

criticism is to be made it is that the survey, impressive in its display of learning, is very limited in its range and conclusions; the treatment of tenures is a clear example. The writer is wisely chary of granting the importance that current fashion bestows upon them and in his discussion of the earlier history of Cowbridge appreciates plainly that they reflect as well as reinforce a balance of power between landlords and tenants and are not immutable. His discussion, however, is extremely limited, is divided between several contexts and is inconclusive. His own major conclusion that 'variations in farm size and profitability' account for the variations of vernacular housing is not much more than a truism.

The authors are to be congratulated not merely upon having produced a volume with all the expected merits of its predecessors, but with new ones of its own. It is to be hoped that they will be allowed, despite the present climate, to follow their admirable course.

ERIC MERCER

Short Reviews

The Significance of Form and Decoration of Anglo-Saxon Cremation Urns (B.A.R. British Series 166).
By J. D. Richards. 21 × 29 cm. viii + 251 pp., 37 figs., 75 tables. Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep., 1987. Price: £13.00.

This book could be subtitled 'Is there death after Myres?'. In it Julian Richards, in what is substantially his Ph.D. thesis (submitted in 1985), seeks to advance the study of Anglo-Saxon cremation urns beyond the point reached by Myres in his massive but essentially descriptive *Corpus*. His approach is through statistical analysis, not only of the shape and decoration of the urns, but also of associated grave-goods and skeletal material.

In a short review I shall concentrate on the aspects least likely to be familiar to readers of this journal — the statistical analyses. Having set up a data base of 2,440 urns from eighteen sites, Richards uses principal components analysis to establish the basic parameters of vessel shape, and (less successfully) to suggest groups of mutually associated grave-goods. The main thrust consists of about 2,000 tests, which seek to identify associations between any two of vessel shape, decoration, grave-goods and (where available) age and sex of the burial. While the use of any one test individually is appropriate, the use of so many at once gives rise to problems, since about half the 'significant' associations could have arisen by chance, even if there were no real structure to the data. The question 'which half?' is not tackled: a more flexible and less mechanical approach to significance testing could have helped, e.g. by looking for more complex patterns within the data than simple associations between pairs of categories. It seems likely that Richards is here a prisoner of his software (the SPSS package) and the understandable need to complete in a reasonable time.

Nevertheless, Richards's achievement is considerable. He has brought together a wide-ranging and valuable body of data, and has demonstrated beyond doubt that there are links between each pair of: vessel shape, decoration, grave-goods and skeletal information. The urns can therefore be seen as displaying symbolic information about the 'social identity' of the deceased, and not simply reflecting regional or chronological variation, or the whims of the individual potter. Even if one disagrees with the interpretation, the patterns in the data are there and demand explanation. The book opens up a fruitful area of study, which will surely be exploited more thoroughly as techniques are developed and refined.

CLIVE ORTON

Ovala spännbucklor: En studie av vikingatida standardsmycken med utgångspunkt från Björkö-fyndet. By Ingmar Jansson. 21 × 30 cm. 238 pp., 142 figs. Uppsala: Uppsala University Institute of North European Archaeology (Aun 7), 1985. Price not stated.

Oval brooches (or 'tortoise brooches' as they are often vulgarly known in Britain and Ireland) are the commonest type of Viking Period brooch in all parts of Scandinavia — other than on Gotland — and many examples have been found in the areas of Scandinavian settlement in both western and eastern Europe. They were worn in pairs to fasten the shoulder straps of women's dresses and are thus commonly present in clothed burials. Some 4,000 have been recorded, including a few hundred from the pre-Viking (Vendel) period when the type originated, whilst unfinished brooches and fragments of clay two-piece moulds are now known from a number of production sites in Scandinavia. Ingmar Jansson's doctoral thesis is subtitled 'A study of Viking Period standard jewellery based on the finds from Björkö (Birka), Sweden', but is far more than a descriptive catalogue. There are three main areas of study relevant to non-Scandinavian medieval archaeologists: technological, art-historical and chronological.

The oval brooches are, for the most part, highly standardized (two types occurring most frequently), being mass produced by using finished pieces as models, as were other forms of 'standard' cast bronze jewellery of the Viking period.¹ Such mechanical copying meant that the ornament of the first to be created continued to be reproduced even after new styles came into fashion. Thus the so-called 'Oseberg' style of the Early Viking Period continued to dominate the forms of jewellery on which it was established whilst the 'Borre' style — the first new style of the Middle Viking Period — is principally confined to new types of jewellery. By means of a thorough analysis of the numerous associated finds in grave groups Jansson demonstrates that Oseberg and Borre style brooches were being manufactured at the same time for a period of perhaps 75 years. He also documents how oval brooches went out of use in Scandinavia sometime between 980 and 1000, for the Late Viking Period was characterized by new conventions in jewellery, new ornament and new techniques of manufacture.

Jansson's excellent work is focused on the brooches and mould fragments from the graves and 'Black Earth' of the Swedish urban community of Birka, which seems to have ceased to exist by 980. 'It is generally believed that the emergence and disappearance of Birka was the result of far-reaching changes in Scandinavian society. The art styles are certainly also a reflection of these events' (p. 230, quoted from the English Summary, pp. 221–30).

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL

NOTE

¹ On manufacturing techniques, see now especially H. Brinch Madsen, 'Metal-casting', 15–189 in M. Bencard (ed.), *Ribe Excavations 1970–76* (Esbjerg, 1984), II. R. Capelle, 'Massenproduktion und Einzelanfertigung wikingischer Schalenfibeln', *Formvannen*, 81 (1986), 158–61, and S.H. Fuglesang, "'The Personal Touch'" On the identification of workshops', 219–30 in J. E. Knirk (ed.), *Proceedings of the Tenth Viking Congress* (Oslo, Universitetes Oldsaksamlings Skrifter, Ny rekke 9, 1987) are recent studies concerned with recognizing the individual hand in oval-brooch design and copying (both mechanical and visual).

'Mindets Tomt' — 'Søndre Felt': Animal bones, moss-, plant-, insect- and parasite-remains. Edited by Erik Schia. 21 × 30 cm. 200 pp., many pls. and figs. Oslo: Alvheim & Eide, 1988. Price: Nkr. 120.

This volume presents the results of studies of a range of biological remains from 11th- to 17th-century deposits excavated in Oslo between 1970 and 1976. Schia's introductory comments give a familiar background of rescue excavation in advance of a road development which never happened, and of publication delayed by inadequate funding of the post-excavation programme. It is also apparent that the strategy for bioarchaeology was created and modified as excavation proceeded, a pragmatic approach described with disarming honesty.

Of the five main papers, Griffin's account of the plant remains is much the longest, and probably the most satisfactory for the non-specialist reader. She gives some background information, which is relevant to the whole volume, and a pleasant discussion of early botanical literature before launching into a detailed account of the plant remains, with the emphasis on linking the interpretation of each sample to its archaeological context. The structure of Griffin's report gives first a detailed narrative for the botanical specialist, then an account of more use to the archaeologist. The picture which emerges is of a medieval town making extensive use of a wide range of crops and wild fruits, whilst weed communities flourished in neglected corners. Økland's short report on mosses supplements the botanical account, showing the use of woodland mosses for mainly sanitary purposes.

Kenward contributes a report on insect remains which manages to be highly technical without resorting to jargon, and shows the remarkable detail in which insect assemblages can be interpreted, particularly when, as here, there is frequent cross-reference to the plant remains. Jones describes the distribution of ova from human intestinal parasites, drawing conclusions about infestation and sanitation. The weakest paper is Lie's, perhaps because it is a conventional 'bone report' rather than an account more fully integrated with the other papers in this volume and with the archaeology of the site. Interpretation proceeds on the basis of naïve assumptions, and there is some highly questionable use of multivariate statistics. A corpus of 100,000 fragments deserves something a little better, one feels.

If the biological remains from an excavation must be published separately from the archaeology, then this volume is quite a good example of how to do it. Apart from revealing much about medieval Oslo, Griffin's and Kenward's papers, in particular, show that useful new tools are available to medieval archaeology. It is to be hoped that they will be productively used.

T. P. O'CONNOR

Viviers. Cité Episcopale: Etudes Archéologiques. Edited by Yves Esquieu. 21 × 27 cm. 127 pp., 88 figs. and pls. Lyon: Direction des Antiquités Historiques Rhône-Alpes. Price not stated.

Tours, Lyons, Grenoble, St-Denis, Douai: all are French towns where distinguished urban archaeology has been carried out in recent years, and all of them have seen publication of sorts. If that publication has not been of the standard or comprehensiveness which we are becoming used to for English towns, then there are all kinds of reasons for that, not the least of which is peer-group expectation. Yves Esquieu's publication of various excavations in Viviers, carried out by him and his team between 1979 and 1984, is well up to the standard of his peers, and it is prompt; it constitutes a very useful addition to our knowledge of the evolution of southern French towns in the post-Roman period.

Viviers is situated on a spur overlooking the Rhône, about half-way between Valence and Avignon; in the 5th century it became the seat of the bishopric which had formerly been at the civitas-capital of Alba (on which see now the excellent number 5 in the series *Guides Archéologiques de la France*). Most of the excavations took place in the upper town, within the fortifications which enclosed both the castle and the cathedral complex. There is a chapter on Roman Viviers (incorporating references to discoveries from the 17th century onwards); on a 6th-century suburban funerary basilica, with surviving inscriptions; on the development of the cathedral from the episcopal group of the 5th and 6th centuries through to the 17th-century phase; on the stratigraphy of the cloister area (with several pages of illustrations of medieval pottery); on a statistical analysis of the animal bones of the cloister area; on two modern bell-moulds; and, finally, on work done on the building history of two of the medieval houses of the lower town, together with a study of the pottery found in those excavations. The most interesting chapter, perhaps, is also the longest: that devoted to the cemetery of the cathedral cloister, which extended from the early Middle Ages through to the modern period. It is to be regretted that the anthropological work is restricted to skull measurements, and

that very few of the graves were shown either in photograph or in plan. But the detailed analysis of the pottery types (from the 187 examples deposited in the graves), and a brief study of the evolution of burial rites over the whole period, are both admirably done.

EDWARD JAMES

Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area. By Elizabeth Lewis, Edward Roberts and Kenneth Roberts. 21 × 30 cm. 127 pp., many figs. and pls. Winchester: City Museum, 1988. Price: £12.95.

The Mid-Hampshire Buildings Survey Group has published 30 medieval buildings (c. 1350 to 1550) selected from 77 structures listed in a brief gazetteer. The eighteen rural and nine urban houses described show that the typical surviving medieval house in Hampshire is 'a three- or four-bay building under one ridge, with three rooms, or sometimes two, on the ground floor' (p. 19).

The 28 pages of plans and sections are very clear: perhaps too clear, since all later alterations have been omitted. Apart from the intrinsic interest of later adaptations, this must surely mean that we do not have all the information necessary for assessing contentious elements of the interpretations. The fourteen pages of reconstruction drawings were a valuable stimulus to this reader's imagination: the very large panel in the timber-framing, and the high proportion of wall to windows was something which had not registered in my mind before.

A dozen or more editorial and proof-reading errors undermine one's confidence in the text. At the first reading I was struck by the introductory statement that 'It was normal for halls to be built of smaller size as time went on' (p. 18). Half-way through checking this, I found that the buildings are not presented in chronological order: nor by size, geographical location, or alphabetically; moreover, urban and rural examples are mixed indiscriminately. So did halls get smaller as time went on? Not on this evidence. The median average hall had a ground area of 316 sq. ft. Apart from a base-cruck hall of c. 1350 (no. 3), the largest halls, between 490 and 513 sq. ft., are dated between c. 1480 and c. 1550 (nos. 15, 20, 25, and 26). Either the introductory conclusion or the interpretation of these later buildings is wrong. I suspect the latter. They are interpreted as having exceptionally long two-bay halls: no. 2 is probably a two-unit house rather than a single hall, and nos. 25 and 26 are probably four rather than three units long. Reinterpreting these four late examples justifies the introductory conclusion, but only marginally. An urban-rural division might have been more significant: the median average urban hall has a ground area of 263 sq. ft.; rural examples average 318 (or 297 if we reinterpret nos. 20, 25 and 26).

How many other ill-founded conclusions lurk in the introduction? We can only say thank you to our authors for a useful quarry of raw materials.

R. MACHIN

Stained Glass in England c. 1180-c. 1540. By Sarah Crewe. 19 × 24 cm. 104 pp., 15 colour pls., 75 figs. London: H.M.S.O. for R.C.H.M., 1987. Price: £9.95.

The Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi is the national archive of stained glass. This attractive and reasonably priced large-format paperback is by the C.V.M.A.'s archivist and is generously illustrated by photographs from the Commission's Architectural Records section. The detailed captions to the 90 illustrations could be read on their own as an admirable short text but this is more than just a picture book: the main text wears its scholarship lightly while presenting an easily digestible guide to England's wealth of medieval glass.

The subject is treated thematically, starting with a lucid description of how windows were made and an account of the changing styles of glass and architecture. It is made clear that the donor's role included some self-promotion as well as piety. Some of the most recurrent themes are considered under the heading of Subjects and Sources, with medieval drama suggested as a powerful inspiration behind the expressive and gesturing figures. It is not easy to establish to what extent the window designer was an innovator; many figures were simply repeated from existing cartoons and there were definite links with manuscript illumination for the grotesque and hybrid creatures shown in the section on Humour and Horror.

Although windows ostensibly dealt with religious themes, aspects of medieval secular life can be detected; contemporary fashions are worn by biblical figures and there are glimpses of crafts and professions, rural life and domestic furnishings. The natural world was also depicted, although images of exotic animals did not need to have been brought back by the Crusaders since they were already present in manuscript drawing from the 11th century.

The bibliography includes the Victorian pioneer studies of medieval windows. A county gazetteer would have been welcome, for the book whets the appetite to visit the 200 windows referred to in the index with a new insight into their context and meaning.

CAROLA HICKS

The following publications have also been received:

- Medieval Tenements in Aldwark, and Other Sites* (Archaeology of York x/2). By R. A. Hall, A. MacGregor and M. Stockwell. 19 × 24 cm. 97 pp., 54 figs., 15 pp. pls. London: Council for British Archaeology for York Archaeological Trust, 1988. Price: £15.00.
- Bones from the General Accident Site, Tanner Row* (Archaeology of York xv/2). By T. P. O'Connor. 74 pp., 11 figs., 4 pp. pls., 1 fiche. London: Council for British Archaeology for York Archaeological Trust, 1988. Price: £10.00.
- Almost exclusively Roman material. Demolishes Anglian fish factory hypothesis.
- Recording Timber-Framed Buildings: An Illustrated Glossary* (C.B.A. Practical Handbook 5). 15 × 21 cm. 52 pp., 33 figs. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1989. Price: £3.50.
- Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (C.B.A. Practical Handbook 6). 15 × 21 cm. 36 pp. Cartoons by Bill Tidy. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1989. Price: £2.50.
- Stilwandel und Persönlichkeit* [collected papers 1935–82 of Richard Hamann-Mac Lean]. Edited by Peter Cornelius Claussen. 17 × 24 cm. 610 pp., many figs. and pls. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden GMBH, 1988. Price: DM 198.
- The Cambridge Guide to the Arts in Britain: 1, Prehistoric, Roman, and Early Medieval*. Edited by Boris Ford. 17 × 25 cm. xii + 308 pp., figs., pls. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1988. Price: £19.50.
- Ibid. 2 The Middle Ages*. Details as above.
- Dictionary of Old English: C*. 6 fiche, containing 951 pp. giving 897 headwords. Toronto: Centre for Medieval Studies, 1988. Price: \$5.95.
- Property and Inheritance in Viking Scandinavia: the Runic Evidence* (Occasional Papers in Medieval Topics 2). By Birgit Sawyer. 15 × 21 cm. 58 pp. Alingsås: Viktoria Bokforlag, 1988. Price: SEK 30.
- Scandinavian Scotland*. By B. E. Crawford. 15 × 23 cm. xiv + 274 pp., 80 figs. and pls. Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1987. Price: £9.95 pb.
- Brochs of Scotland*. By J. N. G. Richie. 15 × 22 cm. 56 pp., 28 figs. and pls. Princes Risborough: Shire Books, 1988. Price: £2.50.
- Crusader Castles*. By T. E. Lawrence (edited with a new introduction by Denys Pringle). 16 × 24 cm. xl + 154 pp., 108 figs. and pls. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988. Price: £30.00.

- Castles of Shropshire*. By Michael Jackson. 19 × 25 cm. xi + 91 pp., figs., pls. Shrewsbury: Shropshire Libraries, 1988. Price: £4.95.
- The British Museum Book of Cats*. By Juliet Clutton-Brock. 22 × 22 cm. 96 pp., many colour and b. & w. illus. London: British Museum Publications, 1988. Price: £9.95.
- Early Medieval Pottery from Flaxengate, Lincoln* (Archaeology of Lincoln XVII-2). By Lauren Adams Gilmour. 21 × 30 cm. 127 pp., 63 figs., 2 fiche. London: Council for British Archaeology for Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology, 1988. Price: £18.00.
- Miscellanea 1* (Medieval Dublin Excavations Series B, vol. 2). Edited by Patrick F. Wallace. 22 × 30 cm. 48 pp., many figs. and pls. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1988. Price: £10.95 hb., £7.95 pb.
Contains an archaeological bibliography of Dublin 840-1300, and notes on a 'Winchester-Style' bronze mount, ship graffiti and models, Romanesque bookbinding fragments, and pilgrim souvenirs.
- Coventry: Excavations at Ernesford Grange 1971-73*. By Iain Soden. 21 × 30 cm. 62 pp., 10 pls., 19 figs. Coventry Museums, 1988. No price stated.
- Archaeology in Eastern Yorkshire: Essays in Honour of T. C. M. Brewster F.S.A.* Edited by T. G. Manby. 21 × 30 cm. vi + 208 pp., figs., pls. Sheffield: J. R. Collis at the Dept. of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield, 1988. Price not stated.
Papers by Hurst (rural settlement), Farmer (Scarborough ware), Aberg and Smith (Boulby excavation), eidem (Stockton-on-Tees castle).
- An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of Cambridge* (in two parts, with separate set of plans). By the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. 22 × 28 cm. cxxix + 480 pp., many figs., 310 pls. London: H.M.S.O., pb. reprint 1988 of 1959 edn. Price: £35.00.
- Einführung in die Archäologie des Mittelalters*. By Gunter P. Fehring. 14 × 21 cm. xiv + 254 pp., 99 figs. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1987. Price not stated.
Introductory paperback textbook to archaeology of the Middle Ages, principally Germany's.
- Festschrift Til Olaf Olsen*. 19 × 27 cm. xviii + 334 pp., numerous figs. and pls. Copenhagen: Det Kongelige Nordiske Oldskriftselskab, 1988. Price not stated.
Summaries in English, French or German, together with the illustrations, make these 27 papers, mainly on medieval themes, accessible to a wide audience.