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978-0-521-03127-1 - Landlords, Peasants and Politics in Medieval England

Edited by T. H. Aston

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*Landlords, Peasants
and Politics in
Medieval England*

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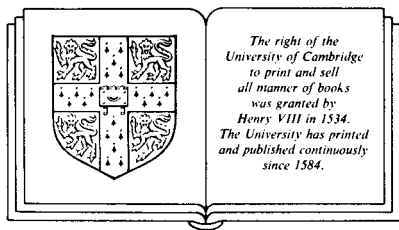
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T. H. ASTON



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Preface

This volume of articles from *Past and Present* was planned by T. H. Aston shortly before his death, in October 1985. It was the last of his many services to the series of Past and Present Publications which he had founded, and of which he was General Editor. At the time of his death, twenty-six volumes were in print, published by the Cambridge University Press, and there had been three earlier volumes, published by Routledge and Kegan Paul. The list of titles speaks for itself. It includes original monographs and translations of notable works in other languages, as well as conference proceedings and collections of articles from *Past and Present*, which Trevor Aston also edited. It ranges far and wide, from Byzantine literature to modern medicine, from popular disturbances to crime and the family, and from the history of towns to the history of traditions.

Historical breadth in its coverage of major areas of social, economic and cultural change was one of Trevor Aston's guiding principles for the series. The other was an insistence on the need to communicate and stimulate. Original research should be published in readable and lively form, and it should not be the deadening, definitive last word but a spur to discussion and further investigation. Diversity and debate have been welcomed, and these have been the marks of the volumes with which Trevor Aston was most closely associated, from the first, *Crisis in Europe, 1560-1660* (1965), edited by him and published by Routledge, to the later collections co-edited by him and published by Cambridge University Press: *Social Relations and Ideas: Essays in Honour of R. H. Hilton* (1983), *The English Rising of 1381* (1984) and *The Brenner Debate* (1985). The present volume is a fitting successor. It reflects Trevor Aston's own scholarly interests in the English middle ages. It is also a reminder of his conviction that historical knowledge advances through controversy and of his success as an Editor in fostering that necessary lively debate.

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Editorial Note

The articles in this volume (1-3, 5-9, 11 and 12) first appeared in *Past and Present*, nos. 67, 102, 57, 47, 68, 62, 89, 90, 93 and 96, and the Debate on “Politics and Property in Early Medieval England” (4) in no. 65. J. R. Maddicott’s “The English Peasantry and the Demands of the Crown, 1294-1341” was published as a *Past and Present* Supplement in 1975. They are now reprinted as originally published, except for some slight rephrasing and updating here and there, the correction of factual errors, and some amendment of the footnotes.

Particular thanks go to R. H. Hilton for writing the introduction. We are also grateful to all at the Cambridge University Press who have assisted in the preparation of the volume.