

Surtees Society Report 2010/11 for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

The Surtees Society maintained its publication programme with two volumes this year. Firstly, a volume of *Sunderland Wills and Inventories 1601-1650* (the Society's volume 214), transcribed and edited by a group of local volunteers (Joan Briggs, Jennifer Tindall, Ann Tumman and Xenia Webster) under the overall editorship of Dr John Smith, appeared. The genesis of the project owed much to the HLF's England's Past for Everyone project, and its completion owed much to the Society's joint editor Prof Richard Britnell as John Smith was unfortunately taken ill.

Secondly, *The Letters of George Davenport 1651-77* appeared in the autumn of 2011 as the Society's volume 215. This was edited by Brenda Pask up until its latter stages when her unfortunately failing eyesight meant that the Society's joint editor Dr Margaret Harvey had to do much of the final work. It was launched at a very convivial evening in the church of St Mary-le-Bow in Durham, hosted by the Friends there and organised by Dr Adrian Green. Contributions from the editors and Dr Ian Doyle outlined the significance of the volume, Davenport and the church. Editions of the 1851 religious census for Northumberland and Co Durham by Alan Munden and correspondence of the coal viewer John Buddle for 1820-1843 by Anne Orde are in the pipeline for the near future.

The Society's administration has continued to be carried out smoothly by the Arts Faculty office, principally through the good offices of Melanie Farrell, one of the faculty secretaries, mostly in liaison with the Society's treasurer, Mr Brian Cheesman. The Society, and especially the work of its editors, also continues to benefit from the support and advice of a growing range of vice-presidents whose experience and background in the history of the region help to ensure that reviews of the Society's volumes remain commendatory.

Michael Stansfield
Hon Secretary
1 December 2011