

BATH HISTORY

VOLUME VI 1996

BATH HISTORY

VOLUME VI

edited by Brenda J. Buchanan

Millstream Books
1996

Bath History gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organisations:

Bath & North East Somerset Heritage Services Bath Archaeological Trust Bath Preservation Trust The Bath Society The History of Bath Research Group Advanced Studies in England

First published 1996 by Millstream Books, 18 The Tyning, Bath BA2 6AL

© Robert Bell, A. J. Keevil, J. H. Bettey, Brenda J. Buchanan, Nicholas von Behr, Helena L. H. Lim, Susan Legouix Sloman, Alex Kolaczkowski 1996

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers and copyright holders.

ISBN 0 948975 42 3

Set in 10 on 12 point Palatino and printed by Antony Rowe Ltd, Bumper's Farm, Chippenham SN14 6LH

CONTENTS

| Notes on Contributors | | 6 |
|--|----------------------|-----|
| Bath Abbey: Some New Perspectives | Robert Bell | 7 |
| The Barton of Bath | A. J. Keevil | 25 |
| Life and Litigation in Bath and its Environs in the Sixteenth Century | J. H. Bettey | 54 |
| The Avon Navigation and the Inland Port of Bath | Brenda J. Buchanan | 63 |
| The Cloth Industry of Twerton from the 1780s to the 1820s | Nicholas von Behr | 88 |
| Bath and the 'Bath and West of England Society', 1777-1851 | Helena L. H. Lim | 108 |
| Artists' Picture Rooms in Eighteenth-Century Bath | Susan Legouix Sloman | 132 |
| Jerom Murch and Bath Politics, 1833-1879 | Alex Kolaczkowski | 155 |
| Index to Bath History Volumes I-VI | | 174 |

In the Notes at the end of each article in this volume, the place of publication of books is London unless otherwise stated.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Bell M.A. has been a professional archaeologist for over twenty years. Since 1984 he has worked for Bath Archaeological Trust, directing excavations at a wide variety of different sites ranging from prehistoric settlements to eighteenth-century gardens, both within Bath and elsewhere in the West of England.

Nicholas von Behr has worked as a museum researcher in industrial history in Bristol and Bath. After a first degree at the University of Bristol he completed an M.Sc. in Social Research at the University of Bath in 1995. His main work was on the emergence of factory manufacture in the Twerton cloth industry.

J.H.Bettey was Reader in Local History at the University of Bristol, from where he holds a Ph.D. He is the author of numerous books and articles on west-country history, especially on the agriculture, rural society, churches and church life of Bristol, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire. Recent publications include *Estates in the English Countryside* (1993) and *Man and the Land: Farming in Dorset 1846-1996* (1996).

Brenda Buchanan is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Bath. She holds a Ph.D. of the University of London for her research on investment in North Somerset in the eighteenth century, and has contributed articles to several journals on this theme. She was the first Chairman of the History of Bath Research Group, from 1986 to 1991.

A.J.Keevil has since his retirement developed his interest in local history. He has undertaken research into some of its less well-known aspects, such as the route of the Fosseway through the Bath area, published in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society* and the *Newsletter* of The Bath Survey Group.

Helena Lim is a researcher at the University of Bath, preparing her doctoral thesis on the premium system operated by agricultural societies such as the Bath & West Society and the Society of Arts in London. Her wider interests include innovation and technological transfer, particularly during the Agricultural Revolution.

Susan Sloman is Keeper of Collections at the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath. She has written extensively on British art in the eighteenth century, concentrating latterly on Thomas Gainsborough in Bath. She is currently writing a thesis on this subject as a research student at the University of Bristol.

Alex Kolaczkowski is a history teacher of wide experience in secondary schools. In 1995 she was awarded a doctorate by the University of Bath for her research on local government in the nineteenth century, with Bath as a case study. She is Secretary of the Bath Branch of the Historical Association and on the Committee of the History of Bath Research Group.

Bath History is a periodical featuring articles on aspects of the history of Bath. It includes recent research on the city as well as articles of a wider historical interest relating to Bath, and aims to present these studies in a way which will be attractive to everyone with an interest in the past.

Bath History is produced by Bath Archaeological Trust in collaboration with Millstream Books.

BATH HISTORY VOLUME VI 1996

| BATH ABBEY: SOME NEW PERSPECTIVES | Robert Bell | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| THE BARTON OF BATH | A.J. Keevil | |
| LIFE AND LITIGATION IN BATH AND ITS ENVIRONS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY | J.H. Bettey | |
| THE AVON NAVIGATION AND THE INLAND PORT OF BATH | Brenda J. Buchanan | |
| THE CLOTH INDUSTRY OF TWERTON FROM THE 1780S TO THE 1820S | Nicholas von Behr | |
| BATH AND THE 'BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND | | |
| SOCIETY', 1777-1851 | Helena L.H. Lim | |
| ARTISTS' PICTURE ROOMS IN EIGHTEENTH- | | |
| CENTURY BATH Su | ısan Legouix Sloman | |
| JEROM MURCH AND BATH POLITICS, 1833-1879 | Alex Kolaczkowski | |

COVER: detail from A South East Prospect of Bath, an engraving by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, 1734. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath & North East Somerset Council)



£7.99

MILLSTREAM BOOKS 18 THE TYNING, BATH