

explain, the ordinances show how a group of stranger artisans negotiated the significant differences between London and their cities of origin. Did they purposely maintain, or unconsciously assume, the practices of their home country?

The hatmakers' ordinances are linguistically important because they were drawn up in two languages: English and 'Dutch'. Here 'Dutch' means the West Germanic language spoken and written in the area approximately covered by the present-day Netherlands and the Flemish-speaking region of Belgium (shown in several linguistic maps). As well as the guild's ordinances, the manuscript contains the agreement between the Hatmakers and the Haberdashers (1511) and the oath of the wardens of the Haberdashers. The bilingual ordinances were written up by two scribes. There are 27 articles, the last three in English only, the others in two languages, with the Dutch version of every article following the English language version. Comparison of the writing and dialects of the two scribes indicates that they spoke different dialects and both were comfortable writing in Dutch and in English. The Dutch versions are not direct translations of the preceding English articles: they agree in the general sense but differ on matters of detail (an example is given on p.93). Interestingly the document contains several words that apparently occur for the very first time in the English language; for example, the noun 'hatmakynge' appears in article 3 but it is not recorded in the Medieval English Dictionary and the earliest attestation in the OED is from 1547. Similarly, there are 'new' Dutch words.

This book has been published in the series 'Medieval and renaissance clothing and textiles' because of the insights that the manuscript provides into the working practices and governance of foreign hatmakers in late medieval London, but it is also a fascinating local history of the London area which they inhabited.

THE PAPERS OF NATHANIEL BACON OF STIFFKEY vol.7 1614-1622 *edited by Barry Taylor and G. Alan Metters* (Norfolk Record Society vol. 87 2023 lxii+370pp ISBN: 978-0-9557736-6-0) £35 + p&p

Completing the series of Nathaniel Bacon's edited papers, the first volume of which was published in 1979, volume 7 covers the last years of Bacon's life. The format of the published papers varies depending on their type: some, mostly personal correspondence, have been transcribed in full; others in summary; some are calendar entries; and some brief entries (court rolls, account books, sets of parish accounts, etc). Various papers relate to family matters, in particular Bacon's will (no.21, written in 1614), wherein he recognised that a bitter dispute would ensue after his death regarding the distribution of his landed property. Indeed, many of the papers relate to the management of his extensive estates, including bailiffs' accounts (e.g. no.181, for Eccles, Hemsby, Langham, Morston and Stiffkey). Some rents were being paid in kind, namely hens and capons, for certain lands in the latter three places (nos.88, 89 and 186).

Despite close connections through his extended family with leading figures at Court, including Sir Thomas Gresham and Robert Cecil, Bacon remained essentially a county figure. His time as an MP was covered in the earlier volumes (knight of the shire for Norfolk in 1584, 1593 and 1604; Burgess for King's Lynn in 1597). Having been appointed to the commission of the peace for Norfolk in 1574, he continued in that role, and on many other commissions for the county, until his death in 1622. Accordingly, some of the papers record matters of national importance, such as defence; for example, the siting of a warning beacon at Hunstanton where recently 'Dunkirkers' had planned to go ashore and take prisoner 'some persons of good worth' (no.64).

But, as in the previous volumes, a large proportion of the documents relate to Bacon's role as an active justice of the peace, providing many details of the work of justices both together in sessions and individually at home. Among the former are records regarding poor relief, such as no.17, giving the names of overseers and churchwardens and value of stock in hand for the poor in their parishes and no.18, summarising poor relief accounts from 10 parishes, giving (in the originals at Norfolk Record Office) names of ratepayers and monthly payments. On his own, or acting with another justice, Bacon dealt with at least twenty cases regarding bastardy and paternity, such as that of Alice Robinson and Stephen Taylore of Corpusty (no.73). As well as Taylore being ordered to pay Robinson 12d per week to bring up the child, the constables of Corpusty were ordered to whip both parents 'upon their bare showlders in the open streetes' of that town.

Criminal activities were usually dealt with at sessions or assizes (depending on the severity of the crime) and justices might commit offenders to gaol to ensure their subsequent appearance. On 14 January 1620/21, Bacon received a letter from John Fountaine, gent, asking him to bail the sons of Mr Wilde, who had been apprehended on suspicion of stealing six sheep, because if held in gaol they would 'receive

much hurte by lyinge in a place soe dangerous for boddie and soule' (no.282). Bacon, however, preferred to disregard this request, writing the same day to the gaoler at Norwich Castle commanding him to take custody of Richard and Stephen Wilde from the constables of Thimblethorpe and Sparham, until they were delivered from there 'by due course of lawe'(no.283). Justices were also responsible for licensing alehouse-keepers and punishing those who ran unlicensed premises, such as John Adkins of Brinton, who had purchased five barrels of beer from Mr Thomas Jenner of Blakeney, at 7s 6d per barrel, and proceeded to sell beer both 'within the house & out of doores' to townsmen and 'strangers' (no.286).

The various editors of these volumes have sought to reassemble Bacon's fascinating and informative archive, which is scattered over at least twelve repositories on three continents. They suspect that up to 30 per cent of that archive remains untraced; nevertheless, this series is a huge achievement.

ONLINE REVIEWS ON THE BALH WEBSITE

In addition to the many reviews which appear in every issue of *The Local Historian*, many other books and publications are reviewed online on the BALH website. There simply is not enough space in the journal to include everything in the hard copy version. Please go to <http://www.balh.org.uk/publications/reviews> to access these reviews. The list below gives the titles and other details of the publications for which online reviews have been added in the last three months.

CARLISLE IN REVOLUTION AND RESTORATION c.1648-1688 by *Michael A. Mullett* (Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Tract Series vol.30 2022 vii+182pp ISBN 978-1-873124-90-1) £20 [reviewed by *Alan Crosby*]

LOST LANDMARKS OF SMETHWICK by *Mary Bodfish* (Smethwick Local History Society & Smethwick Heritage Centre 2023 77pp ISBN 978-1-3999-5145-6) £9.95+£3 p&p from www.smethwick.org.uk [reviewed by *Paul Anderton*]

PRESERVING THE PEACE Saffron Walden Borough Police 1836-1857 by *Martin Stallion* (author 2023 94pp ISBN 978-0-957676-02-2) £12 inc p&p from stallion@supanet.com [reviewed by *Martin Baggoley*]

BRICKMAKING AND BRICK BUILDING IN THE MIDLANDS (1437-1780) by *Mike Kingman* (Brewin Books 2023 312pp ISBN 978-1-85858-758-5) £14.95 [reviewed by *Michael Coles*]

RUFFORD ABBEY AND BEYOND: Estate Villages and People edited by *Judith Mills* (Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives 2023 iv+146pp ISBN 978-1-739391414-0-9) £6.50 + p&p [reviewed by *John Beckett*]

DRAWN ON THE LANDSCAPE The story of the roads east of Halifax, the people who made them, and the transport that used them by *Alan Greenwood* (Lightcliffe and District Local History Society 2022 viii+144pp ISBN 978-1-9162983-1-6) £15+£2.75 p&p; **HIPPERHOLME AND LIGHTCLIFFE MEMORIAL STRAY** by *Bob Horne* (Lightcliffe and District Local History Society 2023 xv+140pp ISBN 978-1-9162983-47) £15+£2.75 p&p [reviewed by *John A. Hargreaves*]