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978-0-521-08155-9 - A Medieval Society: The West Midlands at the End of the Thirteenth Century

R. H. Hilton

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*The West Midlands at the End of
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R. H. HILTON

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

London New York New Rochelle

Melbourne Sydney

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Thirteenth Century
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521253741

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First published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson 1966
Reissued by Cambridge University Press 1983
This digitally printed version 2008

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 82-19732

ISBN 978-0-521-25374-1 hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-08155-9 paperback

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the following for their kind permission to reproduce material in their possession: Mr F. W. B. Charles for drawings of Noakes Court, Defford; Mr P. A. Rahtz for the Upton plans; Dr Cyril Hart for information from his unpublished 'Forest of Dean as a Timber Producing Area' (Leicester University PhD thesis) on which the map of the Forest of Dean is based;* Mr J. West for the map of Feckenham Forest, the Birmingham and Midland Archaeological Society for Mr F. T. S. Houghton's map of the saltways (TBAS liv).

I also wish to thank Mr J. Hogan for the maps.

The following friends and colleagues have also helped me with their comments: Dr K. R. Andrews, Miss J. R. Birrell, Mr F. W. B. Charles, Professor H. A. Cronne and Mr P. A. Rahtz. I am very grateful to them and absolve them from all responsibility for what I have written.

R. H. H.

* Now published as *Royal Forest*, 1966.

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FOREWORD TO THE 1983 REISSUE

Much work has been done on the history of late medieval English society since this book was first published. Only minor corrections have been possible for this reissue, but I do not think that I would have wished to make major alterations.

Three important subsequent studies relating to the West Midlands should be mentioned: Christopher Dyer, *Lords and Peasants in a Changing Society: the Estates of the Bishopric of Worcester 680–1540*, 1980; Zvi Razi, *Life, Marriage and Death in a Medieval Parish: Economy, Society and Demography in Halesowen, 1240–1400*, 1980; Nigel Saul, *Knights and Esquires: the Gloucestershire Gentry in the Fourteenth Century*, 1981. This last work suggests some modifications to figures I had calculated.

I rashly promised to follow this study with another book dealing with the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. To some extent I have fulfilled this promise with my Ford Lectures, *The English Peasantry in the Later Middle Ages*, 1975. I hope to be able to reinforce this with another work on urban society.

Apart from reviewers of the original edition, I have had help in making corrections from Christopher Dyer, Richard Holt and Simon Penn, to whom I am very grateful.

Owing to the loss of plates, the photographs which were included in the original edition have regretfully had to be omitted.

R. H. H.