

## REVIEWS

THE PREHISTORY OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY. By V. GORDON CHILDE. London, Penguin Books, 1958. Pp. 185. Price 3s. 6d.

This, the last of Gordon Childe's books, appeared several months after he met his death in tragic circumstances in his native Australia in 1957. Appropriately, it is concerned with the subject which may be claimed above all to have occupied most of his working life: the development of European civilization in prehistoric times, but a development which, for Childe at least, took on a new meaning. It was typical of Childe's ever-receptive mind that, inspired by a colleague's assessment of the essentially individual development of the European Bronze Age (which in his preface he acknowledges to Professor Hawkes), he should reassemble his material to demonstrate just how this development took place. The preface in question is another small-scale example of Childe's readiness to submit his archaeological ideas to searching re-examination—a practice which received its most vivid expression in his last public lectures at the Institute of Archaeology when he treated his audience to a most objective study of past errors in *Dawn*, then about to appear in its sixth edition. Indeed, when on two occasions (pp. 8 and 175) he refers to evidence which is 'supposed to justify' (my italics) statements, one may wonder whether scepticism is not being carried too far.

But this was not really the case. Childe's was not a mind so open that it would never be made up. He was never afraid to evaluate the existing evidence and to build his ideas upon it. But he always recognized the limitations of archaeological evidence; and the 'supposed's' are his way of warning us—and how necessary the warning sometimes is—that archaeology is by no means always the 'easy' subject that it can be made out to be. In a discipline that is still young, still unevenly developed, it is well to be reminded by both example and precept that the certainties of today may melt into the mists of tomorrow. For our knowledge continues to grow rapidly; and our understanding must always be incomplete because the nature of archaeological evidence imposes very real limitations on the uses to which it may legitimately be put.

Though some of Childe's writings on the factual side of archaeology must become out of date because of the inevitable growth of knowledge, this and future generations will remain indebted to him for the inspirations to new thinking that books like *The Prehistory of European Society* provide. And let it not be lost sight of that his own archaeological life followed a pattern that was closely interlocked with his own philosophy. The last sentences of this book deserve to be quoted:

'The national states that eventually emerged [in post-Bronze Age Europe] were indeed enormously larger than our Bronze Age tribes and fewer in number. But they have all shown themselves just as mutually jealous in policy and as competitive economically. . . . While peasantries have often been reduced to serfdom . . . craftsmen, the exponents of applied science, have preserved their traditional freedom of movement within a supra-national economy. The metics of Athens, the wayfaring journeymen of the Middle Ages, and the migrant craft unionist of the 19th century are the lineal descendants of the itinerant just described. But so were the Natural Philosophers and Sophists in Classical Greece, the travelling scholars of medieval Europe, and the natural scientists who from the days of Galileo and Newton to 1945 freely exchanged information and ideas by publication, correspondence, and visits regardless of political frontiers.'

Gordon Childe, the internationally-known scholar with a knowledge of his subject on a front of unparalleled breadth, was not merely not a traveller for travelling's sake, nor even a traveller in pursuit of a narrow specialist objective. He followed the international tradition of scholarship in which he believed. There are abundant examples at the present time of international co-operation in science and the arts and in the world of learning generally to show that in the cultural sphere we have one means of doing

something to counter the political mistrusts and economic rivalries which continue to threaten the peace of the world. It is important that we should remember the contribution that Childe made to this co-operation, and that we should seek to maintain and extend it in archaeological studies, though it may be given to few of us to move about the world as he was able to.

W. F. GRIMES

PREHISTORIC RELIGION. By E. O. JAMES. Pp. 300, Pls. 15. Thames and Hudson. Price 30s.

Although Stukeley's studies of our Celtic ancestors and their religion led him to discover 'some notions about the Doctrine of the Trinity which . . . are not common' and although he and his antiquarian predecessors and successors speculated freely about the religious life of prehistoric man, since the era of scientific archaeology the subject has had much less than its fair share of attention. This is understandable, because the evidence is elusive and its study peculiarly likely to lead to crankiness; but it is also wrong, because, unquestionably, religious and magical activities absorbed much of prehistoric man's time and energy, while religious ideas and associations coloured all his thought. Perhaps, indeed, this evident truth is usually pushed firmly to the back of our minds to allow us to concentrate on economics, technology and other subjects more readily amenable to archaeological discipline. The reviewer will never forget the occasion, now at least a decade ago, when Grahame Clark stood up in the Society of Antiquaries and testified that he had recently come to the conclusion that life in our unrecorded past had not been altogether rational.

We should, therefore, be particularly grateful to Professor E. O. James for devoting much hard work to compiling the present volume. His position as a cleric and a lifelong student of comparative religions gives him exceptional qualifications to link prehistoric forms with the historic pantheons, rituals and theologies emerging from them. The purely archaeological material contains a few errors and here and there some signs of being out of date, but, apart from his ignorance of the extensive practice of cremation among the 'secondary neolithic' peoples of Britain, these defects are slight enough not to effect the general arguments.

The arrangement is a sound one. Professor James makes the great emotional experiences and mysteries of death and of birth the centre of his first two main sections: the cult of the dead and the cults of the Mother Goddess and fertility. His third section is then devoted to the sky gods which tended to emerge rather later and to anticipate the supreme deities of advanced polytheisms and monotheisms. These basic divisions are probably the best that could be made, and the treatment of the Mother Goddess theme is particularly full and interesting. Without going to the lengths of Schmidt, he is perhaps a little prejudiced in his claim for the prevalence of High Gods among primitive people, while, on the other hand, he entirely ignores votive practices and other evidence for all the host of local nature deities that must in fact have attracted so large a part of the religious emotion of early societies.

If the theoretical arrangement is excellent, the allocation of space is less so. A great many words are spent on general archaeological summaries of cultures or sites, while some of their purely religious implications are summarily treated. For instance, it would have been immensely valuable to have a full discussion of recurrent symbols such as the axe and double axe, the dove, sacred tree, knot and spiral. Again, although the relation between prehistoric and historic deities and rituals is well covered for the Mediterranean and fairly well for Egypt, south-west Asia and India, it is almost entirely neglected for Western Europe and the Celtic peoples.

The author might justify this omission by his declared intention of concentrating on the Palaeolithic and Neolithic phases. Yet Bronze and Iron Age western Europe is as 'prehistoric' as, say, the Royal Tombs of Ur, and the absence of such significant treasures as the Trundholm sun chariot and the Gundestrup cauldron seems to make an ugly gap in a book with this title. It is made more inconsistent by the fact that the section devoted to the cult of the dead is brought down to Hallstatt times.

Inevitably one has grumbles of this kind against a book of moderate size and vast scope. On balance, although it is a little disappointing that Professor James has not had any new ideas on the subject or fresh ways of illuminating old ones, we can be thankful to have all this material brought together and intelligently discussed. *Prehistoric Religion* should certainly be made available to students, and it could be widely enjoyed by the large public interested in the early manifestations of man's religious impulse.

JACQUETTA HAWKES

EXCAVATIONS AT JARLSHOF, SHETLAND. By J. R. C. HAMILTON. Ministry of Works, Archaeological Reports No. 1. Pp. 228, figs. 92, Pls. 40. H.M.S.O.: Edinburgh, 1956. Price £3 3s.

The settlement history of Jarlshof, the southernmost point of the Shetlands, is summarized on the jacket of this impressive volume. Over a span of nearly three thousand years since the end of the Stone Age, one set of houses has replaced another, each to be covered by windblown sand which has kept the various periods in an astonishingly good state of preservation. The excavations of more than half a century, in the present day directed by specialists such as A. O. Curle, V. G. Childe, J. S. Richardson and, lastly, J. R. C. Hamilton—all names held in the highest esteem in archaeological research—have revealed a Stone Age settlement, Bronze Age houses, Iron Age structures of five successive periods starting with important remains of a broch, five centuries of Viking habitation, medieval houses, and at the end Sir Walter Scott's 'Jarlshof', dating from about 1600. The restrained words of the summary quiver with excitement at the thought of the story the book unfolds.

But there the story-telling ends. The book itself is a model of scientific sobriety. Step by step it describes the buildings of the various periods and the objects discovered. The final one is a 19th century fisherman's bothy, 'excavated' in 1941 by a stick of bombs from a German aircraft.

It is a report first and foremost, omitting nothing that will throw light on the finds, but drawing extremely little attention to parallel discoveries. It is in conformity with the spirit of the book that few attempts are made at reconstruction; one of the exceptions is the series of highly instructive sketches of the Viking settlement periods, and another is the interesting discussion, in an appendix, of the roofs and upper terminations of the post-broch constructions. It is left to the reader and to future research to amplify the almost casual identifications of the buildings of the Viking Age farm, one of which is described as a bathroom or temple—two functions which surely are rather far apart.

To a Scandinavian reader the buildings of two eras are of outstanding interest; the Bronze Age complex, and the Viking Age houses. In the Scandinavian culture-groups Bronze Age dwellings are practically unknown, a remarkable fact having regard to the rich culture which has set its impress upon the many finds from that period. In Scandinavia the explanation—one that is scarcely adequate—is that in the mild climate of those days there were no permanent houses to leave distinct traces, and perhaps hardly any permanent settlements. At Jarlshof the Bronze Age houses are permanent enough, substantial stone constructions of round and curved walls with large, semicircular niches in them, a type that was known in the Mediterranean as early as the beginning of the second millennium B.C. It is most interesting to establish the fact that, although a bronze craftsman was evidently employed there, implements of stone were still in use; indeed, they continued far up into the Iron Age culture.

The Viking Age complex consists of numbers of long houses, in the course of centuries built in between and over one another as the very clear master-plan shows. It is the most numerous collection of that epoch's buildings known anywhere, and it was excavated and separated into its various periods with most remarkable care and precision. The settlement at Jarlshof, dating to the early period of Norse colonization in the first half of the 9th century, is described as 'essentially peaceful', only very few weapons having been found in houses and middens. It may be suggested, however, that the chances of finding arms are scarcely likely to be best in and about the houses; in fact, the Norwegian

theory of the peaceful occupation of the Scottish Isles (A. W. Brogger: *Ancient Emigrants*, Oxford, 1929) was at once rejected energetically in local quarters—'In each grave of these peaceful Vikings was a sword' (J. Storer Clouston and H. Marwick in *Proc. Ork. Ant. Soc.*, 1931). At Jarlshof the whereabouts of the first heathen Viking burial place is unknown; it may have occupied an area now washed away by the sea; and it is quite likely that the church which the succeeding generations must have had at this important place stood on the same spot; it seems to have been usual, from what we know of the Norse settlements in Greenland, to have church and cemetery between the landing place on the beach and the houses. The bones of domestic animals in the 'rich' middens, and the layout of the houses, all combine to show that the economy of the inhabitants was based on agriculture and husbandry; but in addition there are remains of ships and bones of large marine mammals, so the probability is that, in keeping with the habits of the Norsemen, their interests were divided between land and sea, with perhaps a little piracy added! And that is the life—with the exception of the last-mentioned pursuit—lived by the Shetland crofter from Viking times up to our day, as is demonstrated by the authors' etymological study.

The illustrations are in two sections. At the back of the book are 41 photographic plates, the majority from the excavation area. One admires the fine and well-preserved masonry, and also the beautiful manner in which the ruins have been conserved with coverings of turf. One aerial view presents the entire site, completely excavated and trimmed, and forming a splendid demonstration of settlement history. Some of the plates are of the finds and demonstrate very convincingly the advantages and drawbacks of photographic reproductions of pottery and artifacts of iron and bone. The author has also interspersed the text with a very large number of drawings of the objects, executed with admirable pains, and one is led to agree with him that this 'old-fashioned' form of reproduction is still unsurpassed. The many large-scale plans and sections of the ruins, too, are scientific work of high quality. Unfortunately, both clarity and beauty are marred by the symbols employed for the various periods, the all-black and a very broad zebra striping being very trying. It is time that archaeologists followed the example of chemists and others and agreed upon internationally accepted symbols for materials and periods so that the meaning may be directly obvious to all. Would it not be an idea to hold a small and brief international convention of the profession to study the subject?

AAGE ROUSSELL, *Copenhagen*

THE BRONZE AGE CULTURES OF FRANCE, THE LATER PHASES FROM THE THIRTEENTH TO THE SEVENTH CENTURY B.C. By N. K. SANDARS. Pp. xvii + 412; Pls. 12, figs. 97. Cambridge University Press, 1957. Price 110s.

In defining the field to be covered by her book, Miss Sandars quite rightly observes that the time has not yet come for a general prehistory of France, and she very modestly describes her own work as 'the study of a particular aspect of the French Bronze Age, and of certain cultures . . . more than others'. Though this is strictly true, and though she does not, as she herself says, attempt to treat all the cultures she mentions in equal detail, such a description cannot give any adequate idea of the scale and scope of the work which she has produced, or of the wealth of scholarship which has gone into it. For this is unquestionably the most important study of the Bronze Age in France since the second volume of Dechelette's 'Manuel' appeared, and it is likely to be for many years an invaluable textbook, since it draws together the results of a large number of scattered studies made since his time, and interprets them in the light of the current picture of the Bronze Age in neighbouring countries, particularly Germany, Switzerland and north Italy.

The groups on whom interest is concentrated are those whose culture is derived from the Tumulus and Urnfield centres of Central Europe. This involves dealing chiefly with eastern and north-eastern France, although other areas are not neglected, the Urnfield cultures of southern France being particularly important for their rôle in diffusing Mediterranean influences in the Late Bronze Age. The main part of the study is, however, preceded by an introductory chapter on the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, which is

itself a survey of great value and importance, synthesising much scattered material. Miss Sandars divides this earlier part of the Bronze Age into five distinct periods, and France into five regions, and shows how different things were going on in each of these during each separate period. The Late Bronze Age is divided into three periods, with reference to the Urnfield material, beginning about 1100 B.C., and is analysed in great detail.

The study of the French Bronze Age is immensely complex, by reason not only of its strong regionalism, but also because of the exposure of the country to foreign influence from all sides, and Miss Sandars is to be congratulated on the expertness with which she threads its mazes. Her method of picking on certain important cultural movements to act as the main themes of her study has much to commend it, and it has certainly helped to give her work unity and clarity of purpose amid all its detail.

In her Epilogue, the author apologises for having given more space to problems of chronology than to the reconstruction of the life of the communities whose remains she has been dealing with. The specialist archaeologist and the enlightened amateur will, however, require none. No reliable 'reconstruction of life' can be done before a sound chronological framework is available; the skeleton must be articulated before it can be clothed in a semblance of flesh. It is just this framework which has been conspicuously lacking hitherto for France, and we are all much indebted to Miss Sandars for providing it.

The book is excellently produced, but one may perhaps, without any reflection on the value of its contents, repine somewhat at the very high price.

JOHN D. EVANS

HILL-FORTS OF NORTHERN FRANCE. By SIR MORTIMER WHEELER and K. M. RICHARDSON. With an Appendix on *Muri Gallici* by M. AYLWIN COTTON. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, XIX. Pp. xvi + 230, Pls. 49, text-figs. 35. London, 1957. Price 50s.

The survey and excavations here described were carried out by the authors and their assistants in 1938 and 1939. We have already had as *hors d'oeuvre* Sir Mortimer Wheeler's articles in *Antiquity* (1939) and this journal (CVI, Supplement, 1952) and Mrs. Murray Threipland's report (*Arch. Journ.*, C, 1943); now we have the whole banquet, with Mrs. Cotton's study of *muri gallici* as dessert. The work was undertaken to investigate the cultural relationship between the south-west of Britain and the north-west of Gaul between the 3rd century B.C. and the Roman conquest of Britain. One problem in mind was the origin of the multiple earthworks so prominent in Britain. A study was made of earthworks in Brittany, Normandy and eastwards to the department of Aisne. The Iron Age fortifications of the area were found to fall into three categories: (1) major tribal oppida; (2) cliff-castles; (3) Belgic earthworks. Excavation was carried out at five sites.

(1) *Tribal oppida*. The party excavated two examples, the Châtellier at Le Petit Celland near Avranches, and the Camp d'Artus at Huelgoat in the centre of Brittany, by their size and position to be identified with strong probability as tribal oppida respectively of the Venelli and the Osismi. The defences of both proved to be *muri gallici*; their coins and pottery point to occupation for a short period about the middle of the first century B.C.

(2) *Cliff castles*. Some twenty along the southern Breton coast were visited and trial excavations were made at Kercaratdec, Penhars; there are also the three sites investigated by Mrs. Murray Threipland. These promontory forts, which have their counterparts in Cornwall, are clearly the eyries of the maritime tribes, the Veneti and their allies. In them multivallate ramparts were encountered and slingstones found, fitting in nicely with the theory that the former were developed in association with the use of the sling. The ramparts of these stony Breton headlands have not, however, the size and impressiveness of those on the less intractable sites on British downland.

(3) *Belgic earthworks*. The series is headed by the camp at Fécamp (Seine-Inférieure) and is notable for the great size of the ramparts and the wide flat ditches, to which Oldbury in Kent affords a parallel.

The Report contains a gazeteer of ninety hill-forts, and an exhaustive bibliography. To these Mrs. Cotton adds her 66-p. appendix and bibliography on *muri gallici*. In the Gauls there are twenty known examples of the nailed 'Avaricum'-type timber-framework; there are three across the Rhine and one at Burghead, Morayshire. The most arresting conclusion of the main Report is the ascription of the Petit Celland and the Camp d'Artus to the Caesarian wars, with the corollary that the *murus gallicus* was an invention in the art of fortification called forth by those wars. Mrs. Cotton's survey lends support to this view.

The survey, conducted in local museums as well as on hilltops, has produced an important, if tentative, study of the pottery of the region, which shows the expected affinities with Britain and relationships with other parts of Gaul and with the castros of Portugal. On this and many other counts the Report will be a valuable work of reference; it will also be essential reading for students of the Gallic War; it is, furthermore, a plea and an exemplar for further work along similar lines.

OLWEN BROGAN

CENTRAL GAULISH POTTERS. By J. A. STANFIELD and GRACE SIMPSON. University of Durham Publications. Pp. liii, 239. Pls. 170 and 51 text-figures. Oxford University Press, 1958. Price £6 6s.

J. A. Stanfield died in 1945, before he had finished his basic work on the Central Gaulish potters of the 2nd century A.D. That others have laboured to bring this work to completion is as sincere a tribute to a great scholar as any Festschrift could be, as well as a testimony to the importance of his subject. Our knowledge of the archaeology of the western Roman provinces in the first two centuries of our era is founded to a great extent on our appreciation of the chronology of the samian potters, particularly those making decorated vessels in stamped moulds, and the lack of precision that is often felt in later Roman archaeology is due in part to the failure of this industry and the lack of a substitute to which similar universal criteria can be applied.

When Stanfield was making his first studies in samian after the first world war, although without any original intention of publishing a work of this kind, one of the outstanding needs was for an analysis of the work of the makers of figured samian at the Central Gaulish potteries at Lezoux and elsewhere, to follow the work of Knorr and his predecessors on the South Gaulish potters of the 1st century. Oswald and Pryce's general survey of samian, *Terra Sigillata*, appeared in 1920, and subsequent studies both here and abroad, on the foundations laid by Déchelette, have contributed towards the fashioning of what should ultimately be a precision tool for the use of the archaeologist that will have no equal save in coins. A good deal was already known about the Central Gaulish potters, and the reviewer has heard it said that samian was now generally sufficiently understood to obviate the necessity of detailed description and illustration in excavation reports. This book proves the fallacy of this view. Not only does it make clear how much depends upon minor decorative features, other than the figure-types with their convenient Déchelette and Oswald numbers, but the authors, relying on recent recensions of the site evidence from north Britain, have been able to show that the work of the Central Gaulish potters has generally been dated too early or within insufficiently close limits.

Although the implications of the revised dating will be quickly applied to leading sites, it will be up to all students of Roman Britain to consult this book whenever they have to refer to archaeological horizons dated hitherto on the evidence of figured Central Gaulish samian, or whenever they seek to use as criteria objects that have been dated by their occurrence in such horizons.

Apart from the enthusiasm and experience that led him, with Eric Birley's advice and collaboration, to conceive the work, Stanfield's contribution was to apply new methods of analysis which placed greater emphasis on the importance of style and minor decorative details, often more peculiar to the potter than the figure-types, which were more frequently borrowed or copied by others. As a result he was able to identify and complete most

of the 61 plates for the work of the Trajanic potters of Central Gaul, few of whom regularly signed their products, and many of whom are still anonymous, and to prepare many drawings for the remaining 100 or so plates illustrating the work of the Hadrianic and later potters who are nearly all known by name. He also left many drawings of the *ovolos* and small decorative details.

Professor Birley's further contribution was an analysis of the site evidence, although circumstances ruled that this should be done not as co-author but as Miss Simpson's mentor before and during her research assistantship at Durham University. He has contributed a preface and associated himself closely with Miss Simpson's work at every stage.

To Miss Simpson herself has fallen the unusually difficult task of preparing the text, which involved—since he left no formal notes—reconstructing Stanfield's conclusions from his finished plates and collected drawings, besides the completion of the study of the later potters on Stanfield's lines. To this end a further 1,800 or so drawings were made by Mr. Wilfred Dodds to the high standard set by Stanfield himself.

The book is planned in two parts, preceded by an Introduction, Part I dealing with the Trajanic potters, Part II with their successors. In the Introduction, besides explaining the methods of study, Miss Simpson discusses the evidence for the organization of the Central Gaulish potteries, the history of the industry until its collapse probably in the last decade of the 2nd century, its markets, and its outstanding problems. The small scale at which the potters worked, with the exception of the late potter Cinnamus, is contrasted with the larger factory organization of the earlier potters of south Gaul, and accounts for the individuality that has made it possible to distinguish the work of single potters rather than of groups only, even when they borrowed or copied types or were influenced by each other's styles. At the same time it explains why, even where a number of potters may have used the same kilns, it was not thought necessary to sign the wares. But it is not yet clear what the relationships between the potters were, at which centres they worked, and how far they employed independent figure-stamp and mould-makers, or bowl-finishers.

The same general treatment is accorded to potters in Parts I and II. The work of each one is dealt with separately so as to illustrate his influence upon his contemporaries and successors. The characteristics of the potter's work are discussed in eleven sections, beginning with name-stamps or signatures, dealing consecutively with vessel forms and decorative elements, and concluding with general remarks, and site evidence for date. All *ovolos* and small decorative features at present known for each potter are figured in the text at full size, while most but not all of the figure-types certainly attributable appear in the plates, apparently at half the actual size, although this does not seem to be stated anywhere.

It is inevitable that in a work of such complex detail and divided authorship there should be some errors, but they are of a minor character. The authors have obviously cast their nets so widely as to let little escape them, although there are three published examples of form 64 by Libertus which have slipped through—a complete vessel from Cambridge,<sup>1</sup> a piece from Oundle,<sup>2</sup> both apparently lost, and a fragment from Verulam<sup>3</sup> described as Rhenish ware. The last two appear to be examples of the brown and blackish slips sometimes used by this potter.

It is not always clear what constitutes a case of 'association' between one potter and another, justifying inclusion in the list of associated potters at the beginning of each chapter. Thus the anonymous Trajanic potter X-1 is 'associated' with potter X-2 (who may be Billicedo), while X-2 is later stated to be only in 'slight association' with X-1. Again, Ioenalis is not listed as associated with potter X-2, yet they appear to share the services of a common stamp-maker, possibly Ioenalis himself, for their large warriors. Clearly the sharing of figure-types alone is not sufficient, for reasons already apparent, but the criteria should have been explained in the Introduction.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch.*, XIX, 409, Pl. XLII.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Northants.*, I, 219, fig. 35.

<sup>3</sup> *Tr. St. Albans A. & A.S.* (1953), 80, fig. 7, no. 21.

Although there are two handy lists of figure-types with Dechelette and Oswald numbers used by the potters, the authors have not succeeded in overcoming a difficulty in dealing with 'new' figure-types, and there are many. This failure is to some extent inevitable in a basic study of this kind, but there is some inconsistency, at least in Part II, in the listing of these fresh types under each potter. This is regrettable, since they have to be sought amongst the illustrations in the endplates to each part, which are in any case not absolutely exhaustive. Although this volume is large and expensive enough already and is doubtless not the place for a supplement to Oswald's list, the lack of such a list creates a difficulty for the archaeologist who is not also a samian specialist and who has to identify a sherd; nor, when he has found the right potter, will he be able to refer to the figure-type by a convenient number. It is fortunate that the numbered text-figures for each potter provide a relatively easy guide to the important minor decorative elements.

Although there are, then, difficulties for the lay archaeologist in using this book for ready reference, there has been nothing hitherto to show him so clearly how to learn about samian for himself. The problems and the methods are all here stated, and it may be that in the long run some work will be lifted from the shoulders of those very few over-worked experts whose services are at present so vital to the accurate interpretation of excavations on Roman sites in this country.

R. A. H. FARRAR

CITIES IN THE SAND. LEPTIS MAGNA AND SABRATA. By K. D. MATTHEWS and A. W. COOK. Pp. 56, Pls. 97. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1958.

Photographs of the ruined cities of Leptis Magna and Sabrata form the greater part of this book. Three introductory chapters are given to the historical background of Tripolitania from the mid 2nd century B.C. to the end of the 7th century A.D., and to accounts of the growth and decline of the two cities. Taken separately, the two sections are of high quality: the introduction is concise and comprehensive, and the photographs record well the grandeur of these magnificent buildings seen largely in their reconstructed state. Those Romantics who put up a few columns from Leptis by the banks of Virginia Water would have delighted in the picturesque aspect of the ruins, which the camera has cleverly portrayed. However, when taken together the sections are disappointing. For example, of the forty-two photographs of Leptis Magna, about fifteen are of the theatre, yet there are none of the Hunting Baths, the sculptures from the Severan arch, the tholos in the Market, the Harbour, the Circus or the Amphitheatre, all of which are specifically mentioned in the text. Illustrations of Sabrata are similarly inconsistent. The most glaring omission is that no plans of either site are included; had there been some, both the text and photographs would have been more intelligible. The captions to the photographs of sculpture and mosaics are inadequate, especially as the text makes no reference to these subjects. This handsomely produced book will be welcomed by both the student and the prospective, and the nostalgic, traveller; but it is none the less an instance of a lost opportunity owing to lack of co-ordination by its contributors.

S. D. T. SPITTLE

ROMAN ROADS IN BRITAIN. VOLUME II: NORTH OF THE FOSS WAY—BRISTOL CHANNEL. By IVAN D. MARGARY. Pp. 288, Pls. 17, 6 maps (and one coloured folding one), 1 fig. London: Phoenix House, 1957. Price 50s.

This is the second part of Mr. Margary's work, the first volume having been published in 1955 (Reviewed in *Arch. J.*, CXII (1955), p. 138). He has continued to deal with the rest of Britain to the north and west of the Foss Way in the same style as before. At first, the system of numbering seems a little awkward, but once it has been mastered it proves to be extremely useful in finding one's way about the book, and any would-be student should settle down to this initial task. The compilation of this book and its

companion volume has been a formidable undertaking and the author is to be congratulated in bringing together in the two volumes such a comprehensive survey of the Roman roads of Britain in so convenient a form. To ask for yet more may seem uncharitable, but even a superficial study of the evidence raises several important questions which the author does not here attempt to answer. One which seems immediate and pressing is the chronology of this development of road systems. In that part of the Midlands covered by this volume the system must have had a military origin and been later adopted for civilian use. Although this basic idea is recognized in Chapter 6, the more detailed conclusions, such as the significance of the sites of some of the Midland forts, do not emerge in the text. To give an example, the change of direction of Ryknild Street near Selly Oak may be explained by the presence of the Metchley fort.

Local field workers with the benefit of a more intimate knowledge of their own areas will doubtless find points to criticize. Occasionally too much reliance is placed on references based entirely on speculation, such as those on p. 76. But all this should encourage more field work, and if these volumes can be used as a spring-board for action by those who feel the need for corrections and, more important, for additions, its value will have been proved. The stimulus created by the first volume can be measured by the twenty-three pages of Addenda at the end.

The serious lack of precise knowledge of the chronology of the roads system should encourage the excavation of more careful sections through roads, a task well suited to small, local, research groups. For this purpose Chapter 6, which gives some information about the construction of roads and how to trace them, should prove to be most valuable, and if this could be expanded and published as a handbook the author would earn the gratitude of every keen field worker. Milestones receive an all too brief mention, and an appendix devoted to the Antonine Itinerary is marred by the length of the Roman mile being given a higher figure than that usually accepted. There is also the surprising suggestion that there are two places called *Mediolanum* within a short distance of each other, to explain an inconsistency in the text.

There are several small points about which this reviewer feels a little uneasy. On p. 19 there seems to be no evidence of the existence of road 569. On p. 29 the word 'camp' should be replaced by 'fort' in respect of Greensforge. On p. 49, the statement that 'the conquest and control of Wales was based upon the two legionary fortresses at Chester and Caerleon with that at Gloucester just behind' is doubtless a slip of the pen. Surely the conquest of the Highland zone was achieved by Agricola (p. 174), but its occupation not made effective, and one wonders if the road system is as incomplete as would appear (p. 185).

The map at the end is a considerable improvement on that in the first volume. Most of the illustrations are excellent, especially those by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph, but some of the others seem out of focus, and in the reviewer's copy some of the blocks had been spoilt by careless inking. A few misprints were noticed. On p. 22 Mapleton for Napleton—p. 28 Twenlows for Twemlows—p. 75 Great Harwood for Great Hanwood—p. 135 Sowerby Bridglee—Ilky, and Maps 1 and 2 are not consistent with respect to road no. 64.

GRAHAM WEBSTER

#### ROMAN SILCHESTER: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF A ROMANO-BRITISH TOWN.

By GEORGE C. BOON. Pp. 245, 38 figs., Pls. 21. London: Max Parrish, 1957.  
Price 25s.

This admirable book opens with the remark of William Stukeley in 1724 that 'Silchester is a place that a lover of antiquity will visit with great delight'. Thanks to this book the 20th-century antiquary will for the first time add to his delight a knowledge of the history of the town and a vivid picture of the daily life of its people. This is a notable achievement.

The extensive excavations of the Society of Antiquaries from 1890-1909 completely uncovered the plan of the streets and stone buildings of *Calleva* without distinction of period. Such an achievement, unparalleled elsewhere in the Roman Empire, is one of which

British archaeology can be justly proud. But at the time scientific excavation was in its infancy, and of the public buildings and some eighty houses that were exposed not a single one was dated, and almost nothing was learnt of the town's history. The majority of the finds that form the Silchester Collection in the Reading Museum were unrelated to structures, were therefore undated, and, with the exception of the pottery studied by that remarkable pioneer Thomas May, have remained virtually unpublished. Interim reports, with splendid plans, appeared annually in *Archaeologia*, but were never drawn together in a definitive account. Only Haverfield's essay of 1900 in Vol. I of the *V.C.H. Hants.* casts a ray of light in the general darkness. Not until 1938 was the first attempt made to date the defences, and it is fitting that Mrs. M. A. Cotton, who directed that work for the Ministry of Works, should have contributed the Introduction to the present volume. A book on Silchester was then long overdue: it was needed alike by the student as a guide through the maze of the *Archaeologia* reports, and by the non-specialist whose imagination remained unkindled by the empty fields within the circuit of the upstanding walls, or by the uninspiring array of pots and uncatalogued scraps that filled the Reading Museum, until the author came on the scene. He has served both classes of reader well, for his enthusiasm is infectious, his sound scholarship manifest, if unobtrusive, and his story told with insight and imagination.

The early chapter on the Belgic settlement contains a valuable discussion of post-war excavations, which have posed rather than solved the problem of the foundation of the town and its earliest defences, to which former excavations had offered hardly a clue. Here the reader will have some criticism of the inadequacy of the sketch map on p. 53, which is all the visual aid provided for those unfamiliar with the topography. Indeed, the absence of a map of the district and the small scale of the folding plan of the town are serious shortcomings that should be remedied in future editions. The Roman town wall, though in the author's words 'the most prominent relic to be seen at Silchester to-day', receives rather scant attention and is unillustrated by photograph or section, save for a small imaginative reconstruction of the West Gate. The author is at his happiest when dealing with the 'Homes' of the citizens and their material equipment: the discussion of tools and small objects in the Silchester Collection is new and most welcome.

The author has not been uniformly well served by his publishers in the matter of half-tone plates. There seems little excuse in a serious book of this kind for 'bleeding off' good photographs in the manner of a shiny popular magazine. To make up plates of similar objects (as those opposite pp. 96 and 97), some with heavy black backgrounds, some with light, some 'bled off' and some not, produces a most unpleasing effect. Annoyance is needlessly caused by the absence of page references, and the omission of scales is inexcusable. None of these criticisms, however, apply to the excellent and abundant drawings on which the present Director of the Reading Museum is to be warmly congratulated.

The book ends with a drawing of the well-known inscribed tile on which a Callevan tiler had recorded his boredom by the single word 'satis'. The author can be assured that he need not apply this epithet to his own labours, for the book is indispensable to all serious students of Roman Britain, and will be read with ease and pleasure by the many who are curious to know how our Romano-British ancestors lived and worked.

PHILIP CORDER

ROMAN CANTERBURY: THE CITY OF DUROVERNUM. By SHEPPARD FRERE.

Pp. 16, figs. 13. ROMAN CANTERBURY No. 1, 2nd Edition, revised and enlarged. Obtainable from John Boyle, Town Clerk, Canterbury. Price 2s. 6d.

This enlarged edition of Mr. Frere's pamphlet is to be warmly welcomed. It is thirteen years since the excavation of bombed sites in Canterbury was undertaken, with the aid of annual grants from the Ministry of Works, and for more than a decade the author has devoted himself to its direction with a skill and perseverance only equalled by those who have worked in Roman London in similarly trying circumstances. So great is the resulting accumulation of material, however, that some time must elapse before its

definitive publication. In the meantime this lucid and well-illustrated summary of results is both indispensable to the student and a boon to the general reader.

One criticism may be offered. It is notoriously difficult to obtain conclusive evidence for the date of town defences, as the widely varying dates that have been postulated for those of London, Colchester and Verulamium in the last thirty years has shown. It is therefore to be regretted that the author should have committed himself to so categorical a statement about the date of the wall and rampart of Canterbury as, 'Digging has proved . . . that it was not constructed before the years 270-290 A.D.' That a coin of Tetricus and associated 3rd-century pottery were recovered from one section of the bank is true, but is it wise to date the whole circuit of the defences on that evidence alone? If correct, we are faced with the unlikely conclusion that Canterbury remained an open town for nearly a century after other British towns, several of them of much less importance, had been walled in stone. Before passing judgment, however, we must await the full publication of the evidence on this crucial point in the city's history.

Is it too much to hope that the author may find time among his many responsibilities to expand this booklet into a general account of Roman Canterbury to set beside Mr. Boon's volume on Silchester?

PHILIP CORDER

THE EARLY CHARTERS OF ESSEX: THE SAXON PERIOD. Pp. 31. THE EARLY CHARTERS OF ESSEX: THE NORMAN PERIOD. BY CYRIL HART. Pp. 48. Leicester University Press. Department of English Local History, University College, Leicester, 1957. Price 6s. and 8s. 6d., respectively.

To combine the study of medicine and early documents is probably unusual, but Dr. Cyril Hart has certainly produced two excellent handlists on the Saxon and Norman charters relating to Essex. His task has not been an easy one, and the result he has achieved will put scholars, especially those in Essex, in his debt; we are also grateful to the Department of English Local History at University College, Leicester, for including Dr. Hart's lists in its excellent series, and for printing them in a form easy to read and uniform with the list of Devon and Cornwall charters by Mr. H. P. R. Finberg, which is no. 2 in the same series of monographs.

By means of asterisks—a Baedeker system—some attempt has been made to indicate the compiler's personal opinion as to the authenticity of the documents under consideration, and a bibliography and information about repositories affords a useful list of sources for persons who may do similar work for other counties. Dr. Hart has located and commented on no less than 122 Essex 'charters' (using the term in its widest sense as 16 documents are Anglo-Saxon wills), of which seven are dated between 601 and 709, then comes a reference to a lost charter of 823, then 24 between c. 942 and 998, 39 between the latter and the Conquest, 30 for the Conqueror's reign and 21 for that of Rufus. Nearly all these records are known through their preservation among ecclesiastical archives.

An appendix of ten pages gives the text and a translation (with commentary) of five documents, and another of twelve (plus a map) deals with the Essex estates of St. Paul's Cathedral. Two shorter appendices treat of the Essex estates of Christ Church, Canterbury, and of a manor—Deramy's Pete—in the north-east of the county. There is a good index of places, but none of subjects or persons.

The division of the list into two separate monographs is inconvenient and, one would have thought, unnecessary, as the numbers of the documents are continuous and there is only one introduction and index although the pagination of the two sections is distinct. It is interesting to note that Dr. Hart has discovered that some of the documents in his list have not been published and that others are in need of reconsideration. With the growth of attention being given to records of these early periods, we may hope to see further lists of this quality which are invaluable to local historians as well as to a much wider circle of scholars. The opportunity may be taken of referring to Dr. Hart's *Early Charters of Barking Abbey* which he published in 1953.

FRANCIS W. STEER

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE LEAD SCULPTURE: LEAD FONTS OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY. By GEORGE ZARNECKI. Pp. 46, Pls. 81. London: Tiranti. Price 15s.

English medieval lead fonts have long been due for reconsideration and it is rather a pity that Dr. Zarnecki has confined himself to the artistically more attractive ones which show Romanesque ornament. He has done some very useful work in searching out parallels with illuminated manuscripts and seals. He is on less firm ground when he remarks 'lead was only a substitute for other metals, harder but also more difficult to cast. It is probably true that English craftsmen, whilst making lead fonts, were imitating those finer techniques'. Here are three errors. Firstly, lead was an indigeneous metal whilst brass or bronze was not. Next, we have ample documentary evidence that English craftsmen produced elaborate bronze work in Romanesque times. Lastly, the plumbers who made these fonts were not imitating fonts made in more expensive materials; they were pretty clearly re-using the workshop equipment of goldsmiths who had made shrines and retables.

The photographs with which this little book is illustrated are first class.

C. C. OMAN

ARCHITECTURE IN BRITAIN: THE MIDDLE AGES (THE PELICAN HISTORY OF ART). By GEOFFREY WEBB. Pp. xxi + 234, figs. 91, Pls. 192. London: Penguin Books, 1956. Price 52s. 6d.

In his foreword the author of this fine book frankly recognizes the impossibility of dealing adequately with every aspect of English medieval architecture in a single volume; the subject is too big and complex and the different possible approaches to it too numerous. Certain subjects, therefore, had to be omitted from full consideration. The two most notable are: (a) purely military architecture, and (b) that of the parish churches—except for an important chapter on the development of the later medieval hall-plan church.

The book is a history of architectural development in Britain through ten centuries. It is informed by Mr. Webb's wide knowledge of the material, both structural and documentary, and of the parallel architectural activities on the Continent. He has a rare perception of the non-material, imaginative appeal of the great buildings of Britain and his demonstration of their essential Englishness—particularly of the linear quality of English design—is convincing.

Half a century and more has elapsed since the appearance of the great works of Prior and Bond, a period remarkable for a vast amount of research into many aspects of the subject by a number of distinguished and devoted scholars. In making his timely reassessment—for his book is nothing less than this—Mr. Webb has made good and full use of the products of these labours.

In keeping with modern trends in the writing of art histories the treatment adopted is developmental rather than stylistic or typological; the long-established, older-fashioned style periods hardly appear. They were—and still are—useful if not quite scientific, and certainly tended to halt the idea of continuity. This reviewer, however, regrets their passing and also the absence of figures illustrating the development of moulding contours. Such figures would be a useful addition.

An Irish reviewer may be pardoned if he scans references to Irish medieval buildings with a critical eye; some of these call for correction. Among them are the following: the timber floor in St. Kevin's church at Glendalough (p. 12) was *below* the buttress vault as, indeed, fig. 5 shows; the Rahan archway is not so early as the 10th century—late 11th is the earliest acceptable date for it; 'Rosdenn' (p. 12) should read 'Roscrea'. As an example of the regular rows of lancets, close-set—so common in Irish work—one of the perfectly-preserved groups in Cashel cathedral would have been a better choice for illustration than the ruinous windows at Ferns (Pl. 162 b).

The writing is lucid and readable; the exposition of complex problems is remarkably clear and the conclusions convincing. Noteworthy among several illuminating passages

is Chapter VII on the decorative consequences of Westminster Abbey. We have come to expect illustrations of very high quality in the Pelican series; in this volume the numerous plates are excellent.

H. G. LEASK

ENGLISH ART 1216-1307. By PETER BRIEGER. (THE OXFORD HISTORY OF ART, VOL. IV.) Pp. 299, figs. 23, Pls. 96. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1957. Price 50s.

This book begins in a rather disappointing way; the first 75 pages are almost entirely concerned with architecture and it is undoubtedly a very difficult task to have to begin in effect at 1220 and to have to treat of Salisbury, Lincoln, Wells west front, Peterborough west front, and Worcester choir without much opportunity to refer back to Canterbury and the beginnings at Lincoln and Wells. All these, and the beginnings of Gothic in the North, were treated in the general Editor's admired volume on the 12th century. This division must have been nice for the general Editor but is a little hard on Dr. Brieger. It is the old problem of dividing lines and date limits: the Oxford History of Art divides its volumes at the years 871, 1100, 1216 and 1307. It is understandable to divide at 1100 and not 1066, and little damage is done (I hope, for I have done it myself), but to divide the architecture of the second quarter of the 13th century from that of the fifty years that preceded it is much more risky. The great achievement of the early and mid 12th century so much conditioned even the fully developed Gothic of 1220 onwards, that it is setting an almost impossible task to begin such a volume as this without including the linking monuments. To judge from Dr. Brieger's plaintive opening of his fifth chapter, 'As the building style of Salisbury and Lincoln had been preceded by the first Gothic of Canterbury and Wells, so the basic changes in the illustration of books had been made in the bibles and psalters of the late 12th century,' this is not only a matter of architectural history, important as that is in the period under review. Once we get to Westminster Abbey and the middle of the century all goes much better and the author manages the transition to Dr. Evans' treatment of the 14th century very happily.

This latter part of the work is more varied than the first part; the church architecture is more broken up by sections on painting, both book illustration and large scale painting, and by those on sculpture and palaces and castles, and the very good qualities of the book get a chance to show themselves.

There is one other reflection that is perhaps worth making on this contrast between the first third and the two remaining parts of this book; Dr. Brieger says, 'The period immediately following 1215, that of the "episcopal" style, represents the stage of classical perfection in English Gothic art'; perhaps that is the trouble. One is reminded of a character in a book by Somerset Maugham speaking of a supreme work of another 'classical' epoch, Titian's Sacred and Profane Love, 'Beauty is a bit of a bore'. There is nothing in the architecture of the early 13th century in England that has quite the quality—so fatal to the art historian and critic—of the Sacred and Profane Love, that there is nothing ultimately relevant to be said about it; but further than that it is much more interesting for the writer to treat of the more ambiguous moments in art history and perhaps therefore for his readers also. Perhaps also the fault is in our stars and not in ourselves. Dr. Brieger is a man of the 20th century and is more at home in the parts of his book where he is dealing with an art of which he wisely says, 'An intricate and over-complex intellectual play, be it in the configuration of window tracery or the elaborate patterns on the pages of the Arundel Psalter, goes hand in hand with the gorgeous and colourful splendour of chivalrous courtliness. And underneath it all there is an emotional insecurity and anxiety. The heavenly Jerusalem that once seemed so close has become remote'. One might speculate as to what it was in just this moment in the history of art that so appealed to the men of the 1840s and '50's.

GEOFFREY WEBB

MEDIEVAL ENGLAND: AN AERIAL SURVEY. By M. W. BERESFORD and J. K. ST. JOSEPH. Pp. xiv + 274, 111 photographs, 28 maps and plans. Cambridge University Press, 1958. Price 45s.

This book, the second in the series of Cambridge Air Surveys, is really the first to apply air photographs in quantity to the study of medieval history, and as such is welcome and important. The previous volume in the series, *Monastic Sites from the Air*, was hardly more than a pleasant illustration of a subject that can only be studied properly through measured plans; its successor, equally pleasurable, contains the first fruits of aerial research into long-familiar problems hitherto tackled mainly through documents. The sections into which the book is divided deal with the open fields, the growth and recession of settlement, town and village plans, and features of the landscape relating to industry and transportation, while for good measure two problem pictures are thrown in for the reader to solve. A brief history accompanies all the sites illustrated, together with a list of the sources on which it is based, and in some cases an early map is reproduced or redrawn.

Though it has long been apparent that air photographs locate deserted or shrunken villages better than any other means, their application to the siting and planning of villages is new, and to towns is unexpected. Thus the essentially agricultural character of a small medieval town such as St. Ives is well brought out by the affinity of its plan with that of a village like Appleton-le-Moors. With large towns the authors are less successful; a vertical photograph, not very helpful in elucidating the complex development of York, might have been better applied to a rectilinear plan like Chester, which is ill-served by an oblique view. Chester, indeed, is the only obvious case where the authors have failed to outline the topographical problems or to utilize the early map which they reproduce. More might have been made of the development of the gridiron plan by a sequence of photographs showing firstly where it was dictated by the existing gates of Roman fortifications, then used successively in pre-Conquest towns (Cricklade, Bury St. Edmunds) and in the Edwardian bastides; the same criticism applies with less force to other sorts of plan, the one with a triangular market place, for instance. Nor should 'the crowded topography of medieval towns' (p. 156) be over-emphasized. Mr. W. A. Pantin's remarks on the garden-city character of medieval Oxford (*Ant. J.*, XXVII, 121) are relevant to many other places. William Page's convenient summary in Vol. LXIX of *Archaeologia* of his researches for the Victoria County History, entitled 'The Origins and Forms of Hertfordshire Towns and Villages' seems to have been omitted from the list of sources.

The photographs of industrial remains form the briefest and most remarkable feature of an excellent book, enabling the medievalist—for the first time in most cases—to grasp what Northamptonshire stone quarries, Yorkshire iron pits, and Lincolnshire saltings actually looked like. These are only the most striking of many instances where the authors point to the archaeological researches which are beginning to enrich medieval history. Lastly the connoisseurs of academic controversy will enjoy the odd salvo fired in the battle of Beresford v. Kerridge.

J. T. SMITH

ENGLISH CHURCH PLATE, 597-1830. By CHARLES OMAN. Pp. xxx + 326. Pls. frontispiece + 199. Oxford University Press, 1957. Price £6 6s.

We have had long to wait for an authoritative work devoted entirely to English church plate and the need is now met by this splendid book by one who is *facile princeps* in the subject. It is, perhaps, appropriate here to record that the preliminary run for this study, a list of surviving examples of English medieval church plate, now itself rendered obsolete by the new list in the book under review, was published in the *Archaeological Journal* for 1940.

By eminently sensible restrictions in the scope of the survey Mr. Oman has achieved a notable coherence and clarity in his book; by omitting the more miscellaneous liturgical instruments and badges of office so much the more space is available for his discourse, and this is informed by scholarship and a very wide knowledge.

As we would expect, the author's method has a historical warranty: apart from the inclusion of English medieval church plate that has found its way abroad, a subject of much historical interest for the movement occurred before and after the Reformation rather than as a result of the Dissolution, he restricts himself to the old ecclesiastical provinces of Canterbury and York, to gold and silver, to objects of immediate religious use, excluding secular pieces put to such use, and, as the title of the book implies, to plate of English make. He has, too, been admirably served by his publishers: the book is outstanding in design and magnificently illustrated; the price is high, but without generous aid from the Pilgrim Trust it would have been higher.

The treatment of the subject comprises four parts: the Middle Ages, Church Plate and King, Since the Reformation (to 1830), and the Catholic Recusants. For the first three of these parts a miscellany of earlier studies and inventories for some of the dioceses could be put under contribution, though these vary greatly in quality and the lists in cover, since only a third of England has been surveyed. For the Catholic Recusants no such materials existed: here Mr. Oman has had to start from scratch and the fact, for instance, that the plate used in the old manor-house chapels in the Penal period was the property of the owner of the house is indicative of the difficulties inherent in the enquiry.

The Bibliography, in which local inventories are listed topographically, as well as serving its due purpose will, it is to be hoped, also stir the conscience of the archdeacons concerned in Bedfordshire, much of Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, and much of Shropshire, Warwick and Worcestershire. No inventories, or at the most entirely inadequate ones, of the plate in these areas exist. It is a shocking state of affairs. Clerics or laymen have in other areas supplied the need.

The appendices list *inter alia* I Medieval Chalices and patens, seventy-eight and a hundred and forty-one respectively (142 seems to be a misprint), II Edwardian Communion Cups, and IV Anglican 17th-century Gothic Chalices. Incidental interest lies in the fitting survival of chalices of this last category at Staunton Harold and Peterhouse, the former a Gothic revival church of the mid 17th century, the chapel of the latter a remarkable Mannerist composition of Gothic and Classical features. In regard to Peterhouse chapel, the fabric seems to have been completed in a simple utilitarian form under Dr. Matthew Wren and its embellishment under Dr. John Cosin, whose High Church ceremonial was scathingly described by Prynne (*Canterbury's Doom*, 1646). Thus, possibly, the acquisition of the revived Gothic chalice here was due to Cosin rather than to Wren (p. 206): indeed, that would have been entirely in character.

In the context of Mr. Oman's claim for Lancelot Andrewes (p. 205), that he, rather than Laud, was responsible for the 17th-century Gothic revival church plate, it should perhaps be said that Andrewes, founder of the Cambridge movement and the inaugurator of a new level in Anglican theology, like the Laudians who succeeded him insisted on the catholicity of the English church and appealed to antiquity, for instance in his *Responsio ad Apologium Card. Bellarmini*. Something much deeper, therefore, than just admiration for the traditional forms (p. 210) lay behind the Revival then, and later amongst a section of the High Church party. On the other hand, the whole tenor of 17th-century formularies for public worship seems to support Mr. Oman's interesting forward-looking observation that 'both the High Churchman and the Recusant would have scouted the 19th-century misconception that Gothic was the only truly Christian form of art'.

The series of 199 illustrations, almost all technically excellent, as well as being impressive are highly instructive as aids to comparison of form in the different categories of plate and thus as guides to change in a chronological setting. An excursion into aesthetic judgment in a review is quite out of place; even so, attention will be drawn to the pre-eminence in shape and fitness of the 12th and 13th-century chalices, unapproached by the finest 15th and 16th-century examples.

The only adverse criticisms of this scholarly and beautiful book concern a number of misprints and the curious omission from the index of pieces of plate mentioned only in the appendices: for instance, no indication of, say, the medieval chalice at Codford

St. Mary appears in the index; given prior knowledge of its existence there, then it must be sought in Appendix I, which itself follows a typological, not an alphabetical, arrangement.

A. R. DUFTY

ACCOUNTS OF THE MASTERS OF WORKS IN BUILDING AND REPAIRING ROYAL PALACES AND CASTLES. Vol. I: 1529-1615. Ed. HENRY M. PATON. Pp. lxxviii and 423. H.M. Stationery Office. Price £6 6s.

The administration of the revenue and expenditure of the realm of Scotland was in the hands of the King's Chamberlain until 1424, when a subdivision took place, part of the expenses being dealt with by a Comptroller and part by a Treasurer. It was the latter who handled the building and maintenance of palaces. The accounts of the Masters of Works, therefore, represent one sector of the Treasurer's purview, and it is these accounts, between the years 1529 and 1615, which are printed in the present volume. Two further volumes are envisaged, to contain similar accounts up to 1708.

The form of the accounts varies somewhat from book to book. The first three extant books (1529-36) are statements of expenditure on material, labour and carriage made, it would seem, during the progress of the work and audited without much rearrangement. The later accounts are on a *per contra* basis, the accountant being first charged with the money collected by him and then discharged item by item. This arrangement somewhat resembles the 'declared accounts' of the Surveyors or Paymasters under the English Crown, though the latter are more systematic and engrossed on parchment and paper rolls for the audit.

The Scottish Masters of Works in the 16th century seem to correspond roughly with the English Surveyors, being administrative officers in the first instance but in later years sometimes equipped as designers. As in England, a principal master of works or surveyor-general emerges in the course of the century. The best known name among the Scottish Masters is that of William Schaw who, dying in 1602, is described on his tomb at Dunfirmline as *architecturae peritissimus principibus*, and it is not without interest that in the previous year Elizabeth I's surveyor, Robert Adams, was described as *architecturae peritissimus* on his tomb at Greenwich.

These accounts have been well known but perhaps insufficiently studied for many years and it is very satisfactory to have them in print. In Scotland as in England the court architecture of the first half of the 16th century supplies the key to the situation as a whole for a considerable period, both technically and to a certain extent in planning and design. The accounts now printed cover such vital monuments as Edinburgh Castle, Holyroodhouse, Falkland, Linlithgow and Stirling Palaces. There is a useful introduction by the editor, comprising biographical notes on the principal officers; and there is a glossary of technical terms.

JOHN SUMMERSON

MEISTERWERKE DES GLASMALEREI. By HANS WENTZEL. 2nd Edition. Pp. 121, figs. 68, Pls. 4 in colour and 168 half-tone. Berlin: Deutscher Verein für Kunstwissenschaft, 1954. Price 40 DM.

The mere fact that a work of this kind has been reprinted three years only after its first appearance bears witness to a genuine and well deserved success. There is no exaggeration in saying that Professor Wentzel's book has revealed the German art of glass painting to the learned world in all its scope and wealth.

Too long had the specialist writers lingered over a Franco-German dispute on the origins, which ultimately proved as vain as irritating; then they devoted their best energies to hunting for windows supposed to have been designed, if not painted, by the great masters of the Renaissance. Finally, though the Rhineland had been effectively explored by H. Oidtmann, and though excellent monographs were published of the important ensembles at Cologne, Marburg, Freiburg, Ratisbon, Nuremberg, Wimpfen, etc.—to say nothing of the official *Inventories*—the attention of art historians seemed to be focussed

on the specimens in public museums, of which very fine catalogues were issued. The best general survey of German glass one could read before Professor Wentzel's publication was written in 1913 by Hermann Schmitz, precisely as an introduction to the most magnificent of those catalogues<sup>1</sup>. In it the windows of some cathedrals in the immediate neighbourhood of Berlin were ignored<sup>2</sup>.

The steps taken for the protection of works of art during the second world war brought in quite a new state of things. Church glass, which had been admired in a very general (not to say casual) manner, for form's sake, so long as it remained in its place, suddenly appeared as deserving close study. The sensation created by special exhibitions in several countries has certainly cleared the way for the *Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi*.

In Germany, Professor Wentzel was entrusted by the *Deutscher Verein für Kunstwissenschaft* with the general direction of the photographic operations and of the scientific research. The present volume shows what wonderful work he did in that capacity.

From his wealth of material, the author has made a choice which he presents under the title of *Masterpieces of (German) Glass Painting*. This means that we are shown only the most beautiful specimens. Another very legitimate limitation excludes (as a rule) the windows which have been adequately reproduced elsewhere. The result is a gathering of admirable and very useful documents, commented upon by Professor Wentzel with much learning and ability in short notices where complete bibliographical indications are given.

An introduction of 70 pages works out a concise but complete and perfectly well balanced history of glass painting in Germany down to the beginning of the 16th century, when 'monumental colour glazing' is pronounced—perhaps with undue severity—to have ceased. The pre-eminence already granted by Hermann Schmitz to Cologne and Strasburg as the 'entrance doors of French, English and Flemish influences' is rightly and forcibly confirmed, but the other centres are also given their full due, some of them, for example Stendal, for the first time.

Professor Wentzel's essay has splendidly stood the test of critical reviewing; this second edition shows that on very few points only the author has had to qualify his affirmations. Thus Gerlachus is no longer set down for the *inventor* of scroll-work backgrounds and the influence attributed to the well-known architects of the Parler family on the development of glass-painting is somewhat modified.

The illustration of Kloster Neuendorf (fig. 50) is for the greater part a modern arrangement savouring of what we Frenchmen call 'the troubadour style of gothic' and one of the two panels in fig. 56 (Neu-Oetting) is quite new.

*St. Peter* and *St. John the Baptist* in the Bavarian national museum (Pl. 143) certainly come from the Cistercian monastery of Hauterive in Switzerland, for the lower part of the second figure actually belongs to the *St. Paul* still in the abbey church.

JEAN LAFOND

PETER HEMMEL GLASMALER VON ANDLAU. By PAUL FRANKL. Pp. 194, figs. 22, Pls. 2 in colour and 200 half-tone. Berlin: Deutscher Verein für Kunstwissenschaft, 1956. Price 70 DM.

Peter Hemmel, the foremost figure in the history of German glass painting in the 15th century, was born at Andlau in Alsatia c. 1422 and worked at Strasburg until after 1501. Like Arnold of Nijmegen, Dirck Vellert and some other glaziers of ancient fame, he had to be called back to life by modern learning: when first his name was printed, a hundred years ago, it was but an empty name. Little by little, his work was brought together again, but ascribed to a certain (or rather *uncertain*) Hans Wild (perhaps a Strasburg *Geselle*) whose signature could be read on the border of a garment in the *Tree of Jesse* at Ulm. The truth was restored in 1929 when mentions of *Peter der Glaser* and of the *Glaser von Andlo* were discovered in the records of Obernai.

<sup>1</sup> *Die Glasgemälde des Königlichen Kunstgewerbemuseum in Berlin*. Berlin (1913), 2 vols.

<sup>2</sup> By way of excuse, the author alleged that they had been too much restored.

In the resurrection of the old master, Professor Frankl has played one of the chief parts, with Monsieur Hans Haug, the present keeper of the Strasburg Museums, Dr. Hermann Schmitz, Dr. Hans Rott, and last but not least, Professor Hans Wentzel. Thirty-six years after the appearance of his *Inauguralschrift*<sup>1</sup>, he gives us a magnificent book, with the primary aim of making Peter Hemmel's work as easy of approach as possible by the means of profuse illustration, but also with the purpose of fixing its chronology, of throwing light on the master's evolution and personal style, and of gathering material for future research. This is a heavy task, for during his long career Peter Hemmel painted windows for a number of countries from Lorraine to Austria. His masterpieces are to be seen at Strasburg, Darmstadt, Munich, Nuremberg, Ulm and Salzburg. He was in such request that in 1477 he founded a kind of 'limited company' for the manufacture of stained glass and went into partnership with four other painters: Lienhart Spitznagel, Hans von Maursmunster, Werner Store and Diebold von Lixheim. If five masters and ten companions (*Gesellen*) were engaged in painting the windows ordered from the firm and designed in all cases by Peter Hemmel himself, is it not exceedingly difficult to descry the part of each one, when all did their best to imitate the leader's manner, and acted (in Professor Frankl's own phrase) as 'perfect forgers'?

The author professes to have defined the personality of Diebold von Lixheim, who is the subject of a special article<sup>2</sup>. But while distinguishing three other hands he has not succeeded in linking them up with the real names of the partners but only with characteristic windows and accordingly speaks of the *Clemensmeister*, of the *Ratsmeister* and of the *Lauterbacher Meister*.

His demonstration required the support of large-scale photographs, and it is a wonderful album which is set before our eyes. Its value is further enhanced by an admirably written text, full of vivid impressions and of pithy remarks which make very good reading.

Professor Frankl is essentially a sower of ideas. Suggestions of all sorts flow from his pen, which he presents at times as 'mere fancies, but with something in them' and at other times as solid pieces of truth, finally leaving the reader to judge for himself. Not only does he correct with perfect frankness past utterances which are no longer up to date but he candidly admits his present misgivings: 'I could not decide whether the head of Christ was old or new'. Such an attitude of mind highly commends itself to all engaged in our difficult branch of study. The book deliberately leaves many questions open, on which the other great authority on Peter Hemmel, Professor Wentzel, will certainly find something to say. But some points may already be considered as firmly established: for example, the attribution of the windows of Walburg Church to an anonymous master associated with Peter Hemmel in his work for S. Guillaume at Strasburg in 1462 (the earliest date in Professor Frankl's chronology).

The author surmises that Peter Hemmel visited Ulm in his wandering days. That is quite possible, but we ought not to be told that only Hans Acker could teach him the technique of abrasion and the use of silver stain to make blue glass green. The latter device was public property since the 14th century: it even occurs in the first *dated* window where the silver-stain appears (Le Mesnil-Villeman, in Normandy, 1313). As for abrasion, it was practised in Germany as early as the second half of the 12th century according to Professor Wentzel, who has discovered extraordinary examples at Soest. The drawing ascribed to Peter Hemmel<sup>3</sup> does not seem to be a study for the ducal donors of the Nancy windows now destroyed but rather a sketch after those figures. In my opinion, the second work done by Peter Hemmel at Bar le Duc was simple glazing in a horse stable, for the artist only received 30s. for two windows. The words *grands chevaulx* need not be construed in a figurative sense.

<sup>1</sup> *Beitrage zur Geschichte der suddeutschen Glasmalerei im 15. Jahrhundert*, Strasburg, 1912. cf. *Der Ulmer Glasmaler Hans Wild*, Berlin, 1912 (*Jahrbücher der preussischen Kunstsammlungen*, vol. XXXIII).

<sup>2</sup> P. Frankl, 'Der Glasmaler Theobald von Lixheim', *Zeitschrift für Kunstwissenschaft*, vol. 11 (Berlin, 1957).

<sup>3</sup> Paris, in the Bibliothèque de l'École des Beaux Arts.

The documents printed in the appendix are not always accompanied with a precise indication of their origin and nature. There ought also to be a bibliography, for the references given in the footnotes are often incomplete and the first mention of Professor Frankl's capital works on Peter Hemmel occurs on p. 104 only. There are some misprints in foreign names, titles, and quotations in this otherwise admirably produced volume.

JEAN LAFOND

#### MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY, Volume I, 1957.

The appearance of the first volume of the *Journal of the Society for Medieval Archaeology* is an important event in the history of archaeological studies in Britain. As Sir Mortimer Wheeler wrote in 1954, 'The common tendency to discriminate archaeologists as prehistorians and antiquaries as medievalists does good to nobody', and the formation of the Society for Medieval Archaeology is a sign that this attitude can no longer be tolerated. The Prehistoric Society has flourished since 1936, and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies has served its period since 1911; but until to-day medieval archaeology has lacked its individual voice.

The new journal rightly emphasizes its intention to concentrate on the elucidation of archaeological evidence, but this volume is admirably balanced. There is only one excavation report, that of *The Cluniac Priory of St. Mary, Thetford*, by Reay Robertson-Mackay. A survey of the evidence for the nature of *The Saxon House*, both here and on the continent, by C. A. Raleigh Radford is followed by Rosemary Cramp's inquiry into the relevance of new finds to the poet's descriptions in *Beowulf and Archaeology*. W. A. Pantin has contributed a paper on *Medieval priest's houses in south-west England* which is a model in its combination of documentary evidence with plans, and, more rare in such studies, elevations of the buildings. A posthumous paper by E. T. Leeds on *Jutish art in Kent* has been edited by Sonia Chadwick; D. M. Wilson contributes *An inlaid folding stool in the British Museum*; and Eleanora Carus-Wilson writes on *The significance of the secular sculptures in the Lane Chapel, Cullompton*. A paper on *Tree-rings and Medieval Archaeology* by D. Justin Schove and A. W. G. Lowther will be useful to those who are unfamiliar with the techniques of dendrochronology. The journal also carries reviews, and a valuable summary of current fieldwork and finds which is to be an annual feature<sup>1</sup>.

The *Archaeological Journal* does not normally review periodicals, but a welcome must be extended to a new national journal of such importance. We congratulate the Society on the high standard it has set in its first volume, and wish *Medieval Archaeology* a long and distinguished career.

EDITOR

<sup>1</sup> It should be recorded that Dr. Gee's excavation at Milton Abbey, Dorset, was undertaken on behalf of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England).