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978-0-521-36882-7 - Agricultural Change: Policy and Practice, 1500-1750

Edited by Joan Thirsk

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CHAPTERS FROM
THE AGRARIAN HISTORY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES,
1500–1750

EDITED BY JOAN THIRSK

*Sometime Reader in Economic History,
University of Oxford*

VOLUME 3

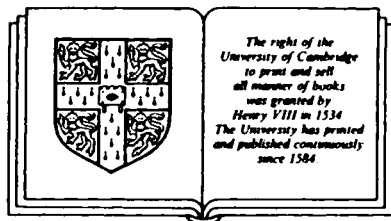
Agricultural Change: Policy and Practice,
1500–1750

With new Introductory material by

JOAN THIRSK, ERIC EVANS AND MALCOLM THICK

EDITED BY

JOAN THIRSK



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EDITOR'S PREFACE

Since a survey of English agriculture is a large part of the economic history of England in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, it has seemed desirable to make the volumes of *The Agrarian History of England and Wales* available in a cheaper format to a wider readership. With this purpose in mind, each of the general chapters published in volume IV of *The Agrarian History*, and spanning the years 1500–1640, has been combined with its partner in volume V, 1640–1750, to give a survey covering two hundred and fifty years.¹ Here then is a view of a long chain of development. And while the individual authors fix a piercing gaze upon single themes in the sequence, the amalgamation of their studies reveals a larger pattern unfolding. Particularly striking are the differences in the economic circumstances ruling between the two periods, from 1500 to 1650 on the one hand, and from 1650 to 1750 on the other. Whereas rising food prices boosted the production of mainstream crops in the first period, stable or falling prices encouraged diversification, and the commercial production of a more varied range of plants and animals in the second. These differing circumstances also obliged landowners and all other classes living off the land to devise different strategies for survival. Changes in consequence did not follow one linear path. Human ingenuity turned in two different directions in the two periods, and, in fact, some of the subsidiary, not to say frivolous, activities in the first period (such as the production of luxury fruit and vegetables for the rich) proved to be among the most rewarding of the strategies for survival in the second.

The authors of all chapters in these two volumes have been given the chance to bring their surveys up-to-date by drawing attention to new work published since they first wrote. As volume IV was published in 1967, this means that they have more to say about their earlier writing than the later (published in 1985–6). These introductions should guide the reader to the most recent research. But it is also hoped that the juxtaposition of chapters from both volumes will offer a new perspective on the period as a whole, and so promote further discussion and

¹ The only chapters omitted from this paperback series, which appeared in the hardback version, are those describing regional farming systems, namely chapters I and II in volume IV, and all the chapters in part I of volume V.

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understanding of the significance of the two phases within it. For while some of the solutions to problems in the second half of the period plainly sprang from developments in the first half, we must also bear in mind that within this whole web of human activity lay certain notable successes with new crops, new farming systems, and new ways of getting a living, which launched another phase of boisterous agricultural, and industrial, expansion in the later eighteenth century. To see agricultural development in a long view across two-and-a-half centuries is a particularly salutary experience for us who live in another changing agricultural world.

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Agric. Hist.</i> | <i>Agricultural History</i> |
| AHEW | <i>Agrarian History of England and Wales</i> , Cambridge, 1967– |
| AHR | <i>Agricultural History Review</i> |
| <i>Amer. Hist. Rev.</i> | <i>American Historical Review</i> |
| AO | Archives Office |
| APC | <i>Acts of the Privy Council</i> , London, 1890– |
| <i>Arch. Aeliana</i> | <i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i> |
| <i>Arch. Camb.</i> | <i>Archaeologia Cambrensis</i> |
| <i>Arch. Cant.</i> | <i>Archaeologia Cantiana</i> |
| <i>Arch. J.</i> | <i>Archaeological Journal</i> |
| B. Acad. | British Academy |
| BE | N. Pevsner, <i>The Buildings of England</i> , London, 1951–74 |
| BL | British Library |
| BM | British Museum |
| Borthwick IHR | Borthwick Institute of Historical Research |
| BPP | British Parliamentary Papers |
| <i>Bull. BCS</i> | <i>Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies</i> |
| <i>Bull. IHR</i> | <i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i> |
| <i>Bull. JRL</i> | <i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i> |
| CCC | M.A.E. Green, <i>Calendar of the Proceedings of the Committee for Compounding. etc., 1643–1660</i> , 5 vols. London, 1889–92 |
| C,Ch. | Proceedings in the Court of Chancery |
| CJ | Commons Journals |
| CP 40 | Court of Common Pleas, Plea Rolls, PRO |
| CPR | Calendar of Patent Rolls |
| CRO | Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle |
| CSPD | <i>Calendar of State Papers Domestic</i> |
| CW2 | <i>Cumb. and Westmor. Antiq. and Arch. Soc.</i> , 2nd series |
| E | Exchequer Records, PRO |
| E 134 | Exchequer, Depositions |

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| E 159 | Exchequer, King's Remembrancer, Memoranda Rolls |
| E 164 | Exchequer, King's Remembrancer, Miscellaneous Books |
| E 178 | Exchequer, Special Commissions |
| E 315 | Exchequer, Augmentations Office, Miscellaneous Books |
| E 318 | Exchequer, Augmentations Office, Particulars for Grants |
| E 321 | Exchequer, Augmentations Office, Proceedings |
| EcHR | <i>Economic History Review</i> |
| EFC | M. W. Barley, <i>The English Farmhouse and Cottage</i> , London, 1961 |
| EHR | <i>English Historical Review</i> |
| EPNS | English Place-Name Society |
| EVH | Eric Mercer, <i>English Vernacular Houses: A Study of Traditional Farmhouses and Cottages</i> , RCHM (England), London, 1975 |
| GLCRO | Greater London Council Record Office |
| GMR | Guildford Muniment Room |
| Hist. Mon. C. | Historical Monuments Commission |
| HMC | Historical Manuscripts Commission |
| J. | Journal |
| <i>JCH</i> | <i>Journal of Comparative History</i> |
| <i>JFHS</i> | <i>Journal of the Friends' Historical Society</i> |
| <i>JMH</i> | <i>Journal of Modern History</i> |
| KRO | Cumbria Record Office, Kendal |
| LAO | Lincolnshire Archives Office |
| LJ | Lords Journals |
| LJRO | Lichfield Joint Record Office |
| LP | <i>Letters and Papers of Henry VIII</i> |
| LPL | Lambeth Palace Library |
| LR | Exchequer Office of the Auditors of Land Revenue, PRO |
| LUS | Land Utilization Survey |
| Mont. Coll. | Montgomeryshire Collections |
| NLW | National Library of Wales |
| <i>NQ</i> | <i>Notes and Queries</i> |
| PP | Parliamentary Papers |
| <i>PP</i> | <i>Past and Present</i> |
| PRO | Public Record Office, Chancery Lane and |

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| | |
|---|---|
| | Kew, London |
| <i>PS</i> | <i>Population Studies</i> |
| RASE | Royal Agricultural Society of England |
| RCAM | Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments |
| RCHM | Royal Commission on Historical Monuments |
| Req., Req. 2 | Proceedings in the Court of Requests |
| RHS | Royal Historical Society |
| RO | Record Office |
| Roy. Inst. Cornwall | <i>Royal Institution of Cornwall</i> |
| SC | Special Collections, PRO |
| SP | State Papers |
| T & C | <i>Seventeenth-Century Economic Documents</i> , ed. J. Thirsk and J. P. Cooper, Oxford, 1972 |
| TED | <i>Tudor Economic Documents</i> , ed. R. H. Tawney and Eileen Power, 3 vols., London, 1924 |
| UCNWL | University College of North Wales Library, Bangor |
| <i>VCH</i> (name of county in italics) | <i>Victoria County History</i> |
| <i>Yorks. Bull.</i> | <i>Yorkshire Bulletin of Economic and Social Research</i> |