Memoirs of a highland lady; the autobiography of Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus, afterwards Mrs. Smith of Baltiboy*. This is full of good things including Mrs. Smith's girlhood memories (c. 1810) of Shelley 'afterwards so celebrated, though I should think to the end half-crazy'.

By giving his Oxford collection to the Honnold Library Mr. Clary has been a benefactor to Claremont. By publishing this catalogue of his collection he ranks as a benefactor to all students of the history of this university.

I. G. PHILIP.

Trinity College 1555-1955. By M. Maclagan. Oxford. Printed at the University Press, 1955. Pp. 38; 10 plates.

This privately printed booklet was produced for the quatercentenary celebrations at Trinity College, and as it was not subsequently advertised or widely distributed it is not as well known as it should be. Mr. Maclagan, confessing a fondness for the writings of John Aubrey, has enlivened the story of the College with judicious illustrations and apt phrases, and has produced in a brief form a history which is equally of interest to the member of the College and to the general student of University history. Following so closely on the *V.C.H.*, a guide of this kind could not be expected to throw new light on the general history of the College, but there are interesting details which stand out more clearly in this succinct account. There is, for instance, the reference in the 1680's to the undergraduate library 'which was a mighty advantage to the House, and ought to be imitated by other Colleges'; and again in the 1870's Trinity, with Balliol, set an example to the University when 'the two colleges between them founded the study of Physical Chemistry'. The Trinity Chemical Laboratories were equipped in 1877. In the same year the College elected its first honorary fellow, Cardinal Newman.

The plates constitute a very useful supplement to those in the Oxford volume of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. The reproductions of the portrait and effigies of the founder are particularly interesting and Mr. Weaver's two photographs of the College garden would tempt anyone to Trinity.

I. G. PHILIP.