

## Short Reviews

*Primitive and Peasant Markets*. By Richard Hodges. 14 × 21 cm. xiv + 175 pp., 11 figs. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988. Price: £25.00 hb., £7.95 pb.

In this book Hodges seeks to update his *Dark Age Economics* (1982), bring its perspectives to a wider audience and set them within a present day political context. Hence he starts with anthropological and geographical approaches to the market (Ch. 1); illustrates these models with archaeological evidence in partially commercialized (Ch. 2) and competitive (Ch. 3) economies; and discusses the role of money (Ch. 4 — in reality a résumé of three separate articles). The stage is then set to place the market in its regional context (Ch. 5) and to finish with a plea to prevent the extinction of the modern peasant market by the expansion of capitalism, or at least ameliorate the worst effects of this process by recognizing the historic roots of such exchange mechanisms (Ch. 6). Presumably this book is to play a role in the educative process.

In reality Hodges, far from updating his previous work, reproduces all its old failings. In an eclectic combination of work from English Individualists such as MacFarlane to neo-Marxists such as Carole Smith, he describes outdated anthropological debates centred on a distinction between formalist and substantivist, and traditional geographical models with no attempt to move back from spatial form to social process. Change is explained by diffusion from elsewhere — markets from the Continent, artisans and moneyers from the Vikings — or from a Roman past which, despite all the evidence, is 'bound to have had an influence' (p. 90). Alternatively ideology is given an independent role, the church challenging our island ethos with no explanation of why it received a good hearing from the myopic natives. When all this fails, both as a general scheme and as an explanation of the diversity of response, we are left with the dynamic individual — a Saxon policy 'sketched out by Charles the Great' (p. 89), a market 'consciously constructed' (p. 47) by King Ina, 'probably the architect of a type B emporium at Hamwih'.

The core problem is Hodges's failure to define the market 'energy' which 'generates class divisions'. In places he faces this, contrasting commodity production with price regulation and linking the appearance of the market with the coercive state. However this is insufficient to relate merchant to artisan or urban to rural economy convincingly. To explain production in terms of the need for circulation surely makes the tail wag the dog. Consequently the dynamic of modern capitalism becomes the imposition of a free market, rather than the need to accumulate. Misunderstanding this dynamic naturally means that he is dismayed by the havoc wrought by its imposition. For Hodges education will be enough — Pirenne and Braudel developed their ideas with the advantage of captivity, the ultimate enforced ivory tower. In reality, whilst international companies may be persuaded to finance big museums, Hodges's portrait of the noble peasant, whose morality goes down as wealth becomes measured in things, will not persuade them to avoid new sources of cheap labour and customers. The tools employed here don't help us to understand the past or apply history in the present.

STEVE ROSKAMS

*The Origins of the Newcastle Quayside: Excavations at Queen Street and Dog Bank* (Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Monograph Series 3). By Colm O'Brien, Lucy Brown, Sharon Dixon and Rebecca Nicholson. 22 × 27 cm. 168 pp., 52 figs., 20 tables, 2 microfiches containing 129 frames at A4. Newcastle upon Tyne, 1988. Price: £25.00.

The promptness with which Colm O'Brien and his team have published the results of the 1984–85 excavations on the Newcastle waterfront is to be applauded and, hopefully, emulated elsewhere. There is a flat terrace on the north bank of the Tyne, extending over

60 m riverwards from the foot of the steeply rising hill upon which the medieval town lies: in 1976 Barbara Harbottle suggested that this tract of land was reclaimed from the river during a secondary phase of medieval urban expansion. Redevelopment provided the stimulus to test this proposition archaeologically. Two major sites were subsequently excavated, one at Dog Bank at the foot of the hillside, the other further towards the river at Queen Street. It is the results of that work which are reported here.

Robert Curthose had the town's eponymous fortification built on top of the hill overlooking the Tyne in 1080: it is argued in the report that the earliest datable activity at Dog Bank was in the 12th century. Among the major features excavated were the remains of a redeposited clay bank initially raised at the water's edge, into the upper surface of which a 12th-century pottery kiln had been cut.

The subsequent advances into the river are then considered. Initially, each narrow waterfront property was extended independently, producing an indented frontage. Reclamation was effected by the construction of a stone wall on the foreshore to the south of the existing frontage and the infilling of the intervening area. The excavator uses the rather misleading term 'piers' for these extensions which, he clearly shows, represent piecemeal advances of the frontage in the 13th and 14th centuries.

The manner in which the street pattern developed as the waterfront advanced is also considered and the associated buildings described. The best preserved example was a 14th- to 16th-century building containing many coal-fired ovens and hearths. No interpretation is offered, but it might represent a dyehouse.

The pottery reports describe local, English and imported pottery in detail, building up a picture of the traffic in a North Sea coastal port in the 12th to 15th centuries which is enhanced by the discovery of the Scandinavian textile 'wadmal'. Other reports include discussion of a dump of cobbler's waste material and other leather objects, and the exemplary report on caulking and cordage which will be of particular interest to nautical archaeologists. So too will the publication of not one but two wooden mast crutches, rare medieval finds. It is a shame that more is not made of the fragmentary boat timbers recovered from the site, given the range of material recovered and the proximity of the excavations to the ship building yard at Pandon Burn, documented in 1295. Was it fishing boats that were represented (analysis of the fish remains demonstrated that North Sea fish were landed and processed here), was it a boat building yard or were ships just repaired in the vicinity? Further detailed study would be valuable.

Two adverse criticisms are that this report has the somewhat surprising distinction of having no photographs at all, and that the site plans are difficult to relate, since they lack grid points. Nevertheless, there is much of interest here, locally, nationally and internationally, as might be expected from a waterfront site with such deep, well-preserved deposits: a welcome addition to the literature on medieval urban archaeology.

GUSTAV MILNE

*Anglo-Norman Studies: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1987*. Edited by R. Allen Brown. 16 × 24 cm. viii + 289 pp., many pls., figs. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1988. Price: £35.00.

In 1987 the Battle Conference in Anglo-Norman Studies simultaneously marked the novocentenary of the death of William the Conqueror and its own first decade with an invasion of Normandy. The papers delivered at Caen in July, and here published almost in entirety, are, like their predecessors, impressive witness to the quality and quantity of contemporary Anglo-Norman research. As customary, they include contributions from across the Atlantic and the Channel, and the whole amounts to a wide-ranging spectrum from pre-Conquest English government to the strange case of the attempted canonization of the Conqueror in the 16th century; from the Norman war horse to a detailed study of the Romanesque sculpture of St Etienne, Caen. This catholicity is central to the conference's

ideology: Anglo-Norman studies embraces art, architecture and archaeology as well as all aspects of history.

It is difficult to summarize amongst such riches. Each reader will discover delights for him- or herself. John Cowdrey elegantly sheds new light on various aspects of that most-discussed source, the Bayeux Tapestry, and is particularly illuminating on the gestures of the Tapestry's characters. Ian Pierce conveys his enthusiastic knowledge of arms and armour during this period, bringing together documentary and pictorial and sculptural evidence, as well as surviving artefacts, to identify their chief characteristics and developments. Joseph Decaens uses archaeological and documentary evidence to examine the origins of the village and castle of the seigneurie of Saint-Vaast-sur-Seulles (near Caen): a model case-study with implications for more than the local historian of Basse-Normandie. Elisabeth van Houts reassesses the ignored and sometimes maligned ship-list, dates the manuscript to the period immediately following the Conquest, and gives it its rightful due as a major source for the events of 1066. In a typically Olympian review Henry Loyn assesses current knowledge of the post-Conquest episcopate and makes some interesting suggestions identifying the bishops on the commissions of the Domesday circuits.

Once again the editor (the lamented and irreplaceable founder of the conference, Allen Brown), the contributors, and the publishers are to be congratulated on their production of a first-rate volume with speed and accuracy.

BRIAN GOLDING

*The Silchester Amphitheatre: Excavations 1979-85* (Britannia Monograph Series, 10). By Michael Fulford. 21 × 30 cm. xxiii + 197 pp., 84 figs., 40 pls. London: Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, 1989. Price: £18.00.

Outside the eastern edge of the walled area of Silchester lies the site of one of the sixteen or so known amphitheatres in Roman Britain. From the later medieval period onwards it was part of a farmyard, as it was when Stukely identified it in 1724. The site was taken into Guardianship in 1979 and here we have a well written, illustrated and argued account of the excavations which followed. Traditional in approach, the author gives us a full version of events — structural, stratigraphic and artefactual. This is not an interpretative gloss based on archival reports reserved for researchers. Neither is the raw material hidden away in microfiches at the back of the volume. The Roman phases of this site will be reviewed in the appropriate quarters and need not be detailed here. The first amphitheatre was an earth and timber structure of circular plan, built in the 1st century. Its 2nd-century successor, also earth and timber, was of oval plan, as was the 3rd-century version whose arena wall and entrance passages were built in stone.

The robbing of the masonry could not be closely dated. It may have begun in the late Roman period but had certainly taken place by the 12th century. There was no suggestion of any immediately post-Roman use of the site, but readers of this journal will find the account of the unexpected medieval occupation worth attention. Dated by pottery finds within an 11th- to 13th-century horizon, this centred on the mid 12th century. The structural evidence consisted mainly of a single-aisled timber hall, 11 to 12 m long, built within the west side of the arena. To its south lay the fragmentary plan of another structure, and in the south entrance some evidence of a timber palisade and revetment added to the Roman bank. The dating of these defences was less clear-cut than that of the hall, though they were probably contemporary with it.

The hall was constructed in three or four bays, though the individual earth-bound posts in its side walls were not 'paired' and the rafters must have been supported independently from wall-plates. The author draws a parallel with the scale and plan of the late Saxon halls at Goltho. Also of mid 12th-century date (though without an aisle) may be quoted the lower hall in the bailey at Hen Domen (Powys). Both the form of the Silchester building and its

defensible situation are characteristic of (as in the case of the two parallels quoted) an upper-class context. It is not unreasonable to call the site a 'castle' in this phase of its use. Unfortunately neither the archaeological dating evidence nor the documentary history of the area are sufficiently precise to suggest a wholly convincing social or military interpretation. It is not clear whether this 'ringwork' was the manorial centre which preceded the later medieval one near Silchester church, or whether it was a short-lived adulterine castle of the 12th-century 'Anarchy'. Despite its ready-made defences the site cannot have been very attractive: it suffered a drainage problem throughout its history. Further excavation and documentary research might illuminate these problems.

The general interest of the Silchester evidence lies in its further demonstration of the topographical and structural variety of 'timber castles'. Medieval reuse of ancient sites — Iron Age hillforts, Roman defences, Saxon residences — was common, and here we have yet another variation on the theme. Nor should 'medieval' readers neglect the 'Roman' pages of this publication: the discussion of the longevity of structural timbers and of the mechanics of timber-revetted earthworks, crucial to the interpretation of the amphitheatre, is of direct relevance to many medieval problems.

ROBERT A. HIGHAM

*Castles from the Air*. By R. Allen Brown. 22 × 28 cm. vi + 246 pp., many illustrations. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1989. Price: £17.50.

I have happy memories of the Round Room at the Public Record Office in the 1950s, with the large fire occasionally made up by one of the supervisors, Allen Brown. His students from King's College later helped us at Richard's Castle; his rather assertive style made him a natural teacher and popular with his students. One would like to say *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*, but a friend may be allowed to offer a little criticism. He was not always as receptive to new ideas as he should have been, and as an historian was not always at ease with the physical remains of the period he studied. After many splendid works in print it was unfortunate that his tragic final illness dogged him when he wrote this book (published posthumously); some of its shortcomings must be attributed to this.

The book contains photographs of 117 English castles, taken from the Cambridge collection and arranged alphabetically, three photographs of French castles and an introduction with some very useful ground plans of castles. The alphabetical arrangement makes the book a work of reference, rather than one to read: a sort of album. There is a short text with each castle but no sketch plan except for Lincoln, Warkworth and York. Where is the castle at Exeter, Oxford, Odiham? There are some surprising omissions: Caister, Chirk, Beeston, Chartley, Nunney . . . all very photogenic, but on the other hand others are included where photographs are not easily accessible. The real criticism of the book is that, unlike other Cambridge Air Surveys volumes, there are no real site plans or descriptions, never more than one reference and often none at all. Surely St John Hope should have been mentioned at Ludlow and Windsor? The excavations at Castle Acre are mentioned but why not those at Sandal, fully published and on a bigger scale? The air photograph of Farnham is too early to show the square tower base — surely what matters most? There is something perfunctory about the treatment, as if the author felt it was now a subject he had left for higher things. This is not to say that there are not some extremely interesting photographs in the book: Denbigh is good, also Rochester, Scarborough, Bamburgh, Tamworth, Stokesay and Windsor. Others, however, like the Tower, are singularly uninformative.

The coloured view of Leeds castle, Kent, on the jacket is the same as the huge advertising poster on the London Underground at the moment (1989), and this with the dimensions of the book and the wide margin (65 mm) suggest the publishers had the coffee-table market in mind, although black and white is surely too drab to reach that. A less

pretentious format might have corresponded better to the modest aims of the book. It is clear from the text that there were changes of mind about what sort of book it ought to be — thematic or reference — and this was never fully resolved.

M. W. THOMPSON

*Guerre, Fortification et Habitat dans le Monde Méditerranéen au Moyen Age* (Castrum 3). Actes recueillis et présentés par André Bazzana. 21 × 30 cm. 302 pp., 83 figs. Madrid, École Française de Rome and Casa de Velázquez, 1988. Price: 400 F.

The contents of this volume represent the proceedings of a conference on settlement organized by the above two institutions which was held in Madrid in 1985. Twenty-seven papers are published, arranged into three themes of the conference: the method of war, fortifications, and desertions. The term 'medieval' is used in its widest sense, with the proceedings covering anything from the 5th to the 10th century through to the 16th century, and the geographical areas covered include Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Syria and Morocco. The majority of the papers are written in French, but there are also contributions in Italian and Spanish, and after each section there is a discussion of two or more pages, with a conclusion at the end of the volume.

A selection of the papers will give some idea of the content of these proceedings. An introductory essay by Pesz and Piponnier examines the evidence for warfare on archaeological sites, particularly where dated events, such as the known sacking of a village, town or castle, can help in the assessment of the material remains. Bazzana and Guichard discuss the Christian conquest of Moorish-held Valencia in the 1230s, highlighting the field evidence for Arab settlements, including fortifications, as well as the use of documentary accounts, notably the *Crónica* of James I of Aragon. In a different part of the Mediterranean world, Poisson considers the external threats to the coastal areas of Sardinia, such as in the 11th and 12th centuries, which led to the movement of the important centres further inland, as well as to readily defensible sites. Some of the urban fortifications built by the colonizing Genoese in the 13th through to the 15th century, such as Famagusta in Cyprus, are the subject of the paper by Balard. Settlement within the walls, building works and munitions are just some of the aspects covered, and it is emphasized that the number of soldiers available to defend these great circuits was small; however, this has always been true of most castles and town defences, other than in exceptional circumstances.

Passini has suggested that urban settlement in the long, narrow valley in Aragon called the Canal de Berdún was not so much influenced by the development of the Compostella pilgrimage route as by wars, with defended villages and towns becoming more common from the 12th century. Villena takes vertical defences in fortifications, such as machicolations, as his theme, the one paper that seems slightly out of place, while Touri, Bazzana and Cressier examine the *quasha* of *Shafshāwan* in Morocco. Although the authors stress that the study of late medieval Moroccan fortifications is still in its infancy, the brief study of this 15th-century structure with its prominent rectangular mural towers is full of detail.

In the section where desertion is the main theme papers on settlement in Italy throughout the Middle Ages dominate. There is, however, a contribution from Molénat in which he surveys the Arab towns and fortifications in the Toledo region where about a dozen sites disappeared some time after the Christian conquest. The contribution by Bresc examines the movement away from the original Norman settlements in Sicily following the 1282 uprising of the Sicilian Vespers, and the subsequent regrouping from 1282 through to the early 14th century.

This volume is a well-produced and sewn paperback, but for one not totally familiar with the geography of some of the regions discussed it would have been useful to have more detailed location maps. However, this is a minor complaint, and following the publication in

1983 of the proceedings of the Lyon conference on fortified settlement in the Mediterranean area the book makes an important contribution to settlements and their fortifications in that part of the world.

JOHN R. KENYON

*La Prospection Archéologique, paysage et peuplement* (Documents d'Archéologie Française, 3). By Alain Ferdière and Elizabeth Zadora-Rio. 21 × 30 cm. 178 pp., c. 150 figs. and pls. Paris: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 1986. Price: 160 F.

This volume consists of 21 papers presented to a symposium on landscape archaeology organized by the editors in Paris in 1982. The papers describe different techniques used in Europe with, in addition, one contribution each from Algeria, Syria and Tunisia. They were mainly presented in the vernacular language of the respective authors but have been published in French for the benefit of the French public.

The papers are grouped into two broad categories: the range of techniques (12 papers), and examples of results and their interpretation (9), although most accounts explain the project design, techniques, results, and archive storage, as requested before the meeting. Elizabeth Zadora-Rio begins appropriately with a discussion of the problems of defining a site. There follow three reports on techniques applied in England, varying from earthwork survey to close-walking to the broad landscape approach covering large areas. The grassland of Holland presents different problems, solved by taking multiple phosphate samples and dyke survey. Three papers from Belgium also note difficulties of a landscape much affected by urbanization and trench warfare. In Germany large-scale lignite extraction offers an opportunity of completely recording a buried landscape. Field survey in Tunisia is now being undertaken because of a national development plan. Geophysical techniques are used in France, with airborne thermal analysis among them.

The papers dealing more with results include three about Italy, one sampling by 1 km transects and all of them using historic sources. In central Italy the results of survey and sondages were useful. Changes in the Iron Age were studied in part of France using probability sampling, but other work suggested that subjective survey may be more useful since sites were not founded by random selection. The results of a Bronze Age landscape served as the English example and in Algeria a survey of ruins was successful in identifying site organization. Roman to Pre-Islamic remains in southern Syria immediately pre-dating the Islamic conquest, were well preserved as ruins, once supplied by water cisterns.

The volume is nicely produced, with French and English summaries at the beginning of each paper and the main points of discussion recorded at the end with an individual bibliography. An overall comment would have been useful summarizing the state of European archaeological fieldwork, but there is only a record of the general discussion at the meeting, not an edited synthesis of the substance of the symposium. A list of the plans and diagrams is a more serious omission because there are many interesting figures throughout the text. Nevertheless the volume is a very convenient account of fieldwork techniques and results.

DAVID HALL

*Dictionary of Old English, Fascicle C.* The Dictionary of Old English Project, Centre for Mediaeval Studies, University of Toronto (1986), 4 fiche. Price: \$5.95.

The Centre for Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto has now completed its study of the letter C for its *Dictionary of Old English*. Like the completed study *A Microfiche Concordance to Old English* it is available only in microfiche form. This is unfortunate as this method of disseminating information suffers from impermanence and the problems of accessibility to microfiche readers. It does, however, make available at relatively low cost an

enormous amount of data. The more advanced technology now available has now produced a more satisfactory print quality than that of the *Concordance*. Fascicle D became available in 1986 and work is now on progress on words beginning with B.

In its thoroughness, this study will be of value to archaeologists, historians and landscape historians. It draws together much that is available in existing dictionaries, A. H. Smith's *English Place-Name Elements* produced in 1956 for the English Place-Name Society and more recent attempts to clarify the meanings of, in particular, landscape terms (and particularly the work of Dr Margaret Gelling). It is based upon the very full collection of authenticated recordings in the *Concordance* and actually contains some words not listed in any previous dictionary of the language. The meanings of the various words are listed clearly and associated words also noted, together with alternative spellings. While this provides an inventory of the English language, its enquiry into the precise way Old English terms were used is of considerable importance to historians. *Ceorl*, for instance, is shown to refer generally to a 'man, male person', and to be 'a general term used without reference to a particular social class', clearly indicating that its use as a 'tenant or proprietor of less than 5 hides of land', or implication of legal status based upon 'property rights and obligations' refer only to a particular, specialized usage.

Of necessity, subjective appraisal of meanings must be involved and the interpretation of topographical terms, in particular, occasionally seems questionable. One wonders why *crundel* should be interpreted as '*prehistoric quarry*' (my italics) when the pre-Conquest inhabitants of England used the term for their own source of building stone, as in Bibury in Gloucestershire. Here *leppan crundlas* are a landmark in an 8th-century boundary clause named after the lessee of the estate, Earl Leppa, and Saxon church fabric using the local Oolitic limestone is incorporated into the present building. One wonders, too, why the meanings of *col* should be restricted to '1) coal, usually living coal' (as a gloss for 'coals of fire') or '2) cinder, dead coal', when a meaning of 'charcoal' seems to be indicated in some minor place-names as noted by Smith. I note, too, that the *ceaster geat*, which occurs in a Worcester charter, is identified as the gate of Worcester — it is far more likely that this in fact refers to Droitwich, although identification is not positive. However, although it is easy to quibble about minor points in a collection covering many thousands of words and interpretations, the bulk of the study has been carefully researched in the light of present-day understanding of the words and the Toronto group have made extensive use of outside expertise in its compilation.

The dictionary will be of great value to the serious scholar of Old English but despite its thoroughness, it is not likely to replace the monumental work of Joseph Bosworth, T. Northcote-Toller and Alistair Campbell. For glosses, contexts and derivations, all essential for a full understanding of the meaning of any word, this remains indispensable and can, moreover, be readily bought as a practicable and convenient two-volume work in book-form (Oxford, reprinted 1976 and 1980). Nevertheless, scholars of Old English and historians and archaeologists concerned with the early medieval period will undoubtedly need to consult the Toronto dictionary. A final comment — how useful it would be if, before the project is concluded, a bibliography could be compiled noting studies upon the interpretation of particular terms, many of which are far more complicated than at first appears.

DELLA HOOKE

*Early Medieval Settlements in Wales A.D. 400–1000: a critical reassessment and gazetteer of the archaeological evidence for secular settlements in Wales.* Edited by Nancy Edwards and Alan Lane. 21 × 30 cm. x + 157 pp., 30 figs. Bangor: Research Centre Wales and Cardiff: Dept. Archaeology, University College, 1988. Price: £6.00.

This publication, by the Early Medieval Wales Research Group, is a welcome addition to the growing number of texts treating of such sites in these islands. The stated intention of

the group — to stimulate interest and promote further study in this field — is laudable, but the very paucity of the evidence is certainly a major stumbling block. The gazetteer of 51 sites is based on Alcock's groupings of reused hillforts, caves, enclosed hut-clusters and embanked settlements. It is arranged alphabetically and each site is considered under the headings (where appropriate) of topography, description, artefacts, dating and discussion. Apart from providing this hand-list of sites the study gives us an assessment of the present position and offers some guidelines for future research set out in a carefully worded introduction. There are two useful appendices. The first is a review of the post-Roman imported pottery from Welsh sites plus catalogue and illustrations. This contains an informative summary of the various pottery forms and accepted dating brackets. Surely, however, the well-known animal stamp from Dinas Powys figured as 27:17 should read as 27:15. The second appendix provides a list of the radiocarbon dates available for the listed sites tabled according to Mook 1986. A comprehensive bibliography completes the book — the reviewer again noticing one error — Ó Riordáin 1961 should read Ó Riordáin and Rynne 1961.

One of the most striking features for this period in Wales is the almost total dearth of definite sites — only seven are listed — compared, for example, with literally thousands for the same period (over 700 years) in Ireland. It almost defies acceptance that so few sites are known or recognized in Wales. Various suggestions are offered to correct this imbalance, from the wider area of aerial photography to more systematic searches of the documentary sources. Clearly the way forward must lie in a combination of all available documentation — both on paper and through fieldwork — a costly but none the less rewarding programme as the Irish field surveys have shown. After more than 30 years Dinas Powys still remains the only major site which has yielded substantial evidence both structural and artefactual. This book provides an alternative explanation for the stone-revetted banks placing them firmly towards the beginning of the early medieval period as against the later Norman period hypothesis offered by Alcock.

A number of Welsh settlement sites, including caves and hut clusters, have yielded metal objects of Irish type or origin which have been commented upon by, among others, H. N. Savory and J. Lewis. It is, perhaps, worth noting here that in the case of the ring-brooch from Lesser Garth and the ringed pin from Gateholm recent studies would place both objects in a late 8th-/9th-century bracket as the authors of this book rightly contend. There is the possibility that the provenancing of these small dress fasteners could be linked to Viking activity along the Welsh coastline. One would have expected some comment in the introduction to the actual lack of evidence for either Scandinavian sites or artefacts from Wales: the northern coastline, and Anglesey in particular, looking out towards the Isle of Man, was part of the Viking 'Irish Sea' lake in this period. Another criticism relates to the site plans which, because of their sketchy nature, are of little assistance, but then a committed reader will pursue the arguments back to the original site reports. On the whole this is a useful publication but it would have benefited from further input from both contributors and authors, many of whom are established experts in this period. A final comment concerns the binding which, I fear, will not hold up to the usage a volume like this is likely to receive.

THOMAS FANNING

*Domestic Settlement 2: Medieval Peasant Farmsteads* (Wharram: A Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds, VI). By Stuart Wrathmell. 21 × 30 cm. viii + 59 pp., 1 fiche (containing 45 plates), 38 figs. York: University of York, Department of Archaeology, 1989. Price: £10.95.

This new addition to the Wharram series revises radically the interpretation of the peasant houses excavated in the 1950s and 1960s. Part of the text is taken up with the publication for the first time of the 'historical excavations' carried out at Wharram before the arrival as director of J. G. Hurst, but most of the work consists of a reappraisal of the

buildings published in vol. 1 (no. 8 in this Society's monograph series). When *Wharram 1* appeared in 1979 a distinct shock was felt among students of medieval settlement, because in place of the complex palimpsest of structures in area 10, with its five or six phases of peasant houses built between the late 13th and early 16th centuries, we were presented with only three. An influential concept, the impermanent peasant house, had apparently been banished without discussion. How could a site plan be changed so drastically? Surely the observations of many talented and scholarly excavators could not be set aside? Part of the problem lay with the way a great deal of evidence had to be crammed into a short report. Now Wrathmell has more space to expound his argument, using the evidence from the Wharram excavations, combined with comparisons from other places in north-east England. He shows that the Wharram houses could all have been cruck buildings in which the bases of the crucks rested on padstones or on the ground. The walls were secondary features, which were periodically rebuilt around the timber frame, so creating the patchy and multi-period foundations noted by the excavators. The evidence for this view comes from a close inspection of the site plans and photographs, which reveal gaps in the walls where the crucks could have stood, and the occasional padstone. The interpretation is much strengthened by the discovery that cruck buildings were once abundant on the Yorkshire wolds, according to post-medieval documents. The written sources also reveal the existence of gravel forks or end forks — single crucks set at the end of a building, and bearing a hipped roof — and these seem to have been used in the Wharram houses too. The Wharram houses were accompanied by barns, just like those recorded in the documents. A plan of the north-west sector of the village based on the surviving earthworks, and incorporating the evidence of the excavated buildings, shows a row of tofts, each containing a house and barn separated by a yard. For the first time detailed plans are published of the distribution of finds, which are sometimes helpful in identifying the functions of the buildings, and for reconstructing activities, such as cooking, that went on within them.

The whole publication is a pleasure to read because the arguments are set out clearly and each stage of reasoning is carefully documented. It changes the earlier interpretations in a constructive spirit. The Wharram research project emerges from this publication with credit, for two reasons. Firstly the high standard of recording allowed the plans to be re-examined and re-interpreted. Secondly, Wharram has always been characterized by debate, and a flexibility of approach, leading to changes in interpretation. It is much more than an excavation, and has taken on the character of a continuous seminar. Consequently it has led the way in developing new ideas in village studies.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

*Six Deserted Villages in Norfolk* (East Anglian Archaeology, 44). By Alan Davison. 21 × 30 cm. viii + 115 pp., 15 pls. Gressenhall: Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1988. Price: £11.25.

This publication continues the series of reports on deserted villages in the East Anglian Archaeology series that began with no. 10 (Launditch Hundred) and continued with no. 14. It presents in great detail a mass of information about six places in the west and centre of the county, covering documentary evidence, fieldwork on earthworks and pottery scatters, and architectural analysis of the churches. Highlights include the reconstruction of the medieval topography of all six villages, with roads, fields and greens as well as streets and houses. The account of the activities of John Reed of Rougham in the 1370s and 1380s provides an unusual picture of an engrossing and depopulating landlord at an early date. And the removal of the village of Houghton in the course of emparking by Sir Robert Walpole in the 1720s is described with the help of a series of maps. The main new generalizations about Norfolk desertions to emerge are that we must add to the landlords' exploitation of the fold-course in the 16th century, as expounded by Allison, the effects of agrarian crises and falling population in the 14th and 15th centuries, and the slow erosion of rural settlements in

the 17th and 18th. It would help the investigators if they recognized more openly that they are studying places which were not always villages in the Midland sense, but groups of houses that are so elongated and straggling that they are best regarded as types of dispersed settlements. Like non-nucleated settlements elsewhere, they could accommodate expansion and contraction with more flexibility than could nucleated villages, and therefore few Norfolk parishes were emptied completely at any period, and certainly not in the Middle Ages. Desertion, as the conclusion points out, was only one episode in the history of villages, and the real puzzle for Norfolk is to explain how and why this county ever came to support such a high density of people and settlements.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

*Norfolk Survey, Marshland and Nar Valley. The Fenland Project, Number 3* (East Anglian Archaeology, 45). By R. J. Silvester. 21 × 30 cm. xii + 185 pp. + 2 fiche, 123 figs., 13 pls. Gressenhall: Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1988. Price: £18.95.

This is not only the third volume of the Fenland Project to be published since 1985, it is also the 45th Report of *East Anglian Archaeology* since the series started in 1975 (the 50th is due in 1989). The content and professional appearances of these reports surely mark them out as one of the most impressive recent publication achievements in British archaeology.

The Fenland Project, a field-by-field survey of the whole of the eastern Fens, is an immense undertaking which is being carried out in a truly remarkable fashion. The difficulties are enormous, namely a huge area covering parts of four counties, a sequence of post-glacial deposition of terrifying complexity, archaeological material of every period and, as always, limited resources. Yet the work is being done swiftly and efficiently and the outstanding results are appearing quickly, in an excellent format at a reasonable price. All involved in the project, including English Heritage who have with considerable foresight supported it from its inception, deserve our congratulations and thanks.

The present report deals with the silt fens of the marshlands of north-west Norfolk lying between Wisbech and King's Lynn as well as the lower part of the Nar valley. It consists of an Introduction, 22 parish essays and a summary and discussion. It succinctly pulls together all the available information from air photographs, soil survey, cartographic material and some limited documentation. The primary evidence, however, comes from the results of field-walking what is an almost entirely arable landscape.

Compared with the two previous volumes on the lower Welland valley and the Peterborough-March areas this volume is not archaeologically exciting for prehistoric and Roman scholars. Because of the nature of the landscape in prehistoric times and because of later deposition, finds of this period have been few and, with one or two exceptions, uninspiring. There is more Roman material, which indicates that the marshlands at least were no different in Roman times from the rest of the densely occupied eastern Fens.

For this reviewer, and probably for most readers of this journal, it is the post-Roman discoveries which are the most significant. This is not only because they comprise the bulk of the finds, but also because of the far-reaching implications they have for medieval settlement studies as a whole. Unlike the picture in the south Lincolnshire silt fens there is little evidence of early Saxon settlement and virtually no indication of continuity from Roman times. The first post-Roman settlements seem to be of mid Saxon date and include a truly remarkable site at Hay Green, in Terrington St Clements which covers over 7 ha. These mid Saxon settlements appear to be spread in a great arc along the northern rim of marshland. In the late Saxon period the evidence suggests a concentration or polarization of settlement on this arc, sometimes on the sites of later villages. But it is the post 11th-century expansion which is the most noticeable. Over 280 medieval occupation areas have been located, indicating that the main period of settlement expansion occurred between the 12th and 14th centuries followed by a period of dramatic decline. The early phase of this expansion produced a pattern of settlements beyond the older villages and their associated irregular and probably

enclosed field systems, usually arranged along winding droves or around greens reclaimed from the waste. The field systems of these new settlements, often apparently regularly laid out, were cut through and edged by broad contemporary droveways leading into the deep unreclaimed fens. By the 13th century the edges of these droves had become the location for further long linear settlements.

In essence this volume produces yet more evidence for the complexity of medieval settlement origins and development, already well known from elsewhere. Very varied periods for the beginnings of adjacent settlements, movement, shrinkage and desertion are all recorded here, though in an almost unique environment. On the evidence of this excellent book there is still a long way to go before we begin to understand settlement in England.

C. C. TAYLOR

*The Archaeology of Avon: a review from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages.* Edited by Michael Aston and Rob Iles. ix + 193 pp., many figs. and pls. Avon County Council, 1988. Price: £6.95.

*Aspects of the Medieval Landscape of Somerset: contributions to the landscape history of the county.* Edited by Michael Aston. 136 pp., many figs. and pls. Somerset County Council, 1988. Price: £5.95.

Popular archaeology has not always satisfied either the expert or the general reader, but a formula established by local historians has been successfully developed by archaeologists and then exported to Avon. *The Archaeology of Avon* is the product of the energy of Michael Aston and of a conference held in Bristol in 1984. It is the work, therefore, of a panel of experts who have worked in the area of north Somerset and south Gloucestershire on topics ranging between the New Stone Age and the end of the Middle Ages. Much of the work, some of significant synthesis, is offered here before detailed publication. Inevitably, boundaries imposed in 1974 may have created an area of uncertain validity, but to say that it is 'potentially an area in its own right' (p. 73) is, perhaps, unnecessarily defensive. The Avon valley may be an entirely appropriate area to study on archaeological grounds, though the fact remains that more work has been done in north Somerset than in south Gloucestershire.

To review in detail is impossible, to name contributors in a sense invidious. Yet readers of this review will want to know that Barry Cunliffe, Leslie Grinsell and Philip Rahtz have made important contributions to *The Archaeology of Avon*; that Ian Burrow and Michael Aston share their developing interpretations of hillforts and settlement patterns. That Joe Bettey can write on churches from the Saxon period both under the title of *Avon Archaeology* and also in *Aspects of the Landscape of Medieval Somerset* (and, incidentally, illustrate the same magnificent Romanesque font in both) raises the question of boundaries in two other ways. The Landscape book unashamedly covers the ancient county and readers from outside the region may be a little confused at this apparent duplication. And where does landscape study begin and end? This volume, too, was the product of a conference (evidently a fruitful seam for a keen editor), but the hoped-for broad spectrum had to be narrowed. The volume still ranges widely, from Oliver Rackham's thematic 'Woods, Hedges, and Forests' and Michael Aston's analytical 'Settlement Patterns and Farms' to the more descriptive 'Land Use and Field Systems', also by Michael Aston, and John Harvey's 'Parks, Gardens and Landscaping', which brings that particular story up to the 19th century. The volume concludes with a contribution by three members of the County Council planning staff on landscape conservation. Within this spectrum readers may be surprised to find Joe Bettey contributing a splendid piece which includes a study of the business connections of a single parish church. Some might call this economic history, others ecclesiastical; some might see it as geography. This volume opens the prospect of almost infinite horizons.

The many maps, drawings and plates in both volumes are superb, although frustration might be experienced by those who want to use the maps to identify particular sites. There

are comprehensive bibliographies and indices. It is rare in these days to be able to remark that a book is value for money; these two are very good value indeed.

ROBERT DUNNING

*Structures de l'habitat et occupation du sol dans les pays méditerranéens: les méthodes et l'apport de l'archéologie extensive* (Castrum 2). Edited by G. Noyé. 22 × 28 cm. viii + 567 pp., numerous figs, and pls. Ecole Française de Rome and Casa de Velázquez, Madrid, 1988. No price stated.

This is the proceedings of the second in a series of conferences organized by the École Française de Rome and the Casa de Velázquez (Madrid) on the subject of medieval settlement in the Mediterranean region, though the emphasis is on France, Spain and Italy. Hence the shorthand title gives to the series, as the nucleated village or *castrum* is one of the most conspicuous elements in the medieval settlement pattern of these countries.

Put at its simplest, the volume consists of accounts of field surveys and research conducted over the past 20 years and more. As such, it is a useful collection of summaries and reviews. More specifically, its theme is *archéologie extensive*, which is defined by Peséz as *une recherche systématique, dé-multipliée, s'appliquant à un champ étendu, avec des moyens d'investigation variés et rapides, ne faisant pas uniquement appel à la fouille*, and translated by Mannoni as *archeologia globale*. The book divides into three sections: case studies; methodology, which is preoccupied especially with the matching of sites found on the ground with those recorded in the documents and the significance of pottery found in the course of fieldwalking; and *incastellamento* in Italy, that being the term used for the process of transition to nucleated settlements from about the 10th century. The latter is perhaps the most cogent part of the volume, representing a review of the latest work on this perennially fascinating subject, and in particular of progress since the publication of the French historian Toubert of his seminal work *Les structures du Latium médiéval* in 1973.

A peculiarity of this book, and one of its more interesting features, is an auto-critical concluding section, prompted by a sharp attack by Johns on the methodological inadequacies evident at the conference which he combines with a stiff talking-to on the importance of probabilistic sampling. This 'diatribe', which was not given as a paper at the conference, is published with a reply by the editor in conjunction with Peséz and Bazzana. There are revealed here, more clearly than in most archaeological assemblages, two cultural traditions, which they dub the Hispano-French and the Anglo-Italian schools. More accurately, it is the Annales school of history versus New Archaeology, the one deep-rooted and humanistic, the other upstart and brash. (In view of this, it is interesting that archaeologists like Barker and Hodges like to quote Braudel and Bloch, as they do in this volume). Most of the French contributors are historians by training, and with their full appreciation of the documentary sources, purely archaeological techniques seem irrelevant. They are unlikely to reveal, for instance, unrecorded late medieval sites, and one disappointment that recurs in several papers is their failure to find early medieval ones. Their opinions about the *avancées minces* of the New Archaeology seem borne out by the fact that Johns expresses the admittedly preliminary conclusions of his Monreale survey mainly within the framework of the abundant documentary evidence available rather than in terms of notable discoveries made in the field survey. On the other hand, the approach of the French often seems unrigorous and unsystematic, and they seem to conceive fieldwork simply as fleshing out the documents. The methodological part of the volume will really be of only cursory value to English readers. What tends to elude both sides is the achievement of carrying through a project to a point where it is set within a wider socio-economic context with the masterly brushwork of a Braudel or a Toubert. To be fair, this requires many years work and preferably a local base, and it is not surprising that probably the fullest and most coherent regional picture presented here is that given for Liguria by Mannoni and his collaborators of the Istituto per la Storia

della Cultura Materiale, whose work dates back as far as 1956 but has managed to stay abreast of modern methods.

DAVID ANDREWS

*Irish Medieval Tiles.* By Elizabeth S. Eames and Thomas Fanning. 22 × 28 cm. vii + 144 pp., 8 figs., 14 pls., 505 drawings. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1988. Price: IR £14.95.

Medieval floor tiles in Ireland have not until recently received the attention they deserve. Thomas Oldham in the 1840s gave the subject an impressive start in the first wave of Victorian interest in such tiles. A major disaster was G. E. Street's substantial restoration of Christ Church Cathedral in 1886 which discovered hundreds of medieval tiles, few of which were recorded. Apart from three articles by William Frazer in the 1890s little was published until the work of the 1970s, particularly at Swords Castle, Kells Priory and Graiguenamanagh, which led to this new review of the industry in Ireland. The authors provide us with an analysis of the different types of tiles found in Ireland — mosaic, two colour, line impressed, and relief tiles — together with distribution maps of the different types. From this detailed survey of 88 sites and 505 designs it appears that the use of medieval paving tiles was confined almost exclusively to the Anglo-Norman areas of the Pale and South Leinster. Two-colour tiles were made in Ireland in the 13th century and it is suggested that this industry was derived from the Wessex industry. Very few two-colour tiles were made in the 14th century when line-impressed tiles derived from the Chester industry became more popular. The popularity of relief tiles in the late 15th century and their continuation into the 17th century suggest close links with the North Devon industry but it is surprising that there is a total absence of the late medieval two-colour tiles produced in the Malvern, Severn Valley and the Bristol areas, which were exported along the South Wales coast.

Eames and Fanning provide site catalogues, a design catalogue, and a visual index of the designs. They have performed a great service for all students of medieval tiles in bringing together so much material and analysing it in terms of the most recent work in England. Since all future research will begin with this work it is worth reflecting on the way in which such work will be carried forward. One of the most important contributions of this work is the identification of Irish production groups. In the British Museum tile catalogue each tile was assigned its production group, but in this volume the assignments to production groups do not come over so clearly. For instance in the gazetteer the list of tile designs at the Dominican Friary at Drogheda do not distinguish between the tile designs from the kiln and those found in the friary. It is clear from p. 42 that L6 was produced in the kiln but it is necessary to go back to Campbell's article (*County Louth Journal* XXI (1985)) to find out what was produced in the kiln. The closer identification of Irish production groups will no doubt be a future aim.

It is to be hoped that more pavements will be discovered *in situ*. Tiles were made in pavements and the study of pavements and the arrangement of tiles in them is an important way forward. This might well have been brought more to the fore by republishing the drawings of tile floors excavated at Swords Castle and Graiguenamanagh and by modifying the index of tile designs so that the association of tiles in four, nine or sixteen tile patterns is brought out more clearly.

Finally the main theme that will undoubtedly attract further attention is the changing relationship between Irish tiles and the manufacture of tiles in the different parts of western England, particularly the alternations of influence between the south-west and the Chester area. The relationship between this and the actual import of tiles will surely be a subject of further attention. Here the so-called Lewes group of tiles, made in Normandy, but which occur in Sussex and also on Drogheda and Dublin, deserves further study and publication.

Thomas Oldham drew attention to the need for an accumulation of facts and careful induction before any satisfactory conclusions can be arrived at regarding Irish medieval tiles.

Eames and Fanning have presented us with an impressive work of reference which will form a basis for all future work on the subject.

JOHN CHERRY

*Archaeological Investigations on the Site of Chertsey Abbey* (Research Volume of the Surrey Archaeological Society, No. 11). By Rob Poulton. 21 × 29 cm. vii + 86 pp., 55 figs., 50 pls., microfiche. Guildford: Surrey Archaeological Society, 1988. Price not stated.

Chertsey was a moderately wealthy monastery of no special importance whose history typifies that of so many Benedictine abbeys in this country. Reputedly founded in 666, mentioned by Bede, ravaged by the Vikings in 871, refounded during the 10th-century monastic revival and recorded in *Domesday Book*, it only really emerges from obscurity after the Conquest. A great new abbey church in the Norman fashion was begun in 1110 and was subsequently altered and slightly enlarged. After the Dissolution in 1537 the buildings were pillaged for stone for Henry VIII's palace at Oatlands and practically all trace of them had gone by the late 17th century. The basic plan of the church and cloister was uncovered during excavations between 1853 and 1861 which were among the earliest to be recorded photographically: many of the original photographs are published here for the first time. These excavations (which were published promptly) also produced a remarkable series of 13th-century two-colour tiles which have been Chertsey's principal claim to fame. Although similar fragments have been found elsewhere, the Chertsey tiles remain to this day the most remarkable two-colour tiles, both technically and artistically, anywhere in Europe. In 1922 a kiln where some of these tiles were fired was discovered near the church. Proposals to build houses over part of the precinct resulted in the scheduling of the site in 1954 and in 63 trenches being cut across the church and claustral area, which were subsequently saved from development.

The author was commissioned to write up the 1954 excavations and to reassess the 19th-century excavations as part of the D.o.E/H.B.M.C. 'backlog' programme. Only the merest hints of pre-Conquest occupation were recorded. The medieval buildings had mostly been destroyed down to foundation level or below, very few architectural fragments survived, and, apart from the tiles, hardly any other finds were preserved or properly recorded. The report is thus essentially a study of the ground-plan of the medieval church and adjoining buildings. The often fragmentary material is presented clearly, the detailed interpretations are sensibly cautious. The illustrations are generous and useful. The tile report by Elizabeth Eames publishes the finds from the 1954 excavations only. Apart from examples of the famous 13th-century series (all previously published in the B.M. *Catalogue*), the only others are of the well-known 14th-century Penn series, a fact which reinforces the doubts that many of the miscellaneous patterned tiles of various different types attributed to Chertsey in the B.M. collection are genuinely from the site (see *J.B.A.A.* cxxxiv (1981), 115).

The principal lacunae in this volume are a proper reassessment of the documentary sources for the building work at Chertsey and any serious attempt to place the admittedly very fragmentary evidence for the church and claustral buildings into a wider historical and architectural framework. The problem is not an uncommon one. The early pioneers of monastic archaeology are often criticized for their scant regard for, or disregard of below-ground archaeology. Yet they in their turn might justifiably be surprised, not just at the technical achievements of more recent times, but at the widespread ignorance of monastic history and architectural history of many modern archaeologists. Consider two recent vignettes: an archaeologist recording remains of one of the most important Benedictine abbeys in the country who didn't know what a reredorter was; and a senior figure with many years' experience of excavating churches and monasteries unable to distinguish the outside of the wall of a medieval church standing some 20 ft. high from the inside, in spite of clearly visible buttresses and plinth. There is perhaps no reason why excavators or authors of reports in the infinitely more diverse field of modern archaeology should know such things. But why is it that they are generally so swift to commission specialist reports on even the most

fragmentary ceramics and small finds, but so reluctant to call in specialist expertise to study architectural remains (what one might call large finds?), whether foundations, standing walls or loose fragments? Are these not equally deserving of expert study? Is it perhaps that architectural historians and sculpture specialists tend to emerge from Art History departments, and are therefore considered an alien (even hostile?) species, or just a forgotten tribe? They for their part could often benefit from a more rigorous archaeological approach. Whatever the reasons, the divergence between the disciplines is impoverishing for both; in the present case, the value of the careful archaeological work that has gone into this volume is greatly reduced by the lack of any wider framework of ecclesiastical and architectural history which would help place Chertsey Abbey in its proper perspective.

CHRISTOPHER NORTON

*Linköpings domkyrka* (being vols. 200 and 201 of Sveriges Kyrkor, Konsthistoriskt Inventarium). By Bengt Cnattingius, Ralph Edenheim, Sune Ljungstedt and Marian Ullén. Vol. 1 *Krykolyggnaden*. 19 × 25 cm. 474 pp., 500 figs. Vol. 2 *Plansher*. 21 × 25 cm. 78 sheets of drawings. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell International, 1987. No price stated.

At first sight it might appear foolhardy for a person who does not understand Swedish to review a book written almost entirely in that language. A handicap certainly, but these two volumes, an inventory of a cathedral situated some 100 miles SW. of Stockholm, are so systematically arranged, clear and well illustrated that it is possible to understand a great deal both of the cathedral and of the approach of the authors. This view is confirmed by a well-written twelve-page summary in English and a translation of the index to the drawings.

The cathedral has a complex development from the 12th century to the end of the Middle Ages, and has attracted the attention of scholars from the 17th century onwards. There have been three major studies of the fabric, the first in 1849 prior to a major programme of restoration, the second during the early 20th century when excavations were carried out within the church and the lower walls studied in detail, and the third during the 1960s when further excavations were made and the study of the upper parts of the building was completed. Also the medieval history of the cathedral was studied in considerable depth during the 1950s.

The authors of the inventory were therefore faced with making an account of both the cathedral and an extended programme of research. This has been done by organizing volume 1 into three parts, the first a physical description of the building and its setting, the second a review of previous work, in particular the medieval history of the cathedral, and the third a description of gravestones and monuments. The arrangement of volume 2, in which the drawings are presented in groups relating to each campaign of study, is equally clear and systematic. The comprehensive nature of the work may be judged by the following facts. The first volume consists of 474 pages of closely spaced clear type with some 500 illustrations and the second volume contains 78 pages of drawings.

This study will be of particular interest to an English audience as it demonstrates architectural links between Scandinavia and England in the 13th and 14th centuries; indeed it appears that English masons were employed at Linköpings in the mid 14th century. It also provides an outstanding example of a comprehensive approach to inventory work, an ideal rarely realized by comparable bodies in the British Isles and now almost totally abandoned.

HUGH RICHMOND

*Viking-age Decorated Wood: a study of its Ornament and Style* (Medieval Dublin Excavations Series B, vol. 1). By J. T. Lang. 22 × 30 cm. ix + 102 pp., 124 figs., 25 pls. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy for the National Museum of Ireland, 1988. Price: £17.95 hb., £12.95 pb.

This handsomely produced volume provides a valuable record of the rich haul of Viking Age woodwork which emerged from excavations in Dublin between 1962 and 1981. Gathered

together here are the c. 150 pieces from Winetavern Street, High Street, Christchurch Place and Fishamble Street; almost all are illustrated by a series of sensitive line drawings, supplemented by photographs of the most significant items. Lang's accompanying descriptions are meticulous and economical. As a corpus record there is no doubt that the book will be a constant source of reference.

Within an insular context the sheer quantity and variety of material is impressive — a salutary reminder of an art medium which so often fails to survive. Item after item offers its unexpected insights: a 10th-century house re-using a broken prow as its threshold; the lid of a small shrine with zoomorphic terminals; a gilded beast-headed pommel from a chair. In addition, as Lang reminds us, these pieces give us access to secular tastes and to fashions adopted by a range of society, thus usefully counterbalancing the more heavily exploited evidence of ecclesiastical sculpture and manuscripts.

What gives this corpus added importance is the fact that the material came from stratified contexts. It thus provides a critical contribution to that wretchedly small list of items which can be used to control stylish chronologies. On this basis Lang is able to argue convincingly for the persistence of non-Scandinavian tastes in Dublin throughout the 10th century and, very importantly, for the beginnings of his 'Dublin School' (with its Ringerike analogies) in the early not middle years of the 11th century. The general effect of his datings and analysis is to play down the Scandinavian contribution to the eclectic art of Dublin within the period.

This is then a vital work. But it is a frustrating book to use. It appears before Wallace's excavation report and the contexts of discovery are thus only summarized in tabular form from the various sites — and even these are not consistently organized. It is thus impossible fully to evaluate the chronological indications on offer. More annoyingly, in the Corpus entries 'no fixed date is attributed to each entry; that may be sought in the discussion of the chronology and by referring to the table in that section'. But the reader is left to seek alone because no cross-referencing is given. Pursuit is always worthwhile, however, for they lead back to Lang's thoughtful stylistic analysis. They also lead back to further information, and to inconsistencies. A box from Christchurch Place, for example, is attributed to a mid 10th-century level on p. 51. Yet on p. 44 it is described as being deposited in 'the same period' as a group given a late 10th-century deposition. More intriguingly it is only by searching back to p. 14 that we are provided with the additional information that the same context yielded a Borre-style strap-end.

These are, however, the niggles of usage and they should not obscure the achievement. This book *will* be heavily used and both the author and the National Museum are to be congratulated on its publication.

RICHARD N. BAILEY

*Untersuchungen an mittelalterlichen Fischresten aus Schleswig: Ausgrabungen Schild 1971–1975* (Ausgrabungen in Schleswig: Berichte und Studien 6). By Dirk Heinrich. 18 × 25 cm. 222 pp., 59 figs., 42 tables, 62 pls. Schleswig: Archäologisches Landesmuseum der Christian-Albrechts-Universität, 1987. Price not stated.

This major work on medieval fish remains will already be on the shelf of any serious student of archaeological fish remains, and Dirk Heinrich will also be well known to them as the friendly and enthusiastic editor of *Ichthyo-osteo-archaeology News* and the host of the proposed 1991 conference in Schleswig of the International Fish Remains Working Group. The work may not, however, be known to the more general reader or to other specialists in medieval matters, and this review therefore attempts a summary of its intention and contents.

What Heinrich gives us is the most detailed and competent analysis that we could desire of the 3,459 fish bones which were excavated from the 'Schild' site in what is now the delightful 'Altstadt' of modern Schleswig with its well-maintained old fishing village.

A big sample of the Schleswig fish bones comes from a 15th- to 16th-century cess-pit and contains much evidence of haddock and herring. The other remains, from the 11th to the 14th centuries, are divided into an early and late phase and are mainly cod and freshwater fish. Heinrich postulates that the latter would have been caught locally whereas the large cod would have been imported, some as headless stock-fish. Haddock frequency increases relatively through time though cod family as a whole decrease and the role of freshwater species increases. There are no carp. The very detailed analysis provided involves the comparison of results in terms of vertical and horizontal stratigraphy and contrasting them with those from eight other settlements.

A lot is made of these bones but then there must be strong local interest in the local fishing tradition as well as strong archaeological interest in any comparison that can be made with the earlier site at Heddaby (Haithabu as the Germans call it) on the opposite bank of this brackish inlet of the River Schlei. Unfortunately there was no water screening at Schleswig whereas that Haithabu produced over 15,000 fish bones, memorably described by Heinrich and his mentor Johannes Lepiksaar of Göteborg (Lepiksaar, Heinrich u. Radtke 1977).

Heinrich meets this problem head on and does not attempt to avoid alluding to the obvious bias brought on him by the manual collection. He reminds us that eel and herring bones, so common at Haithabu, would have been missed by the trowel at Schleswig; that the large anal pterygiophore of flatfish and cleithrum of cod would be overrepresented compared with smaller elements of these species; and invites us to see how flatfish vertebrae are relatively common on sieved sites but missing on unsieved ones.

There is a great danger though that foreign readers and non-specialists may not grasp these warnings and could over-interpret the histograms which compare results from a range of sites, only some of which produced sieved samples. I am sure that British fish specialists would want to add to Heinrich's statement that lack of sieving biases against small species by stressing lack of sieving and choice of context type biases in many other ways and that interpretations over fish processing and trade from such results may be unwise. Much British work showing this is as yet unpublished and we shall no doubt need to return to these disputed areas again in the future.

There are log graphs showing the correlation between measurements of some major head bones and the fish total length for pike, roach, bream, perch, and cod. A section on sex dimorphism of tench recently enabled me to identify some long-standing mystery bones from Saxon West Stow as pelvis of male tench. It really is necessary to have both sexes of tench in your comparative fish collection! There is an interesting section on ageing fish from incremental growth rings on scales and bones with graphs plotting these ages against estimated fish lengths; these data being compared with modern fish data for cod and perch. This is a controversial area of fish osteology though not one to be entered lightly. It would be dangerous for non-specialists to see this as an easy source of historical fact. Butchery of fish is discussed. Changes in fishing and species contribution with period are also covered in some detail. Altogether this is an important work and one which will continue to be quoted for many years.

#### REFERENCE

Lepiksaar, J., Heinrich, D., u. Radtke, C. 1977 Untersuchungen an Fischresten aus der frühmittelalterlichen Siedlung Haithabu. *Ausgrabungen in Haithabu 10* Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Neumünster.

JENNY COY

*Archaeometry: An Introduction to Physical Methods in Archaeology and the History of Art.* By Ulrich Leute. 17 × 24 cm. 176 pp., 57 figs., 5 tables. V.C.H. Publishers, 1987. Price: not stated.

This well-produced book was written as a text book suitable for introducing archaeometry to both 'students of history and students of science'. The author is well aware

of the difficulties involved. The science must not be so over-simplified that the chain of reasoning is broken whilst archaeologists and art historians are unlikely to be impressed by the beauty of equations (of which there are 55). As an archaeologist with a background in the sciences, this reviewer is of the opinion that the book still falls between these two stools, although perhaps appealing more to scientist than historian. Even with the sciences the book is markedly slanted towards physics, and one can imagine it being used to complement a course on the applications of the physical sciences.

The author takes a strict view of the scope of archaeometry. If the method used is quantitative then it is acceptable, if not then it is outside the scope of the book. This definition, by and large, is that traditionally accepted by the editors of *Archaeometry* and those who attend archaeometry conferences, and has in the past served to split off a branch of archaeological science from the mainstream of archaeological development. This is a great pity since many of the techniques described by Leute have great potential if fully integrated into an archaeological project. As an example, Figs. 2–8 compares the excavated evidence from a site in Turkey with the preceding magnetic survey. What is most interesting, but unremarked by Leute, is not that the survey successfully located limestone walls and burnt hearths but that the magnetic anomaly caused by one hearth spread out to the south, indicating that the dispersal of burnt material took place within the confines of a building. Magnetic surveys as an integral part of excavation is perfectly practicable but is not mentioned within the book. It is also strange to find a book written in 1987 talking about the *potential* uses of metal detectors in serious archaeological work. The examples used by the author range far and wide within archaeology and art history but in general there are far too few of them for this book to form an adequate introduction for archaeologists to the techniques described within it. Despite the fact that it was first published in 1972 I reluctantly still recommend anyone who wants an overview of the use of the physical sciences in archaeology to read Dr M. Tite's *Methods of Physical Examination in Archaeology*.

ALAN VINCE

The following publications have also been received:

*Pictish stones in Dunrobin Castle Museum*. By Joanna Close-Brooks. 18 × 23 cm. 16 pp., figs., pls. (by R.C.A.H.M. Scotland). Price £1 + 30p. p. & p. from Mrs Paton, Dunrobin Castle, Golspie, Sutherland KW10 6SF.

*Saxon and Norman London*. By John Clark. 19 × 25 cm. 49 pp., numerous colour illustrations. London: H.M.S.O. for Museum of London, 1989. Price: £3.95.

*Les Cernes de Croissance des Arbes (la Dendrochronologie)* (Typologie des Sources du Moyen Âge Occidental, 53). By André-V. Munaut. 16 × 24 cm. 51 pp., 7 figs. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 1988. Price not stated.

Introduction to dendrochronology in French.

*Il Console Rodolfo e Ferdinando I de Medici Per la storia di due statue pisane*. By Guiseppe Scalia. 17 × 24 cm. 165 pp., 44 pls. Rome: Edizione Quasar, 1987. Price not stated.

*An East Midlands Master Tree-Ring Chronology and its use for dating vernacular buildings* (Nottingham Archaeological Monographs, 3). By R. R. Laxton and C. D. Litton. 20 × 29 cm. ix + 82 pp., figs., pls. Nottingham: Nottingham University, Dept. Classical and Archaeological Studies, 1988. Price not stated.

*Franken aan de Frankenslag*. By J. R. Magendans and J. A. Waasdorp. 21 × 30 cm. 64 pp., 70 figs. and pls., several in colour. With 2 pp. summary in English slipped in. Municipality of the Hague: Department of Archaeology, 1989. Price: 7.50 F.  
Summary of excavations on a Merovingian settlement site.

- Buildings of St Kilda.* By Geoffrey Stell and Mary Harman. 21 × 30 cm. x + 58 pp., figs., pls. Norwich: H.M.S.O. for R.C.H.M. (Scotland), 1988. Price £7.95.  
Note interest to students of rural settlement and vernacular buildings, especially in the Highland zone.
- Wet Site Archaeology.* Edited by Barbara A. Purdy. 19 × 25 cm. xiii + 338 pp., figs., pls. Caldwell, New Jersey: Telford Press, 1988. Price: \$50.00 hb., \$32.00 pb.  
A general review from around the world, touching only occasionally on the Middle Ages.
- Stones, Ships and Symbols. The Picture Stones of Gotland from the Viking Age and Before.* By Erik Nylen and Jan Peder Lamm. 13 × 21 cm. 210 pp., figs., pls. Stockholm: Gidlunds Bokforlag, 1988. Price: SEK 135.  
Attractive general guide and introduction, with detailed scholarly bibliographic appendix.
- Union Terrace. Excavations in the Horsefair (The Archaeology of York 11/1).* By J. D. Richards, C. Heighway and S. Donaghey. 19 × 24 cm. 40 pp., 21 figs., 16 pp. pls. London: Council for British Archaeology for York Archaeological Trust, 1989. Price: £9.00.
- 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.
- Festskrift 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.
- Picts: An Introduction to the life of the Picts and the Carved Stones in the Care of the Secretary of State for Scotland.* By Anna Richie. 19 × 25 cm. 64 pp., numerous colour pls. Price: £3.95.  
Attractive popular introduction with stunning colour plates.
- Churches and chapels: investigating places of worship* (C.B.A. Practical Handbook no. 8). 15 × 22 cm. 78 pp., 30 figs. and pls. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1989. Price: £4.95.  
A good, basic, how-to-do-it guide for the beginner.
- Rural Settlement.* By Brian K. Roberts. 14 × 22 cm. 75 pp., 19 figs. Basingstoke: Macmillan Educational, 1987. Price: £3.00.  
'A' level introduction to aspects of historical geography.
- Magic in the Middle Ages.* By Richard Kieckhefer. 14 × 22 cm. x + 219 pp., 19 pls. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1989. Price: £20.00 hb., £6.95 pb.
- From Cornwall to Caithness: Some Aspects of British Field Archaeology* (B.A.R. British Series 209). Edited by Mark Bowden, Donnie Mackay and Peter Topping. 21 × 29 cm. x + 269 pp., numerous figs. and pls. Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep., 1989. Price: £17.00.  
Twenty-five papers, almost exclusively by R.C.H.M. staff. Medieval topics include earthwork castles, Somersham Place, D.M.V.'s, garden earthworks, and Bristol's city walls.
- The Cambridge History of Early Inner Asia.* Edited by Denis Sinor. 16 × 24 cm. x + 518 pp. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1990. Price: £60.00.  
'Introduces the geographical setting of the region and follows its history from the paleolithic era to the rise of the Mogul empire in the 13th century.'
- Rome and its Empire.* By Stephen Johnson. 16 × 24 cm. viii + 167 pp., 39 figs. and pls. London: Routledge, 1989. Price: £19.95.
- Symbol & Image in Celtic Religious Art.* By Miranda Green. 16 × 24 cm. xvi + 279 pp., 95 pls., 8 maps. London: Routledge, 1989. Price: £25.00.
- Les souterrains médiévaux du Limousin* (Documents d'Archéologie Française, 19). By Serge Gady. 21 × 30 cm. 115 pp., 46 figs. Paris: Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris, 1989. Price: 149 F.

Preliminary results of investigation are that underground chambers here discussed were constructed in the 10th or 11th century, for storage, and were abandoned in the 12th or 13th century.

*A History of Archaeological Thought*. By Bruce G. Trigger. 15 × 23 cm. xv + 500 pp., 50 figs. and pls. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1990. Price: £14.95 pb.

*Teeth*. By Simon Hillson. 17 × 25 cm. xix + 376 pp., many figs. and pls. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1986; pb, edn. 1990. Price: £19.50 pb.

*Archäologische Funde und Befunde* (Aschheim im Frühen Mittelalter, 1). By Hermann Dannheimer. In slipcase with and paginated continuously with *Ortsgeschichtliche, Siedlungs- und Flurgenetische Beobachtungen* (A in FM, 2). By Gertrud Diepolder. Both vols. 21 × 30 cm. 223 pp., 56 pp., pls. (2 in colour), 19 maps, 25 figs. and maps in slipcases, many coloured). Munich: C.H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1988. Price: DM 108.

*Canons' Barn, Wells, Somerset: A History and Re-Appraisal of the 12th century Barn within the Liberty of the Dean and Chapter of Wells*. By John Weller. 21 × 29 cm. 42 pp., figs., pls. Bildeston, Suffolk: Bildeston Booklets, n.d. Price: £5.00.

*Une ferme seigneuriale au XIVe siècle: La grange du Mont (Charny, Côte-d'Or)* (Documents d'Archéologie française, 20). By Patrice Beck. 21 × 30 cm. 143 pp., 93 figs., 15 tables. Paris: Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 1989. Price: 150 F.  
Excavation report of a short-lived grange in Burgundy built in the late 13th century.

*The Bryggen Papers: Supplementary Series No. 4. The Bryggen Pottery I Introduction and Pingsdorf Ware*. Hartwig Ludtke. 24 × 17 cm. 128 pp., 30 figs., 15 pls. University of Bergen: Norwegian University Press, 1989. Price not stated.

*Settlement and Society in Medieval Ireland: Studies Presented to F. X. Martin*, O.S.A. Edited by John Bradley. 16 × 22 cm. xxix + 524 pp., figs., pls. Kilkenny, Ireland: Boethius Press, 1988. Price: £42.00 hb.

Twenty-four wide-ranging papers in three sections: early historic and Viking Ireland; Anglo-Norman Ireland; late medieval Ireland. Among the subjects are the rural landscape; Dublin; metal working; castles; houses; and ecclesiastical organization.

*Soils and Micromorphology in Archaeology*. By Marie Agnes Courty, Paul Goldberg and Richard Macphail. 17 × 25 cm. xx + 344 pp., figs., pls., tables. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1990. Price: £40.00 hb.

Includes chapter (pp. 261–68) on Roman and medieval 'dark earth'.

*Our Vanishing Heritage: Forestry and Archaeology* (Council for Scottish Archaeology, Occasional Paper 2). Edited by Edwina V. W. Proudfoot. 21 × 30 cm. 36 pp., figs., pls. Edinburgh: Council for Scottish Archaeology, 1989. Price: £5.50 pb.

Brief papers from a 1987 conference.

*Das archäologische Fundmaterial I* (Ausgraben in Schleswig: Berichte und Studien 7). Various authors. 18 × 25 cm. 134 pp., figs., pls. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1989. Price: DM 56 pb.

Papers on cordage, bone whistles and skates, runes, and 'Porphyrfunde'.

*Work in Towns 850–1850*. Edited by Penelope J. Corfield and Derek Keene. 16 × 24 cm. xiv + 250 pp., figs., pls. Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1990. Price: £29.50 hb.

Papers by Keene (problems and concepts); Tweddle (Anglo-Scandinavian York); Swanson (artisans in York: documentary evidence); Kowaleski (late medieval hide and leather trades).

*Saint Frideswide's Monastery at Oxford: Archaeological & Architectural Studies*. Edited by John Blair. 19 × 25 cm. 285 pp., 107 figs. and pls. Gloucester: Alan Sutton, 1990. Price: £35.00 hb.

Papers published previously in *Oxoniensia* LIII.

*Economia e Territorio. Il Patrimonium Beati Petri nella Tuscia.* By J. Raspi Serra and C. Laganara Fabiano. 16 × 24 cm. viii + 383 pp., 94 figs. and pls. Naples: Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, 1988. No price stated.

*Pontefract Castle.* By Ian Roberts. 17 × 25 cm. x + 76 pp., figs., pls. Wakefield: West Yorkshire Archaeology Service. Price: £3.85 incl. p. & p. from W.Y.A.S., 14 St John's North, Wakefield.

An attractive 'educational resource and guide to the castle'.