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The Manor of Rothamsted

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THE MANOR OF
ROTHAMSTED
AND ITS OCCUPANTS



Preface to Second Edition

Rothamsted Research

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Constant demand for the first edition of this excellent book by Mr Boalch has made it worth while to undertake a reprinting and to use the opportunity to make a small number of revisions. The original edition was published in 1953, since then the house has been critically examined both by experts, notably Mr J. T. Smith of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) and by local W.E.A. students of vernacular architecture. As a result the revisers had access to information not available to Mr Boalch.

The revisions mainly concern the early description of the Manor, and it now seems clear that there is little or nothing of the pre-Tudor house remaining. It is also difficult to be certain of the exact work done by Sir John Wittewronge, but it is now known that he did not merely add to the existing brickwork but rather entirely rebuilt the front of the house. From his accounts of expenditure on bricks, the rebuilding appears to have begun in 1647.

Further examination of documents has shown other changes that have had to be made—e.g. the date of the main staircase is certainly very much earlier than 1678.

Nevertheless only about a third of the pages have any revisions, and many of these are minor, often being only the removal of references to pictures, as these are not always on view.

In 1977 Sir John Lawes, Bt., decided to present to the Station all the pictures that had previously been on loan from him. We wish to express our sincere thanks for this most generous action.

During the interval since the first edition the Wittewronge papers were deposited in the Hertfordshire County Record Office, Hertford.

The opportunity has been taken to add a further four plates showing modern photographs of the house.

The revisers wish to thank Mrs M. Kay Boutwood and others who have made helpful suggestions and comments, or supplied information.

J. M. C. and T. C.

March 1978

