

REVIEWS

*Kentish Sources. Some Roads and Bridges. Maidstone, Kent County Council, 1959.* Pp. viii and 64. 11 illustrations, stiff paper cover. No price (3s. 6d. post free from the County Archivist). Edited by Elizabeth Melling, B.A., Assistant Archivist, K.C.C.

This is the fourth publication of the Kent County Archives Office. Two of them were slight but none the less valuable guides to exhibitions illustrating the various aspects of the Kent Archives, a third was a catalogue of the contents of the Office without which the student would waste a great deal of time and this, the last of the series and in many ways by far the best. Kent is following the example of Essex (and there could be no better exemplar) and it is to be hoped that the good work and high standards hitherto displayed may be maintained and continued.

The book is not intended for serious students of communications in the County. They probably are aware of the material available and its nature; but even they may find, perchance, a clue to some matter that has hitherto escaped their vigilance. It is to a wider public that this volume makes its appeal, particularly those in the educational field, and that ever-growing body of the general public that takes an abiding interest in their county history and the wider aspects of national matters beyond the county boundaries.

This is a miscellany of carefully selected extracts from documents in the Record Office, chosen to illustrate some aspects of travel and communications within the county. Naturally Roads occupy the major part of its contents, but Bridges and Ferries have their share, and an all too brief section relates some experiences of travelling and travellers. It would not be fair to make any selection from its varied contents. Let it be said that the reader, whatever his tastes or locality, cannot fail to find something to his liking, whether it be the contrariness of John Terry of Snave who made roads crooked when they might have been straight, of the family dissensions between Hendley of Langley and Filmer of East Sutton whose domestic differences obtruded into matters of public service. There are warnings (very modern this sounds) about people who leave their carriages in the road all night and accounts of how Sir Roger Twisden was able to divert the main road a little further from his residence, and of the Snodland—Burham Ferry. Which, if Mr. Belloc is to be believed, carried the line of the so-called Pilgrims' Road over the Medway. And the pictures too are

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very illuminating. Altogether it is a very fine picture of the state of Kentish travel through the ages and such is the skill of selection that had the material been multiplied a dozen fold (as it easily could have been) the overall picture could not have been better. The Title "Kentish Sources" seems to imply the commencement of a series of which this is the first. If this is so, it is to be hoped that the public demand for this very attractive booklet will encourage the production of others of a like nature.

F. C. ELLISTON-ERWOOD.

*Maison Dieu, Ospringe.* 1958. 1s.

*Richborough Castle.* 1955. 3d.

*Old Soar, Plaxtol.* 1953. 3d.

*St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury.* 1955. 1s. 6d.

*Lullingstone Roman Villa.* 1958. 4d.

Our members' attention is drawn to five recently-published Ministry of Works Official Guide-books to Kent's ancient monuments and historic buildings. The account of *Maison Dieu, Ospringe*, is written by our council member, Mr. Stuart Rigold, and by Mr. Gerald Dunning, a frequent contributor to *Archæologia Cantiana*. Mr. Dunning's portion mainly concerns the Museum at Ospringe and he also deals with the objects in Richborough Museum in the *Richborough Guide*. Nobody but Colonel Meates would be a fitting author of an authoritative account of Lullingstone Roman Villa and the finds made there. Miss Margaret Wood's long service to the cause of describing medieval stone houses is sufficient recommendation for her description of Old Soar. The late Sir Alfred Clapham was responsible for the *St. Augustine's Abbey* booklet and the late Mr. J. P. Bushe-Fox for the story of the revealing of his own monument, Richborough Castle—two scholars who need no further testimonial to their worth and work.

L.R.A.G.

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