

## Further Reading

### 1 The English Reformation

Those who wish to study the Reformation in England as a complete topic at an advanced level would be well advised to start by reading chapters 5 and 6 of

**Rosemary O'Day**, *The Debate on the English Reformation* (Methuen 1986)

which will allow the books listed below to be placed in a clear historiographical context and make it more likely that the interpretations they advance will be recognised and evaluated rather than just being accepted. Only then will it be possible to extract the maximum benefit from reading as much as possible of the standard work on the topic:

**A.G. Dickens**, *The English Reformation* (Batsford 1964 – second edition 1989)

It is vital to ensure that the second edition is used as the changes from the first edition are both numerous and significant. This book has been so influential that it is a 'must' for any serious student.

The general interpretations supported by the revisionist historians are most readily accessible in the chapters written by Christopher Haig in the collection of articles he edited.

**C. Haig, ed.**, *The English Reformation Revised* (Cambridge 1987)

Although most of the book is made up of detailed research findings that would only be of relevance to those studying at degree level, something of the flavour of the revisionists' work could rapidly be acquired by dipping into one or two of the reprinted academic papers contained in the book.

### 2 The Henrician Reformation

Those wishing to pursue the 'top-down' approach further, rather than concentrating on the 'bottom-up' approach favoured by Dickens and the revisionist historians, would find it easiest to do so via biographies of the leading characters. Both because of the central part played by the king in the Reformation during his reign and because of the very high esteem in which the book is held, the obvious starting point would be:

**J.J. Scarisbrick**, *Henry VIII* (Methuen 1968)

The book's very detailed index allows the relevant sections to be

selected easily. Scarisbrick's interest in the theology of the divorce led him to devote much more space to this issue than its historical significance justified but, apart from this, any reference to Henry and religion is worth following up.

Reading at least part of a biography of another character is vital if some perspective on events is to be gained. As Thomas Cranmer was involved in all aspects of the Henrician Reformation, he is probably the best person to choose, especially as a biography of him exists that is full of interesting insights. Therefore it would be useful to skim-read as much as possible of

**Jasper Ridley**, *Thomas Cranmer* (OUP 1962)

Similarly full of insights into the period (up to 1535), but with the added advantage of being brilliantly written in places, is the most highly respected of the many biographies of Thomas More. This is:

**R. Marius**, *Thomas More* (Dent 1984)

The major draw-back with the book is its massive length. It is therefore suggested that decisions are made about exactly which aspects of the great man's life are to be investigated before any reading is commenced.

The dissolution of the monasteries is a nicely self-contained topic and one of the many studies of the subject stands out as being especially helpful to students. The relevant text is brief and to the point (much of the book is devoted to illustrative contemporary documents) and most of the explanations are clear and concise. The book is:

**Joyce Youngs**, *The Dissolution of the Monasteries* (Allen and Unwin 1971)