Frontispiece:

1. General location map of Lydiate  2. Lydiate township with the Eggargate estate (boundaries shown as dot/dash line; dotted line shows 50' (c. 15m) contour; solid line shows Sudell Brook  3. Lydiate Hall, Chapel and Inn in 1809 (Lancashire Record Office DDIn 63/95a).

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List of Illustrations ii
List of Council Members 1985-86 and 1989-90 iv
Editorial v

Section I: St Catherine's Chapel

Excavations at St. Catherine’s Chapel, Lydiate 1979-80 J M Lewis and D O’Hanlon 1
Considerations relevant to the dating of the Ireland Chapel at Lydiate. A D’Arcy 15

Section II: Lydiate Hall

Dendrochronological Study of Timbers from Lydiate Hall. P A Leggett and M K Hughes 53

Section III: Scotch Piper Inn

Building survey at the Scotch Piper Inn, 1985. J M Lewis 59
Dendrochronological study of Timbers from the Scotch Piper Inn P A Leggett 69
List of Illustrations

Frontispiece:
1. General location map of Lydiate  
2. Lydiate township with the Eggargate estate (boundaries shown as dot/dash line; dotted line shows 50' (c. 15m) contour; solid line shows Sudell Brook  
3. Lydiate Hall, Chapel and Inn in 1809 (Lancashire Record Office DDIn 63/95a).

Section I: St. Catherine's Chapel

J M Lewis and D O'Hanlon

1. Plan of excavated areas 
2. Pie chart showing proportions and totals of glass 
3. Painted and coloured glass fragments a - j 
4. Painted and coloured glass fragments a - k 
5. Percentage summaries of window glass types in relation to:  
   a) grozing b) weathering and c) thickness  
6a. Chemical analysis of glass from St Catherine's Chapel  
6b. Comparative analysis of glass from different sites in the north of England

A D'Arcy

1. North doorway interior 
2. North doorway exterior 
3. Head of windows, south side 
4. South doorway, interior 
5. South doorway, exterior

Section II: Lydiate Hall

J M Lewis and J Samuels

1. Location of Lydiate Hall; Plan 1809 (Lancs. RO DDIn 63/95a); Plan 1845 (Lancs. RO DRL 1/52) 
2. Lydiate Hall 1744-80 (Lancs. RO DDIn 56/99) 
3. Conjectural plan (based on Taylor 1895) 
5. Sections 
6. Fireplace 1
7. Fireplaces 2 and 3
8. Screens Passage
9. Spandrel

P A Leggett and M K Hughes

Figure 1. Diagram of hall to show areas of timbers sampled
Figure 2. Temporal distribution of components of the chronology
Table 1. Details of dated timbers from Lydiate Hall
Table 2. Crossdating results for Lydiate Hall site chronology, MASLY.

Section III: Scotch Piper Inn

J M Lewis

1. a. Plan of Scotch Piper Inn 1809 (Lancs. RO DDIn 63/95A)
   b. Plan of Scotch Piper Inn 1844 (Lancs. RO DRL 1/52)

2. Plan of present building at first floor level
3. South gable elevation
4. Fireplace elevation
5. Frame A: north elevation
6. Frame B: south elevation
7. Jointing details: i timber framing at dormer;
   ii purlins at frames A and B; iii wallplate join at Bay 2

P A Leggett

Figure 1. Temporal distribution of components of site chronology, SCOT M and SP13 and SP18
Table 1. Details of Scotch Piper Inn timbers
Table 2. Crossdating results for the Scotch Piper Inn site chronology, SCOTM
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iv
EDITORIAL

While it has never been a policy to produce each of this Society’s Journals to deal with only one topic or area, this has happened on two previous occasions namely, South Castle Street (volume 4) and Prescot (volume 5). This present volume, concerned solely with buildings in Lydiate, differs from these in that the papers are not derived from a single programme of work but were collected over a number of years from individuals and groups working without much reference to each other, and in one case totally independently. It is interesting, therefore, and very pleasing, to see that the conclusions in respect to the dating of the three buildings, particularly St Catherine’s chapel and Lydiate Hall, closely correlate. The very different techniques of standard archaeological practice, scientific dendrochronological investigations and deductive analysis of documentary evidence, coupled with the examination of masons’ marks, compliment each other to a satisfying extent.

St Catherine’s Chapel was investigated under the auspices of this Society in 1979-80, developing the interest generated by D O’Hanlon and students from Christ’s and Notre Dame College (see volume 2). The excavation of the Hall, 1981-2 was undertaken by Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit and the Archaeological Survey of Merseyside in association with the Department of Continuing Education, Liverpool University and East Midland District of the Workers’ Educational Association. It was a teaching excavation which involved many local people as well as long standing members of the Society. The Scotch Piper was surveyed in 1985 by the North West Archaeological Trust and the dendrochronological analyses were undertaken in the Biology Department of Liverpool Polytechnic.

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Vicki Innes and Philippa Tomlinson
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