

Of course, to find a chapel in a mural tower is not unusual; there is a 13th-century example at White Castle, to name but one in Britain.

Belvoir, one of the first truly concentric castles of the Middle Ages, was built in 1168–87, and was destroyed in 1219. Its chapel was located on the first floor of the rectangular gatehouse to the inner ward, a position which has numerous parallels in Europe. This castle has been the subject of a major excavation, but only a small pile of ashlar represents the chapel. More survives, however, at Karak, where the chapel, which was not part of the defences, is a barrel-vaulted rectangular building in the middle of the inner ward, with a sacristy or side chapel to one side. Both were originally plastered, and a considerable area of wall-paintings was still visible in 1818, but by 1864 little remained.

The finest chapel was that at 'Atlit, set within one of the strongest of the Crusader castles, built from 1217. The chapel, probably a mid 13th-century replacement of an earlier building, was unique. It was ten-sided, with a seven-sided sanctuary, flanking which were a sacristy and chapel, and the nave had a vault with a central pillar. Very little survives of this building, but Pringle includes a good plan based on the evidence, along with several photographs taken in 1932 which serve to emphasize that the chapel must have been one of the glories of Crusader architecture.

The author and publisher are to be congratulated on this well-illustrated volume (which includes several very informative 19th and early 20th-century photographs), and it is to be hoped that the other two volumes will follow quickly. The book, on the whole, is printed to the usual high standards of the Press, but how the mess which was made of the printing of the first paragraph on Bait Jubr at-Tahtani (p. 101) came to be passed over unnoticed by author and editor is mystifying.

JOHN R. KENYON

## Short Reviews

*Broughton Lodge. Excavations on the Romano-British Settlement and Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Broughton Lodge, Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, Nottinghamshire 1964–8.* (Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 4). By A.G. Kinsley. 21 × 30 cm. v + 175 pp., 105 figs., 12 pls. Nottingham: Dept. of Classical and Archaeological Studies, University of Nottingham, 1993. ISBN 0-904857-04-2. Price: £25.00 pb.

*An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Norton. Cleveland.* (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 82). By S.J. Sherlock and M.G. Welch. 21 × 30 cm. ix + 225 pp., 87 figs., 26 pls., 24 tables, 1 fiche. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1992. ISBN 1-872414-09-5. Price: £20.00 pb.

These two cemeteries have much in common. They contain similar numbers of excavated burials (117 inhumations and three cremations at Norton and around 121 inhumations, four horses and a sheep at Broughton Lodge) and have similar date ranges, both lacking early and late burials. Although separated by 180 km the two cemeteries follow the same Anglian tradition and share many types of object including examples of some unusual items such as buckets and silver bracelets. There are, however, differences between the two sites. At Norton the 'florid' cruciform brooches are mainly in the form of the C2 'square-headed cruciform' usually found in the north. Symbolic girdle-hangers are less common at Norton and, as seems characteristic of the northern cemeteries, Norton has a far lower proportion of weapon burials than Broughton Lodge (8.5% as against 20.6%).

The two reports originated in different ways. Norton was excavated in 1983–85 and the excavators and specialists were able to see the report through to publication with commendable speed. Broughton Lodge and the nearby Romano-British site were excavated in 1964–68 by Malcolm Dean whose untimely death in 1970 prevented him from publishing his work. The quality of the Broughton Lodge report reflects well on both Dean's recording and Kinsley's work on the archive. This report's main concern was seen to be making the data from the cemetery available and a decision was made to limit discussion to dating and to some specific classes of object. The Norton report is broader in scope and contains a series of useful essays on each class of artefact found in the graves.

The Broughton Lodge report contains comparatively little attempt to analyse the organization of the cemetery other than an intuitive zoning of the site. For Norton, on the other hand, three different methods were used to assess wealth exhibited by individual graves and, from this, to suggest the social structure represented by the cemetery. In this the two reports remained true to their differing aims.

Both reports are well produced although the photographs have not reproduced very well in either of them. The other illustrations in both reports are excellent. All object drawings in the Broughton Lodge report use line shading in a very business-like way while the Norton drawings are shaded with fine dot-stippling resulting in drawings of great delicacy. The Norton report does contain one serious omission: the decision to use standard skeleton drawings instead of grave plans is regrettable. While the positions of the bodies are described in the catalogue, these are not as useful as plans. The standard plans do give the locations of the grave goods but no indication is given of each object's alignment. This information is vital for any study of Anglo-Saxon dress or burial practice.

Only the Norton report uses microfiche, where it is restricted to a colour illustration of the polychrome beads. This report does, however, contain some information which could have been placed on fiche or perhaps omitted altogether. One must wonder why it was necessary to include three pages of tabulations dealing with the relationship between grave depth and social status when it is admitted that due to erosion no correlation can be made. But one must not carp; better too many tabulations than too few. These are two useful reports which represent a valuable addition to our knowledge.

KEVIN LEAHY

*Two Anglo-Saxon Buildings and Associated Finds.* (Wharram VII; York University Archaeological Publications 9). By Gustav Milne and Julian Richards. 21 × 30 cm. vi + 114 pp., 44 figs., 16 pls., 17 tables. York: Dept. of Archaeology, University of York, 1992. ISBN 0-946722-09-9. Price: £7.50 pb.

The two buildings concerned were both *grubenhäuser*, although the structural features of one of them lay outside the excavated area. Particularly important are the finds from within the buildings which are discussed in some detail. Both *grubenhäuser* contained large amounts of pottery with the fabric, form, and, in some cases, the stamp decoration characteristic of the early Anglo-Saxon period. On the basis of other finds it is argued that these deposits were of 8th-century date and that this pottery was therefore in use into the mid Saxon period. There are, however, some problems with this interpretation.

None of the material found in the *grubenhäuser* was *in situ*, each appearing to have been filled with midden material in one operation. At Site 39 the small size of the animal bones and sherds found in the *grubenhäuser* suggests that they were old when re-deposited. Also in this deposit was a coin of c. A.D. 750 and a sherd of 8th-century Tating-type ware. On the other hand, the large size of the bones, sherds and mould fragments re-deposited at Site 94/95 shows that the midden had suffered little disturbance before being re-deposited. This deposit also contained an important 6th-century Frisian brooch and an infant burial of inferred early

7th-century date. An 8th-century dating for Site 94/95 is argued from a mould fragment with stylistically 8th-century decoration and a piece of an 8th-century stone cross-head. However these objects cannot be dated with complete confidence and both actually came from Site 94, outside the *grubenhaus* structure. While I am not convinced that these two groups of material prove that early Saxon-type pottery was in use into the 8th century I suspect that this may actually be the case. It will be interesting to see the pottery from the other mid Saxon deposits at Wharram.

Metal-working debris occurred on both sites but, although a tuyere block was found at Site 94, there was no trace of a furnace structure. While the metal-working site cannot have been very far away I would not want to see this *grubenhaus*, with its hearth and strange pattern of stake-holes, enter the literature as THE Anglo-Saxon metal-working site.

This is a well-presented report which reviews, in detail, some important material. In addition it also includes useful indices for Wharram volumes III, IV and VI.

KEVIN LEAHY

*Wessex to A.D. 1000.* (A Regional History of England series.) By Barry Cunliffe. 15 × 23 cm. xvii + 388 pp., 97 figs., 30 pls. London and New York: Longman, 1993. ISBN 0-582-49280-7. Price: £19.99 pb.

Why should *Medieval Archaeology* review a book which out of 333 pages of text, 265 cover from early hunter-gatherers to late Romans, leaving only 68 pages for A.D. 350 to 1000, covered in two chapters? One obvious answer is that early medieval archaeologists need to see both the strengths and weaknesses of the Roman and pre-Roman evidence, as well as how it impacts on interpretations of the later first millennium. In order to do this, they should certainly be aware of this important series, covering England sub-divided into ten regions. Each region is split into two volumes, one to A.D. 1000, the other from A.D. 1000 (an exception being the Lancashire and Cheshire volumes which cover the periods before and after 1540 for no apparent reason). Of the 21 volumes planned (the Welsh Border from A.D. 1000 makes a 21st) ten are already published under the general editorship of Barry Cunliffe and David Hey, including the companion to this volume, *Wessex from A.D. 1000* by J. H. Bethey. When they all appear they will certainly provide an extremely solid and up-to-date survey of the archaeological and historical evidence, and the series' editors, as well as Longman, should be congratulated for that.

Another reason to review this particular example from the series is that it provides Cunliffe with an opportunity to take a chronological overview of an archaeologically rich and well-studied area, and to develop themes. A refreshing example of this is contained in his treatment of the 'period divide' between Roman and post-Roman. Here the revolt of Magnentius (A.D. 350) is seen as the beginning of 'the most dramatic changes Wessex had ever known' rather than the now rather tedious and still often misunderstood date of 410. The second half of the 4th century contains so much of importance for an understanding of the 5th to early 6th century that it is still surprising how little it is used to explain subsequent events. It is more than a scene setter and this account gives it the attention it deserves, albeit briefly by necessity.

The illustrations are crisp and clear, although captions are often too brief, and the subject matter is overwhelmingly Cunliffe-derived and largely Portchester at that. This is perhaps both a strength and a weakness, as the author uses his personal knowledge of the key sites to good advantage, only occasionally letting it take over from the other evidence. For instance, there is no mention of the important early to mid Anglo-Saxon settlement site at Abbots Worthy located 3 miles to the NE. of Winchester and published in 1991 by Fasham and Whinney. This site of 6th to 8th or 9th-century date overlaps chronologically and

artificially (stamped pottery links) with the well-known, and disgracefully still unpublished, cemetery of Worthy Park 700 m to the NW., the date of which is variously cited as 5th to 6th or 6th-century.

The mounting evidence from the Upper Itchen Valley, including the recent discovery of an early 5th-century mixed cemetery at Itchen Abbas, confirms the settlement focus not as Winchester but as the S.-facing slopes of the valley. This destroys the rationale — which is fragile at best — behind statements that link the evidence from Worthy Park with ‘a continuous use of the walled area (of Winchester) throughout the 5th century and into the 6th century’. If there really was any continuous occupation in Winchester, Worthy Park is certainly not the evidence for it.

For the later first millennium Cunliffe provides a serviceable account of the archaeology somewhat overshadowed by a strongly emphasized genealogy of Wessex kings.

MARK BRISBANE

*The Kingdom of Northumbria A.D. 350–1100.* By N. J. Higham. 21 × 29 cm. x + 297 pp., lavishly illustrated in colour and monochrome. Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1993. ISBN 0-86299-7300-5. Price: £25.00 hb.

Those in search of an everyday story of northern folk will turn in vain to this latest book from Nicholas Higham. After 271 pages the last sentence tells us that the deeds of the Northumbrian peasant farmers ‘have left us little trace, crowded as they have been from the stage of history by the doings of their masters, monks or warriors, ship-borne raiders or kings’. We are left with a skilfully woven dynastic history of the kings of Northumbria, but it is very much political history, with archaeology and landscape history there to provide a backdrop to political change.

Higham presents a chronological overview, with extensive introductions covering the geological setting and the Roman occupation of the N. We do not reach the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria until half-way through. Archaeology is literally used to illustrate this history. The pictures are one of the most striking things about the book, with some superbly evocative landscape photographs, and many new maps showing settlement patterns. It is unfortunate that the publisher has chosen to reproduce many of the photographs as marginal figures. For example, one has to take the word of the caption that the plate on p. 94 really does show a sunken-featured building at New Bewick, and a magnifying glass would help the reader to identify the unenclosed hut circles at Shap on p. 6; the outline of a late medieval longhouse under pasture at Wharram Percy (p. 257) is all but invisible to the naked eye.

Nevertheless, the overall quality of illustration is excellent, with lavish use of colour. However, those approaching this work as a coffee-table book may find the text rather heavy going. This is not my kind of archaeology, and those students who turn to archaeology to find out about ordinary people and get away from kings and bishops will be disappointed too. For Higham, the ordinary people are invisible until the 12th century, when his postscript on landscape history tells us that village nucleation took place. This is a not-uncontroversial statement and one wishes that Higham might have taken his discussion of Viking renaming and reallocation of estates to its logical conclusion and discussed a possible 9th and 10th-century settlement reorganization. What of the contribution of settlement and cemetery archaeology of the last two decades? For Higham they are dotting historical i's. Even at the recently excavated settlement at West Heslerton the peasantry continue to elude us. West Heslerton is interpreted as a centre of consumption rather than production, supplied by renders paid by a numerous producer class living in undiscovered peasant farms. This is justified by some dubious assumptions about Anglian social practices, as the increasing

number of free households 'is entirely understandable if it is remembered that the pagan Angles practised polygamy.' Really?

JULIAN D. RICHARDS

*The Age of Migrating Ideas. Early Medieval Art in Northern Britain and Ireland.* Edited by R. Michael Spearman and John Higgitt. 21 × 30 cm. 267 pp., numerous illustrations. Edinburgh and Stroud: National Museums of Scotland and Alan Sutton, 1993. ISBN 0-7509-0357-0. Price: £35.00 pb.

This volume comprises the proceedings of the Second International Conference on Insular Art held in Edinburgh in 1991, which coincided with an important exhibition entitled 'The Work of Angels', *Masterpieces of Celtic Metalwork, 6th-9th centuries A.D.* Naturally enough, the objects exhibited acted as one of the two main themes of the conference papers, the other being early medieval art in Britain N. of the Humber. The book consists of the papers given at the conference with the addition of several others which were originally presented in the form of 'posters', 35 in all. They are divided into five sections. The first (five papers) is concerned with the general theme of the Migration of Ideas including the impact of Insular art on the Continent. The second, 'Centres of Patronage and Production' (three papers), concentrates on the artistic output of specific excavated sites. The other three are devoted to manuscripts (four papers), metalwork (ten papers) and sculpture (ten papers).

The importance of this book is that it demonstrates very well the current state of the subject and the wide variety of research being conducted on Insular art, using a range of techniques from highly traditional studies based on typology, the evolution of motifs and art-historical comparison, often set against a documentary framework, to those which also use techniques such as scientific dating methods, technology and Biblical exegesis to shed light on the art of the period. A collection of this kind is bound to be somewhat of a mixed bag. A review of this length can only concentrate on some of the highlights.

First, two papers demonstrate the importance of archaeological excavation for shedding light, not only on the dating and technology of Insular metalwork, but also on the patronage and cultural contacts which caused its evolution. The carefully argued study of a 7th-century metalworking area on the royal site of Dunadd in Dalriada by Ewan Campbell and Alan Lane indicates that two-piece clay moulds for manufacturing penannular brooches with strong Anglo-Saxon influence were found alongside fragmentary Anglo-Saxon objects. The implication of this is that Dunadd was one of the places where the amalgamation of Celtic and Germanic art styles took place as a result of contacts between Dalriada and Northumbria, perhaps through mechanisms such as the presence of Northumbrian royal exiles at Dunadd, gifts and tribute payments and the journeys of ecclesiastics. Post-excavation work on the crannog at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath, is less well advanced but, as John Bradley shows, the close dating of metalworking deposits (including moulds) to the 8th century because of their association with dendrochronologically dated timbers is an important step towards establishing a more precise framework for the dating of Insular metalwork.

Second, a considerable number of papers touch on meaning and symbolism in Insular art. This can be a difficult area, since there is always the danger of misrepresenting an early medieval viewpoint by adopting a 20th-century perspective. There is also the important caveat that different audiences must have viewed the symbolism of Insular art in different ways according to its context and their learning. Nevertheless Jennifer O'Reilly's study of the scene in the *Book of Kells*, which has traditionally been identified as the Arrest of Christ but which she interprets as a symbolic image of Christ, is both fascinating and credible. Furthermore Jane Hawkes contributes a careful reconstruction of the iconography on the early 9th-century stone shrine (?) panel at Hovingham, Yorkshire, identifying the Annunciation, Visitation and the three women approaching the angel at the sepulchre, which together

emphasize Christ's incarnation and resurrection and the role of Mary in man's redemption. Very different but also interesting is Margaret Niece's paper on the likely significance of elaborate 7th and 8th-century penannular brooches as insignia of office and marks of patronage and social position, as well as their possible Christian or other symbolism.

Third, the detailed technical examination of objects can also greatly increase our understanding of Insular art. Naoimh Whitfield's detailed examination of the filigree on the Hunterston and 'Tara' brooches, Susan Youngs' study of the Steeple Bumpstead boss, and Michelle Brown's paper on the Derrynaflan paten inscriptions, which casts light on both workshop practices and literacy, are all worthy of note.

These proceedings have been produced comparatively speedily and the standard of the reproduction of the illustrations is high. There are remarkably few printing errors. However, it is a pity that the editors did not attempt a longer and more wide-ranging introduction which would have pulled the whole volume together and served to point up the themes and indicate connections between the various papers more fully. The book could also have done with an index, since frequently the same objects are referred to in a number of different papers.

NANCY EDWARDS

*The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages.* (Studies in the Early History of Britain). By Margaret Gelling. ix + 221 pp., 78 figs. and pls. Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1992. ISBN 0-7185-1170-0 hb; 0-7185-1395-9 pb. Price: £45.00 hb.; £15.99 pb.

On many distribution maps for all periods of British archaeology the W. Midlands appear as blank or nearly so. Even pottery is rare outside a handful of high-status, mercantile or religious sites until well after the Norman Conquest. In default of a coherent archaeology, it is to the verbal sources that we turn. Margaret Gelling is clearly supremely well qualified to interpret the most widespread and consistent class of verbal evidence: the toponyms. In particular, her work on Shropshire has given her a command of this resource for understanding the landscape of the region and its use by humans. She also confronts the historical evidence, both English and Welsh, and in the process some old favourites such as Baschurch and Oswestry get their marching orders. Many, though, will regret her decision to exclude Worcestershire with its abundant charter evidence for the sub-kingdom of the Hwicce. This is, then, a particularly personal account of the region and the period, shaped as much by its author's enthusiasms and abilities as by the deficiencies of the evidence.

Given the emphasis on place-names and thus on the agrarian landscape, two paradoxes present themselves which are crucial to our appreciation of the W. Midlands, but also have wider implications. The first is the mismatch between the place-names and the archaeology. The place-names present a picture of an open, ordered, managed landscape, but inhabited by a population almost invisible to the archaeologist. The current archaeological orthodoxy of social structure and status, economy and religion is predicated on there being something to analyse. Here we have a stumbling-block. Are the questions we usually ask susceptible of answers in the area? Where are the settlements, artefacts and burials and how do we find them? Will English Heritage accept Serendipity as a research design?

The second paradox relates to ethnicity and the current debate on the contribution of genetically 'British' populations to Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, a debate to which the evidence of place-names is central. Apart from a scatter of Old Welsh toponyms and English names referring to Britons, the place-names are overwhelmingly and uniformly English. Yet from all the other evidence this apparently inverts ethnic reality. But a very great many of these names are what one might term 'administrative', for instance the plethora of '-tun' names. As well as taking the name as descriptive of a distinctive attribute of the individual settlement, should we also be seeing it in a wider context, alongside other settlements, giving a picture of

a complex functional pattern of settlement? Do we see here a process of renaming allied to an increasing organization of the agrarian landscape, lying ultimately at the root of Mercian ascendancy?

Other people will write other books on this area and period, and as more archaeological evidence becomes available they will appear to have less and less to do with the approaches used here. But as with this book, that will tell us as much about the authors' standpoints as about the past. Any of them will do well to match the consistency of vision, depth of thought and range of questions offered us by Margaret Gelling.

SIMON ESMONDE CLEARY

*Der frühmittelalterliche Befestigungsbau in Mitteleuropa.* By Hansjürgen Brachmann. 21 × 30 cm. 293 pp., 107 figs. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1993. ISBN 3-05-001995-6. Price: DM 124 hb.

This handsome volume from the Archaeological Institute at Berlin provides a synthesis of the development of fortified sites in former West Germany in the first millennium A.D. An opening chapter on the framework of the material addresses methodological problems and also discusses the very notion of the word *burg* — whose meaning (like that of its castellogical counterparts in other countries) raises basic problems in the social history of medieval fortifications: when were they for 'communal' use and when did they become 'private'? In the context of this volume, the fortifications discussed are largely the precursors of what would, in Germany, separate out from the 12th century into defended towns and aristocratic castles. We are also offered a useful historiographical summary of the development of German research and publication in this field since the beginning of the century.

Description and interpretation (which cannot be discussed in this brief notice) follows a chronological scheme, chapter by chapter, starting with the background of fortified works E. of the Rhine up to the 5th century A.D. It continues with Frankish, Alamannic and Merovingian matters up to the 7th century, then on to later Merovingian works, the Carolingian period and expansion into the Saxon areas. Finally, the emerging theme of noble, private fortification is introduced, in documented secular and ecclesiastical palaces as well as in other sites with stone towers or timber and earth defences — the German ancestors of the ubiquitous medieval castle. The volume concludes with a register of the 800-plus sites, first arranged alphabetically with bibliographical references, then re-arranged region by region. Finally, there is a bibliography, including editions of historical sources used and a very full list of published literature — a fine quarry for further research in itself.

The distribution of the material is illustrated on four maps, enclosed as end-papers, on which the sites are numbered as in the register. Within the text, sites are illustrated by plans, many arising from earlier publications on individual places. They vary from simple outlines of whole sites, to detailed excavation plans. In addition, some simple maps show the relationships of several sites in particular locations. There is a great deal of information in these illustrations, which convey a good deal of the character of the sites in question. But it is a pity that something more of their character, as well as of that of the landscapes in which they lie, was not illustrated through a modest selection of aerial photographs.

R. A. HIGHAM

*The Lost Beliefs of Northern Europe.* By Hilda Ellis Davidson. 15 × 23 cm. viii + 181 pp., 33 figs. London: Routledge, 1993. ISBN 0-41504937-7. Price: £12.99 pb.

This book attempts the difficult task of providing a brief account of the evidence for the religions of the Germanic and Celtic peoples of northern Europe. It includes an interesting account of the study of European mythology from Grimm to the present.

The book, although informed by its author's wide knowledge of Norse literature and mythology, is not entirely successful. Norse material dominates to the extent that the Celtic and non-Scandinavian Germanic often comes in as an after-thought: it was a mistake to try to squeeze them all into one short book. Better to have limited it to Norse mythology with relevant comparative references. Also, although the intention was to present types of evidence, I did not find a clear account of exactly what the written sources are, nor of the range of physical evidence. It clearly proved difficult to separate the different topics discussed, and the result can be confusing. I also suspect the author was looking anxiously over her shoulder at critics, which led her to introduce too much qualification and doubt for clarity of argument.

The chapter on archaeology is disappointing. It is a list of summary accounts of a few well-known burials and artefacts, ranging widely in time and space from Hallstatt burials in Czechoslovakia to Gotland picture stones by way of the Vix crater, Gundestrup and Sutton Hoo. The accounts of the last two are fair enough as summaries — though the most recent redating of the Sutton Hoo coins may finally put Mound 1 too early for Redwald, and Ellis Davidson does not really grasp the nettle of the possibility that Gundestrup is not entirely 'Celtic'. The rest get fairly short shrift, and I did not get any clear idea of how exactly each individually, or the group as a whole, could be used to reconstruct ancient religious belief.

This approach (not unique to this author) assumes that religious belief can be separated from the rest of human existence. Modern western society has attempted this amputation, but most other societies have not. It could be argued that a more holistic approach is needed, calling on all aspects of material culture, not a few exotic graves.

The next chapter 'Glimpses of the Gods' includes a more promising approach to archaeological material. Bracteates, 'guldgubbar' and zoomorphic ornament surely must embody aspects of Germanic belief. Details need updating: 900, not 300 is the current total for bracteates, and recent Danish finds of *guldgubbar* have taken their numbers into the thousands. Gotland picture stones might have been better in this chapter. 'Stones from the Roman provinces' introduces another topic which does deserve more attention, taking account of both classical and barbarian religious imagery.

This book raises all sorts of interesting issues but there is neither the space to pursue them properly, nor always a clear structure within which to consider them. There are better introductions to Norse mythology (including other works by Ellis Davidson) and most of the other topics are dealt with too briefly to do more than remind the reader of their existence.

CATHERINE HILLS

*The Open Fields of Northamptonshire: The Case for the Preservation of Ridge and Furrow.* By David Hall. 22 × 30 cm. 43 pp., 5 figs., 6 pls. Northampton: Northamptonshire Heritage, 1993. ISBN 0-947590-18-8. Price: £3.50 pb.

England has the best preserved medieval fields in the world, surviving principally as ridge-and-furrow. Not all parts of the country may have practised ridging, essentially a primitive but effective form of cross-contour drainage, but examples can be seen in most lowland counties outside East Anglia and the South. The best occur in association with the heavy but fertile Boulder Clays of Leicestershire, W. Northamptonshire, N. Buckinghamshire, N. Oxfordshire, SE. Warwickshire, E. Gloucestershire, and Yorkshire.

Perhaps the most dramatically ridged landscapes of all were those of western Northamptonshire, born of the local geology and soils and an agricultural regime which favoured high ridging. Here too are excellently documented estates, a good number with field books — detailed land-by-land surveys or extents of complete field-systems. Together these things have enabled scholars, chief among them the author of this important report, to unlock the secrets of the origins and organization of the midland open field-system. We have come a

long way in a short time in respect of origins, and any that doubt this should turn up the celebrated *Past and Present* open fields debate of the mid 1960s between Titow and Thirsk. It is now fairly certain that, despite adaptation and modification over the course of a thousand years, individual systems are capable of retaining unambiguous — and visually dramatic — evidence of what Glenn Foard has called the 'Great Replanning', that time in the later Saxon period when nucleated settlements were created and with them, wholesale, great new open field-systems. This was a transformation of the English landscape and peasantry more dramatic than that which took place a millennium later during Parliamentary enclosure.

This brief study, commissioned by Northamptonshire Heritage, the new curatorial arm of the County Council, is important for two reasons. Firstly because here for the first time is an accurate calculation of the appalling rate of loss of ridge-and-furrow in Northamptonshire — and by implication everywhere else — since the spread of improved farm machinery in the 1960s and the move to cereal monoculture which marked England's betrothal to the Common Market, a relationship consummated in 1972. In Wollaston and Strixton, for instance, the amount of land with surviving ridge-and-furrow fell from 32% in 1940 to four in 1990, and these are typical, not exceptional, rates of loss.

Only in about ten Northamptonshire parishes is there a quarter or more of the open field system surviving, and in these too the attrition continues. In Northamptonshire some excellent finger-in-dyke work is being done via the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, but Hall is in no doubt (p. 26) that the bullet of statutory protection will soon have to be bitten. After all, as he notes, prehistoric and Roman fields are already so safeguarded. To this end criteria for the selection of areas for preservation are laid down, all of them sensible and recognizing both the academic importance of retaining areas of ridge-and-furrow for future study, as well as the less rational but still valid concept of such landscapes being a part of the common inheritance and an essential visual element of the countryside. An appendix, the second especially notable element of Hall's report and what lifts it (I hope) from a well-argued polemic to something which can immediately be moved towards implementation, identifies and characterizes in some detail areas suggested for preservation: two complete townships, thirteen other areas of extensive survival, and 24 other smaller but individually significant areas of ridge-and-furrow.

That implementation is easier to demand than to bring to fruition, but legislation must be framed as a matter of urgency, as privately members of the Inspectorate are prepared to admit, to offer solid protection to the heritage beyond the barbed wire around individual monuments. If we fail to devise that protection, and stand idly by wringing our hands while our historic landscapes are destroyed, we shall deserve all the opprobrium future generations heap on us.

PAUL STAMPER

*Food and Feast in Medieval England.* By P. W. Hammond. 17 × 25 cm. vii + 176 pp., 97 figs. and pls. Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1993. ISBN 0-86299-79-1. Price: £16.99 hb.

This is an unpretentious survey of an important subject, intended for a wide readership, which will be appreciated for its clear writing and abundant illustrations. It describes in successive chapters the sources of food, the diet of peasants, townspeople, and aristocrats, and then turns to adulteration, nutrition, and table manners, ending with an account of feasts. There is some analysis of problems, but they are presented rather obliquely. For example, the passage on medieval notions of a balanced diet are prefaced with the statement that the concept, as we understand it, was foreign to the Middle Ages, but the detailed discussion shows very well that medieval people had clear ideas about the properties of different foodstuffs and the need to maintain health by consuming a variety of types of food and drink. Unfortunately some important aspects of the subject, such as food shortages, are

mentioned but not treated adequately, and the word 'famine' does not even appear in the index. Consequently readers will perhaps gain an excessively optimistic impression of medieval food consumption.

Researchers will find the book useful because of its wide coverage, and the extensive footnotes and bibliography, which contain items new to this reader. Hammond is happier in the use of documents, and consequently does not make much here of archaeological evidence. Botanical remains tend to receive more attention than animal bones. There is some discussion of cooking and serving utensils, but again they could have received lengthier treatment. A group of pottery in a colour plate has been ill chosen to show the variety of types, and is mis-labelled.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

*Kent Houses.* By Anthony Quiney. 22 × 28 cm. 288 pp., 126 figs., 292 pls., 112 in colour. Woodbridge: The Antique Collectors' Club, 1993. ISBN 185149-153-8. Price: £35.00 hb.

To write a comprehensive account of the houses of a county down to the 20th century is a daunting task. In this volume Anthony Quiney has wisely concentrated on, as he says, what is *of* Kent rather than merely *in* Kent (p. 204), and for him that is overwhelmingly the later medieval timber-framed hall house, brought to perfection in the 'Wealden' type from the later 14th century onwards. Such houses are seen as an expression of yeoman wealth in a society more equitable than that which prevailed elsewhere in England.

The first, long chapter on 'The county and its builders' is indeed written from a socialist utopian standpoint. As the author says in the introduction (p. 9), '(Kent's) generally benevolent social hierarchy is now lost, but maybe its ideals are not beyond emulation'. Since the social stratification which produced great houses is so roundly condemned, it is hardly surprising that they get comparatively short shrift in what follows, divided into 'Materials, construction and design' (Chapter 2) and 'Houses' (Chapter 3), followed by a gazetteer. Throughout, the text concentrates on medieval and vernacular buildings, although the plates are more evenly balanced.

For readers of this journal this book offers an overview of the published material down to 1990, and with its many drawings and photographs cannot fail to be a useful introduction to the buildings of Kent and their bibliography. It is, however, particularly unfortunate that the quality of many of the line drawings is indifferent (e.g. figs. 76-77), and that they are reproduced at arbitrary scales, with drawn scales too short to allow dimensions to be easily taken off. The colour plates are generally excellent, but many of the black-and-white photographs lack sharpness and contrast, and some suffer further from over-reduction. Separate numbering series for each type of illustration, the omission of any numbers at all from those in the gazetteer, and the absence of a list of illustrations, make using the work as a reference book less easy than it should be.

In a view of one county it is easy to become parochial. A glaring instance of this is the emphasis on the numbers of surviving medieval houses in Kent, which is an equally strong characteristic of Essex and Suffolk (which incidentally lacked the *gavelkind* inheritance which is said to be responsible for them here). The foreign or external influences in Kent are acknowledged but not followed through, other than the obvious example of classicising detail. To take one example, there is a palette of constructional details which is characteristic of the North Sea littoral, from Kent and Flanders northwards. This includes tumbled brick gables and light brick construction tied together from the outset with iron wall anchors, often elaborated into the initials of builders and dates (see, e.g., *Archaeologica* 95 (1953), pp. 141-80 and, e.g., Quiney, pl. 42, fig. 27). In areas remote from cruck construction, curved principals framing upper half-stories also tend to form part of this ensemble. In Norfolk, Carter associated their introduction with emigration from North Holland c. 1580-1620 (*Norfolk*

*Archaeol.* 37 (1978), p. 48). Not surprisingly, Quiney mentions their occurrence in Kent (without noting their potential significance), but interestingly suggesting that they may date from as early as c. 1500.

In summary, this book is useful in so far as it has conveniently assembled much source material, and as such is capable of setting thoughts running, but provides neither the detailed treatment which specialists will hope for, nor the general overview which would appeal to a wider audience.

PAUL DRURY

*Archaeology in British Towns: from the Emperor Claudius to the Black Death.* by Patrick Ottaway. 15.3 x 23 cm. xvi + 249 pp., 48 figs., 46 pls. London: Routledge, 1992. ISBN 0-415-00068-8. Price: £35.00 hb.

This timely and well-produced book arose out of a series of evening classes taught by the author, and it is for such informed but non-specialist audiences that the book is primarily written. Its principal purpose is, in the author's own words, 'to give some impression of what the great explosion of archaeological activity in Britain's towns in the last 25-30 years has taught us about their early development'.

It opens with two introductory chapters. The first ('Archaeology in towns') explores what constitutes a town, the distinctive character of urban sequences and the history of urban archaeology; the second ('Urban archaeologists at work') looks at site prediction, documentary evidence, deposit formation, and excavation and recording techniques. These potentially solemnly-technical subjects are accessibly presented, and an occasional light touch (the 'de-luxe wicker-lined model cess-pit' and similar) is not out of place. The meat in the sandwich is a straightforward chronological narrative divided between four chapters (early Roman towns; late Roman; Anglo-Saxon; Medieval). Current knowledge is summarized thematically, and presented against the background of the excavation campaigns and evolving provision for archaeology in each of the towns the book covers. The final, very short (four-page) chapter on the presentation of archaeology to the public seems something of an afterthought and might have been better integrated elsewhere.

If this book has a problem, it is that it reflects the 'great explosion of archaeological activity' too closely. It is an archaeology of big towns: York, Lincoln, London and Winchester account for half the illustrations; the small towns, market towns, that may have accommodated the majority of town dwellers in at least some periods scarcely appear at all — but such is the current state of urban archaeology. The book is also an excavator's view: standing buildings and urban landscapes have little place here either. Having said that, it does break some very welcome new ground, marking the first appearance in a textbook or general synthetic work of a variety of sites that have hitherto only appeared in local monographs and periodicals: Alms Lane, the castle bailey, and St Martin-at-Palace-Plain in Norwich, or High Street and Blackfriargate in Hull, to name but a few.

*Archaeology in British Towns* is a readable, efficient, and well-referenced summary of a broad range of material. The line drawings are generally clear and the reproduction of photographs is excellent. It will find a wider audience than that which begat it, and certainly deserves a place in book-boxes across the country.

NIGEL BAKER

*Castella Maris Baltici I.* Edited by Knut Drake. 21 x 30 cm. 275 pp., many figs. and pls. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell International. ISBN 91-22-01566-3. ISSN 1236-5882. Price: SEK 448 pb.

The regional museum at Turku (about 150 km W. of Helsinki) had held several colloquia in the 1980s on medieval archaeology, and a symposium on ecclesiastical architec-

ture in 1987 which led to the idea of one on castles (Turku being blessed with a very fine example). As a result the national society for medieval archaeology and the museum convoked a conference of all countries around the Baltic littoral in September 1991, which led to another in 1993. This volume contains the 27 papers given in 1991 from the guest countries, published in German and English with a summary in the other language, and nine brief notices from the host country on Finnish castles. A general bibliography completes the volume. Since neither German nor English was the native language of scarcely any contributor it is an impressive achievement.

The number of papers makes it impossible to deal with them individually: Does the volume suggest that there is a common Baltic castle? The answer must be no. The development on the two sides of the Baltic is quite distinct. On the Scandinavian side the castles follow more or less the European pattern: keeps and enclosure castles. There is a German feeling but also a western one: Haakon's two-storeyed hall at Bergen (p. 90) might be in France. Few castles date before 1250 and most tend to be block-like. They are mainly royal until the 16th century, unlike episcopal castles in Finland; where there was not an active monarchy, which applies to much of the eastern and northern Baltic, the church held sway.

On the E. side of the Baltic things were very different. In all three Baltic republics there was a vigorous hillfort culture up to the 13th century: Tamla speaks of hillforts (*burgberge*) of the second half of the first and early second millennium (A.D. not B.C.!). Towns come in with alien traders; Tamm's account of Tallinn is especially interesting. After the loss of the Crusader kingdom in the Levant, crusading with the Teutonic knights in the Baltic was the late medieval equivalent. Many of us have heard of Marienburg but the knights created a special type of *konventhaus*, a square monastery within a castle, two-storeyed and vaulted on the ground floor with a vaulted cloister alley running round inside (cf. Viljandi and Kuressaare in Estonia, pp. 12–13). It is a fascinating combination.

This brief review must limit itself to a general point. The section on the Finnish castles has a succinct overall summary at the beginning and one feels that something of this kind is desirable for the whole project. It is in the nature of international conferences that all the participants want to tell us about what they have been up to — and very valuable that is. Nevertheless one feels that some broad picture would have been useful in so far as one can really generalize at all about castles. We are told that Danish castles are not feudal, but how does the society which produced them compare with that which produced the hillforts in Lithuania or Estonia? One has the feeling that the castle concept was rather alien throughout the Baltic area, or at least before the times of the *schloss* rather than the *burg*. Artillery seems to have left its mark in the NE. — first under Muscovite influence? Another theme to explore. However we must not carp at this excellent piece of work and Knut Drake, having resolved the problems of Turku (the impressive façade of which adorns the cover) will, we hope, tackle the thematic aspects of the subject assisted by the galaxy of talent he has assembled for the present volume. We shall look forward to the second and subsequent volumes on this fascinating subject.

MICHAEL THOMPSON

*Death in Towns. Urban Responses to the Dying and the Dead, 100–1600.* Edited by Steven Bassett. 16 × 24 cm. x + 258 pp., figs., pls. Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1993. ISBN 0-7185-1418-1. Price: £49.50 hb.

No aspect of human life is, paradoxically, better recorded than its end. For the student of prehistory and of antiquity cemeteries have provided a disproportionate amount of the available archaeological data, while from the Middle Ages onwards there is an abundance of

social, religious and art-historical information to be derived from both wills and funerary monuments. It is, however, only in recent years that death itself has become a subject of academic study. The pioneers of this new, essentially sociological, approach were Chaunu and Chiffolleau, whose work was centred on France. More recently the social repercussions of death in two exceptionally well-documented Italian cities — Siena and Florence — have been the subject of instructive monographs by S. K. Cohn (*Death and Property in Siena, 1205 — 1800*, Baltimore 1988) and S. T. Strocchia (*Death and Ritual in Renaissance Florence*, Johns Hopkins, 1992). The present volume provides a valuable résumé for British readers of some recent work on death and burial in Western Europe, especially in Late Antiquity (Jill Harries, 'Death and the dead in the late Roman West'), and extends to medieval England the techniques of analysing wills pioneered by Chaunu and others in *Annales du Midi* and the *Revue du Nord* (Vanessa Harding, 'Burial choice and burial location in later medieval London' and Robert Dinn, 'Death and rebirth in late medieval Bury St. Edmunds'). In 'Urban cemetery location in the high Middle Ages', Julia Barrow examines the impact on the urban topography of English and Scottish towns (particularly Hereford, Chester, Gloucester and Worcester) of the intra-mural cemeteries that were the response throughout western Europe to the desire to be buried in as close proximity as possible to the shrine of a saint rather than in a suburban cemetery of the Roman type, while in her comprehensive paper on the history of burial in Winchester Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle traces the whole history of interment in that city from prehistoric times to the establishment of the first modern cemetery in 1840.

Other interesting papers deal with the facilities for decent burial in *columbaria* afforded to the Roman *plebs* either by the patronage of the great or by co-operative *collegia* — clubs which had their counterparts in the fraternities of large medieval cities like London or Florence; with mortal disease in various perspectives (the evidence of a late Roman cemetery in Dorset; the attitude towards leprosy in medieval England, and to the Black Death in medieval Florence); with the manufacture and iconography of late medieval monumental brasses in northern Europe (Malcolm Norris); and with changes in funeral ritual in 16th-century English towns (Clare Gittings).

The papers are without exception highly professional and written in straightforward English uncontaminated by sociological jargon. The figures are clearly drawn to a uniform convention. There is no bibliography, but the footnotes will readily provide guidance for further reading. This is, then, in part a useful introduction to some of the principal aspects of its subject and in part a report on some recent research both archaeological and documentary. It can only be regretted that, as the product of a biennial conference concerned with different aspects of urban history, it is unlikely to have a successor devoted to the same subject.

HOWARD COLVIN

*Argyll Volume 7: Mid Argyll and Cowal. Medieval and Later Monuments.* Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Scotland). xxviii + 598 pp., figs., pls. London: H.M.S.O., 1992. ISBN 0-11-494094-0. Price: £120.00 hb.

This volume is the seventh and last in a series of Inventories covering the former county of Argyll. It deals with the districts of Mid Argyll and Cowal, and is devoted to accounts of the early Christian, medieval and later monuments of the area.

The R.C.H.A.M.S. work in Argyll extended over more than two decades. The first Inventory in the series, dealing with the Kintyre peninsula, appeared in 1971 and cost £10.00. Subsequent volumes appeared at intervals, each one marked by increasing cost. The depressing cost of *Argyll 7* could never have been predicted when work was initiated and is perhaps best not dwelt on. It will, of course, severely restrict purchases and thereby the audience of the volume. This sorry state of affairs must not be allowed to distract attention

from the actual content of the volume. As with preceding volumes, this is a mine of information and a testament to the powers of observation and scholarship of R.C.H.A.M.S. staff. Nearly 300 individual sites or monuments are presented, many with excellent illustrations. The material covered is diverse, ranging from early Christian memorial stones through the many medieval fortifications to industrial and transport monuments. All monuments of the earlier periods are included in some detail. For later periods the resource is sampled and only the 'outstanding' examples were investigated and presented in the volume. This latter approach would have benefitted from further discussion, not only to highlight the nature and extent of the wider resource, but also to provide a framework within which the identification of the examples presented could be better understood. This failure to present the methodology behind the survey and recording work has been a feature of the whole series.

As with earlier volumes the individual entries are all highly site-specific and we rarely gain an insight into the wider surroundings and landscape settings of the monuments in question. Clearly these are areas for further research. Indeed the series as a whole has provided a very firm springboard from which more detailed work could be launched. In the case of the early Christian monuments presented in this volume, for example, there is now scope for a more detailed investigation of the extent and nature of the activities of the early church in this core area of the kingdom of Dalriada. An understanding of this ecclesiastical establishment is crucial for any understanding of the manner in which the early kingdom was established and maintained. We must be clear about these opportunities; the publication of volumes such as this can give a spurious impression of completeness. New generations of students must be encouraged to pick up the many and varied avenues of research opened up by the *Argyll* series.

The key problems with *Argyll* 7 really relate to the old concept of the Inventory. It is good to see that R.C.A.H.M.S. have already grasped many of the worst nettles in their more recent volumes. The *North-East Perth* volume, for example, attempts to deal with the archaeology of the landscape rather than focussing on individual sites. It also omits the bulk of descriptive information so characteristic of the *Argyll* series. The reports of the Afforestation Land Survey teams show that they have moved on to deal with the wider resource by, for example, ensuring that all deserted settlements are recorded in some detail. The use of case studies to present particular issues is also to be welcomed. In addition to these we are promised further radical changes in publication strategies in the forthcoming *South-East Perth* volume. Unfortunately the invisibility of explicit methodology, which has been a feature of *Argyll* 7 and other volumes in this series, appears to be taking longer to resolve.

MARGARET R. NIEKE

*Pottery in Archaeology*. by C. Orton, P. Tyers and A. Vince. 253 18 cm. xvii + 269 pp., 65 figs., 12 tables. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993. ISBN 0-521-25715-8 hb.; 0-521-44597-3 pb. Price: £40.00 hb.; £13.95 pb.

This volume is the latest in the impressive series of *Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology*. It is certainly one of the most welcome, as pottery studies in all period disciplines have undergone quite momentous changes in the past two decades. Previously regarded as little more than a useful dating indicator for archaeological sequences, excavated ceramics, by virtue of their very robustness and ubiquity, are now perceived to hold the key to a wide range of chronological, technological, social and economic questions, both at the site and at the regional levels.

Approaches to the processing, recording, analysis and the interpretation of pottery evidence remain confusingly diverse, particularly since the discipline operates across both geographical and period boundaries. The publication of this book is well timed, therefore, the more so for our own period as the subject of medieval and later pottery is itself now divided

into various sub-disciplines. Clearly, if the study and interpretation of ceramics are to take place on an intra- or inter-site basis, it is essential that approaches to documentation and analysis are standardized to facilitate comparison, or at least follow the same general procedural steps. This is especially critical in the case of quantitative recording.

Unlike previously published guidelines to pottery from excavations, this volume is the first to combine descriptions of routine handling techniques alongside detailed summaries of the theoretical justification and issues involved. The meat of the book, the 'practicalities', is prefaced with a historiography and discussion of the potential of pottery studies and followed by a series of essays on fabrics, forms, quantification, chronology and function. The authors have been leaders in the methodology of archaeological ceramics for many years, and for many of these aspects, the actual originators. For the very latest developments in ceramic quantification (an area of increasing specialization), for example, look no further than this manual. Case-studies are used throughout the volume as the most effective means of demonstration and explication both for approaches and techniques. The bibliography alone, refreshingly multi-period, although reflective of the authors' main experience in urban archaeology, will be the main attraction of the manual for many users.

On the negative side two themes, perhaps, deserve more attention in this manual. Firstly, the appliance of analytical (compositional) techniques, is gradually becoming standard procedure, particularly in medieval and later pottery studies where there is a gradual trend towards more refined ceramic bodies. Case-studies are sparse here (pp. 144-46), and the bibliography a little meagre. Reference could surely have been made to the recent British Museum volume entitled *Science and the Past* (1993) which contains the most comprehensive summary of the various techniques now in use. Similarly economical is the section on the publication of excavated ceramics, publication being the final and most public part of the archaeological process (pp. 105-09). To dismiss the subject with the statement 'there is no right way of publishing ... although there are several ways which are wrong' (p. 109) is as tantalising as it is frustrating. At the very least this reviewer would have appreciated reading the opinions of these distinguished authors on the subject.

These are minor quibbles, however, and do not detract from an exemplary overall achievement. The book's greatest virtue, perhaps, is its readability, a feature not shared by many such guideline volumes in modern archaeology. The spine of the (cheaper) paperback version of the manual has already been spotted on shelves of ceramic researchers and non-specialist archaeologists alike.

DAVID R. M. GAIMSTER

*The Study of Medieval Archaeology. European Symposium for Teachers of Medieval Archaeology. Lund 11-15 June 1990.* (Lund Studies in Medieval Archaeology 13.) Edited by H. Andersson and J. Wienberg. 17 × 24 cm. 387 pp., figs., pls. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell International, 1993. ISBN 91-22-01557-4. Price: not stated, pb.

In June 1990 a five-day symposium was held in Lund, Sweden, to which a number of teachers of medieval archaeology were invited. There were 39 participants from eighteen countries. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the kinds of research being carried out and to examine the ways in which medieval archaeology is taught at university level. The hope was that the meeting might lead to further co-operation, towards which investigation of the different educational structures operating throughout Europe was seen as an essential first step.

This volume is the publication of that meeting. The 25 papers are organized into a number of sections, commencing with national surveys of medieval archaeology. These are followed by papers on major research themes: the countryside, towns, churches, castles and artefacts, and a pair of papers on opportunities for communication. The volume concludes with 21 short summaries providing an institution-by-institution survey of the teaching of medieval archaeology.

The twelve national surveys are wide-ranging, from Bohemia to the Faroe Islands, but they provide an uneven European coverage. France, for example, is a notable omission, whilst Helen Clarke's paper, on the situation in Britain, was obviously of such great interest that it is included twice, once here (with footnotes) and once in the final section on universities (with Harvard-style references). I have sometimes encountered papers published several times, but never before in the same book! Overall it would be kind to describe the editorial approach as low-key! Spelling seems to have been a particular problem. Nevertheless, most authors follow a common format, providing a brief survey of the development of the subject in their country, its main components, current interests and problems, and then looking at the level of university provision. These are generally valuable and revealing contributions. One suspects that a few contributors, overcome with national pride, tend to gloss over some of the local problems, but those from the former Eastern Bloc, especially, are disarmingly honest about the problems they face. Frans Verhaeghe, in a paper specially commissioned after the symposium, is also particularly critical of the situation in Belgium and Flanders, where he believes that medieval archaeology is still seen by historians as anecdotal and of illustrative value only, and where he argues that the universities reflect the attitudes of the 1920s to 1950s. Common trends do emerge, with the development of period societies and national period journals, and the foundation of university departments specializing in medieval archaeology. It is interesting to note, in passing, the number of times that the work of Beresford and Hurst at Wharram Percy is cited as being of seminal importance for the development of settlement studies.

The papers on specific research themes, whilst each extremely useful in their own right, tend to be constrained by national boundaries, such as Grenville Astill's on rural settlement in Britain, and Barbro Sundnér on Scandinavian churches. Terry Barry looks at a specific local monument type, Irish tower houses. Other topics are given very limited coverage. Despite its obvious importance, the archaeology of the medieval town, for example, is represented by only one paper, by Heiko Steur. Perhaps this reflects the major limitation, that the organizers invited only teachers of medieval archaeology, rather than those who are often involved, through field units, in its discovery. Few authors take a pan-European perspective, although Lawrence Butler, on monasteries, does include examples from outside the United Kingdom. Else Roesdahl's short paper on medieval artefacts is one of the few that questions what should be taught, raising problems of the relative isolation of medieval artefact studies. In fact whilst all the contributors seem to agree that medieval archaeology is to be defined by the use of written sources (rather than chronological boundaries which fluctuate regionally) very few of them could really be said to be inter-disciplinary, and Sverre Bagge's paper on the Annales school is the only one to look at the relevance of historical research. In fact there seems to be an underlying tension here for, whilst promoting the importance of links with history, several contributors allude to the problems that this has caused. Helen Clarke concludes that the research agenda has been dominated by history for too long and that we need to set our own; Øivind Lunde and Reidar Bertelsen believe that medieval archaeologists need to take an independent stance from the nationalist perspectives of history, focussing instead on general aspects of European culture. They also argue for a stronger participation in the development of archaeological theory.

In summary, despite the inevitable gaps and limitations in any publication of this nature, this is a valuable survey, in English and German, of the current state of the sub-discipline. Overall, and by its very existence, it reveals a healthy situation, with great potential for a pan-European future.

JULIAN D. RICHARDS

The following publications have also been received:

*Techniques of Archaeological Excavation*. By Philip Barker. 18 × 24 cm. 285 pp., numerous figs. and pls. London: Batsford, 1993. ISBN 0-7134-7169-7. Price: £18.99 pb.

The third edition of this highly-regarded work, fully revised with many new examples.

- Sutton Hoo Research Committee Bulletins 1983-1993*. Edited by M. O. H. Carver. 22 × 31 cm. 308 pp., numerous figs. and tables. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1993. ISBN 0-85115-341-0. Price: £39.50.
- Starigard/Oldenburg. Hauptburg der Slawen in Wagrien. IV Die Tierknochenfunde unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Beizjagd*. (Offa-Bücher, Band 74). By Wietske Prummel. 22 × 31 cm. 186 pp., 68 figs., 78 tables. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz Verlag. Price not stated, hb. Specialist report on faunal remains from a high-status defended settlement, of the 8th to 13th centuries, near Oldenburg, Schleswig-Holstein.
- Historic Buildings in Pontefract at 7-9 Cornmarket and Swales Yard*. By The Pontefract and District Archaeological Society. 30 × 22 cm. 63 pp., 19 figs., 9 pls., 5 tables. Pontefract: The Pontefract and District Archaeological Society, no date given. Price: £6.00 + £1.50 p. + p, pb. Architectural, archaeological and historical studies of a 15th or 16th-century and later house in the centre of Pontefract.
- Version 2 (History and Archaeology) of Essentials of Statistical Methods*. By T. P. Hutchinson. 15 × 21 cm. xii + 152 pp., 6 tables. Adelaide: Rumsby Scientific Publishing, 1993. ISBN 0-646-15653-5. Price: £7.00 pb. A manual of statistical methods, with examples from archaeological and historical research projects.
- From Viking to Crusader. Scandinavia and Europe 800-1200*. Edited by Else Roesdahl and David M. Wilson. 21 × 27 cm. 429 pp., lavishly illustrated in colour and b&w. Denmark: Nordic Council of Ministers, 1992. ISBN 87-7303-5580. Price: £25.00 pb.
- An Economic History of Medieval Europe*. By N. J. G. Pounds. 14 × 22 cm. xvi + 536 pp., 70 figs. London and New York: Longman, 1994. ISBN 0-582-21599-4. Price: £16.99 pb. Second edition, with substantial revisions; first edition 1974.
- The Ancient Monuments of the Western Isles. A Visitors' Guide to the Principal Historic Sites and Monuments*. Edited by Denys Pringle. 1 × 20 cm. 72 pp., figs., pls. (many in colour). Edinburgh: H.M.S.O., 1994. ISBN 0-11-495201-9. Price: £3.95 pb. A very attractive and well-illustrated guide.
- Eye Priory Cartulary and Charters I and II*. (Suffolk Charters XII and XIII). Edited by V. Brown. 2 vols., 17 × 25 cm. Part I: xvi + 255 pp.; Part 2: xviii + 193 pp., 2 figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1992. ISBN 0-85115-322-4, 0-85115-347-X. Price: £25.00 and £19.50 hb.
- Irish Shrines and Reliquaries of the Middle Ages*. By Ragnall ó Floinn. 17 × 25 cm. 46 pp., many pls., some in colour. Dublin: National Museum of Ireland and Town House and Country House, 1994. ISBN 0-946172-40-4. Price: £4.95 pb. A very well-produced and lavishly illustrated introduction and survey.
- L'île Lavezzi. Hommes, animaux, archéologie et marginalité. Bonifacio, Corse, XIIIe-XXe siècles*. (Monographie du Centre de Recherches Archéologiques 13.) Edited by Jean-Denis Vigne. 23 × 29 cm. 293 pp., 94 figs. and pls., 42 tables. Paris: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1994. ISBN 2-271-05199-1. ISSN 1151-5358. Price: FF250 pb. Study of faunal remains from excavations inside a 14th-17th-century chapel occupied intermittently by marginal social groups.
- Obilie v Archeobotanických Nálezoch na Slovensku*. (Acta Interdisciplinaria Archaeologica VIII.) By Eva Hajnalová. 21 × 30 cm. 148 pp., figs., pls., tables. Nitra: Archeologický ústav Slovenskej akadémie vied, 1993. ISBN 80-88709-02-4. Price not stated, pb. Archaeobotanical studies from excavations in Slovakia.
- Pomorania Antiqua XV*. Edited by Henryk Paner. 18 × 25 cm. 348 pp., figs., tables. Gdansk: Muzeum Archeologiczne w Gdansku, 1993. ISSN 0556-0691. Price not stated, pb. Multi-period volume of Polish reports (with English summaries) including early medieval fortified settlements, 10th to 13th-century amber working, medieval footwear and knife-sheaths.

*Slovenská Archeológia* Vol. XLI, Part 1. Edited by Títus Kolník. 22 × 31 cm. 144 pls., figs., tables. Bratislava: Slovak Academic Press, 1993. No ISBN or ISSN. Price not stated, hb.

Papers in Slovak and English, with German summaries. Mainly Iron Age material, but includes a report on a Magyar cemetery of the 11th and 12 centuries at Milanovce, Hungary.

*Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae* V. Edited by Andrzej Nadolski. 21 × 30 cm. 115 pp., many figs., 15 pls., tables. Łódź: Wydawnictwo Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 1992. ISSN 0860-0007. Price not stated, pb.

French, Russian, German and English papers on medieval European armaments.

*Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae* VI. Edited by Andrzej Nadolski. 21 × 30 cm. 68 pp., figs., tables. Łódź: Wydawnictwo Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 1993. ISSN 0860-0007. Price not stated, pb.

Historical and archaeological studies in French, Russian, German and English; includes papers on the origins of archaeology in Poland, 9th to 12th-century horse harness fittings from Central Asia, and weapons from 10th to 11th-century Hungarian graves.