

The Publications of Enid Porter

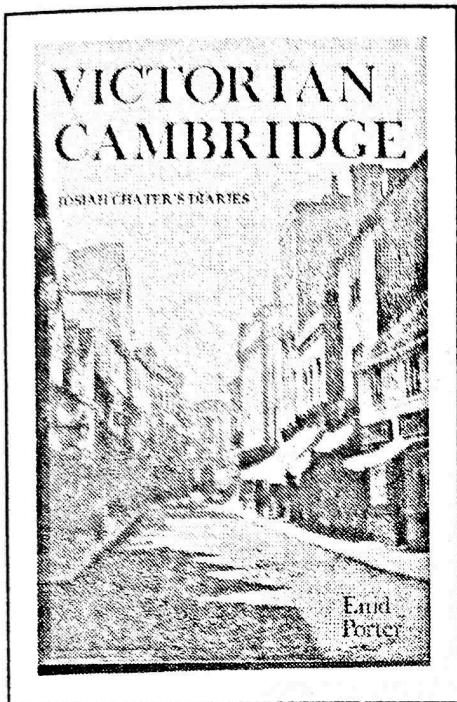
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THE PUBLICATIONS OF ENID PORTER

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Enid Mary Porter is well remembered as the tireless Curator for almost thirty years of the Cambridge & County Folk Museum on Castle Hill. Born at Westcliff in Essex in 1909, she belonged to a family with long and strong connexions in Cambridge and the Fens and came to know the area during her youth. After taking a degree in modern languages at London University she followed an unenthusiastic career in teaching before being appointed in 1947 as 'Assistant Curator' of the Folk Museum which had opened in 1936. A top-heavy committee ran it but she soon made herself indispensable as 'Resident Curator & Secretary' in its day-to-day running and growth, and with what would now be called 'hands on experience' mastered a wide range of subjects. She spoke both locally and further afield at hundreds of meetings on the objects and objectives of the Museum and the stories behind them, and promoted its value for the general public and for children. She practised 'outreach' long before the word became familiar. Money was never in great supply either to pay Miss Porter's small salary or to fund the Museum. She nevertheless gave her life to it and it prospered, all the more remarkably since she was troubled by repeated bouts of severe illness. A series of heart attacks compelled her to resign in December 1976 and she died at Papworth hospital in January 1984.



Miss Porter's editions of the Fenland memoirs of Walter Barrett and Arthur Randell made her name widely known, and her large book on *Cambridgeshire Customs and Folklore* (1969) secured her reputation.

Yet she was also a prolific and learned writer on numerous topics from barges and brickmaking to skating, streetnames, and woad. 'We really begin 'she told an interviewer 'where the archaeologists leave off'.

She received the Folklore Society's Coote-Leake medal in 1969 and honorary degrees from Cambridge University in 1972 and the Open University in 1981, while an assessment of her study of folk life may be found in C. Blacker & H. Ellis Davidson, *Women and Tradition* (North Carolina, 2000), pp. 233-44. Her many concise pieces with well chosen illustrations in the magazine *Cambridgeshire, Huntingdon and Peterborough Life* are models of how to write engagingly but with authority for a general audience. Like most of what she wrote they are useful and often pioneering additions to local studies.

The following list is intended to be complete, and I shall be grateful to know of anything that has been missed. The first two parts deal with books and pamphlets (A) and articles in learned journals, etc.(B). The last (C) covers her writing in *CHPL*; it is arranged by subject rather than chronologically and some titles have been altered slightly for ease of reference.

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A. BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

Cambridge and County Folk Museum: a brief guide (1951, 1955, 1958, [1962], 1967], [1970] and ? Most versions/reimpressions are not dated and hard to place.

(ed.) W.H. Barrett, *Tales from the Fens* (Routledge, 1963), pp.xx+230

(ed.) W.H. Barrett, *More tales from the Fens* (Routledge, 1964), pp. xvii+150

(ed.) Arthur Randell, *Sixty years a Fenman* (Routledge, 1966), pp. ix +126

(ed.) Arthur Randell, *Fenland railwayman* (Routledge, 1968), pp. x+94

(ed.) Arthur Randell, *Fenland memories* (Routledge, 1969), xii+108

Cambridgeshire customs and folklore (Barnes & Noble, 1969), pp. xviii+ 419

Victorian Cambridge; illustrations by Glynn Thomas (Dobson, 1969) pp. 39

(ed.) Arthur Randell, *Fenland molecatcher* (Routledge, 1970), pp. xiii+90

The hearth and the kitchen (Cambridge & County Folk Museum: Museum Booklet 1: printed by R.I. Severs, Ltd. Cambridge); illustrations by Mac Dowdy (1971), pp. 19

The Folklore of East Anglia (Batsford, 1974), pp. 192

Victorian Cambridge : Josiah Chater's diaries, 1844-1884 (Phillimore, 1975), pp. xviii+227

B. ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

'Reports' in *Annual Reports of the Cambridge & County Folk Museum* (1949-76)

'Notes on the figures from the Conduit Head', *Annual Report, Cambridge & County Folk Museum*, (1953), 5-7

'Butter by the yard', *Gwerin* 1 (1956/7), 186-8

'Some folk beliefs of the Fens', *Folklore* 69 (1958), 112-22

'A schoolboy writes home 1829-1832', *Bulletin of the Cambridgeshire Local History Council*, 12 (1958), 3-5. [Thomas Nix of Chatteris]

'Butter by the yard', *East Anglian Magazine* (May, 1958), 393-6

'For unruly and stubborn rogues', *East Anglian Magazine* (Dec.1958), 72-7 [Spinning House]

'The Cambridgeshire Fens', *Gwerin* 2 (1958/9), 8-21

'Folk life and traditions of the Fens', *Folklore* 72 (1961), 584-98

'Witchcraft in the Fens', 26th *Annual Report of the Wisbech Society* (1965), 12-13

'Fen skating', *Folk Life* 7 (1969), 43-59

'Fenland peat', pp. 157-82 of G. Jenkins & H.J. Fleure (eds.), *Studies in folk life* (Routledge, 1969)

- 'The Cutter ferry', *Newsletter* of the Cambridge Society for Industrial Archaeology [hereafter C.S.I.A.], vol. 3, no.9 (Oct. 1971), 2-3
- 'Condition of some Cambridge bakehouses in the last century', *Newsletter* of C.S.I.A., vol. 4, no 5 (May 1972), 7-8
- 'Barges on the Cam, 1896-1968', *Newsletter* of C.S.I.A. vol. 5, no 2 (Dec. 1972), 3-5
- 'Cambridge brickmakers', *Newsletter* of C.S.I.A. vol. 5, no 3 (Jan.1973), 2-3 [alphabetical list with dates]
- 'Coprolites in Cambridge', *Newsletter* of C.S.I.A. vol. 5, no 7 (June 1973), 5-6
- 'Cambridgeshire industrial properties sold 1856-1946', *Newsletter* of C.S.A.I. vol. 8, no 1 (Jan. 1976), 7-8

C. CONTRIBUTIONS TO *CAMBRIDGESHIRE, HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH LIFE*, 1967-73

- Barnwell Priory*. Jan. (1971), 21-2
- Before Sainsbury's came*. Aug. (1969), 23-5 [Sidney St]
- Boat building*. Nov. (1971), 30-1 (Old Cambs. industries & trades 3)
- Bones sisters, committed to Bedford asylum 1843*. Sept. (1970), 21-2
- Bookbinding & printing*. Dec. (1971), 32-3 (Old Cambs. industries & trades 4)
- Brewing & mineral water making*. Oct. (1971), 32-3 (Old Cambs. industries & trades 2)
- Bridge St in the last century*. April (1970), 24-6
- Castle End of Cambridge*. Nov. (1970), 20-22
- Chater diaries*. (Apr./May, June/July, Aug./Sept 1967), 43-6, 19-21, 20-23 [cf. A. 1975 above]
- Christmas past in Cambridgeshire*. Dec. (1972), 24-5
- Coffee houses, eighteenth & nineteenth century Cambridge*. Oct. (1968), 18-19
- Coprolite diggers*. May (1971), 42-3

Crime & punishment in Cambridgeshire. March (1969), 26-8
Directories of Cambridgeshire. Oct./Nov.(1967), 38-40
Education in Cambridge in 19th century. Dec. (1968), 42-4
Fitzroy Street & Burleigh Street, Cambridge. July (1971), 22-3
Five miles from anywhere – no hurry. Oct. (1970), 22-4 [Upware]
Green Street, Cambridge. Dec. (1970), 21-2
Guidebooks & postcards of Cambridge, Old. Aug. (1971), 26-7
Guildhall, Cambridge. Aug. (1970), 22-4
Inns, Old Cambridge. Sept. (1968), 17-19
Ironfounding & brickmaking. Sept. (1971), 22-3 (Old Cambs. industries & trades 1)
Long Stanton witchcraft trial. Aug. (1968), 21-3 [late 17th century]
Manea Society. July (1968), 21-3 [Victorian experimental community]
Market place, Cambridge. Dec. (1969), 24-6
Mays, The. June (1971), 22-3
Midsummer Fair. June (1969), 24-6
Napoleonic prisoners of war at Norman Cross. Feb./March (1968), 44-6
Newmarket Road, Cambridge. Feb. (1971), 20-2
Petty Cury. June (1970), 24-6
Poet, a village. March (1970), 46-7 [James Withers of Fordham, 1812-92].
Public baths in Cambridge. March (1972), 38-9
Railway comes to Cambridge. Feb. (1970), 32-3
Riot and rag. April (1969), 26-8
River trade of old Cambridgeshire. Oct. (1969), 24-6
St Andrew's Hill, unhappy sisters of. Sept. (1970), 21-22 [the Bones sisters in 1843]

St Andrew's Street remembered. Sept. (1969), 26-8
Skating, Fenland. Feb. (1969), 19-21
Spinning House. June (1968), 21-23
Stage-coaches, Cambridge. April (1968), 19-21
Street names, Cambridge. May (1968), 15-17
Theatres, old Cambridge. May (1969), 26-8
Thorney, Ancient. Dec./Jan. (1967/68), 40-3
Trades [makers of baskets & brushes, bows & arrows, carriages, clog-pattens, guns, chimney sweeps] Jan. (1972), 46-8; [jam making, racquets & bats, soap & candles, tapestry, tobacco & pipes] Feb. (1972), 24-6. *See also* boat building, bookbinding & printing, brewing & mineral water, ironfounding & brickmaking *above*
Trams in Cambridge. March (1971), 20-1
Tredgett, Willie, his diary. Jan. (1969), 30-2 [1880s]
Upware, Five miles from anywhere – no hurry. Oct. (1970), 22-4
Vagrant, the problem of the. July (1969), 26-7
Water mills of Cambridge. June (1972), 22-3
Whittlesey Mere. May (1970), 24-5
Witch finders of Cambridge and Huntingdon. March (1973), 24-5 [1640s]
Witchcraft in Warboys. Nov. (1968), 28-30 [1590s]
Witchcraft trial at Long Stanton. Aug. (1968), 21-3 [late 17th century]
Witchcraft, Cambridgeshire. Feb.-March (1967), 17-20
Withers, James, Fordham poet, 1812-92. March (1970), 46-7
Woad, production & use of. Aug. (1972), 32-3
Y.M.C.A. in Cambridge. Jan. (1970), 42-4