

Short Reviews

Women in Anglo-Saxon England. By Christine Fell. 18 × 25 cm. 200 pp. London: British Museum Publications, 1985. Price: £15.00.

No student of Anglo-Saxon history can afford to ignore this book. The subject, 'Anglo-Saxon women from the Conversion down to a date after the Norman Conquest' is a vast one, probably too vast to be encompassed in a single volume.

The author has drawn widely from the literary sources from Bede onwards, and in particular from the letters of Boniface. There are also invaluable quotations from some of the relevant charters. Fell deals with Anglo-Saxon women of all strands of society, from the noble princesses who became abbesses to the humble women in villages. There are separate chapters dealing with women's daily life, sex and marriage, family and kinship, manor and court.

Of particular interest to many readers will be the chapter dealing with religious life. The author stresses that from the time that Christianity came to England men and women shared equally in the conversion to the new faith and in the learning that accompanied it. The prominent part played by Anglo-Saxon women in the centuries following the Conversion is evidenced by the number of double monasteries, each presided over by an abbess. Some of those women, such as Hilda of Whitby, Leoba, Aedeldryd and others achieved national fame. The female religious were not merely devoted to devotional exercises, and spent a considerable time in copying and illustrating manuscripts. One slight criticism of Fell's book is that it omits any reference to St Milburga of Much Wenlock.

The author emphasizes the differences in attitude to women before and after the Norman Conquest. In the years preceding and following the Norman Conquest the status of women was of diminished significance from what it had been in the 7th and 8th centuries. The Anglo-Saxon women who will be remembered as saints belong to the first 200 years after the acceptance of Christianity. The book is copiously illustrated and at the end of each chapter there are valuable notes for further reading.

ERIC FLETCHER

The Picts: A New Look at Old Problems. Edited by Alan Small. 21 × 30 cm. 92 pp., 26 figs. Dundee: Dundee University Department of Geography, 1987. Price: £6.00.

That this volume appears to such a high standard, and so promptly after the Dundee Conference from which it takes its title, is a credit to all parties, especially the editor. The collection is a mixed bag — not so much interdisciplinary as of different disciplines — but in each case addressing the subject in a climate of growing interdisciplinary awareness. Each contribution is of value to Pictish studies, and several are of wider significance.

Strictly Picto-centric is Anderson's review of the evidence regarding the term 'Pict', from which is developed a survey of the processes by which our present understanding of the nature of Pictish society has been reached. In this same category fall Fraser's summation of lesser-known 'Pictish' toponymic evidence, and Inglis's tentative venture into the field of locational analysis, which suggests an interesting correlation between prehistoric ritual sites and Pictish symbol stones.

Also Picto-centric, but relating to wider patterns within Scotland, are Ralston's review of north-eastern promontory forts and settlement which proposes uninvestigated categories of site as potentially Pictish, Close-Brooks's presentation of excavation results from Clat-chard Craig and Maxwell's 'overview' of aerial photographic evidence. The last considers three major site types: rectangular halls, square-barrow cemeteries and souterrains. The latter two occur in concentration within the geographical confines of Pictland, although, for souterrains at least, dating spreads well beyond the earliest dates for the historical Picts.

Henderson, on early Christian monuments with crosses but no other ornament, and Ritchie, examining the material culture distinctions between Pict and Scot, should provoke a wider interest than in 'Pictland' alone. Both point clearly to a distinct lack of traits capable of distinguishing Scot and Pict. Indeed, Ritchie shows clearly how 'Pictish' elements fall into the Dark-Age Celtic mainstream.

Alcock's concluding essay stands in a class of its own. Arguing for a 'new ideology for Pictish studies' he develops a model which might with profit be applied to other archaeological 'problems'. He affirms the known facts (which are numerous if diverse), advocating radical comparative approaches to achieving understanding of intra- and international contexts for the Picts. Alcock concludes by observing that the Picts are in fact probably *less* mysterious than any other people of North Britain in their period, and argues for a reversal of the process, begun by Bede, by which they have become mythologized.

There are, it would seem, problems of the Picts, but the Picts themselves are, in many ways, less of a problem. That said, Alcock perhaps fails to emphasize the importance of 'Problem of the Picts' paradigm in encouraging studies of the Picts as opposed (metaphorically and actually) to the Scots, Angles and Britons, to the point of knowledge at which his new ideology may begin to develop. But then, the dialectic of ideological revision inevitably condemns preceding systems. We must hope that the numerous legitimate virtues of the Pictish irridentist school are not submerged by the pan-Celtic revival.

NOEL FOJUT

Three Norman Churches in Norfolk (East Anglian Archaeology Report 32). By Andrew Rogerson, Steven J. Ashley, Philip Williams and Andrew Harris. 21 × 29 cm. viii + 94 pp., 63 figs., 31 pls. Gressenhall: Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1987. Price: £9.50.

This concise and constructive volume summarizes the results of the excavation, architectural survey and documentary analysis of five churches in three Norfolk villages: Barton Bendish, Guestwick and Framingham Earl. The churches were all founded around about the mid 11th century and continued into the post-medieval period. The excavations were quite small, with the exception of that at All Saints', Barton Bendish, where the entire church area was exposed.

The substantive part of the report (66 pp.) is dedicated to the parish churches of Barton Bendish. These numbered three. All Saints', demolished in the late 18th century, was subject to total excavation. St Andrew's, 100 m to the NE., and St Mary's, 250 m to the SW., received only superficial architectural and documentary analysis. At All Saints' the ecclesiastical evidence begins with the neat rows of a Christian graveyard. The dating for this initial phase is tenuous, pottery from the grave fills would suggest an 11th-century date. Radiocarbon dates would have been most welcome. The burials were sealed by the Phase 1 church, a simple structure with apsidal chancel, a building assigned a Norman date on the presence of external buttresses. Over the subsequent centuries the church was lengthened to the west, the apse removed and a tower added at the west end.

Of greater interest than the physical details of this plain, unpretentious church is its relationship with its neighbours. The occurrence of two, even three, churches in a single village is a fascinating feature of the Norfolk landscape. Of the three at Barton Bendish, two are mentioned in Domesday; these are most probably All Saints' and St Mary's. For St Andrew's, the limited archaeological evidence indicates two phases of masonry prior to the standing 12th-century nave. Here then are three 'Norman' churches, at least one of which is pre-Conquest — this on the assumption that the pre-church burial ground at All Saints' was associated with a church not located by the limited excavation. The evidence is tantalizing.

Do we have here late Anglo-Saxon foundations, or are they Norman? The dates for All Saints' and St Mary's cannot be pushed too far back before the Conquest as they overlie domestic activity associated with both Thetford and St Neots-type ware. Both churches appear to be established at the rear of tenements though evidence for their contemporary context is indeed thin; for St Andrew's there is no useful evidence.

It is curious that the volume has been titled 'Three Norman Churches'. There are five and they are not clearly 'Norman'. Such a title reinforces the stance taken in the discussion of the fabric of Framingham Earl. Here the rubble pilasters of the chancel, seen by the Taylors as probably Anglo-Saxon, are argued to be Norman. But these architectural features, and many other aspects of this volume, indicate how subtle the transition from Anglo-Saxon to Norman England was. This volume is a more useful contribution to the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England than its title would suggest.

ANDREW BODDINGTON

Mary-le-Port, Bristol. Excavations 1962-1963. By Lorna Watts and Philip Rahtz, with contributions by thirty others. 21 × 29 cm. 208 pp., 92 figs. (incl. 15 on microfiche), 68 pls. (incl. 50 on microfiche), 33 tables (incl. 31 on microfiche). Bristol: City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, 1985. Price not stated.

Mary-le-Port, Bristol is the account of excavations undertaken in the early 1960s on and around the site of a church which was ruined during an air raid in 1940. Described as the 'first relatively large-scale excavation in Bristol', the work afforded a view not only of the development of the church but also of adjoining structures and part of a medieval street. In retrospect the excavation can therefore be seen as a herald to the neighbourhood projects which became fashionable in urban archaeology during the later 1960s and 1970s. Similarly, Frances Neale's valuable chapter on the topography and history of the St Mary-le-Port area could be seen as lying within that stimulating tradition of scholarship that runs between the writings of (say) H. E. Salter and Derek Keene.

In other respects the excavation now seems more of a period piece, having been subject to various limitations which the 22-year interval between completion and publication has only served to emphasize. Thus neither graves nor the surviving fabric received much archaeological attention, while shortages of time, money and skilled staff dictated that master phasing and correlation across the site should be 'very much a tentative and interpretive product of subsequent analysis' (p. 58). Such slender resources as were available were invested in an approach characterized in the report as 'heavily problem-orientated towards the recovery of details of the plans of successive churches and of the sparse associated stratification' (p. 89).

High on the list in this last respect was the search for Bristol's beginnings. Yet when speculations are set aside, the archaeological deposits here do not contribute much to augment the sketchy picture which is already obtainable from numismatics, Domesday Book, and sources such as William of Malmesbury's *Vita Wulfstani* which describes Bristol as a seaport of significance in the later 11th century, not least as a mustering place for the export of slaves.

If questions of origin remain unresolved, the site offers evidence of increasing variety and quality with which to chart the development of the church in relation to its surroundings and social context during the later Middle Ages and more recently. Hence, while the phase 1 church that is optimistically conjured up from a handful of fugitive features is dated no more closely than to the 11th or earlier 12th century, after *c.* 1200 successive enlargements of the church can be followed in some detail. To what extent these changes reflect growth in the complexity or diversity of parochial devotion, socio-economic change within the parish (a unit, incidentally, which was barely 140 yards across at its broadest point) or within Bristol at large, are topics which could profitably be explored in relation to the evolutions of some of the seventeen other parish churches which stood in the medieval town and its suburbs.

Mary-le-Port, Bristol helps to underline two lessons about urban church excavation which have become apparent in recent years. First, research in multi-church towns should be addressed to a range of sites, partly to compensate for variability in deposit survival, but partly also to permit comparisons to be made at different stages. Second, developments are no less significant than origins.

RICHARD MORRIS
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St. Mark's Church and Cemetery (The Archaeology of Lincoln, vol. XIII-1). By B. J. J. Gilmour and D. A. Stocker. 21 × 30 cm. 97 pp., 66 figs. and pls., 1 fiche. London: Council for British Archaeology for Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology, 1986. Price: £11.50.

This is the first fascicule in the Lincoln series concerned with the city's churches, and it contains an account of the excavation of the site of St Mark's parish church in Wigford, the southern suburb of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval cities. After a partial collapse in 1720, the medieval church, a small and undistinguished building, was demolished in 1786 and replaced by a Georgian box-structure; that later gave way to a large Victorian church, now also demolished. Excavation showed that the medieval structure was based upon a two-celled Saxo-Norman church, to which a Romanesque west tower had been added. The church lay in a cemetery of earlier origin, which is dated by radiocarbon determinations to the mid 10th century. Eight charcoal burials and a series of cist-graves were found, together with a most remarkable collection of decorated stone grave-covers and markers, spanning the 10th to 13th centuries.

Pre-dating the first stone church was a quartet of post-holes, which the excavators interpret as the west end of an early timber church, but other explanations, such as a free-standing tower, are possible. Extensive and intercutting burials, together with massive foundation disturbances, had removed most of the floor levels and other vertical stratification associated with the churches, making both the phasing of the site and the correlation of structural detail difficult, if not impossible. The development of the graveyard is, therefore, only sketched in outline; grave-types and mortuary practices are not considered in detail. Too little survived of floor levels and internal features, at any period, to admit sound comment on liturgical planning, although the authors try to interpret a pair of long, narrow foundation trenches inside the chancel as the settings for successive altars. Since these trenches were 3.5 m long it is unlikely that they were altar supports, but were more plausibly a pair of structural features.

This is a clear succinct publication, with a small number of proof-reading errors; it is essentially a selection and distillation of evidence, supported by a small number of finds and specialist reports. Pride of place is properly given to the presentation of a full and well illustrated catalogue of the stone grave-markers and covers. In sum, the report is a useful addition to the steadily growing battery of publications resulting from modern church archaeology.

WARWICK RODWELL

The Early Records of Medieval Coventry. Edited by Peter R. Coss. With *The Hundred Rolls of 1280*. Edited by Trevor John. 16 × 26 cm. xlii + 450 pp., 2 pls., 2 maps. London: O.U.P. for the British Academy (Records of Social and Economic History, NS 11), 1986. Price: £72.00.

All those interested in the medieval town will welcome this publication of records relating to Coventry in the 12th and 13th centuries. The majority are deeds from the

corporation archives, but material from other collections has also been included in order to make available (mostly in calendar form) all extant Coventry deeds before 1307. Most are undated but virtually none are earlier than *c.* 1200–10; they have been dated as precisely as possible from internal and from external evidence, including that of the 12th- and 13th-century charters of the Earls of Chester, the 1280 Hundred Rolls and the 13th-century Crown Pleas of the Warwickshire Eyre, all contained within this volume.

Here then we have the earliest deeds, ordered topographically and dated wherever possible, thus laying the foundation for the tenement histories which must eventually come from the complete chronological range of material available. For this major medieval town is one rich in sources, alas mostly unpublished: there are thousands of medieval deeds in the archives of Coventry Corporation (which in the mid-16th century acquired properties formerly of the cathedral priory and of the gilds and chantries); detailed rentals for the priory; and the earliest urban census known, made in 1523.

Coventry is rich in problems too, its history once described as 'tortuous'. Dr Coss's introduction is lucid and judicious and discusses two issues much debated in recent years: the extent of the jurisdictions of the two major lords, the prior and the earl and his successors, and the date of origin of an urban community at Coventry. The relatively prolific documentation for the area around the church of St Nicholas provides further support for the suggestion that this area (north of the River Sherbourne and the 13th century and later centre) was the location of the original (?urban) nucleus which has so far eluded archaeologists. The potential of the early records to illuminate the social and economic character and development of the town is highlighted, as for example in the market area with the establishment of permanent features and particular locations for specific commodities (e.g. iron, bread, fish). The deeds afford us some impression of the occupational structure of particular streets or areas, a baseline for comparison with later situations, as for example that in 1523. Clear too is the increasing prominence in the later 13th century of merchants and craftsmen — a burges group.

Students of medieval urbanism will be greatly in the editors' and the British Academy's debt.

SUSAN M. WRIGHT

The Earliest English Brasses, patronage, style and workshops, 1270–1350. Edited by John Coales. 21 × 27 cm. x + 234 pp., 220 figs. London: Monumental Brass Society, 1987. Price: £12.95.

This work has been issued to mark the centenary of the Monumental Brass Society. The period of data collection and of analysis by costume, heraldry and genealogy is nearly completed. Now the next phase has begun and is distinguished by the intensity of study and the breadth of approach. The three main papers in this volume are preceded by a short survey by Malcolm Norris in which he explores the literature upon the four earliest military brasses; over the period 1786–1970 fuller analysis has resulted in their redating to a generation later and in some cases a new identification of the knights commemorated.

The three main papers take different but related themes in brass inlaid monuments, presenting complementary studies by concentrating respectively on the social, economic and technical aspects. Nicholas Rogers examines the English episcopal monuments, showing how necessary it is to view the totality of memorial forms to appreciate the patronage that bishops and mitred abbots provided for the brass maker. Paul Binski elegantly plots the stylistic development of the London-made figure brasses. He establishes a new classification of the major styles by taking full account of the lost brasses, the palimpsests and the surviving indents. John Blair identifies the types of monument which use brass in any design, whether for figure, symbol or inscription; he identifies workshops both in London and the provinces and uses an archaeological precision to identify letter styles and petrology sources. He feels

confident that the London-based marbler Adam of Corfe was the main entrepreneur in the supply of brasses and their base slabs in the period *c.* 1305 to 1330, and that his fellow marblers from Corfe continued the trade in London for two more generations.

In all these three papers it is the totality of the approach, the need to take all relevant factors into account, that distinguishes them from pre-1970 studies. It is particularly the realization that one cannot concentrate upon one form of monument in isolation from the rest; one cannot take one artistic depiction (that on brass) separately from those on manuscripts, wall paintings, stained glass or enamel; one cannot examine a monument without understanding the technical and economic processes behind its manufacture, sale, delivery and assembly. Any criticisms would be of an extremely detailed nature and are best omitted from this review. Instead it is better to praise the wealth and clarity of the illustrations and the coherence of the three differing approaches. This book has set out an agenda which will be tackled with advantage as the discipline widens and deepens.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

Les ateliers Médiévaux de poterie grise en Uzège et dans le Bas-Rhone. Premières recherches de terrain (Documents d'Archaeologie Française 7). By Jacques Thiriot. 21 × 30 cm. 147 pp., 40 figs. and pls., 1 microfiche. Paris: Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 1987. Price: 165 F.

This volume presents the results of work on the medieval greyware potteries of a region of southern France. Ten separate concentrations of kiln sites were investigated, particularly on sites in the Uzège on two tributaries of the Rhone. The sites were investigated by geophysical survey, followed by excavation of kiln sites and associated buildings. The kilns were the subject of a technological study, involving estimations of the number of firings, the relationship of the orientation of their stoke-holes to the prevailing wind, and reconstructions of their superstructure and capacity. The pottery found has been illustrated as a form type series, a rimform type series, and has been analysed metrically.

The earliest medieval kilns known in the region are tentatively dated between the 5th and 7th centuries, but the earliest material included in this report is probably the rather crude-looking bowls and jars produced in a single-flued circular kiln with a raised floor, for which unfortunately there is no dating evidence. A large number of 12th–13th-century kilns of the same form produced spouted pitchers (some with dimpled decoration on the shoulder), costrels, jars with bands of roller-stamping on the shoulders and probably curfews and storage jars similar in form to the Roman *dolium*. Smaller-scale excavation at two 13th-century sites revealed single-flued, oval or sub-rectangular kilns with a central spine and no evidence for a removable floor. The pots may therefore have been stacked in the two channels as well as over the spine. The products of these kilns were also different: the main type is the squat jug with trefoil or added 'parrot-beak' spout, but flanged lids, mammiform urinals, and money boxes were also made, sometimes decorated with rilling.

The sites seem to show a change during the 13th century in pottery technology and in the range of pottery forms, although it is always possible that two separate traditions existed side by side. The earlier types of pottery are remarkably similar to those produced in northern France and England during the 10th, 11th and 12th centuries, while the first examples of mammiform urinals and money boxes in SE. England occur in the late 13th or early 14th century. The two types of kiln recognized in the Bas-Rhone are also known from England, although the type with the central spine was in use in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Finally, the production of unglazed wheelthrown greyware itself can be seen as a discrete tradition in Northern European ceramics, one which hardly affected western Britain but which thrived in parts of SE. England, Northern France and the Low Countries into the 15th century. It is therefore clear that students of North European medieval archaeology cannot

ignore developments in southern France but neither can they imagine that the Mediterranean world formed a pool into which North European potters could occasionally dip for novelty (these sites are close to Avignon, one of the supposed centres for the introduction of polychrome decoration and the use of tin glaze from Spain). Thiriot's study suggests that there were connections between the pottery industries of the Bas-Rhone and northern Europe but that ideas may well have been travelling south as well as north.

ALAN VINCE

Interpreting the Landscape. By Michael Aston. 19 × 25 cm. 168 pp., 94 figs. and pls. London: B. T. Batsford, 1985. Price: £9.95 pb., £17.95.

Batsford's archaeological series under the general editorship of Graham Webster, standardly published in both cased and limp versions, has been not only sustained but also includes a number of notable successes. Mick Aston, as one of the most active and experienced non-excavating field archaeologists in England, and an equally experienced author and teacher, is an excellent choice to expound the techniques and results of non-excavational field study. Under the subtitle 'Landscape archaeology in local studies', he does this in twelve chapters beginning with 'How do we know what we know?', moving *via* early landscapes, estates and boundaries, status in the landscape, deserted villages, surviving villages, farms and hamlets, sites and patterns, land uses, field systems and communications, and ending 'What does it all mean?'. This is neither a 'how-to-do-it' book for fieldwork, for which one still turns to Taylor's *Fieldwork in Medieval Archaeology* or Aston and Rowley's *Landscape Archaeology*, nor yet a chronological interpretation of the development of settlement and land-use in the manner of Taylor's *Village and Farmstead* or Rackham's *History of the Countryside*. To say that it is structured and organized very much like an extra-mural lecture series is not to pass an adverse comment, since it will provide a basis and support for such classes, and thereby enhance that crucial channel through which a wider public is made aware of and through direct experience sympathetic to the concerns and results of field archaeology. Aston provides a blend of enthusiastic and practical enquiry with an awareness of recent thought and research that is reflected in the usefully wide-ranging bibliography and references. The numerous illustrations, while of necessity covering the full range of topics, are especially helpful in bringing forward material from the west and south-west of the country, that help to counterbalance the experience in the champion lands of central and eastern England on which most of its predecessors have been based.

Why then does a feeling of disappointment linger? Perhaps from the divorce, surprising in the author, of interpretation from fieldwork — from direct and detailed observation of field evidence, of relationships and inter-relationships, and the interplay of different sources, upon which subtle and convincing landscape archaeology depends. But it may be that this is to regret something that the book, excellent in its own terms, does not have in its brief to provide; for the series is structured to cover fieldwork in a forthcoming complementary volume by A. E. Brown, that will (one hopes) not be forced to divorce fieldwork from interpretation.

PAUL EVERSON

Harvesting the Air. Windmill Pioneers in Twelfth-century England. By Edward J Kealey. 14 × 21 cms. 307 pp., 24 figs. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 1987. Price £25.00.

This book seeks to overturn the accepted view that the first windmills appear in the documents in the 1180s, by arguing that there are a number of earlier examples, including one at Wigston Parva (Leics.) which is claimed to have been built before 1137. The appendix contains a list of 56 windmills which are likely to have been in existence by 1200, of which a number could predate 1180. The thesis hinges on nomenclature. No contemporary document dated before the 1180s uses the phrase *molendinum ventricum* (windmill) or the various

equivalents. The 'early' mills are identified simply by the word *molendinum*. To take the example of Wigston Parva, a *molendinum* is mentioned in a charter dated to 1135–37. In a later document — Kealey dates it to before 1200, Dr Kemp to c.1200–30 — a mill at Wigston Parva is called a *molendinum ad ventum*. Kealey concludes that both documents must refer to the same type of machine, and that therefore the early 12th-century mill was a windmill. The documents will not bear this interpretation. A likely explanation is that Wigston Parva's small stream was used to power a watermill at some time between 1086 and 1137 (there is no reference to a mill there in Domesday Book) but that because the power source proved to be inadequate, in the late 12th or early 13th century a windmill was built as a replacement. Only in the 1180s did clerks writing charters and surveys all over England begin to use phrases like *molendinum ad ventum* (and *molendinum aquaticum*) because then they needed to be precise about the type of mill. The earlier clerks were not being vague and sloppy, but employed the one word *molendinum* because there was only one type of permanent, manorial mill which was powered by water.

The material in the appendix is of some value, but because the interpretation is so tendentious, always seeking to push dates as far back as possible, the mill histories have to be used with great care. From a critical reading of them, a list of 39 mills which probably existed in the period 1180–1200 can be compiled, and this is a greater number than has previously been recognized. They suggest that windmills proliferated rapidly through eastern England in those 20 years. The date and location of the invention remains a mystery, but the evidence for the diffusion of a technical innovation is a matter of great importance. Dr Kealey expresses the hope throughout the book that archaeological evidence will come to his aid and confirm his early dates. A more attainable aim would be for archaeologists to contribute to our understanding of technological change in the Middle Ages. We need to know how, when and why new techniques were invented and disseminated. One suspects that the explanations will be more complicated than the proposition made here, that there were circles of enlightened 12th-century landlords, interested in science, anxious to relieve their poor neighbours of drudgery, and inspired by nationalism, entrepreneurial zeal and other anachronistic emotions.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

The Cistercian Monasteries of Ireland: An Account of the History, Art and Architecture of the White Monks in Ireland from 1142 to 1540. By Roger Stalley. 23 × 29 cm. viii + 295 pp., 75 figs., 285 pls. London & New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987. Price: £25.00.

Roger Stalley's wide scholarship and infectious enthusiasm for his subject have created a major book from what might be regarded as a minor episode of Cistercian activity. Not that Stalley pretends that the Irish buildings vie with the greatest Cistercian monuments in Europe. Their importance lies rather in the fact that they embody all the main issues and controversies which one associates with the spread of the Order — regular monastic planning, tower building, church decoration. The process is more vivid in Ireland because, unlike England where the Cistercians have been described as missionaries of Gothic architecture, the Irish Cistercians were missionaries of architecture itself! In a country which had few affluent cathedrals and no wealthy Benedictine abbeys, the Cistercian monasteries assume a predominant place in the history of Irish medieval architecture, especially c.1150–1250, and the implications of this are well recounted in the opening chapters.

Almost half the book is devoted to a masterly analysis of the standing fabric of the churches and conventual buildings, including numerous detailed and convincing comparisons with sites in Wales and western England. Often the architectural evidence surviving is fragmentary, and the book is an exemplary demonstration of the value of a rigorous study of worked stones and mouldings for dating and attribution. To this end a catalogue of mouldings is provided in Appendix 4, which is the best collection of moulding drawings in

any recent architectural history book, with the exception of John Harvey's *The Perpendicular Style* (1978).

Other important features of the book include extensive chapters on stone sculpture and decoration (furnishings, tombs, tiles, mural paintings, manuscript illumination, metalwork, seals); a chapter on the aftermath of the Dissolution, which features some bizarre domestic conversions of monastic buildings which nicely complement Maurice Howard's recent coverage of the same theme in England in *The Early Tudor Country House* (1987); and a useful gazetteer cataloguing 34 Cistercian sites (Appendix 2). The presentation of the book and its excellent photographs is generally impeccable, except that no list of illustrations is provided, and nothing more than a rudimentary map of Ireland (buried on p. 32).

For quality and coverage, there is no doubt that this book will become the standard work on the subject, but Stalley does not wish it to be regarded as definitive. More sympathetic conservation and more archaeological study of the Cistercian sites are needed. We are told that the beauty of two of the most distinguished sites, Graiguenamanagh and Holycross, has not been improved by the results of conversion to modern worship; and that modern burials obscure the ruins and threaten the archaeological evidence at Abbeydorney, a familiar situation in Ireland. On the positive side, Stalley urges the scrupulous scientific investigation of several sites, such as Bective, Dunbrody and most notably St Mary's Dublin, before opportunities are lost forever. His book will win many friends for this cause.

RICHARD K. MORRIS
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Houses of the North York Moors. By the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. 22 × 28 cm. xii + 268 pp., 435 figs. London: H.M.S.O. 1987. Price: £19.95.

Over the past few years the Royal Commission has published a number of impressive studies of Yorkshire and Lancashire buildings. This volume is the most wide-ranging: in a survey area which measures about 55 km by 33 km it encompasses a 13th-century aisled hall and a late 19th-century pigsty; it covers the farmsteads of the Moors and the Tabular Hills as well as the public and commercial buildings of Pickering, Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside. It is also the best illustrated of these volumes: the many photographs (listed as figures) are of outstanding quality, and line drawings are employed imaginatively and very effectively.

The number of secular medieval buildings in the area is very small; no more than eight or nine have been dated earlier than the mid 16th century, a circumstance seen to reflect the pattern of landholding. The aisled hall at Foulbridge (dated c.1288 by dendrochronology) and Canons Garth, Helmsley, the only buildings with crown-post roofs, were both associated with religious orders. There is also a paucity of the elaborate gentry and yeomen's housing so characteristic of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Pennines in the 16th and 17th centuries. The poverty of the North York Moors is indicated by the high proportion of houses recorded in the Hearth Tax as having only one hearth; it is reflected, too, in the large number of longhouses and longhouse-derivatives still being built in the 17th and 18th centuries: unfortunately no medieval longhouse in the area has been excavated, to provide the kind of linkage available for the south-west. A few surviving buildings take us back from the hearth-passage plan to the open-hearth plan, but perhaps only as far as the 16th century. Also of special significance are the remains of more than 200 cruck buildings. As usual, these are dated presumptively to the late 16th and 17th centuries, though documentary references take us back further.

The book differs from its companions on the rural houses of Lancashire and West Yorkshire in that it contains no descriptive list of individual buildings. This, omitted for lack of space, is obtainable at libraries in the region and from the National Monuments Record. Nevertheless, separate discussions of some key structures would have been helpful. More surprising is the lack of any attempt to quantify (except from documents) or to record distributions. We are told in the introduction that the survey began as a non-intensive but comprehensive record of every house (over 4000 buildings) shown on the first edition

Ordnance Survey 6 inch maps; that it continued as a more detailed investigation of 800 selected structures (the basis of selection is not specified). Yet the main themes of building history, and the underlying changes in housing requirements, are supported by words like 'usually', 'occasionally' and 'often'. Given the large numbers of buildings involved, it is a pity that data on, for example, the relative numbers and distributions of plan types are not given. If the records have been sorted to provide information on such topics, publication in some form would be worthwhile.

STUART WRATHMELL

Mamlūk Jerusalem: An Architectural Study. By Michael Hamilton Burgoyne, with additional historical research by D. S. Richards. 22 × 29 cm. xii + 623 pp., c. 350 figs., 32 colours pls., c. 580 b. & w. pls. [London]: World of Islam Festival Trust, on behalf of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, 1987. Price: £115.00.

In 1968, when the outcome of recent hostilities made excavation by foreign missions no longer possible in Jerusalem, the then Chairman of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, the late Dame Kathleen Kenyon, initiated a new programme of research which, for the next seventeen years, was to allow the School to continue its archaeological investigation of the Holy City by other means. Thus was begun the School's systematic survey of the buildings of medieval Islamic Jerusalem. Between 1968 and 1985, 26 different architectural surveyors, many of them students, worked on the project, which from 1979 was under the 'field' direction of Dr Michael Burgoyne.

Of the 151 major surviving Islamic buildings in Jerusalem, the present study focuses on those 64 which date to the time of the Mamluk sultanate (1260–1516), one of the architecturally most prolific, but until now little studied, periods of the city's history. The major part of the volume is taken up with detailed description and analysis of these buildings, preceded by introductory chapters by Burgoyne on the topographical development of the city in pre-Mamluk and Mamluk times, and on the architecture and conservation of the buildings; and two others by D. S. Richards on the Mamluk state and on Jerusalem under the Mamluks as seen through the documentary and epigraphic sources. As in most ancient cities of the Mediterranean world, it is virtually impossible to restrict an architectural survey to structures of one particular period, since most incorporate elements of earlier buildings or at least bear some reflection of them in their planning. Among the more significant discoveries in this case is the realization that the northern boundary of the Ḥaram al-Sharif, on which the Dome of the Rock and the 'Aqsa Mosque stand, follows the same line as the north wall of Herod's Temple precinct and incorporates an 'Umayyad gateway contemporary with the Dome of the Rock itself.

Since the reign of Constantine, Jerusalem has always been more important as a religious than as an administrative or commercial centre. This was also true of the Mamluk period, and is reflected in the character of the buildings studied here. One may wonder, however, whether the selection of monuments for individual study on the basis primarily of their architectural interest and historical identifiability does not serve to increase this bias unduly. Though a thousand or so households are recorded in the early Ottoman period, for instance, and 168 actual houses are referred to in Mamluk documents, only one house is identified and studied here — and that a building of exceptional grandeur. Earlier buildings, including the Crusader markets and a score of churches, also formed an indispensable part of Mamluk Jerusalem, but are not considered here. Such omissions make an overall appreciation of the urban topography of the city difficult to achieve. Had the survey attempted to record the entire Old City in equal detail, however, it might still have been at work well into the next century. If imbalances exist, they may at least be corrected in the further discussion and analysis which the publication of this important body of material now makes possible.

DENYS PRINGLE

The Red Tower (al-Burj al-Ahmar): settlement in the Plain of Sharon at the time of the Crusaders and Mamluks A.D. 1099-1516 (British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem Monograph Series No.1). By Denys Pringle. 21 × 27 cm. vii + 206 pp., 70 figs., 48 pls. London: British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, 1986. Price: £35.00.

This soft-covered volume is the first in a commendable venture by the B.S.A.J. It is divided into three sections, the first of which is a study of medieval settlement in the Sharon Plain in Palestine (north of modern Tel Aviv, Israel). It includes a detailed gazetteer of 44 sites for which there is evidence of occupation between the years 1099 and 1516. The second part forms the report of the excavations undertaken in 1983 at a small Crusader castle, the Red Tower, whilst the third is an account of the finds. The report includes a detailed bibliography and two indices (personal and place names). The entries in the gazetteer vary from only a few lines to several pages, according to the surviving evidence, but particularly useful are the descriptions of the hall of Qalansuwa (site 31) and Qaqun Castle (site 32).

The Red Tower, so named from the 13th century, consists of a small keep originally surrounded by a square curtain wall. One of a series of castles built in the early 12th century, it underwent little subsequent alteration. It passed into the possession of the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary Latin in Jerusalem by the 1150s, if not before, was leased by the abbey to the Templars by 1236, and then to the Hospitallers from 1248, and was systematically destroyed by the Mamluks, probably c. 1265. Part of the keep still stands; the excavations revealed that it measured 19.7 × 15.5 m. The characteristics which it shares with other contemporary Crusader castles are that it had only two storeys, with the main residential area on the first floor, and that both levels were vaulted. The basement or ground floor was barrel-vaulted, whilst the first floor had groin-vaulting; this level was also floored with white tesserae. The position of the main entrance to the keep is still unknown, although analogies with European castles would suggest a first-floor doorway. However, as Pringle reminds us, there are several Crusader castles with ground-floor entrances. The two floors were connected by an impressive internal stairway.

The castle's plan serves to emphasize that the early Crusader castles were relatively simple, and not particularly remarkable except for internal details such as the vaulting. The reviewer's one particular quibble with the report is the constant use of the term 'tower-keep'. In Britain, such a term conjures up an image of keeps such as Rochester, buildings of more than two storeys. The Red Tower falls into the category of what has been called the 'hall-keep'. However, it is safer not to prefix 'keep' with any such term, to save confusion, unless one uses two-storey, etc.

The monograph is well produced, albeit with the text in double-columns. There are, however, a few unfortunate errors which should have been picked up, for example, words omitted, and misprints, especially in the bibliography. One has become resigned now to the high cost of academic publications, but prospective purchasers may well balk at paying £35 for a paperback of just over 200 pages. Nevertheless, students of the castle and medieval pottery will find this a useful volume, and Pringle and his contributors are to be congratulated.

JOHN R. KENYON

The following publications have also been received:

A Natural History of Domesticated Animals. By Juliet Clutton-Brock. 19 × 25 cm. 208 pp., many colour and b. & w. pls. and figs. Cambridge: C.U.P. British Museum (Natural History), 1987. Price: £9.95.

Previously published in hb. as *Domesticated Animals from Early Times*. Excellent introduction to the subject up to the end of the Roman Empire; excludes the Middle Ages and later.

- Archaeology and Environment in Early Dublin* (Medieval Dublin Excavations 1962–81, ser. C, vol. 1). By G. F. Mitchell. 21 × 3 cm. 40 pp., 13 pls. and figs. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1987. Price: IR £4.95 pb.
The Dublin material is to be published in three series: A Buildings and Topography; B Artefacts; and C Environmental Material. This volume is mainly concerned with setting the scene, although some material from waterlogged sites is briefly discussed.
- Stockholms Tre Borgar: Från vikingatida spärrfäste till medeltida kastellborg*. By Anders Ödman. 17 × 24 cm. 225 pp., 87 figs. and pls. Lund: Institute of Archaeology, 1988. Price: 150 Kr.
A Lund dissertation employing methods from the natural sciences to investigate a water-edge castle site in Stockholm.
- Katalog der Grabfunde aus Völkerwanderungs und Merowingerzeit im Südmainischen Hessen (Starkenburger)* (Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit, Serie B, Die Fränkischen Altertümer des Rheinlandes, Band 11). By Jutta Möller. 19 × 27 cm. 150 pp. text + 141 pp. grave catalogue + 3 maps in pocket. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden GMBH, 1987. Price not stated.
- An Archaeological Bibliography of Bristol*. By N. Dixon. 21 × 29 cm. iv + 58 pp. Bristol: Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, 1987.
Obtainable free from N. Dixon, Dept. Archaeology, City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Rd., Bristol. Send self-addressed A4 envelope with 50p. stamps.
- Château Gaillard: Etudes de Castellologie médiévale XIII*. 18 × 25 cm. 263 pp., figs., pls. Caen: Centre de Recherches Archéologiques Médiévales, 1987. Price: 80 F.
Seventeen wide-ranging papers on European castles and fortified residences. Those concerning British sites comprise 'English fortification in 1485' (Renn), 'The castles of Glamorgan' (Spurgeon), and 'Smailholm Tower: a Scottish laird's fortified residence on the English border' (Tabraham).
- Research Priorities in Archaeological Science*. Edited by P. Mellars. 21 × 30 cm. 51 pp. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1987. Price: £8.50.
- De Moyne into Mohun — a family history (1068–1404)*. By John Campbell Kease. Privately printed publication with interesting material on feudal history, especially the Honour of Dunster.
- Recording Worked Stones: A Practical Guide*. (C.B.A. Practical Handbook, 1). 15 × 21 cm. 47 pp., 17 figs. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1987. Price: £3.95.
A what-to-do-with-it manual, essentially for excavators but also of relevance to students of standing buildings.
- A ciel ouvert: treize siècles de vie. La nécropole de Saint-Martin-de Fontenay (Calvados)*. By Christian Pilet. 22 × 28 cm. 79 pp., figs., numerous colour pls. Paris: Librairie Plon, 1987. Price not stated.
A popular account of the excavation of a large 3rd- to 7th-century cemetery. The colour plates are stunning.
- Nova Opera Henrici Prioris. Medieval Investment: Demesne Buildings within Christ Church Priory, Canterbury, 1285–1322*. By John Weller. 21 × 29 cm. 38pp., figs. Bildeston: Bildeston Booklets, 1986. Price: £4.50 + 50p. p. & p. from Verandah House, Bildeston, Suffolk.
- Hen Domen, Montgomery. A Timber Castle on the English–Welsh Border. Excavations 1960–1988: A Summary Report*.
By Philip Barker and Robert Higham. 30 × 21 cm. 14 pp., fold out figs. Hen Domen Archaeological Project, 1988. Price £2.50 from R. A. Higham, Department of History and Archaeology, The Queen's Building, The Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QH.