

the powers delegated to him in accordance with the rules. However, fees for a faculty are still likely to be a relatively small part of the overall cost of a personalised memorial, and the extra expense helps to ensure that the place where the memorial is to stand will remain a worthy one. Obtaining a faculty may take longer, but in the time scale for erecting any churchyard memorial, this problem also can be exaggerated.

The criticisms of churchyard regulation in this book do, however, suggest some areas for possible improvement. The norms set for the size of headstones in many diocesan regulations may be unduly restrictive. Off-the-peg memorials are likely to be of standard dimensions in any event. It could reduce any resentment against the rules if incumbents were given greater latitude as to the size of monuments using local materials and also as to the size of lettering. On the other hand, monuments using very large or unusually shaped stones require and, indeed, deserve to be considered at a diocesan level. In some dioceses, the power delegated to incumbents does not extend to wooden memorials. The front cover of this book illustrates a lead capped oak post with finely carved lettering, incorporating a simple but striking design but inside there are only two more examples where this material has been used. There is considerable scope for wood carvers to make more churchyard memorials and for this to be more widely encouraged in diocesan regulations.

The suggestion that there should be national guidelines on what should not be allowed may be a good one, but guidelines on what is to be encouraged could potentially lead to more uniformity which is the opposite to what this book is seeking to achieve. Differences in churchmanship, architecture, the geographical area and cultural character may well make variations in policy appropriate.

The call for the incumbent to be given wider authority is unlikely to produce greater consistency. Individual predilections have been known to prevail despite the existence of regulations! Furthermore, exposure to pressure from bereaved relatives is not something which would be universally welcomed by incumbents, who already have extensive duties to perform. The concept of an incumbent carefully adjudicating upon the merit of a design is an ideal somewhat removed from reality. This is not to say that regulations should not be revisited to see to what extent they could be adapted to allow individually designed memorials of the quality illustrated in this book to be authorised at the local level.

Harriet Frazer has done a great service to many by encouraging and publicising memorials in churchyards which are worthy of their purpose and appropriate to their setting. Here, in a confused world, is an opportunity for ordinary people to find the link between beauty and the Christian themes of creation and hope. This book is an excellent progress report. Its comments on churchyard regulations are peripheral but also have value in emphasising how important it is that they, like all good law, should help and encourage people rather than frustrate and hamper them.

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PREFACES TO CANON LAW BOOKS IN LATIN CHRISTIANITY: Selected Translations, 500–1245 by R. SOMERVILLE and B.C. BRASINGTON, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1998, viii + 247 pp. (hardback £20) ISBN 0–300–07146–9.

Some years ago, Hubert Mordeck called for an investigation of the prefaces to canonical collections. This could yield profound insights into their ecclesiological assumptions, into their authors' attitudes to the different sources of Church law, and

² The reviewer is most grateful to Chancellor Sheila Cameron QC for practical comments which have been incorporated as the penultimate two paragraphs of this review.

reveal the real or imagined motives which led to their composition. In response, Robert Somerville and Bruce Brasington have now translated into English several canonical prefaces dating from 500 to 1245, adding introductions and notes. The result is a unique and successful source book inviting reflection from all those concerned with the nature and functions of canon law. This is not a book just for medievalists.

The prefaces are grouped chronologically into five chapters. After a general introduction, we are led from the prefaces of Dionysius Exiguus to the preface by Bartholomew of Brescia to a gloss on Gratian's *Decretum*. Canon law and its collections are shown to have been made from a wide variety of standpoints and put to significantly different uses, a lesson that never loses its relevance. These attempts at making laws and using authority in a Christian way relied on divine guidance, especially in the Bible, but might also ponder the at times bewildering 'unseen but not unjust judgment of God' in contemporary events, as Abbo of Fleury's preface put it.

Chapter 4, covering the era of reform 1050–1140, is particularly fascinating. One group of texts is from Northern France and relates to the learned and saintly Bishop Ivo of Chartres. The *Prologue* generally associated with him is a pivotal text, the longest in this anthology and, in the opinion of its translators, 'arguably the most remarkable'. As if this needed proving, J. Werckmeister has recently published an annotated edition in Latin and French of the *Prologue* (Paris 1997). Ivo would soon be praised in someone else's preface for his treatise written 'in very brilliant language concerning the concordance of canons'. Elsewhere, Alger of Liège warns of the dangers of using canonical rules noncanonically, pleading for an understanding of canon law appropriate to it and its concern for charity and salvation.

Whatever the preferences of a reader, and anthologies tend to be used selectively, this volume should be considered as a whole precisely to grasp the diversity of the canonical enterprise and its versatility. If there is ever a second edition, it ought to include an index of key juridical and theological terms along the lines of Werckmeister's edition. The allusions that have escaped the translators could also be identified by then, for example, the reference to Jn 1:29 on p.161, to 2 Cor 10:5 on pp.133–4 and to a letter to Alcuin of York on p.77. Thanks to this volume, the kind of investigation Mordek called for is now easier to envisage.

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LISTED BUILDINGS, CONSERVATION AREAS AND MONUMENTS by CHARLES MYNORS. Sweet and Maxwell, 1999, 3rd edition, 1 + 536 pp. (£95) ISBN 0752 00 4409.

The latest edition of Chancellor Mynors' authoritative text is published by Sweet and Maxwell which has taken over the previous publisher, FT Law and Tax. Full discussion of the topic of Ancient Monuments is now included and the chapter on Ecclesiastical Buildings has been expanded.