

OXFORD STUDIES
IN SOCIAL AND LEGAL
HISTORY

EDITED BY

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CORPUS PROFESSOR *OF* JURISPRUDENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
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VOL. I

ENGLISH MONASTERIES ON THE EVE OF THE
DISSOLUTION

By ALEXANDER SAVINE

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PATRONAGE IN THE LATER EMPIRE

By F. DE ZULUETA

FELLOW OF NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD

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PREFACE

THE nineteenth century has been called the age of historical study, and the twentieth bids fair to follow its predecessor in this respect. At no previous epoch have men felt more keenly that the roots of the present lie deep in the past, and England has had its share in the general movement of European thought in this direction. But, as far as the organization of historical research is concerned, we have still a good deal to learn and to do in England. It is not sufficient that there should every now and then arise exceptionally gifted and equipped leaders, like Grote, Stubbs, Maitland; it is not enough that there should be a widespread interest in history as a branch of literature. We ought to try to co-ordinate research and train researchers; thorough and systematic investigation ought not to be left to chance and to the efforts of self-taught pioneers; the scientific side of history should be brought up to the level of its literary side. How much remains to be done in this respect may be gathered from the fact that there are at present few opportunities for investigators, especially for beginners in research, to publish monographs on their particular subjects. Editions of sources, and commentaries or introductions to them, may find their way to the publications of the Selden, the Royal Historical or some other learned society; short articles and notes may be accepted by the *English Historical* or the *Law Quarterly Review*. But it is difficult to find a publisher for a special investigation of some length, and even more difficult to make such a monograph fit into a series with other monographs of the same kind. And yet it is clear that without such special investigations general constructive work may result in the raising of houses of cards. Nor can it be doubted that the normal conclusion of research teaching in the Universities should be the production of monographs, the methods and results of which could be tested by learned experts outside the narrow circle of the class-room or of a particular University town.

In Germany and in France the necessity and value of such publications have been realized long ago. The schools of Schmoller and Gierke, of Knapp and Stutz, of the *École des hautes études* and of the *École des Chartes*, make a point of acquainting the world at large with the progress of their work. Without attempting to rival such laboratories of historical research in the quantity and excellence of their output, I propose, with the powerful co-operation of the Clarendon Press, to publish a series of Studies in Social and Legal History in which will be collected monographs on these subjects written by my pupils, or by researchers who have done me the honour of consulting me in the course of their investigations. As a rule, a volume of some 300-400 pages will be issued once a year, and it will contain one or two monographs on the