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John Hatcher

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JOHN HATCHER

*Lecturer in History, University of Kent
at Canterbury*



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PREFACE

This study is based largely upon records stored in the Public Record Office and the Duchy of Cornwall Office, and I thank the staff of both offices for kindly allowing me access to the contents of their muniment rooms; I am particularly grateful to Sir Patrick Kingsley, Secretary and Keeper of the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall, and to Mr Stanley Opie who assisted my studies at the Duchy of Cornwall Office by efficiently furnishing me with manuscripts and freely giving me the benefit of his wide knowledge of Cornwall and its history. I am indebted to Dr A. R. Bridbury and Miss Olive Coleman for much help and guidance during and since my undergraduate days, to my friend Dr Ian Blanchard for the stimulus of many conversations on economic history in general and Cornish medieval evidence in particular, and to Mr Peter L. Hull and Mr Harold Fox for discussions on place-names and field-systems respectively. Professor Gordon Mingay kindly read and commented on a draft of Chapter I. My indebtedness to Professor Postan is two-fold: firstly, in common with all students of the medieval economy, my studies have benefited immeasurably from the framework provided by his writings; and secondly, on a personal level, he kindly read two complete drafts of this work and provided me with many expert and perceptive criticisms and suggestions. In conclusion it is a pleasure to record, albeit inadequately, my deep gratitude to Professor Eleanora Carus-Wilson whose inspiration, guidance and assistance has at all times far exceeded that which any post-graduate could hope to receive from his supervisor. She has selflessly and skilfully worked through innumerable drafts and improved them out of all recognition, with a multitude of suggestions ranging from corrections of grammar and style to the clarification and justification of argument; it is no mere platitude to state that without her help and friendship this book would be much the poorer.

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History Review have kindly given permission for material previously published in those journals to be reproduced here. This book, which is based upon my London Ph.D. thesis, submitted in 1967, has been published with the assistance of a generous grant from the late Miss Isobel Thornley's Bequest to the University of London; some money towards the cost of publication was also granted by the Duchy of Cornwall.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Place-names: owing to the uncertainty which at present surrounds the study of Cornish place-names the majority of spellings used in the book follow the most common form found in the documents.

Rent: the peculiar system of tenure by which the bulk of the lands of the Cornish manors of the Duchy of Cornwall were held required tenants to make two distinct money payments: a rent and an assession fine. The rent was payable annually and the assession fine in instalments six years in every seven. Thus there exists the possibility of confusion between *rent* meaning the aggregate money payment the tenant made for the land he held (including both assession fine and the annual payments of rent), and *rent* meaning only the annual payments of rent. To avoid this confusion, throughout this study the annual payment of rent alone has been referred to as annual rent, and rent, rent receipts, rent levels etc. refer to the more important aggregate cost of land comprising both annual rents and assession fines.

Canterbury, March 1970

JOHN HATCHER

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>Ag. Hist. Rev.</i> | <i>Agricultural History Review</i> |
| <i>B.M.</i> | <i>British Museum</i> |
| <i>B.P.R.</i> | <i>Registers of the Black Prince</i> |
| <i>C. Ch. R.</i> | <i>Calendar of Charter Rolls</i> |
| <i>C.C.R.</i> | <i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i> |
| <i>C.F.R.</i> | <i>Calendar of Fine Rolls</i> |
| <i>Cal. Inq. Misc.</i> | <i>Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous</i> |
| <i>Cal. Inq. P.M.</i> | <i>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem</i> |
| <i>C.P.R.</i> | <i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i> |
| <i>D.C.O.</i> | Duchy of Cornwall Office |
| <i>D.N.B.</i> | <i>Dictionary of National Biography</i> |
| <i>Ec. H.R.</i> | <i>Economic History Review</i> |
| <i>J.E.B.H.</i> | <i>Journal of Economic and Business History</i> |
| <i>J.R.I.C.</i> | <i>Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall</i> |
| <i>P.R.O.</i> | Public Record Office |
| <i>Reg.</i> | <i>Episcopal Register</i> |
| <i>Rot. Parl.</i> | <i>Rotuli Parliamentorum</i> |
| <i>T.R.H.S.</i> | <i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i> |
| <i>V.C.H.</i> | <i>Victoria County History</i> |

