

WROUGHT IRONWORK



WROUGHT IRON GATE. Probably made by Warren about 1720. It stands at the entrance to Clandon Park, seat of the Earl of Onslow.

WROUGHT IRONWORK

*A manual of instruction
for craftsmen*



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PREFACE

In recent years, wrought ironwork has regained some of its previous popularity and it seems likely that the severity of our modern buildings may be relieved by this traditional form of decoration.

Orders for wrought ironwork are welcomed by many rural blacksmiths, not only for the income they bring, but as a pleasant change from the daily routine of an agricultural smithy. Some smiths are, however, out of practice and lack confidence in their skill. So this book has been prepared by the Rural Development Commission, which provides a national advisory service for rural craftsmen, to help them to refresh their technical knowledge and to provide apprentices with a basic introduction to this subject. It will also supplement the practical instruction which the Commission gives to rural craftsmen in their own workshops.

Detailed advice on design, which is a most important aspect of the craft is not given here; but a high degree of technical skill is of no avail if a sense of design is lacking. This can be developed by taking every opportunity to see fine examples of traditional and contemporary wrought ironwork, and by supplementing this with a careful study of the books which are listed on page 97. The Commission publishes a Catalogue of Drawings for Wrought Ironwork which is sold to the public, although the library of the working drawings is only available to rural craftsmen.

The system of describing techniques by sequences of still photographs, briefly captioned, proved very successful in *The Blacksmith's Craft* and has been used again in this book. Where methods vary, the one most suitable for the beginner has been described.