

Reviews

The South Saxons. Edited by Peter Brandon. 19 × 25 cm. 262 pp., 18 figs., 6 pls. London and Chichester, Phillimore, 1978. Price £8.75.

This volume, edited and introduced by Peter Brandon, marks the fifteen hundredth anniversary of Aelle's landing on the Sussex coast. It contains nine papers on Anglo-Saxon Sussex and is described, accurately, as 'a preliminary reassessment' (p. 1). The scope of the papers extends from Roman Sussex to the 12th century, and their structure is either chronological, thematic or based on specific topics.

Martin Welch considers earlier Anglo-Saxon Sussex, demonstrating how the documentary evidence may be reconciled with the archaeological. Considerable space is taken up with the Continental background whereas little is devoted to analysis of the evidence for the crucial formative years of the South Saxon kingdom. The archaeological evidence is superficially considered although there are a few tantalizing hints of the economic and social structures which might have been gleaned from this data. An attempt is made to prove 'external communications' by the distributions of 'fashions in brooch design' and of 'a type' (p. 28). Unfortunately the analysis and terminology are vague. For example, are such pieces of metalwork from the same mould or workshop, or is there merely a superficial similarity? The paper extends to the 8th century, discussion of the later years being based on documentary evidence.

The archaeological evidence for buildings and settlements is examined by Martin Bell in the light of the excavation of the settlement at Bishopstone and recent fieldwork. The problem of the identification of Romano-British structures emerges as critical for the earlier period. For the middle Saxon phase the *-hām* and *-ingas* place-name elements are employed. It is claimed that they are on the periphery of the pattern of pagan cemeteries. This, however, assumes a particular relationship between the place-names and cemeteries which is neither stated nor justified. The archaeological evidence for the middle Saxon years is wanting, but is explained as being the result of continuity of settlement to the present day. This apparent shift in settlements, or at least the deserted nature of sites which have been excavated, is now well known but deserves closer examination. The later settlements are analysed geographically by their relationship to the Weald downland and coastal plain and Bell points to the mobility of Saxon settlements. He ends with the possibility of theory building which may offer some hope in unravelling the complexities of settlement patterns in the future.

The co-operation of scholars from different disciplines in the study of settlements is now overdue and it is therefore disappointing to find the next author slighting the use of geographical models as hypotheses against which data can be tested. John McN. Dodgson describes the place-names of Sussex. He devotes more than a tenth of the book to a list of place-names, the majority of which have already been published. A catalogue of this kind seems out of place in a work of synthesis. It is unfortunate that where 'significant' (p. 58) correlations are found between place-name types and other features they are viewed in purely chronological terms, and rarely as source material for discussion of social and economic functions. The interesting correlation of *-hām* elements with 'areas of Roman or early English archaeology' (p. 58) does not establish that such elements are early. One of the major pitfalls in studies of this sort is to present the development of settlement patterns as a series of clear-cut phases. This is an inevitable

result of plotting particular elements against a limited range of features on distribution maps. Such maps convey a static picture in space and time which may have little to do with reality, especially when settlements are not static entities as Bell so rightly emphasizes. The need for theory building in the field of settlement patterns is most apparent.

Peter Brandon also uses the rather plastic place-name evidence to reconstruct the agrarian economy of the Weald to the extent of identifying changes in economic emphasis as the clearance of the forest progressed. A neat evolutionary scheme is proposed, proceeding from the woodland being exploited by the southerly settlements, to increasingly permanent settlements and finally to villages. However, some would suggest that the degree of pre-Saxon occupation in the Weald has been underestimated. Brandon takes but a cursory glance at the researches of Professors Sawyer and Jones. It is hoped that there will soon be archaeological evidence to provide a chronological framework against which the various theories can be tested.

A thorough study of Sussex mints and moneyers is made by Ian Stewart, although it is unfortunate, as he points out, that at a detailed level the numismatic evidence cannot be integrated with the archaeological or historical. What does emerge from his study is the behaviour of and relationships between mints and moneyers.

D. P. Kirby's study of the Church in Saxon Sussex does not live up to its title consisting as it does of six pages devoted to churches — depending heavily on verbatim extracts from the works of the Taylors and Fisher — four and a half on Wilfrid's evangelical activities and less than three on actual developments c. 700–1066. In his discussion of Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman architectural details Kirby misses the obvious but crucial point that rubble walls cannot necessarily be dated by visible architectural features unless the two elements can be shown to be contemporary. Counter-pitched masonry and re-used Roman tiles are claimed to be evidence of early construction. The former is undiagnostic, however, and if the latter were used by church builders very much after the 'early' (p. 173) period then this is important, for second-hand Roman building materials were available in other areas, for instance Essex, until well on in the Norman era. Little is said about the emergence of the parochial system, churchyard burial, the Irish monastery at Bosham, of the Roman structure beneath the church there, or of recent church excavations (e.g. Bargham). His conclusions on 'pagan place-names' (p. 170), that is, names which may refer to pagan religious practices, are dubious, and an expansion on the distribution of churches would have been useful.

D. Hill considers the origins of the South Saxon towns. He attempts to see an early Anglo-Saxon presence in Chichester on the basis of a single piece of metalwork. But this, like the identical brooch from *Hamwih*, Saxon Southampton (to be published in Vol. 3 of the S.A.R.C. series) to the west, is hardly proof of extensive early Saxon occupation. Much use is made of Biddle's thesis 'for the transfer of power in many centres from the native, sub-Roman, leaders to the Germanic element which had already been garrisoned in the area' (p. 174). However, in many of these cases the clustering of early Saxon cemeteries, and presumably settlements, may be expected as the result of the attraction of a ready source of numerous types of raw material. But such a clustering is not present at Chichester. The evidence for the later Saxon town as a commercial centre and refuge is discussed, as is the development of smaller urban centres, principally those associated with the *burh* system. Mints and coinage dominate the later discussion. The remaining archaeological evidence is discussed by Bell in his earlier chapter.

The paper by Dennis Haselgrove summarizes the data contained in Domesday Book and outlines its now well-known limitations. This might have been the place for the new approaches which are promised in future work.

Areas for future research are outlined by Barry Cunliffe in the light of these papers. He points to the interaction of the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon populations and the development of settlements, rural and urban, the proper examination of which will require the co-operation of scholars from many fields.

A volume whose scope was a single Anglo-Saxon kingdom was well conceived and perhaps points the way for the future. It brings together much of the information pertaining to the South Saxons as known at present. But for a work which contains the personal views of a number of authors to be successful it requires close editorship to ensure an even, complete coverage with the minimum of overlap and duplication. To this end a choice between a purely chronological or thematic format would have been desirable. Many of the authors furtively allude to new approaches; they would have been refreshing here.

C. J. ARNOLD

Eketorp, Fortification and Settlement on Öland/Sweden. The Monument. Edited by Kaj Borg, Ulf Näsman and Erik Wegraeus. 30 × 22 cm. 215 pp., 280 figs. Stockholm: Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien (Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities), 1976. Price 90 Sw.kr.

This volume is the first of six which will deal with the results of excavations carried out by the Eketorp Research Project team from 1964 to 1974. The project was initiated by the late Mårten Stenberger who, unhappily, died in 1973 before either excavation or publication was complete. Work on the publication of the excavated material has been undertaken by his assistants and students who have dedicated this volume to his memory.

The Eketorp Research Project grew out of Mårten Stenberger's life-long interest in settlement archaeology, particularly that of the Baltic islands Öland and Gotland. In 1933 he published *Öland under Äldre Järnåldern*, a work primarily devoted to migration period farming settlements on Öland but also dealing with the fifteen ring-forts which were then known on the island. Connexions between the undefended settlements and ring-forts were assumed because of a similarity between building types in both forms of site. Limited excavation of several of the ring-forts suggested to Stenberger that they were temporarily inhabited refuges occupied at two periods: the 5th century A.D., when a time of unrest led to the deposition of numerous coin hoards on Öland, and the Viking age (9th and 10th centuries) when another troubled period sparked off the concealment of silver hoards. The distinctive circular form of the ring-walls and the radial lay-out of the buildings within them were thought to derive from foreign prototypes, primarily defended sites in the S. and SE. Baltic area.

Despite the accidental discovery of other ring-forts (nineteen are now recorded on Öland) little research was done until 1964 when the Eketorp project began. Results from eleven seasons' digging show that Stenberger's original assumptions must be modified. Eketorp had three periods of occupation: Eketorp I, c. A.D. 300–400, a temporarily inhabited fortress possibly used as refuge, religious centre or market-place; Eketorp II, c. A.D. 400–700, a permanently occupied defended settlement containing a number of agriculturally-based units; Eketorp III, c. A.D. 1000–1300, a permanent settlement specializing in industry and commerce. These results were succinctly presented by Stenberger in 1973 in a posthumous paper;¹ the evidence leading to these conclusions is to be published in a series of reports, the first of which is the subject of this review.

This volume concentrates on the structure itself — the ring-wall and buildings during all three phases. Building construction and lay-out are scrupulously described and profusely illustrated, mainly by photographs (169 out of a total of 280 figures are photographic plates). The number of photographs seems excessive and, at any rate to English eyes, extravagant. Some are repetitious and many are less than explicit.

Because of the organization of the series as a whole many points of interest that arise from the descriptions are ignored, or relegated to future publications. For instance, questions of construction techniques and tentative reconstructions of buildings are left to a later volume rather than being included in the curiously entitled 'planographic description and analysis' which deals with the planning of the settlement. The changing

economy of the site at different phases is mentioned only in passing and the sociological implications of such a strictly planned settlement are referred to in a generalized manner. For example, Ulf Näsman suggests that in Eketorp II 'the ground was parcelled in plots, possibly owned by different persons (farms/families) . . . it is quite probable that each farm (family) could demand a plot inside the ring-wall in proportion to its effort in building the fortification' (p. 150). This is a most interesting speculation but is not enlarged upon, for the terms of reference of volume 1 mean that discussion must be postponed to a later volume.

The immediate reaction to the volume under discussion is that it is marred by lack of synthesis. As it stands, it adds little to the information on Eketorp which has already been published in shorter articles (a list of which is given on pp. 213–14). Wider-ranging discussions on significant aspects of the site, such as its origin and prototypes, its purpose, social organization and economy are left to volumes II to VI. The limited scope of volume 1 makes this inevitable. The publications seem to be envisaged as journals containing a number of articles by individual authors on a related theme, rather than a consolidated work under the direction of an editor or editors. We are, for example, instructed to refer to individual papers in the volume under author's name, as in a journal. One cannot help feeling that a more satisfactory arrangement would have been to deal with the site phase by phase, including structures, small finds and synthesis in a single volume. Until the finds are published, for instance, it is impossible for the reader to check on the dating of the site or feel happy about the postulated change from temporary to permanent occupation at different periods.

We are left feeling that this is a rather ill thought-out volume whose worth cannot be appreciated until it is set in its wider context. The reviewer of all six volumes of *Eketorp* may well have a different story to tell and we must hope that it is not too long before the programme is realized, although, as no timetable of publication is given and the research team was disbanded in May 1977, there may be a long wait ahead. Until then English readers will have to rely on Stenberg's 1973 article in *Acta Archaeologica* for general thoughts on the site, its organization, economy and contacts.

HELEN CLARKE

NOTE

¹ M. Stenberger, 'Eketorp in Öland, ancient village and trading settlement', *Acta Archaeologica*, XLIV (1973), 1–18.

Lindholm Høje. Gravpladsen (Nordiske Fortidsminder, 2). By Thorkild Ramskou. 30 × 21.5 cm. 199 pp., 412 figs., numerous plans. Copenhagen: Det kgl. nordiske Oldskriftselskab, 1976. Price not stated.

Das wikingerzeitliche Gräberfeld von Thumby-Bienebek (Kr. Rendsburg-Eckenförde). Teil I (Offa-Bücher, 36). By Michael Müller-Wille. 29.5 × 21 cm. 64 pp., 40 pls., 10 figs. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1976. Price 42 DM.

Lindholm Høje and Thumby-Bienebek are situated at opposite ends of what was Viking-age Denmark and both are on what were then exceptionally important water-courses. Lindholm Høje, in Jutland, overlooks the Limfjord which links the North Sea to the Baltic, whilst Thumby-Bienebek is situated on the south side of the Schlei, the river that provided Hedeby (25 km to the SW.) with access to the Baltic. However, the two cemeteries differ considerably in their burial rites.

The majority of the 589 graves in the Lindholm Høje cemetery date to the 8th and 9th centuries, but it was in use for some 500 years, before being abandoned sometime in the 10th century. Part of the cemetery was overlain by a Viking-age settlement which will form the subject of a separate publication, but general information on the excavation

is available in English in Thorkild Ramskou's interim reports in *Acta Archaeologica* (1953, 1955 and 1957). The present volume consists of a catalogue of the graves and their contents, most variously illustrated. To this are added a few pages describing the topography and recent history of the site; discussion is confined to the nature of the graves themselves (but not their contents, except for the animal bones found in some of them). This supporting matter is fully translated into English, as a 'Summary'.

Five phases in the life of the cemetery were recognized, the earliest and latest graves being inhumations (Phases I and V). All the intermediate burials were cremations, 199 being unmarked patches and the other 350 being marked by variously shaped stone settings. In Phase II these consisted of triangles, circles and squares, giving way to oval settings in Phase III. These were replaced by 'stone ships' in Phase IV, although in only one grave were the remains of an actual boat found. In fact grave-goods of any kind were sparse and are, in addition, poorly preserved as a result of having been placed on the funeral pyres which appear to have been situated actually on the individual burial sites. In some burials of Phases II and III, after the pyre had been covered, another fire was lit, often found associated with sherds and animal bones, suggestive of a funeral feast. A dog was present in perhaps one half of all the cremations, whilst in a smaller number were found the burnt remains of ox, horse, sheep and/or pig.

Thumby-Bienebek is, on the other hand, a wealthy inhumation cemetery of solely Viking-age date. It was partly destroyed by quarrying and the graves excavated, or recovered, up to 1973 are published in detail by Michael Müller-Wille in this volume; those from 1974-75 are to follow. The burials total at least twenty-three, including some well-furnished 10th-century chamber-graves. Three of the latter use the bodies of carts as coffins for rich women. This interesting burial rite has now been recognized at a dozen sites in the south-west Baltic area (see particularly E. Roesdahl, *Fyrkat. En jysk Vikingeborg, II. Oldsagerne og gravpladsen* (Aarhus, 1977)). Its incidence and possible significance are reviewed by Müller-Wille, as also are certain types of grave-goods, including stirrups (an inlaid pair from a rich male equestrian's burial is published), certain filigree ornamented brooches and some pendants (both Thor's hammers and a cross being present at Thumby-Bienebek). One particular object of interest to students of Viking-age material in Britain is a silver pin mounted with a filigree-ornamented bead, similar to that from a grave at Ballinaby, Islay.

The meticulous illustrations, distribution-maps, find-lists and discussion give Müller-Wille's report on Thumby-Bienebek an immediate importance. The value of Ramskou's catalogue will only become truly apparent when the grave-goods are discussed and the cemetery is considered in the context of the whole Lindholm Høje site.

J. A. GRAHAM-CAMPBELL

Die Ausgrabungen in der Königspfalz Ingelheim 1909-1914 (Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Forschungsinstitut für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Monographien, II). By Christian Rauch and Hans Jörg Jacobi. 30 × 21 cm. 26 + xvii pp., 39 figs., 142 pls. Verlag des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz, 1976. Price not stated.

This monograph is the first in a series of *Studien zur Königspfalz Ingelheim* to be published by the Römisch-Germanisch Zentralmuseum. Much of the material in it has been published elsewhere already, but there is justification for bringing it to as wide a readership as possible, for the Carolingian and later royal palace of Ingelheim is one of the key monuments of European culture of its period.

Following upon the researches of 19th-century scholars, Rauch undertook a series of five seasons of excavation between 1909 and 1914 on the site of the palace and its surviving church; excavation stopped with the outbreak of the First World War. Short interims were published in 1910 (pp. 4-9 here) and 1915 (pp. 10-12 here), but full publication of the work was delayed, and then Rauch's manuscript together with the

site notebooks was destroyed in the Second World War. In Rauch's later years the work of publication was handed over to Jacobi, who completed the present volume just before the former's death in 1976. Meanwhile further excavations had been carried out at Ingelheim by Ament, Sage and Wengenroth-Weimann.

To Rauch's interims Jacobi has added an introduction outlining the history of the excavations and their publication, a brief section on the seasons of 1913 and 1914, and a short summary. A further introduction for the present monograph has been added by Kurt Böhner, setting Rauch's work into the context of the study of Ingelheim from the 16th century to the 20th.

The present text does not add up to a full publication of Rauch's excavation (this was no longer possible). However, the text is perhaps the less important part of the volume: the more important is the visual material. There are 136 photographs of the original excavations and of the upstanding buildings at that time, together with four of Rauch's reconstruction model, and two aerial views of present-day Ingelheim.

The figures include: Rauch's original excavation plans and sections; his fair drawings prepared after the excavations, showing plans, sections, elevations of upstanding buildings, and architectural details; overall site plans of his discoveries; and his reconstruction drawings of the palace in the Carolingian and Romanesque periods. It is sad, of course, to look at these and see that his excavation technique was no better than that of many of his contemporaries. He was interested in tracing the ground plan of the palace, and to this end trenched along its walls. His sections, thus, show virtually no stratigraphy except the relationship of walls — and there are virtually no small finds.

A site plan plots Rauch's discoveries against the grid used for surveying the most recent excavations, while another shows all the discoveries on the site between 1852 and 1970. Finally there is Jacobi's own 'ideal' reconstruction of Charlemagne's *palatium operis egregii*. These are useful to orientate the reader, but they do not form a principal part of the monograph — the purpose of which remains to place on permanent record Rauch's work. As such it is an admirable example of what can be done to retrieve ancient excavations from the oblivion of non-publication.

R. D. H. GEM

Alfred's Kingdom. Wessex and the South 800-1500. By David A. Hinton. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. xii + 228 pp., 25 figs., 29 pls. History in the Landscape Series, London: J. M. Dent and Sons, 1977. Price £5.95.

The catchpenny title and glossy cover showing Durdle Door, Dorset, show that the publishers have not served the author well. However, it is difficult to know what title the author would have chosen. David Hinton's own archaeological work covers Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Dorset. Wessex then is admirably covered but the reader is given cursory views of the rest of southern England with parallels and other information drawn readily from as far afield as Cambridge, Coventry, Monkswearmouth, Tewkesbury and Wharrah Percy. The archaeology, therefore, is heavily weighted to Wessex. But is the author attempting to write a review of the medieval archaeology of Wessex? The opening sentence of the preface, the final chapter, and the detailed bibliography, suggest that the book is meant as a study of the physical evidence for medieval Wessex. Why then is the reader told that the book is 'primarily an economic and social history' (p. xi)? There are indeed passing references to social and economic history, but the book lacks any detailed discussion of the major sources for such an approach. The descriptions of material culture are divorced from any serious treatment of medieval social structure and relationships and so the archaeological picture gives only part of the themes of medieval history. That said, we are presented with an extremely well written, up to date and, in places, humorous account of the archaeology of southern England.

The 8th and 9th centuries are covered by the first two chapters, 'Alfred's Inheritance' and 'King Alfred the Great'. The author should be congratulated on reviving *Hamwic* as the name for Saxon Southampton, despite Southampton archaeologists' obstinate use of something far less correct: he should be castigated, however, for consistently using 'grub-hut', a term which should not be encouraged. These chapters show Hinton at his best, particularly when he writes on the *burhs*. He might have usefully included Goscelin's detailed descriptions of the wooden church, with its elaborate decoration, at Wilton (p. 33), and suggested that the claimed position for the bank at Shaftesbury (pp. 33, 40), to the W. of the Abbey, is almost certainly wrong, as such a view takes no account of the surviving medieval precinct wall to the E., or of the street pattern, both of which demonstrate that Alfred's nunnery was probably *inside* the *burh*. Another Dorset *burh*, *Brydian* (p. 35), can no longer be placed at Bredy, since the old centre of Bridport is now seen as a more likely candidate as the result of recent topographical and documentary research.²

The growth of towns, with discussions of planning, merchants, mints and markets is given an ample twenty pages. In his description of Old Sarum (p. 74), Hinton claims that this is the only English example of a hilltop castle and cathedral, forgetting Durham and Lincoln. The church is given similar detailed coverage but reference to churches in Domesday, by place-names and sculpture, could have been given fuller treatment and added to Fig. 21. Monasteries are dealt with here, but Bicester gets more than its fair share of letterpress, to the detriment of other sites. There then follow chapters on the rural background, castles, and towns and country buildings. The throw-away line 'Evaluating rubbish is what archaeology is all about' (p. 127) must have been said tongue-in-cheek since a discussion of buildings take up twenty-seven pages: 'an archaeologist interested in the Middle Ages must be concerned with standing buildings, as well as with excavations' (p. 144). The book ends with chapters on towns, trade, transport (coastal trade is overlooked) and finally possessions. This, the last chapter is far too short for matters in which the author is expert. Unfortunately there are no clues to identify the sites on Fig. 37 nor plates to help the non-specialist appreciate two figures of medieval pottery. These two (36 and 38) illustrate the poor draughtsmanship to be seen in almost every illustration. No matter, David Hinton has given us plenty to think about and we must surely join him in hoping that this book will 'encourage its readers to get involved in the subject themselves'.

LAURENCE KEEN

NOTE

² E. B. Short, 'The bounds of Bridport', *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.*, 97 (1975), 62-63.

Medieval Moated Sites. Edited by F. A. Aberg. 21 × 30 cm. iv + 93 pp., 29 figs., 13 pls. Council for British Archaeology Research Report, no. 17, 1978. Price £6.00.

One immediately disconcerting feature of this interesting new research report in the Council for British Archaeology's lengthening series is that we are nowhere told the circumstances of its begetting. From internal evidence, we may reasonably conclude that the report has been some time in preparation. Yet Alan Aberg's short introduction tells us nothing of this, nor does the editor attempt to explain the reasoning behind an overall plan that has led to some obvious overlaps between chapters, not least between his own and the rest. Happily the complaint is not a serious one, for there is much in this volume to welcome. However, it would have been helpful, certainly, to have been told how far this report should now be accepted as the official statement of the still comparatively young Moated Sites Research Group, from which it appears to originate. Nor is it quite fair to expect the reader to engage, unaided, in his own guessing game as to why some

counties (Bedfordshire, Essex, and Worcestershire) get chapters of their own, whereas others are totally omitted. If these indeed are the important counties — and David Baker's rather despairing Bedfordshire piece seems far from making such a claim — then surely we need to be told so. If, on the other hand, these county reports were the only ones available when the volume was otherwise ready for the press, the editor should properly have made his confession, for it is information crucial to our assessment of the product and no more than we are entitled to expect.

In point of fact, what Alan Aberg gives us is his own scene-setting introduction, not without value, to the moat as a class of site under real and perhaps deepening threat. This is followed by interesting chapters on the definition, form and classification of moated sites (C. C. Taylor), on the recording and survey of moats (C. J. Bond), on structures within English moated sites (S. E. Rigold), on the documentary evidence for and the excavation of such sites (H. E. Jean Le Patourel), and on the significance of moats (Le Patourel and B. K. Roberts). The county surveys of Bedfordshire (Baker), Essex (J. Hedges), and Worcestershire (Bond) are further supplemented by an informative discussion by T. B. Barry of the moated sites of Ireland, and by a bibliography updated to 1976.

All these chapters without exception have something interesting and useful to say, and for this alone the volume as a whole will be very well worth its price. Nevertheless, they should start us thinking too about the serious problems of definition here with which each contributor has had, in his turn, to grapple. The moated site has not proved easy to classify. In Jean Le Patourel's phrase, repeated twice (pp. 22 and 37), moated sites 'do not form a homogeneous group'. Yet if this is the case, one is driven to ask, why treat them as if they did?

What indeed is the 'true' moated site which Christopher Taylor, in one of the more significant contributions to this report, would like us to separate from the dross? And is it, as seems to be the opinion of most of our authors, too early as yet to say? In truth, very few moated sites of any description have been excavated to date, and fewer still have been adequately reported. Furthermore, the absolutely vital chronology of moats remains that proposed by Jean Le Patourel herself as long ago as 1972 in a regional study of the moats of Yorkshire, for which necessarily the evidence was insufficient for more than the broadest of generalizations. Yet it has been around these generalizations, over the years, that the hypotheses have gathered and multiplied.

One such hypothesis which has already enjoyed a longer life than it can truly be said to deserve, is the view (oft-repeated here) of the homestead moat as some form of status symbol. Certainly, the multiplication of moats during the late 13th and early 14th centuries, which Jean Le Patourel detected in her evidence, is now known to have coincided with precisely those years in the course of which a 'proto-yeomanry', both in England and on the Continent, is usually said to have emerged. Yet these were the years, too, of severe over-crowding on the land and of the progressive acceleration of disorder. Did men want, during these years in particular, the purely 'psychological comfort' of a moat (p. 47)? Did they require a moat for drainage, for fishing, or as a reserve of water (quite seriously suggested) in the event of fire? Of course not! As Dr Barry very properly emphasizes on the Irish evidence he has examined, what was expected of a moat was defence.

What we have here in this report is no more, in the event, than the editor should have led us to expect from the beginning. The Moated Sites Research Group, entirely properly, would like us to know of its existence. The volume before us is thus both a statement of progress and something of a manifesto for the future. If we cannot yet agree with all the purposes of the Group, and still less with some of its conclusions, at least we must accept that, with this report, another sectional interest — the not-so-distant cousin of the Medieval Village Research Group — has made a powerful bid to be heard.

COLIN PLATT

The development of the Irish town. Edited by R. A. Butlin. 13 × 22 cm. 144 pp., 19 figs., London: Croom Helm (Historical Geography Series) and Totowa, New Jersey: Rowan and Littlefield, 1977. Price £6.95.

While this book, which launches a new series in historical geography, manifestly fails to start it with the vigour that we might have hoped, I sympathize with any editor who attempts to produce a worthwhile book on urban genesis in Ireland. Until very recently there has been little urban archaeology in Ireland, and, for the medieval period, written sources are at best fragmentary. Although the records improve with the Plantations and become more plentiful in the 18th and 19th centuries nothing can make up for the catastrophic loss in 1922 of almost all the census enumerators' returns. Partly because of these difficulties there are relatively few academics currently doing their primary work in this field; even so, they do exist and it is curious to find only one, B. J. Graham, contributing to this volume. 'Volume' is perhaps the wrong word for a book of only four chapters by three contributors. Moreover, it is not attractively produced (there are no plates) and at £6.95 it could hardly be called a good buy.

However, the book contains two sections of real value. The first, the subject of Butlin's opening chapter, is his discussion of the pre-Norman origin of Irish towns, a subject which is now receiving the attention it deserves. For the late prehistoric period he touches on the possible role of hill-forts as central places (yet there is no map) but he hardly develops the question of their location relative to tribal territories and to later towns. His treatment of the Scandinavian period is disappointingly short in view of the flurry of recent archaeological activity in Dublin and Cork. To fill this gap readers should look at T. G. Delaney's chapter 'The archaeology of the Irish town' in *European towns: their archaeology and early history*, ed. M. W. Barley, 1977. The second valuable section is Graham's chapter on the towns in the period c.1170–c.1350. This, the most original contribution to the book, is a brave attempt to make some general sense of the scattered medieval references to towns and their inhabitants. He is forced to rely heavily on references to boroughs and burgesses with all the usual problems of trying to convert these types of data into the realities of town populations. His lists of recorded medieval boroughs and markets are very useful and he should be pleased if they generate new work which finds them wanting, as surely they will do.

These two sections aside, the book is very thin. There is hardly a mention of the period c.1350–1500. Butlin's overview of developments in the 16th and 17th centuries adds little to his chapter published in *Liverpool Essays in Geography*, 1967, and the substance of Professor T. W. Freeman's chapter on the 18th and 19th centuries was seen twenty years ago in his *Pre-Famine Ireland*, 1957. There is nothing on Irish towns since 1850, an omission as unfortunate as it is puzzling when there are several researchers working in this field. On the credit side, the notes and references to the chapters are commendably full. The same cannot be said of the index where the majority of places listed by Graham do not appear.

The development of towns is essentially an inter-disciplinary subject and is not well suited for a monograph exclusively by historical geographers; an opportunity was missed to involve historians and archaeologists. In that there is no other book on this subject this work may be regarded as a step forward, if a faltering one.

ROBIN GLASSCOCK

Opgravingen in Amsterdam: 20 jaar stadskernonderzoek. By Jan Baart and others. 19 × 24.5 cm. 524 pp., 969 + 164 figs. Amsterdam: Dienst der publieke werken/Amsterdams Historisch Museum, Afdeling Archeologie, 1977. Price not stated.

The two books that previously provided the best general surveys of excavated medieval objects were Sigurd Grieg's *Middelalderke Byfund fra Bergen og Oslo* (1933) and the London Museum *Medieval Catalogue* edited by J. Ward Perkins (1940). Their

approaches were very different. Grieg divided the objects under aspects of social life such as household utensils, cooking, personal ornaments, weapons, household craft and industry, trade and grave furniture. Although Ward Perkins has three categories: weapons, horse furniture, and domestic and agricultural objects, the last section is by far the largest and Ward Perkins was far more interested in typology and chronology than use or social function. Recent work on the finds from Amsterdam has now added a third book which follows Grieg rather than Ward Perkins in its method. It discusses 969 objects and organizes them in sections from leather shoes to hair pins (personal ornaments, 1-415), pottery to stopcocks (cooking, eating and drinking, 416-671). This is followed by a series of miscellaneous sections. The apposition of many of the individual sections is stimulating and provocative. The placing of the discussion of lead bale seals between woollen fabrics and spindles is the first systematic discussion of these objects which places them firmly in the context of the wool trade. This approach based on the use of the object contrasts for instance with the mechanistic treatment of the small finds from many excavations, such as Southampton, where the report simply divides them under their basic materials.

This book contains a catalogue of all the objects discovered in excavations in Amsterdam 1954-74. They were carried out firstly by the Institute for Pre and Proto-history of the University of Amsterdam, and then, after the building of the East Metro line, by the Amsterdam Historical Museum. The book stresses the value of comparative analysis and includes brief summaries of work in ten other major European towns. A brief description of the various sites that provided the finds concludes the introductory summary of some 68 pages. The following 450 pages are occupied by the discussion and catalogue of the finds, thus emphasizing the objects rather than the structures. All the objects are illustrated by photographs and some by additional drawings. The essential descriptive information is given in a tabulated list of ten headings printed on the same page as the illustrations, leaving the text free for a continuous discussion of the objects and comparative material. This method of illustration has its disadvantages. Although the quality of photography is generally high and while for the illustration of flat objects such as weights or details such as photographs of chainwork it is excellent, drawings should have been used more to illustrate the three dimensional quality of objects. The scale of reproduction of the photographs which appears to have been dictated by the book designer rather than the archaeologist varies and while the variation in scale between similar objects on different pages is soon realized (e.g. pp. 121 and 122) it is very disconcerting to discover that objects on the same page are at different reductions (p. 166). An irritating detail is that where marks are drawn, for instance on knife blades, there is no indication of the scale of reproduction of the drawing or of the exact position of the mark on the blade.

The text is in Dutch with brief (about 1/10 length) English summaries at the end of each section. The range of objects, medieval and post-medieval, is considerable (textiles, buckles, pottery, spoons, knives, keys, weights, moulds, seals and others), and includes many which, although occurring in museum collections and occasionally in excavations, have not been considered at length before. This will for long remain the standard account of bale seals, buttons, wire objects, and small toys. For lead bale seals this is the first attempt to assign them to their native towns in Holland and England. Of particular interest is the discussion of the relationship of some seals to the different processes of cloth working, based on the evidence of their inscriptions and devices. The bibliography at the end is most useful and contains many references to works which may not be familiar to the English medieval town archaeologist. There are two omissions from the bibliography and indeed from the book. One is A. Oldeberg *Metallteknik under Vikingatid och Medeltid* (1966) which is basic for the understanding of medieval metal working, and the other is Sigurd Grieg's book which is an astonishing omission. For instance the bronze tap (657) is almost identical to Grieg fig. 129 which is part of the best discussion of bronze taps so far published.

This useful and stimulating book deserves to be studied by all those engaged on the identification and publication of objects from medieval and later town excavations. It shows that, when discussed intelligently, total publication of finds from excavations can be just as valuable as the publishing of structural and stratigraphical relationships.

JOHN CHERRY

Animal-powered Engines. By J. Kenneth Major. 25 × 18 cm. 168 pp., 110 figs. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd, 1978. Price £5.95.

This is about 'horse-gins', with a vertical axle, and 'donkey-wheels', with a horizontal; but among the motive animals is man. The horse-gin progressed until the 19th century, to be driven out only by internal combustion. Its medieval archaeology lies in its prehistory, largely in mills. 'Great Wheels', on the other hand, at wells, in cranes or as permanent installations in lofty buildings, were near perfection by the 13th century. That at Carisbrooke, rebuilt in the 18th, the 16th and the 14th, was already in need of repair in 1291. We do not know when the donkey first stepped into it. A man is perfectly adequate for most great wheels, but emphatically not for a horse-gin equal to the unceasing task of drainage and haulage in mines, as shown, about 1490, in the Kanzional of Kuttenberg (Kutna Hora). Miners in central Europe were skilled and dear, but horses from Hungary were cheap. Hence that revolution in heavy wooden machinery, the stuff of Leonardo's dreams and one of the factors in the improved metallurgy that multiplied the wealth of Europe just *before* the discovery of America. This is as good a criterion as any of the 'post-medieval' era, yet the breakthrough seems a subtle one. Is it that the motive power need no longer be, as in great wheels, wind- and water-mills, bound up in its own flywheel? The book contains a world-gazetteer of engines, the farther from southern England the sketchier, but good on open-air museums.

S. E. RIGOLD

The following publications have also been received:

Boudicca: the British Revolt against Rome, A.D. 60. By Graham Webster. 15 × 23 cm. 152 pp., 24 pls., 8 maps and diagrams. London: Batsford, 1978. Price £6.50.

Nordische Vorzeit (Vorgeschichte Schwedens Band 4). By Marten Stenberger, translated by Torsten and Hedda Capelle. 21 × 29 cm. 544 pp., 360 figs. Neumunster: Karl Wachholz Verlag, 1977. Price 88 DM.

An enlarged German language edition of the author's earlier book *Det Forntida Sverige* (Stockholm, 1964).

La Necropoli Longobarda di Benevento (Ricerche e Documenti 3, Istituto di Storia Medioevale e Moderna, Università di Napoli), 16 × 24 cm. 266 pp., 67 figs.

A discussion of the small group of material from graves found in 1927.

Aus der Sammlung des Seminar für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Munster (Münstersche Beiträge zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Veröffentlichungen des Seminars für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität Münster, vol. 9). Edited by Karl J. Narr. Hildesheim: August Lax, 1976. 20.5 × 29 cm. 209 pp., numerous figs. Price not stated.

This collection contains important papers on early medieval metal technology by H. Vierck and Torsten Capelle.

Anglo-Saxon England. By David Brown. 19 × 25 cm. 122 pp., numerous figs. London: The Bodley Head, 1978. Price £5.25.

A popular introduction to the archaeology of the period.

Civil and Military Engineering in Viking Age Scandinavia. (First Paul Johnstone Memorial Lecture, National Maritime Occasional Lecture No. 1). By David M. Wilson. London: National Maritime Museum, 1976. 14.5 × 21 cm. 27 pp., 8 figs. Price 60p.

York Art: a subject list of Extant and Lost Art, including Items Relevant to Early Drama (Early Drama, Art and Music Reference Series 1). By Clifford Davidson and David E. O'Connor. 15 × 23 cm. 209 pp., 44 figs. Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University Medieval Institute Publications, 1978. Price not stated.

Medieval Decorated Tiles in Dorset. By A. B. Emden. 14 × 22 cm. 100 pp., 250 figs., 2 pls. Chichester: Phillimore, 1978. Price £7.50.

The first in a county series planned by the Census of Medieval Tiles in Great Britain. A comprehensive survey of all the decorated medieval tiles in the county is provided, together with a general introduction to the subject by Elizabeth Eames.

Medieval London Suburbs. By Kevin McDonnell. 14 × 22 cm. 196 pp., 14 figs, 5 pls. Chichester: Phillimore, 1978. Price £4.95.

A study of the development of East London suburbs in the medieval period.

Medieval Boston and its Archaeological Implications. By Gillian Harden. 21 × 29.5 cm. 40 pp., 12 figs., 18 pls. Sleaford: South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit, 1978. Price £1.25 (+ 20p postage), available from the unit offices at The Railway Station, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincs.

Jesus House and Vicarage Site: Interim Report (1978). By Lawrence Stevens. 16 × 20 cm. 20 pp., 9 figs. Eastbourne: Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society, Eastbourne Urban Medieval Excavation Project, 1978. Price not stated.

The Morphological and Tenurial Structure of a Yorkshire Township: Preston in Holderness 1066-1750 (Occasional Paper No. 13, Department of Geography, Queen Mary College, University of London). By Mary Harvey. 21 × 29.5 cm. 32 pp. London: Queen Mary College, 1978. Price not stated.

The Archaeology of Malton and Morton. By J. F. Robinson. 21 × 29.5 cm. 46 pp., frontispiece + 4 pls., 6 figs. Leeds: The Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 1978. Price £2.50.

A survey and gazetteer of archaeological sites of all periods in the area, with some recommendations for the future.

Continuity, Fields and Fission: The Making of a Midland Parish (Leicester University Department of Local History Occasional Papers, Third Series number 4). By Charles Phythian-Adams. 15.5 × 24.5 cm. 53 pp., 5 maps. Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1978. Price £3.95.

A type-study of the origins and development of the parish of Claybrooke, Leicestershire.

A Bibliography of Leicestershire Churches: Part 1: The Periodical Sources. Edited by David Parsons. 15 × 20.5 cm. 60 pp. Leicester: University of Leicester Department of Adult Education in association with Leicestershire County Library. Price £1.50.

Castles, Towns, Defences and Artillery Fortifications in Britain: a bibliography, 1945-74. (C.B.A. Research Report No. 25). By J. R. Kenyon. 14.5 × 21 cm. 78 pp. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1978. Price: £3.50.

La Maison Traditionnelle: bibliographie de l'Architecture Vernaculaire en France. By Gwyn I. Meirion-Jones. 21 × 29.5 cm. 121 pp., 6 figs., 1 map. Paris: Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre de Documentation Sciences Humaines, 1978. Price not stated.

Looking at Cows — Field Archaeology in 1980s (The Second Beatrice de Cardi Lecture, 1977). By Christopher Taylor. 15 × 21 cm. 15 pp. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1978. Price 40p.

A witty and cogently argued plea for a new and highly professional attitude to field archaeology.

Aerial Archaeology, vol. 1, 1977. Edited by Derek A. Edwards and Clive Partridge. 21 × 29.5 cm. 54 pp., 30 figs., 20 pls. Hertford: Committee for Archaeological Air Photography, 1978. Price £3.75, from S. G. Upex, 6 Highgate Green, Elton Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

The first volume of this journal contains reports from the regional and national committees, details of archives of air photographs, and a gazetteer of regional sites and monuments records, as well as individual articles.

Bibliothèques et Archives: Comment se Documenter? Guide pratique à l'Usage des Etudiants, des Professeurs, des Documentalistes, des Archivistes, des Chercheurs . . . By Andrée Chauleur. 15.5 × 24 cm. 151 pp. Paris: Editions Economica for the Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique, 1978. Price 34 Fr. francs.

A researcher's guide to the French national, departmental and municipal archives and libraries.