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0521021618 - The First Modern Society: Essays in English History in Honour of
Lawrence Stone

Edited by A. L. Beier, David Cannadine and James M. Rosenheim

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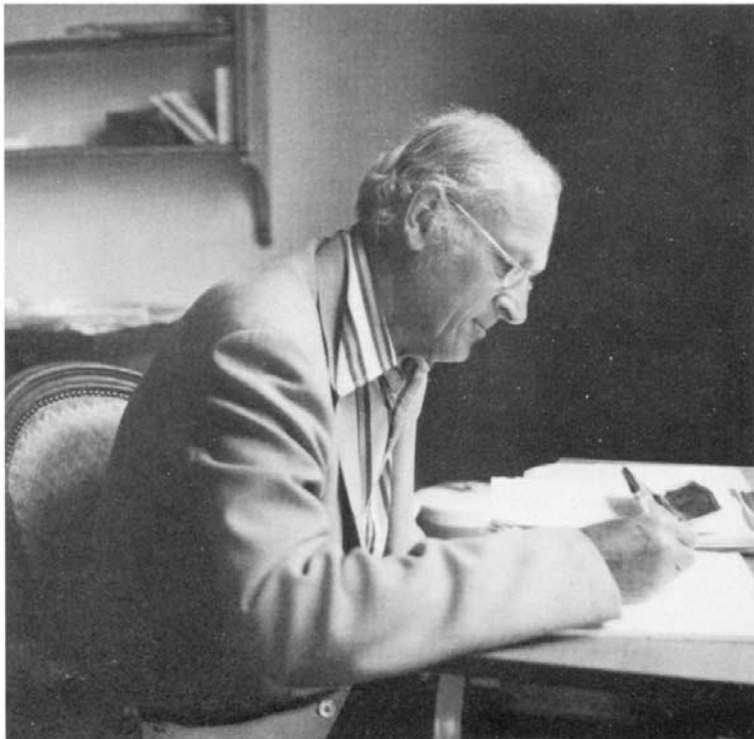
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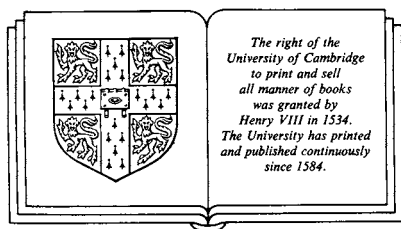
Essays in English History in Honour of LAWRENCE STONE

Edited by

A. L. BEIER

DAVID CANNADINE and

JAMES M. ROSENHEIM



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. . . how and why did Western Europe change itself during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries so as to lay the social, economic, scientific, political, ideological and ethical foundations for the rationalist, democratic, individualistic, technological industrialised society in which we now live? England was the first country to travel along this road . . .

Lawrence Stone, *The Past and the Present Revisited*
(London, 1987), p. xi.

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Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the Puritan Revolution (Oxford, 1967), *Sir Philip Sidney: The Shepherd Knight* (London, 1968), *Cromwell* (London, 1977), and *Puritans and Radicals in North England: Essays on the English Revolution* (Lanham, MD, 1984). He is currently working on seventeenth-century urban history.

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Preface

These essays, by former students of Lawrence Stone on both sides of the Atlantic, are gathered together to celebrate his seventieth birthday, and to mark his retirement from the Dodge Professorship of History at Princeton University. They are offered as an appreciative and affectionate tribute to one of the towering figures of our profession, whose insatiable curiosity about the past, refreshing openness to new ideas, unerring instinct for raising large issues, prodigious creative energies, and robust delight in controversy, have been an example to us all – and a reproach and provocation to many others.

No single volume of essays could hope to do full justice to the breadth of his interests, ranging as they do across a millennium of the British past – in political, economic, social, family, cultural, educational and architectural history, and in sociology, statistics, demography, economics and anthropology. But all the essays collected here owe much to his inspiration and his influence. To these are added four appreciations by friends and colleagues from Oxford and Princeton, and a little-known but highly revealing piece of autobiography by Lawrence Stone himself, which was originally given as the third Charles Homer Haskins Lecture under the title ‘A Life of Learning,’ and is reprinted here by kind permission of the American Council of Learned Societies.

The editing of this volume has been a memorable and educational experience for us all, and we have shared its burdens equally. We are extremely grateful to our fellow contributors for their forbearance and co-operation, to Kenneth E. Hendrickson for his assistance in compiling the bibliography, and to the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A & M University, and the Department of History at the University of

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A. L. BEIER

DAVID CANNADINE

JAMES M. ROSENHEIM