Reviews

Excavations at Shakenoak Farm, near Wilcote, Oxfordshire, pt. III: *Site F*. By A. C. C. Brodribb, A. R. Hands and D. R. Walker. 21 × 19 cm. 163 pp., 68 figs. Oxford: privately printed, 1972. Price £1·50, post free, from Dr. A. R. Hands, Exeter College, Oxford.

The Shakenoak site is a Romano-British villa in N. Oxfordshire, which has been the subject of painstaking excavation since 1960. An admirable feature of the work has been the way in which the excavators have solved the grave problems, both of delay and of cost, which beset the publication of sizable excavations. Their reports (Part I, 1968; Part II, 1971; and now Part III) are produced by offset-litho from an immaculate typescript, and are illustrated only by line-drawings. In consequence, fellow-workers are presented with the results at about one-fifth the cost of conventional excavation monographs.

Parts I and II have had little to interest the medieval scholar: some belt-fittings in I, pp. 96–101, and the remarkable attribution of a bronze brooch in II, pp. 116–17. But in 1967–70 the excavation of 500 ft. of late Roman enclosure ditch, designated Site F, led to the discovery of undoubted Saxon pottery and metalwork. Some of this was found with pottery in a Romanized tradition, evoking thoughts of continuity from Roman Britain to Saxon England. This new material is obviously of prime importance to the medievalist, and both the evidence and the hypotheses which arise from it will be scrutinized with a critical interest.

In summary, the following history has been proposed for Site F. In late Roman times a ditch of V-section was dug, apparently into white Jurassic limestone—this is inference from the geological report. It quickly eroded into a 'wider, shallower ditch of U-shaped profile'. A minor incident of the late 4th century was the construction of a hearth on top of the primary ditch filling. Thereafter a considerable depth of homogeneous filling accumulated. The lower part of this, F3, contained wheel-thrown calcite-gritted pottery in a Roman tradition, hand-made vessels with upright perforated lugs of Saxon type, battered fragments of military belt-fittings, and a small-long brooch related to the cross-pattée type. We are invited to believe that Anglo-Saxon immigrants were settling alongside the descendants of the troops who had defended the villa about A.D. 400, and whose original *germanitas* is now attested by the marriage of a descendant to a woman wearing a German brooch. In the higher levels of the filling, F4, is pottery datable to the 7th and early 8th centuries, together with a rich collection of iron- and bonework. It is evident that during the accumulation of F3 and F4 the ditch was a refuse dump, and it is unfortunate that no traces have yet been recovered of the buildings from which the refuse originally came.

If this historical account is accepted, the main point which arises is that the degree of continuity is not impressive. Continuity from the 5th through the 7th century is based not on an unbroken sequence of finds, but on the argument that the hypothesis of a continuing occupation is more economical than that of 5th-century occupation, 6th-century abandonment, 7th-century reoccupation. Continuity from the Roman to the Saxon period is based on the association of rilled calcite-gritted pottery with pierced-lug vessels. The detailed evidence will be examined shortly, but it must be made clear for a start that these rilled vessels are not confined to SE. England; they are a widespread component of very late Roman ceramics, occuring as far west as Segontium and Degannwy in ambiguous late- or post-Roman contexts. If, at Shakenoak, they are in a valid association with Saxon pottery and a German brooch, then we can assess how little 'continuity' means: one element only of romanized pottery, no romanized jewellery, no

romanized architecture. And if the material culture of a Roman villa did not survive, why need we think that its legal, tenurial and agricultural systems were taken over as going concerns?

In fact there is no compulsion to accept the historical accounts given in any part of this report. The excavators claim that 'the archaeological facts . . . are a sure foundation upon which others may build their own interpretations'; this, however, is not so. Those scholars who use this report in a proper fashion, and not as a body of received doctrine, will soon compile their own list of inadequacies, inconsistencies and illogicalities. Here a few hints must suffice. The hypothesis of continuity must be based on the stratified position of objects in the F3 and F4 deposits. But normally the only information provided about the location of individual finds is a measurement along the ditch from a modern hedge line. In the initial account of F3 and F4, grass-tempered pottery is assigned to F4, and 'was never found in the same deposits as the pierced lug and calcite-gritted types' (p. 24), which are characteristic of F3. But in the account of the pottery (pp. 56–66) the following vessels with grass temper are assigned to F3: 399, 401, 404, 405, 408, 411. Finally, one's reluctance to believe that a V-sectioned ditch—surely the most stable of all profiles—might become a shallower (*sic*) U-profiled ditch as a result of natural weathering is reinforced by the drawn sections. If these have any credibility they must surely show a ditch which had been partly filled with the stones quarried from it, before any weathering had occurred.

Unhappily the lack of logical rigour exhibited by the excavators extends also to the contributors of specialist reports. One example must stand for a legion. The occurrence of frog bones (*sic*) is the foundation for hypotheses about neglected drainage and consequent vegetational developments in the post-Roman centuries (p. 160). Turning back to the bone report we find (p. 131): 'Frog: *tibio-fibula*, 1'. We then recall that Site F was an open ditch. All in all, far too much has been built on far too little evidence throughout this report.

LESLIE ALCOCK

The Early Christian Archaeology of North Britain. By Charles Thomas. 21·5 × 13·5 cm. xvi + 254 pp., 8 pls., 100 figs. Oxford: published for the University of Glasgow, 1971. Price £3·00.

This short book, an admirably balanced survey of the Christian evidences found in N. Britain, is based on the Hunter Marshall lectures delivered by the author at Glasgow in 1968. The subject is the rise of Christianity in 'North Britain', a title which 'allows the inclusion, besides present-day Scotland, of Northumbria, Cumbria and the Isle of Mann, and much of Ireland'. A terminal date of *c.* 800 is adopted.

The author's treatment of the literary evidence is eminently sound. He stresses the need for scholarly texts and emphasizes the point that material drawn from later medieval *Lives* (composed after *c.* 1100) should be employed 'in the secondary capacity of supporting evidence'. Even the primary sources, contemporary, or nearly contemporary with the events, must, he correctly argues, be used with a proper appreciation of their form and purpose.

But the book is mainly concerned with the material evidence provided by field survey and excavation. In his introductory chapter Professor Thomas pays a due tribute to the stimulus which the emergence of the Irish Free State and later the Republic gave to these studies in the twenty-six counties. His contrast with the work done in Scotland—and for that matter in the six counties, which escape mention—is less than generous. The Inventories of Orkney and Shetland, of the Hebrides and Skye and of County Down are notable contributions to those 'prolonged researches and full presentation' for which he pleads. The most important omission in the Scottish field is Argyll. Here we already have the survey of mid-Argyll to which a fitting acknowledgement is given; since the

publication of this book the first part of the Royal Commission's survey, covering the peninsula of Kintyre, has appeared. But in the present state of field survey it is not surprising that the author's work contains omissions and includes interpretations that are open to challenge. The cave at Physgyll is mentioned twice without reference to the crosses cut on the living rock and the similar crosses on Eilean Mor also escape notice. At Coldingham the site ascribed to the early monastery of St. Æbba is that proposed by Crawford (Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments: Berwickshire, no. 83), ¼ mile WNW. of the lighthouse. In my view the wall is late medieval or later, and nothing on the promontory contradicts that dating. An examination of the area and reference to the older records suggest that both the monastery and Caer Golud lay 600 yd. SSE. of the lighthouse (*ibid.*, no. 82).

More serious is the treatment of Iona. Professor Thomas's excavation report is not yet published and no one would wish to challenge the plans and sections already available, including those in the present book. The points which remain doubtful are whether the plan here reproduced (fig. 9) is complete and whether the enclosure there shown is the *vallum monasterii*. There is evidence of a larger enclosure extending down to the low cliffs above the foreshore and including the whole of the later medieval abbey and of the early oratory, Reilig Odhran. It is arguable that this represents the Columban or immediately post-Columban vallum and that the ditch traced crossing the nave of the abbey church is part of a subsidiary enclosure within the monastery.

The second chapter entitled 'The historical background: diocese and monastery' retails and elaborates with regard to N. Britain the traditional concept of a sub-Roman diocesan organization followed by a monastic phase. It is very doubtful how far this is valid for any area of Britain outside the settled province bounded by the great base-fortresses of York, Chester and Caerleon. Palladius was sent *ad Scottos credentes in Christo* and there is no reason to suggest that missions to the debatable lands of the north would have been organized very differently. The evidence for the diocesan arrangements outlined on pp. 16–17 is of the slightest and, in my view, invalid. The point is important as it leads, perhaps subconsciously, to an overstress on the particularism of the Celtic churches and a tendency to undervalue the very real resemblances between the Merovingian monasteries, the Anglo-Saxon minsters and the Celtic monasteries, and therefore to make less use of the material from continental sites to interpret those of N. Britain and Ireland.

The core of the book consists of the next four chapters, which outline a picture that is largely new and seminal. They illustrate the importance of the cemetery and the cult of relics in the early development of the church in N. Britain and Ireland. Much of the thesis here deployed is based on the author's extensive field-work and careful excavation. In particular, tribute should be paid to his work on Ardwall Isle and his lucid and illuminating interpretation of the important sequence of remains which he discovered there. It is not too much to say that his publication of this excavation report some five years ago marked a great step forward in our appreciation of many other sites. It can justly be compared with the great continental investigations of early Christian development, such as the report on Xanten. We now have the conclusions, put forward on the basis of the Ardwall report, expanded and set in their proper context against the background of N. Britain. These chapters are excellently illustrated with drawings, most of them specially made. A number are based on older plans, revised and improved as a result of the author's own observations. It may occasionally be questioned whether a particular monument falls within the period before *c.* 800. The St. Andrew's shrine is accepted as belonging to the 9th century—my own dating would be early 10th—, and the altar frontal from Flotta is probably even later. But pedantry in this respect would be out of place; both illustrate earlier types and are rightly included. Attention should be called to Professor Thomas's reconstruction of the altar at Phillack, Cornwall, using the small crucifixion slab as a frontal, a solution that has much to commend it. On reflection I feel that this was probably the function of the broken cross-slab at Tintagel, which I

published many years ago as a headstone, an interpretation here retained in the caption.

Enough has been said to indicate the scope and the originality of this volume, which covers so much in so small a space. Only wide knowledge and clear thinking could have achieved so satisfactory a result.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

Das frankische Gräberfeld von Iversheim. By Christiane Neuffer-Müller. 27×19 cm. 110 pp., 46 pls., 2 plans. Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag for Römisch-germanisch Kommission (Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit, Ser. B, Bd. 6), 1972. Price not stated.

Iversheim is situated in the Eifel, on the upper waters of the R. Erft, some 25 km. south-west of Bonn. The Frankish cemetery lies on the hillside across the river from the old town centre. It was located by quarrying in the early 1950s, and subsequently excavated by the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn, in the years 1958–1960. This report has been prepared by Christiane Neuffer-Müller who took no part in the excavation.

The catalogue part of the report contains an abbreviated description of the graves and the objects; all the objects, save some of the iron knives and fragments, are illustrated. The descriptions are very concise, and though normally sufficient, there are occasions when the layout of the grave should have been described in more detail. The mere mention of the position of an object in a grave is a poor substitute for a detailed sketch or grave plan. In the one instance where a grave plan is given—as part of the discussion—the objects are numbered differently in the text, on the plan and in the drawings! Skeletal remains are said to survive in varying states, some quite good; yet there is no study of them. Organic remains get no mention at all. This section—the basic report of the excavation and description of the objects—occupies less than a third of the book. It could profitably have been a good deal longer.

The cemetery had already been partly destroyed before the excavation began; 249 graves were recorded and an estimated 100 to 150 were lost. The cemetery is unusual for one in this area in having no graves earlier than the middle of the 7th century. Many of the graves were poorly equipped or without grave-goods, and since these occur more or less grouped together in one half of the cemetery, the author concludes reasonably that they are later—rather than lower-class. Amongst this later group the well-to-do are represented by a number of graves with slab-built coffins characteristic of the 8th century. A consistent alignment towards the north-east is explained by the slope of the hillside.

The discussion of the objects includes useful reviews of jewelled gold disc-brooches, of which there are four, and of cross-shaped brooches for which there is a distribution-map and find-list. Several other interesting late, but fairly minor, pieces of jewellery, especially earrings, are discussed and other examples quoted. Amongst the men's equipment, buckles and belt-fittings loom largest and are most significant; for despite the proximity of the lower Rhineland, the decoration and style of the inlaid iron buckles points to close contacts with Alemannic areas of settlement.

The cemetery spans the hundred years from middle 7th to middle 8th century. Its late beginning cannot be explained, nor can its ending be related directly to any subsequent settlement. The community probably lived beside the river, and beside the old Roman road which runs along the valley. The comparative wealth of some of the graves suggests that the people were fairly prosperous; and a gold coin in one grave and touchstones in several others suggest that this prosperity may have come from trade.

DAVID BROWN

Unterregenbach: Kirchen, Herrensitz, Siedlungsbereiche. By Günter P. Fehring. 3 vols., 30×21 cm. *Textband,* 311 pp.; *Beilagen,* viii+36 pp., 81 loose figs., 3 pls.; *Tafelband,* viii pp.,

117 pls. Stuttgart: Verlag Müller & Graf, Kommissionsverlag (Forschungen und Berichte der Archäologie des Mittelalters in Baden-Württemberg, Bd. 1), 1972. Price not stated.

This valuable work describes in detail the investigation of a church and a near-by secular site by modern archaeological methods which included detailed structural examination of the standing fabric and total excavation inside and out, with careful attention to stratification. The work is described with clarity in a way which leaves no doubt about its thoroughness; and the conclusions are set out step by step in a way that indicates how powerful a weapon is provided by this type of archaeological investigation, even when the site has been as much disturbed by earlier work as was so here. It might be felt that total excavation of this kind would destroy the character of the church; but any such fears are dispelled by the two photographs on pl. vi which show the interior in 1914 and again after the end of the investigation in 1962. Moreover it is recorded on p. 17 that the major structural remains of all the earlier buildings have been preserved and rendered accessible by a passage beneath the floor of the restored church.

The arrangement of the record in three separate volumes of text, line-drawings, and plates has the advantage that the visual evidence can be kept continuously available while reading the text. Moreover the line-drawings are presented on loose sheets of stout paper, mainly folded so that each diagram is twice the size of a single page. The draughtsmanship is uniformly good, with clear metric grids, convenient cross-references from text to drawings, and a simple indication on an overall plan to show the standpoint for each of the half-tone photographic plates.

The text volume consists of four main parts and a considerable amount of supporting material. The main parts are as follows: a detailed account of the excavation and structural examination of the church of St. Veit (pp. 31–111) and the adjoining secular building known as Hof Frankenbauer (pp. 112–43); a brief but thorough summary of the resulting conclusions about the history of the settlement of the village and the development of the buildings (pp. 145–52); a detailed account of the finds and their scientific investigation (pp. 153–276); and an account of the historical sources (pp. 277–93). In addition to a number of concordances, catalogues, and lists of references, the supporting material comprises a brief but very important introduction, with a summary of the method of investigation (pp. 13–17); an account of the local geology (pp. 19–21); a note on the settlement of the surrounding district during Merovingian times (pp. 23–8); and a note on the place-name Regenbach (pp. 29–30). It is worth recording here that one outcome of the excavations was to establish (p. 145) that the first settlement of Unterregenbach itself in the middle ages was not in Merovingian but in Carolingian times. Moreover, one outcome of the geological investigation was to establish that the mountain-stream delta on which the buildings stand was formed in the Hallstatt period, and that the buildings have not been overwhelmed by flood or avalanche since their erection, as had been assumed by certain earlier writers (pp. 20–1 and 16).

It will be convenient to give first a brief account of the investigation of the church of St. Veit. The prospect of any useful outcome of excavation within and beside the church had been gravely prejudiced, as happens so often, by earlier disturbance of the soil, for example by drainage works and by previous excavations. The great extent of these earlier disturbances is shown diagrammatically in *Beilage* 6; and in the text it is recorded on p. 14 that over 100 coins had been rendered useless for dating because they were in the unclassified upcast left by the previous excavator. In spite of these discouragements, both the church and the secular building were fully investigated by total excavation, and by structural investigation of the standing fabric. Full details of the principles are set out on p. 15; and the results, which constitute the greater part of the book, are a splendid vindication of the confidence of the investigators in proceeding with their work. In merest outline they may be summarized thus: in place of a church of the 15th century and later (as previously known) there is established a succession which goes

back to the 8th or 9th century; the first church, I, of two simple rectangular cells received additions Ia and Ib during its lifetime; the second church, II, of apsidal basilican plan with a continuous transept, was built early in the 11th century and suffered a succession of changes, IIa to IIc, until the 14th century; the third church, III, represents a major rebuilding in the 15th century in which most of the earlier fabric was destroyed; it suffered a long series of alterations, for many of which there is documentary evidence, until it received very much its present form in 1914 in phase IIIg. A particularly interesting feature of the first church is a pair of cruciform recesses sunk below the floor. These are convincingly argued as reliquary chambers of a type that was widespread in Byzantine SE. Europe but has so far been met elsewhere in Europe only at Prague and Quedlinburg (pp. 46–7 and 147).

The results of the investigation are, however, by no means confined to architectural history. Throughout the work, the burials and material finds are associated with the separate phases of the buildings, and indeed with each sub-period within the main phases. In many of the specialized appendices which treat in detail of the scientific investigation of the finds there are brief summaries of conclusions in fields which, for example, are as wide apart as the early settlement of the site and the changing stature of the population.

The secular building, Hof Frankenbauer, was not close enough to the church for linkage between the two sites by stratigraphy (p. 17). Structures and small finds are therefore classified separately for the two sites but according to similar principles. Phase I for this site gave buildings of timber construction, followed by others on stone foundations; this phase could not be more closely dated than in a range from the beginning of the 8th to the end of the 10th century (p. 118). Phase II consisted of a stone tower representing an upper class dwelling of the early part of the 11th century (p. 128). It was clearly associated with the church and may be compared with stone dwellings in Xanten, for which there are 10th-century records describing their erection by the archbishop of Cologne for the provost of Xanten (pp. 149–50).

It will be clear from what has been said above that most of the structural features of both the church and also the secular building have been assigned by the author as a result of his investigation to a time sequence which is denoted by numbered phases and lettered sub-periods within them. The thorough stratigraphical method used throughout the investigation has allowed the assignment of most of the burials to the same time-sequence, and throughout the text and diagrams all structural features and burials are described by three-symbol code names which show clearly the sub-periods to which they belong in the time-sequence. The first symbol in fact specifies the sub-period, the second denotes the nature of the feature or burial according to a list of twenty-one abbreviations set out on p. 294, while the third denotes the serial number of the feature or burial concerned. Thus IIa fb 4 denotes in sub-period IIa the floor level (fb=*Fussboden*) fourth in sequence. These symbols, which so clearly display the time-sequence of each feature and burial, make for great clarity in the more complicated diagrams which display features of many or most of the sub-periods (e.g. *Beilagen* 13–24). Moreover, in the text the features are described in time-sequence, and with each feature are listed the finds (if any) that were discovered beside or in association with it. Immediately after the description of each feature a note is given of all the deductions which can be made from it and from its stratification, in relation to other features or to the finds associated with it. These individual deductions are then drawn together after the descriptions of the several features of each sub-period of each building; and finally the historical section on pp. 145–52 summarizes the deductions arising from the whole book so far as they relate to the settlement of the site and the development of the buildings.

On p. 17 the author describes the two methods which he regarded as being possible for the arrangement of his report, namely: *a*, to cite and describe the features serially in the sequence of excavation, or *b*, to group and describe them as indicated above in accordance with the phases and sub-periods established by the stratification. It might be

felt that the adoption of the second method would introduce an unnecessary and undesirable element of subjectivity; but the author argues on p. 17 (and the reviewer agrees) that the report has gained greatly in clarity and has lost nothing in objectivity. The latter point is made easier to maintain not only by the great clarity of the author's arguments as presented for the assignment of each feature to its period but also by his four concordances on pp. 294–303, which provide a clear linkage between the original numbers assigned to features and finds during the excavation and the three-symbol code signs used for features and burials in the publication.

This brief review does but scant justice to a very important work which covers a wide field with great thoroughness and detail. In particular there has been no opportunity here to describe the detailed accounts of burials, coins, plaster, metal, and pottery which occupy nearly half the text.

H. M. TAYLOR

Vestiges d'habitat seigneurial fortifié du Bas-Pays argonnais (Inventaire des sites archéologiques non monumentaux de Champagne, vol. 1). By Michel Bur, with J. P. Boureux, G. de Lobel-Mahy and M. Roger. 27×21 cm. 115 pp., 8 pls., 39 figs., both unnumbered. (Cahiers des Lettres et Sciences Humaines de l'Université de Reims, édités par l'A.R.E.R.S.) Rheims, 1972. Price not stated.

This publication represents the results of two years' field-work and research by advanced students of the University of Rheims working under the direction of Monsieur M. Bur. It is intended as the first in a series devoted to surviving medieval earthworks in Champagne and covers the Argonne region. Essentially it is a gazetteer of seignorial earthworks representing eighteen castles and twelve fortified manor houses, together with a brief introduction describing the methods used and assessing the results of the survey. A plan of each site is given and whenever practicable a section across the earthwork. The programme included consideration of documentary evidence with a view to establishing the earliest mention of the existence of a castle or house and an outline of the history of its development. The relevant entry is given in every case *verbatim* so that it is possible for the reader to judge its value and significance. Most of the sources quoted are explicit and precise enough for this limited purpose.

The greatest lack is a general map showing the area of the survey in relation to the rest of France. Foreign readers will find some trouble in locating the precise boundaries within which the team worked in spite of the map of the locality which is presented. A further tiresome omission is that the plans do not carry a scale in metres, although they are all drawn either at a scale of 1/1000, or, in the case of those taking in a larger area, at 1/1250. This makes direct comparison with other earthworks a somewhat lengthy proceedure. Nor are the author and his collaborators always sure of the direction in which their hachures should go—the plan of one of the mottes at Cornay, for example, presents it as a basin. The sections on the other hand are clear and informative.

The castles divide broadly into promontory fortifications, castles constructed in the angle formed by the confluence of two rivers, and those without natural defences of either kind. Two ring-works apart, all include at least one motte among the earthworks. The authors do not involve themselves in speculation as to the origins of castles, nor do they suggest that the mottes are necessarily primary features. Excavation alone could settle that question. They believe, however, that the promontory castles are likely to be Carolingian in origin, and that those without natural defences were generally of 12th-century date and were associated with the contemporary foundation of new towns and of defended peasant communities.

The twelve *maisons fortes* of the survey belong to a category of site which is claiming increasing attention from archaeologists. A somewhat similar survey has already been published by Monsieur Pesey and Mlle Piponier for the *baillage* of Dijon and another by

M. Hoek for the area around Rotterdam. The earthworks as they appear on the ground correspond to those in England classified as 'moated sites'. On the continent, as in England, they enclose a wide range of buildings and even such items as orchards, barns or gardens. The defensible manor house forms one large subdivision of the class which, in the absence of surviving buildings, cannot be isolated without consideration of documentary evidence. This has been used to good purpose in the continental surveys.

The Argonnais fortified houses, like those near Rotterdam and Dijon, date from the 13th century onwards. As in England, it seems that every degree of fortification is represented. Verrières, believed by Monsieur Bur to belong to the 15th century, has clear surface indications of a perimeter wall with corner and interval towers. Like the group of considerably earlier date round Rotterdam, it could be regarded as a miniature castle. At this end of the scale the English version would be the manor house with a licence to crenellate and to build a tower or *fortelletum*, the pattern at Rest Park in 14th-century Yorkshire. At the other end is the excavated Burgundian *maison forte* at Villy-le-Moutiers which produced buildings predominantly of timber and no defensive tower. There are many such in this country. Though no excavation of the sites has yet been attempted in the Argonne, the pattern of moat and associated banks and enclosures is so closely paralleled by similar earthworks in England that it would be surprising if they do not include the lesser degrees of fortification common in this country. It was found in Burgundy that the only universal characteristic of the fortified house as described in detail in early estate documents was the existence of moats.

There are however certain differences both in the field indications and in the conclusions drawn from the two French surveys. The Argonne islands or platforms were not perceptibly raised above the general level of the surrounding countryside while the houses farther south were normally substantially elevated on clay excavated from the moats and built up into considerable platforms. The incidence of the moats varied also. Though it is not precisely so stated, it seems that the twelve *maisons fortes* here described are the only houses of the type known in the Argonne, as against over seventy around Dijon. Experience in England suggests that such variation in numbers is to be expected between one region and another.

The Argonnais houses were considered in relationship to the peasant community, the criterion of proximity being the distance of moat from church. In only one instance were the two adjacent and in several the house was at a distance of well over a kilometre from the village centre. From this Monsieur Bur draws the conclusion that fortified house and peasant community had no organic relationship. Approaching the matter from another angle, Monsieur Pesey and Mlle Piponier found that not only did the owner of the fortified house in Burgundy have rights of justice over the village in which it was situated, or over a number of villages, but he could also on occasion offer refuge within the enclosures in times of stress. Allowing for all the differences in social and political structure, this is nearer to the relationship of manor house and village in England.

It is encouraging to find that the current interest in the archaeology of castles has been extended on the continent, as it has here, to cover seignorial dwellings as a whole. Regional studies such as this add much to our understanding of the medieval scene and we look forward with interest to the publication of further volumes in the series.

H. E. JEAN LE PATOUREL

Archéologie du village déserté. École Pratique des Hautes Études, VI^e^ Section, et Institut d'Histoire de la Culture Matérielle de l'Académie Polonaise des Sciences (Cahiers des Annales, 27). 28·5×23 cm. 208 pp., 122 figs., 27 plans (in separate slip-case, vol. II). Paris: Librairie Armand Colin, 1970. Price not stated.

The study of deserted villages described in this report began in 1961 at the École Pratique des Hautes Études and, when the co-operation of the Polish Academy of

Sciences had been enlisted to provide the technical expertise, the investigations were carried forward in four seasons of excavations (1964–7). The four villages chosen for excavation had been selected from an initial survey of nine possible sites, all of which had some advantages from historical, geological and archaeological viewpoints. The present report, despite its length, is only an interim statement because the need for rapid publication was recognized. It is easy to see both the similarities and the disparities in the evidence since the individual reports from all four sites are presented in a common format though obviously varying in length and treatment according to the material found.

In their geographical distribution the four sites eventually chosen are not widely dispersed: Montaigut and St- Jean-le-Froid are both in the valley of the Tarn, south-west of the Massif Central, and Condorcet is at the same latitude in the western foothills of the Alps between the Rhône and the Durance; only Dracy is to the north, within Burgundy in the Côtes de Beaune. All are upland sites with stone-built structures and all faced some problems of water-supply.

The historical setting is far more varied. The earliest evidence ranges from Merovingian material at Montaigut, middle 10th-century documentary evidence at Condorcet, middle 11th-century deeds at St-Jean-le-Froid and late 12th-century excavated material at Dracy. The sites were also abandoned at different dates: Montaigut should have been dismantled in 1229 after the civil wars of the Albigensian Crusade; Dracy is likely to have been deserted early in the 15th century; the other two villages suffered a gradual decline in importance from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The documentary evidence is varied but is usually confined to details of monastic ownership and family descent. This means that those assumptions about the period of desertion based principally upon the survival of documents must be treated with caution, and this caveat the several authors do recognize.

The four villages are not completely bare today. On each site there is some architectural evidence, either a castle or a church, or at Dracy and Condorcet house walls thinly concealed beneath the stony turf. The contribution which these surviving monuments can make towards the settlement history is briefly evaluated.

The archaeological content of the four sites is limited to a discussion of the medieval material, but here there are serious limitations posed by the methods adopted. '*La methodologie des fouilles médiévales est la même que celles des fouilles antiques*' (p. 193) was the view of Courbin as recently as 1965; in his conclusion Professor Hensel stresses the progress made since then in the medieval field. Yet Wheeler's methods of excavation are followed as closely as possible. A series of box trenches leap-frog across the sites like the progress of bishops across great earth-covered chessboards. Not surprisingly the earliest fortifications of Montaigut are discovered in a most tentative fashion and the interior of the fortress draws a blank. The Romanesque church at St-Jean-le-Froid is not fully excavated, and the alignment of the S. wall, which could indicate an earlier structure to be associated with the oldest graves, is an unappreciated clue. In all the villages the houses are never completely uncovered, even in their stone phases, and the methods employed are unlikely to discover any timber phases. The equally important evidence afforded by the areas outside and between the houses is not understood.

Even admitting that this report is an interim statement, one can scarcely explain the curious positioning of some trenches; in the decades after Hatt, Steensberg, Bersu and Hurst one can hardly accept as satisfactory a method which still persists in an unimaginative commitment to 5-m.-sq. boxes and only seldom removes the baulks between these boxes. In contrast to this lack of understanding of the versatility possible within area excavation, the vertical layers seen in the trench sections are meticulously recorded and presented. In the published sections the soils observed are carefully distinguished from the interpretations given on overlay tracings. At Dracy this separation of evidence and interpretation prompts some alternative solutions; at Condorcet it is obvious that the removal of baulks would have greatly assisted the interpretation of otherwise discon-

tinuous layers, and the section on the N.–S. axis should also have been published to complete the evidence from a difficult site.

The treatment of finds is mediocre. The pottery described and illustrated is presented at a common scale, but only at Montaigut is an attempt made to express by symbols the three variables of texture, fabric and appearance. The metalwork and coins are reported on briefly, more in terms of their historical and cultural significance for each village. The poor quality of reproduction in the photographs means that they are quite unsuitable for publishing the metalwork. The site photographs are also well below the generally accepted standard of definition, and the air-photograph of Dracy is a disaster.

This report is, therefore, a mixed offering. Its weakest point is the method of excavation; its good points are the speed with which it has been produced, the clarity and generous provision of plans and section, and the uniform presentation throughout the four sites. It is clear that the foundations in village studies in France reported on at the Munich conference have been built upon steadily. Professor Hensel's conclusion is thought-provoking and far-ranging, able to look beyond the limited results of these four village excavations to see their true potential in the related fields of economic history, social organization and micro-geography.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

English Medieval Boroughs: A Hand-List. By M. W. Beresford and H. P. R. Finberg. 21 × 13·5 cm. 200 pp., 10 tables. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1973. Price £4·50.

Rather than dress it up in the ample margins and garish jacket of a 1920s novel, would it not have been better and much cheaper to have produced this list for active students by some decent duplication? It is an admittedly provisional compilation of many hands, edited, but hardly *gleichgeschaltet* by Finberg, and explicitly invites addition and correction. It is still useful to have, with Beresford's valuable introduction which, in one place, gives the terms of admission as mention of borough, burgess or burgage *under those names*. Whether or not these terms are too narrow, some contributors adhere strictly to them, while others are much freer and at times their citations are simply irrelevant to burghal or urban status. Early sees are no evidence of either and, though I have argued elsewhere that Dommoc was *not* Dunwich, its description as a *civitas* implies not a 'city' but a walled Roman site. The 'Anglo-Saxon' column in tables 1 and 4 lumps together many tit-bits from Augustine to Domesday and is useless. For instance, there were four Devon *burhs c.* 900; still four, two of them changed, *c.* 1000: total, somehow, five! Most of the citations are from Domesday to, arbitrarily, 1509, and there is no discussion of the semantic changes of the relevant terms within this long period, to say nothing of beyond. For instance, much is made of early 14th-century taxations, as *villa* or *burgus*: at this most francophone moment in English history surely *ville* had not, colloquially, the Domesday sense but that of modern French, where, incidentally, a *bourg* is less than a *ville* but more than a *village*.

Beresford stresses the distinction between (formal) burghal and (real) urban status and its effect on distribution. The seven great and wealthy coastal shires from the Humber to the New Forest had little need for the former except in a few marginal patches. They had up to half-a-dozen ancient boroughs apiece and generated new towns spontaneously; they were 'doing quite well, thank-you' and their tenure was already relatively free. Thus, of the many little eastern towns which 'boomed', if sometimes briefly, Hadleigh, Lavenham, Cranbrook, even Saffron Walden and Dereham are 'out', while Thaxted, Newport (Essex) and Tenterden are 'in' for constitutional reasons that have little to do with their prosperity. In the wild west burgage was a 'carrot' to induce settlement in almost hopeless situations and a 'borough' may be said to have succeeded if it took root as any sort of community. In the 'middle west',

especially Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and parts of Somerset, it seems to have worked: the tale of small ancient boroughs was regularly added to and most of them survive as small towns.

The list ignores two important record-sources completely: one, by far the largest body of evidence for the Old English period, is the reverse-legends on coins, which are datable, if not to the month as sometimes claimed, at least within a year or two; the other is the legends on corporate seals, often cut long before the oldest surviving exemplification. The coins raise the matter of the relation of *burh* and *port*. Beresford is content to treat them almost as synonymous, which is perhaps going too far, but in the Old English age they are applied to the same places even if the *burh* to be defended might not always be coextensive with the *port*. Every *port* had a statutory right of mintage from Æthelstan and the many extensions of the right over the next 150 years were presumably by that token. With a few and generally explicable exceptions the tale matches that of Burghal Hidage at one end and the Domesday boroughs at the other. Thus, mintage gives a presumption of burghal status at this stage, but a portmote or portreeve does not necessarily imply the same at a later date. By their coins the Cinque Ports can be observed rising, one by one, until the admission of a sixth, Rye, after the conquest. By their seals and those of the corporate limbs that brought the medieval total to fourteen, the rise of others and the pretensions of all can be judged from the 13th century: the seals are of *barones* except the earliest of Dover and the slightly anomalous Seaford (burgesses) and Tenterden, the last (a vill and hundred). In Kent, where, in the marsh and Weald, it meant, more or less, a sub-manor, the word borough did not impress. In Dorset, where seals of practically all the judicious selection in the list have been competently published, all are called *villa* except Dorchester (*burgus*) and Wareham (*villa et burgus*). Blandford has *burgenses villae*. In the context of incorporation the terms seem interchangeable.

Seignorial boroughs of the Norman period, attached to castles rather than saddled with them, may outwardly conform to the older type: thus Okehampton and Plympton add two more to the four of Devon. Elsewhere and when Big Brother was not so watchful, the process seems much more gradual; first a market (hence a *port*, with portreeve and portmote), then permission to present its own jury as a further step to corporate entity, then the higher tax-assessment. These are often enough to admit to the list, but need they imply burgage tenure? In the 'strict' list of Kent three substantial little towns finds no place, possibly because burgages are not recorded, yet all have claims to admission. Folkestone, a limb of the Ports, with a 13th-century corporate seal, was sometimes summoned, with Faversham, to the Brodhull beside the seven head-ports. Gravesend is a planned town with a 13th-century market. Both could claim their twelve jurats and other corporate privileges from the middle ages, if only in confirmatory charters (which are admitted as evidence elsewhere in the list). Milton Regis might be called an 'arrested borough': it had an elected portreeve until very recently; its portmote is said to have stood up to King John; it payed the higher tax but was on 'ancient demesne' and was never incorporated or separated from its hundred.

On the other hand, the enormous list for Devon can be cut down a little from theory to practical reality. As well as ghost-villages it includes some successful new towns, including Dartmouth, Newton Abbot and, under another name, Plymouth; but some of the 'boroughs' are half-boroughs, or suburbs, or mere bloodsuckers in the fleece of real towns, as of Totnes in Bridgetown Pomeroy, Little Totnes and North Ford (the same as the last(?), as Bossinney is surely the same as Tintagel). Some of the earlier component or suburban settlements, as Mancroft in Norwich, could be reckoned separately by this standard, but authority was then more accommodating. The burghal freedom of Bridgetown was freedom from, not of, the local town council. Down to Drayton's day, when the Hart 'walked free, a Burgher of the Wood', freedom was still the emotional overtone of burghality. Perhaps it was easiest to sell where the frontier-mentality lasted longest.

S. E. RIGOLD

An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Cambridge, II, *North-East Cambridgeshire*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). 27×21 cm. lxvi+163 pp., 120 pls. and coloured frontispiece, 126 figs., map in pocket. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1972. Price £8·50.

The present volume is the third publication of the Royal Commission describing monuments in Cambridgeshire: the City, W. Cambridgeshire, and now the NE. part of the county. The area covered comprises ten parishes on the W. side of the A11 road, that is on the driver's right as he leaves Newmarket heading south towards London. It is very interesting to compare, and contrast, the two volumes dealing with rural parts of the county (the W. Cambridgeshire volume has already been reviewed in volume XIII of this Journal).

In W. Cambridgeshire there is no very distinct pattern to the parishes but in the north-east, allowing for subsequent alterations, the parishes were long and straddled the chalk at one end and the fen running down to the R. Cam at the other. There is perhaps an analogy with the villages of the Lincolnshire Edge or those on the N. border of the Yorkshire Wolds. The villages in the west have some kind of purposeful layout but in the north-east the Commissioners did not find that the straggling houses lent themselves to the study of village morphology. Perhaps in some some way connected with this is the wealth of evidence on open fields and strip cultivation, both in early maps and on the ground, that exists in the west but seems to be lacking for the north-east. The compensation as it were in the NE. area is the fenland where the history of drainage of the fen within the allotted area has been worked out in great detail. The extent to which written sources should be explored has always been something of a dilemma for the Commission: the inventory is meaningless if they are ignored but will never be completed if they are fully explored. In these two volumes a very happy balance has been struck. The very sensible typologies for moats and vernacular buildings worked out in the earlier volume have been used again in this one.

Although the area covered in NE. Cambridgeshire is smaller than that in the west it is probably more rewarding for the medievalist in terms of surviving remains. The western boulder clay is practically devoid of prehistoric or Roman remains and was probably first settled in medieval times, but in the north-east there is plenty of evidence of pre-medieval occupation. The most impressive form which this takes is the lodes or long straight channels linking the higher ground with the R. Cam. These Roman canals, for they were intended primarily for navigation not drainage, set the pattern for medieval settlement, with the villages relying to some extent on water-borne trade for their livelihood. There was very little interest in draining the fen for cultivation before the 17th century. The two most impressive earthworks in the area, indeed in the county, are the Devil's Dyke and Fleam Dyke. The former is fully, the latter partially, described in an appendix. There is not much new one can say about them perhaps, although I am glad that the Commission does not support the view that the immense earthwork of Devil's Dyke was intended to stop cattle rustling.

From the high middle ages there is a fine range of churches, a castle and two monasteries. The castle at Burwell (fig. 44, pp. 41–2) is an antiquity of great interest because of the historical events with which its construction, and abandonment before completion, can be correlated. An unfinished castle is an unusual monument and recalls unfinished iron-age hill-forts like Ladle Hill. Furthermore the excavations of the 1930s, albeit incomplete, were one of the earliest successful attempts to identify pottery of Stephen's reign from a dated site. It is worth noting that a motte was never projected unless the mound on the W. side was the start of it. It is improbable that at this period some form of donjon or citadel did not form part of the original design; was a square stone keep at one corner intended, its foundation awaiting discovery by a lucky excavator of the future? Monastic remains are represented by two undercrofts at Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck, belonging respectively to an Augustinian and a Benedictine priory. It is

interesting that in both it is probably part of the domestic quarters of the head of house that formed the nucleus of the post-Reformation building.

Both volumes contain sectional prefaces of about 40 pp. where summarized results sometimes offer information that is of significance far beyond the area studied. For example the transition from panel to close-stud framing that is put at *c.* 1500 (p. xlviii) must surely apply in much of East Anglia outside N. Cambridgeshire. The late survival of timber framing into the 19th century is of interest, as are the aisled barns. Each reader will note what particularly interests him.

We learn from the Report that precedes the Inventory (p. xxi) that the Commission has decided to discontinue the volumes on this county and to deal with Stamford and earthworks in Northamptonshire, although no explanation is offered for the change. This will probably prove much more rewarding work for the Cambridge team, but nevertheless it is a pity the county where so much has been achieved should not be completed.

M. W. THOMPSON

An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, IV, *North Dorset*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). 27×22 cm. xl+144 pp., 80 pls., numerous figs., 5 maps in pocket. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1972. Price £6·50.

This is the fourth notional volume (the seventh actual book, since volumes II and III contained three and two books respectively) in the great Dorset inventory. It is worth remarking this, since we are by no means at the end of the series for this county, and the scale and thoroughness accorded to Dorset must be taken as the standard for future work. Wiltshire, for example, is clearly going to run to a great many volumes and (probably) well over £100; in Scotland, the first of what is rumoured to be a planned six-volume inventory of Argyll appeared last year. It is doubtful whether any other civilized country could match the scope and the admirably high standards of the Royal Commissions' continuous output. It does however seem a pity that the results are now priced out of all but the central and public library belt; this reviewer, together with other highly-paid aficionados of the British topographical scene, can just about manage to buy all the inventories as they come out, but it is the younger workers in field-archaeology, vernacular architecture, and agrarian history who need, and ought to be able to have, such handbooks. Is the Stationery Office permanently insensitive to the requirements of specialist readerships?

Having delivered the perennial grumble, I can affirm that Dorset volume IV is as good as its predecessors. N. Dorset, really a long belt of country on the NE. side, takes us into the chalk and clays, with thirty-four parishes. Apart from Gillingham and Shaftesbury, this is an area of villages, and is slightly less rich than the south of the county in those magnificent squirearchical mansions, though Tarrant Gunville (cf. pl. 70, the stable block, resembling a small Byzantine cathedral) is notable on any score. The coverage of Shaftesbury will be particularly useful to the medievalist. The prehistorian will note with alarm, though not with surprise, the opening words of the appendix (p. 118) on groups of so-called Celtic fields: those known in N. Dorset have 'almost without exception been severely damaged, chiefly by later cultivation . . . Large blocks of fields have been totally flattened and are now scarcely visible on the ground . . .', etc. The maps, low-toned and elegant, include the distribution of medieval settlements (certainly in existence by the end of the 14th century) against contours in 200-ft. intervals; noteworthy here will be the tiny fraction where complete or partial desertion can be recorded (only nine out of sixty-nine). Dorset is an ancient county, still (fortunately) a relatively undeveloped county, and the sensitive and often beautiful photographs

which have come to be so much a part of the English Commission's volumes do it justice.

There is a mention (p. xxii) by names of the executive staff involved in the work and its preparation—the investigators and illustrators. One could wish that Civil Service protocol permitted greater emphasis here. Staff of all three Commissions enjoy a deservedly high prestige with their professional colleagues in many branches of archaeology, and we must record our thanks to them, as well as to the Royal Commission, for another fine instalment of the Dorset survey.

CHARLES THOMAS

An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York, III, *South-West of the Ouse*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). 27×22 cm. cv+158 pp., 206 pls., 73 figs. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1972. Price £10·50.

The publication of a new inventory by the Royal Commission is always something of an event, and 1972 with new volumes from Cambridgeshire, Dorset and York has been the most eventful year for a long time. The third volume on York which is the subject of this review is of particular interest in several ways. Except for the specialized volume on Roman York this is the first inventory to deal with the north of England since Westmorland was published 33 years ago. The area covered by the inventory is that part of York lying south-west of the river and, although this is not the nucleus of the city around the site of the legionary fortress, it is nevertheless an area of great historical interest in its own right; founded on the morainic ridge that has dictated the crossing of the Ouse since prehistoric times, occupied by the Roman civil settlement, becoming an area of intensive occupation that already possessed six churches before the Norman conquest, and then forming part of the medieval and later walled city. But the inventory is not restricted to the old city within the walls. It also includes the extensive open spaces of the Knavesmire and Hob Moor and beyond these the villages of Acomb, Dringhouses and Middlethorpe that were brought within the city boundaries as recently as 1937—that is to say, an area extending up to two miles and more from Ouse Bridge. York volume III appears just ten years after York volume I (Roman York) and simultaneously with York volume II (The Defences) and needs to be read with constant reference to both those volumes, for they deal with the considerable Roman element in the area and with the whole of the ditches, ramparts, walls and gateways, as well as the castle of the Old Baile and the Civil War earthworks. Even without all these features, York volume III lists and describes 164 monuments.

As in other recent volumes, the Commissioners have taken advantage of the latitude given to them by the 1963 Royal Charter to include buildings up to 1850 (and one as late as 1898). But although the content of York volume III is as comfortingly traditional as ever, it bears clear signs of a new and welcome form of latitude. Since its very beginning, the Commission's dated plans of buildings, like those of the old Office of Works, have been a staple diet for antiquaries. In addition to these, we now have a much freer use of old plans and drawings mostly of the 18th and early 19th centuries, figures giving comparative measured drawings of medieval mouldings, 18th-century timber architraves and panelling, 17th to 19th-century balusters, fanlights, window-heads and doorways, groups of comparative house plans, elevations of individual houses and of streets, masons' and carpenters' marks, diagrams of roof-trusses and details of their jointing.

Now there is nothing new in all this. Such things have been appearing sporadically in the Commission's inventories for many years (the sample elevations of parish church arcades in the recent Cambridgeshire volumes are a good example). The significance of York volume III is that it makes a more complete and consistent use of these graphic aids to recording than has been done before, and that allied to this is a new approach to the documentation of buildings. Here again, the Commission has always made use of readily

available documentary sources. In York volume III, however, a deliberate and exhaustive search through all forms of evidence for the date of buildings has gone hand in hand with the compilation of the inventory. One can make an impressive list of the sources that have been tapped: local histories and topographies, the transactions of local societies, newspapers from 1728, the old plans and drawings mentioned above, directories, title deeds including conveyances and mortgages, wills and parish rate books. The study of the medieval buildings gains from the use of masons' marks, tooling on ashlar, and the foundation dates of chantries, but with the increasing richness of written sources it is the buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries that benefit the most, and this is well shown by the innovation of printing as an appendix two lists, one topographical and the other chronological, of houses dated between 1800 and 1850. The first of these lists runs to $7\frac{1}{2}$ closely printed pages and contains much information on local architects and contractors.

One result of this is that the introduction and the lists take up almost as much space (114 pp.) as the inventory itself (122 pp.), and they are reinforced by a number of brief building histories of streets that contain no individual houses worthy of inclusion in the inventory, the whole adding up to a history of the architectural development of this part of York that is at once more detailed and incomparably more soundly based than anything that has appeared before. Indeed, as earthworks and ecclesiastical buildings have long been given treatment that separates them from the general perambulatory nature of the inventories, and as at York both the Roman sites and all manner of defensive works are also treated separately one may ask whether the time has not come to extend this treatment to lesser secular buildings of differing dates and types.

It is right that the Commission's inventories should change with the times, and it is also right to emphasize some of their more old-fashioned merits that are too often taken for granted: the sensible format, the sound binding, the quality of the printing and its refreshing resistance to ephemeral fashions in type-faces and settings, the clarity of the plans, and the excellence of the photography which continues to provide proof—much needed in these days of sophisticated picture-books—that a view of a building can be attractive and architecturally informative at one and the same time. But one good old-fashioned convention seems to have been abandoned. In their early reports the Commissioners were accustomed to acknowledge the work of their professional staff, listing them simply in order of seniority and so showing that they worked as a team. Now it appears that, seniority apart, 'some are more equal than others', and the result in this volume will make strange and unhappy reading for those who have followed the work of the York office since it was first established in 1950.

In an age when 'conservation' is on everyone's lips it may be asked whether there is any longer a need for these elaborate inventories. York volume III depressingly demonstrates that the need is as great as ever. Even a casual glance at the italicized tail-pieces to the descriptions of the buildings shows that no less than thirty-two of the 164 monuments listed have been demolished since 1955. Nor is destruction confined to minor buildings. The church of St. Mary Bishophill Senior with a fabric spanning the 11th to the 18th centuries and a site with Roman and sub-Roman connexions is the most spectacular loss, and that as recent as 1963. But there are also such buildings as nos. 16–18 Micklegate, a great timber house of the end of the 16th century, of which it is said that there were 'few contemporary buildings in York of such size'; and beyond the loss of individual houses and groups of houses (eight out of ten demolished in North Street) are losses of internal fittings ranging from the 15th-century timber bell-frame of St. Mary Bishophill Junior to examples of early panelling for which the words 'most of it has vanished in recent times' stand as an epitaph.

R. GILYARD-BEER

Argyll: An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments, I, *Kintyre*. Royal Commission on the Ancient

and Historical Monuments of Scotland. 27×22 cm. xlvi+234 pp., 102 pls., 195 figs. Edinburgh: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1971. Price £10.

We welcome the appearance of the Royal Commission's first volume of the survey of Argyll, a region of outstanding importance for the study of the early and full medieval periods. As in Peeblesshire the monuments are 'grouped according to type and arranged as far as possible in chronological order'. The general section of the introduction 'has been limited to a brief statement of the physical and other factors affecting settlement in the region', leaving the wider historical and linguistic factors to be discussed later in the context of the county as a whole.

Kintyre is not rich in monuments of the early Christian and medieval period and none of those here recorded is of first importance. The only monastic house—the Cistercian abbey of Saddell—now consists of fragmentary ruins, barely sufficient to establish the layout of the buildings forming the cloister. These can never have been outstanding, but the importance of the house was sufficient to lead to the suggestion in the early 16th century that it should replace Lismore as the cathedral of Argyll. Skipness Castle, the most interesting and best preserved of the medieval military monuments, is more impressive and receives the full treatment that its extensive remains merit. The hall-house and associated chapel that form the earliest surviving stage are ascribed to the first half of the 13th century and are then thought to have stood, probably with other buildings, within a rampart of earth or timber. The dominant impression today is provided by the enceinte of *c.* 1300 with its irregular arrangement of flanking towers; unfortunately much of the interior has been dismantled.

The parish churches and chapels provide the most numerous and most interesting series within the middle ages. Their form can be well appreciated from the excellent page of comparative plans. This brings out the prevalence in Kintyre of the unicameral form as early as the 12th century; where the internal arrangement is clear, nave and chancel seem to have been of approximately equal size. As the Commission points out, the development is in contrast with that in E. Scotland at this date. Among these buildings Kilbrannan, which dates from *c.* 1300, shows an exceptional richness of decoration, doubtless because of its connexion with Skipness Castle.

Kintyre is rich in sculpture of the late medieval period. All examples are recorded and ascribed to the different schools in the course of this volume. We are also promised a special publication covering the whole series. Pending the appearance of this it is not easy to disentangle the criteria on which the ascriptions are made and the promise of a full publication is most welcome. Meanwhile we may note the artistic importance of the finer examples, such as the cross which now serves as the market cross of Campbelltown, which the inscription probably dates *c.* 1380. The early Christian crosses and slabs, many from medieval church sites, are not outstanding and do not compare in importance with those farther north.

Finally we note the inclusion of plans of the deserted settlement of Balmavicar and of a number of ruined farms of the same type, together with plans of two sheilings. It is, however, to be regretted that neither a list nor a distribution-map of sites of this type is included. A full description, or even entry, of each site is unnecessary, but a distribution-map, with a list of the sites mapped preserved for reference, would be useful. This is the course followed by the inventory of County Down, where the raths presented an analogous problem.

The volume is admirably presented with good clear line-drawings and an excellent selection of photographs.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

Danmarks Kirker, Århus amt. 28×19 cm. 475 pp., illustrated. København: The National Museum and G.E.C. Gad. Price not stated.

The great work, *Danmarks Kirker*, is now nearly half finished. In 1912 or 1913 when discussing this project with Sigurd Curman (who had just produced a trial volume of the equivalent series, *Sveriges Kyrkor*) Mouritz Mackeprang made a statement which he often afterwards regretted: 'Any idiot can get the money, it's much harder to get hold of the right people to do the job.' Mackeprang raised the money and built the great inventory of Danish churches into the fabric of the National Museum and, although money has never been easy to obtain, he managed to build up a group of dedicated editors who since 1926 (when the project really got off the ground) have produced a great series of volumes which have covered the whole history, fabric and structure of individual Danish churches. The volumes which have most lately appeared deal with the cathedral at Åarhus and cover the building in great detail.

Students in this country are perhaps not so familiar with these volumes as they should be, and it is the purpose of this note to outline the methods used in the production of this important publication, as English captions to the pictures and more recently a short summary of the monuments enables the foreign student to gain some idea of the dating and detail of the buildings. The churches are described province by province in volumes normally of 96 pp., illustrated with plans, sections and photographs which are mostly printed in the text, although occasionally, as in the case of Åarhus, some are bound separately. The history, situation and fabric of the church are described and documented, the furnishings (even down to modern sprinkler systems) and decorative features are recorded and the graveyards are thoroughly surveyed and catalogued. Behind the work is a small group of technical staff—draughtsmen and photographers, students and academic advisers—an irreplaceable team who have specialized in this kind of work over many years.

Denmark has many fewer churches than this country, but the inventories published so ably by the Danes and their fellow Scandinavians could well serve as a model for a similar project in this country where day by day churches are becoming derelict, being demolished or neglected, and where in fifty years time there may be no surviving record.

DAVID M. WILSON

Marine Archaeology. (Proceedings of 23rd Symposium of Colston Research Society). Edited by D. J. Blackman. 25×19 cm. x+19 cm. x+520 pp., numerous figs. London: Butterworth, 1973. Price £10·00.

This is an important series of essays on various aspects of marine archaeology. Sections include papers on sea-level changes, on search and survey, on conservation, on harbours, and on shipping in the Mediterranean and British waters. In period it ranges from El Amarna to the 19th century and the standard is diverse. Apart from the general surveys which have application to much of archaeology, the main interest for readers of this journal will be Helen Clarke's brief survey of King's Lynn and the E. coast trade in the middle ages, which is a useful summary of the excavations shortly to be published by the Society.

DAVID M. WILSON

The following publications have also been received:

Dansk middelalderlertøj 1050–1550. By Mogens Bencard and Else Roesdahl. 24×16 cm. xxii+74 pp., numerous pls. Moesgård, 1972. Price not stated.

A catalogue in Danish of 349 examples of medieval pottery found in Denmark, with a 22-page introduction: most pots are illustrated by a photograph, and the end covers have schematic drawings of the main forms.

The Figure of Arthur. By R. Barber. 22×14 cm. 160 pp. London: Longmans, 1972. Price £2·25.

Kings, Beasts and Heroes. By Gwyn Jones. 22×14 cm. xxv+176 pp., 21 pls. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1972. Price £3·00.

Extant Medieval Musical Instruments. By F. Crane. 24×16 cm. xiv+105 pp., 30 figs. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1972. Price not stated.

Field Archaeology in Britain. By John Coles. 20×13 cm. ix+267 pp., 8 pls., 78 figs. London: Methuen, University Paperbacks, 1972. Price £1·75.

Lépreux et maladreries du Pas-de-Calais (*X–XVIIIe siecle*) (Memoires de la Commission Départmentale des Monuments Historiques du Pas-de-Calais, tome XIV²). By Dr. Albert Bourgeois. 27×18 cm. 358 pp., 12 pls. Price not stated.

The Saxon Churches of Sussex. By E. A. Fisher. 23×15 cm. 252 pp., illustrated. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1972. Price £1·50.

Van Soeter Cokene. By Johanna Maria van Winter. 22×15 cm. 158 pp., illustrated. Enschede-Bussum: Grolsch, 1971. Price Dutch fl. 10·25.

A study in Dutch of medieval cooking techniques. A number of later medieval recipes are given in their original texts, with cooking instructions.

Redundant Churches Fund, Fourth Annual Report. 24×15 cm. 23 pp., 8 pls. London: Redundant Churches Fund, 1972. Price 10p.