

Surtees Society Report 2012/13 for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

The Surtees Society has published its volume 217 this year. This is Dr Anne Orde's edition of *John Buddle, Letters to Lord Londonderry, 1820-1843*, seen through the press by the Society's co-editor Alan Heesom. Comprising letters from one of the most eminent coal viewers of his generation to one of the north-east's major figures, it provides an invaluable resource for and commentary on the history of the north-east region at a time of far-reaching change in the nineteenth century.

In the press at present, and shortly to be the Society's volume 218, is *The Earliest Manorial Accounts of Durham Cathedral Priory, 1277-1310*, edited by Prof Richard Britnell. The Society is fortunate to have Richard Britnell's expertise to bring this crucial financial and economic medieval material before the wider audience that it merits. Further forthcoming volumes comprise: *Chancellor Walter Fletcher's Diocesan Book: the Diocese of Carlisle, 1814-1844, incorporating Bishop Percy's parish notebook, 1828-1850*, edited by Dr Jane Platt; *Northallerton Wills, 1665-1719*, edited by Dr Christine Newman and Dr Dorothy Edwards; and *Foundation Documents from St Mary's Abbey, York, 1085-1137*, edited by Richard Sharpe, Nicholas Karn, Michael Gullick and Janet Burton.

The Society lost two of its most longstanding and valued vice-presidents during the year. Barrie Dobson died in April. He served as the Society's president for 15 years 1987-2002. These were highly significant years when the Society moved to publishing its volumes through Boydell and Brewer and contracted out its administration, at that time to the History department. Constance Fraser died in June, being then the Society's longest serving vice-president and having edited a number of volumes for the Society, most recently *The Northumberland 1293 Eyre-roll* as volume 211 in 2007. This year also saw the retirement of the Society's treasurer, Brian Cheesman, who had been in post since 2001. The financial affairs of the Society had then been brought back into the fold having previously been overseen by a representative of its long-time local bank at Barclays. The Society's relative financial stability has owed much to his probity and oversight, and it was perhaps fitting that almost his last act as treasurer was to receive for the Society a legacy from the widow of the former editor of volume 202 which has enhanced that stability considerably. Brian's successor is Pete Maggs, the present holder of Brian's previous post as the university's deputy librarian. The Society has also strengthened its financial oversight recently with the addition of Alan Ribchester to its vice-presidents, bringing to the Society a wealth of experience of the financial affairs of similar charity organisations.

Membership of the Society currently stands at 192 of which 57 are individuals and 135 are institutions.

Michael Stansfield
Hon Secretary
2 December 2013