

PREFACE

Angela Thirkell, the well-loved author who had returned to Anthony's Trollope's chronicles of Barchet, wrote more than thirty lighthearted, charming novels that still have a loyal fan base. These fans have been reading and rereading her work and have created two societies, one in England, the other in America, always hoping and sighing for new stories about their beloved city of Barchester and its fascinating denizens. For forty years, their wishes did not materialize, but in 2007, the Angela Thirkell Society of North America asked me to write the first sequel to Thirkell's thirty-odd Barchet books, since I was both a devoted member and an author. After a certain amount of arguing and demurring, I accepted the challenge and sat down to write the book.

The result, *Miss Glamora Tudor!*, was distributed as a limited edition that was given to members of the American society as a membership gift, and was not available to readers outside the Society. However, it found its way to England and even to Australia, and despite being a non-commercial, literary society book, was even widely reviewed. Many readers clamored for additional Barchester books. Seeing these responses, I naturally decided to write the second book, *Their Exits and Their Entrances*. But to distribute it without everyone knowing what happened in *Miss Glamora Tudor!* did not make sense, so I bundled the two books into *The New Chronicles of Barchet*, and had them published together as one book. The title is based, of course, on Anthony Trollope's *The Last Chronicles of Barchet*.

To assure authenticity of style, the writing was based on my extensive study of the entire body of work of the Barchester series. Time-line and the personal history of each character had to be carefully followed. The history of daily life during this period, including aviation, cinema, recreation, literature, and fashion, were carefully researched as well. Most importantly, Thirkell's distinct approach to language had to be continued,

using her three distinct forms: English of the upper classes, English of the lower classes, and American English.

I must admit that when embarking on this daunting enterprise, I was a little worried that the purists would fiercely object to my audacity in daring to follow Trollope and Thirkell into Bassetshire. Instead, everyone was very kind and extremely supportive. I would like to thank, in proper alphabetical order, the people who made this book possible: Ms. Kathleen Fish, Ms. Barbara Houlton, and Ms. Louanne Wheeler. Without them, I would have never dared to venture into the Bassetshire Universe.

Should any readers be kind enough and interested enough to favour me with their opinions, comments, or any kind of feedback, my e-mail is ililabel@aol.com. I would greatly appreciate such assistance.

Ilil Arbel
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