

NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
(ENGLAND). *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Herefordshire.*
Vol. III, North-West. Pp. lxvi + 264: 188 Plates and numerous plans.
H.M. Stationery Office, 1934. Price £1 10s. od. net.

The third and last volume of the Royal Commission's Survey of Herefordshire covers the north-western part of the County, and describes 1,635 monuments in 82 parishes, representing a rather higher average of monuments to the parish than the 1,629 in 97 parishes of their previous report on the eastern portion of the County. The Commissioners note 71 monuments as 'especially worthy of preservation,' and among these are 20 earthworks, 22 parish churches, and 29 secular buildings, of which the great majority are timber-framed houses of various sizes dating from the fourteenth century onwards.

The two previous volumes of the Herefordshire Survey have made us familiar with the main architectural characteristics of the County, and there are few outstanding novelties to report in the area at present under review. We note the same wealth of timber-framed buildings varying in construction from the primitive 'crutched' cottages at Leinthall Starks, Kinnersley and Eardisley (pl. 26), to the decorative complexities of Upton Court, Little Hereford (pl. 18), or the architectural distinction of the Old Market Hall of Leominster, which the Commissioners have not unreasonably chosen for their frontispiece. Following the highly original twelfth-century local style, of which the west door of Leominster Priory and the fonts at Shobdon and Eardisley supply additional examples in this area, the later church architecture is somewhat disappointing. Leominster Priory Church with its curiously planned twelfth-century nave arcades, elaborate west door, fine fourteenth-century south aisle, and mediaeval chalice, is the outstanding ecclesiastical building; the Herefordshire *penchant* for the detached bell tower is shown in the remarkable building at Pembridge as well as at Richard's Castle and Yarpole, and the single combined roof of nave and aisle at Stretford with its king posts standing on the top of the arcade deserves mention as a successful piece of eccentricity. Once again the Commissioners have to report two derelict mediaeval churches, at Downton-on-the-Rock and Yazor; and it is to be hoped that the inclusion of the former, which contains a fine if partly collapsed roof, a beautiful rood loft and extensive wall-paintings, in the schedule of buildings 'especially worthy of preservation' may be followed up by speedy action on the part of these responsible for its present disgraceful condition. Of military architecture there is little to record; the interest of Richard's Castle

is historical rather than architectural as the forerunner of many motte and bailey castles, and still more nameless tumps; Brampton Bryan has a fine fourteenth-century gatehouse, and the extensive but overgrown remains of the Mortimers' stronghold at Wigmore need the attention of a skilled excavator before their story can be told.

As this is the final volume for the county, general essays on its Prehistoric Camps, Roman Remains, Anglo-Saxon history, and ecclesiastical and military architecture have been contributed by Mr. C. A. Ralegh Radford, Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler, Professor Stenton, and the Secretary, Mr. A. W. Clapham, respectively. Mr. Radford's paper deserves mention as a praiseworthy attempt to classify the prehistoric fortresses of this region and to relate their history to the known sequence of Iron Age cultures in Southern Britain. How slender is the material available for the second task may be seen from the fourteen shards of Early Iron Age pottery from three Herefordshire camps which occupy p. xlviii. None of these, as Mr. Radford points out, comes from a position which dates any of these three camps with certainty, and several of them would tell us very little if they did. It may perhaps be doubted whether an Inventory of Historical Monuments is quite the best place for publishing detailed evidence of this kind, especially when it is so fragmentary and inconclusive in character. But it serves at least the purpose of emphasising the need for further exploration of these notable earthworks. Professor Stenton contributes a sketch of the almost equally obscure circumstances which surround the Anglo-Saxon settlement and exploitation of the county, and makes some interesting points on the relations of the Magesætan with their neighbours, and especially on the development of the Welsh frontier. It is perhaps unfortunate that he has not made use of the important results of Dr. Cyril Fox's survey of Offa's Dyke—which are, however, summarized in the Sectional Preface to the present volume—for this is almost the only Historical Monument in the region certainly referable to this period. It would be interesting, for example, to know whether the significant discontinuity of the Dyke in Northern Herefordshire, to which Professor Stenton does not refer, has any bearing on the group of English place-names on the Welsh side of the frontier in this very district, on which he comments. There is clearly room for further collaboration on this matter between historian and archaeologist.

We leave to the last the now inevitable words of appreciation for the high standard of accuracy, remarkable comprehensiveness, and magnificent photography which we have come to expect of the Commission's work. This volume is in these respects like its predecessors and beyond all criticism. No doubt, as the lists of *addenda* and *corrigenda* to Volumes I and II here included indicate, it would be possible to find matters to add and errors to remove; but as those lists also show, they would be mostly on points of quite negligible importance. And a special word of praise is due to the draughtsmen of the village and earthwork plans; they are not only

models of clarity and precision, but they show great spirit in decorative design. Here and there perhaps imagination has passed the bounds of relevance; and the over conspicuous cock who straddles the compass points in Brandon Camp (p. 4), the grotesque insect who performs the same sinecure office for Croft Ambrey Camp (p. 13), or the nightmare quadrupeds supporting the title of Wapley Camp (p. 184) may provoke criticism if not alarm. But it would certainly be matter for regret if the artistic feeling which inspires such fancies were to be eliminated from the plans in future volumes. We shall look forward to them, and to many other good things, when the report on Westmorland appears.

J. N. L. M.

PROGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGY. By STANLEY CASSON, M.A., F.S.A.
Pp. xii + 111; 43 figs. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. 1934. Price 6s.

The flood of archaeological fieldwork which has burst upon a considerable part of the globe since the Great War has produced the need for careful pilotage, even for the professed archaeologist. To the 'interested public'—a more important factor than the archaeologist is sometimes prepared to admit—unaided navigation has become impossible. Summaries relating to particular areas or periods have indeed appeared in various forms, mainly in English archaeological publications of a restricted circulation; but it has remained for Mr. Casson to seek a wider sphere and a wider public. In ten short chapters, prepared originally for the B.B.C., he surveys the whole field of current or recent work, and it may be said at once that he has achieved a difficult task with a very creditable degree of success.

For his purpose, he divides the world into nine regions, and deals with each in turn. He selects the more salient results of modern research, and hints usefully at proved or potential inter-relations between the various regions. The project is one which no two people would approach in identical fashion, but it would be difficult to find serious complaint with Mr. Casson's judgment. Specialists in one subject or another may here and there observe a false emphasis or even a questionable statement (for instance, the assertion that all dug-out canoes are neolithic, or that the sarsens of Stonehenge are commonly thought 'to belong to quite a late date, say 500 B.C., in the Iron Age'). More serious in an avowedly general survey is the omission of all reference to the remarkable discoveries in China, Palestine, Kenya and elsewhere, relating to palaeolithic man—unless indeed these omissions are conditioned by Dr. Leakey's recent summary of this material. In one or two chapters, again, notably that on the East, the author might profitably have expanded his rather bare B.B.C. material on republication. And a short regional bibliography would have added to the utility of the book without seriously increasing its length.

Nevertheless, it were misleading to stress these aspects of a

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little book which is both well-balanced and well-informed. Its contents are of the kind which come, or should come, within the normal scope of a liberal education and, though rather highly priced at 6s., the book deserves a wide sale.

HOOTON PAGNELL. *The Agricultural Evolution of a Yorkshire Village.* By A. G. RUSTON and D. WITNEY. 8vo. Pp. viii + 460; 11 plates and 58 text-figures. London: Edward Arnold & Co. Price 25s. net.

The authors of this excellently produced and eminently readable volume have attempted not unsuccessfully to combine the writing of a local history with a general exposition of English agricultural evolution since the Norman Conquest. The affairs of Hooton Pagnell, a manor in the West Riding carefully selected to illustrate as many as possible of the points of their story—the changing relationship of landlord and tenant, the effect of geology on land utilization, the surviving and often surprising influences of open-field agriculture on modern life, and so on—are taken as a peg on which to hang much general information on the development of every aspect of rural organization through the centuries. The interest of the authors is not archaeological—they do not, for example, describe the architectural evolution of the Hall, parts of whose structure go back at least to the fourteenth century, or the Church, or the farms and cottages; nor is it even strictly historical, a fact which may explain the acceptance of the ‘mark theory’ of Anglo-Saxon settlement (p. 245) or the easy and sometimes dubious dogmatism of their brief references to such institutions as folkland and bookland (p. 246), or the complexities of feudal tenure—the illustration of a petty serjeanty on p. 250-1 from Brimham, for example, does not look like a petty serjeanty at all, but a surviving incident of some other tenure; and something has surely gone wrong with the estimated total of knights fees under the Conqueror on p. 211. We must therefore avoid the temptation to say more about the book in this *Journal* except to commend it heartily to anyone who seeks a succinct and lucid account of the evolution of agricultural method in this country, or to understand the growth of Tenant Right, or to find his way through that labyrinth of rights, obligations, injustices, and grievances which we call the Problem of Tithe. And we could wish that every Manor in England was as fortunate in its landlords and its historians as Hooton Pagnell seems to have been in both.

J. N. L. M.

ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES IN PALESTINE AND GREECE. By E. L. SUKENIK. The Schweich Lectures, British Academy. London. 1934. Pp. xv. + 90. 9½ in. × 6 in. 20 Plates and 19 figs. in text. Price 7s. 6d.

This is perhaps the first time that a collection of the whole of the archaeological material relating to ancient synagogues has been brought together, and the facts are now almost sufficient for the identification of these buildings, from their architectural form,

when more direct evidence is lacking. The available examples extending from the end of the second century B.C. to the sixth century A.D. show a certain amount of definite development. Thus there is precise evidence that the ark for the scrolls of the law was not a permanent fixture in the earlier buildings, but later became so definite a feature that sometimes an apse was built for its reception. There seems no doubt that the colonnades of these buildings supported the women's galleries which were approached from the outside of the structure. Another interesting feature is the discovery in several instances of the 'Seat of Moses' of Matt. xxiii. 2. The synagogues appear to have been laid out on certain definite rules of orientation, those in Gallilee face S., those in Transjordan face W., and those in Greece face E., all preserving the approximate direction of Jerusalem.

Mr. Sukenik has produced an extremely interesting little monograph on a little-studied type of building, and it would be valuable to trace the further evolution of the Synagogue through mediaeval to modern times. Both plans and photographs form an excellent commentary on the text and there is an interesting corpus of the inscriptions actually found within the buildings.

SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS DE GUATEMALA. By D. H. POPENHOE. Pp. xiv + 74. 9½ in. × 6 in. 7 line illustrations and plan. Cambridge, U.S.A. 1933. Price 6s. 6d.

This little book is in some sort a memorial of the author, Mrs. Popenhoe, who, like another young student of Spanish colonial architecture, passed away untimely. The book is an attractively written account of the old Spanish capital of Guatemala, its history and all that the earthquake of 1773 left of its buildings. This little trodden by-path of architectural history will be found full of interest, and the author has treated it with all the personal charm with which she seems to have been so richly endowed.

WALTHAMSTOW ARCHAEOLOGY (PRE-NORMAN). *Early Days in the Walthamstow District.* By A. R. HATLEY, B.Sc. Walthamstow Antiquarian Society, Official Publication No. 28 (1933). 12½ × 10. Pp. 30, 3 plates, 2 maps, 19 figures in the text. Price 7s. 6d.

This is one of a series of monographs of local interest that does credit to the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society. Mrs. Hatley's task was to survey the plentiful archaeological material of the district, which comes chiefly from the Lea and its reservoirs in the length between Angel Road and Lea Bridge Road; the result is a useful summary that must rank, in spite of its modest size and unpretentious illustrations, as a valuable statement of fact. These monographs are expected to pay their way, so that Mrs. Hatley felt it a duty to make as attractive a picture as possible by sketching in a background of English prehistory and early history, which she has done with considerable discernment. Her text is, in fact, commendably free from those fallacious generalisations that so often mar a work of this kind, and when we read that 'The Early Iron Age in Britain is divided

into three sub-divisions, known as A, B and C,' we accept Mrs. Hatley at once as a guide who intends to give us a competent account of the local archaeology. For the rest, she is to be congratulated without qualification on producing a work of which the Walthamstow Society has reason to be proud.

The Stone Age antiquities are not of much account, but the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age are strongly represented. The 'crannog' site is described as far as is possible, but the account would have been more useful if the six pottery vessels in the British Museum had been published properly, and a reference given in the text to the two of them that are figured on the plate opposite p. 16. The pot shown in fig. ii ought also to have been treated more handsomely, and it is to be regretted that a huge half-tone plate (frontispiece) was wasted on a single socketed bronze axe instead of being used to give us good pictures of these crannog finds. The well-known canoe is likewise inadequately, though twice, illustrated; yet it is the most imposing antiquity from this area that is now in existence. In regard to this, it is, of course, a moving tribute to the infallibility of the British Museum that the appearance of this boat in the *Bronze Age Guide* of 1920 should be quoted as support for the theory of a pre-Iron Age occupation of the crannog site; but it must nevertheless be counted as a fault that no reference is made to Dr. Fox's subsequent study of these dug-outs. We may, on the other hand, pardon Mrs. Hatley for her faith in 'water-clocks,' though one imagines that not even their warmest friends would say that her figure 14 represents one of these early time-keepers. In the later periods the most important find was the now almost completely vanished viking ship. It is interesting to have a definite statement that the Odescalchi Collection sword belonged to the burial found beneath the up-turned boat, but Mrs. Hatley does not make it clear that we need attach no importance to the discovery 'near the ship' of the collared spearhead, a type that must be much later in date than the sword; her text might suggest to the unwary that we are to regard it as part of the boat-find, like the paddle mentioned on p. 30, though in fact it was found, as should have been stated, at a distance of 40 yards from the ship. The work concludes with an inventory of finds, arranged in period-groups. Each object has its present 'museum' or 'collection' address; but it is not said what we are to infer on reading such entries as 'J. S. Jeffree, 1885' against a bronze spearhead, or 'H. Woodward, 1869' against 'Bronze handle of late celtic dagger.' We notice also that the title of the 'Viking' list should have been extended to cover the Anglo-Saxon antiquities (e.g., a jewelled bird-brooch) that have found their way into it, and, in general, we regret the omission of proper references for the few objects that have been previously published. An asterisk, denoting that the Walthamstow Museum now possesses a drawing or photograph of the object starred, adorns so many of the entries from the London and provincial museums that we are left in no doubt as to the thoroughness of Mrs. Hatley's survey.

T. D. KENDRICK.

LA GRAUFESENQUE (CONDATOMAGO). By FRÉDÉRIC HERMET, Chanoine honoraire de Rodez, Cure de l'Hospitalet-du-Larzac, Paris. Libraire Ernest Leroux, 1934. Two volumes 13 × 10. Vol. I. pp. xxix + 379. Texte (i) Vases Sigillées (ii) Graffites. Vol. II. pp. 23. Planches. Subdivided as Vol. I. 126 numbered plates (decoration) and 20 unnumbered plates (graffiti). Price 350 Frs.

A work on South Gaulish Terra Sigillata is very welcome and we can only regret that this one is not wider in its scope. The author, in a sense, disarms criticism, however, by stating clearly that the principal object of his work is to make known the decorated sigillata of La Graufesenque and its dependent establishment Rozier.

Nevertheless, in view of the implicitly comprehensive title of the work, one would naturally have looked for rather more than this: for instance, some account of the excavations and their results at the site of this important pottery. As it is, beyond a meagre plan of the district in which the potteries are situated, and a brief mention of the excavations, we are given no information. Probably the difficulties in the way of systematic excavation were, from a practical point of view, insurmountable, and here, as in the case of many Roman sites, archaeology has perforce to give way to agriculture.

The author's treatment of the plain Samian forms is summary, being confined to two plates and less than three pages of text. Some of the sections are a little sketchy, some are not complete, and the scale of the drawings is not given. Their chronological importance has not been emphasised.

The plain and the decorated shapes are given two separate series of numbers, and the author is to be commended in this as it will enable additions to be made without disturbing the sequence of numbers.

The plain forms, which are numbered from 1 to 34 B, comprise just under sixty varieties, some of which are very rare, and it is interesting to note that certain little-known Dragendorff forms have turned up at La Graufesenque. Thus, Dragendorff 1 A is identical with Hermet 1 E, Dragendorff 7 the same as Hermet 7, and Dragendorff 23 is Hermet 10.

Great interest attaches to the drawings of profiles of decorated shapes given on plates 4 and 5, but here again the scale of the drawings is not stated and some bowls are shown in elevation only, without sections. The rarer forms first attract the eye, notably the fine decorated jug, Hermet form 15, fragments of which have been found in Britain, and of which we now get the correct shape for the first time: also the fine dish Hermet form 17, which appears to be Dragendorff 36 with a rim completely decorated with stamped patterns instead of the more familiar stalked leaves *en barbotine*. Other interesting shapes are what may shortly be termed the Dragendorff 30 with everted lip (Hermet form 4) which has been found in London and Colchester, and the small decorated bowl Hermet 9 which has been turned up at Richborough.

The analysis of ornament on the decorated ware, which occupies a large part of the work, is admirable, supported as it is by an exhaustive terminology. While admittedly the only way to treat

such a mass of design from the point of view of classification, this treatment tends inevitably to elevate the interest of the ornament, as ornament, above its chronological importance. It is not that the question of chronology is neglected altogether, but that its application to the designs reproduced is not sufficiently made out.

The single elements of design (comprising pure ornament, human and animal figures) are shown on plates 6 to 28, but their value is to a large extent discounted by the fact that there is no detailed reference to the potters who used these types, an unfortunate omission which, after the excellent example set by Déchelette and Knorr, is to be deplored. It is realised, of course, that many types could not be so attributed by reason of the loss or omission of the potters' stamps from the bowls and fragments on which they figure, but there is no doubt that a large number could have been ascribed. Certainly a large number could be ascribed from the British collections.

Turning to complete designs, it comes as somewhat of a surprise to find that the author is unable to attribute the bulk of the unsigned or unstamped examples to particular potters, and that the only two groups clearly recognisable by him are Germanus and Canrucatus-Vegenus.

Could the author have had access to the vast collection of pottery from La Graufesenque in this country (in London especially) it might have been possible for him to attribute more than these two groups. Here, unsigned work by Murranus, Masclus, Meddillus and Modestus, besides others bearing other initials, may be fairly recognised; but the author has probably been hampered by the fact that, although he was able to examine as many as ninety-five bowls by Germanus, only five by Masclus came under his notice, and even less by the other potters mentioned. Another difficulty, of course, is caused through the use by potters, often at a later date, in all probability, of moulds made by other potters. Thus potters C and D will get credited with the work of an earlier potter A, for when the mould of form 29, for instance, is unstamped, the stamp only of the maker of the *bowl* will appear.

An example of the identification of potter 'A' may be given. On plate 106, no. 14, is given the design of two identical bowls of form 29 (marbled), one stamped OF NIGRI and the other OF NIGRI AND. But the same design has also been found in London, where the bowl (wholly red) is stamped POTITI MA (*Archaeologia*, lxxviii, p. 87, fig. 38) so that POTITUS, who is earlier in date than the potter or potters who used the other stamps mentioned may be fairly assumed to be the maker of the mould.

The chapter on marbled ware is interesting, and the author gives a list of forty-six potters who made this in addition to the more usual red pottery. On plate 106 are shown designs of both marbled and red bowls made from the same moulds.

Under the chapter devoted to potters' stamps the author has included a section on certain marks on raised tablets found amongst

the decoration of certain late first-century hemispherical bowls. These tablets bear in one case the marks *IXXII* and in another case, what is doubtless an abbreviated form of the first, the mark *XII*. He is inclined to read these as numerals and conjectures that they may be intended as mould-numbers. In parenthesis it may be remarked that very little support is given to this theory by the citation of an ovolo-roulette by *Libertus* bearing the number *XII*.

It is observed that these marked tablets accompany figures of gladiators and are free in the field, and this gives the clue to a much simpler explanation. The representation of gladiators on Trajanic Central Gaulish ware is often accompanied by *shields* free in the field, these shields sometimes bearing a decoration of lines and dots, the lines being arranged both straight and diagonally. The labels on the South Gaulish examples are probably therefore intended for shields, the incised diagonals and straight lines being a rude attempt to represent their decoration.

Of interest is the chapter showing the exportation of pottery from La Graufesenque. The list there given of potters' stamps in Great Britain could at the present date be considerably augmented.

In chapter xiv the author, following the astronomical method of first demonstrating the existence of a heavenly body and discovering it afterwards, postulates the existence of a pottery intermediate in place and time between those of Arezzo and Pozzuoli on the one hand and the South Gaulish establishments on the other. This is a highly interesting idea and no one would be surprised if such a pottery were located, bearing in mind the fact that there is still a fairly wide division in decorative style between the latest Arretine and the earliest South Gaulish work, a difference wider indeed than the shapes of the various vessels (including undecorated forms) themselves.

Evidence, however, is wanting, and the examples of decorated work adduced by the author and reproduced from Knorr, and on which the idea seems to be based, are not too convincing, at least, so far as the signed examples are concerned, for out of four names, viz., Bassus, Scottius, Maccarus and Namus, only the last named potter has not been met with at La Graufesenque.

The section in chapter xiv bearing on the association of potters is interesting, and the author's point that the use of some stamps in common is not proof of a definite association is good because a stamp-maker would be able to sell similar stamps to more than one potter. It is highly probable, from a study of the various decorative elements both from South and Central Gaul, that there existed artists, not being potters, highly skilled in the representation of human figure and animal forms, and making stamps alone. It would be strange indeed if every maker of pots had been sufficiently gifted to make stamps, many of which are of extraordinary delicacy and artistic excellence, the more so by reason of their diminutive size.

The author adds a short note on the pottery works at Rozier, an off-shoot or branch of La Graufesenque, as he proves not only by the style of decoration which is practically identical but by the

presence there of the stamps of eight potters whose names are well known at the main establishment. There is one exception: the potter who used the stamp CRYSMAS, which has not been found at La Graufesenque. It is worthy of note that the glaze of the Rozier pottery is far from equalling that of the parent pottery, being pale, matt and approximating to yellow.

The second part of the first volume is devoted to a study of the graffiti of potters' accounts, and is of great interest, supported, as it is, by the excellent reproductions in the second volume.

The artist, Mlle Jeanne Évrard, is to be commended on the generally well-executed drawings which were made in the short time of eight months. The full-sized drawings of the details, however, notably the various leaf-ornaments, are unfortunately not of equal merit and hardly do justice to the originals.

J. A. STANFIELD.

ADAM'S ANCESTORS. By L. S. B. LEAKEY. With a foreword by Sir F. GOWLAND HOPKINS. Methuen, 1934. Pp. xix + 244, with 30 text illustrations and 12 plates. Price 7s. 6d.

With its black and gold binding and potentially shocking title, 'Adam's Ancestors' stands unashamed among the newest fiction on the shelves of The Times Book Club; unashamed it takes its place in the libraries of the learned. Dr. Leakey has made a bold experiment in putting between his two black covers a mass of popular instruction for the general reader, together with a treatment of revolutionary new work such as can only be appreciated by the specialist. The success of the experiment can to some extent be estimated from the fact that 'Adam's Ancestors' has already achieved the rare feat, for an archaeological work, of reaching a third edition. But this cannot be allowed to silence the question whether it is desirable to present controversial matter to the layman before it has been thoroughly beaten out on the professionals' threshing floor. Would not such a method, if generally adopted, not only cause painful intellectual indigestion among the more conscientious of the great British reading public, but also lend support to the prevalent opinion that all archaeological evidence is make-believe?

However, the vast majority of readers will doubtless skim innocently over the thorny places given to such complex problems as the inter-relations of the Acheulean, Levalloisean, Clactonian, and Mousterian cultures, and the existence and origins of a blade and burin culture in Europe as early as the beginning of the Würm glacial, while they may turn in horror from that intricate and important chronological table on page 158. Instead they will appreciate the very useful sections dealing with the formation of archaeological deposits, chronology, climate change, and the like, together with the full discussion of all the most important remains of fossil man and their places in the story of human evolution.

Much of this material has recently been set out by Mr. Burkitt

in *The Old Stone Age*, but Dr. Leakey, with his unrivalled knowledge of African prehistory, covers a wider geographical field, while his practical skill as a flint knapper makes his chapter on the subject of the greatest interest to layman and specialist alike. His humanising of tool typology by a thorough consideration of the exact functions of different forms, is another valuable innovation based partly on personal experience. He must be the first man for many thousands of years to have skinned and cut up a Thompson's gazelle with an Aurignacian backed-blade in under twenty minutes.

It is impossible to resist commenting on the manner as well as on the matter of this book. It is distinguished by the introduction of a strong autobiographical element written with an engaging naïveté which adds greatly to the amusement and readability of the whole. If the writer of an ordinary travel book may talk interminably of himself, why should a much-travelled archaeologist refrain from all personal reminiscence? It certainly deserves to be widely known that Dr. Leakey's meteoric career as a prehistorian was given its first impetus by a kick on the head which he received at Rugby football. But the style in which the more obviously 'popular' portions of the book are written is most unfortunate. Dr. Leakey makes the ill-judged assumption that because the general reader is ignorant of technical terms he is also incapable of understanding adult English. It is only necessary to quote one sentence, 'Down under the shade of that isolated tree I can see three rhinoceroses,' to show the inanity into which the author can fall when he self-consciously writes down to the public. It is a little disappointing, too, after being allowed the indulgence of a personally conducted tour in Lower Pleistocene East Anglia, to be addressed in later periods with cold formality as 'the reader.'

But minor irritations of this kind should not be allowed to spoil our appreciation of a remarkable book which has already done much to popularise the cause of prehistoric research.

JACQUETTA HAWKES.

THE HISTORY OF MEOPHAM, A KENTISH VILLAGE FROM SAXON TIMES. By C. H. GOLDING-BIRD, B.A., M.B.(Lond.), F.R.C.S. Pp. 313; 28 illustrations. 8vo. London: Williams & Norgate Ltd. 1934. Price 15s. net.

The village of Meopham (pronounced Meppam) lies on the road from Gravesend to Wrotham on the northern slope of the North Downs. The manor belonged to the priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, from pre-conquest times, and is still the property of the Dean and Chapter, but in spite of its long history there is little in this volume to excite the curiosity of those unacquainted with the district. To local residents, however, and to those interested in the byways of Kentish history this re-issue in a slightly extended form of the author's earlier volume entitled *The Story of Old Meopham* will be welcome. Of the nineteen chapters into which the book is divided the general reader will turn first to that on the parish church.

This is a large building almost entirely rebuilt with the exception of the tower in the early fourteenth century. Its date can be closely fixed, as the Archbishop's commission authorising Peter of Bologna, the minorite Bishop of Corbau, to dedicate it after the rebuilding is dated May, 1325. The architectural description of the building would have been easier to follow if a plan had been provided. Its place, somewhat incongruously, is taken by a full-page plan of the Romano-British church at Silchester (incorrectly orientated) which might, we think, have well been dispensed with, together with the earlier part of Chapter 2, as a general account of early Christianity in Britain, which is not always accurate in detail (e.g. the early church at 'Reculvers' (sic) did not date from Roman times), seems scarcely appropriate to a purely local work of this character. Apart from this, however, there is much of local interest in the volume and little seems to have been omitted which was suitable for inclusion in an essentially popular parish history. One minor point of interest in connection with the church is the author's identification of the chapel on the north side of the chancel which is now used as a vestry, as the original chantry chapel founded by Edmund and Simon de Meopham, and John de la Dene in pursuance of a licence granted in 1327. Local tradition and earlier writers have hitherto assumed that this was a separate building erected at Dene Court in the eastern part of the parish. The wording of the licence, which is here printed in full, together with other evidence adduced by the author seems, however, to show conclusively that the chapel of St. James de la Dene in which the chantry was established was in the parish church and not a separate building. It is also of interest to read that the fine late seventeenth-century pulpit was acquired in 1801 from the church of St. Margaret at Westminster by a former vicar of Meopham, who had for many years been a master at Westminster school.

Apart from the church the parish has no important ancient monument, but the manor house adjoining the church is certainly on its original site and the history of its tenant occupiers is fully traced. Besides the head manor the parish includes the sub-manor of Dodemere, which retained its court Baron until comparatively recently, and the so-called manor of Dene, to which the author devotes a separate chapter. We very much doubt, however, whether this latter property ever attained the status of a manor, though, curiously enough, its owners were of considerable social standing, for after being held throughout the thirteenth century by the family of de Twytham it passed successively through the hands of the well-known Kentish families of Steptvans and Twisden.

Only two Meopham men can claim to have acquired any degree of general fame. Simon de Meopham, who succeeded to the See of Canterbury in 1327, was almost certainly a native of the parish, while John Tradescant the younger, traveller, collector and botanist, whose famous 'closet of rarities' became the nucleus of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, was born in the village in 1608, his baptism on the day of his birth being recorded in the parish register.

The book concludes with a series of sixteen appendices, the last five having been added to this volume. It is satisfactory to find that one of these describes the fulfilment in 1923 of a hope expressed in the author's former work that a quantity of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century painted glass found many years ago in the roof of Meopham Court might one day be restored to the church from which it had undoubtedly come. The fragments, which include figures of St. George, St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Catherine, were released by Messrs. Powell of London, and now fill a window in the south aisle.

In conclusion one may perhaps express a doubt whether the author's habit of quoting Latin documents in their contracted form is justified in a work of this nature, even when explanations of some of the contractions are occasionally appended. A far more serious fault, however, is the absence of an index, for which the somewhat lengthy list of contents is no adequate substitute. Apart from this the book is well produced and illustrated and forms a useful addition to local Kentish history.

A. R. M.

KENTISH ARCHITECTURE AS INFLUENCED BY GEOLOGY.

By JOHN ARCHIBALD, L.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., M.G.A. 8vo. Pp. 54 ; 75 illustrations and map. Ramsgate: The Monastery Press. 1934. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This slim volume deals with a subject hitherto but inadequately treated. The availability of different building materials whether of stone or wood, obviously had an all-important bearing on the architecture of any district, and Kent is in this respect no exception. Its surface formations produced a variety of building materials of which the well-known Kentish rag is probably the most important. The author shows, with the aid of a specially prepared map, the sources of these materials and then proceeds to illustrate their use in the buildings of the district. It would have been of interest if more emphasis could have been laid on the localisation of certain types of material in the buildings of a given area, but the scope of the book may have precluded this. The importance of the extensive forest areas which formerly existed on the Wealden clay is, however, fully recognised both as an almost inexhaustible source of timber for building and as fostering the allied industries of iron smelting and glass making. In connection with the latter a minor point on page 18 may perhaps be noticed, as the author's assumption that window glass was being made at Greenwich in the sixteenth century is surely unfounded. The patent granted in 1575 to the Venetian glass maker Verzelini (not Vasselyn as stated) was for making drinking glasses only, and it is extremely unlikely that he ever produced painted window glass. Moreover, he worked in London and not at Greenwich.

The book is well printed and the excellent and well-chosen illustrations are alone worth the modest price of the volume.

A. R. M.

WINCHESTER: ITS HISTORY, BUILDINGS AND PEOPLE. By THE WINCHESTER COLLEGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Third Edition (Revised). P. and G. Wells Ltd. 1933. Pp. 220. Price 7s. 6d.

This book is an excellent example of the work that can be done by an intelligent local society. The wealth of material, both architectural and historical, has not been allowed to obscure the general setting which Winchester's prominent position in our national history demands; and this treatment should secure the interest of many outside the somewhat narrow circle for which the book is primarily intended.

It is for convenience divided into six sections with an appendix on medieval architecture, a chronological table, plans and illustrations. The first four sections cover the history of the city from the fortified Iron Age settlement on St. Catherine's Hill down to the present day. It is naturally enough in the period before the seventh century, at which time Winchester became the capital of Wessex, that solid facts are hardest to come by, and in at least one instance the cautious treatment of this material has been subsequently justified. Excavations upon an Iron Age settlement on the north spur of Twyford Down, undertaken in 1933 by the W.C.A.S. (shortly to be published in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club) have shown that the destruction of St. Catherine's Hill (p. 4) did in fact coincide with the arrival of the Belgae, *circa* 50 B.C.

Architectural interest inevitably centres upon the Cathedral, whose development is lucidly treated. One can no doubt find omissions—the fine and important series of encaustic tiles in the retro-choir is not mentioned; and more might perhaps have been said of the library, some of whose treasures have recently been seen in London. But these are details; in general the account of this, as of the civil and ecclesiastical buildings, is admirable, particularly that part devoted to post-medieval architecture. Those interested in the latter may be further referred (there is no bibliography) to another recent publication, 'Winchester Street Architecture,' by T. D. Atkinson (Warren & Son, 1934).

The remaining two sections deal with the Hospital of St. Cross and the College. That concerning the latter has been brought up to date and particular attention paid to its significance in relation to medieval and post-medieval educational methods and institutions.

Perhaps the least successful portions of the book are those devoted to the portrayal of everyday life in each epoch. These are of very varying quality; but at their worst (e.g., pp. 136-141) they contain little that is not to be found elsewhere in the book, and the style adopted may well exasperate the best intentioned reader.

The production is on the whole good. There are a few minor discrepancies (pp. 128 and 175, the building of School; pp. 112 and 174, the Parliamentary Army and the College). The illustration referred to on page 122 does not exist. The map at the end has, one may suspect, been taken over unaltered from the previous edition. It is poorly drawn, is printed on unsuitable paper and is wholly inaccurate. The Roman roads suffer particular misrepresentation;

one may mention the course of the Portchester road as it leaves the city, the roads of the New Forest area and the non-existent Roman road portrayed as running due east along the present-day Alton road. This is a pity; for in general the plans and architectural drawings are fully adequate and worthy of the text.

J. B. W. P.

STORY OF SCOTLAND IN STONE. By IAN C. HANNAH, M.A., F.S.A.
Pp. xv + 332; 94 illustrations. Oliver & Boyd, 1934. Price 12s. 6d.

To begin, though illogically, at the end—with the Glossary. A fortuitous opening of this book amidst the depths of the Glossary has tended to damp a feeling of pleasurable anticipation at the prospect of new light on a dark subject. A Shouldered Arch, for instance, 'has splayed jambs, but itself is simple, causing a change of direction at the springs.' 'Spandrel, triangular space between the outer edge of an arch and the rectangle formed by the lines which enclose it on the corresponding space between two arches.' 'Misericord, a seat which when turned up on its hinge will afford a rest so precarious that if the person using it goes to sleep it will shut down with resounding noise.'

However, it is indiscreet to judge a dog by the wag of his tail, and to ignore the display of his bared teeth at the other end. And Mr. Hannah is out to astonish, if not to alarm, setting about his business so early on and to such effect that by page 34 he purposes to have shown that 'the whole Celtic art of the Christian period had its chief cradle in the region of Aberdeen,' and, furthermore, 'In this Pictish school alone we may trace the gradual evolution of what we generally know as Christian Celtic art, and it is earlier than anything England or Ireland can possibly show.' Not content with these thunderbolts he roundly accuses at least four eminent Scottish antiquaries of ignoring history and of omitting a scrutiny of dates. Here we have the material for a first-class civil war in Scotland; that is, if Mr. Hannah could himself show that his case is based on historical facts in conjunction with a careful examination of ascertained dates. Beginning with the incised symbol-stones of the Picts, he avers a strong probability that this art was being 'evolved' prior to the advent of Christianity in Scotland, and was indigenous to that part of the country between the Forth and the northern seas. There is nothing to indicate that he appreciates or is aware of the survival and repetition of undoubted La Tène motifs among these symbols. The Scottish group of "Chi-Rho" stones is taken as evidence of the continuity of the Christianizing influence of St. Ninian through two centuries. But we are then asked to accept the elementary incised work on the Raasay stones (given as of late sixth-century date) as being coeval in Pictish art with the slab at Elgin, carved as it is in relief with an advanced pattern of interlaced serpents and an armed cross flanked by two angels and two Evangelists. The explanation that 'interlacing work might be an in-

dependent Pictish development' is not sufficiently convincing, nor has it any demonstrably historical foundation. And the Gask slab, with its wheel cross and interlacing serpent pattern, is labelled sixth or seventh century, with a fine disregard for that scrutiny of dates which Mr. Hannah himself demands, and with no word of justification for his temerity.

On page 32 'We appear to reach the end of the purely Pictish school, characterized by the symbols and the square slabs, with a few most beautiful examples that introduce the new feature of foliage.' The chief example given, the Hilton of Cadboll stone, makes it obvious that this 'new feature' sprang fully grown, like a northern Pallas Athene, from some Pictish head.

And so the author leads us to the remarkable conclusions of page 34, quoted above, but without having as yet produced signs of the study of any history pertinent to the theme (and in any case, what do we know of Pictish history, who only know of the Picts?); nor have we been given any authentic or comparative dates with a direct bearing on the subject. Relative art in England and Ireland, which after all and despite the Picts had some small say in the evolution of Celtic design, is entirely ignored.

The remainder of the book summarizes Scottish architecture on more familiar lines. A reference to the description of Kelso Abbey given in a document of 1517, now in the Vatican Library, and transcribed in Volume xxiv of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, might have been useful in helping to give the true significance of the remarkable 'double-cross' plan of that church.

Incidentally, the finding of a rapier in a motte does not definitely prove the Norman date, either of the motte or of the rapier.

G. E. C.

The Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

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