

Devon
Bibliography
1984

Compiled
by Geoffrey Paley

Devon History Society

Preface

Introducing the Fifth Annual Bibliography this year is a sad task. Although Geoffrey Paley's name appears on the cover, the final work has not been done by him as he died at a relatively early age some weeks ago. While this is not a formal obituary I am taking this opportunity of paying a tribute to a friend and colleague of many years standing. We first met regularly soon after World War 2 when we were both struggling with our professional examinations, and when I became interested in Devon's history about that time it was to him I turned for advice and help. Geoffrey's knowledge of the sources of the County's history was encyclopedic - I have said many times to enquirers "talk to Geoffrey, he knows more about Devon than anyone else". When they did, they were dealt with courteously and utterly competently - and they too found out the range of his knowledge. After serving for many years with Exeter City Library he became Westcountry Studies Librarian in the enlarged Devon Library Service. After retirement he became involved with the library of the Devon & Exeter Institution where he continued to offer his exceptional knowledge of Devon to others. One of the voluntary tasks he undertook was the compilation of the annual Devon Bibliography: regretfully this one will be the last on which his name appears. He was of course a founder member of the Devon History Society and was a member of its Council for many years.

In these tragic circumstances the Bibliography has been "seen through the Press" by Mrs Sheila Stirling and Mr. David Edmund; it is of course being sent to members later than intended.

Mr. Ian Maxted, Geoffrey's successor with the Library Service, maintains the definitive collection of printed material on Devon, while Mrs Stirling at Devon & Exeter Institution, on behalf of the Society, welcomes books and pamphlets for recording and possible review in the Devon Historian, no matter how small and ephemeral; ALL work relating to the County of Devon deserves a permanent home in one of its libraries.

September 1986

John Pike

Note: except where an earlier date appears in the entry, all items in this Bibliography were published in 1984.

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