

REVIEWS

ROMBALDS WAY: A PREHISTORY OF MID-WHARFEDALE. By ERIC T. COWLING.
Pp. viii, 185; 70 text-figures, 20 plates. Otley: William Walker & Sons, 1946.
Price 15s.

Mr. Cowling is already known to readers of this *Journal* from his paper published in vol. xcvi (1940), 88-95, on the Bronze Age 'cup-and-ring'-marked stones of the West Yorkshire moors around Mid-Wharfedale. This, re-edited, forms the central chapter of the present book; but the book as a whole is intended to record all the known prehistoric antiquities of the Mid-Wharfedale district, duly aligned with the wider story of prehistory, from the Mesolithic Age to the local culture of the Brigantes under Roman rule. A book of this kind, written by a man who has walked every yard of his own countryside and knows everything that has attracted notice there as old, can be extremely valuable. When done successfully, it is perhaps the best way of giving archaeology a living record of facts—living because enlivened by the intimate feeling for country that a native must have. Only, to have this success, the writer must present his facts in clear, firm record, so that strangers will trust it cheerfully and use it easily; and he must see that his alignments with the wider story of prehistory are well made, so that readers who know that story and want to 'fit in' these facts will not be caused to stumble.

Mr. Cowling's country claims much of its significance for that wider story from the ancient trackway, the Rombalds Way of his title, which from the Ribble estuary on the Irish Sea passes the Pennines by the Aire Gap, and thence runs between the Aire and the Wharfe, over Counter Hill and the crest of Addingham, Ilkley, and Rombalds Moors, along the Chevin overlooking Otley, and so on towards the famous moraine-ridge on which it crosses the Vale of York, to end at last on the East Yorkshire coast: a route across England, from Irish Sea to North Sea, of a natural importance in all ages. His archaeological record begins in the Mesolithic; and continues through a Neolithic in which 'text-book' features of the Windmill Hill and Peterborough cultures count for less than the flint-work of folk no doubt still largely aboriginal. Both these chapters are soundly based on patient field-work giving good lists and maps of find-sites; and a good small list of axe-hammers follows to represent the Beaker-folk.

But it is the Food-Vessel culture of the maturer Early Bronze Age, with the Middle Bronze Age Urn culture ensuing and leading on into the first millennium, that makes the core of Mr. Cowling's tale; and here comes in the chapter already mentioned on the cup-and-ring-marked stones. He agrees with MacWhite (*J.R.S.A.I.*, lxxvi, 59) in taking them as basically Western, and his classification rests essentially on Breuil's (*P.S.E.A.*, vii, 111); but he supplements this by recognizing an intrusive element appearing from the east, of ultimately Mycenaean derivation. To that element, it may be noted, he assigns the well-known Swastika Stone on Ilkley Moor (pl. X and fig. 29), which both Leeds and Jacobsthal have preferred to waft away into the Celtic Iron Age; and his case seems sound, for there are really quite adequate comparisons, both for its four-armed 'body' and its 'tail' (cf. the Badger Stone, fig. 33), in the Bronze Age series of all the other carvings.

From the Middle Bronze Age onwards, and above all in the Iron Age (with which he includes the Roman period), Mr. Cowling is able to adduce a number of remains of stone-walled dwelling-enclosures, some associated with Celtic fields. But his dating of the 'Bronze Age pounds' (pp. 111-13) is distinctly flimsy; and among the Iron Age enclosures he leaves the evidence for any pre-Roman date as negative as ever—unless, indeed, one is prepared to credit this on the sole evidence of bee-hive querns, which seems somewhat rash. The only Iron Age pottery mentioned (on p. 163) comes from three areas which do not figure among his enclosure-sites, and is assigned to the first century A.D. without reason given and without illustration or formal description. The presentation of the querns, classified after Curwen, is good as far as it goes, but is spoilt by the lack of a site-key to the page of drawings (p. 156) and the imprecision of the map (opp. p. 158); moreover, while the book ends well and thoughtfully on the probability of unbroken persistence of ancient populations in all this region, it has other imperfections, of which readers must be warned.

The firmness and clearness of the record are not only blurred in the matter of the enclosures just referred to. They are confused by numerous mis-spellings of names, both of places and

of authorities quoted and even of the author's own friends, wrong references to illustrations (the North Deighton pottery is plate XV, not XIV as the text says, although the caption calls it Kirk Deighton and not North Deighton: such things are only negligence), and sheer slips like 'B.C.' for 'A.D.' (twice: pp. 154, 158). The attempts at alinement with the wider prehistoric story are likewise marred, not only by uneven acquaintance with that story, but by mistakes in geography which five minutes with a school atlas would have put right. Everyone must respect and welcome the enthusiastic diligence which has gone to the making of this book. That it should have been allowed to flag somewhat in the text-revision and proof-correcting stages is none the less a pity.

C. F. C. HAWKES.

FINDS OF GREEK COINS IN THE BRITISH ISLES. By J. G. MILNE, M.A., D.Litt.
Pp. 48, with two maps. Oxford: The Ashmolean Museum, published on behalf of the Visitors, 1948. Price 5s.

Dr. Milne's paper is not only important for its complete list of Greek coins found in Britain, but for his attractive interpretation of these hitherto seldom-studied finds. The greater number of the coins of autonomous cities are bronze, and most of these come from Syracuse and from Carthage; they belong to the third and second centuries B.C., and Dr. Milne thinks that they are authentic contemporary imports, which were brought to be bartered for their weight of metal in exchange for tin, lead, and skins—British exports mentioned in Augustus' time by Strabo, but all no doubt traded earlier also. Poole Harbour and the Exe were probably the main ports for this early trade with the Mediterranean. The silver coins are fewer, but are widely scattered: Dr. Milne regards them as accidental. Lastly, Greek Imperial bronze coins reached this country after the Roman conquest as currency of the Empire. They show that trade with the eastern Mediterranean was still important in the early centuries A.D.

CLARE I. FELL.

TOPOGRAPHY OF ROMAN SCOTLAND, NORTH OF THE ANTONINE WALL. By
O. G. S. CRAWFORD. Pp. 162; many figs., 21 plates. Cambridge University Press,
1949. Price 25s.

The material for this book formed the subject of the Rhind Lectures in Edinburgh for 1943, and its publication has been eagerly awaited by all students of Roman Scotland. They will not be disappointed.

After an admirable introductory chapter on the nature of Roman remains, and the methods by which they may be identified, the author leads us step by step in the track of the Roman army from the Forth to the Moray Firth, with such obvious and infectious enjoyment, that mile after mile of minute, and necessary, topographical description slips gently past, sped by witty but wise talk. Mr. Crawford has the gift of sharing with us the thrill of making a new discovery, and the triumph of disposing of a false claimant, or 'joker'. This he does by placing in our own hands all the available evidence, derived either from earlier writers (whom he treats with courteous firmness), from his own patient, persistent, field work, from excavation, or from air-photography, and illustrated by excellent maps, plans and photographs. It is just because we have been presented so fairly with the evidence that we may from time to time find ourselves not in complete agreement with Mr. Crawford's conclusions. For instance, there may be some who feel that, no matter how persuasive are Mr. Crawford's arguments for placing Mons Graupius at Raedykes, near Stonehaven, the last word has not been said about the position of that elusive hill.

It is the inevitable fate of any writer on Roman Scotland at the present time to find that his work is out of date almost as soon as it is published. Discoveries of new Roman sites in Scotland follow one another so thick and fast. Mr. Crawford has not escaped this fate, and he deserves our special sympathy in that his work has been thrown a little out of date by the use of an archaeological tool which he himself forged—air photography—and which has now turned in his hand to reveal new Roman sites not included in his list, and sometimes a little upsetting to his historical conclusions. Still, Mr. Crawford would be the last man to wish it otherwise.

The format of this *Topography of Roman Scotland* is first-class, and there are few, if any, printers' errors. Some place-names, however—'Castle Carey', 'Balfrons' and the 'Abbey Crag'—have an unfamiliar and slightly raffish look to eyes accustomed to Castlecary, Balfron and the Abbey Craig; while Inchtuthil, always a spelling problem, fluctuates between Inchtuthil in the text, and 'Inchtuthill' in the Index Maps.

ANNE S. ROBERTSON.

- ROMAN LONDON, A.D. 43-457. By GORDON HOME, F.S.A. Scot. Pp. 302; 31 plates, 69 figures. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1948. Price 18s.
- THE COMMANDANT'S HOUSE AT MARGIDUNUM. By FELIX OSWALD, D.Sc., F.S.A., F.G.S. Pp. 41; 20 plates. Nottingham: University College, 1948. Price 7s. 6d.
- THE TERRA SIGILLATA (SAMIAN WARE) OF MARGIDUNUM. By FELIX OSWALD, D.Sc., F.S.A., F.G.S. Pp. 123; 56 figures. Nottingham: University College. Price not stated.

Major Gordon Home has practically re-written his *Roman London* and offers it as a stimulus to the excavation of bombed sites. It is a compendium of much information, and will prove a valuable adjunct to the monumental work of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, especially as he has added a list of finds between 1928 and 1938. The work is attractively produced and copiously illustrated, in part by the author's own drawings; he writes in a clear and easy style, and is careful to distinguish between his facts and his speculations. Every page is written with loving care, though not, perhaps, with the surest touch of scholarship. Major Home arranges his material in seven chronological chapters, with five on other aspects of his vast subject. Unfortunately, as with so many Romano-British towns, there are too many gaps in the evidence to make a satisfactorily connected story, and this reviewer wonders whether at the present stage of evidence it would not have been better to compress the chronological and extend the other chapters. Here we raise the whole question of works intended to be read or used by the lay public; sometimes a grim gazetteer seems the only appropriate form. Half a dozen scholars in the very front rank can make the fragments they are working on stimulating and meaningful to anybody; but it is the result of a rare combination of wide knowledge with other gifts, which brings us to the sad reflection that only our most learned and original scholars must write our *œuvres de vulgarisation*.

The two pamphlets by Dr. Oswald, a veteran whom it is almost impertinent to review, are, on the other hand, concerned only with special aspects of a single fort, and are essentially works of reference. Nottingham University is to be congratulated on the low price and high standard of these productions; type, paper, format are all good, and we are especially glad to see the plates taking their proper place—they are half, or nearly half of the critical apparatus. The value of the assemblage of Terra Sigillata from his own site by this author has only to be stated to be realized. Dr. Oswald recovered the plan of Commandant's House, with evidence of two dated periods of construction, although it had been ruthlessly rased when Margidunum was dismantled under Hadrian. A welcome page of comparative plans is included, which stresses the essentially utilitarian nature of these houses, and, as Dr. Oswald notes, their affiliations with contemporary domestic architecture.

All three volumes should find a place in every Romano-British library.

MARY CHITTY.

- CAMULODUNUM: FIRST REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT COLCHESTER, 1930-1939. By C. F. C. HAWKES and M. R. HULL. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, XIV; Oxford, 1947. Pp. 362, 112 plates and 66 text-figures.

Let it be said at the very outset that this is an epoch-making report. It combines all the best of the two methods which have hitherto characterized the reports of the Research Committee, namely the meticulous attention to archaeological detail of a Bushe-Fox report, and the polished finish of a Wheeler survey. And yet it is only one report of a series, of which the authors express the hope that they will be able to produce a second instalment at some future date, not merely to deal with such sites and material from the pre-war excavations as the present volume has not covered, but also to record some further work which they look forward to doing in the Colchester area in due course. The reviewer, therefore, is left in some doubt as to the fairest way of discussing what is only an instalment of an unfinished project.

First, some points of general interest. Mr. Bushe-Fox's early reports were issued year by year, each dealing with the results of a single season's work; but nowadays the annual reports on Roman Britain in the *Journal of Roman Studies* make piecemeal publication unnecessary, and provided that the ultimate publication is of the high standard here attained, it will always be worth waiting for. Yet it may perhaps be doubted whether it might not have been better to publish some of the Colchester results sooner, in separate reports: for life is short, and at the present rate of progress there is a serious risk that the authors will not be able to complete the story themselves; and other authors may well find it impossible to maintain the standard which Professor Hawkes and Mr. Hull have set. It is to be hoped, for example, that Mr. Hull's definitive publication of the samian manufactory, briefly noticed in the *Illustrated London News*, *J.R.S.* and *Germania* a dozen years ago, will not have to wait another dozen

years while the second report in the present series is in gestation. Meanwhile, a special note of thanks is due to Mr. D. B. Harden for the chapter on glass (pp. 287-307), a contribution of quite exceptional value, which will perhaps receive somewhat less attention than it deserves, just because it is tucked away in a massive volume by other writers: no student of the subject can afford to neglect this admirable survey, which covers a far wider field than the Colchester material alone. Other contributors include Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland on the Roman coins (pp. 142-160), and Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson and Miss Dorothea M. A. Bate on the mammalian and bird remains respectively, while the important survey of figured samian is based on the meticulous study by the late T. Davies Pryce (whose detailed MS. notes are preserved, it is good to learn, in the Colchester and Essex Museum).

The excavations here recorded were those on the Sheepen site. The preface records the names of a dozen writers who have had a hand in the production of the report, and very many more who took part in the digging; the cost of the work is nowhere mentioned, but acknowledgements are made to an impressive list of bodies for grants, and 'the whole balance of the very considerable moneys required for the work was subscribed by the general public'. It was a large-scale excavation, prolonged over many seasons, carried out at great expense on scientific and patient lines; it is fortunate that the report on the excavation is worthy of its subject. Colchester may now take its place alongside Haltern and Hofheim as a key-site for the interpretation of first-century history and archaeology: and Loeschcke and Ritterling will recognize Hawkes and Hull as their peers.

To the general reader the introductory section (pp. 1-56) alone is likely to appeal; it deserves to be printed separately, for wider issue than it can obtain in the present context. It surveys much of the history and the civilization of south-east Britain, and not merely the evidence for Camulodunum alone: no brief notice can do full justice to the generous measure here offered. Let it suffice to say that it combines readability with a stimulatingly high standard of scholarship. Its footnotes are many and useful (though *Annals*, xii, 31, 1-2, is in itself insufficient justification for the statement that Ostorius first put in hand the frontier-line of the Fosse Way—here a reference to R. G. Collingwood's paper in *J.R.S.* is plainly required, though his conclusions deserve critical reconsideration—on p. 7, footnote 8); one of them, p. 8, makes a convincing case for the title *Victricensis* (applied to Camulodunum on an inscription from Nomentum, ILS 2740) representing the post-Boudiccan new foundation.

The body of the report describes the excavations (pp. 57-128) and the finds (pp. 129-362). Here is material enough to keep many specialists busy for a very long time before the interest and the value of the book can be adequately appraised; it will be fairest, perhaps, to make the attempt thirty years from now, in the light of the influence which *Colchester I* will undoubtedly have had on the work of British and Continental archaeologists. But it may be noted that the authors have been able to make a solid and substantial contribution to the statistical assessment of pottery evidence, and in particular that of samian ware (thanks to the generous assistance of Davies Pryce), and it may be doubted if the Macdonald assault of 1935 could have been mounted at all, if the Colchester evidence had then been available. The dating-value of samian ware is not a subject that can be treated in the course of a brief review, but attention may be drawn to the basic importance of pp. 174-180 for that subject; there is only one caution to add: Davies Pryce's typological study and the analysis of stratification have produced evidence for a substantial margin of survival, of pre-Claudian pieces into the Claudian period, and so on—but it must be borne in mind that typological study, if it is to be of real value, must be constantly reviewed: the Colchester stratification may well require some of the datings put forward by Pryce to be revised, and the proportion of true survivals (whether rubbish-survivals or use-survivals, to use two convenient terms here employed) may well have been substantially less than is suggested in the present report.

The study of the coarse pottery compels respect. To produce a workmanlike survey of the significant pieces in a mass weighing upwards of forty tons, calls for exceptional patience and judgement, not to speak of energy and persistence in drawing. Mr. Hull's experience and skill have enabled him to do full justice to the material; and what a wealth of types, many of them securely dated to relatively short periods of use, the pottery specialist has laid before him here! One or two points may be noted. The early wall-sided mortarium, form 191, at last appears in substantial numbers on a British site (Haltern 59, Hofheim 79 and characteristic on other Claudian sites, e.g. Aislingen); many of the rim-sections of mortararia in fig. 53 (p. 255), however, could be paralleled from second century deposits, and it is as well that the shortcomings of a purely typological study of mortarium rim-sections, without reference to fabric and (where they occur) potters' stamps, should be realized; incidentally, it seems that the pre-Flavian deposits here considered did not contain a single example of a potter's stamp on a mortarium. The study of amphorae perhaps suffers from being too purely typological;

differences in shape were in some cases strictly functional (e.g. a container for dates would need a wider mouth than one for wine), and in other cases they are to be explained by differences in contents (cf. the shapes of bottle favoured by producers of hock or of burgundy). One drawback is the selective numbering of the types; it is stated (p. 202) that 'it has been convenient to leave certain gaps which can accommodate later additions'—yet it would only render confusion worse confounded if *Colchester II* were to attempt to make use of numbers here omitted; for one thing, there has been no apparent method in the omission of numbers, and there are some types not shown in the plates at all, for which it is necessary to hunt through the text-figures. Furthermore, the arrangement of type-drawings on the plates is something less than satisfactory; it should not have been beyond the authors' capacity to arrange them in as near numerical order as has been done, for example, in the case of the drawings of brooches (plates 89-98).

Yet it would not do to end on a note of criticism. This is by far the most important report yet issued in the Research Committee's series; we echo the thanks which the authors accord to all who have helped to bring the project to fruition, but it would be wrong to offer anything less than the highest praise and thanks to the authors themselves. They have set us all a new standard of publication.

ERIC BIRLEY.

FOUNDATIONS IN THE DUST. By SETON LLOYD. 8vo. Pp. xii, 237; 6 plates. Oxford University Press, 1947. Price 15s.

Mr. Seton Lloyd, who was until recently Technical Adviser to the Iraq Department of Antiquities, has paid a fitting tribute to his predecessors in the field of Mesopotamian archaeology. He has written a very readable account of the story of nineteenth-century exploration, with two final chapters tracing the evolution of archaeological research since 1900. Naturally the names of Rawlinson and Layard are most prominent; but Mr. Lloyd has given due recognition to many others. Of these perhaps the most notable is Claudius Rich, who was the first to be seriously interested in Assyriology. There has been a tendency of late to regard all these early explorers as mere looters in a general scramble for antiquities. Mr. Lloyd rightly maintains that their contribution to archaeology was considerable, as they awakened an interest in the public and inspired scholars to further research. The book is attractively illustrated with line drawings by Ulrica Lloyd.

ANN L. SHOWERS.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM AT THEBES. By H. E. WINLOCK. Pp. xvi, 174; many figs., 48 plates. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1947 (published 1948). Price \$5.00.

The size and number of the monuments of the New Kingdom at Thebes have always tended to obscure the importance of those of the earlier periods, and it is therefore good to have in the present volume a concise account of the Theban monuments of Dynasties X-XI and XIII-XVII. Mr. Winlock's researches, in the Egyptian Middle Kingdom and the periods immediately preceding and following it, have been proceeding intermittently for more than forty years, and this volume is largely a resume of his numerous papers in learned periodicals.

Mr. Winlock has drawn attention (pp. 7 and 105-6) to a remarkable tendency for royal tombs of the same Dynasty to succeed one another from north to south (more precisely from north-east to south-west). This is so in the Dynasty IV cemetery at Giza where the pyramids of Kheops, Khephren, and Mycerinus are arranged in that order; it is true as a tendency also at the Dynasty V cemetery at Abu Sir; but the most noteworthy ordering of royal tombs in chronological sequence from north-east to south-west occurs among the Dynasty XI tombs of the Intefs and Mentuhoteps, and the tombs of Dynasties XVI and XVII, all near the entrance to the Valley of the Kings. As these tombs tend to face east, it is a question whether the custom was due to the desire of each king to be buried on his father's right hand side.

Although the Dynasty XI Intefs and Neb-hepet-re Mentuhotep were nominally kings of Upper and Lower Egypt, the two kingdoms were not effectively reunited until about 2052 B.C., when Neb-hepet-re Mentuhotep became king of all Egypt in fact, after his capture of Heracleopolis. On pp. 29 and 151 Mr. Winlock gives reasons for his views that the battle may have been won with the loss of only 60 soldiers on Mentuhotep's side, and that the population of the whole of Egypt at that time may not have exceeded a million. This subject was worked out more fully in Mr. Winlock's *The Slain Soldiers of Neb-hepet-re Mentuhotep* (1945).

The author's account of the fine pyramid-temple of Neb-hepet-re Mentuhotep at Deir el Bahri is followed by a description of the work done by his successor, Se-ankh-ka-re Mentuhotep,

towards laying the foundations of a similar pyramid-temple in the long valley south of Deir el Bahri, a work which was cut short by his death. The discovery of the site of this monument was one of the most dramatic events of Mr. Winlock's career (pp. v and 51-53.)

Much space is given (pp. 104-149) to a consideration of the small mud-brick pyramids of the kings of Dynasties XVI and XVII, most of which were the subject of the celebrated Dynasty XX investigation into the tomb-robberies.

The book concludes with a chapter on the contributions of the Hyksos to ancient Egyptian civilization. Mr. Winlock considers that these included not only the horse and chariot, improved fighting weapons, and improved processes of metallurgy, but also the introduction of several musical instruments, and possibly also the irrigation mechanism known as the *shaduf* (pp. 164-5), although there is no direct evidence of it before the New Kingdom.

Misprints are apparently few, but pp. 13-29 (odd-numbered) are headed 'The Rulers of All Egypt in the Eleventh Dynasty' instead of 'The Rulers of Upper Egypt in the Eleventh Dynasty'. In such a valuable book one rather wishes that the Index of Egyptian Personal Names had been accompanied by an Index of Egyptian Place Names and also by a Subject Index. The illustrations, both line and half-tone, are of the highest quality.

L. V. GRINSELL.

NUBIAN TREASURE: An Account of the Discoveries at Ballana and Qustul. By WALTER B. EMERY, M.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. Pp. x, 72; 48 plates, 10 maps and plans. London: Methuen, 1948. Price 30s.

In this short popular version of his *Royal Tombs of Ballana and Qustul* (two vols., Cairo, 1938), the author has led up to his subject by introductory chapters on the effects of the Aswan Dam on archaeology, the land and people of Lower Nubia, and an outline of its history from the earliest times until the sixth century A.D.

The mounds near Ballana and Qustul, about 25 miles north-east of Wady Halfa, had always been considered by the natives to have resulted from the activities of the legendary Goha, who is said to have dumped heaps of grain in the desert, which were turned into sandhills by an evil spirit. It was, therefore, evident to them that there could be no purpose in looking for treasure in any of these hillocks; a circumstance to which is due their preservation from ancient times until 1929 when Mr. Emery and his colleagues realized that they covered tombs.

The tombs proved to range between the third and sixth centuries A.D., and to be the burial places of the chiefs of the people known as the Blemyes. A feature of them was the extent to which the wife or wives, male and female slaves, attendants, and even horses and dogs, were sacrificed at the funerals. Objects buried as offerings were as abundant in the material of the mounds as currants in a cake. Those in Tomb 3 (Qustul), for example, included a leather shield, a large spear, three iron knives (one with an ivory handle), an ivory comb, and a gaming board and leather bag of gaming pieces. In Tomb 80 (Ballana) were found, in addition to iron weapons, iron ingots and tools for making more: a striking parallel to Mr. Emery's later discovery, in the Dyn. I tomb of Hemaka at Saqqara, of flint knives and some flint nodules from which more could be made. Among other objects of interest from these tombs were several jewelled silver crowns probably showing Byzantine influence, and a bronze pedestalled 'Coptic bowl' similar to that from the pagan Saxon barrow at Taplow, Bucks.

As the objects found in these tombs are in the Cairo Museum, and the detailed official report is difficult of access in Britain, Mr. Emery has performed a valuable service in making the fruits of his work available in this shortened and handy form. Perhaps he may one day be induced to write a similar resume of his researches in the Archaic cemetery at Saqqara.

L. V. GRINSELL.

THE HORSE AND LION TAPESTRY AT DUMBARTON OAKS: A STUDY IN COPTIC AND SASSANIAN TEXTILE DESIGN. By ERNST KITZINGER. Pp. 72; 123 illustrations. Harvard University Press, 1946: offprinted from *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, no. 3.

A modest title masks an interesting contribution to the study of Late Antique iconography. The core of the discussion is a textile in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection woven in wool in the usual tapestry technique: a large fragment of a great carpet-like composition with a powdering of motives of addossed half-length animals set within a border of medallions of horsemen.

This tapestry, of a kind much better represented in American than in English collections, serves the author as starting-point for a discussion of the origin and iconography of the Persian or Sassanian silks from Antinoe and for the Coptic tapestries with similar motives. He brings the whole subject into relation with a larger field by comparing the addossed animals of the

tapestries with the Byzantine capitals with a like composition, of which he gives a detailed list and many illustrations. His conclusion is that the Dumbarton Oaks tapestry is a Coptic imitation of a silk woven in the Sassanian Empire, with a more local style evident in the border. He considers that it dates from the sixth century. His illustrations make us realize how deep are the roots of the medieval decorative arts of the Near and Middle East; those close-set diapers, those medallions, those compositions that seem based on living forms though their expression has become geometric, are no new invention but the descendants of the complex patterns of Late Classical antiquity.

JOAN EVANS.

STAINED GLASS IN SOMERSET, 1250-1830. By CHRISTOPHER WOODFORDE, M.A., F.S.A.
Pp. 314; 7 text figures, 52 plates (12 coloured). Oxford University Press, 1946.
Price £2 2s.

This is a book written by an enthusiast for his fellow enthusiasts. They will fall upon it with avidity; and it may be recommended to all who already have some knowledge of this history of glass-painting and especially to those who have the opportunity of travelling in Somerset. For them, indeed, its highly topographical arrangement is obviously intended.

Wells Cathedral provides the only important *ensemble* of fourteenth century glass in the county, but it is a very rich one. Dr. Woodforde points out how self-contained the atelier that produced it was; no other cathedral or great church seems to contain any of its work, and except for two problematical windows in York no glass can be related with it outside the county.

Somerset, however, is particularly rich in fifteenth-century glass; examples of especial beauty are to be found at East Brent, Orchardleigh and Winscombe. Dr. Woodforde finds at least ten local styles represented in it, and gives a detailed description of all that is to be found. He includes a valuable chapter on heraldic glass and a detailed study of the arms, badges and motto of John Gunthorpe, Dean of Wells from 1472 to 1498: a humanist whose tastes are in no wise reflected in his tomb. The book ends with a study of Somerset glass from 1545 to 1830, with some fine examples such as the east window at Low Ham of about 1690, and with a chapter on the foreign glass, mostly Flemish, which reached the county from the Continent early in the nineteenth century.

JOAN EVANS.