

The original list was copied by one Edward Sawyer from a now-lost poll book, itself compiled in the haphazard order in which the votes were cast. Each individual's voting (Whig or Tory) and place of 40s. freeholding is given alongside his name. Gibson's new transcript systematically re-arranges the information by place, and provides indexes both of places and of individual voters. A considerable attempt has been made to identify individuals (around 90%) from standard sources such as probate records, parish registers, *VCH*, and *ODNB*, although as Gibson himself cautions many of the identifications are necessarily provisional.

As a supplement to the transcript, Gibson includes a partial place-name index to related and equally important documents preserved in The National Archives: the Association Oath Rolls of 1695-6. These arose from a requirement, after an attempt to assassinate King William III, that all public office-holders should take an oath of loyalty to the Crown. In the end a much larger proportion of adult males took the oath, producing (for Oxfordshire) a list of over 14,400 names which (in Gibson's words) are comparable with the Protestation Returns and the Hearth Tax. Unfortunately the manuscript lists (which contain many autograph signatures) are confusingly arranged.

Well over a hundred lists of signatories preceded by the essential place-names have been found, but many other such lists have no indication of place. In an additional experiment, by painstaking comparison of the names with other evidence, the editor has succeeded in locating lists for a further dozen otherwise unidentified places. Together these provide the working place-name index, making around half of the information in county rolls truly accessible for the first time. These places are mainly in Hundreds north and west of Oxford itself. (Boroughs were on separate rolls: Banbury and Woodstock have been in print for some years.)

This cheap and cheerful booklet (though attractively bound) retains a 'home-made' feel, which belies the tenacity and expertise behind the work it contains. Perhaps inevitably there are a few typos, and some of the cross-referencing seems at first sight a little cumbersome or confusing. In his defence Gibson quotes the great H.E. Salter, who wisely remarked that 'those who are long past middle age should print their material, if it can be of use to others, and not wait to make it more perfect'. That this particular publication will be of use to others for long to come is beyond question, and I am sure that readers of *Cake and Cockhorse* will join with me in wishing Mr Gibson many more years of happy transcribing, indexing and editing.

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