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978-0-521-46671-4 - The Culture of the English People: Iron Age to the Industrial Revolution

N. J. G. Pounds

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THE CULTURE OF THE
ENGLISH PEOPLE

This wide-ranging book traces the development of popular culture in England from the Iron Age, when it first becomes apparent as a whole, to the eighteenth century. The concept of popular culture is here taken to be the body of ideas which is held by a people about itself and its environment, both physical and social, together with the tools and artefacts through which its members related to one another and to the outside world; it follows therefore that the general theme of the book is people's attitude to and use of their environment.

After a short discussion of the prehistoric and Roman cultures the book deals in depth with the essential foundations – shelter and housing, warmth and security, furnishings and domestic convenience, food and its preparation, and intra-familial and intra-communal relations. A separate chapter is devoted to the culture of towns. The text is illustrated throughout by objects, artefacts and structures, many of which are visual representations of earlier cultures, notably in sculpture and decoration.

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*For Liz and
her friends*

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PREFACE

The author wishes to express his thanks to the many friends who have assisted him in the preparation of this book. In particular he is indebted to Dr Martin Millett of the University of Durham for his critical reading of the first three chapters; to Mrs E. L. Wetton for much sound advice, and to Mrs Christine North, Cornwall County Archivist, for her help with documentary sources. But errors and prejudices are all his own.

The colophons at the head of each of the twelve substantive chapters represent the 'labours of the months', in order, beginning with January at the head of chapter 1. They have been drawn from the late Anglo-Saxon manuscript British Library Cott. Jul. A. vi.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AAG Bijd</i>	<i>Afdeling Agrarische Geschiedenis Bijdragen</i>
<i>Abh Preuss Akad Wiss</i>	<i>Abhandlungen der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften</i>
<i>Actes Coll Int Dem Hist</i>	<i>Actes du Colloquium International de Demographie Historique</i>
<i>Agr Hist Rv</i>	<i>Agricultural History Review</i>
<i>Alc Club Collns</i>	<i>Alcuin Club Collections</i>
<i>Am Jl Leg Hist</i>	<i>American Journal of Legal History</i>
<i>Am Jl Soc</i>	<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
<i>Am Mus Nat Hist</i>	<i>American Museum of Natural History</i>
<i>Ann Ass Am Geog</i>	<i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i>
<i>Ann Bret</i>	<i>Annales de Bretagne</i>
<i>Ann ESC</i>	<i>Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations</i>
<i>Ant</i>	<i>Antiquity</i>
<i>Ant Jl</i>	<i>Antiquaries' Journal</i>
<i>Arch</i>	<i>Archaeologia</i>
<i>Arch Ael</i>	<i>Archaeologia Aeliana</i>
<i>Arch Camb</i>	<i>Archaeologia Cambrensis</i>
<i>Arch Cant</i>	<i>Archaeologia Cantiana</i>
<i>Arch Jl</i>	<i>Archaeological Journal</i>
<i>Archt Hist</i>	<i>Architectural History</i>
<i>Ass Arch Soc, Repts Pap</i>	<i>Association of Architectural Societies: Reports and the Papers</i>
<i>Banb Hist Soc</i>	<i>Banbury Historical Society</i>
<i>BAR</i>	<i>British Archaeological Reports, Oxford</i>
<i>Beds Hist Rec Soc</i>	<i>Bedfordshire Historical Record Society</i>
<i>Berich Rijks Oud Bod</i>	<i>Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek</i>
<i>Berks Arch Jl</i>	<i>Berkshire Archaeological Journal</i>
<i>Brist Rec Soc</i>	<i>Bristol Record Society</i>
<i>Brit</i>	<i>Britannia</i>
<i>Brit Mus</i>	<i>British Museum</i>
<i>Brit Rec Assn</i>	<i>British Records Association</i>
<i>Bucks Rec</i>	<i>Records of Buckinghamshire</i>
<i>Bul Roy Soc Lund</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Royal Society of Lund</i>
<i>CBA Res Rept</i>	<i>Council for British Archaeology, Research Report</i>
<i>Cal Letter Books</i>	<i>Calendar of the Letter Books of the City of London, ed. R. Sharpe, London, 1899–1912</i>

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Cal Close R</i>	<i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i>
<i>Cal Pat R</i>	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
Cam Ant Soc	Cambridge Antiquarian Society
<i>Camb Econ Hist Eur</i>	<i>Cambridge Economic History of Europe</i>
<i>Camd Misc</i>	<i>Camden Miscellany</i>
Camd Soc	Camden Society
Cheth Soc	Chetham Society
<i>Class Rv</i>	<i>Classical Review</i>
Col Docts Inéd	Collection de Documents Inédits pour l'Histoire de France
Collns Hist Staffs	Collections for the History of Staffordshire
Cornw Rec Off	Cornwall County Record Office
<i>Cur Arch</i>	<i>Current Archaeology</i>
Cym Red Soc	Cymrodorion Record Society
Dev & C Rec Soc	Devon and Cornwall Record Society
<i>Daed</i>	<i>Daedalus</i>
<i>Derb Arch JI</i>	<i>Derbyshire Archaeological Journal</i>
Deutsch Akad Wiss	Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften
Dev Arch Soc	Devon Archaeological Society
<i>Dev Hist</i>	<i>Devon Historian</i>
<i>EcHR</i>	<i>Economic History Review</i>
<i>Ec JI</i>	<i>Economic Journal</i>
Ec Prat Ht Et, Civ et Soc	Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes: Civilisations et Sociétés
<i>Econ</i>	<i>Economica</i>
<i>Econ Geog</i>	<i>Economic Geography</i>
EETS	Early English Text Society
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>Encycl Brit</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i>
Eng Dial Soc	English Dialect Society
Eng P-N Soc	English Place-Name Society
Ess Rec Off Pubns	Essex Record Office Publications
<i>Ess Rv</i>	<i>Essex Review</i>
<i>Eth Slav</i>	<i>Ethnographia Slavica</i>
Ex Pap Econ Hist	Exeter Papers in Economic History
Fed Fam Hist Soc	Federation of Family History Societies
<i>Folk-L</i>	<i>Folk-Life</i>
Folk Soc	Folklore Society
<i>Gdn Hist</i>	<i>Garden History</i>
<i>Harv Theol Rv</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
Herts Rec Soc	Hertfordshire Record Society
<i>Hist</i>	<i>History</i>
<i>Hist Childh Qu</i>	<i>History of Childhood Quarterly</i>
Hist MSS Com	Historical Manuscripts Commission
<i>Hist Techn</i>	<i>A History of Technology</i>
<i>Hist Wkshp</i>	<i>History Workshop</i>
HMC	Historical Manuscripts Commission
HMSO	Her (His) Majesty's Stationery Office
<i>JBAA</i>	<i>Journal of the British Archaeological Association</i>
<i>Jew Soc St</i>	<i>Jewish Social Studies</i>
<i>Jl Derb Arch Soc</i>	<i>Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Jl Eccles Hist</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
<i>Jl Ec Hist</i>	<i>Journal of Economic History</i>

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>JL Fam Hist</i>	<i>Journal of Family History</i>
<i>Jl Interdisc Hist</i>	<i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i>
<i>Jl Peas St</i>	<i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i>
<i>Jl Rom St</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>Jl Roy Anthr Inst</i>	<i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i>
<i>Jl Roy Inst Cornw</i>	<i>Journal of the Royal Institute of Cornwall</i>
<i>Jl Soc Arch Hist</i>	<i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i>
<i>Jl Soc Hist</i>	<i>Journal of Social History</i>
<i>Jl Wbg Court Inst</i>	<i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i>
Kent Rec Soc	Kent Record Society
<i>King's Works</i>	<i>The History of the King's Works</i>
Lancs Chesh Rec Soc	Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society
Lincs Rec Soc	Lincolnshire Record Society
<i>Loc Pop St</i>	<i>Local Population Studies</i>
Lond Rec Soc	London Record Society
LSE Mon Soc Anthr	London School of Economics Monographs on Social Anthropology
Med Acad Am	Medieval Academy of America
<i>Med Arch</i>	<i>Medieval Archaeology</i>
Med Arch Mon Ser	Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series
<i>Med Hist</i>	<i>Medical History</i>
<i>Med St</i>	<i>Medieval Studies</i>
<i>Met Mag</i>	<i>Meteorological Magazine</i>
<i>Midl Hist</i>	<i>Midland History</i>
<i>Montg Collns</i>	<i>Montgomery Collections</i>
Nat Mus Wales	National Museum of Wales
Nat Trust	National Trust
New Eng Hist Gen Soc	New England Historical and Genealogical Society
<i>Norf Arch</i>	<i>Norfolk Archaeology</i>
Norf Rec Soc	Norfolk Record Society
Northants Rec Soc	Northamptonshire Record Society
<i>Notts Med St</i>	<i>Nottingham Medieval Studies</i>
Occ Pap Loc Hist	Occasional Papers, Department of Local History, University of Leicester
<i>Oxf Jl Arch</i>	<i>Oxford Journal of Archaeology</i>
Oxf Rec Soc	Oxfordshire Record Society
Parl Pap	Parliamentary Papers
<i>P & P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
Pont Inst Med St	Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, University of Toronto
<i>Pop St</i>	<i>Population Studies</i>
<i>Proc Brit Acad</i>	<i>Proceedings of the British Academy</i>
<i>Proc Dors NHAS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Architectural Society</i>
<i>Proc Prehist Soc</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i>
<i>Proc Soc Ant Scot</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland</i>
<i>Proc Suff Instd Arch</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology</i>
<i>Pub Dugd Soc</i>	<i>Publication of the Dugdale Society</i>
<i>Qu Jl Roy Met Soc</i>	<i>Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society</i>
RAI	Royal Archaeological Institute
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments (Wales)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

RCHM	Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England)
Rec Bucks	Records of Buckinghamshire
Rec Econ Soc Hist	Records of Economic and Social History (British Academy)
Rep Res Com Soc Ant	Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries
Roxb Club	Roxburgh Club
<i>RS</i>	<i>Rolls Series</i>
<i>Rv Nord</i>	<i>Revue du Nord</i>
<i>Sci Am</i>	<i>Scientific American</i>
Seld Soc	Selden Society
Soc Geneal	Society of Genealogists
<i>Soc Hist</i>	<i>Social History</i>
Soc Med Arch Mon Ser	The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series
<i>Som Arch</i>	<i>Somerset Archaeology</i>
Som Lev Proj	Somerset Levels Project
Som Rec Soc	Somerset Record Society
<i>Spec</i>	<i>Speculum</i>
<i>St Ch Hist</i>	<i>Studies in Church History</i>
Suff Rec Soc	Suffolk Record Society
Sur Rec Soc	Surrey Record Society
Surt Soc	Surtees Society
Suss Rec Soc	Sussex Record Society
<i>Tech & Cult</i>	<i>Technology and Culture</i>
Thor Soc	Thoroton Society
Thor Soc Rec Ser	Thoroton Society Record Series
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>Trav Mém Inst Eth</i>	<i>Travaux et Mémoires de l'Institut d'Ethnologie</i>
<i>Tr B & G Arch Soc</i>	<i>Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Tr Birm Arch Soc</i>	<i>Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Tr Cumb Westm AAs</i>	<i>Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Tr Cymm</i>	<i>Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion</i>
<i>Tr Ess Arch Soc</i>	<i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Tr Hist Soc Lancs Chesh</i>	<i>Transactions of the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire</i>
<i>Tr L & M Arch Soc</i>	<i>Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Tr Newc Soc</i>	<i>Transactions of the Newcomen Society</i>
<i>Tr RHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
<i>Tr Roy Soc Trop Med</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine</i>
<i>Tr Worcs Arch Soc</i>	<i>Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society</i>
<i>Trav Mém Inst Eth</i>	<i>Travaux et Mémoires de l'Institut d'Ethnographie, Paris 1969</i>
<i>Urb Hist Ybk</i>	<i>Urban History Yearbook</i>
<i>VCH</i>	<i>Victoria County History</i>
Wilts Arch Soc Rec Br	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society: Records Branch
Winch St	Winchester Studies, ed. Martin Biddle, Oxford
<i>Yks Arch JI</i>	<i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i>
Yks Arch Soc Rec Ser	Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series



Map of traditional counties, with abbreviations, as used in this book.