

Reviews

Rural Economy and Country Life in the Medieval West. By Georges Duby. Translated by Cynthia Postan. 9 x 6 in. xv + 600 pp., 10 pls., figures and tables. London: Edward Arnold, 1968. Price 90s.

Normally works based on written sources fall outside the scope of review in this journal, but there is no doubt that it would be an unwise medieval archaeologist who ignored this translation by Mrs. Postan of Duby's *L'Economie rurale et la vie des campagnes dans l'occident médiéval*, first published in 1961. Although the author disarmingly tells us that 'this is the view of medieval Europe of a Frenchman writing first and foremost for French readers' (p. xiv), his knowledge of English and of German work is comprehensive. The book, then, is a survey of the countryside in medieval England, France and Germany written avowedly in the style and tradition of Bloch's book on the French countryside.

The work is divided into two parts. The first part is subdivided into four books: 9th and 10th centuries; 11th to 13th centuries—the Rhythm and Limits of Expansion; 11th to 13th centuries—the Manor; and finally, Change and Upheaval in the 14th century. The second part consists of quotations from documents which are subdivided in a roughly similar way. The archaeologist will be gratified to see that air-photographs are admitted as documents, and even a pollen diagram (document 35). However the choice is a little half-hearted and the print in document 168 reveals precious little. An error that ought to have been corrected in the English edition is in document 170 (p. 527), where the figures have been placed the wrong way round and show exactly the opposite to what the text says, a decrease of woodland and increase of villages in the 14th century. However these are merely slips and the documents undoubtedly greatly enhance the text.

What one may regard as the central assumption in the book (pp. 25, 101 ff.) is that crop yields on cereals rose between the Carolingian period and the 13th century roughly from 1 : 2·5 to 1 : 4, that is the surplus after deduction of seed doubled. This improvement was accompanied by, and perhaps due to, improvements in cultivation: harrowing and, notably, better traction for ploughs owing to improved harness. This change formed the background (cause or effect?) to the great expansion and settlement of virgin lands in the 11th to 13th centuries, and it is the changes in rural society during this period that form the main subject of the book. Some English terms, such as hide and virgate, become much less mysterious when set beside their French or German equivalents. It is interesting that Duby, if I understand him right, sees the long toft behind the peasant's house as the original element which subsequently was simulated in the strips of the open fields. The stages and chronology of the expansion (pp. 164–5) are of special importance to the medieval archaeologist. The tendency found by Duby in the Maconnais for knights to remove their halls from near the church to the edge of the village in the 13th century (p. 82) recalls the alteration at Wharram Percy, while the later isolated settlement prompts one to think of the recent discussion on moats (*Med. Archaeol.*, viii (1964), 219–22). Archaeology has only made slight contributions so far (replacement at harvesting of sickles by scythes in Germany, p. 162) but we are told (p. 113) of the 'immense task' that awaits it.

There is one main point about which the archaeologist may have some misgivings. The written evidence for cereal yields in Carolingian times is rather slender, but, even if we concede that they were smaller than in the 12th and 13th centuries, this does not mean that the earlier period was one of stagnation without any colonization, as the author maintains. He himself says (p. 47) that in certain areas, notably Brabant and

Flanders, there is 9th-century evidence for extensive colonization. Clause 36 of *De Villis* (p. 363) specifically directs: 'let them not allow the fields to encroach at the expense of the woodland', which surely implies that this was happening. In the pollen diagram (p. 392) the first peak for cereals is in about A.D. 700. Domesday Book, it is true, does not make any reference to reclaimed land, but on *a priori* grounds (place-names) all but a handful of the places named in it had been colonized since 400, many, no doubt, on areas not cultivated in Romano-British times. Reclamation from the forest had begun with stone axes in 3000 B.C. and it seems a little unlikely that shortage of iron deterred colonizers in A.D. 900 from attacking the trees. The expansion of the 11th to the 13th centuries is surely best seen as a climax or last spurt of colonization that had begun at the end of classical times, and not, as the author portrays it, a sudden event beginning in the 10th century in a virtually stagnant society.

Fifty years ago there was a tendency to attribute the retreat in the 14th century to catastrophe, mainly the Black Death. After Professor Levett's examination of the Winchester Pipe Rolls there tended to be a strong reaction against this, so much so that hardly any weight at all could be attached to catastrophe. Recently the pendulum has swung back to its original position. Duby indeed is very much of this view. One may be permitted to question the importance he attaches to warfare; if it had such a bad effect in the 14th century, why is it that the anarchy of the 12th century saw a rich growth of Cistercian foundations, and no doubt lay colonization as well? One need only think of German recovery since 1945 to see how quickly it can happen. Disasters occur at all periods and from some, of course, recovery is impossible, but one may still wonder whether those of the 14th century fell into this category.

We would not wish our slight criticisms to discourage the medieval archaeologist from buying and reading what will clearly be the major work on the subject for several decades. It will help him to relate his own work in a purposive way to events occurring over much of western Europe in those formative centuries.

M. W. THOMPSON

The Open Fields. By C. S. and C. S. Orwin. 3rd ed., with a preface by Joan Thirsk. 9½ × 6¼ in. xxvi + 196 pp., 29 pls., 3 maps, and folding maps at end. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1967. Price 55s.

Published in 1938, this great work is now a classic of agrarian history. It rescued agricultural history from the legal historians, and it successfully treated the particular and local while throwing new light on the general and national. Placed in his hands at his first undergraduate tutorial, it captivated this reviewer, and changed the whole centre of his interest. It was one of a trio of great books (Chambers's *Nottinghamshire* and Hoskins's *Midland England* were the others) that between 1932 and 1949 transformed English local studies and brought them into the mainstream of historical inquiry. An out-of-print classic is a curse to students, a temptation to the dishonest library user and a source of filthy lucre to parasitical booksellers. Rejoice, then, that *The Open Fields* have passed from fallow into cultivation again. For those individuals and libraries who did not obtain a copy of this classic work when it appeared in 1938 and 1954, a third chance occurs, although at a price which has more than kept abreast of inflation. The dust-jacket, indeed, has an interesting overprint of 55s. on 35s. which may indicate a last-minute economizing straitness at the Clarendon Press.

It is necessary to make clear what this sum will purchase. The 1954 edition, the responsibility of Dr. and Mrs. Orwin, was both more and less than the original of 1938. For post-war economy, some material local to Laxton was omitted, together with the text of the survey (terrier) accompanying the magnificent large-scale plan of 1635. The reduced, but still generously scaled, facsimiles of the plan were retained. The Orwells revised the text and took account of some, although not all, of the research and criticism which their original book had inspired.

The text and pagination of the edition now offered is (with one small exception

noted below) that of 1954, as the Orwins left it. Dr. Thirsk has not corrected their errors (such as 'Crawford and Keith' for 'Crawford and Keiller', p. 176, and the wrong reference to the P.R.O. document on p. 110) although these, and others, had been pointed out by reviewers. Her own contribution, modestly unacknowledged on the title page, is an eleven-page preface and a bibliography of writings on open-field history, headed 1954–65, although in fact including one paper of Dr. Baker dated 1966. This is a very useful list of work following on from the Orwins' themes, although it does not include Professor Hoskins's important discussion of the cropping flexibility within the furlongs of a single field. Yet it is a pity that the publisher did not go further and ask Dr. Thirsk to include the years 1938–54. In 1954 the Orwins dealt very unevenly with books and articles published since 1938: they added eight items to their bibliography but did not include others (such as Dr. Kerridge's article) that they had treated and foot-noted in the revision of their text; other work they ignored altogether. Important articles written before 1938 but unmentioned by the Orwins might also usefully have been brought in. One of these, by T. A. M. Bishop, is almost certainly the source of the 'instructive example' from Yorkshire in Dr. Thirsk's preface, although she, too, is silent about the name of her authority. It was always rather odd of the Orwins not to cite Professor Chambers's paper, 'The open fields of Laxton' which had been published in the *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* (xxxii, 1928, 102–25), ten years before their own book, and it would be nice to see justice done to the pioneer.

It is not quite correct that 'no alteration has been made to the text' of 1954 beyond the addition of a bibliography. The lower half of p. 179, dealing with work on strip lynchets, was certainly not written by the Orwins: and presumably the 'I' of the footnote is Dr. Thirsk herself. These paragraphs would have been more appropriately placed in the preface, for this is where she passes in brief review the main themes of the Orwins' original argument, and introduces the books or articles where these arguments have been taken further by other scholars.

M. W. BERESFORD

Das fränkische Gräberfeld von Junkersdorf bei Köln (Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit, Ser. B, Die fränkischen Altertümer des Rheinlandes, ed. Kurt Böhner, Bd. 3.). By Peter La Baume. $7\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4}$ in. 272 pp., 86 pls., 1 fig., 2 maps, 1 colour plan. Berlin: Verlag Gebr. Mann für Römisch-Germanische Kommission und Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn, 1967. Price 80 DM.

The original excavation of this important Frankish cemetery was carried out in 1940, 1943 and 1950–1 by a succession of site supervisors under the direction of Professor Dr. Fritz Fremersdorf. All the finds from graves 97–111, and a great many from graves 1–96 too, were destroyed during the war, and though some record survived for most by no means all could be described or illustrated. The reconstruction and presentation of the grave-groups can have been no light task, and Dr. La Baume and his assistants at the Römisch-Germanisches Museum, Köln, are to be congratulated on the production of this handsome volume. Of the plates, 37 are devoted to line illustrations of grave-groups, which are clear though sometimes over-simplified and defective in sectional views of glass and bronze vessels; 13 to adequate photographs of the principal objects; and a handsome 36 to drawings of all the important grave-plans. The catalogue is lengthy, comprehensive, and a fundamental document, but the discussion of the grave-goods is perhaps too long in proportion to the amount of worth-while information it conveys, and the summary, which repeats the essence, would have sufficed alone. These are minor criticisms, however, of a well-produced and instructive publication.

The cemetery of Junkersdorf was situated just over 5 km. west of the walls of Roman and medieval Cologne, immediately south of the Roman road to Aachen, and 600 m. NW. of the old parish church at Junkersdorf. The site, totally excavated except where churned up by bomb-craters, proved to be a large burial-ground without visible boundaries, containing, within an area 112×76 m., at least 541 Frankish graves. Of

these 470 are said to have been disturbed, mainly by contemporary grave-robbers. Such a high proportion robbed in antiquity (86·8 per cent.) is strange enough to invite question, and a close study of the published data has led me to suspect that in some cases disturbance may have been due to other causes (animal burrows or collapsed coffins). But accurate checking is impossible at second-hand, and the fact remains that, if less than 470, the number of robbed graves must still have been unusually large. The activities of these grave-robbers, and the generally very orderly plan of the cemetery, suggest that the position of the graves, and even the identity of the dead, were indicated on the surface. Presumably there were grave-markers, therefore, though the post-hole at the head of grave 4 was the only trace found.

The surviving grave-goods suggest that this had been the burial-place of a prosperous community, and the extensive grave-robbing confirms this, while ruining any chance of detecting social groupings amongst the dead. Dating of individual graves has likewise been rendered difficult, but enough is left from them to make the history of the site reasonably clear, as the plan (excellent except for omission of symbols for robbed graves) illustrates so graphically by colour distinctions between graves of different periods. At the NW. corner of the cemetery is a rectangular arrangement of post-holes ($6 \times 2\cdot5$ m.) which, though undated, looks like a ritual structure associated with the earliest burials which lie just to the south of it. These include 9 ill-furnished graves laid out south-north in heathen fashion (3 overlain by later 6th-century burials), and at least 3 graves, in the more normal west-east orientation, which can be ascribed to the 1st quarter of the 6th century. From this early nucleus other 6th-century burials fan out north and east, with a few outliers to the south, and mingling with and extending beyond them, in the west and south quarters, there follow the graves of the 7th century. The one grave certainly ascribable to the 8th century is at the southern end. Thus Junkersdorf, in use from c. 500–c. 700, gives us in its plan a good example of horizontal stratigraphy.

Its grave-goods are typical for Austrasian Frankish cemeteries of this period, and include several kinds of brooches, buckles, bronze bowls, etc., which, since they are also found in Kent, are of interest to students of Anglo-Saxon archaeology. What is especially remarkable, however, is the large number of Roman objects—coins, pottery, glass and beads—buried with the Frankish dead. A similar phenomenon was observed in the cemetery at Köln-Müngersdorf (Fritz Fremersdorf, *Das fränkische Gräberfeld Köln-Müngersdorf*, Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit, Ser. A, Bd. 6, 1955), which lies only 1 km. distant in the direction of Cologne. Though much smaller (149 graves) Köln-Müngersdorf has many features in common with its near neighbour—e.g. a few early south-north burials, similar horizontal stratigraphy, comparable grave-goods—and obviously belonged to a strictly contemporary group of settlers of like culture and habit. It lay only 70 m. north of the enclosure-wall of a Roman villa, which, continuing in use till c. 400, was probably still standing when the Frankish settlers arrived nearly a century later (Fritz Fremersdorf, *Der Römische Gutshof Köln-Müngersdorf*, Römisch-Germanische Forschungen, Bd. 6, 1933). Excavation showed that, whatever they found in the villa itself, the Franks had certainly looted the graves of the late Roman proprietors, and this readily explained much of the Roman material in the Germanic cemetery. Doubtless something similar occurred at Junkersdorf, for here the Frankish cemetery lay over some early Roman cremations and a boundary-ditch which had clearly belonged to yet another Roman farm or villa. The late date of the majority of Roman finds from the Frankish graves suggests that this villa may also have survived until the end of the 4th century. Neither at Junkersdorf nor at Müngersdorf is there evidence, in the form of 5th-century graves, of that direct continuity of occupation from Roman into Frankish times which we find farther down the Rhine at Krefeld-Gellep, for example (Renate Pirlung, *Das römisch-fränkische Gräberfeld von Krefeld-Gellep*, Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit, Ser. B, 1966). But it is worth recalling Fremersdorf's suggestion that the striking proximity of Germanic cemeteries to Roman villas may not have been fortuitous, and that, while not occupying the buildings, the

Franks may well have taken over the estates, thus establishing some continuity of land use from Roman into early medieval times. It is also worth reminding ourselves of the density of Germanic occupation in the Cologne district. La Baume's omission of a regional map, or indeed any map showing the situation of Junkersdorf in relation to Cologne, is a sad defect: an up-to-date version of Fremersdorf's map of Frankish sites in the whole area would have been a valuable addition to this new monograph.

SONIA CHADWICK HAWKES

Animal and Man in Holland's Past (Palaeohistoria, XIII, A and B). By A. T. Clason. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. A, xvi + 247 pp., 22 pls., 32 diagrams, 89 figs., 5 loose maps; B, 99 tables. Groningen, J. B. Wolters, 1967. Price 80 Fl.

This meticulously detailed description of the animal remains found in archaeological excavations of neolithic (or aeneolithic in the author's terminology) to late medieval date in the marshy provinces of north and south Holland is a reprint of a doctoral thesis presented to the University of Groningen.

The work includes brief descriptions of each excavated site and its surroundings, with full references and approximate dates. Only a few fish bones were definitely distinguished from each other, but mammalian, avian and molluscan remains are identified with great care and dealt with species by species; measurements are given and many skulls and bones are illustrated with line drawings or photographs. Each species is discussed in detail: comparisons with modern representatives and animals from other European sites (though few of these are medieval) are made with notes on points of identification, sexual dimorphism and biology; and, most important of all for the domestic animals, differences mainly in size are shown for animals of different periods. Assessments of the relative numbers of the different animals are given so that pictures of the economies can at least be guessed at. Comparisons are made using histograms and scatter diagrams, but one wonders whether more statistical treatment might have added some more information.

The medieval sites dealt with are *Rijnsburg*—a farm site of the 9th to the 12th centuries; *Huis te Merwede*, where the bones are from a rebuilt castle of 1350–1421; and the refuse-heap of a cobbler's shop and sheep-shearer's in *Amsterdam*, in which most of the bones belong to the years 1373–1420.

Cattle are the most frequent animals on all these sites, and plots of horn-core and other measurements show that cows predominated among the adult cattle. It is known that cheese and butter were exported from Holland in the middle ages.

On these medieval sites for the first time in Holland (with the exception of the Roman site of Valkenburg) bones of pig outnumber those of sheep and goat. This is probably because pigs, being able to feed on refuse, can survive in small, confined areas. The bones on these three sites seem to form part of the domestic rubbish and are therefore mainly from food animals—large numbers of sheep were kept for their wool, but there were restrictions on their slaughter in medieval Amsterdam. Similarly horse remains are rare, although the horse became very important for drawing the plough in late medieval times, probably because the Church disapproved of the consumption of horse flesh.

Chickens were eaten, as well as other birds (geese, swans, ducks, and pigeons); it is not possible to say, from the bones, whether these were wild or domestic. Fowling was important in Amsterdam, where large numbers of wild birds from the surrounding marshes were eaten, and so was fishing; many fish (including pike) and marine molluscs were found. Apart, however, from fowling and fishing in Amsterdam, there seems to have been little reliance in these three medieval sites on hunting as a source of food, although the remains of a few wild animals were found. Rijnsburg had some odd wild animal remains: bones of beaver show that it was eaten here, elk (presumably imported) was identified, and so were the common seal, *Phoca vitulina* (here referred to as the 'sand seal') and the sturgeon. Rabbits (wild or domesticated?) were present at Huis te Mer-

wede. Worked red-deer antler was found at Rijnsburg, and at the castle of Huis te Merwede a red-deer antler had nail holes, perhaps for nailing it up as a huntsman's trophy.

Although the results of the work on the animal remains from these three sites are hardly spectacular, they are an indication of the use that can be made of careful and painstaking analyses, both as confirmation of written evidence about local economies and as a potentially valuable source of independent information. Let us hope that this work will encourage archaeologists to treat animal remains with the same care that they bestow on other finds so that we may henceforth be spared the boringly predictable 'ox-sheep/goat-pig' faunal lists that commonly masquerade as reports on animal bones.

CAROLINE GRIGSON

Die Runeninschriften im älteren Futhark. (Abhandlungen der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen, phil.-hist. Klasse, 3. Folge, Nr. 65.) By Wolfgang Krause and Herbert Jankuhn. 2 vols. 10 × 6½ in. I, xx + 328 pp.; II, viii + 72 pls. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1966. Price not stated.

Since the publication in 1937 of Professor Krause's *Runeninschriften im älteren Futhark* there have been several important finds of early date, many of them known so far only to the specialists who follow the literature in such periodicals as *Fra Nationalmuseets Arbejdsmark* or *Fundberichte aus Schwaben*. From Denmark, for instance, is the group of early rosette-brooches, Himlingøje II, Værløse and Nøvling (as well as Næsbjerg, whose runes were noticed long after the discovery of the piece itself), and the Fælleseje knife and the Stenmagle or Garbølle box. From Skåne there is the Gårdlösa brooch, and from Norway that of Eikeland with its important *kaun*-rune. In Germany several recently-found texts—Liebenau, Heilbronn-Böckingen, Dischingen, Trossingen and Weingarten—have changed the distribution-pattern of the script in central Europe.

In rewriting his excellent handbook to include these new finds Krause has taken the opportunity of making important changes in arrangement, interpretation and emphasis. Runologists are usually linguists, often with little knowledge of, and sometimes little sympathy for, archaeological evidence. Krause has had the good sense and good fortune to have as his helper Professor Jankuhn, who is responsible for the archaeological material of the volume. One result of this collaboration is the greater attention paid to the objects themselves, as opposed to their runes: cf., for instance, the earlier and later accounts of the Charnay brooch and the Dahmsdorf spear-head. Another is the more careful examination of dating criteria, the effect of which is to put some of the inscriptions notably back in time: Øvre Stabu is now placed in the 2nd half of the 2nd century, rather than c. 200, and the Torsbjerg material at c. 200 instead of c. 300. Runologically there is greater coverage, both in the number of inscriptions and in the detail of each, and the photographs, here collected into a separate volume, are nearly twice as numerous as in the first edition, including new pictures of such objects as the Kowel spear-head and the Pietroassa ring, which have been rediscovered since 1937.

Krause aims at including all inscriptions in the 24-type futhark, in so far as they are readable and at least moderately intelligible. He omits the Anglo-Frisian ones, but his attitude here begs the difficult question of the relationship between the runes of England and Frisia and those of continental Germania. To take an example, the Caistor-by-Norwich astragalus has a group of six runes containing none of the specifically Anglo-Frisian innovations. Its date, on archaeological grounds, is late 4th- or 5th-century, and the cultural links of the cemetery with Schleswig-Holstein are strong. The *hagal*-form of the inscription connects it, not with other Anglo-Saxon or Frisian texts nor with the Continental West Germanic ones, but with Scandinavia, and there seems no reason why Caistor-by-Norwich should be cut off from the other northern inscriptions simply because it was found in England.

Krause has organized his material anew. In the 1937 edition he arranged the

inscriptions according to content: futharks, spear-names, magical formulae, rune-master formulæ, and so on. Now he orders them, less tendentiously, according to the objects which bear the runes: Scandinavian brooches, marsh finds, spear-heads, rock-carvings, rune-stones, bracteates. This less dogmatic attitude towards the content of the inscriptions is also reflected in some of the interpretations.

There are some new readings, and here we would occasionally like more detail than can be included in a handbook like this. For instance, in 1937 Krause read the first word of the Vadstena bracteate as *tuwatuwa*, remarking, 'Die I. Rune ist eher ein *t* als ein *l*'. Now he reads *luwatuwa* with the comment that the first rune is 'einheitlich ein *l*'. This bracteate has been lost for years, and its companion piece, from Motala, is damaged so that the letter tops are broken away. From Krause's context it looks as though his new reading derives from the drawing (bracteate 22) in Stephens's runic corpus, though the point is not clearly made. Stephens shows and reads *l*, his readings based, not on the original, but on casts and facsimiles. Photographs of the Vadstena bracteate show the first letter masked by the loop fitting, so that it is much less clearly *l* than Stephens showed. Runologists have traditionally read *t* here, and Krause agrees that a reduplicated formula *tuwatuwa* or *luwatuwa* is to be expected on this object. His assertion of the reading *luwatuwa* needs more rigid argumentation than it gets here.

Inevitably in a runological work there are points with which a reviewer can criticize or disagree, but the good sense, good scholarship and wide knowledge shown in this book make it clear that Professor Krause is still our leading runologist.

R. I. PAGE

Irish Art during the Viking Invasions, 800–1020 A.D. By Françoise Henry. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. xvi + 236 pp., 136 pls. (16 in colour), 41 figs., 3 maps. London: Methuen & Co., 1967. Price 84s.

All students of Irish art will welcome the appearance of the second volume of the promised trilogy a bare two years after the first (*Med. Archaeol.*, x (1966), 233). The general arrangement follows the same pattern with chapters covering historical data, sites and architecture, the decoration of manuscripts, metalwork, carvings, and conclusions. The illustrations are of the same high quality as in the first volume. In particular we welcome the sixteen colour plates, all devoted to the manuscripts.

Irish art in the 9th and 10th centuries is dominated by the manuscripts and the high crosses. The greater part of the present book is rightly devoted to these two classes.

The crosses and their interpretation is a subject that the author has made her own and if it was necessary in the earlier review to challenge some of the dating then proposed, the difference in no way detracts from our appreciation of the treatment of this important subject. The chronology of the monuments discussed in the present volume is generally agreed. The chapter is therefore free to concentrate on the artistic and iconographical problems. The art of the high crosses is traditional; it goes back to early Christian sources and the author's comments on these sources and on the relation of the texts to the iconography are always stimulating and generally convincing. The admirably selected series of plates illustrates both the complete monuments and the individual scenes and detail. The map on p. 135 brings out the extremely limited distribution of the more important crosses and gives a clue to the balance of wealth in Ireland of the 9th and 10th centuries.

The manuscripts of this period are dominated by the Book of Kells; eight of the coloured plates are devoted to this single manuscript. The Irish origin of the group here considered is not in doubt; the problems of attribution which vex the manuscripts of an earlier period no longer arise. By the early 9th century the foreign influences had been absorbed and moulded into a distinctive style; the tragedy is the few examples which survive to form the basis of our appreciation. It is a vivid and pathetic confirmation of the passage quoted by the author recording how by the beginning of the 11th century

'their writing and their books in every church and every sanctuary . . . were burned and thrown into the water by the plunderers'. In addition to Gospel Books and Psalms, there are two copies of the Grammar of Priscian, a reminder of that Irish scholarship, the fame of which reached the imperial and the papal courts.

Architecture is illustrated by the churches, which have been more fully studied by other writers and, most recently, by the late H. G. Leask. On the towns and on secular buildings there is little to say. For this reason the inclusion of a short account of recent excavations in the city of Dublin breaks new ground. The earliest layers uncovered probably go back to the period of this volume. The two widely separated sites—under the E. range of the castle and south-west of Christ Church Cathedral—enable the author to discuss the topography of the earliest settlement and indicate the line of its defences. There is also a useful discussion of the layout of the town. On the secular side there are passing references to the excavations at Ballinderry and Lissue. But the careful work being done on the raths and kindred sites in the north is not considered. The *Archaeological Survey of County Down* probably appeared too late for the present volume, but reference might have been made to a series of reports in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, which record the results achieved on sites such as White Fort, Drumaroad (*U.J.A.*, xix (1956), 73). These are probably more relevant to Irish social and economic conditions than Dublin, for Dublin at this period was a Scandinavian city.

Dublin leads naturally to the consideration of the Scandinavians and their impact on Ireland. Viking raids and Viking warfare dominate the secular record, but the art maintains its native character. The manuscripts and the crosses show very little that can be attributed to Viking influence. This is chiefly apparent in the metalwork. The cemetery at Kilmainham, outside Dublin, is purely Scandinavian, but at present it stands alone. Apart from this it is certain metal types that betray the invaders. Of the thistle and other brooches which have a good claim to be considered Scandinavian, Dr. Henry writes: 'They may well be a type of jewellery evolved to satisfy the invaders' taste for local colour and gaudy ornament. Some of them, however, were worn by the native population and they are represented on carved figures as if they were a normal part of the Irish attire of the time.' There is as yet no evidence of extensive Scandinavian settlement such as is found in other colonial lands, and Norse houses of the Jarlshof type have yet to be recorded in Ireland.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

Masterpieces of Glass. A selection compiled by D. B. Harden, K. S. Painter, R. H. Pinder-Wilson, Hugh Tait. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ in. 200 pp., 313 pls. (4 in colour), 7 line-drawings. London: Trustees of the British Museum, 1968. Price £3 (cloth-bound); £2 (paper cover).

This is the catalogue of a temporary exhibition, mounted for the Eighth International Congress of Glass, July 1968, of glass from the middle of the second millennium B.C. to the middle of the 19th century A.D. As each piece is fully described and illustrated the volume has a permanent value as an introduction to the study of glass in Europe and the Near East, with a few pieces from India and China thrown in for good measure.

The misfortune for the medievalist is the absence of any European glass from the end of the 7th century to the 15th century. 'The dark ages in the west' is represented by five British and four continental drinking-vessels, three of them horns. Harden's introduction explains the poverty of this section, which reflects very fairly the sudden reduction in the quantity and variety of glass in the 5th century. He stresses the continuity with the Roman industry of this Teutonic glass, preserved in pagan graves, and its monotony. The decoration is either mould-blown (mentioned but not illustrated) or, more commonly, trailed. There is nothing original. The drinking-horn has its origin in the Roman period and even the claw-beaker, illustrated here at its peak in monochrome (alas, not colour) by the Castle Eden beaker (no. 126), is only a development of a little-used Roman invention of dropped-on trails, which can be followed back to the

uninflated trails of the jar with green hooks (no. 122) from Olbia, of the 3rd or 4th century. To get full value these Teutonic glasses must be seen in colour. A plate illustrating the Castle Eden beaker with its deep blue trails contrasting with the green body, and the palm-cup (no. 134) from Rheims, of green streaked with red, would have given a better impression of the period, for it is the use of colour that relieves the technical monotony. The much-published Portland vase or Lycurgus cup might have been sacrificed to provide space. It is interesting to see that the Amiens 'chalice' (no. 255), a clumsy-looking vessel in deep blue glass, which has shuttled up and down the centuries, has now come to rest in the 17th century.

The gap of seven centuries in the west is inconspicuous in the catalogue, which switches to pre-Islamic glass where four vessels, three facet-cut, span the 3rd to 6th centuries and provide the link with the 9th-century Islamic cut glass and the later enamelled and gilded mosque-lamps and domestic vessels. Two lectures to the Congress, Harden's review lecture on medieval glass and Miss Cramp's lecture on the Monkwearmouth and Jarrow glass showed that the continuity of the industry in the west is not broken until the 10th century in Europe and give the hope that excavated material will fill the gap left by the earlier collectors.

The return to the west in the final section takes up the story when the Venetian style is ousting the forest glass. The first few items (170-5) give a hint of what is missing but these 15th-century glasses are superior in design (so far as can be judged from extant, fragmentary examples of earlier forest glass) and certainly superior in metal. It is partly the nature of the metal itself, the very friable potash glass which is particularly subject to decay which gives the impression that little glass was made in the early middle ages, that few decorative techniques were used (cutting at least is unlikely), and few shapes. Modern excavation and conservation will slowly fill the void. No museum has a representative collection of forest glass.

The volume is beautifully produced. All the photographs are of a size which shows the detail of the metal and design. The text gives a full description with technical details, wherever possible, measurements, provenience and bibliography. It is a model catalogue.

DOROTHY CHARLESWORTH

Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles: Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Anglo-Saxon Pennies. By J. D. A. Thompson. 10×7½ in. xxiii+92 pp., 42 pls. London: Oxford University Press and Spink and Son for the British Academy, 1967. Price £6.

With this volume, the *Sylloge* series has now placed on the bookshelf the resources of six major British collections of early English coins, as well as a large part of the Royal Coin Cabinet in Copenhagen. When the plates are of such good quality as in this particular volume, the reader has all the essential advantages of examining the coins, except perhaps that since the photographs are all made from casts the coins present a somewhat uniform appearance. However, where the condition of a coin is particularly significant, as is the case of the coins in the Christ Church collection possibly from the Kintbury hoard, the facts are recorded in the introductory text.

The collections here illustrated comprise coins from the Bodleian Library and Ashmolean Museum cabinets, begun in 1636 and 1683 respectively and brought together in 1921 to form the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean Museum, as well as subsequent acquisitions. Also included are gifts and bequests to Oxford colleges now deposited on loan in the Heberden Coin Room, beginning with the 18th-century benefactions of Philip Barton, William Halifax, and Joseph Kilner. The volume commences with the beginning of the penny series under Offa and ends with the end of the Anglo-Saxon kingship; the introduction leads us to hope that the British and earlier Anglo-Saxon material not included in Dr. Sutherland's publication of the Crondall hoard may be forthcoming, whilst the post-conquest pennies in the museum's possession are already scheduled as in preparation for the *Sylloge* series.

Not surprisingly, collections of coins amassed in England often tend to have a local bias. Once we come to the period when the mint-signature is a regular feature of the coinage, the Oxford *Sylloge* ranges itself with those of Chester and Cambridge as against the Scottish and Danish collections already published. From these latter, whose representation of English mints is without bias and therefore random, we may obtain a more accurate idea of the relative output of each mint. But the zeal of a collector in pursuit of a mint or group of mints of local antiquarian interest can, with its more intensive approach, solve other problems. New moneyers may be found and the continuity of a moneyer's—or even a mint's—activity may be proved by such a collector's assiduity. Charles L. Stainer, whose gift of 108 Anglo-Saxon coins of the Oxford mint (together with letters, photographs, and electrotypes from Rome and Scandinavia) is the largest single donation recorded in this volume, had such an interest. It found an outlet in the publication in 1904 of his *Oxford Silver Pennies*, but by no means ended there. In fact very few of the coins in his book were his own; his important collection was built up subsequently and is published here for the first time. It fills several gaps in the Hildebrand-British Museum Catalogue canon, notably with the moneyer Selewold for Edgar's 'Reform' type, and evidence for Goding striking 'First Hand' at Oxford instead of beginning his career with 'Second Hand'.

The near-by mint of Wallingford also benefits from its local interest, but this is a result of purchasing policy by the Ashmolean rather than of any one collector's energies.

The arrangement makes judicious use of recent numismatic research in the classification and ordering of types. Forgeries and imitations are either isolated on the final plate or else indicated in the text. No. 529 is suspected of being a Scandinavian copy and perhaps some indication could have been given of that, and also of the probability that the mint of no. 1079 is Stafford, not Steyning. The transliteration of the moneyer's name on no. 647 should be 'Grim'; the 'o' is almost certainly a dittoxraphy in the preposition (cf. Hildebrand, no. 2171). But in more than 1100 coins these are the veriest minutiae and do nothing to detract from the value of this book for anyone who has a use for the evidence of coins in his own field of study.

VERONICA J. SMART

The Place-Names of Westmorland. By A. H. Smith. 2 vols. (English Place-Name Society, XLII, XLIII). $8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. lxxv+212 pp., and xiv+367 pp., 5 loose maps. Cambridge: University Press for the English Place-Name Society, 1965–6. Price 50s. and 55s.

The Place-Names of Westmorland was published in April 1967, less than a month before Professor Hugh Smith's death. This was a fitting final work, since the study of place-names had been his particular interest for many years (latterly he was Director of the English Place-Name Survey) and since, as a north-country man, he had a sympathetic ear for northern names. The last time I met him at his Gloucestershire home in 1966 he spoke of these forthcoming volumes and was also busy installing central heating with his own hands, a feat far beyond the capabilities of most Professors of English.

The simultaneous publication of both volumes was a great advantage over the Cumberland survey, part 3 of which, containing the introduction and the place-name elements, was produced two years after parts 1 and 2. These volumes, together with *The Place-Names of Lancashire* by Prof. E. Ekwall (Manchester, 1922) which includes the districts of Furness and Cartmel, complete the place-name survey for the Lake District.

The names have been arranged topographically in the old wards and old ecclesiastical parishes—the barony of Kendal, comprising Lonsdale and Kendal wards, in part 1; the barony of Westmorland (or Appleby), with its East and West wards, in part 2. The civil parishes are chiefly arranged alphabetically within the ecclesiastical ones, principal names in each being followed by field names. River, lake and road names are listed separately in part 1, pp. 1–21, and place-name elements are given in part 2, pp. 229–300. This arrangement is rather more difficult to follow than the simpler method adopted for the Cumberland volumes.

In a county poor in early documentary sources and rich in dialect survivals and later developments, largely from Old Norse, it is often difficult to determine the date of origin of a particular name. Blea Tarn in the Langdales (part 1, p. 15) was known by that name at least as early as 1470, when it figures as Bleaterne in a rent roll of Sir John Pennington, now with the Muncaster muniments in the Cumberland Record Office. Many other names for which no early form is at present known may also be of considerable antiquity. The term 'moss' to this day mainly signifies a peat-moss rather than a bog, and references to peat are therefore abundant and not rare as suggested in the introduction (part 1, p. xxv).

Few British place-names survive and these chiefly in the hilly part of the barony of Westmorland and in Longsleddale and Whinfell in Kendal barony, while English names are mainly confined to the better agricultural lands of the Eden valley and of the lower Kent and Lune. The Scandinavian element is predominantly Norwegian, rather than Danish, in origin, and the Irish-Norwegian inversion-compounds point to a 10th-century settlement, largely from Ireland, which penetrated deep into the hills.

The wild and dual nature of the county is rightly stressed, the barony of Westmorland having strong links northward along the Eden to Carlisle, while the barony of Kendal is more influenced by the lands lying to the south and west. This character probably developed in prehistoric times, for the limestone districts of both areas provided the best sites for early settlement (see the geological map in pocket at end of part 2). It is now known from inscriptions at Old Penrith and Brougham that a sub-tribe of the Brigantes, the Carvetii, lived in the Eden valley during the Roman occupation and were given *civitas* status in the mid 3rd century. The concentration of stone-walled settlements in the high ground around Crosby Ravensworth, Crosby Garrett and Waitby may have been in their territory and have survived, since many lie in areas which have become boggy and unattractive for later methods of agriculture and enclosure, which destroyed all trace of early settlement on more productive soils.

In addition to the inaccurate routing of the Roman road, road 11, northward to Kirkby Thore instead of to Brougham (part 1, p. 19 and maps in pocket of part 2), a further confusion is made in part 2, p. 205, where road 1, the Roman road from Stainmore to Brougham, is said to have crossed the Eden at Eamont Bridge when in fact it, and road v from Ambleside to Brougham, crossed at Brougham. Among other archaeological points, Cross Dormant (Trostermont) in Barton (part 2, p. 210) is identified in 16th- and 17th-century maps with the earthwork near by on the E. shore of Ullswater, marked 'crannog' on later O.S. maps. Thomas Machell, writing in 1678, described the site as Tristernmont, the 'ancient and noble fortification of Sir Tristram, the sorrowful, one of the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table' (*Trans. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, n.s. XII (1912), 99–101).

A few slips in archaeological and other detail do not greatly diminish the value of these volumes. We can be grateful that such a wealth of information on Westmorland place-names has been collected and made available, and for the years of painstaking work these volumes represent.

CLARE I. FELL

Norman Castles in Britain. By Derek Renn. 10 x 6 in. xiii + 364 pp., 49 pls. (1 in colour), 76 figs., 6 maps. London and New York: John Baker and Humanities Press, 1968. Price 106s. or \$17.50.

In the well-ordered, rural society of which we hear in the letters of Pliny the Younger, tangibly reflected in the villas of Roman Britain, a country house needed no defence. In the plan of Diocletian's palace at Split defences were already prominent, although their design followed that of Roman *castra*, not of a medieval *castrum* or *castellum*. It was not the disappearance of imperial authority that gave rise to castles, for we will search in vain for anything like castle warfare described in Fredegar's *Chronicle*. Rather they arose as an attempt by landowners to assert for themselves some of the authority that a

completely disintegrated Carolingian government had lost. A castle then is not merely a fortified residence, but one in which the fortifications occupy a paramount place because they symbolize the almost autonomous powers to which its owner laid claim and his willingness to be challenged by him-who-would, not in court, but by force of arms. When a fortified residence becomes a castle is a moot point, but usually a separate citadel, *donjon* or tower, the supreme symbol of *dominium*, is taken to be the distinguishing feature. No doubt fairly massive defences (ring-works) go back to the 9th or 10th centuries, but there seems now to be a fair measure of agreement that the high *donjon* of wood or stone is a late development, probably of the mid 11th century. Indeed it has recently been suggested that the Normans were not familiar with the high *donjon* when they invaded this country.

Mr. Renn's book covers rather more than 'Norman' castles, since his limiting date of 1216 takes us well into 'Early English'. The unifying factor is the keep: in 1207–12 King John was building the keep at Odiham but in the 1220s Earl Randolph de Blundeville was building castles without keeps at Beeston and Bolingbroke. During the earlier part of the period castles were cheap because they were built of earth and timber; more than 1,000 were constructed in England and Wales. It will be recalled that over 50 years ago in a book with a rather similar title Mrs. Armitage set out to prove that the earliest Norman castles were not of stone. By comparing the 11th-century castles as recorded in the documents of the period with what was shown on the then fairly new 25-inch O.S. sheets she was able to produce one of the most compelling studies in medieval archaeology that we have. Renn is not attempting to demonstrate a theory; after ten brief essays on the subject he gives us a gazetteer of 250 pages which constitutes the backbone of the book.

The gazetteer differs markedly from the lists published recently by Beeler and Brown. It differs from both these lists in that it includes Ireland and Scotland (a big advantage); from the latter list in that it admits archaeological (besides documentary) evidence; and from the former in that the archaeological evidence has to be finds or architecture, not just the shape of an earthwork. Its chief value will be as a work of reference, and in comparison with the other lists it has the considerable advantage of having illustrations (and fuller references and descriptions), sensible if not inspired views in the plates, and plans of earthworks and buildings at two uniform scales. So far as this reviewer can judge few important references have been missed, and for this reason the book should prove to be an invaluable tool for those concerned with castles of this period.

The essays that introduce the gazetteer are brief and usually much to the point. The reviewer would agree with J. H. Round that the identification of Hereford, Ewyas Harold and Richard's Castle as pre-conquest castles can be made with a fair degree of confidence; and although we cannot, of course, be positive that anything we see today is earlier than 1066, it would be unwise, in deference to certain current views, to assume that the three mottes are not pre-conquest in date. The Old English Chronicler surely used the word *castel* because he saw something unfamiliar, not a sort of *burrh*! I am not at all sure that castles were built generally 'to guard a pass or river estuary, to control a road or overawe a town, to protect a gang of adventurers . . . (p. 14)'. Possibly the Conqueror used them for these purposes, but they were, after all, the normal type of residence and, as likely as not, in a modern village the motte adjoins the parish church, like a manor house. Furthermore the common diameter of a motte top (70 ft. or so), as well as continental sources, suggests that what stood on top was large and permanently inhabited like a stone keep. The use of the word watch-tower evokes the picture of a control tower on a modern Iron-Curtain frontier! Maps A to C are very useful, but B and C, of course, only show recorded castles; the sources indicate that there were many more before 1071. Map D has already been published in this journal (viii (1964), 221), but it has been extended to include Ireland; the motteless west of Ireland contrasted with the motte-sown E. side of the country no doubt reflects the limits reached by the

12th-century Norman settlers. The general distribution suggests analogies with iron-age hill-forts, although in this case the density along the Welsh border no doubt indicates an infusion of racial, into feudal, conflict. The author has some valuable things to say on construction and rate of building, although no doubt then, as now, there was much flexibility, as his description of the emergency work at Château Gaillard shows.

In the last five chapters the period is dealt with chronologically. There are many matters over which we might pause. The author speaks with a first-hand knowledge of keeps that few can rival, dating and relating confidently examples from the reign of King Henry I. We may wonder whether Kenilworth really belongs to the foundation-period of the castle, and there is room for discussion in other places. I would like to have seen the results tabulated. It is more and more surprising how unusual the Tower of London and Colchester appear to be. Many people regard the whole of Stokesay as following the licence to crenellate. The author has rarely missed a reference or discovery, and his detachment is admirable, although sometimes surprising. He mentions Mr. Davison's theory that high mottes were not known to the Normans when they arrived, but without expressing an opinion. Such detachment is a lesson to us all!

This book represents the collection of evidence over a period of 22 years, in libraries of course, but even more important in journeys that the author has made as far as Ireland in the west and Italy in the east. We are indeed lucky to have the results of all this enthusiasm conveniently compressed into one volume; may we hope that he will now do the same for the later periods?

M. W. THOMPSON

Château Gaillard II: Studien zur mittelalterlichen Wehrbau- und Siedlungsforschung: Kolloquium Büderich bei Düsseldorf. (Beihefte der Bonner Jahrbücher, xxvii.) $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. vii + 119 pp., 31 pls., 43 figs. Cologne: Böhlau Verlag, 1967. Price 26 DM.

The title of this biennial series of colloquia derives from the first, held at Les Andelys, in the shadow of Richard I's castle, in 1962 (*Med. Archaeol.*, vi-vii (1962-3), 304). Many of the papers read then were published in a typical French format, paperbound and with uncut pages; the second conference papers are here published in one of the slim, maroon linen-bound Beihefte of the *Bonner Jahrbücher*.

The first conference was restricted to castle studies, but later ones have extended to the study of medieval settlements. Thus here we have summaries of excavations in the centres of Bonn, Heilbronn, Neuss and Xanten. Professor van de Walle deals briefly with the Antwerp excavations (cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, v (1961), 123-136) after illustrating two four-story romanesque buildings found under later plaster: a gatehouse-tower at Oudenaarde, and a dwelling-house at Ghent, backing on to the famous buildings (including the 12th-century 'Spijker') in the Graslei. A 1796 map of Ghent shows a concentration of over eighty medieval cellars, mainly attributed to the 12th or the 13th century. Mr. Sölter describes the development of the church at Münstereifel from a small cell (5 by 3 m.) cut through by an 8th-century grave, to a three-aisled church a hundred times that area, complete with *confessio* and west-work. Dr. Fehring surveys two adjoining Carolingian churches at Unterregenbach, with a small 11th-century hall excavated near by. Dr. Herrnbrödt describes another Husterknupp, this time the Burg Meer site on a dried-up meander of the Rhine at Büderich; even wooden doors and columns with carved capitals and bases were preserved in the wooden houses of the *Flachsiedlung*. Dr. Thompson summarizes the results of his excavation of the tower in the Farnham motte.

At this point in his catalogue, the reviewer began to have doubts. Reports planned to be read aloud inside half an hour can be little more than summaries, and fuller publication is usually essential. Is the tardy publication of such short papers (necessarily with far fewer illustrations than the slides accompanying their original delivery) either necessary or desirable? Would not archaeology be better served by a prompt brief abstract of the main points, with a reference to the full publication?

However, the remainder of the papers give a sound reason for such publication. Two studies of round keeps are examples of how a single structure can be dealt with in depth in a short paper. That at Hamburg, in the angle between the Hammaburg ring-work and the 'Heathen Wall', is claimed to date from the 11th century on pottery evidence, backed by Adam of Bremen's reference to towers and a stone house by 1043. The extremely careful drawing of each stone of the rubble foundation shows suspicious differences between the E. and W. halves, the latter having a well-pipe attached to its exterior. M. Vallery-Radot provides a masterly study of the surviving donjon at Ville-neuve-sur-Yonne, identifying it with the specification laid down in Philip Augustus's register of 1204-11 (Vatican Library MS. Ottoboni 2796); as in the Orléans tower of similar date and size, the walls were built a metre thinner than had been planned.

Again, there are four general studies of the wider questions raised by individual castle investigations. Mr. Davison uses interim reports of his work at Sulgrave, Castle Neroche and the Tower of London to ask pertinent questions about the origins of castles in general and of mottes in particular. Professor de Boüard shows that the word 'motte' was originally applied to the earthworks of an artificial water-channel, and seems not to have been appropriated to the castle mound until the 12th century. (Its use in English dates back less than a century, when it was borrowed from modern French to distinguish 'mote' from 'moat'—an early instance of 'Franglais'?) Mr. Piepers looks at the domestic economy of castles and the effects of climatic changes, considering in particular the drinking-water supply and the traces of pottery-making and iron-working in the vicinity. Finally, Mr. Stiesdal's modest survey of Danish mottes opens up at least one new line of inquiry for British 'castellologists'. He notes the mounds near some churches in Schleswig still carrying a separate timber belfry. A similar mound (still surviving) carried the campanile of Canterbury Cathedral in the 12th century, and other possible examples spring to mind. There must have been cross-fertilization between the belfry and the castle tower (St. George's tower at Oxford was both). Do any romanesque timbers survive inside the belfries of Britain?

D. F. RENN

Peeblesshire: An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments. By the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. 2 vols. $10\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in. xxxv + xviii + 391 pp., 143 pls., 313 figs., map in pocket. Edinburgh: H.M. Stationery Office. Price £10 10s.

Peeblesshire covers an area of 347 square miles of upland country in the central part of southern Scotland between the Firth of Forth and the Border, although nearer to the former than to the latter and to the E. coast than to the W. coast. More than half the area lies above the 1,000-ft. contour line and is shown on the maps of the Land Utilization Survey as 'heath, moorland and rough pasture'. The climate is hard; there are few natural resources other than the hill pasture, and little industry. Within the hills lies the basin of the upper Tweed, so that the grain of the country runs from east to west and the great trunk routes linking Scotland and England by-pass the area on either side. This is not the physical background for major architectural achievement and in fact there are only two known early medieval castle sites (neither preserving any structural remains) in the county and only one medieval monastic house, one medieval burgh and one medieval bridge, all of the above except one of the castle sites being at Peebles itself. There are nonetheless 218 items in the medieval and later section of the Inventory, including three buildings of major importance (Neidpath Castle, Drochil Castle and Traquair), some 45 tower-house sites in varying states of preservation and a host of other items of lesser, but considerable interest.

Neidpath Castle is dated late 14th century in the Inventory and, if this is correct, is not only one of the earlier tower-houses, but perhaps the earliest example of a tower-house built on the L-plan in Scotland. Defence is purely passive, although there were no doubt at one time external defence works, now destroyed, outwith the tower proper. The accommodation consists in essentials of three great vaulted chambers containing

the principal public and private rooms piled one on top of the other in the main block, with service rooms and small private rooms in the projecting wing. The tower has the plain exterior, the thick walls and relatively simple plan that one associates with the early towers, but nonetheless illustrates the fact that in their internal layout such towers were as sophisticated and compact as later examples. The early perfection of structure and planning in such towers poses questions which have yet to be answered.

While Neidpath is in the main stream of Scottish architectural development in the later middle ages, Drochil stands largely on its own. Much of the decorative detail is typical of the later 16th century, but the plan, with its central corridor and flanking suites of rooms, is with one possible exception unique. The Inventory follows Dr. Simpson's view that the plan is of foreign origin, sponsored by the ill-fated regent Morton and carried out by one of the royal master-masons, as yet unidentified. The Inventory also points out that, in spite of the tradition that work stopped at Drochil when the regent was executed, the castle was none the less occupied, if not necessarily complete, by the end of the century. The Commissioners draw attention to the poor condition of this remarkable building and one hopes that its interest may be considered sufficient to justify its preservation.

The third building of special note is Traquair, by almost any standard one of the most interesting and picturesque mansions in Scotland. The Inventory shows that the buildings as they stand today have a long and complex history of alteration and extension since the construction of the small, free-standing tower first recorded in 1512. Here one can see demonstrated on a single site the characteristic Scottish evolution from the tower-house of the 16th century to the 'fortified' mansion of the 17th, with forecourt and terraces added about 1700 to provide an appropriate setting for a gentleman's residence of that date.

Neidpath, Drochil and Traquair are the exceptions. The characteristic Peeblesshire 'medieval' monument is a small tower-house, frequently preserving little if any masonry above ground and on occasion serving as the nucleus for a small township or agricultural settlement, long since abandoned. Here is scope for the excavator, since little is known of these sites, and indeed the small excavations recently carried out to determine the nature of the sites at Longhaugh, Lour and Skirling were conducted by the officers of the Commission themselves. These three sites alone would appear to be of sufficient interest to justify more detailed examination, and indeed the site of Oliver Castle, one of the two early sites referred to above, has yet to be securely located.

So much for the buildings. What of the Inventory? This has been published in two volumes almost, but not quite, independent, the first dealing with prehistoric and Roman monuments, the second with the middle ages and later, no firm line being drawn between the latter two classes because in Scotland this is difficult to do and because some of the items (wells, roads, farmsteads) do not fall clearly into either category. In volume 1 the medievalist need only note the list of monuments most worthy of preservation (74 medieval and later, divided into two classes), the list of monuments by parishes, the list of bibliographical abbreviations, the editorial notes and parts of the introduction (Section 1, General, pp. 1-12, and Section 9, The Middle Ages and Later, pp. 39-49). The Commissioners also report that the Scottish National Buildings Record has been transferred from the Ministry of Public Building and Works to the Royal Commission. Volume 2 contains the whole of the medieval inventory and in addition the glossary, armorial, index and location-map. Possibly the best way to grasp the wealth of material available is to glance through the plates at the back of the volume. Here are gathered together some 375 photographs recording not only the conventional general views of the more important buildings but also (to choose at random) monuments, sculptured fragments, sundials, plaster ceilings, plans and drawings, woodwork (ecclesiastical and domestic), architectural details of special interest, carved fireplaces, wrought-iron work and painted decoration.

The volumes are designed for easy references and are in fact easy to use. The

monuments are arranged chronologically in classes, with a separate list of monuments by parishes in volume 1 and a full index and location-map in volume 2, so that one is catered for whether one is interested in a particular period of time, a particular type of monument or a particular geographical area. Each monument is described in detail with, where appropriate, a historical note, plans and photographs. Descriptions, plans and photographs are admirably clear and the volumes are produced to a standard which would adorn any bookshelf. It is sad that at their price they will not adorn half as many bookshelves as they should.

M. R. APTED

A Medieval Society: the West Midlands at the End of the Thirteenth Century. By R. H. Hilton. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x + 306 pp., 8 pls., 3 figs., 8 maps. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1966. Price 50s.

From the ridge of the Malvern Hills, Langland, in Piers Plowman's vision, surveyed the plain that stretched eastwards up to the Severn and across it to the Cotswolds. Langland's 'fair field' was a little less full of folk than in the period of Professor Hilton's survey, for west midland society had been shattered by the Black Death pandemic. Professor Hilton's intention is 'that this description is to serve as a starting point for an examination of social and economic movement in the following two centuries'. This starting point, as he explains, is necessarily not at one point in time, for the available documentation is not profuse enough to construct a survey based on evidence from one single year only, nor indeed from one decade only: the evidence cited is largely from the period 1272–1307. A 'certain (quite relative) stability of social and economic conditions' is also claimed for this period. The key word is not so much 'relative', of course, as 'quite'.

The presentation of the evidence, it must be emphasized, is what gives this book its particular quality, especially in the chapters dealing with rural society. The sources cited in the footnotes show that, for once, a study claiming to be about society is not from the school of sociologist-historians who have not soiled their fingers with archival dust, much less with diggers' dirt. The instances cited are freshly culled, many from the unpublished cartularies of the former monastic landlords of the region, and important aspects of the subject are usefully mapped, although by a quirk of book-production the figures and maps are not listed in the contents, nor, indeed, numbered for reference.

The urban material is slighter: largely because of the paucity of documentation, but partly because it is more difficult to make a case for a distinctive regional type of west midland town at this period than it is to emphasize facts of tenure and terrain that give the rural economies (and perhaps the rural societies) a plausible claim to be different from those in other parts of England. The book is excellent local history but its claim to be regional history—other than by not being national—is more arguable. In the introduction, 'The Region', Professor Hilton writes of 'the variety and the unity' that made up the region. Variety, surely, divides a region: what makes a region is a large enough group of unifying factors, so that when he writes, 'we must first describe (these) unifying features', expectations are aroused. Professor Hilton begins aptly enough with the communications system—water and saltways—but then passes on to important internal differences in land-use without ever again mentioning unity. Was it in fact a region except in its communication-system, difficult as it is to underestimate this factor?

Regions can be man-made as well as nature-made and it is as much in the power of authors to make a region as to make a century. We have Tawney's 'Century', which begins and ends with the fifth decade of a century, and we are half-way to having Hilton's 'West Midlands'. This volume arouses the greatest expectations for its successor, which will have to encompass not only peasant revolts but the suicidal civil wars which made the west midlands the marching ground for Falstaff and others' ragged armies, with the *custodes :acis* slender and shallow amid the disorder of civil society.

M. W. BERESFORD

Medieval Tommarp. Archaeological Investigations 1959–1960. By Egon Thun. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{8}$ in. 91 pp., 37 figs. Bonn and Lund: Habelt Verlag and Gleerup Forlag, 1967. No price stated.

In the introduction the author states his aims as firstly to give an account of the excavations at Tommarp (in the southern tip of Sweden) and secondly to throw some light on the various problems arising from the investigation. These excavations have revealed a considerable number of what the author terms 'open-pit kilns and flat hearths'. There is also evidence for smithy work and for the exploitation of natural schist which, it is suggested, was used as fuel, possibly in connexion with lime-burning. The picture is of the industrial area of this medieval town and is, therefore, of considerable interest as a potential source of comparative material for excavators studying the industrial remains of medieval Britain. Unfortunately, the reviewer can only express a sense of disappointment that the author has been unable to throw more light on the excavated structures.

In the chapter, 'Iron Manufacturing', the author suggests that the Tommarp kilns are highly reminiscent of the pit-kilns known from primitive Scandinavian iron manufacturing, but concludes with the statement that, although it is reasonable to assume that some of the Tommarp kilns were used for reducing iron, it cannot be established whether this was to do with reducing the ore or whether the process was used for reworking and purifying crude iron obtained elsewhere.

This kind of tantalizing inconclusiveness runs throughout the whole book. For example in the chapter, 'The Dating of the Pit Kilns', the terminal date for the kilns and hearths is given as roughly 1300, but it is also pointed out that 'the risk that all datable finds in a pit or kiln were dug up from earlier culture layers is obvious'. From the site as a whole there were in fact 29 coins, 21 of which belong to the period 1154–1360, and a series of double-sided bone combs (the finding of waste suggests that these were manufactured on the site). The pottery was, however, limited and there were only 88 rim-sherds.

It is unfortunate, in the interests of English usage, that the translator has used the term 'kiln' (normally connected with pottery, lime and grain) to describe structures which would more correctly be described as furnaces or hearths, and there is further confusion in that the term 'pit-kiln' is specifically applied to a type of pottery-kiln found in Yorkshire.

If the reader wants to look beyond the author's interpretation of the site, he would I think wish to know whether there are any locally available sources of iron ore (there is no mention of this and there is no account of the local geology), whether there was any evidence for tap slag, or tuyères (presumably there was not, since they are not mentioned). Some analyses of the slags are also needed (in a footnote it is implied that an analysis is proposed) as these could be crucial, since slag-like materials can result from smithy work as well as smelting, although Tylecote has pointed out (*Metallurgy in Archaeology*, p. 176) that to distinguish some iron smelting and working slags from cinders is complex and it is safer to accept only the presence of ore or tap-slag as evidence for iron smelting. (This suggestion appears to have escaped the notice of some British excavators of medieval settlement-sites, who too readily accept stray lumps of slag-like material as evidence for iron-smelting on the site.) Tylecote has also published recently (*Bull. of the Historical Metallurgy Group*, 1, no. 9, 1967, 22) a series of analyses of slag-like materials which includes vitrified cow-dung and wood-ash and shows, for example, that vitrified coal-ash can contain as much as 30 per cent. iron as FeO.

Bearing in mind the vagaries of 'slags', one can, to some extent, appreciate the author's difficulties. However, to interpret the metallurgical activities at a site such as Tommarp it is necessary to consider the site in all its aspects and not just the slags, i.e. its natural resources, location, structures, etc., and to evaluate these in consultation with an archaeological scientist. Only a comparatively small area has been examined so

far (limited to the line of the replanned road from Malmö to Simrisham) and there may be unrevealed evidence in the form of associated structures outside the excavated area; this the excavator recognizes. However, on the existing evidence, if smelting was involved, the bloomeries would seem to be of the simple bowl type in which the slag sank to the bottom of the furnace leaving the smelted iron above it.

For Britain such furnaces are known from early-iron-age sites and continued in later periods, although in the Roman period the shaft furnace was introduced and provisions were made for tapping the slag from the furnace in the fluid state. These more advanced techniques did not apparently carry over from Roman into Saxon and medieval periods and the more primitive bowl-type furnace was reintroduced. For this pottery-making provides an interesting parallel, in that in the immediate post-Roman period the technically evolved kiln was replaced by the primitive clamp. Thus the author could have examined with profit the British evidence, especially Tylecote's work. There is, indeed, no reference to Tylecote or any other British author—the extensive bibliography is restricted to Scandinavian, German and Russian publications.

An interesting side issue is discussed by Søren Ødum in an appendix. He adduces evidence for the survival in a viable form of the seeds of henbane, hemlock and certain other weed species in the medieval levels, thus suggesting that some seeds can retain their viability for a period of at least 600 years. The samples were taken from a depth of 50–80 cm. and contamination from recent air-borne seeds was carefully avoided by cutting back an exposed vertical face and then rapidly removing a sample. No evidence is adduced in this short account to confirm beyond doubt that the seeds as found were in their primary position, but this aspect has apparently been dealt with in a separate publication (*Dansk Botanisk Arkiv*, 24, p. 2) and one presumes that the possibility that the medieval levels have been contaminated by more recent seeds as a result of artificial disturbance of the soil has been carefully considered. As Ødum's findings are in conflict with conventional views on this subject it is clear that a number of carefully controlled repeat observations are called for. The reader will look forward to further discussions of this point, as well as of the rest of the Tommarp evidence.

JOHN MUSTY

Medieval Cruck-Building and its Derivatives: a Study of Timber-framed Construction based on Buildings in Worcestershire (Society for Medieval Archaeology, Monograph Series, II). By F. W. B. Charles. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. xiv + 70 pp., 32 pls., 10 figs., 15 drawings. London: Society for Medieval Archaeology, 1967. Price 40s.

An archaeological monograph must first set its subject in historical and geographical context, as it appeared *before* the study opened, then describe and anatomize the subject as exhaustively and objectively as possible, and finally, rather than *en passant* and much more provisionally, present the internal implications of the subject, with any required modification of the external references. The central and descriptive part of Mr. Charles's work fulfils this model admirably; the new material recorded is a most valuable contribution to the growing corpus of printed evidence on 'vernacular architecture', seen from the standpoint of an architect concerned with the dynamic problems of raising and assembly, and the logic of carpentry (unlike, say, that of metallurgy, or even agriculture) is within the compass of a layman. The drawings are clear and direct, if somewhat lacking in scales—totally, and most shortsightedly, lacking in metric scales—and the mechanics of assembly are always implicit in them.

The true subject is given in the second title: medieval timber-framed building in, or almost in, Worcestershire. That is enough for any monograph; the nucleus of the study was the even more restricted areas of Feckenham Forest. Worcestershire is a part of the cruck-belt much exposed to ideas from the south (i.e. Wessex) and from the east (some of the close-studded town buildings are surprisingly eastern); hybridization is to be expected.

Mr. Charles offers a study within strict regional limits, from the point of view of a cruck-minded carpenter, having first defined the methods concomitant with at least the western form of cruck—trenched or carried purlins, deep transverse members and multiple pegs. His recording is unexceptionable, but his explanations are not always irreversible. The base-cruck, for instance, could be explained as a method of eliminating aisle-posts without any reference to crucks at all, but in such a form as that at Amberley Hall, where the apparent arcade-plates are tenoned into full-height unitary trusses incorporating base-crucks, we have the most cruck-conscious interpretation of it. The analysis of various jointed trusses of cruck-like outline is original and stimulating, but it does not imply a single, insulated line of development; it is possible to explain side-purlin roofs, wherever they first arose, without reference to crucks, but it is difficult to envisage the popularity of the heavy arch-braced collar, without a tie-beam, except with the encouragement of cruck-truss precedents. The fertility of the study comes from the application of the 'cruck-test' to everything, however un-cruck-like.

It is in the introductory chapters, that should define the main subject and the common assumptions about it, that the monograph falls short of its model. Some of the generalities are surely unnecessary in a learned and technical work, even the perennial distinction of block-, stave- and frame-work, precedents for all three of which have been claimed from the late neolithic Bodensee area; in any case, the stave-walls of Greensted nave are not 'a small section' but virtually complete. Having described the cruck-methods it would have been better simply to delimit the cruck-area and any significant subdivisions within it, putting Worcestershire properly 'on the map' (there is not even a distribution map of the detailed examples).

Reluctantly the important fact emerges that the areas of modest aisled halls (and barns) and cruck halls (and barns) are in general complementary, with an irregular zone of overlap, perhaps indicating recession of one and advance of the other, perhaps always a condominium. Discovering, with unexpected surprise, that many of his roofs are anomalous on the basis of Cordingley's static and theoretical classification, Mr. Charles restates in the simplest terms the most basic division of roofs into 'purlin-roofs' and 'rafter-roofs' (that is, more or less, J. T. Smith's 'equal-scanling roofs'); this is admirable, but not really relevant to the cruck-question except as a secondary definition, and, though this is how the dichotomy appears in surviving English buildings, the 'half is not told' and we are still far off the really seminal situation.

One can but mention two facts that do not square with the simple equation, augmented Highland Zone / crucks / later, purlin-roofs; Lowland Zone / aisles, box-frames, rafter-roofs: (a) there are relics of romanesque roofs with heavy trusses, closely set, each rafter-couple with its own tie-beam, and (b) the French practice combines box-frames with ridge-pole roofs, where the principals carry the purlins which in turn carry the common rafters, precisely in the cruck manner, in so much that 'crucks' reported from Normandy are simply *combles-à-surcroit* standing on the ground. None of these latter is provenly early, but nor are any English crucks certified before the 14th century. Is it possible then that the English cruck is already a hybrid with imported elements? The result was persistent not because it was primitive but because it was structurally efficient and the blades were easily obtainable. Mr. Charles rightly stresses the formative importance of the late 13th century and the 'structural adventure and imposing scale' of roofs from that age. It is necessary to define the cruck historically as well as geographically: if 'there is no reason to suppose 12th-century (crucks) were any different', there is no reason to suppose the contrary. If the Irish skeuomorphs tell anything, they suggest monoxylic blades and heavy wall-plates, not purlins.

It is, of course, on the derivatives, not the origins, of cruck building that the information has been presented, and we should not expect too much on the latter. But, on the same premise, the chapter on the 'Lowland tradition' is really an irrelevance and in some points misleading. The 'hypothetical' aisled structure with collar-purlin exists, much as drawn, in numerous barns; so, apart from the ridge-and-king-post

element, does its neighbour 'in framed carpentry', but as a derivative, not as an antecedent; the 'aisled post-hole structure' is totally hypothetical. The explanation of the double-plate (so-called 'Wealden') front as a device to provide basal stability for the rafters, as on stone walls, is ingenious but does not fit the facts. Houses 'Wealden' on both sides are very rare. Much more widely distributed is the inset cornice or 'jowpe', forming in effect a duplicated plate on the *inside*.

Two minor points are worth mention: a fine for permission to build is normal enough and has nothing penal about it; the coin, no doubt a groat (Henry VI struck no shillings), from the mortise at Bromsgrove is so valuable as to deserve proper description. If these criticisms sound strict, it is only by contrast with the very high quality of the descriptive and analytic heart-wood of the thesis.

S. E. RIGOLD

Exeter Houses 1400–1700. By D. Portman. $10 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. $x + 133$ pp., 40 pls., 20 figs. Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 1966. Price 35s.

This, as its title implies, is a regional study and perhaps its greatest merit is that it pretends to be no more. The text is divided into three parts; the first two examine historical development of houses in Exeter from 1400 to 1500 and from 1550 to 1700; the third is devoted to the descriptions of some thirty-three selected houses. There are transcripts of relevant documents, mostly inventories relating to the later period, a representative set of illustrations and drawn plans and sections of typical houses.

The information available for houses of the earlier period is pitifully small for a town of Exeter's history. There is structural evidence for only six houses which can be said to be town houses in the sense that their form is conditioned by their location in a street context. The earliest house for which there is any structural evidence is no. 8 Milk Street, attributed to the 14th century, though on what evidence is not entirely clear. The remaining examples, all of them timber-framed, are of the 15th century. The location of these houses has a vital bearing on their form, so that it would have been helpful if the map towards the end of the book had included those houses for which there is documentary evidence and shown the relationship between the various types and some indication of the distribution of plot-sizes. This would have given some sort of background to the typological divisions. As for development, the evidence, which is here examined with great care, is insufficient to build up a typological sequence based on Exeter alone, but this in no way detracts from the value of the examples and detailed descriptions given, which provide important confirmation of national trends.

By the 15th century the house-plot in medieval town centres had become almost standard, long and narrow, varying considerably in length, but little from a 25-ft. width. Inevitably this limited variations of plan and the examples given form a valuable addition to the comparatively few of which descriptions have been published. The surviving evidence in Exeter is for two types, those with a hall (Pantin's extended plan) and those without a hall. Nos. 36 and 38 North Street, which provide the only examples of the former, are to be found in the central position that might have been expected. This position is significant when compared with the hall-less examples situated away from the high-value centre. The author quotes documentary sources which suggest that the North Street houses represent the last stage in the development of the hall-houses adapted to a street site, a form with origins in Exeter, as elsewhere, in the 13th and 14th centuries. The arrangement of the side passage within the body of the hall is paralleled in the 15th century at Chester and Bristol and this confirms the late date of the Exeter houses.

A hybrid house, no. 166 Fore Street, of about 1600, but now demolished, appears to be an exception, unless it is considered as an early example of the side-entry type (cf. the Rows at Great Yarmouth), of which there is a contemporary example on the N. side of Church Street, Tewkesbury, so that such houses really belong to Dr. Portman's later period. If, as is suggested, this house is indeed that of a principal merchant,

it argues a lower scale of values in Exeter than, say, in Norwich, Bristol and London, where there is ample evidence that the wealthy merchants occupied courtyard houses such as Bridewell, Norwich. This point might, perhaps, have been pursued to greater advantage.

In Exeter, the courtyard house, of which there are good examples, appears in a very different context. Apart from Bowhill (which is hardly a town house) such houses are confined to the cathedral quarter, as at Salisbury and Lincoln. The memorable roofs of Bowhill and the Law Library alone make the courtyard houses of Exeter of more than local interest (I wonder how many realize the sad state of the Bowhill hall), and this might have justified the inclusion in this study of a fuller notice of Tucker's Hall and others, if only for comparison.

The 16th- and 17th-century houses which have survived until now tend to be the smaller ones, though it would appear that in Exeter, as in so many towns, the greater houses survived well into the 19th century to be recorded by the indefatigable topographical artists of that period. The central-stack-and-stair type and its variants that developed in the 16th century are well represented at Exeter, either at right angles to or parallel to the road, continuing here as late as the 18th century at 4 Cowick Street. The majority of those surviving or recorded by Dr. Portman are of the side-entry type, a form which commonly appears in late medieval town planning when the long plots associated with the earlier phases fall before the increasing pressures on land space.

If there are no surviving remains of the houses of the greater merchants we can still call up a vivid picture of at least two from the descriptions given of Bedford House, an adaptation by the Russells of the Dominican friary and of William Spicer's house (which does not seem to have been located) of which a 1604 inventory is given in full. Cowick Barton and Old Matford House, while not of the scale of these two, were other substantial houses, country houses, of c. 1600. The latter, probably built by Sir George Smyth, three times mayor of Exeter, may suggest a tendency for the more wealthy merchants to dissociate themselves by this date from their trading establishments within the city boundaries.

In any discussion of town houses some notice of shops is inevitable. There is little to go on in Exeter and such information as there is derives mostly from documentary sources. Most shops had cellars beneath them, but it is not safe to assume that it was standard medieval practice for these to be half above and half below ground. In other towns this can be shown to be a device confined to a specific period, the last half of the 13th and the 14th century (cf. no. 8 Milk Street and no. 65 High Street); before that date 'undercrofts' were usually wholly above ground and after it wholly below ground. The latter point is noted by Dr. Portman, but not the former. Interesting evidence is given of the smallness of the late medieval shop, ranging from those in Broadgate, which measure 10 ft. by 6 ft., to a pair, each measuring only 5 ft. by 4 ft., in High Street. Whether the covering pentice which is here assumed to be a medieval detail was, in fact, in use before the 16th or 17th century is doubtful. None of the surviving timber-framed shop-fronts of East Anglia or Herefordshire retain this feature or any sign of its fixings and the few examples that do survive (e.g. Frome, Somerset) appear to be late additions.

Interior decoration, details and furnishings are discussed mostly on the basis of the inventories. This is useful information in which the later period is naturally given the fuller coverage and forms a valuable reference section for this aspect of domestic architecture within a defined context. The 17th-century decline of the carpenter's skill in designing structures is admirably illustrated in the story of the unhappy Richard Jewell whose house 'casually fell down . . . grievously bruised the said Jewell and destroyed his wife'.

Dr. Portman has not only recorded much that is now lost but has interpreted what is left with care and discernment, giving us, in most readable form, a mine of information which, because it is so clearly related to a single town, gains in value. Such studies as

this, enlightened by similar scholarship, are badly needed for many other towns; let us hope that this volume will show the way.

P. FAULKNER

Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde. Founded by Johannes Hoops; 2nd ed., enlarged and fully revised. Edited by H. Jankuhn, H. Kuhn, K. Ranke and R. Wenskus. Bd. 1, Lieferung 1. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$ in. 112 pp., 3 pls., 10 figs. Berlin: Verlag Walter de Gruyter, 1968. Price 24 DM.

Whether our interests lie in the prehistoric, classical or medieval fields most of us, from time to time, have recourse to a German *Reallexikon* to obtain a succinct account of something that is on the fringe of our knowledge. Such works are usually much-handled volumes on the open shelves of our libraries but the misfortune is that they soon become out of date. The publication by instalments of a complete revision of a *Reallexikon* first published in 1911 must be greeted with satisfaction, combined with admiration for the daunting task of the editors; by spreading the cost the work is within reach of some private purses.

This, the first of five fascicles that will make up volume 1—there being in all eight text volumes (about 640 pp. in each in double columns) and an index volume (240 pp.)—runs from 'Aachen' to 'Ahnenglaube'. The founder, Hoops, wrote when the first edition was published in 1911: 'A chief aim of this book is to restore the close contact between the different branches of German cultural history that have become separated from each other in recent years owing to increasing specialization in research.' As a result he drew up a list of 13 broad subjects (*Sachgebiete*) to be covered, ranging from the history of research, trade, speech, military matters, religion and so on on the one hand, to historical matter (specifically Germanic) on the other. It was one of those ambitious but noble ideas characteristic of the pre-1914 period; it is to the credit of the modern editors that, although they have had to curtail slightly here and expand there, the scheme of Hoops has been maintained with all the entries freshly written.

The historical items that deal with the Germanic homeland (including Scandinavia) from neolithic to Viking times will be of great value, but it is the entries from the *Sachgebiete* that will be of most interest to English readers. In the first fascicle the two main subjects of this kind are agriculture and nobility ('Ackerbau', 'Acker- und Flurformen', etc., and 'Adel'). Some other headings indicate the range of the work: 'Aachen', 'Åberg', 'Aethelbald', 'Aggersborg' and so on. There are a few short entries in English by our Secretary. The figures and plates are well-chosen and one only regrets, as always, that economic considerations prevented the inclusion of more illustrations. We must all sincerely hope that this bold venture will achieve completion.

M. W. THOMPSON

Maps and Plans in the Public Record Office: I, British Isles, c. 1410-1860. Compiled by H. N. Blakiston. 10×6 in. xv+648 pp. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1967. Price £5 5s.

A card index of maps in the Public Record Office was started in 1926 and this volume is the first of a series of catalogues that have resulted from the work of the last 40 years. 4,173 maps and plans are here catalogued under counties grouped on a regional basis, the maps of smaller areas being arranged by parishes. Some 300 of the maps are earlier than 1603. For the medieval archaeologist interested in changes in topography or the subsequent history of medieval buildings such early maps and plans provide invaluable information; this catalogue is likely to prove an aid to field-work in many areas and its publication is to be warmly welcomed.

M. W. THOMPSON

Tools and Tillage, a Journal on the History of the Implements of Cultivation and other Agricultural Processes. Edited by Axel Steensberg, Alexander Fenton and Grith Lerche. Vol. 1, no. 1, 64 pp., illus. Copenhagen: G.E.C. Gad, 1968. Price \$3 each number.

This new journal, published in English and German, deals with 'every aspect of the subject, not only the implements themselves, but also field systems and methods of cultivation and cropping, and will include linguistic as well as functional aspects'. The two main articles in the first issue are: 'Proposal for the classification of pre-industrial tilling implements' by František Šach (Prague) and 'Observations on harvesting with sickles in Iran' by Grith Lerche (Copenhagen). The latter is particularly interesting in that it is based on work in the field showing us the tools in action. 'Each number will contain two or three major articles of 10,000 to 40,000 words and in addition shorter notes and news, current problems of research and short reviews of relevant books.'

Those in this country who are interested should write to: Alexander Fenton, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Queen St., Edinburgh 2, Scotland.

M. W. THOMPSON

The Sketchbook of Villard de Honnecourt. Edited by Theodore Bowie. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ in. 144 pp., 64 pls. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press (American University Publishers Group, Ltd.), 1968 (?). Price 21s.

This is a paperback edition of a book first published in 1959, which makes available to the student at a modest price the famous drawings on the 33 parchment folios in the Bibliothèque Nationale. As the originals measure $6\frac{1}{4}$ by $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. there has had to be some reduction or cutting of edges, but not so very much: the French inscriptions are normally legible. It is not intended to rival the older, scholarly editions and after the briefest introduction the drawings are reproduced on one side with a short description and translation of the inscription on the other. The order of the folios has been rearranged to give what the editor believes to be a more logical grouping.

Two or three of the sketches have often been published before, but here one can see them in context. The greater part depict human or animal figures, sacred or profane, and it is only from plate 39 onwards that they are largely architectural. Figure-drawing presumably was a necessary qualification for the master-craftsman, probably to show to the client as well as to serve as a guide to the masons working on the sculpture. It is no doubt the ground-plans of churches that impress us most, although in many ways the geometrical devices used in masonry (pls. 55–58) are the most intriguing. Other curious figures are the engines and the maze (pl. 34). What a misfortune it is that we know nothing of Villard; whether these drawings are those of a practical man that sometimes saw fulfilment or just rather wishful dreams!

M. W. THOMPSON

The following have also been received:

East Anglian Studies. Edited by Lionel M. Munby. $8 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. xiii + 207 pp., 18 figs. Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 1968. Price 35s.

Excavations at Shakenoak Farm, near Wilcote, Oxfordshire. Pt. 1: *Sites A and D.* By A. C. Broadribb, A. R. Hands and A. R. Walker. Privately printed; available from A. R. Hands, Exeter College, Oxford. Price 20s.

Town Origins: the Evidence from Medieval England (Problems in European Civilization). Edited by J. B. Benton. $9\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ in. xi + 108 pp., 9 maps. Boston (Mass.) and London: Heath and Harrap, 1968. Price 18s. 6d.

Medieval Sites in the Mendip, Cotswold, Wye Valley and Bristol Region (Bristol Archaeological Research Group, Field Guide, no. 3). By Philip Rahtz and others. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. 38 pp. Bristol: City Museum, 1969. Price 3s. 6d.