Announcement of Publication

Devon  EDITED BY JOHN WASSON

At the time of the Domesday survey, the county of Devon had only four towns; most of its inhabitants were farmers and miners. But within two centuries of the Norman conquest the towns numbered nineteen; these towns provide most of the records of early English drama in the county.

The records surveyed for this volume begin in 1150 and come largely from the boroughs of Exeter, Barnstaple, Totnes, Plymouth, and Dartmouth, and from the rural parishes. Exeter contains rich stores of documents - civic, cathedral and diocesan, parish, and guild; although the records relating directly to the drama are less numerous than one would expect, they contain evidence of Corpus Christi plays, Robin Hood plays, city waits, processions, and regularly scheduled civic pageantry, as well as the occasional royal entry. Barnstaple provides evidence of the Puritan influence in centres dominated by middle class merchants.

The records of Totnes, Plymouth, and Dartmouth all reflect a tradition of local drama as well as the visits of large numbers of travelling companies.

For those familiar with REED volumes already published, the records of Devon provide substantial evidence for the trends which have begun to emerge in the series thus far. They also extend significantly the bounds of current knowledge about the dramatic life of a highly individual region, and by extension about its social and economic life as well.

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Subscriptions to the REED Newsletter are invited. The cost is $5.00 Canadian (£2.50) per year of two issues. Cheques should be made payable to Records of Early English Drama. Please address correspondence to the editor, % English Department, Erindale College, University of Toronto, Mississauga, Ontario, L5L 1C6, Canada.

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