

But these are only summaries and those requiring further details will have to go to the bibliographies and archival sources. There is a further page listing general sources and bibliography.

This is a valuable publication which greatly adds to our knowledge of seigneurial sites in western Europe. It is to be hoped that it will not only be followed by similar inventories for those parts of region not yet covered, but also stimulate other scholars to follow the lead of Michel Bur and his collaborators.

GWYN I. MEIRION-JONES

## Short Reviews

*Archaeology, Economy and Society: England from the Fifth to the Fifteenth Century.* By David A. Hinton. 15 × 23 cm. viii + 245 pp., figs., pls. London: Seaby, 1990. ISBN 1-85264-049-9. Price: £14.95 pb.

The academic discipline of medieval archaeology in these islands has now surely come of age with the increasing number of syntheses on the subject published within the last decade. However, this volume is, perhaps, the bravest example so far because of its chronological breadth of over a millennium of recorded history. In an attractively produced paperback volume David Hinton, the former editor of this journal, has attempted in just over 200 pages of text 'to examine the contribution that archaeology can make to an understanding of the social, economic, religious and other developments that took place in England from the Migration period to the beginning of the Renaissance' (p. viii). That he has succeeded so well at such a seemingly impossible task is a tribute both to his academic skills and to his many years of editorial work.

The author examines this long period chronologically in order to emphasize the 'changes' in the physical evidence (p. vii) but he wisely does not compartmentalize every century into a particular chapter. There are, nevertheless, some losses in such an approach which can be appreciated by examining one of the classic thematic approaches to the subject such as Helen Clarke's *The Archaeology of Medieval England* (1984) where it is much easier to chart the expansion and contraction of, for example, towns in the high Middle Ages as it is all contained in one chapter. In this regard Hinton seems to have lost an opportunity here to have succinctly discussed what archaeologists understand by the ubiquitous term 'town'.

It is seldom that a scholar can be found of the calibre of Hinton to so successfully span the 'great divide' between pre- and post-Conquest archaeology in England as is exemplified by this book. Despite being primarily an expert on Anglo-Saxon and medieval jewellery and other small finds the author strikes a nice balance in his discussions between settlement archaeology and the study of the artefactual evidence. His grasp of the complexities of the former is well illustrated by his grasp of the important role played by moated sites within the society of the lesser nobility of the high Middle Ages (pp. 162-66) and then by his smoothly moving on to a short but brilliant discussion on the social stratification of the houses of the period (p. 164). There are, of course, due to the nature of this 'thin book', several important areas which do not secure the space that they merit, such as the short shrift given to the Black Death in Chapter VIII. But, generally, if more detail on a particular subject is required it can easily be located by utilizing the copious notes for each chapter to be found at the end of the text section of the book, which almost makes up for the lack of a bibliography.

These are only a very few minor criticisms which can be levelled at what is overall an excellently researched work of synthesis. For the student of archaeology a short glossary of terms such as 'stylobates' would have been helpful. Some short concluding chapter would also have been valuable to signpost future major directions in the study of medieval archaeology. The illustrations are generally judiciously chosen and well produced, except that the ugly large lettering should have been masked on the aerial photograph of Earls

Barton (p. 112), and on p. 93 the identification letters are omitted from the three line drawings. Several of the illustrations of artefacts would also have benefited from some indication of scale, such as the photograph of the Bodleian bowl (7, 4) and the Oxford stirrups (6, 5). In the reviewer's copy there is a printing error on p. 102, and there are occasional lapses into unmellifluous word usage, such as 'Benedictinism' on p. 99.

These are tiny errors in what is a cogently argued review of the whole spectrum of medieval archaeology in England from the 5th to the 15th century. From its hard-hitting introduction and nine chapters the interested reader will learn much about the contribution of archaeology to our study of the medieval past.

TERRY BARRY

*Standards of Living in the Later Middle Ages. Social Change in England c. 1200–1520.* By Christopher Dyer. xvi + 297 pp., 8 figs., 4 maps, 19 tables. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1989. ISBN 0-521-27215-7. Price: £8.95 pb.

This book is a wide-ranging and novel survey that presents the evidence for medieval social and economic change in terms of consumption rather than production. It is avowedly concerned with material things and with the individuals who constituted social groups, and therefore should be of interest to all readers of this journal. Moreover, in order to achieve his aims, Christopher Dyer offers a readable and subtle account of current interpretations of medieval social and economic history as well as a guide to the quality, range and limitations of the available evidence: it thus becomes compulsory reading.

After an introductory analysis of social structure and how it changed over 300 years, the aristocracy, peasantry and urban population are separately considered from two points of view: firstly, in terms of their income and standards of living and secondly as consumers. There then follows equally original considerations of wage earners, poverty and charity, and, lastly, the weather and standards of living — all themes which should be of major concern to archaeologists as well as historians.

Dyer gives not only a new view of medieval society as a whole but also valuable insights into previously observed (and often archaeological) trends. Within the general context of a decline in aristocratic income in the 14th and 15th centuries, it is interesting for example to see reconsidered the reduction in the number of the monastic religious, not as a decline in the country's spirituality, but as an attempt to keep the number of novices within affordable limits; or to realize the potential extent of settlement dislocation implied by the drastic reduction in residences, one of expedients adopted by the higher aristocracy to make ends meet. The rise in the earning power of the wage labourer, particularly in the 15th century, is seen not just in terms of financial benefits, but also in terms of the greater control it allowed labourers over how they chose to use their time.

As one would expect from a contributor to this journal, Dyer deftly uses archaeological evidence in the discussion of most of his themes; it is of course most obvious in the discussions of the peasantry. It is however curiously partial; faunal remains from village sites receive more attention, even though the data are extremely fragmentary, than those urban assemblages which are much more extensive and reliable. Environmental evidence is used to effect in order to demonstrate urban living conditions whereas it is ignored as a source when considering weather and climatic change. In a book which is largely concerned with spending, it is surprising to see how little consideration is given to the currency; from an historical point of view the supply of coin has featured prominently in, for example, discussions about the extent to which the market had penetrated the lives of the peasantry by the 13th century, or whether the money supply influenced periods of inflation, especially between 1180 and 1220. From an archaeological point of view, the dearth of coin from village excavations (in contrast to the sites in mainland Europe), or the greater loss of coin in areas

close to towns, or the increased use of barter or foreign issues of jettons in periods of coin shortage, all have a bearing on Dyer's themes.

Christopher Dyer has done a great service in presenting a hitherto unexplored aspect of the medieval economy. At the very least it should give archaeologists confidence to make their own evidence contribute to the general study of social and economic history.

G. G. ASTILL

*Topographie Chrétienne des Cités de la Gaule des Origines au Milieu du VIIIe Siècle* (general editors N. Gauthier and J.-Ch. Picard). VI. *Province Ecclésiastique de Bourges (Aquitania Prima)*. By Françoise Prevot and Xavier Barral i Altet. 93 pp. Paris: De Boccard, 1989. ISBN 2-7018-0047-1; VII. *Province Ecclésiastique de Narbonne (Narbonensis Prima)*. By Paul-Albert Février and Xavier Barral i Altet. 75 pp. Paris: De Boccard, 1989. ISBN 2-7018-0051-X.

The publication of this series began in 1986 with Nancy Gauthier's *Province Ecclésiastique de Trèves (Belgica Prima)* and continued with volumes 2 (Aix and Embrun: *Narbonensis Secunda* and *Alpes Maritimae*, and Corsica), 3 (Vienne and Arles: *Viennensis* and *Alpes Graiae* and *Poeninae*), 4 (Lyon: *Lugdunensis Prima*) and 5 (Tours: *Lugdunensis Tertia*). Seven fascicules published in three years, with sixteen authors in all, covering nine provinces; there are still eight provinces more to do. Would that all such multiple works proceeded with such efficiency!

Each fascicule follows precisely the same formula. There is a brief preface; a short chapter outlining the administrative structure of the province(s) under discussion; and then an account of each episcopal town. Every individual urban account has a bibliography of general works, of specific works relating to the growth of Christianity and of ecclesiastical topography, and of historical sources; a discussion of the development of the town from Roman times through to c. 751, from archaeological and historical sources (listing all documentary references to the town); and a discussion of the state of knowledge of the foundation and growth of churches, both inside and outside the walls. There is a map of the early medieval town in each case; there are a few (very few) reproductions of church plans. Some towns (like Clermont in volume VI, thanks to Gregory of Tours's loquaciousness) take up some fourteen pages; others, like Lodève in volume VII, are dealt with in three. Archaeologists with Latin will find these fascicules invaluable for looking up historical references to Gallic towns and churches, as quotations from the sources are frequently given *in extenso*. But unless they have ready access to the archaeological reports (which are often in local publications difficult to find even in France), they may find the archaeological references frustratingly brief. The historical evidence is presented; the archaeological evidence is usually only alluded to, in terms that make its worth impossible to estimate. However, as bibliographies and as brief compendia of current knowledge and thought about the pre-Carolingian sees of Gaul, these fascicules are very useful: a full set ought to sit on the shelves of any institution seriously concerned with Roman or early medieval studies.

EDWARD JAMES

*La Necropoli Longobarda di Trezzo Sull'adda* (Ricerche di Archeologia Altomedievale e Medievale 12-13). Edited by E. Roffia. 29 x 21 cm. 286 pp. + 204 b.&w. figs. and pls. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 1986. No ISBN. Price: 80,000 lire.

The first half of this volume (pp. 9-166) comprises detailed discussion of the finds deriving from the five tombs of the small Longobard necropolis belonging to the period c. 610-60, discovered between 1976 and 1978 at Trezzo east of Monza in north Italy. The deceased, four of whom were adults, were all males of evident high social ranking: they were buried in coffins within stone and tile-built tombs and each possessed a notable array of

military equipment plus various personal fittings, which, except in the case of Tomb 1 (part-robbed on discovery), were recovered almost wholesale. While the acidic soil conditions meant that few bones survived (pp. 275–76), it was still possible in the case of tombs 3, 4 and 5 to identify securely the original location of the finds. The importance of this group of tombs lies in the fact that few Longobard burials of 7th-century date have been scientifically excavated; and, significantly, the presence of Byzantine *solidi* in two of these (of Phocas, 607–08, in Tomb 1, and of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine, 613–31, in Tomb 5) may allow greater precision in determining the evolution of Longobard material culture.

The highly militarized nature of Longobard society is borne out by the full complements of weaponry (*spatha*, lance, short sword, military belt, shield) in each grave, including that of the youth in Tomb 3 (p. 163). Of interest is the presence of pattern-welding on most of the *spathae*; of scramasaxes (with single cutting edge) in each grave and a long sax in the latest; of pairs of belt fittings, whose components clarify both the mode of sword suspension and the evolution of belt decoration; of 'parade' shields, ornamented with gilded bronze rivets and boss plaques, two with figurative designs (pp. 28–29, 48, 86–87); and the absence of armour and the limited archery component. Foreign contacts may be seen in the occurrence of pattern-welding (Franco-Alemannic), the *Ringknaufspatha* (Scandinavian), belt-ornamentation (Avaro-Byzantine) and the parade shields (exports to Bajuvar territory).

Of major significance are the two gold seal rings naming their owners (ANSVALD in Tomb 4 and RODCHIS in Tomb 2) and featuring the stylized bust of the Longobard monarch: these help distinguish two of the deceased as royal appointees. A third gold ring, containing a Roman gem, belonged to the earliest of the Trezzo tombs (Tomb 1) and may denote a similar badge of office. In the extensive discussion of the historico-topographical context (pp. 167–234), Ambrosioni and Lusuardi Siena identify these men as gastalds, overseers of major royal fiscal property — in this instance lands along the river Adda and in immediate proximity to the royal palace at Monza (pp. 226–29). Indeed, nearby Fara d'Adda, whose toponym is suggestive of an early Longobard colony (*fara*), is linked by tradition and post-Longobard documentation with king Authari (*Fara Autarena*), thus supporting the theory of royal estates in this zone (pp. 167–68). Trezzo itself is first recorded in the 8th century (pp. 175–77).

Coverage throughout the volume is clear and broad-ranging. However, the line drawings of the finds (pp. 101–54) are not always sufficiently detailed, and many of the plates lack clarity. None the less, all finds, including the iron brackets used on the wooden coffins, are illustrated, and the sole use of black and white plates has kept the price down to allow a wider audience access to an impressive and important body of material.

NEIL CHRISTIE

*I Longobardi*. Edited by G. C. Menis. 28 × 20 cm. 492 pp., numerous b.&w. figs. and b.&w. and colour pls. Milan: Electa, 1990. ISBN 88-435-3210-3. Price: 92,000 lire.

This is a superbly illustrated exhibition catalogue, providing a comprehensive visual guide to the character and evolution of Longobard material culture in Pannonia (A.D. 526–68) and, primarily, in Italy (A.D. 568–774). It forms an essential companion to the 1988 catalogue *Die Langobarden. Von der Unterelbe nach Italien* (published Hamburg–Neumünster, 1988), which concentrated on tracing the archaeology of the Longobard tribe from Lower Saxony to the Middle Danube. Unlike the latter volume, the emphasis throughout *I Longobardi* is on the individual artefacts and monuments, with detailed discussion occurring in the extensive catalogue entries; short introductory notes begin each section.

The catalogue is divided into two parts. The first (pp. 14–356) relates to the exhibition held at Passariano, and comprises sections on Pannonia, the migration and early settlement in Italy, the duchies and forms of settlement, society, romanization, art and architecture. In some of these the introductory discussion is all too brief and superficial and the choice of

examples at times unusual. In particular, in *Forme di Insediamento* (pp. 129–50), G. P. Brogiolo's contribution is restricted to one side and comment on Brescia reduced to one paragraph despite the notable results emerging from excavations within the area of the Longobard ducal city. Benevento is instead used as an urban type-site, although here little is known of the Longobard impact outside of the monumental palatial complex built in the later 8th century. The (sole) well-excavated hilltop settlement of Invillino in the north-east Alps is then used to illustrate a fortress site (pp. 143–45), even though this, as Bierbrauer readily states, lacks signs of any actual Longobard settlers. No mention is made (except in illustrating the unique array of agricultural tools recovered from excavations here, pp. 344–49) of the defended village of Belmonte in the north-west Alps, where a Longobard presence is far more tangible. In other sections, notably those on art and architecture, discussion is somewhat more broad-ranging, extending beyond the 8th century, and here the intriguing question of the Longobard contribution is addressed.

The second part of the catalogue (pp. 358–475) focuses on the archaeology of the Duchy of Friuli and its capital Cividale, though here there is no coherent arrangement of the entries (in contrast with the physical lay-out of the material at the actual exhibition) and discussion is omitted of late Longobard artefacts, including major sculptural elements such as the Altar of Ratchis and the Baptistery of Callistus (despite reference to them in the introductory notes, pp. 361–62).

The greatest value of the volume lies in the extensive collection of well-reproduced photographs covering almost the full range of objects relating to Longobard and Longobard-period indigenous culture. Many of these finds are either previously unpublished or otherwise only available in old or obscure periodicals with poor photographic reproduction (if even illustrated) — examples being finds from various Pannonian cemeteries, the tools from Belmonte or the full range of grave goods from the nobleman's tomb 119 at Castel Trosino. Presentation is not faultless, however, and captions, in the form of catalogue entry numbers, are occasionally erroneous (e.g. ch. VI, pp. 14–19); some illustrations (including the coins, pp. 166–77) are too small to be of use; maps are generally poor and often lack keys (e.g. pp. 15, 16, 93 and 103); the majority of the church plans (pp. 240–98) lack scales and north signs; and the cover illustration is of a native as opposed to Longobard brooch form (p. 122). In addition, there are many topographical slips in the bibliography with occasional incomplete or missing entries (e.g. Friesinger 1988). These are all niggling faults but should not detract from an overall excellent, and not over-priced, volume.

NEIL CHRISTIE

*De Arkeologiske Utgravninger I Gamlebyen, Oslo (Bind 6) Hus Og Gjerder.* Edited by E. Schia. 21 × 30 cm. 180 pp., many figs. and pls. Oslo: Alvheim & Eide, 1989. Price: Nkr 120.

The series of reports on the 1970s excavations at Gamlebyen, the site of medieval Oslo, has received little attention from British reviewers, despite efforts to engage a wider readership which include the provision of English captions to the illustrations, and English summaries to each section. (Future volumes would benefit by attention from a native English speaker at the stages of both composition and proof-reading.)

To date, six volumes have appeared. Three have provided stratigraphical analyses coupled with dating evidence for three of the four main excavated sites; others have dealt with environmental evidence (wholly in English), and iron and wooden objects. Most of the data comes from the two contiguous sites of Mindets Tomt and Søndre Felt, which together cover some 1,000 square metres, and their development has been divided into 28 phases, spanning the early 11th to the early 17th centuries.

There are three contributions to Volume 6. Fett (75 pp., 1 1/3p. summary) focuses on building techniques; for fullest comprehension the reader should have the building plans of

volumes 1 and 3 available. The constructional types employed in the 200-plus buildings analysed are largely outside the experience of British excavators — the vast majority of the 73 more or less complete buildings are of 'lafted' (log-cabin) construction, with a few stave-built 'blockhouse' structures. The corpus usefully demonstrates a range of evidence not often encountered, with timber floors, doors, windows, roofs and earth-filled benches all represented. Generally the accompanying half-tones have not reproduced particularly well, and the drawings are rather schematic, though adequate. The brief discussion of the size and form of the buildings would have benefited both from more, clearly displayed, multi-variate analysis of characteristics, and from the input of some of the artefact-distribution evidence. There is still the nagging question 'What was going on inside these buildings?'

Sørheim (55 pp., 3 p. summary) deals with the position and structural analysis of 68 hearths/ovens/fireplaces, mostly discovered in one corner of 11th- to 13th-century buildings; there is comment on the position of later fireplaces, but once again, and overtly, associated artefacts are not brought into the discussion of function.

Weber (17 pp., 2 p. summary) analyses evidence for fences of three main types. There seems to be variation between the function of stake and wattle fences and those of stakes or oblique planks, and the two latter seem to be confined to the 11th and 12th centuries. Weber interprets the evidence as indicating a change *c.* 1100 from plots variously 18, 12 and 6 m wide to tenements 15 m wide. Once again, this transition needs to be explored against a wider analysis of all available evidence to ascertain its full significance.

If these wider questions can be addressed in an ultimate, synthetic volume, the value of these excavations and the efforts put into each separate piece of analysis will be considerably enhanced.

R. A. HALL

*Lubecker Schriften zur Archäologie und Kultergeschichte 11-15* (Amt für Vor-und Frühgeschichte (Bodendenkmalpflege) der Hansestadt Lübeck). 21 × 30 cm. 5 volumes. Many illustrations, plates and foldouts. Bonn: Dr Rudolf Habelt, 1985-88. Price not stated.

*25 Jahre Archäologie in Lübeck. Erkenntnisse von Archäologie und Bauforschung zur Geschichte und Vorgeschichte der Hansestadt. Lubecker Schriften zur Archäologie und Kultergeschichte 16* (Amt für Vor-und Frühgeschichte (Bodendenkmalpflege) der Hansestadt Lübeck). 21 × 30 cm. 229 pp., 145 figs. and plates. Bonn: Dr Rudolf Habelt, 1988. Price not stated.

The ongoing archaeological investigations in Lübeck and surrounding areas by the University of Kiel, under the leadership of Dr Günter Fehring, are among the most important in northern Europe. The long sequence, which includes prehistoric evidence, is enhanced by the shifting pattern of settlement, caused partly by the alterations in the course of the River Trave as it entered the Baltic. Many of the sites are waterlogged, with excellent preservation of organic remains. Lübeck developed as the principal gateway community to the Baltic region and became one of the most prosperous Hansiatic towns. These volumes represent the publication of the excavations and related studies in the Lübeck area and are an important source for medieval archaeology.

The shifting settlement pattern, together with historical dates, provides an excellent opportunity for archaeology in the Lübeck basin. The flood plain is rich in prehistoric material, and there was Danish, Germanic and Slavic occupation from around the 8th century. The Slavic trading settlement was Alt Lübeck, destroyed in 1138. In 1143, Lübeck was refounded 5 km upstream by Count Adolf II on a peninsular at the confluence of the Wakenitz and the Trave, on the site of an 8th-century Slav fort. After a fire in 1157, the town was moved again up the Wakenitz, by Duke Henry of Saxony, but returned two years later. A bishopric was founded at Lübeck in 1160, and it was this town that by the 14th century had a population in excess of 25,000, and on which modern Lübeck stands.

Volume 11 includes a long paper summarizing the evidence for finds of Slavic origin in the Lübeck area, and of work carried on at Alt Lübeck since 1882 as well as three papers on a number of small excavations in the centre of Lübeck itself. It is an important contribution to the origins of Lübeck. Volume 12 covers finds from the town and their analysis, including archaeobotany, ceramic and textile studies. Here can be found the publication of a fine 15th-century Spanish albarello similar to types from this country, especially in East Anglia and the south coast. One feature of archaeology of Lübeck are the pits for night soil, and these when excavated produced a wealth of finds, including one with a fine group of beads, including examples of pink coral, spindle whorls and textiles. Volume 13 is a discussion of the Slavic fortifications of Alt Lübeck. Volume 14 is the publication of a conference on urban archaeology held in October 1982, with contributions from all over Western Europe, with only one short paper on Lübeck, but useful contributions from Cologne and Bamberg. Volume 15 is an exhaustive catalogue of prehistoric finds — from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age — in the Lübeck area. Volume 16, entitled '25 years of archaeology in Lübeck' is of more general interest, with 65 much shorter contributions on a variety of topics ranging from prehistory, to the medieval town, their artefacts and their architecture. There are a series of useful chapters on the glass, leather, wood and ceramic finds and a survey of the documentary evidence for the foundation of Lübeck.

This group of publications demonstrates above all that real differences still exist between urban archaeology as practised in Britain and Germany. In Lübeck, the work is well funded but the excavations are on a relatively small scale. The finds are seen as particularly important from wherever they may come, and large open area excavations rare. For medieval archaeologists in Britain, the publication of these objects, especially relating to the trading systems of the North Sea is very welcome; we remain, however, a long way from the understanding of the social organization of medieval Lübeck, or indeed from learning what the contribution of archaeology has been in the understanding of the Hansiatic trading system.

MARK HORTON

*Apple Down and The Mardens* (Chichester Excavations VII). By Alec Down and Martin Welch. 21 × 28.5 cm. xiii + 252 pp., 91 figs., 54 pls. Chichester District Council, 1990.

This volume contains the report of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavation together with a few other short pieces. The authors are to be congratulated for their prompt publication of the cemetery, excavated between 1982 and 1987. This is a valuable addition to the evidence for early Saxon Sussex. It is interesting to find cremations as well as inhumations, and as late as the 7th century. The most remarkable feature is perhaps the series of four-post structures, the 'houses of the dead', which have not been found elsewhere in such numbers. Some of the quoted parallels belong to the Roman period: could this be a Romano-British rather than a Germanic practice?

I have some reservations about the presentation of the material. The drawings could have been improved, especially those of zoomorphic brooches: neither drawings nor photographs show these as clearly as one would like. Putting the catalogue in the middle of the text is confusing, and some of the text figures were misplaced, for example distribution plots on artefact types in the section on burial ritual, not with discussion of artefacts. One cremation urn, from grave 64, was in the grave catalogue, the others at the back: why not all together in the catalogue in numerical sequence? There is no key to the colours of the beads with the catalogue, only a hand-coloured selection in the glass report. Although otherwise absence of fiche is welcome, this was a method used successfully by Hirst at Sewerby for showing beads, which could have been followed here. The grave-plans are reproduced rather small, and squeezed together.

Most of the discussion is useful, although this reviewer is not confident in precision dating of artefacts. It will be frustrating for most readers to find saucer brooches and shield bosses classified according to unpublished schemes which cannot be easily referred to. Marriage is not the only mechanism by which the 'Jutlandic' brooch could have reached Sussex. The conversion is not a reliable end point for furnished burial: for example, a recent group of rich Norfolk burials appear to belong to the end of the 7th or early 8th century, long after official Christianization of the region.

But the important thing is to have the material published and to hand. Much of the little we know of early Saxon Sussex is due to the efforts of one of the authors of this volume, Martin Welch, and here he and Alec Down have improved the situation so much one should perhaps not carp too much at details.

CATHERINE HILLS

*Skeletal Remains from the Cemetery of St. Nicholas Shambles, City of London* (London & Middlesex Archaeological Society, Special Paper 9). By William J. White. 19 × 24 cm. 80 pp., 60 figs. and pls. London: L. & M. A. S., 1988. ISBN 0-903290-33-2. Price: £9.95 pb.

This is a compact publication which details the burial data from a medieval church and cemetery which lay to the north of St Paul's, London. The volume also serves to illustrate aspects of the publication policy of the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London. While we are presented with a fairly complete osteological report, it is accompanied by only a fragment of the archaeological, topographical and historical analysis that this site will eventually receive. For details of the church we must await the *Early Church in London*, to be edited by John Schofield. One effect of this separation is to present the skeletal analysis earlier than would otherwise have been possible. Other effects are to divorce the cemetery from its church and the population from its environs. This done, skeletal analysis is consigned to the periphery of our understanding of the medieval church rather than to integrated into its core.

The foundation of St Nicholas Shambles is dated provisionally to the 11th century, expanding in five phases until closure in A.D. 1548-51. Only the lowest levels of the cemetery survived and it is presumed that the burials lie outside the first church of the 11th and 12th centuries.

The text of this volume comprises a detailed examination of the human skeletal material by William White. This is complemented by a terse description of the church and a classification of grave types by Sue Rivière, and a brief summary of the documentary evidence by Tony Dyson. The volume ends with a burial catalogue, a description of 'an early medieval case of death in childbirth' by the late Calvin Wells and, most curiously, a 1979 methodological paper by Rosemary Powers on a 'tool for coping with human bones from archaeological excavations'. Surprisingly, the volume does not contain a comprehensive, numbered graveyard plan, preventing the reader from researching points beyond the often shallow text.

The analysis of the 234 burials includes the standard analyses of age and sex, stature, osteometrics, discontinuous variation and pathology. Discontinuous variation, such as the presence or absence of sutures or minor skull bones, are seen by White as providing evidence of family relationships. Thus we are informed that '5 skulls were both metopic and showed wormian bones' — the catalogue lists six such cases — 'and of these 3 displayed absence of the third molar. In these instances . . . the potential for close kinship is enhanced' (p. 34). Rather strangely, we are told in White's conclusions that 'two *adjacent* burials shared the simultaneous characteristics of a pattern of discontinuous traits . . . strongly suggesting that these two were closely related' (p. 48, my emphasis). The two burials would, however, appear to be over 5 m apart (fig. 35), though they are both in graves with a floor of crushed chalk and mortar. Overall, White concludes that 'unequivocal clustering of burials suggest-

ing family groupings was not evident'. It is difficult to find detailed support in the text for another of White's conclusions, namely that 'the evidence from continuous and, especially, discontinuous variation was that ... there was little exogamy, brides being selected from within London (if not from the same parish), and that there was little outward movement'. While it would be untoward to criticize White's intentions of producing archaeologically relevant conclusions from fragmented biological data, powerful statements such as these are more dangerous than useful if not carefully supported with suitable data.

Sue Rivière's synopsis of the graves identifies six types: plain graves, graves with stone pillows, graves with floor of crushed chalk and mortar, cists of mortared stones, burials accompanied by charcoal and graves lined with dry stone or tile. Three occurrences of Roman tiles over the body are seen as evidence of 'ritual', as are four burials with stones in their mouths. There is no analysis of spatial distributions, of correlations with age and sex, or of the relationships between the graves and the church.

While the early publication of grave types is welcome, this text suffers from the exclusion of the stratigraphic data and the only partial examination of correlations between location, age, sex and osteology. As such it is an interim examination of St Nicholas Shambles which we can only hope will be completed in the later volume.

ANDY BODDINGTON

*ARGYLL An Inventory of the Monuments Volume 6. Mid Argyll and Cowal: Prehistoric and Early Historic Monuments.* By the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland. 22 x 28 cm. xxvi + 228 pp., over 240 line drawings, 175 pls., 6 maps. Scotland: H.M.S.O., 1988. ISBN 0-11-493384-7. Price: £57.00 pb.

This volume, the penultimate in the Argyll series of Inventories, covers a large and geographically difficult terrain in which survives a rich and varied range of well-preserved archaeological and historic remains.

Numerous neolithic and Bronze Age remains are known in Mid Argyll and Cowal, including cists with stone slabs decorated with carved geometrical designs and axe representations, but the Kilmartin Valley is the most spectacular. Remains of chambered tombs, stone circles, henges and cairns indicate settlement and ritual significance over a considerable chronological period. As summarized in the Introduction (p. 18), several sites have attracted astronomical interpretation, including the recently re-excavated remains at Templewood (no. 228), but the precision of stone circle layout perhaps deserves a less grudging appraisal.

By contrast, the later remains are not funerary, but include forts, duns and a range of other settlement types, many extremely well preserved.

However, the most significant remains in Mid Argyll and Cowal are of cup and ring marked rocks, among the richest displays in Scotland. Overlapping carvings and differing styles can be recognized, though still insufficient to elucidate their meaning. An achievement of the present volume is the quality of the brief analysis of the carvings and the considerable body of research on cup and ring marks now made generally available.

The detailed drawings of the carved natural rock surfaces are superb interpretations, a major contribution to archaeological illustration that should influence such work for some time into the future.

Among the few early historic excavated sites, Dunadd is shown to be particularly important, a centre of Dal Riata, mentioned in the *Annals of Ulster*, a metal working site it was also a trading centre, evidenced by the quantity of D and E ware from Atlantic France. A surprising contrast with the islands to the west, where Norse and Viking evidence is rich, neither archaeology or place-name evidence has revealed many sites of this period.

Of general interest is the list relating to all periods, of some 1,300 Monuments Worthy of Preservation, the result of the Commission's fieldwork throughout Scotland, though when they may be scheduled is not known.

An introductory chapter discusses the complicated geology and topography of Mid Argyll and Cowal, as well as providing useful period summaries. A wealth of detail is included in the tightly edited but informative 364 entry Inventory, relating to fieldwork from 1979 to 1986. The authors are to be congratulated on a substantial contribution to archaeological fieldwork presentation and illustration.

EDWINA V. W. PROUDFOOT

*Wall-to-Wall History: The Story of Roystone Grange.* By Richard Hodges. 15 × 23 cm. viii + 166 pp., 103 figs. and pls. London: Duckworth, 1991. ISBN 0-7156-2342-7. Price: £9.95 pb.

Some, no doubt, will pooh-pooh this book as insubstantial and speculative, and altogether not quite the kind of publication expected of the Director of the British School at Rome. Broader minds, however, will applaud its boldness, clarity of exposition, and sheer verve. I thought it splendid: one of the best examples of landscape history *haute vulgarisation* I have read, sufficient indeed to stimulate a day trip to Roystone, exploring the extraordinary White Peak landscape that is the subject of this book.

Those who have studied the British landscape in university vacations will know both how much and how little can be achieved in ten years, the span of the research here summarized. Necessarily many of Hodges's arguments require further testing, but the main themes seem firmly established: intensive exploitation by a large 2nd millennium B.C. population; decline in the Iron Age, as probably in the Saxon period after several centuries when a Romano-British village thrived; the construction of a Cistercian grange c. 1200; post-medieval hill farming, inclosure, and industry.

In a brief review there is not the space to note more than a few of the book's highlights. Top of the list is the convincing dissection and phasing of the landscape through the study of the various types of drystone wall which criss-cross the hills. This is a study of comparable importance to the Dartmoor reaves project. Also of methodological interest is the brief exposition of the excavation of almost a thousand test pits to explore prehistoric land use. Among more conventional excavations was that of a part of 'Revestones' grange farm, a possession of Garendon abbey (Leics.). Those pages on the grange (pp. 98-121) are among the most detailed in the book, and sufficient is said to show that conventional and full publication will place 'Revestones' as a key site in grange studies.

There are irritants, such as the lack of a scale on some maps. There are also occasional factual slips: the Coalbrookdale ironmasters were the Darbys, not Derbys, and poor John Clare came from Northamptonshire, not East Anglia (both p. 123). One or two statements, perhaps deliberately, are contentious: is Benty Grange really 'one of the major Christian burials from England' (p. 93)? It must also be said that a month or two in record offices would provide a much firmer post-medieval framework than is presented in the book.

But it would be wrong to end sounding crusty, for this is a splendid book. Moreover, it has been exceptionally well produced by the publisher at a commendably low price. Especial mention must be made of the photographs, notably those by Ray Manley, many of them stunning and all excellently reproduced.

PAUL STAMPER

*Stone: Quarrying and Building in England A.D. 43-1525.* Edited by David Parsons. 24 × 18 cm. xii + 244 pp., 99 figs., 6 in colour. Chichester: Phillimore, in association with The Royal Archaeological Institute, 1990. ISBN 0-85033-768-2. Price: £40.00 hb.

Conference proceedings can often be a mixed bag, but the R.A.I.'s Loughborough Conference of 1988 has provided a volume with a coherent theme and fifteen papers, nearly

all of a high standard. There are two valuable general surveys: Blagg on the Roman building industry stresses its pioneering nature in Britain and the need to identify the patrons who commissioned the building work. Parsons for the medieval period emphasizes the value of a combined approach by geologist and archaeologist, and he proposes a research agenda concentrating upon the distribution networks and the economic considerations influencing the choice of stone. These two aspects are capably explored by Pounds reviewing specific instances from the south-west peninsula.

The evidence of quarrying is examined in papers from east Northamptonshire (Cadmans), west Yorkshire (Moorhouse) and Norwich (Ayers). The value of precise geological identifications is stressed by Hudson and Sutherland (Northamptonshire) and Senior (Hildenley, eastern Yorkshire). The introduction of exotic material through ships' ballast is a sobering thought, expounded by Buckland though some of his instances are very small in scale. The remaining papers either explore specific sites, towns or regions, or else pursue particular sources of stone. These represent the more conventional approaches though Stocker when discussing the recycling of stone in Lincolnshire distinguishes between casual re-use, functional choices and iconic intentions — his last category is the least convincing but the most stimulating.

Despite an understandable emphasis on ecclesiastical building and an excusable concentration on the east coast and the east midlands of England, this reviewer has only two criticisms. The first is minor. The subtitle is 'A.D. 43–1525', but the termination date appears just once (as the start of construction at the Burgate, Canterbury). Most contributors continue to the end of the 16th century, and many go well beyond 1600, admittedly in more cursory fashion. The second criticism is major. The photographs are a disgrace to an archaeological volume and it is disappointing to see the R.A.I. associated with such poor quality work. Few monochrome photographs are entirely satisfactory and fifteen of them do not show clearly the information referred to in the caption (1–6, 14, 43, 56c, 59b, 62, 66, 75, 82, 89). By contrast the maps, diagrams and colour plates are excellent.

Apart from this serious defect Parsons had edited a useful volume. It shows the current healthy and fruitful co-operation between geologists, excavators and interpreters of buildings. It highlights the need to handle documentary evidence with care. It reinforces the view that stone for building and stone for decorative or funerary elements were subject to different economic considerations. Above all most authors emphasize the continual process of recycling and re-use.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

*The Archaeology of Rural Monasteries* (B.A.R. British Series 203). Edited by Roberta Gilchrist and Harold Mytum. 21 × 29 cm. vi + 361 pp., many figs. and pls. Oxford: Brit. Archaeol. Rep., 1989. ISBN 0-86054-610-1. Price: £22.00.

Monastic historians should warmly welcome this volume. It throws light especially on medium-sized and small monasteries and opens the way to further studies which will surely enrich our knowledge of them even further. Based on a conference held in York in 1988, it explores several themes. The first is the monastery and monastic estates in the rural landscape; the second is the rural monastic economy, with special reference to fish supplies and to stone supplies. The third concerns research design, whether of nunneries by Roberta Gilchrist or of Bordesley Abbey by Grenville Astill and others, quite likely the most rewarding monastic excavation in England at the present time. Lastly the topic of displaying rural monastic sites to the public was tackled, with a welcome emphasis that ruins should be made intelligible through understandable language. This aim however seemed to this writer to be partly compromised by the final paper which deals in 'processualism, structuralism and contextualism'. Here one sensed a mystification of language by modern archaeologists' jargon which in some ways matches that of 19th-century antiquarians.

The introductory survey by Lawrence Butler of York could hardly be bettered; this wide-ranging paper on work already done and on vistas scarcely glimpsed by most, provides the basic *status questionis* to which subsequent specialized studies relate. Let us note that there is need for more work on medieval Charterhouses in England (which might well derive some inspiration from the excellent exhibition of Carthusian life mounted at Grenoble in 1985) and on nunneries, and that archaeological surveys must no longer be content with ground plans of church and cloister. The outer monastic buildings, not to mention granges and others external to the monastic precinct, need to be analysed in detail to glean further information about the complex reality of a medieval monastic house: at once a house of prayer and solitude as well as a sometimes important financial corporation.

This is followed by an admirable survey of monastic estates by Stephen Moorhouse, completed by a detailed study of Coverham Abbey in particular by Guy Halsall. Here and elsewhere in the volume is a welcome emphasis on northern and especially Yorkshire monasteries. This is balanced by consideration of the problems of Welsh monastic sites, especially with regard to the provision of guides for visitors. The point is made that not only the primitive and vanished wooden buildings need more attention, but also the additions of the 15th and 16th centuries.

All the articles have rich bibliographies and several have plans and other illustrations. There are a few mistakes and misprints, but overall this is an admirable interim report on the monasteries and their place in society from a viewpoint which enriches that of a historian and increasingly is seen as a stimulating and necessary contribution in its own right.

D. H. FARMER

*Excavations in the Cathedral Precincts, 2: Linacre Garden, 'Meister Omers' and St Gabriel's Chapel* (The Archaeology of Canterbury Volume IV). By J. C. Driver, J. Rady and M. Sparks. 22 × 28 cm. 274 pp., 96 figs. and 26 pls. Maidstone: Kent Archaeological Society, 1990. Price: £28.00 hb (+ £3.00 p.&p.).

This collection of reports and essays appears as the first of two volumes devoted to the cathedral precinct, published on behalf of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in the familiar format for *The Archaeology of Canterbury*. The principal contributions comprise detailed accounts of two rescue excavations: one around St Gabriel's Chapel on the south side of the Cathedral, including successive Roman phases beneath the monastic and lay cemetery; the other situated on the eastern edge of the monastic precinct adjacent to one of the principal medieval lodgings known as 'Meister Omers'. The latter is the focus for excellent historical and architectural studies which contribute to the strong theme of the book concerned with the adaptation of former monastic buildings to the post-Dissolution domestic requirements of the Dean and twelve prebendaries.

The complex topographical development of the precinct glimpsed in the Linacre excavations demonstrates the potential for studying changes in the archaeological record of successive urban, monastic and subsequent land uses. This challenge is taken up in detailed analysis of the faunal remains from which provisional chronological and social trends are deduced. The treatment of ceramics from this site, however, is less ambitious, being confined principally to the characterization and dating of three post-medieval pottery groups. Conclusions which may be drawn from this catalogue are reserved for future publication, while 'key groups' of medieval pottery are promised for integration with future typological studies.

This approach leads to an imbalance of specialist reporting which ranges from artefact catalogues to more general research papers devoted to such topics as the Roman ceramics from St Gabriel's and medieval floor tiles from within the precinct and elsewhere. Notable among the latter are two late Saxon polychrome tiles — the first from Canterbury — derived from the 'Aula Nova' excavations which are to be published in Volume III. Overlaps of this

kind are an inevitable and necessary consequence of extended post-excavation research, but it is arguable with hindsight that the Trust's early commitment to the publication of monograph site reports has reduced the scope for a more organized synthesis of selected themes arranged differently within the series.

The circumstances of the excavations reported here are also an instructive illustration of changing approaches to archaeological conservation. While some of the evidence was snatched from a contractors' trial pit in 1973, the principle of formal rescue excavation had been established for the Linacre development by 1978. The approach which would have been adopted a decade or so later now that the precinct has been scheduled as an ancient monument would doubtless have emphasized instead the need to accommodate preservation within and beneath the new buildings.

ANTHONY STREETEN

*Carlisle Castle. A Survey and Documentary History* (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission Archaeological Report 18). By M. R. McCarthy, H. R. T. Summerson and R. G. Annis. 21 × 29 cm. 280 pp., 130 illus., 15 tables. London: English Heritage, 1990. ISBN 1-85674-271-5. Price: £30.00 pb.

Carlisle Castle numbers itself among that very select band of British medieval fortifications which have had a virtually continuous military occupation up to the present day. Such long military tenures tend to reflect the strategic importance of the castle concerned, while also ensuring that its fabric has usually been reasonably maintained if extensively altered and extended. Carlisle Castle, tracing its origins back to William Rufus in 1092, was carefully sited towards the northern edge of the Cumberland Plain close to the sometimes fluid border with Scotland. West lies the Irish Sea; east the Pennines. In short, castle and fortified town formed a major obstacle to raids and invading armies heading south and at the same time or on different occasions, a springboard for English thrusts north. Unlike most English castles, Carlisle has seen considerable active service.

The castle developed in a conventional way, its inner ward dominated by a keep, the outer ward lying to the west and the walled town to the south. Artillery defences were added and, later still, barracks. It is still the headquarters of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, although the castle is in the care of English Heritage.

As the subtitle says, this book is a survey and documentary history of the castle. It is lavishly illustrated and replete with plans, elevation drawings and sections of the defences. The first 117 pages form a densely-written and detailed account of the architecture of the standing medieval fabric, the curtain walls and towers described section by section, the roofed buildings room by room. Each section is followed by a short discussion. Particularly noteworthy are the record drawings and cut-away views of the keep; these set standards of clarity by which other surveys will be judged.

The history of the castle occupies the remainder of the book. An immense amount of research has evidently gone into this and few historic details escape the author's attention. Every fact unearthed appears to have been included in the text. Such a blanket approach does have its merits, but it can lead to the inclusion of trivia (the stationing of a memorial tank at the castle in 1920, the hours of visitor opening in 1945) which might have been better left undisturbed in official files in the PRO. The text adds little of significance to the building history of the medieval and Tudor castle already published in the *History of the King's Works*, but it does make a valuable contribution to the still largely untouched subject of the architectural history of military barracks, although it is a pity that these are not accorded any record drawings to compare with those devoted to the medieval fabric.

Quibbles are few. Some of the photographs are too murky to be of much use (Figs. 33, 62 and 67 for example), while the air photograph is too small and is taken from a different direction to the plan of the castle printed on the opposite page. The general plan (Fig. 7) is not

as clear as it might be and it would have certainly helped to have had this printed as a fold-out for easy reference alongside the text. In the latter on page 92 the spine wall of the keep is described as of 'later date', while on page 120 it is felt it 'may well have been an original feature'. These, though, are minor shortcomings in a book which is likely to remain for a very long time the definitive publication on Carlisle Castle.

JONATHAN COAD

*The Survey of Ancient Houses in Lincoln. III: Houses in Eastgate, Priorygate, and James Street.* By Stanley Jones, Kathleen Major and Joan Varley. 29 × 21 cm., 160 pp., 131 figs., 4 fiches. Lincoln: Lincoln Civic Trust, 1990. ISBN 0-947693-025. Price: £20.00 pb.

This third fascicule completes a valuable survey of the houses which surround Lincoln Cathedral and stand (or once stood) within the shelter of the close wall. It is a composite work with Dr Major providing the pre-Reformation tenurial history, Dr Varley discussing the more recent occupational history and Mr Jones supplying the architectural survey and analysis.

In comparison with the Royal Commission's volumes on Salisbury, Stamford or York, the Lincoln fascicules are much more detailed on matters of ownership and occupancy, while in matters of architectural analysis they are the equal of the Commission volumes though the quality of the illustrations is inferior. However the title 'Ancient Houses' is much more restrictively interpreted so that those features later than the Civil War are mentioned only briefly; there is no discussion of any Georgian staircases, overmantels or doorcases. Sometimes it is impossible to discover what house now stands on a particular plot, as in the case of the Cathedral School which replaced the Old Deanery.

By contrast careful attention is paid to former structures now demolished. In the present fascicule nine houses are still standing but fourteen structures have been demolished, including a church, the medieval Deanery, a college or school, four chantry houses and three gateways to the Close. In three demolished buildings the information is full enough to enable reasonably accurate reconstructions of the buildings' development to be made. Of the surviving buildings two (Deloraine Court and Atherstone Court) are major medieval canon's houses and their complicated development is carefully analysed. Four others have a medieval core either apparent (Burghersh Chantry) or postulated from sufficiently convincing clues.

The fascicule is well provided with plans, diagrams, photographs and old prints; sometimes there are hints that the field survey was undertaken up to 20 years ago though more recently revised. Since this is the last of the trio dealing with the medieval Close houses there are three useful essays of synthesis: on open halls (Jones), on first-floor halls (Jones) and on property management in the Close after 1870 (Varley).

Lincoln is fortunate that this group of houses has been so ably discussed and so clearly analysed. Future fascicules are promised which will record other buildings in the upper city — the medieval Bail. Such surveys are eagerly awaited.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

*Houses of the Welsh Countryside.* By Peter Smith. 20 × 26 cm. xl + 724 pp., c. 300 figs., 115 pls. (7 in colour). Second edition, Norwich: H.M.S.O. for R.C.H.M. (Wales), 1988. ISBN 0-11-300012-x. Price: £50.00 hb.

This second, enlarged, edition of *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* retains all the material published in the original edition of 1975 and keeps the same format. The additional material is contained in Section IV and insertions are made, where appropriate, throughout the book. The policy of the Welsh Commission was to issue the new material in this way rather than make it available as a separate publication. Readers who bought the prototype and who now

have to find £50 to bring it up to date may question the ethics, but it must be admitted that the reprint is a handsome volume, and the additions are of such quality that it would be a bargain at any price.

Those who regard distribution maps as an essential aid to analysis are warned that the original maps are unaltered. It is a do-it-yourself exercise to plot the additions. This may not matter so much where large numbers are involved because the pattern of distribution will intensify rather than change significantly. An example is Map 33 (Fireplace Stairs) where there is an increase of over 50 per cent. But where numbers are small, as in Map 13 (Base Crucks) the increase from five to seven is more important, as it involves another county (Flints.). Similarly, 74 new non-Celtic place-names appearing in Glamorgan affects the balance on Map 2.

In Section IV (Corrigenda and Addenda) it is good to see houses like Althrey Hall (Flints.), Plasnewydd (Denbs.), Trewern Hall (Monts.) and others updated following recent restoration work. The uncovering of the painted chamber at Althrey Hall is rightly described as 'the most exciting archaeological discovery of 1987', the portrait of Elis ap Richard and Jane Hanmer meriting a colour plate. Trewern Hall is reassessed as 'among the most ambitious timber-framed houses in Wales'. There are exciting new sites also, all clearly described and beautifully illustrated with plans, sections and three-dimensional drawings, as we have come to expect from any work masterminded by Peter Smith. He has even ventured across Offa's Dyke and purloined a fireplace bressumer from Shropshire to emphasise the point that strange ritualistic carvings have a distribution too (285, a, b). There is a common cultural thread along the borders of north-east Wales and west Shropshire and so such incursions are welcomed. All that is needed now is dendrochronological analysis in the area, and even this may be possible soon.

Peter Smith retires shortly. His contribution to Welsh culture and to architecture in general is inestimable. This book is testimony to his scholarly but human approach, his meticulous research and survey work, and his ability to motivate a team whose work he generously acknowledges in his preface.

MADGE MORAN

*People and Places in Northern Europe 500-1600. Essays in Honour of Peter Hayes Sawyer.* Edited by Ian Wood and Niels Lund. 16 × 23 cm. xvii + 248 pp. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1991. ISBN 0-85115-547-2. Price: £45.00 hb.

As the editors point out in their introductory appreciation, the honorand of this collection of essays once remarked that medieval archaeology is an expensive way of finding out what is already known. Although he generously withdrew 95 per cent of this judgement in his address to our Society's Jubilee Conference in 1981, enough truth remains in it for us all to use it as an occasional yardstick against which to measure the worth of our reports on our castles and our cooking-pots.

Despite his stricture, Peter Sawyer has been to the fore in showing us how our evidence can be made to contribute to historical understanding, and, though few are written by archaeologists, most of the essays in this *festschrift* reflect his interest in archaeology as a source of information, and will therefore repay closer scrutiny by readers of *Medieval Archaeology* than many such collections. Ian Wood's piece on the Franks and Sutton Hoo is particularly interesting on the nature of the purse-hoard, and other evidence that Kent did not have any monopoly on links with Francia. Richard Morris uses the evidence of fonts to strengthen the case for the proliferation of parish churches in the 11th and 12th centuries. Patrick Wormald, on Offa's Carolingian-style kingship, manages to introduce a new hint of evidence for Pictish tattooing, which some see as the source of the designs on the symbol stones. Janet Nelson argues that Eahlswith, Alfred's wife, may have been a more important figure at court than the Alfredian records allow us to see, making it more likely that the

foundation of the Nunnaminster at Winchester was truly her initiative. Simon Keynes shows that royal government was changing in the second half of the 10th and early 11th centuries: forfeiture of estates was a frequent punishment. This links to Roberta Frank's argument that the *Battle of Maldon* shows new, feudal ideals rather than old, traditional ones. Between these two papers comes Richard Hall on York and the way that advances in the understanding of its archaeology lead to reconsideration of its documentary sources — including Domesday Book, one of Peter Sawyer's favourite stamping-grounds (a phrase to be taken almost literally in his case), on which both Alexander Rumble and Gillian Fellows-Jensen write, the latter using it to argue that all the Scandinavian personal place-names may be 11th-century formations.

The attention of the volume then shifts from England to the Scandinavian world. Archaeological information is faced up to squarely by Per Andersen, challenging Iain Crawford's argument for a complete cultural change in the 9th-century Hebrides: his use of an unpublished thesis on place-names would have been clearer with a brief summary. Steen Hvass on the Jelling area explains that Harald Bluetooth's monuments now have a regional context, with evidence of an elite element emerging from new fieldwork. Niels Lund also discusses Harald's monuments, and the complexities of unravelling his dynasty's origins and of locating the different groups of Danes recognized in different sources. Tinna Damgaard-Sørensen writes of new finds of ship remains which show both Nordic and Slavonic traits in an area where Danes and Wends overlapped. Brita Malmer puts the case for an early mint at Lund. Thorsten Andersson on the meaning of names like Sigtuna is not conclusive, but coins a good phrase that Peter Sawyer may relish when speaking of an opponent's 'total zero position'. Ake Hyenstand takes up a favourite Sawyer theme, kingship and Christianity, in relation to runestone images and inscriptions of c. 800, and Birgit Sawyer also uses runestones as evidence for women as inheritors and holders of substantial property — 'bridge-building' was for some of them literal, not metaphorical. Grethe Blom also writes on women, and their legal position in later medieval Norway. Finally, Hans Andersson gives a summary of ancient monument legislation in Sweden, where the principle that a developer pays for excavation costs is long established: his concern that the mass of new material, especially from towns, may overwhelm research efforts is a problem not yet faced up to in Britain.

DAVID A. HINTON

*Keimelia: Studies in Medieval Archaeology and History in Memory of Tom Delaney.* Edited by Gearoid Mac Niocaill and Patrick F. Wallace. 18 × 25 cm. 622 pp., 115 figs., 113 pls. ISBN 0-907775-3-0. Galway University Press, 1988. Price: IR£44.50 hb.

Tom Delaney was well-known to medieval archaeologists on both sides of the Irish Sea during the 1970s. In 1979, at the age of 32 and at the beginning of what would have been a brilliant career, he died. His contribution to the study and development of medieval archaeology and history in Ireland is reflected in the broad range of papers collected together by the editors of this massive volume. The papers vary considerably in their length and in view of the size of the resulting volume it might have been prudent for the editors to impose a maximum length. Nevertheless, the main reason for the volume's 622 pages is the large number of authors. Tom Delaney was, and is, held in such high regard by his contemporaries that the editors were inundated with unsolicited contributions. There are contributions on sculpture, metal artefacts, archaeozoology, a corpus of stone coffins, several papers on medieval and later pottery, and a series of contributions on urban history and topography.

In their scope and approach the papers in *Keimelia* give an interesting view of medieval and post-medieval archaeology in Ireland up to the 1980s. This can be illustrated with reference to the pottery papers. Barton's paper on the medieval pottery of Dublin is based on a typescript deposited in the National Museum of Ireland in the early 1970s and it is a great pity that it had to wait so long for publication. Hurst's survey of imported pottery in Ireland contains more recent research and will undoubtedly form the starting point for further work. Meanwhile, Baillie's paper on some groups of post-medieval pottery illustrates the latest

developments in the subject with an emphasis on the use of statistics and quantification to study and compare stratified assemblages.

*Keimelia* is both a useful collection of papers in its own right and a fitting tribute to Tom Delaney. However, it is not only the world of scholarship which mourns him. At the time of his death he was involved in excavations at Carrickfergus and, in recognition of his contribution to the history of the town, there is now a public park there named after him.

ALAN VINCE

*Early Christian, Viking and Romanesque Art Motif-pieces from Ireland. 2. A Discussion on Aspects of Find-context and Function* (Theses and Papers in North European Archaeology 17). By Uaininn O'Meadhra. 21 × 29 cm. 200 pp., 119 figs. and tables. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1987. Price: 148 Kr.

This is the second volume of a major research project on those bone and stone fragments carved with interlace and animal designs, formerly known as 'trial-pieces', which appear to be specifically connected with the Irish contribution to Insular art. This volume raises the question of when research should be published, since it discusses only the initial corpus completed in 1973 and published as Volume 1 in 1979; however, subsequent finds necessitate two future corpus volumes plus a final discussion as Volume 5. Therefore the conclusions of this contextual analysis of 160 motif-pieces from 29 sites are liable to be substantially modified. The inconsistencies are particularly clear in relation to Dublin, where the author studies the 42 pieces published in Volume 1, but concedes that a further 143 pieces had been excavated by 1985.

The sites are examined for historical and archaeological evidence, chronology, craft-working and on-site artistic parallels. The craft-working sections present a range of industrial activities, while the on-site comparisons indicate specific tastes or even the motif-piece as actual model for a surviving product. It is, however, necessary to have both volumes to hand to make the relevant comparisons, since the corpus pieces are rarely reproduced here.

There is also a brief discussion of motif-pieces from outside Ireland, to be fully analysed in Volume 3. The preliminary conclusion is that the motif-piece is an Insular phenomenon, most probably Irish on existing distribution evidence; the hint of Pictish influence will be clarified in subsequent volumes. Although adopted in Viking Dublin, it does not apparently reach Scandinavia before c. A.D. 1000.

The second half of the book examines the general role of motif-pieces in a wide-ranging survey of early medieval artistic techniques including bone-, wood- and leather-working, together with a grisly account of the author's own attempts at bone preparation. Thirteen possible functions are identified, with the provisional conclusion that motif-pieces illustrate a general training activity rather than immediate workshop practice; such meticulous methods might account for the breathtaking skills of the Insular craftsmen.

The text is generously illustrated; the author's fine drawings help to clarify some of the design complexities while the tables relate objects and patterns to the site context. This is all very much work in progress, and the volume can in no way be regarded as self-contained. We may have the archaeological equivalent of painting the Forth Bridge but O'Meadhra's range of expertise will ensure that the task is well done.

CAROLA HICKS

*Ancient and Medieval Textiles: Studies in Honour of Donald King* (*Textile Hist.* 20 (2) (1989)).

Edited by Lisa Monnas and Hero Granger-Taylor. 19 × 25 cm. 224 pp., many figs. and pls. (8 in colour). London: The Pasold Research Fund, 1989. Price: £18.00.

The Pasold Research Fund is concerned with all aspects of the history of textiles, from the reconstruction and conservation of the minutest surviving fragments to the wider social

implications of dress. The eighteen articles in its *Festschrift* for the former Keeper of Textiles at the V. & A. present an equally varying range. For the medievalist, two papers may be of particular interest; Staniland on the 14th-century Great Wardrobe accounts shows that the bureaucratic and complex Wardrobe of Edward III was the major purchaser and employer in the City of London. The conspicuous consumption, seasonal rituals and pageantry revealed here prove that the possession and display of dress was perceived as an integral part of the status of royalty. Confirmation of this is provided by Monnas on the meticulously recorded imported silks in the Great Wardrobe from the early 14th to late 15th century; future research may be able to relate surviving patterns and fragments to those depicted in contemporary painting as well as in the documentation.

Other papers manage to convey wide implications for very small scraps of material in relation to trade, patronage and iconography. Pritchard's discussion of two seal bags from Westminster Abbey shows how heraldry was popularized through textiles, while Woolley looks at the Becket 'propaganda' industry via two orphrey fragments. Further fascinating and esoteric information is provided on the manufacture and distribution patterns of the Byzantine silk industry (Muthesius) and Viking weapons as symbolic parts of the loom (Gudjonsson). Women textile workers, then as now, were paid less than men for doing the same work.

Some of the papers present accounts dauntingly precise for the non-specialist of weaves and wefts and thread-counts; more reconstructive drawings would be helpful in a publication of this nature as even the clearest photographs (which these are generally not) cannot do justice to the complexity of the subject. The colour plates, however, do give some idea of archaeology's missing dimension and a chance to appreciate the tones and designs of these random survivals of delicate organic material.

CAROLA HICKS

*La Cerámica Medieval en el Norte y Noroeste de la Península Ibérica: Aproximación a su Estudio.* Edited by Jose Avelino Gutiérrez González and Ramon Bohigas Roldan. 17 x 24 cm. 192 pp., 133 figs. Madrid: University of León, 1989. Price not stated.

Colourful books about ceramics in Spain celebrating decorated and beautiful pieces are popular and common enough. This is not one of those. Neither are its authors part of that well-known 'first generation' of medieval ceramic researchers such as Almagro Basch, Llubia or Gonzalez Marti. Instead this is a well referenced and illustrated archaeology book which draws away from traditional art-historical studies towards a more analytical world of 'scientific analysis' and statistical manipulation.

This collection of edited papers grew out of presentations and discussion at the Fourth International Congress for Medieval Ceramics in the Western Mediterranean which took place in Lisbon in 1987. It takes as its theme 8th- to 15th-century coarsewares from the north and north-west of Spain, approximately along a line north of the River Duero. The papers proceed region by region through Galicia, Castille-Leon, Asturias, Cantabria, the Basque country and Navarre. Portugal, Castille-La Mancha, La Rioja and Aragon are excluded.

All the strengths and weaknesses of a series of edited papers are here. Some of the information presented is available in obscure local journals but the success of the collection is in drawing together research from such a wide area and bringing it to a wider Spanish and international audience. This is a marvellous effort especially since medieval archaeology in Spain has only recently become of widespread interest and the specialist study of coarsewares is more recent still (with the notable exception of the grey coarsewares from Catalonia researched by Manuel Riu who introduces this volume).

Unfortunately the illustrations are in a number of widely differing styles and some are poor in quality for such an attractively designed book. The contributions inevitably reflect different research biases, vocabularies, recording techniques and standards. For example,

where the Galician contribution relies upon material from unsystematic surface collections, the Leon contribution is very complete, based on large research excavations and includes statistical analysis of the illustrated forms, documentary evidence and a chronological summary.

For those with interest in Spanish lustrewares of Islamic influence this book demonstrates another tradition altogether — the survival of late Roman ceramic traditions such as multi-functional, fine walled, combed coarsewares in reduced fabrics and closed globular and carinated forms with everted rims. Here the fast wheel does not appear until the 12th century and even white slips and iron oxide painted decoration are rare. The introduction of green glaze is 13th-century together with an increasing variety of forms such as plates, cups, the square-mouthed Cantabrian jugs and the multi-lobed 'saleros' from Valladolid.

The techniques of study and their manner of presentation demonstrate little that is new and there is perhaps too much attention to form and inventories of line drawings and not enough to fabrics. In this context the contribution from Navarre is welcome for its sections on petrology and XRF results. However, what sets this book apart is the final chapter in which some of the contributors attempt to summarize through text and accompanying maps the different technologies used, forms created and decorative treatments employed. This is a most useful overview.

Documented English trade with Spain begins in the early 14th century so it is rather frustrating to find that the known ports of contact have received little archaeological attention. For the 14th and 15th centuries the only stratified material in the coastal Basque provinces is from the church site at Kurtzio in Vizcaya and includes globular storage jars with everted rims, flat bases and strap handles, all decorated with bands of incisions (p. 110). For Cantabria the most important site for this period is Torrejon de las Henestrosas, a fortified palace with stratified material dated 1250–1350. Forms, mainly in reduced fabrics, include bowls turned on a fast wheel, flat bottomed jugs with double perforated strap handles and bottles. All these may have characteristic painted decoration, typically wavy or vertical lines. Although ceramics of this kind are most unlikely to have been exported for themselves it is interesting to speculate if any may have reached British shores. If so, then this book may help us to pick them out.

CHRISTOPHER GERRARD

*Travaux du Groupe de Recherches et d'Études sur la céramique dans le Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Actes du Colloque de Lille (1988).* Edited by G. Blicek. 27 × 21 cm. 272 pp., many figs. and pls. Groupe de Recherches et d'Études sur la Céramique et le Centre de Recherches Archéologiques et Diffusion Culturelle. 1989. ISSN 0990-9559. Price: 270 F.

The medieval and post-medieval pottery of north-east France has always had a particular interest for English archaeologists because of its proximity to England and since some of the pioneering work on the subject was carried out by Gerald Dunning and Ken Barton. This volume publishes the eighteen papers given in March 1988 at the Lille conference on the pottery of the north-east of France and the Pas-de-Calais and on examples of pottery exported from that area mainly to Belgium. The conference was organized by the Groupes et d'Études sur la Céramique (G.R.E.C.) established in 1987 to study the medieval ceramics of the Nord Pas-de-Calais region, and Gilles Blicek is to be congratulated for collecting the papers and editing them in such a short time.

The longest and most detailed study in the volume is by Frans Verhaeghe on the highly decorated pottery from Flanders. This thorough study examines the definition of the term, the techniques used to produce such pottery and well illustrates the range of decoration. One of the finest examples of this style of decoration is the 'Three Magi' jug found at Reimerswaal in Zélande. The second half of Verhaeghe's article is devoted to the shapes of vessels with

elaborate decoration which includes bowls, salts, aquamaniles, finials and lavabos. His article is a worthy model for the study of such pottery from a particular area.

The other papers as a whole stress the multi-period and multi-disciplinary approach to ceramic studies. Papers by Gilles Blicck on the Lille potters of the 17th century and by Véronique Deloffre-Roumegoux on the clay pipe manufacturers of northern France stress the importance of archival studies. Among the many interesting papers the surveys of particular vessel types are notable, including a study of the curfews in northern France by Gilbert Tieghem, Michel Singer and Michel Delecaut while Annie Lefèvre publishes the medieval and post-medieval lamps of St Denis. Turning to the examination of pottery produced in the area but found outside it, there is a good summary of the present state of research by Franz Verhaeghe. It appears to have been exported to the north (Belgian Flanders) and to the north-west (England) but not to the east and south. His comments on the methodological difficulties of assessing the spread of pottery from different publications where different criteria of description and quantification are well worth reading. In particular the use of the descriptive phrase 'northern French ware' over a wide variety of products from Normandy to Belgium is positively misleading. Gilles Blicck and his Group are to be congratulated on this publication which provides an essential initial summary of the medieval and post-medieval pottery of the region.

JOHN CHERRY

*Recording Medieval Floor Tiles* (C.B.A. Practical Handbook 10). By J. Stopford. 15 × 21 cm. 47 pp., 12 figs., 11 pls., back pocket with foldout figs. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1990. ISBN 1-8722414-036. Price: £4.49 pb.

The study of medieval floor tiles has greatly developed in recent years. What was once an antiquarian pursuit for specimens of medieval art has now become an important tool to reconstruct the economic organization of ceramic industries. Tiles were often produced in the same kilns as pottery, but because they were decorated with unique stamps, they can be tied down to individual workshops. The geographical distribution of tiles can be more fully reconstructed than pottery, because they occur not just from archaeological sites but also remain *in situ* in churches and occasionally secular buildings. But such studies require accurate recording of the tiles, as well as comprehensive coverage of the surviving evidence. The British Academy's Census of Medieval Floor Tiles and Eames's *Catalogue of Medieval Lead-Glazed Earthenware Tiles in the British Museum* are providing the comprehensive coverage. Dr Stopford's pamphlet now provides a new and comprehensive method of recording tiles.

In the past, tiles were recorded by design, and technique of decoration; the plain tiles were often left out, while many ceramic details — such as bevel, keying and fabric were omitted. Such an approach might be acceptable for church tiles, fixed into the floor and where it is often impossible to look at the backs and sides. But with the ever increasing numbers of tiles from archaeological excavation, often in tiny fragments, these characteristics become significant for grouping and analysis. Another past error has been in identifying stamps with precision. Designs may look superficially the same, but only minute examination of the stamp impression itself will establish whether one or several stamps have been used. This is complicated further as the fired dried tile will be a slightly different size to that which was originally stamped; different clays and tiles contract in different ways making precise comparison difficult.

This pamphlet sets out every possible variable that can potentially be recorded; a mass of information will be collected, for even a small assemblage of tiles, that can only be properly sorted by a computer data base and stored in site archives. It is inevitable that some will question whether this elaborate and time-consuming recording is actually necessary, or

whether a balanced and more manual approach will achieve the same results in a fraction of the time.

MARK HORTON

The following publications have also been received:

- The Worcester Pilgrim.* By Helen Lubin. 20 × 25 cm. 32 pp., 15 figs. and pls. Worcester: West Mercian Archaeological Consultants for Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral and Worcestershire Archaeological Society, 1990. Price: £3.00 pb. + 35p p. & p. from R. Whitaker, 14 Scobell Close, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1QJ.  
Publication of a clothed burial of c. 1500 from Worcester Cathedral, plausibly argued to be that of a pilgrim. Includes useful background discussion of the idea of pilgrimage.
- The Passage of Arms. An Archaeological Analysis of Prehistoric Hoards and Votive Deposits.* By Richard Bradley. 15 × 23 cm. xvi + 234 pp., 41 figs., 15 pls. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1990. Price: £30.00 hb.
- The Traditional Buildings of England.* By Anthony Quiney. 22 × 26 cm. 224 pp., lavishly illus. in b. & w. and colour. London: Thames & Hudson, 1990. Price: £14.95 hb.
- Castles, Town Defences, and Artillery Fortifications in Britain and Ireland: A Bibliography, Volume 3* (C.B.A. Research Report 72). By John R. Kenyon. 15 × 21 cm. iv + 88 pp. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1990. Price: £12.00 pb.
- Scotland in the Reign of Alexander III, 1249-1286.* Edited by Norman H. Reid. 17 × 24 cm. xiv + 218 pp., 3 figs., 7 pls. Edinburgh: John Donald, 1990. Price: £20.00 hb.  
Includes papers on economy and coinage (Mayhew), the army (Barrow), and ecclesiastical architecture (Fawcett).
- A Guide to Ogam* (Maynooth Monographs 4). By Damian McManus. 17 × 25 cm. xii + 211 pp., 6 pls. Maynooth, Ireland, 1991. ISBN 1-870684-17-6. Price: IR£24.00 pb.
- Medieval Parks of East Yorkshire.* By Susan Neave. 21 × 20 cm. 59 pp., figs., pls. Hull: Centre for Regional and Local History and Hutton Press, 1991. ISBN 1-872167-11-X. Price: £4.95 pb.
- The Franks.* By Edward James. 15 × 22 cm. 265 pp., 47 pls., 24 figs. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1991. ISBN 0-631-17936-4. Price: £9.95 pb.  
Pb. edn of 1988 hb.
- Excavations in the Fishing Town of Eyemouth 1982-1984.* By Piers Dixon. 21 × 29 cm. [vi] + 94 pp., 3 pls., 35 figs., 15 tables. Edinburgh: Borders Architects Group, 1986. ISBN 0-948923-00-8. Pb, price not stated.  
Includes 12th- to 15th-century sequence of deposits deriving from rubbish disposal, fish processing, and land reclamation.
- Invaders of Scotland.* By Anna Ritchie and David J. Breeze. 19 × 25 cm. vi + 58 pp., figs., pls. (mostly in colour). Edinburgh: H.M.S.O. [1991]. ISBN 0-11-494136-X. Pb, price not stated. Popular introduction to the archaeology of the Romans, Scots, Angles and Vikings, highlighting monuments in the care of the state.
- Gainsborough Old Hall* (Occasional Papers in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 8). Edited by Phillip Lindley. 21 × 30 cm. 88 pp., 51 pls., 18 figs. Lincoln: The Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, 1991. ISBN 0-904680-96-7. Price: £8.95 pb.
- Mechanics of Pre-Industrial Technology.* By Brian Cotterell and Johan Kamminga. 19 × 25 cm. xv + 325 pp., numerous figs. and pls. Cambridge: C.U.P., 1990. Price: £30.00 hb.
- Britain 400-600: Language and History.* Edited by Alfred Bammesberger and Alfred Wollmann. 15 × 21 cm. 485 pp., some figs. Heidelberg: Carl Winter, 1990. Price: DM 150 pb.  
Symposium papers in three sections, two linguistic. The third, 'The historical and cultural background of Dark Age Britain', includes papers on the *Adventus Saxonum* (Hines), and 'Dark Age' Celtic Art (Lloyd Laing).

- Medieval Town Plans* (Shire Archaeology 62). By Brian Paul Hindle. 15 × 21 cm. 64 pp., 37 figs. and pls. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications, 1990. Price: £3.50 pb.
- Medieval Architecture and its Intellectual Content: Studies in Honour of Peter Kidson*. Edited by Eric Fernie and Paul Crossley. 16 × 24 cm. xxvii + 304 pp., figs., pls. London: The Hambledon Press, 1990. Price: £35.00 hb.
- An Illuminated Chronicle: Some Light on the Dark Ages of Saint Milburga's Lifetime*. By Mary Gifford Brown. 14 × 22 cm. xii + 110 pp., 13 figs. and pls. Bath: Bath University Press, 1990. Price not stated.
- Talking Archaeology: A Handbook for Lecturers and Organizers* (C.B.A. Practical Handbook 9). By Lesley Adkins and Roy A. Adkins. 15 × 21 cm. vi + 42 pp., 4 plates, cartoons by Bill Tidy. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1990. Price: £2.95 pb.
- An Historical Geography of England and Wales*. Edited by R. A. Dodgshon and R. A. Butlin. 17 × 24 cm. xxii + 589 pp., figs., pls. Second edition. London: Academic Press, 1990. Much revised and expanded standard text first published in 1978. Includes 'Celts, Saxons and Scandinavians' (G. R. J. Jones); 'People and Land in the Middle Ages, 1066–1500' (B. M. S. Campbell); 'Towns and Trade 1066–1500' (P. T. H. Unwin).
- Beyond the Brochs: Changing Perspectives on the Atlantic Scottish Iron Age*. Edited by Ian Armit. 16 × 24 cm. 228 pp., figs., pls. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1991. Price: £35.00 hb.
- The Anglo-Saxon Achievement*. By Richard Hodges. 16 × 23 cm. xi + 212 pp., 56 figs. and pls. London: Duckworth, 1991. ISBN 0-7156-2130-0. Price: £12.95 pb. Pb. edn of 1989 hb.
- Frühmittelalterliche Grabfunde beiderseits der unteren Mosel* (B.A.R. International Series 532). 21 × 27 cm. 204 pp. + 51 pls., 13 maps, 3 figs. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, 1989. ISBN 0-86054-677-2. Price: £17.00 pb.
- The Castle in England and Wales: An Interpretative History*. By D. J. Cathcart King. 16 × 23 cm. 212 pp., figs., 9 pls. London: Routledge, 1991. ISBN 0-415-00350-4. Price: £10.99. Pb. of the 1988 hb.
- Dartmoor Atlas of Antiquities. Volume One, The East*. By Jeremy Butler. 17 × 24 cm. 174 pp., copious figs. and pls., many in colour. Exeter: Devon Books, 1991. ISBN 0-86114-866-5. Price: £9.95 pb. Attractive guide book cum sites and monuments record, inevitably mostly concerned with prehistoric monuments.