CONCEPTS OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

The countryside and English culture


The countryside and English national identity


—The English national character: the history of an idea from Edmund Burke to Tony Blair. New Haven, Yale University Press, 2006. 1670 MAN


**Literature**


Keith, W. J. Regions of the imagination: the development of British rural fiction. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1988. 9430 KEI


**Rural autobiography, reporters and essayists**


Burnett, J. Useful toil: autobiographies of working people from the 1820s to the 1920s. London, Penguin, 1977. 8341 USE


The MERL library holds perhaps the most accessible national collection of literature on farming and country life, and of novels and essays based on these themes. The collection includes the more literary commentaries on country life from the rural nineteenth century onwards, including the writings of
Richard Jefferies, Alfred Williams and George Sturt of Farnham (some written under the pseudonym of George Bourne).

Among the better known rural writers of the inter-war and immediate post-war period, the library has good holdings of all relevant works by Fred Archer, Adrian Bell, J S Collis, Fred Kitchen, George Ewart Evans, H J Massingham, John Moore, Walter Rose, A G Street, C Henry Warren and Henry Williamson. Additionally, there is a useful working collection of rural novels, written since the 1920s.

Some important accounts include:

Bourne, George. Change in the village. London, Duckworth, 1912. 8610 BOU


Kitchen, Fred. Brother to the ox. London, Dent, 1940. 8341 KIT


Sturt, George. The wheelwright’s shop. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1934. 5850 STU


**Rural society**


Brassley, Paul et al (eds), *The English countryside between the wars: regeneration or decline?* Woodbridge, Boydell Press, 2006. 2030 ENG


—Part V: Rural society and community, pp. 1229-1511.

—Part VI: The urban impact on the countryside, pp. 1515-1754.


