

**Music From the Past**

Alison and Michael Bagenal  
Longman, 1987.

**Medieval People** ISBN 0-582-8827-X

**Tudor England** ISBN 0-582-18828-8

**Stuart England** ISBN 0-582-18826-1

**The Victorians** ISBN 0-582-18829-6

£3.25 each, available from Alison and Michael Bagenal, 45 West Street, Godmanchester, Cambs, PE18 8HH. Send no money with orders as an invoice will be sent adding postage charge. Write for current prices and availability of cassettes.

As classroom time is now at such a premium and Key Stage 2 teachers are wondering how to fit in all nine National Curriculum subjects, it is very encouraging to find a series of books which so successfully combines history and music.

The 'Music From the Past' series is an invaluable resource for teachers who opt to study 'Tudors and Stuarts', 'Explorations and Encounters' or 'Victorians'. Material from these books could also be incorporated into historical local studies. In addition it is theoretically possible to deliver the whole of the Key Stage 2 Music Curriculum through these books.

The books are well set out and illustrated and, despite the lack of colour, have an immediate appeal to teachers and children. Both the musical notation and the print are clear and easy to read.

The songs and dance tunes are well chosen and in easy keys for beginner instrumentalists. The suggestions for accompaniments are not too prescriptive, allowing room for improvisation, as required by Attainment Target 1d of the Music Curriculum. The books contain many ideas for drama and artwork.

The text is simple and concise. I have found that Year 6 children enjoy the many historical anecdotes. We now all

know who Prince Rupert was and what happened to his poodle!

Cassettes are available separately to go along with each book. They contain songs, period instrumental pieces (Attainment Target 2b) and instructions for the dances. I would also appreciate however a teacher's book giving suitable keyboard arrangements.

Howard Ling  
Headteacher

All Saints C of E Primary School, Great Oakley, Essex.

**The Romans**

ISBN 1-873598-45-9 £3.95

**The Roman Resource Book**

ISBN 1-873598-50-5 £6.00

**The Roman Empire**

ISBN 1-873598-10-6 £3.50

**The Roman Empire Resource Book**

ISBN 1-873598-15-7 £15.00

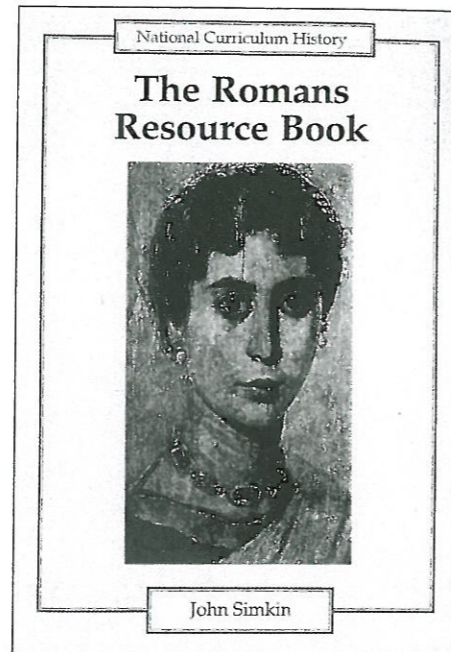
John Simkin

Spartacus Educational, 1991.

Available from Spartacus Educational, 193 Carden Avenue, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 8NH.

These books, for pupils and teachers, form part of a resource for National Curriculum History which also includes texts on 'The Making of the United Kingdom' and 'Medieval Realms'. They are carefully written and full of good quality information.

I particularly liked the quotations from contemporary sources with their proper references - something most new texts for the National Curriculum omit. The author has not only applied this rigorous approach to classical texts but to more modern illustrations. So, the pupil is told that an illustration of Caesar meeting Cleopatra was painted by Jean-Louis Gerome in c1970 and a photograph of Sophia Loren as Cleopatra is from a film made in 1954.



The pupils' books are clearly set out with good quality photographs. While I could not fault these books on facts, I do have two reservations about them. One is that the author is clearly less happy with the physical evidence for the Romans. There is hardly any use made of modern discoveries and little illustration or information from Roman Britain. Second, I think the activities could be more demanding - very few ask the pupils to really get to grips with the evidence. Nevertheless I would recommend these books for teachers who are looking for a wealth of information for tackling the Romans.

Mike Corbishley  
Head of Education, English Heritage.

**Gloucester and the Civil War - a city under siege**

ISBN 0-7509-0148-9

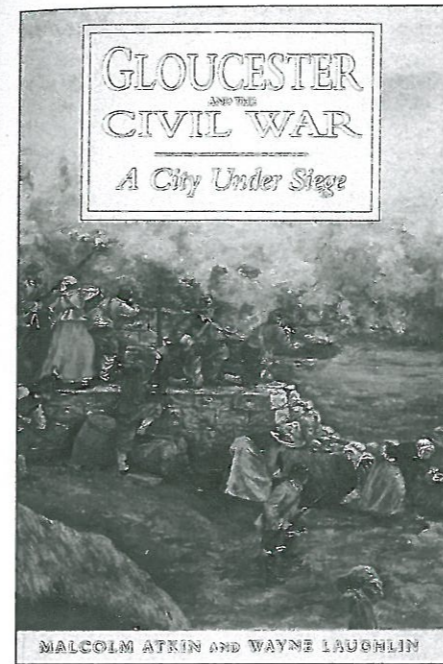
£12.99

Malcolm Atkin and Wayne Laughlin

Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd, 1992.

Available from Alan Sutton Publishing, Phoenix Mill, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

This is an excellent book - history as it should be written with both archaeology and documentary sources complementing each other while helping to create a picture of what life was like during the siege of 1643. It is a book that, while essential reading for any teacher covering this period and living near Gloucester, should be of great interest to anyone studying the Civil War. The general text is supported by a wealth of detailed documentary information (contemporary letters, detailed expenditure of the defences etc.) that should prove marvellous sources for detailed work. The whole read is made



more enjoyable by a number of well researched artist's illustrations depicting particular events of the siege.

I recommend this book wholeheartedly - especially as all royalties go to Gloucester City Museum in order to further the archaeological work that makes it such a good read. A must!

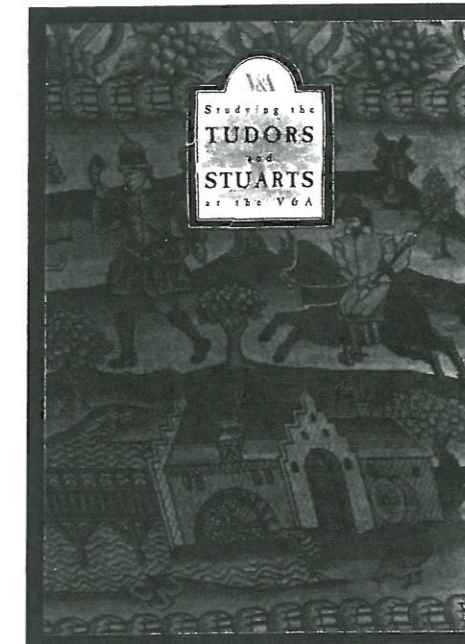
Peter Stone  
Regional Education Officer, South West English Heritage

**Reviews**

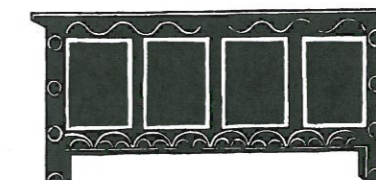
We are happy to consider books, videos or other resources submitted to us for review. Please send any material to our usual address given on the back page. The deadline for Remnants 20 is 1 April 1993.

**Studying the Tudors and Stuarts at the V & A**

The Victoria and Albert Museum has recently published a number of free information leaflets for teachers to support National Curriculum study units. The Tudors and Stuarts leaflet is organised in sections around the themes of People in town and country and Cultural achievements and trade with background information about objects in the museum, ideas for



preparing a visit, things to do in the museum and suggestions for follow-up activities at school. Cross-curricular links are identified and there is a bibliography. There are many high quality illustrations including seventeenth century furniture and



other domestic artefacts. Among other leaflets available is one on plant motifs on textiles from Tudor England, Mughal India and Qing China, intended to help secondary art and textile teachers.

For free copies and further details of the educational support services available please send an A4 self-addressed envelope to:  
Sarah Briggs  
Education Department  
Victoria and Albert Museum  
Cromwell Road  
London SW7 2RL.

**Building Experiences Trust Schools' Workshops Stonehenge to the Millennium**

22 February - July 23 1993

The Building Experiences Trust will be running this series of workshops in central London for pupils and teachers using the built environment as a stimulus for National Curriculum Programmes of Study in Technology, Art and History. Their theme is 'Stonehenge to the Millennium' and they will involve practical hands-on activities based on celebratory architecture and the notion of designing and making a tower to celebrate the new century.

Teachers wishing to develop projects about the built environment will have an opportunity to link up with a volunteer construction industry person to help in their project work. Each workshop will last about two hours and will cost £1 per head for those attending. For further details contact:  
Nigel Frost  
Building Experiences Trust  
c/o Jordan and Bateman  
Cairngorm House  
Meridian Gate  
203 Marsh Wall  
London E14 9YT  
Tel. 071-515 8866

Our 1993 Resources catalogue will be published in April, including many new titles added to our wide range of practical materials offering you professional help to use historic sites and the historic environment as sources in curriculum work. To ensure that you receive your **free copy** as soon as it is available just complete the slip below and return it to English Heritage Education Service, Keysign House, 429 Oxford Street, London, W1R 2HD.

Please send me my free copy of the 1993 Resources catalogue.

Name.....

Address.....

