

## BOOK REVIEW

*Prisca Munimenta: Studies in Archival and Administrative History presented to Dr A. E. J. Hollaender*, ed. Felicity Ranger, University of London Press, 1973, pp. xvi + 307, £8.50.

This volume is a *Festschrift* for Dr Hollaender, who retired at the end of 1973 from the post of Keeper of Manuscripts at the Guildhall Library, London. Dr Hollaender is a Viennese who left Austria as an exile in 1939, and for twenty-three years he edited the *Journal of the Society of Archivists*. His *Festschrift* consists of twenty-two articles published in the *Journal* between 1956 and 1969 and now out of print.

The six sections of the volume are General, Diplomatic, Central Government and Parliament, Customs and Commerce, Ecclesiastical Administration, and Local Administration. The General section contains a delightful address by Sir Hilary Jenkinson on "The Future of Archives in England", a useful (and horrifying) account by Peter Walne of "The Record Commissions, 1800-37" and a parallel account, by Peter Goulesbrough of "The Record Commissions and Scotland".

Five out of six articles on Central Government and Parliament are medieval and early modern. One of these — Neville Williams on "The Master of the Royal Tents and his Records" is the sort of curiosity that only English archives can supply. Very useful, both to archivists and historians, are Maurice F. Bond on "The Formation of the Archives of Parliament, 1497-1691", Thomas G. Barnes on "The Archives and Archival Problems of the Elizabethan and Early Stuart Star Chamber", Walter C. Richardson on "Records of the Court of Augmentations" and Athol L. Murray on "The pre-Union Records of the Scottish Exchequer". For students of later times Valerie Cromwell has written on "The Administrative Background to the Presentation to Parliament of Parliamentary Papers on Foreign Affairs in the Mid-Nineteenth Century".

Three articles on Customs and Commerce are also addressed to medievalists. Rupert C. Jarvis writes on "The Archival History of the Customs Records", Henry S. Cobb on "Local Port Customs Accounts Prior to 1550", and Jean M. Imray on "The Merchant Adventurers and their Records".

The articles on Ecclesiastical Administration are of the later modern period. E. J. Robinson has written on "The Records of the Church Commissioners", H. G. Richardson on "The Records of the Tithe Redemption Commission" and Francis O. Edwards S.J. on "The Archives of the English Province of the Society of Jesus at Farm Street, London".

The articles on Local Administration are confined to drainage and are a paper on "Land Drainage Authorities and their Records" by A. E. B. Owen and on "The London Commissioners of Sewers and their Records".

By far the most interesting section to the reviewer is that on Diplomatic. A great curiosity is Norman E. Evans on "A Russian Royal Letter of 1682" but four magnificent articles by Pierre Chaplais, Reader in Diplomatic in the University of Oxford are the volume's chief claim to fame. These are "The Origin and Authenticity of the Royal Anglo-Saxon Diploma", "The Anglo-Saxon Chancery: from the

Diploma to the Writ”, “Some Early Anglo-Saxon Diplomas on Single Sheets: Originals or Copies?” and “Who Introduced Charters into England? The Case for Augustine”. A lot of the argument is technical but the author is most lucid and never loses track of his general argument. Some of the most eminent Anglo-Saxon specialists are gently demolished in a wholly convincing way and new light is shed on the origins of both land-book and writ, as well as upon the early growth of the Chancery.

H. E. Hallam,  
Professor of Medieval History  
University of Western Australia.