

*A FORESTRY CENTENARY
THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY
OF ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND*

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Basil Blackwell, Oxford 1982, ISBN0631 130152.

This book outlines the work and activities of the above society over the century since its formation in 1882. Its author is one of the most accomplished writers on forestry and as a member of the society for 50 years and past President is perhaps uniquely qualified for the task. As one would expect the result is a highly readable book detailing the history of the society from a wealth of letters, records and photographs. The book is likely to be of greatest interest to members of the society whose history it tells. The author has adhered closely to the remit of writing a history of the society without including more than an absolute minimum of material on the general forestry "scene" in Great Britain during the period in question. While this avoids overlapping with other recently published works it does limit the book's appeal to the general reader. The material available to the author is naturally of a highly factual nature and there is a lack of more personal and anecdotal information which would have allowed the reader to appreciate the personalities of the leading characters and the spirit of the society generally.

To anyone involved in the organisation of a forestry society the achievements of the Royal Forest Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland must be viewed with enormous respect and there is much to be learnt from the work described in this volume. The early realisation by the society that presidents and other officers should be chosen for their capacity to work at their posts rather than their social position, is one problem at least which our own society has not experienced!

John Phillips