

## Short Reviews

*Anglo-Saxon Oxfordshire*. By John Blair. 19 × 26 cm. xxv + 230 pp., 102 figs. and pls. Stroud: Alan Sutton and Oxfordshire Books, 1994. ISBN 0-7509-0147-0. Price: £25.00 hb.

Several county histories have now appeared in the Manchester University Press *Origins of the Shires* series, but Blair's book upstages them by virtue of its superior appearance, illustrations and referencing. The generous formatting is a suitable arena for a text which is learned but lively. Blair is a historian who digs, archaeologically and archivally; he can interpret a stratigraphy as competently as he can a hagiography, so he is a good guide through some very complex evidence, much of it not yet available in print — the book uses a lot of material from the Oxford Archaeological Unit, in advance of its own publications, as well as Dickinson's 1976 thesis for the early Anglo-Saxon period, and it benefits from discussions with various specialists, all with full acknowledgement.

Blair is at pains to show the county within its national context, as being illustrative of the social and economic changes that have been the focus of general attention in recent years: the 'combined British and English presence' in this seemingly early Saxon-settled area (the different peoples must have 'intermangled', as one of my students wrote recently); the emergence of small kingdom units, underlying and often surviving larger political groupings as a 'recognisably medieval world' appeared during the 7th and early 8th centuries; new burial-places signalling social as well as religious developments; manorialization emerging as new exchange networks replaced tribute dependency. Another major theme is the importance of the R. Thames as an artery, an emphasis in line with other recent local studies which have stressed that river valleys give more cohesion to a region than do geological masses.

The region came to centre on Oxford, where there was a minster church from the 7th century. It was not the only riverside minster in the Thames valley, however, and Blair argues strongly for a plethora of such sites; some, like Dorchester, well-known, but others, like Eynsham, only now beginning to be appreciated as places to be reckoned with, both being more significant than Oxford. (Abingdon, on the other hand, has been demoted recently to the status of a cell of Bradfield, only entering its glory-days under Aethelwold in the second half of the 10th century.) Many of the small towns of later Oxfordshire are argued therefore already to have been foci in the 8th century, although an unbroken thread of development is difficult to see, not least because big estates centred around them, such as Eynsham's 300 hides, were subdivided in the late Saxon period.

Oxford's emergence as the main place in its region and a shire capital was therefore by no means inevitable, but Blair accepts that its causeway is probably an example of royal bridge-building, showing that it was not just the Church that had an interest in the place before its selection as a *burh* and mint in the late 9th century. He sees that as a decision made by Aethelred of Mercia and his wife, albeit under Alfred the Great's overlordship. It is a pity that his concentration on the pre-1974 shire means that Blair does not say more

about Wallingford: why was it also selected as a *burh*, despite having no known minster? Why were pole-lengths of 15 feet, not 16 feet, apparently used to lay out Wallingford, as Huggins showed in this journal (Vol. XXXV (1991), 24–25), and why was Oxford smaller, even after it had been extended eastwards? Oxford later had 24 hundreds associated with it: why did it not start off with 2400 hides in the *Burghal Hidage*, as Wallingford did? The two towns are intriguingly similar yet different.

Blair is the latest in a line of Oxford-based medievalists to use the region both as a training-school and as a ‘model’. It is good to see such a long tradition continued, particularly as he scrupulously repeats the old joke about all the best sites being within an afternoon’s cycle ride of the city.

DAVID A. HINTON

*Pre-Conquest Charter-Bounds of Devon and Cornwall*. By Della Hooke. 17 x 25 cm. 239 pp., 39 figs., 9 pls. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1994. ISBN 0-85115-354-2. Price: £29.50 hb.

Della Hooke has taken up the mantle of people such as Grundy and Finberg. In recent years no one else has devoted so much time, energy and scholarship to the geographical problems presented by the corpus of Anglo-Saxon charters. *Worcestershire Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds* (1990) set the standard which has been continued here. *The Pre-Conquest Charter Bounds of Devon and Cornwall* sets out to describe and elucidate in detail the boundary clauses of each charter, where they exist, providing a new and accurate translation and a careful attempt to solve the bounds on the ground. Each boundary clause is mapped and suggested points shown. The author does not guess and the views of all previous scholars are taken into account. Those with a particular local interest or knowledge will doubtless wish to challenge Dr Hooke over certain points in ‘their’ charter, but they will only do so successfully if they apply the same careful scholarship. Although the volume has the restricted title of ‘charter bounds’ it actually gives up-to-date information about all the charters of the region and provides a complete bibliography.

The purpose of all this effort is that the boundary clauses provide us with a unique insight into the medieval landscape. Most of the charter bounds are of the 10th or 11th centuries, some being added to earlier charters, no doubt to make them more useful and up-to-date; they provide the only description we have of the countryside in this period, partial though it is. Through the bounds we can relate existing features — banks and ditches, woods, roads and paths — to the landscapes of the 10th and 11th centuries, and as our understanding of the clauses grows we can generalize about the nature of that landscape — was it enclosed or open; were their open-fields; what sort of settlements were mentioned and do they survive; what was the communications pattern? Perhaps more importantly, the analysis of 10th-century estates, as they appear in the charters, enables us to relate this period to the Domesday record and thence to the estates of the 11th and 12th centuries, and so to the landscape we know today.

It is no accident that the 10th and 11th centuries provide us with this sudden flood of information. The surveys must have been time-consuming and expensive to make, and they would not have become so common if they were not important to contemporaries. They are a vital part of the evidence for the transformation of the countryside which was the consequence of a dramatic transformation of English society in the 10th and 11th centuries. This is not a book to read from cover to cover, but it is a must for anyone who is seriously interested in the social and economic history or the field archaeology of the 10th century.

M. D. COSTEN

*Illington: a Study of a Breckland Parish and its Anglo-Saxon Cemetery.* (East Anglian Archaeology, 63). By Alan Davison, Barbara Green and Bill Milligan. 22 x 31 cm. x + 114 pp., 59 figs., 15 pls., 15 tables, 1 fiche. Norwich: Norfolk Museums Service, 1993. ISBN 0-905594-09-6. Price: £19.95 pb.

Norfolk's archaeologists set a fine example by publishing not only their own excavated Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, but also full records of a site whose excavator and original researchers are now deceased. Many of the Illington pots appeared in the J. N. L. Myres *Corpus*, including stamped vessels of the Illington-Lackford group, but this cemetery also prompted Calvin Wells to undertake the first major study of cremated bone in England and present a tentative reconstruction of cremation process in a classic *Antiquity* article.

It was Group-Captain Knocker who undertook a brief but energetic excavation between 25 April and 5 May 1949 at Illington, recovering some 200 urns and three inhumation burials during a break from his work at nearby Thetford. Problems posed by the excavation records have been rigorously sorted by Barbara Green and Bill Milligan for Norwich Castle Museum and we have here a definitive catalogue. The pottery appears to date broadly to the 6th century, while the inhumations seem to belong to the 7th century, but the site was only partially investigated and its origins may lie in the 5th and cremation may have continued well into the 7th century.

Apart from the pioneering bone report by Calvin Wells, there is also a report on pottery fabric analysis by A. D. Russel, part of his doctoral research on early Anglo-Saxon pottery in East Anglia (catalogued in the fiche). Russel sees pottery at Illington, as in the region as a whole, as characterized by fragmented small-scale production, perhaps based on the household. We still need to explain though why up to 40% of the Illington pottery was made from non-local fabrics and the mechanisms by which this was acquired.

The location of the cemetery has been confirmed by field surveys in 1974 and 1982 by Andrew Rogerson. A full parish survey was undertaken in 1988 by Alan Davison, whose report provides the landscape setting and history for this small parish. Interestingly, there is no evidence from surface artefacts of an early Anglo-Saxon settlement and Davison suggests that the Illington cemetery served a settlement or group of settlements located beyond the parish bounds. Against such a view though, it seems that the cemetery potsherd spread occupies a well-drained, slightly elevated site on the 40 m O.D. contour. It seems possible to the reviewer that an adjacent settlement overlapped with the cemetery and occupied the higher ground to the SW., up to and above the 45 m contour. This could always be evaluated by geophysical survey or even trial excavation in the future.

MARTIN WELCH

*A Second Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Food and Drink: Production and Distribution.* By Ann Hagen. 15 x 22 cm. 409 pp. Hockwold cum Wilton: Anglo-Saxon Books, 1995. ISBN 1-898281-12-2. Price: £14.95 pb.

The *Second Handbook*. . . offers a feast of information on Anglo-Saxon food and drink from the 5th to the 11th centuries, admirably adding to *A Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Food; Processing and Consumption* (1992) with very little overlap. In the first part of the work the author discusses the production of all categories of food types, ranging from cereal and animal production to the supply of water and imported food. In the second section, a variety of methods of distribution are singled out for comment, from theft to supply in towns.

Given the multidisciplinary nature of the topic, Hagen is obliged to draw on a wide range of sources, including Welsh documents and archaeological excavations. Her

knowledge of the environmental evidence is thorough and sensible conclusions are drawn from the archaeological material as to who ate what, where and when. All forms of documentary sources up to the Conquest and beyond are scoured for references to food, but the use of written material is inevitably problematic. By comparing all available texts mentioning one foodstuff, Hagen is able to make a more intelligent analysis of the actual manufacture, content and even flavour of various items than has been done before, and this focused approach allows her to offer some new interpretations of words whose meanings have hitherto been taken for granted. An excellent discussion of references to *beor*, which has always been understood to mean 'beer' is followed by a convincing argument demonstrating that it may, in fact, have meant 'cider' (p. 205). If this translation is accepted, it calls for a revision of the traditional image of beer-swilling Anglo-Saxon warriors. Ale (*ealu*), Hagen notes, is rarely mentioned in heroic poetry, although it is used interchangeably with *meadu* and *beor* in compound words. She concludes that ale was not the beverage of the nobility, but fails to consider that the scarcity of literary ale may owe more to the dictates of alliterative poetry than to the alcoholic taste of the Anglo-Saxons.

The bulk of references to edible materials come from the *Leechbooks*, and although Hagen does mention that plants, animals and other substances recommended for ingestion in a medical/magical remedy may never have been used as foodstuffs, there is an inevitable tendency to make the assumption that inclusion of an item in the *Leechbooks* indicates that it was both available for consumption and actually consumed by the omnivorous Anglo-Saxons. There may be scope in a third handbook for more discussion of the distinction between medicines deliberately concocted out of unpleasant and unusual ingredients 'eye of toad and tail of newt' potions — and foods that also happened to be good for you.

Anglo-Saxon manuscript illustrations provide a further useful source of evidence, but irritatingly they are not reproduced as an accompaniment to the text; perhaps even a line drawing would have pushed up the cost of publication to an unreasonably high price.

A minor criticism of both this and the first *Handbook* is that the style is terse, at times to the point of reading as word-processed notes, so that it is a little indigestible at one sitting. However the book covers an extensive range of material which is thoroughly referenced and backed up by a copious bibliography, ensuring that this book will live up to its title and be a useful tool to anyone wishing to find out more about particular aspects of Anglo-Saxon society, economy and agricultural practice in relation to food.

SALLY CRAWFORD

*Patrick: The Archaeology of a Saint*. By Cormac Bourke. 21 x 20 cm. x + 62 pp., 46 figs. and pls., some in colour. Belfast: H.M.S.O., 1993. ISBN 0-337-08311-3. Price: £7.95 pb.

This well-illustrated small book was published to accompany the exhibition of the same name held at the Ulster Museum, Belfast. This was a courageous and deservedly successful undertaking, tackling one of the most contentious figures in Irish history against the background of a culturally polarized modern community with divergent traditions of its own history. This book is in the spirit of the exhibition and focuses on the cult of Patrick, expressed chiefly through relics and reliquaries.

Succinct introductory chapters set the context for Patrick's life and work, and establish the material means by which the memory of holy men was perpetuated and venerated by the church in the early Middle Ages. Footnotes and a selective bibliography allow the interested reader access to specialist studies. The historical evaluation of the limited and much-debated evidence for Patrick's life is an epitome of recent scholarly work up to and including the 1993 papers edited by David Dumville, and the author acknowledges a cohort of advisors distinguished in Irish palaeography, history and archaeology.

The core of the book, and its principal contribution, is a discussion of the remarkable ecclesiastical metalwork recently recovered from dredgings from the R. Blackwater, primarily from the reaches downstream of Armagh before it enters Lough Neagh to the N. The Clonmore shrine rightly takes pride of place, a fine and arguably early portable shrine which was largely recovered thanks to heroic persistence in the field by Cormac Bourke. The extremely early date proposed for this piece may reflect a little of his justifiable euphoria. The bulk of the material came from Shanmullagh and represents the scrap of a Viking period metal-dealer, for the group includes scales and weights. There are fittings from closely related shrines, some with magnificent enamels, and also low relief castings, almost all in bronze. The hoard also contains the arm of a small cross with the name and image of St Paul, and it is in the discussion of this interesting piece that the author's conviction that the whole group represents late 9th-century loot from the treasury at Armagh, begins to become highly convoluted, with speculation about the role of *Cell Fine* and ending with the disarming observation that the first mention of a shrine at Armagh dedicated to SS Peter and Paul was in 1033.

It is difficult to accept the idea that the hoard represents the earlier contents of the Armagh treasury simply because it is not rich enough, if it does, the silver and gold had gone elsewhere. Here are pretty bits of relatively low value, some neatly cut in preparation for use on the ubiquitous lead weights which seem to have been indispensable equipment for the Viking period. These dismantled fittings perhaps make more sense in the context of the well-documented 10th-century refurbishment of ancient relics, they were old fashioned. This interpretation is rejected by the author because of the quality of the finds and a Viking raid on Armagh in 895. While this book is not the full publication of these finds, it may seem unnecessary to criticize in detail, but it was designed for popular consumption and perhaps calls for less speculative argument. The title would lead one to expect more archaeology, in particular some discussion, however brief, of the little we do know about the buildings and enclosures of the early church, putting people, priests and monks into the landscape, something which was tackled in the original exhibition.

It would be cavalier to end on a critical note. The concluding chapters look at further relics of St Patrick, with a detailed and authoritative account of the bells, and take the account up to the later Middle Ages, with a useful appendix on the present whereabouts of the relics. The whole book is well presented and illustrated with many excellent photographs.

SUSAN YOUNGS

*Settlement and Pottery in the Vinalopó Valley (Alicante, Spain), A.D. 400–700.* (British Archaeological Reports, International Series, 588.) By Paul Reynolds. 22 × 30 cm. xiii + 404 pp., 123 figs., 150 'pottery plates', 3 fiches. Oxford: Tempus Reparatum, 1993. ISBN 0-86054-749-3. Price: £45.00 pb.

This volume provides a first important analysis of pottery sequences for part of eastern Spain spanning the late Roman, Byzantine and Visigothic periods, and extending also into the start of Arab occupation. The area under scrutiny covers the Vinalopó valley, west of Alicante, which in antiquity formed an important through-route avoiding the coast, established in prehistory, formalized under Rome with the *via Augusta* and largely maintained into the Arab period. The primary aim of Reynolds' study is the examination of the evolution of settlement patterns along this route, assessing levels of continuity and change and changing systems of pottery production and supply. Of particular significance is the period of Byzantine conflict against the Visigoths (*c. A.D. 550–621*), during which

time the Vinalopó valley formed the northern territory of the Byzantine province. Reynolds seeks to identify how far political changes are reflected in the ceramic record, and in the case of the Byzantine rule there is a striking failure to revitalize Mediterranean trading links on the scale of the 4th and 5th centuries when imports reached most civilian and rural sites; instead imports appear confined largely to the coastal capital of Cartagena and rural sites appear forced to supply themselves with hand-made vessels.

General settlement trends are clear, despite the acknowledge lack of intensive field walking and excavation in the study zone. Clearest is the progressive reduction in lowland villas in favour of 'highland' sites commencing as early as the late 4th century, despite an apparent survival of open coastal centres (notably garum factories); interestingly, it is these upland sites which receive the majority of the imports and not the villas, suggesting a shift towards self-sufficiency on the part of the latter. The role and character of these 'highland' sites within the Vinalopó valley is not yet apparent, although a military/refuge function is plausible in some cases; again, however, the lack of excavation prevents assessment of questions of continuity of function and population into Byzantine, Visigothic and Arab times. The Arab phase overall is structurally more prominent, being marked by the creation of distinct fortresses.

Unfortunately Reynolds does not provide any clear discussion on the form, character and distribution of any of the settlement types considered in his survey zone. Although he provides a fairly detailed gazetteer of his 227 sites, the main text (only 43 pages long compared with 45 pages for the gazetteer) lacks any discussion on the characteristics of the 'highland' sites in particular, and we gain little insight into the nature and internal evolution of the 'villa' sites except through the few scattered illustrations of mosaics and plans. Similarly precious little comment is made on the noted Visigothic cemeteries and graves in the zone and whether the metalwork finds denote an actual Visigothic presence.

The detailed ceramic analyses are highly important and are backed up by a full appendix (pp. 93–171) on fabrics and typologies plus a good range of 'plates' (line drawings). Reynolds fully acknowledges problems in assessing much of the ceramic material, however, given the general lack of secure stratified deposits, particularly for the latest phases (late 6th century onwards); the bulk of the material studied is unstratified and unpublished or drawn from his own survey work on sites. Nonetheless he presents an overall convincing framework and highlights various avenues of future research.

Despite various presentation faults (layout of text, notes, spelling slips and some unattractive figure reproductions) and despite the cost of the volume as a whole, Reynolds' analysis of the Vinalopó valley in late Antiquity adds considerably to the rather minimal available picture of late and post-Roman Spain. In particular he highlights how the application of intensive field survey and associated research excavations will greatly enhance our understanding of the transition from Roman to medieval settlement systems in eastern Spain.

NEIL CHRISTIE

*Social Approaches to Viking Studies*. Edited by Ross Samson. 16 × 24 cm. xiii + 240 pp., figs. and pls. Glasgow: Cruithne Press, 1991. ISBN 1-873448-00-7. Price: £29.50 hb.

Although this book is by now rather old (received for review in January 1995), the ideas it contains are still very new and so it is worth drawing to the attention of those readers of *Medieval Archaeology* who may not yet have caught up with this publication from one of the more recently established archaeological presses.

The volume owes its origins to a seminar organized by a group of postgraduate students in Glasgow University in 1988, to which they invited an international cast of

Viking scholars. Their aim was to bring post-processualism, substantivism, feminism, Marxism, and various other *-isms* to bear on Viking studies — a brave, some would say futile, effort. As Samson puts it, in his Bogart-style introduction to the proceedings: 'Post-structuralist semioticians are as thin on the ground in Viking studies as pacifist vegetarians in Valhalla.' Some of those they invited were already dead; others stayed away, but they did manage to hold a successful seminar at which young Scandinavian researchers were particularly well represented.

The result is a book which can be recommended to students to demonstrate that there can be more to studying Vikings than sagas, place-names and ring pins. This short review can only provide a flavour of the range of approaches adopted. Sagas are represented (Lönnroth) — not only as totemic artefacts (Durrenberger), but also as sources of information about marriage exchange and social structure (T. Vestergaard), procreation myths (Clunies Ross) and witchcraft (Pálsson). There is a particularly strong group of papers on gender (Gräslund, Arwill-Nordbladh, Dommasnes) which, with Stalsberg's contribution on the role of Viking women in trade, leads on to a number of papers influenced by economic anthropology, especially substantivism (E. Vestergaard, Dahlin Hauken, Gaimster and Samson). These should be read by all those interested in the role of gift exchange and hoarding in the Viking world.

There are also several papers under a broad heading of political and social power. These include two studies of the origins of a feudalism and political power in Sweden (Lindkvist and Löfving), an analysis of the role of kings as exemplified by Hrothgar (Hill) and a discussion of slavery in the Danelaw (Pelteret). Finally, three papers look at ethnicity and modern views of the Viking world, in Russia (Noonan), North America (Wallace), and Lapland (Zachrisson).

Were the organizers successful in bringing together anthropology and Viking studies? Subsequent publications on Viking archaeology show little sign of anything having changed, and this volume is rarely cited. Nevertheless, perhaps by encouraging a new generation of students to apply theory to Vikings, this meeting may have a longer-term impact.

JULIAN D. RICHARDS

*Viking Age Ringed Pins from Dublin.* (Medieval Dublin Excavations 1962–81 Series B., Vol. 4.)

By Thomas Fanning. 22 × 31 cm. xi + 140 pp., 106 figs., 14 pls. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1994. ISBN 1-874045-27-5 hb.; 1-874045-28-3 pb. Price: £Ir25.00 hb.; £Ir15.95 pb.

Tom Fanning's untimely death in July 1993 deprived us of one of the most hard-working and internationally well-known scholars of the early medieval period in north-western Europe. He was a sturdy friend, amusing, loyal and generous — he will be much missed. His lifelong study of what to many of his friends appeared to be rather insignificant (if ubiquitous) remains of this period — ring-headed pins — produced results which exceeded all expectations. This book is a monument to years of hard analytical study.

Excavations in Dublin produced 263 pins — nearly one-third of the total corpus — which are published in this monograph. Although he had for years been working on the pins, the sheer bulk of the Dublin series provided Fanning with the opportunity to set them for the first time within a firm chronological framework. The relative completeness of the Dublin corpus, and the firmly dated stratigraphical sequence it provided, enabled him to place other ring-headed pin finds — Irish, British and Scandinavian — in a chronological and cultural context.

Like all good catalogues, this book provides not only a list and illustrations of the finds, but discusses them in their broader setting. The study is basically typological and the structure erected here will provide all scholars working with this material in the future a first point of reference. But the study is more than that in that it considers the method of manufacture of the pins, their use and their wide distribution. It thus adds a great deal of information to our knowledge of the Irish Viking Age and of Irish influences in the Scandinavian North.

The problem of their use as dress pins is revisited here, particularly in relation to finds from Scandinavian burials. It is clear from this evidence that quite a few Viking Age graves contain ring-headed pins, some of which are certainly imported from Ireland. The cultural or sartorial reason for their presence in such contexts outside Scandinavia leaves many questions open. The fact that the graves are quite often richly furnished, may suggest that Irish dress fashion was being imitated in Scandinavia, as it is unlikely that insular slaves would be given such elaborate burials, even if they were allowed to dress in their native fashion.

That the Scandinavians adopted this type of dress fastening and elaborated on it is abundantly clear from, for example, the numerous versions of ring-headed pins, clearly made in Scandinavia, found in the rich graves of Birka. It is particularly poignant that Fanning was seized of this problem and promised further research on the development of Baltic ring-headed pin types. In my view there can be little doubt that two traditions met and coalesced in the Baltic — the ring brooches of the SE. Baltic and the ring-headed pins brought into the W. of Scandinavia from Ireland — to produce the remarkable Swedish series, sometimes decorated with elaborate Borre-style ornament. This work must now be done by whoever takes up Fanning's task. Another question I would like to see addressed is that of the relationship between the ring-headed pins and the penannular and pseudo-penannular brooches of the W. and N. of the British Isles. The Tara brooch, for example, is more a ring-headed pin than a pseudo-penannular brooch, a fact pointedly made by the Westness pin/brooch. Which, one would have liked to ask Dr Fanning, came first — and when?

DAVID M. WILSON

*Excavations in Poole, 1973–1983.* by Ian P. Horsey. 21 × 30 cm. 210 pp., 106 figs., 27 pls. Dorchester: Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, 1992. ISBN 0-900341-33-5. Price: £18.95 pb.

*Archaeology in Bath 1976–1985.* Edited by Peter Davenport. 21 × 30 cm. 166 pp., 150 figs. and pls., 46 tables. Oxford: Oxford University Committee for Archaeology, 1991. ISBN 0 94781628 3. Price: not stated, pb.

There has recently been a bit of a vogue to publish collections of diverse holes dug into our historic towns during the redevelopment boom of the 1970's and early 1980's. These reports can tend towards catalogues of rescue-driven archaeology, within a minimal research framework. Two reports recently issued contain material of more than local interest.

The first volume is concerned with Poole, a port and small town on the S. coast of England. The ancient settlement is set on the N. side of a magnificent natural harbour, and one would have expected a long sequence of occupation. In fact the archaeological investigations have shown that the town was founded around 1200, in an area of late Saxon oyster middens located along the shoreline. Poole became particularly prosperous during the late medieval period, exporting wool (it was a Staple port by 1433) as well as

stone from the Isle of Purbeck. The most important surviving building from this period is the Town Cellars or Woolhouse, built around 1300, one of the best preserved medieval warehouses in Britain, and discussed in this volume. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Poole developed trading connections with Newfoundland and the Atlantic seaboard, and the new prosperity led to the replacement and refronting of earlier timber-framed buildings. During the 1960's the R.C.H.M.(E.) was able to record some 300 historic buildings, many with surviving medieval fabric and preserved archaeology.

Poole suffered particularly badly during the 'redevelopment' of our historic towns in the 1960's and 70's. By 1976, over half the 300 historic buildings, recorded only a few years earlier, had been demolished. Salvage excavations began in 1972, and were directed, between 1976-88, by the late Ian Horsey, the author of this volume. Choice of site was determined by redevelopment, and despite numerous holes, critical questions such as the location of the town's defences could not be properly addressed. The uncovered evidence was not spectacular, and in several cases, all trace of the buildings, recorded only a decade earlier, had disappeared.

The importance of this volume undoubtedly lies in the quality of finds which were recovered. The medieval ceramics include a range of North French and German pottery, whilst amongst the post-medieval are well-dated pit groups of exotic imports comparable in range to the assemblages from Southampton and Plymouth. There are several interesting titbits, including a piece of 16th-century bamboo and 18th-century coconut. The medieval mortars are of particular interest, as it seems that Poole was the main distribution centre from the Isle of Purbeck. However, the volume should have been supplied with distribution maps which would have made the discussion of Poole's trade more intelligible.

The second volume concerns Bath, better known for its Roman remains, but with important medieval deposits. These were investigated in two large excavations within the original precinct of Bath Abbey. These excavations revealed walls, which the excavators found difficult to interpret. Some evidence was also found for post-Roman abandonment, with levels of black silt underlying the late Saxon horizon. The dating of this sequence remains difficult, while the chronology of the various types of late Saxon Cheddar wares is controversial. The one exceptional, and datable find — a Viking-period sword — was discovered during building work in an area adjacent to a completed archaeological excavation!

Urban archaeology has now practically ceased in the towns and cities of England, with the impact of P.P.G.16 and the strengthening of conservation areas. Monographs like these will be seen as the result of a short window of opportunity, never to be repeated, which will become a vital resource to study medieval Europe in the years to come.

MARK HORTON

*A Medieval Capital and its Grain Supply: Agrarian Production and Distribution in the London Region c.1300.* (Historical Geography Research Series No. 30). By Bruce M. S. Campbell, James A. Galloway, Derek Keene and Margaret Murphy. 15 × 22 cm. 233 pp., 29 figs., 19 tables. London: Institute of British Geographers, 1993. ISBN 1-870074-12-2. Price not stated, pb.

This volume, as the authors are the first to recognize, is a pioneering study investigating the broad spectrum of issues associated with the medieval London grain market in all its complexities. The rich and varied source material originally produced for very different purposes was certainly not designed to be analysed in the various ways the

authors have chosen. Their approach has advanced significantly the analytical techniques and the methodologies used. It is possible to echo the authors' own conclusions that for some of the topics this has been a matter of experiment. Whilst this process is not yet complete the work has already provided considerable insight into the processes and provided hypotheses which future work will hopefully attempt to answer. Without question this work provides a firm basis against which other studies can be compared.

Whilst the volume is concerned with the grain needs of the capital, within its various chapters it deals with the sources of supply, marketing and disposal, along with the relationships between producers and consumers. In this respect it also provides a comparative insight into the differences between the regions providing these resources, not only in yields and productivity of different cereal crops but methods of rotation and discussions of crop production, both in relation to the economic variables and those imposed by environment, in particular soil type. However, it would have been useful for more than soil types or manuring to be considered: for example, to see how crop productivity might also have varied due to other environmental conditions. Altitude, topography and temperature clearly have a bearing, coupled with average rainfall. These aspects were not specifically considered, and even of course today, within the same soil zone, they may provide dramatic differences in productivity. Variations in ripening time can in some seasons be markedly different within and between different regions, and such factors can provide a market 'edge'. It would have been useful if these variables could have been dealt with in a similar way to the estimation of the population size of medieval London.

Crucial to this study is the evidence for London's population around 1300 which is rightly considered in some detail, by defining the impact of London's provisioning requirements on an ever-increasing hinterland. This relies heavily on estimates of population which might vary from 70,000 to 176,000, although a figure of 100,000 has been used to estimate the population's calorie requirements, based on a number of assumptions about daily dietary requirements and the percentage of diet provided by grain crops. Clearly the margin of error in these calculations and assumptions could be considerable. It is possible that other sources, such as detailed studies of urban human remains from archaeological excavations, can provide important insights into health, and thus diet, from which other estimates of food intake might be made. Similarly it is only from detailed analysis of the remains of cereal crops recovered from archaeological sites that it is possible to provide comparative information about crop health.

Historical and archaeological sources of data are not mutually exclusive and this particular study poses as many new questions for environmental archaeologists, such as the ratios of different cereal and legume species recovered from excavations, as it does for historians and geographers. Perhaps most significantly, as in all such studies, the recognized absence of peasant agriculture in the documentary sources is perhaps the biggest 'hole' in the available data: what precisely were peasants growing and what (if any) effect did this have on markets and the requirements of cities? Clearly there is a long way to go, but this volume makes a major contribution to the study of provisioning a major medieval city.

FRANK GREEN

*Stadtarchäologie in Duisburg 1980–1990.* (Duisburger Forschungen Band 38.) Edited by G. Krause. 17 × 24 cm. viii + 560 pp., figs., pls. Duisburg: Walter Braun Verlag, 1992. ISBN 3-87096-049-3. Price: not stated, pb.

This volume considers various aspects of archaeology undertaken during urban renewal in the German town of Duisburg during the decade from 1980. In the first

contribution, the editor (Krause) explains the complex changes in the courses of the rivers Rhine and Ruhr in the vicinity of Duisburg over the past two millennia. He catalogues excavations and other archaeological observations undertaken since 1896, mostly in the old town, within the late 13th-century walls. He also provides a summary of the archaeology of the area: traces of Iron Age settlement; a scarcely-explored period of Roman occupation; Frankish, Carolingian and Ottonian settlement; and the development of the medieval town, with its royal palace, religious houses, burghers' properties and town walls.

The next contribution (Gerlach) picks up some of Krause's themes and considers the development of topography and the relationships of occupation to the changing river regimes in the Alter Markt (old market) area. Krause then discusses the oldest archaeological deposits attributable to the settlement of Duisburg itself, from the Frankish period (5th century).

The six succeeding reports consider various aspects of biological remains. Knörzer and Meurers-Balke present archaeobotanical evidence from 5th-century deposits, combining results from analyses of pollen and plant macrofossils from a profile in the lowest part of the Alter Markt stratigraphy. Berke considers animal exploitation in the early Middle Ages, comparing bone assemblages from the Alter Markt site with those from excavations in Beekstrasse, and Knörzer provides a preliminary report on palaeoethnobotanical investigations in Duisburg, drawing together results of analyses made since 1981. Remains of domestic mammals from medieval Duisburg are the subject of an account by Nobis and Ninov, whilst in two brief reports which follow, Heinrich considers medieval fish bones and Reichstein surveys bird bones.

Fibre and textile fragments are considered by Farke and two contributions on pottery follow: Gaimster on early modern ceramics from the Lower Rhine region, and Löw on mid-19th century Bunzlauer pottery from Duisburg itself. Gerlach, Radtke and Sauer then discuss pollution by heavy metals and phosphates, using the results of analyses of deposits from the Alter Markt profile.

Milz's largely historical account of Duisburg's market place in the 16th century is followed by Untermann's detailed reconstruction of the buildings on the market, particularly the Market Hall. This author then considers a stone-built house of uncertain date and Müller, in two papers (one with Pfotenhauer), rounds the volume off with accounts of the history of the town wall, parts of which, including some of its towers, still survive.

This book draws together much useful and interesting information; however, the distinct lack of cohesion between the separate reports is a serious shortcoming.

ALLAN HALL

*The Jewish Burial Ground at Jewbury. (The Archaeology of York 12/3.)* By J. M. Lilley, G. Stroud, D. R. Brothwell and M. H. Williamson. 19 × 25 cm. 283 pp., 105 figs. and pls., 44 tables. York: Council for British Archaeology, 1994. ISBN 1-872414-50-8. Price: £25.00 pb.

In the popular late medieval parietal pageant *Der Totentanz*, Death taunts, 'Miserable Jew, hasten to follow me, You've waited long enough for your Messiah: Christ, whom your people murdered, Was the One, Long have you erred' (C. F. Beck (ed.), 1852 *The Dance of Death at Basle*, (Basel, 1852); my translation). These words characterize the antipathy experienced by Jewish communities in medieval Europe. Violence motivated by bigotry may have contributed to the five sword injuries suffered by the young woman in grave

2590 at the Jewbury cemetery reported in this volume. The number, location, and severity of her fatal injuries match those of a male group at the contemporary Fishergate site, likely casualties of armed aggression.

This book presents a fine example of how a combined archaeological and biological anthropological enquiry can provide perspectives complementary to historical and social anthropological studies on the development of human societies and cultures and the effect of these processes on health. Analysis of the Jewbury site provides otherwise undocumented evidence for changes within a culturally distinctive medieval community and its ritual practices. Although there are no apparent male or female distinctions in burial position, orientation, or alignment, other facets of burial indicate that medieval practice differed somewhat from its modern counterpart. The presence of burial furniture, nails and distinctive coffin fittings, as well as the use of oak coffins, suggests social differentiation, perhaps the result of Christian syncretism. Other departures from modern practice may derive from local topographic constraints, for example the apparent lack of the prescribed six hand lengths between burials, their N.-S. orientation, and the presence of multiple and closely spaced superimposed burials.

Having noted these differences between prescription and practice, the burials at Jewbury are much less varied than their Christian counterparts with their more overt display of social distinction. The maintenance of ordered, non-intersecting burials differs from the crowded conditions of contemporary Christian cemeteries. One wonders if the departure from this ordered pattern in the later, more crowded northern part of the cemetery with its greater frequency of multiple interments relates to the social stress of the expulsion period, as has been argued in the context of the social upheaval and consequent breakdown in funerary practices during the Contact period in North America (J. O'Shea, 'Social configuration and the archaeological study of mortuary practices: a case study', in R. Chapman, I. Kinnes and K. Randsborg (eds.) *The Archaeology of Death* (Cambridge, 1981)). That Peter Addyman can write of norms for medieval populations in his summary of the volume attests to the quality and number of recent reports on medieval burials in York and elsewhere. This volume is an important addition to that tradition of scholarship.

CHRISTOPHER J. KNÜSEL

*Monnow Bridge and Gate*. By M. L. J. Rowlands. 16 x 23 cm. 81 figs. and pls. Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1994. ISBN 0-7509-0415-1. Price: £9.99 pb.

Medieval bridges were often fortified with a gate tower, although the obstruction they later caused to traffic has nearly always led to their total demolition. Monnow Gate at Monmouth is a rare exception and unlike the other survival at Warkworth, Northumbria, is not on the landward end of the bridge but on its first pier in the river, not quite in the centre as at Cahors or Orthez in France. The bridge may be of the late 13th and the tower early 14th century (murge grants) although not firmly dated. This booklet is a detailed account of it providing illustrations of virtually all early engravings and prints, together with sections, plans, stages of development and a very thorough account of the written sources. The author has had access to official files so nothing is omitted: it must be one of the fullest accounts of a bridge or tower that we have. My only criticisms are slight: no index or map of the bridge in relation to the Monnow, Wye and town and the small print (9/11 point) that is not easy to read.

Figure 27 shows the stages of development of the gateway as the author sees them. He thinks the original archway was pointed (the bridge arches are round), and the machicolations on the outer face are an addition of the late 14th century. Machicolations

were known and sparingly used in the 13th century (Edward I's castles) but they really only took off when their aesthetic quality was appreciated late in the next century: the fact that the added machicolations in this case prevented the operation of the portcullis in this case is amusing confirmation of this! There is much else one might comment on: the pedestrian passages driven through the masonry on either side in the last century, the conversion to a dwelling, the study of the bridge itself and its rings and widening at later dates, the discovery of the wooden pad under the pier by the Glamorgan/Gwent Trust, the musket (?) holes, the translation of the 1297 murage grant allowing a range of tolls, the full bibliography and much else. The most impressive feature of the book undoubtedly is the drawings, plans and sections, which suggest a professional background for the author.

The reviewer will not pursue the matter further since it is abundantly clear to the reader that he warmly recommends it to those interested in medieval bridges and fortification and indeed to all interested in the Middle Ages.

MICHAEL THOMPSON

*The East Brittany Survey. Fieldwork and Field Data.* By Wendy Davies and Grenville Astill. 22 x 31 cm. xiv + 293 pp., 93 figs. and pls., 26 tables. Aldershot: Scolar Press, 1995. ISBN 1-85928-125-7. Price: £75.00 hb.

The objective of this multi-disciplinary survey, conducted between 1982 and 1987 in a well-documented but previously poorly researched area of Brittany, was to test what field survey could add to documentary evidence for the study of landscape evolution in the historic period. An area with a high percentage of arable was chosen to enable comprehensive fieldwalking, with a core of 190 sq. km being intensively surveyed while sample areas were examined over a much wider surrounding territory.

The project proved over-ambitious in trying to employ the full range of survey techniques at a long distance from base, failing among other things to deliver the crucial aerial photographic and geophysical surveys. Field walking was the main technique successfully employed, with intensive 'total collection' samples used to check the results of the comprehensive transect fieldwalking. This was then followed by a systematic programme of trial excavation. Other work included documentary study and buildings survey, but an obvious omission was a programme of metal detecting. Other limitations resulted from the choice of area, in particular the lack of substantial previous excavations, so requiring the creation of a new ceramic fabric series for all periods, and the lack of any ceramic evidence for the 5th—9th centuries A.D.

This volume discusses only the archaeological fieldwork and is in large part a presentation of annual reports on each survey season, together with the ceramic fabric series and other field data. Apart from the discussion of the value of the field survey strategies this is a reference volume containing valuable information, but most of this one might have expected to be deposited with the archive. Although the volume provides comparative data which will be useful for those conducting other field walking projects, the conclusions on survey methodology do not seem to take us very far forward. Some appear specific to the region, being quite different in important respects from experience in some parts of England. Moreover, the work would seem to have been overtaken by events, a problem shared by other contemporary survey projects, due to the time taken to reach publication. Survey methodology has moved on a good deal since this work was carried out.

None of these comments should however be taken as questioning the value of the East Brittany Survey. This can only be judged when the all important synthesis volume, *A Breton Landscape*, is published in 1996.

GLENN FOARD

*The History of Soils and Field Systems*. Edited by S. Foster and T. C. Smout 15 × 23 cm. 165 pp., figs., pls. Aberdeen: Scottish Cultural Press, 1995. ISBN 1-898218-13-7. Price: £9.95 pb.

Soils and field systems are essential components in the understanding of the rural economy and landscape archaeology of any period. The publication within a single volume of papers from two seminars, held in Scotland in 1993, on the history of soils and on medieval or later field systems is, therefore, to be warmly welcomed. Appropriately, the papers concentrate on Scottish material, but range widely in time and there is much of interest and importance here for medieval, and other, archaeologists. *The History of Soils and Field Systems*, with two striking air photographs of field systems on the softback covers, is well produced and well illustrated and at a remarkably reasonable price.

The use of soils and the creation of field systems are linked by farming practices. The interactions between these take place within a further interacting framework of environmental factors. Change through time is the inevitable outcome in such a dynamic system. Not surprisingly, many different disciplines must contribute to the understanding of these interactions. Often evidence of one sort can be linked only tenuously with that of another. Changes in the deposits on valley floors, for example, reflect changes in the pattern and rates of soil erosion on the slopes above. These in turn presumably reflect changes in vegetation and soils, and sometimes perhaps climate, as well as changes in land use and farming practices. These last may be tangibly represented, at least in part, by surviving field systems or other archaeological evidence. The links may be difficult to establish, as the work reported by Mercer and Tipping in the Anglo-Scottish Borders clearly indicates, but this work also demonstrates that collaboration between archaeologists and environmental scientists offers great potential to improve the understanding of the interrelations between human activities and natural processes. More generally, the complexity of the archaeological record is well illustrated by Dixon in a review of field systems, rigs and other cultivation remains in Scotland, and by Dodgshon in his analysis and interpretation of the evidence for Highland field systems. Dodgshon raises the fundamental question as to the antiquity or archaism of practices, such as runrig in the Highlands, which were common before the radical changes brought about by agrarian reorganization in the last two centuries. The same question arises for the medievalist in assessing the role in earlier times of such practices of manuring and fertilising as those described by Shaw for the Scottish Lowlands in the period 1650–1800 and by Woodward for Britain in 1500–1800. Medieval fields were manured — with what, how often, how much? The man-made or anthropogenic soils in the Northern Isles described in excellent detail by Davidson and Simpson represent extreme examples of human influence in the making of soils. Such soils have been noted elsewhere in Scotland, while the *plaggen* soils of the Low Countries and Germany are widely known. How widespread were such man-made soils in medieval England?

The necessity for the creation of such soils on nutrient-poor sands may seem obvious, but the maintenance of fertility on other soils under conditions of continuous cropping poses other issues. Catt, in a masterly survey of the results of the long-running experiments at Rothamsted and Woburn, provides data of great interest to those concerned with crop yields and continuous cultivation, as relevant to considerations of modern agricultural

sustainability as to those of medieval farming practices. Related to these issues, in what the reviewer regards as conceptually the most stimulating paper in the volume, Dodgshon, with the apt title 'Budgeting for Survival', relates agricultural practices and nutrient flows in traditional Highland farming. But this a book full of a variety of insights. Other papers describe cultivation implements (Fenton), ridge-and-furrow in the English Midlands (Hall), soils as resources (Miles), and the problems of conservation of field system remains (Foster and Hingley).

Perceptive readers of this volume will view the fields and soils they study with new understanding.

BRUCE PROUDFOOT

*Rivenhall: Investigations of a Villa, Church and Village, 1950–1977. Vol. 2: Specialist Studies and Index to Volumes 1 and 2.* (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 80.) By W. J. Rodwell and K. A. Rodwell. 21 × 30 cm. x + 261 pp., 91 figs., 81 pls., 13 tables, 2 fiches. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1993. ISBN 1-872414-10-9. Price: £36 pb.

The first Rivenhall volume, published in 1985 (C.B.A. Research Report 55), reported on the Roman villa, the cemeteries and the church, and included a preliminary survey of the archaeology of the entire parish. This second and concluding volume contains specialists' reports on the building fabric of the villa and church, the funerary monuments, miscellaneous artefacts and skeletal material from the excavations, and a further analysis of the landscape, together with a history of the secular and ecclesiastical property units within the parish.

Amongst the specialists' reports, those on the medieval bricks, window glass, grave slabs, 5th-century glass beakers and Saxon and medieval pottery will be of interest to this journal's readers. It is impossible to summarize these in such a brief review, but T. P. O'Connor's study of the human skeletal material raises some interesting queries. Why is there an apparent change in cephalic index and male stature after the late Saxon period? Does the increase in caries in the later Middle Ages reflect a change in diet? A curiosity of the church is its collection of medieval French glass, and Warwick Rodwell recounts how this was acquired by the rector while on holiday in 1839.

For this reviewer the most stimulating contribution was the landscape analysis, a model demonstration of the combined use of documentary, cartographical, toponymic, topographical, archaeological and botanical evidence. Rivenhall was characterized throughout the Middle Ages by a dispersed settlement pattern with rectilinear enclosed fields. Some of the basic framework of this landscape appears to have survived from the Roman period or before. Michael Astor's valuable survey of the hedges could usefully have been accompanied by a map showing the distribution of species count totals and significant individual species. Oliver Rackham considers that some of the surviving woods 'may, in part, be primary woodland derived from the prehistoric forest' (p. 122), and this appears at odds with Warwick Rodwell's view, twice expressed, that none of the ancient woods are primeval, but represent secondary regeneration over former fields (pp. 105, 176). There is nothing inherently improbable in Rodwell's suggestion of an 11th-century origin for the first park, but the inference that the lack of documentation itself indicates 'an origin before the 13th century, when the registration of parks began' (p. 111) is questionable: many parks were made without royal licence, and often the first that we hear of them is a park-breaking episode, as at Rivenhall. This reviewer also remains unconvinced by the claim that the similarity in plan of Rivenhall's first park to that of another park nearly 20 miles

away provides 'evidence of careful park planning in the medieval period . . . these parks were constructed with a prescribed area in mind, evidently 250 acres, or perhaps 2 hides' (p. 111); more than two examples are required to support such an argument, and studies of medieval parks elsewhere have revealed a wide range of shapes and sizes. However, such minor quibbles should not detract from the remarkable achievement summarized in this volume and its earlier companion. Only a long-term multidisciplinary investigation of this type can achieve such a depth of understanding of a piece of landscape.

JAMES BOND

*The Origins and Development of Witham, Essex.* (Oxbow Monograph 26.) By Warwick Rodwell. 21 x 30 cm. xii + 128 pp., 59 figs. and pls. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 1993. ISBN 0-946897-50-6. Price: £28.00 pb.

Witham, which lies adjacent to the well-known Rivenhall, is a fascinating location where the archaeology has unfortunately been devastated by development. It was a central place from perhaps the late Bronze Age through to the present and lay within a wider landscape which saw a high level of continuity in field systems from the prehistoric to the present. The monuments, lying in close proximity near a strategic river crossing by a major Roman road, include a hillfort, an Iron Age and Roman religious site, a Saxon royal hundredal manor and old minster, a late Saxon burh and a medieval planned town. The exploration of such sequences is essential if we are to understand how power was actually exercised in the past, and that in itself makes this book worth reading. Witham's context, one of dispersed settlement and enclosed field systems, is also of great interest because the understanding of the organization and evolution of such landscapes is vital as a complement to the far more intensively studied 'central province' of England, with its medieval nucleated settlement pattern and open field systems.

Rodwell explores Witham mainly through archaeological and topographical evidence, supporting his study with numerous plans and maps, but he makes far more limited use of historical sources. What is lacking is the time-consuming topographical reconstruction, using the full range of medieval and post-medieval documentary evidence, which must underpin the kind of detailed morphological analysis which Rodwell attempts. Only with such a secure foundation, if one's sources are adequate, can one confidently disentangle the complex evolution of medieval settlement, field systems, and tenurial and parochial organization, let alone make the great leap back into the Saxon period or beyond. Such careful preparation cannot be replaced by detailed hypothesising based mainly on 19th-century maps with just a scattering of earlier documentary data disembodied from its exact topographical context. One cannot dispute the hypotheses presented by Rodwell, some or all of which could prove to be correct, but one cannot accept them with confidence, whether it be the identification of Saxon burh defences or the layout of tenements and evolution of a medieval settlement. This is after all approaching the documented medieval and post-medieval landscape almost as though it was prehistoric.

However once past the excavation summaries, which should have been relegated to appendices, this proves to be a worthwhile book because it raises so many interesting questions as to the way the landscape may have evolved, even if it does leave one feeling the need to go out and explore the documentary sources in detail — if, of course, the necessary material survives.

GLENN FOARD

*Cressing Temple: a Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex.* Edited by D. D. Andrews. 30 × 21 cm. 122 pp., 26 pls., 39 figs., bibliography. Chelmsford: Essex County Council Planning, 1993. ISBN 1-8528-1084-X. Price not stated, pb.

Since Cecil Hewett drew attention to the archaic carpentry of the Cressing Temple barns in the 1950s they have become, as Vic Gray puts it in the introduction to this volume, 'a place of pilgrimage' to those interested in timber-framed building. Essex County Council's decision to buy the site in 1987 began a programme of restoration and preparation for public opening; a 'stocktaking' conference in 1992 sought to present the site and its buildings in a wider historical and archaeological context, and its proceedings were published, with some revisions, in the volume under review. P. M. Ryan outlines the descent of the estate and the documentary evidence for the history of the buildings; John Hunter discusses the historic landscape from Roman times onwards, showing *inter alia* that the Templars placed their demesne farmstead away from existing settlement and that the manor was well supplied with woodland; Tim Robey treats the (underground) archaeology of the site, discussing the relationship of the post-medieval great house, lost in the 18th century, to the medieval structures; Dave Stenning relates the barns to a hypothesis of the early development of barns in SE. England; Ian Tyers discusses tree-ring dating and the Essex curve; Oliver Rackham calculates the number, size, and type of trees using the barns, showing that the Wheat Barn required less than 75% of the woodland production used in the earlier Barley Barn; Pat Ryan and David Andrews propose a brick and tile typology for Cressing Temple, and in another chapter give a very detailed account of the remarkable Tudor walled garden and its brickwork.

Several of the chapters are of more than local interest, though space here precludes singling out more than a few. The innovative brick and tile typology, while centred on Cressing, gives a table of dated brick in Essex which will be of considerable value for reference, and should form a model for similar attempts elsewhere. Ian Tyers's chapter also includes a full list of tree-ring samples from Essex. Archaeologists may regret that the book cannot make more conclusive suggestions to explain the curious relative alignments of surviving and excavated structures, but Cressing is far from unique in that respect. Dave Stenning's discussion of the barns is the heart of the book, and it is a pity that the results of revised datings of the Belchamp St Paul barn and of fieldwork at Sandonbury (Herts.) had to be included in a postscript rather than in the masterly sequence developed in the main text, which they partly contradict. Surprisingly, the article's measured plans and sections of the Cressing barns appear to be the first accurate drawings of them to be published, despite their long notoriety, and future students should be permanently grateful to the author therefor. The reconstruction of the Barley Barn has many points of interest, of which the most surprising is the demonstration that the aisles must have had purlins: as in 12th-century French churches, aisle purlins thus came into use earlier than those in the nave. The author's discussion of the more remote connections of the barns' carpentry, and his suggestion that religious orders may have had their own workshops, would have been strengthened by comparison of the Wheat Barn's upper roof structure with those of the Templars' slightly earlier barn at Siddington (Glos.) and significantly earlier hall at Temple Balsall (Warws.). This reviewer finds the suggestion of 'hybridization' between a French and a Northern European tradition anachronistic: other evidence suggests rather that the French and western lowland English traditions were innovations of the high Middle Ages within a common North European tradition, whose other areas adopted their new techniques more slowly and selectively.

This volume makes useful contributions to all the subjects that it touches. One must have some regrets about the editing: the documentary history shows why the British Standards Institution advised that the Harvard system was the least suitable for citing unpublished sources; bibliographers may be confused to find that the editor,

D. D. Andrews, is the same as the contributor David Andrews, and may wonder whether P. M. Ryan is Pat Ryan; and some of the cross-references to figures in Robey's chapter are to an earlier draft. But those points should not deter anyone from buying the book.

C. R. J. CURRIE

*Pennyland and Hartigans. Two Iron Age and Saxon Sites in Milton Keynes*. By R. J. Williams. 22 x 30 cm. xiv + 275 pp., 107 figs., 24 pls., 58 tables. Aylesbury: Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, 1993. ISBN 0-949003-1-5. Price: £22.50 pb.

The monograph is part of the legacy of the now-defunct Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit, after 20 years of operation. As the title says, one gets two consecutive site reports for the price of one, plus — as a bonus — short accounts of several minor watching briefs and salvage operations carried out around the main sites. The term 'Saxon' might have been qualified, however, since the occupation of the settlements spanned the early to mid part of the period only.

The volume is well structured and presents the evidence and its interpretation, in a remarkably clear and concise manner. Following the usual sections on the history of the excavations and their methodology, each settlement is described and discussed in turn. The structural evidence is presented for each main period of occupation: Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon. At each stage the facts are reviewed in short thematic discussions incorporating data from the cultural and environmental material. The detail of the latter is found in self-contained specialized sections. On the whole there is a good balance between the structural evidence, its discussion, and the reporting on other findings.

Reasonably, in view of its larger size and potential, Pennyland takes the lion's share of the report. The Iron Age settlement comprises the usual array of ditched enclosures, hut circles and pits which in this case seem to have been laid out at either sides of a ditched droveway. Occupation may have started as open-plan settlement with hut circles and associated pits, which later became dominated by ditched enclosures.

The early/mid Saxon settlement, which replaced the previous occupation on the same site, comprised timber halls, sunken-featured buildings, and wells, together with associated ditched enclosures. Three consecutive phases of development are proposed, taking the settlement plan from a thin scatter of sunken-featured buildings, through a partly enclosed layout with rectangular timber halls, before finally reverting practically to the original open scatter of sunken-featured huts. The interpretation is based on few stratigraphical links and it relies almost entirely on the occurrence of decorated 'early' Saxon sherds, or 'middle' Saxon wares (Ipswich and Maxey) in some features and not in others. Personally I was not convinced, but this is all that the evidence can support and the authors provide all the elements of information necessary for the reader to make his/her mind up.

On the whole, the excavations have recorded a partially articulated skeleton of settlement whose flesh was ploughed away in subsequent periods. This classic situation severely hampers any attempt to expand the interpretation into higher considerations about settlement dynamics and interrelationship, let alone basic site phasing. This becomes obvious in all of the discursive sections and the author apologizes frequently for it. Yet there is nothing he or anybody else could have done about it, and it is to his credit to have spared us pages of unnecessary waffle. The volume is very well produced and contributes considerably to the growing body of information on the morphology and, to a lesser extent, the economy of 'ordinary' Iron Age and, particularly, early/mid Saxon settlements. Pennyland, for instance, certainly expands the geographical and social distribution of mid

Saxon types of pottery. The early/mid Saxon enthusiast, however, will still be disappointed: thirteen sunken-featured buildings were excavated but none has improved our understanding of their structure and function. The same goes for two securely identified timber halls. Still, they can fall back onto the better-preserved wells, which all have remnants of their timber lining and even part of a ladder.

The report is wrapped up in a final discussion which places the Iron Age and early/mid Saxon settlements within the broader local context, as well as the current trends in settlement studies. It does not break any new ground and its main merit is that, like the report as a whole, it is clear, concise, and therefore convincing. The Milton Keynes Unit lives on.

MICHEL AUDUOY

*Advances in Monastic Archaeology.* (British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 227.) Edited by R. Gilchrist and H. Mytum. 22 × 30 cm. ii + 148 pp., figs. Oxford: Tempus Reparatum, 1993. ISBN 0-86054-746-9. Price: £24.00 pb.

This eclectic collection emerges from a conference on urban monasteries held at York in 1989. Three papers are, not surprisingly, devoted to aspects of monasticism in the towns of Yorkshire and the N. Palliser provides an overview of monastic houses in the Yorkshire urban landscape, while Ward focuses in similar fashion on Chester. These are useful surveys, but perhaps more satisfying is Cullum's more detailed account of St Leonard's Hospital, York. Medieval hospitals have, like nunneries, long been the 'poor relations' amongst medieval religious houses, and are only now receiving due attention. Cullum's study provides an exemplary model. Bond's survey of water management in urban monasteries is a most valuable and stimulating summary, which should provide a framework for further archaeological and documentary research, while the useful catalogue of monastic water supply systems clearly demonstrates how so many English towns were dependent on religious houses for water provision. Both Palliser and Schofield stress how urban topography continued to be influenced by the monastic imprint after the Dissolution, Schofield showing how in London many former monastic sites were first converted to substantial and luxurious dwellings before being segmented into smaller residential or industrial units.

The remaining papers are scarcely integrated, if at all, into the volume's urban framework — the most extreme example being Stocker's paper on worked stone — and though all have individual value it might have been better if they had appeared elsewhere, thereby enabling this volume to be more tightly focused. Using the tiles of Bordesley Abbey, Stopford presents an interesting and subtle typology which is generally convincing, though the distinction she draws between an earlier 'commercial' and 'secular' mode of production and a later 'in-house' monastic manufacture is by no means persuasive. O'Connor's discussion of bone assemblages from monastic sites raises more questions than it answers: the conclusion does little to carry the problem forward. Moorhouse provides a characteristically informative analysis of the functions of pottery and glass within the monastic precinct, cogently arguing for an interpretation of the *total assemblage* of finds within the monastic complex.

BRIAN GOLDING

*Early Monasteries in Cornwall*. By Lynette Olson. 17 × 25 cm. xxiv + 135 pp., 14 figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1989. ISBN 00-85115-478-6. Price: £39.50 hb.

The question of monasticism in early Christian Cornwall has aroused a good deal of interest down the years and for this reason, if for no other, Lynette Olson's volume on the early Cornish monasteries is to be welcomed. The author avowedly draws on the earlier writings of Gilbert Doble and Charles Henderson and the more recent work of Charles Thomas, together with her own researches, to bring together the evidence and the arguments in a single comprehensive volume.

The substance of the volume is divided into three chapters, which consider the general context and the literary evidence, the archaeological evidence, and the evidence of early Cornish religious communities. This is completed by a very brief conclusion. The discussion of the literary evidence — as indeed it must — concentrates upon the Lives of the saints. These *vita*e are all well known source material, which Olson discusses sensibly. She produces from them nothing new, probably because, short of a major new discovery, there is nothing new to be produced. The following archaeological chapter concentrates upon the imported wares, with a side glance at the inscribed stones and field monuments. It has to be said that, from the standpoint of theoretical advances in the study of prehistory, this archaeological discussion seems thin and rather naïve. Certainly, Olson shares this naïvety with many colleagues in her field, but her chapter left this reader rather unsatisfied. The third chapter, on the early Cornish religious communities, comprises eight sections, each of which covers particularly relevant documents. This chapter is the most interesting part of the book. The newly discovered list of Cornish saints' names is dealt with interestingly in pp. 56–60. The discussion about *Dinuurrin* and its identification as Bodmin is argued convincingly in terms of local topography on pp. 51–56, although the inter-related history of Padstow, Bodmin, St German's and the Cornish bishops remains as obscure as ever.

This is a very solid, well-researched, suitably cautious, and thoroughly useful addition to our literature on early Cornwall. Three points struck this reviewer which in no way reflect upon what Olson has done, but perhaps point the way forward. Early Cornish monasteries need to be discussed in terms of landscape, their own character, their integration into local society and their subsequent fate during the West Saxon advance. In this process 'Cornwall' is not a helpful unit of study. Olson found herself willy-nilly discussing evidence from Exeter, Glastonbury and Cadbury Congresbury and might have discussed sites in North Devon. In the very early phase, in particular, it is very unhelpful to make a cut-off at the Tamar when the need is to discuss the peninsula as a whole. Equally, the time is surely ripe for a concerted look at the whole of the early Christian South-West in a style which takes cognisance of new dimensions and approaches. When this work is done, Olson's book will provide most welcome assistance.

SUSAN PEARCE

*The Trinitarian Order in England: Excavations at Thelsford Priory*. (British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 226.) By Margaret Gray; edited by Lorna Watts and Philip Rahtz. 22 × 30 cm. vii + 144 pp., figs. Oxford: Tempus Reparatum, 1993. ISBN 0-86054-741-8. Price: £25.00 pb.

The Trinitarian friars were neither fish nor fowl, 'defying' as Gray states, 'the usual categorizations'. Normally grouped with the mendicant friars, they neither begged nor evangelized, nor were they a specifically urban phenomenon. Yet their organization showed some similarities with the Dominicans, and the reason may be that both emerged

from an Augustinian context, and, indeed, the Trinitarians have more in common with the Augustinian canons in both their rule and function, which was primarily eleemosynary, than with other religious communities. The Trinitarians were established at the end of the 12th century in order to work for Christians captured by Muslims, and to raise money for their release. The order enjoyed widespread support through western and central Europe, and as their original function declined in importance they took on charitable work more locally, frequently taking over the administration of hospitals.

The English houses (ten in number) have been little studied — there are no full-length accounts in English — and none were excavated until Thelsford in 1966 and 1972. This account is therefore to be warmly welcomed. Thelsford was the second poorest English house, with an assessed income in 1535 of £24; none were ever wealthy. The original foundation belonged to another eleemosynary crusading order, the canons of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, established at the beginning of the 12th century, but whose English houses were disbanded in the following century. Throughout its history Thelsford was under the patronage of the Lucy family of Charlecote and the priory came to have a dual function, as hospital and as chantry for its patronal family, a role which seems to be reflected in the extension of the church by a Lady Chapel at the end of the 13th century. The excavations concentrated on the church and cloister area, along with some of the ancillary structures; as is recognized here, future work must focus on the earlier buildings associated with the first century of the Trinitarian foundation, the early church, and the hospital buildings. Such work will be the more useful, since as the order's rule partook more of an Augustinian character than that of the mendicants it would be valuable to ascertain how far Thelsford's plan followed Augustinian models.

While this report concentrates on Thelsford it also contains a valuable and detailed gazetteer of Trinitarian sites in Britain, together with a full bibliography, which will be an indispensable aid when the order finally receives the attention it deserves.

BRIAN GOLDING

*The English Heritage Book of Glastonbury.* By Philip Rahtz. 19 x 25 cm. 144 pp., 97 figs. and pls., 15 in colour. London: Batsford, 1993. ISBN 0-7134-6866-1. Price: £14.99 pb.

The English Heritage/Batsford collaborative scheme marches on with yet more delights published each year. For visits, teaching and just general archaeological interest the series is rapidly becoming indispensable. Glastonbury cannot have been the most straightforward volume to produce. Only the tribunal, a late medieval town house, and the unique abbots' fish house at Meare are in English Heritage guardianship, and most of what is discussed in the book relates to previous excavations, of which little can be seen on the ground today. But much more significantly, Glastonbury has been hijacked by an alternative culture, with alternative explanations and ideas about all that Philip Rahtz discusses here. He faces this challenge head-on telling us (p. 11) that 'this book is about the true rather than the bogus Glastonbury'. Nevertheless, he does describe and illustrate a number of alternative explanations for site in the area — such as the 'maze' around the Tor and the 'zodiac' invented/discovered by Mrs Maltwood in the fields around. He may have been too reasonable in his attempt to give equal weight, or at least reasonable discussion, to differing viewpoints. The reviewer has already seen even the mention of an alternative idea in this book taken as 'confirmation' that it must be true, as it is referred to by Professor Rahtz!

As well as 'alternative ideas, Glastonbury suffers from an extensive mythology developed from the 12th century onwards and forming the basis of many peoples' visits to

day — Joseph of Arimathea, the Thorn, King Arthur, and so on. Rahtz, I suspect, is less sympathetic to these ideas and does an effective demolition job, following and developing Trehearne's ideas (*The Glastonbury Legends*, 1967), p. 77) that 'the general public always prefers its history coloured with sensation, excitement and dramatic incident, and the more scholarly and sound the critic, the less will be heard or credited by the general reader'.

So what is there for the scholars here? The book is a full and thorough exposition of what is sensibly known about Glastonbury, based not only on Rahtz's own excavations at the Tor, Beckery and Chalice Well, but also on his long contact with other researchers, such as Raleigh Radford. This long digestion of information about Glastonbury results in careful and clear judgements on what we know so far. Rahtz goes for an original eremitic monastery on the Tor, probably one of the earliest in the country and dating perhaps to the late 5th century. This seems to be followed by the development of the present abbey site in the 7th and 8th centuries on a more extensive, level site where there may have been a Roman building (a villa?). The marshes around were full of satellite hermitages, at Beckery, Godney, Marchey and Nyland, echoing Lerins off the Mediterranean coast at Cannes — 'a central *coenobium* under an abbot and a cluster of satellite hermitages where the elders, who had been trained in the community could venture out to the solitary struggle of the desert': in this case, the marshes of the Somerset Levels. All of this is set in the context of the prehistoric and Roman background, including timber trackways and lake villages, and brought forward to the medieval abbey and its estates and the modern town.

The illustrations are full and useful, with attractive reconstructions by Judith Dobie and plenty of maps and diagrams. This reviewer went round the Abbey site with the book and found it worked well.

More could have been said on the estates and medieval Levels, perhaps the weakest part of the book, but arguably not central to its main theme. The references in the illustrations (such as Rodwell 1984, Ellis 1982, etc.) are not in the bibliography. But these are minor points to what is a magnificent achievement. Philip Rahtz, and his wife Lorna Watts, who helped with so much of the material, are to be congratulated on reducing so much of the confusion and inexactitude about Glastonbury and giving us a text which will prove useful for many years to come.

MICHAEL ASTON

*The English Heritage Book of Lindisfarne*. By Deirdre O'Sullivan and Robert Young. 19 × 25 cm. 128 pp., 91 figs. and pls., 14 in colour. London: Batsford, 1994. ISBN 0-7134-7229-4. Price: £14.99 pb.

The Batsford/English Heritage series marches on across our bookshelves! This book is another in the familiar livery; they not only provide all the useful background to particular sites, but cumulatively they are providing new general perspectives on British archaeology.

In fact, this volume is more of an edited volume rather than the work of a single author — perhaps this could become the model for more complex sites needing deeper appraisal. Thus, there are contributions by Kevin Walsh, Eric Cambridge, who wrote the excellent English Heritage guide to the main site (why did he not do this volume?) and Paul Beavitt. The book is based on the long-term Lindisfarne Research Project based at Lampeter and Leicester Universities.

Chapter 1 reminds us of the background — why Lindisfarne is important. This is followed by an environmental chapter (2) and one on prehistory (3), both of which

demonstrate results of new work on the island. The next three chapters form a third of the book and relate to the period which we generally think of as important at Lindisfarne — the Anglo-Saxon monastery, St Cuthbert and the medieval priory. Here there is much useful discussion about the royal connections, the early land endowments and the original monastic arrangements. St Cuthbert is well covered, as are the Lindisfarne Gospels and St Cuthbert's relics.

Some discussions (such as the geophysical surveys), and the illustrations which accompany them, perhaps assume too much in a general book like this, and there is a certain unevenness in what is described. More should have been said about early monastic plans, for example, in relation to the amount of discussion on St Cuthbert's Island, which is a minor site but well covered. And given its importance, why is Peter Dunn's reconstruction of Anglo-Saxon Lindisfarne (colour Pl. 4) reproduced at such a minuscule size (especially in relation to colour Pl. 11, for example — a bit of medieval wall)? Arguably, all of the Cuthbert objects and the Lindisfarne Gospels illustrations should have been reproduced in colour in a general book of this type.

The later chapters deal with recent research on medieval settlement, the castle and the island community. Here again is demonstrated the only major criticism of this volume: the imbalance of content. There is, for example, far too much about the settlement at Green Shiel (though clearly of great interest to the authors) for a general volume like this, especially when compared to the Anglo-Saxon aspects of Lindisfarne. Whilst it might be argued that a full coverage of all periods needs to be included, most readers will expect the main periods of the Island's history to be dominant and thoroughly covered. Most of the volume should have been about the Anglo-Saxon period and this should have been reflected in the illustrations.

Nevertheless there is much of interest here, and this book will surely fulfil its main purpose of drawing attention to the significant aspects of Holy Island, if used as a companion to an intelligent visit.

MICHAEL ASTON

*The English Heritage Book of Fountains Abbey*. By Glyn Coppock. 19 × 25 cm. 127 pp, 95 figs. and pls., incl. 12 colour pls. London: Batsford, 1993. ISBN 0-7134-685-9. Price: £14.99 pb.

In *Fountains Abbey* Glyn Coppock gives a concise, lucid and well-illustrated account of the 'most intensively studied Cistercian house in Europe'. Here is a book which gives a good indication of how archaeological fieldwork on well-preserved sites can be used to write a history of a monument. In four chapters Coppock gives a chronological account extending from foundation to the late 15th century; there follows a thematic chapter on agriculture, industry and wealth, and a final chapter on the Dissolution and subsequent history. But there is nothing parochial here: the story of Fountains is presented in the context of the development of the Cistercians because Coppock believes that change at Fountains is related to change in the international order itself.

The emphasis until the mid 13th century is on the building history of church and cloister, and it is a remarkable sequence which emphasises the dynamism of the community. With four major building programmes over 115 years, it appears there were only about 23 years when no extensive work was done; but presumably space did not allow a consideration of the impact on the community. After about 1250 construction stopped for over 200 years, and so the main concern of the later chapters is to discuss the spatial changes within the church and claustral buildings. Every chapter has new insights. It is particularly interesting to see how the faltering and penurious early history of the house,

and the plan of the first stone church, are interpreted as reflections of the ambiguous position of a community on the point of leaving the Benedictines, but yet to be accepted into the Cistercian order.

Any general book needs a strong framework, as here, but in places the account appears so seamless that one wonders how the various kinds of evidence are actually being used. It is clear that the documentary record remains influential in establishing the sequence and, in view of past attempts to interpret this site, it is surprising to see the confidence with which some phases of building work are related to a particular abbot.

The book also gives clear indications of new lines of enquiry, especially concerning the monastic estates and economy. Even the changing function and importance of the different claustral buildings from the 14th century is more complex than previously thought; they are well illustrated by the alterations made to the infirmary and abbot's lodgings which shifted the social focus of the community to this area from the cloister.

As Coppock says, the high-quality information from Fountains will clearly repay further attention, and in the future it would be interesting to see the theoretical approaches now being employed by some architectural historians and archaeologists applied to a wider study of the Fountains building complex.

With a further twenty years of fieldwork and conservation planned, this book will be the most accessible and authoritative account of the abbey for the foreseeable future.

GRENVILLE ASTILL

*A Medieval Industrial Complex and its Landscape: the Metalworking Watermills and Workshops of Bordesley Abbey.* (C.B.A. Research Report 92.) By G. G. Astill. 21 x 30 cm. xx + 317 pp., 126 figs., 38 pls., 67 tables, 2 microfiches. York: Council for British Archaeology, 1993. ISBN 1-872414-43-5. Price: £36.00 pb.

This is the third volume in a series reporting on the archaeological investigations at the Cistercian abbey of Bordesley. Describing work undertaken between 1980 and 1991 in the eastern part of the monastic precinct, it is a descriptive account of the excavations of a sequence of monastic watermills and workshops and the associated water management systems. The title, which holds promise of an analysis of the wider landscape within which these activities were undertaken, is misleading, since the landscape referred to is little more than the immediate environs within the monastic precinct.

Medieval activity on the site commenced in the mid 12th century and continued through a sequence of four distinct periods of watermill construction and use until the mid 14th century. Much of the site was waterlogged, allowing the preservation of organic materials; of particular relevance to the interpretation of this site was the large amount of structural timber recovered, some of which belonged to the mechanics of the mill machinery.

The methodologies employed in the fieldwork and an analysis of the stratigraphic sequences are outlined in Chapter 1. The excavation area was divided into five 10 m squares, each given a distinct letter code used in the identification of contexts within the report. Watercourses, a wheel pit, building foundations and hearth bases were exposed. It is suggested that the first watermill was built on the site in the late 12th century, succeeding an earlier structure described as a workshop possibly used by labourers during the construction of the first watermill. This interpretation seems unlikely however, given that the first watermill was built over and around the earlier structure. The section on the mill structural timber sequence by S. J. Allen is particularly interesting, but the very necessary accompanying glossary is highly selective. Whilst explaining commonly understood terms,

such as mortise and tenon, it does not list more specialist terms, some of which, like 'medullary rays', are used within the glossary explanations themselves.

Chapter 2, dealing with the finds, is the largest section of the report. Each artefact category is grouped according to their constituent material; stone, wood, leather, etc. The lengthy coverage of some categories of artefact is justified by the rarity of wooden mill remains, and the reports are focused primarily on the finds which related to the mill structure and mechanics. Of particular note are the stone bearings and wooden cogs which made up some of the moving parts of the mill mechanisms. The presentation of these artefacts and their accompanying illustrations is excellent and will surely form an important reference source for anyone examining similar sites. The least successful reports are those dealing with ecofacts, which overall seem to add little to the interpretation of the site, with the exception perhaps of the discussion of botanical remains relating to textile manufacture.

The possibility of the site having operated, primarily in the 13th century, as a fulling mill is discussed in Chapter 3. This concludes the report with an examination of the site in the context of our current knowledge concerning medieval water-powered industries. Textile working on the site is rejected in favour of smithing after a well-balanced discussion. The contention that the site lacked furnaces for vats, however, ignores the possibility that the tiled hearths could have been used for this purpose, as has been postulated on other sites such as at Romsey (Hants). The author's favoured interpretation, that the site was a water-powered smithy, must it seems hold true as the site's principal function for at least part of its existence, in which case Bordesley is an early example of the use of water power in this context.

Profusely illustrated, with some splendid reconstructions, the usefulness of the report is slightly inhibited by the difficulty in relating the reconstructions, most of which are contained in Chapter 3, with the recorded excavation details in Chapter 1. Overall, however, the report is well produced and accessible and must become essential reading for anyone interested in industrial or monastic archaeology.

RICHARD NEWMAN

*The English Medieval Hospital 1050–1640.* By Elizabeth Prescott. 16 × 24 cm. viii + 184 pp., 61 pls. London: Seaby. ISBN 1-85264-054-5. Price: £22.50 pb.

This volume describes the institutional forms and architecture of the medieval hospital, with sections structured according to differences between early hospitals (*c.* 1200–1350), infirmaries (*c.* 1350–1547) and later medieval almshouses. A subsequent chapter is devoted to the changes which followed the Reformation. These included the growing corporate and municipal concern for welfare that replaced the more religious purposes of earlier foundations, and an increasing emphasis placed on private lodgings at the expense of communal facilities. The patrons, religious personnel, inmates and paying guests of hospitals are introduced, but hospital architecture forms the major focus of the study, including a substantial and amply illustrated architectural gazetteer.

In defining the role of the medieval hospital, Prescott refers to its significance in relation to pilgrimage, alms-giving, shelter of the sick and poor, and the provision of hospitality, charity and education. Evaluation of such social and religious functions is limited, however, and omits to consider the standard works of recent years (e.g. M. Rubin, *Charity and Community in Medieval Cambridge*, 1987). Similarly, the brief overviews of medieval medical practice and medieval leprosy are out of step with current thinking on these matters (e.g. C. Rawcliffe, *Medicine and Society in the Later Middle Ages*, 1995); the evidence of palaeopathology and environmental archaeology are completely neglected.

Prescott provides an updated introduction to the architecture of medieval hospitals, supplementing R. M. Clay's *The Medieval Hospitals of England* (1909) and W. H. Godfrey's *The English Almshouse* (1955). This book serves as a popular introduction to medieval hospitals and a useful gazetteer to their standing remains. The author relies primarily on secondary sources: architectural descriptions are trawled largely from Pevsner's *The Buildings of England*, and documentary references are derived from published sources. Despite the considerable number of plates, archaeologists will be puzzled by the complete absence of ground-plans. Nor is there any evaluation of the archaeological evidence of excavated buildings, artefacts or human remains. These omissions, together with errors in captions and the bibliography, make this a pricey paperback.

ROBERTA. GILCHRIST

*The Franciscan Friary of Svendborg.* (The Archaeology of Svendborg, Denmark 6). By Hans Krøngaard Kristensen. 26 × 24 cm. 110 pp., 117 figs. and pls., incl. 2 loose in pocket. Svendborg: Svendborg County Museum, 1994. ISBN 87-87769-66-2. ISSN 0106-2220. Price: Dkr150, hb.

Svendborg is a substantial medieval town on the central Danish island of Funen; its harbour is protected by two groups of islands, allowing easy contact with Jutland, Holstein and the N. German Baltic coast. The Franciscan friary was founded alongside the harbour in 1236 and a Romanesque church was soon erected. The religious community flourished, raising buildings around an inner cloister and an outer courtyard, and enlarging the church by 1361. The Reformation of 1537 brought a change of use: the friary became a hospital and a school until 1868, while the church remained for worship and burial until its demolition in 1828. Fortunately the church and W. range were meticulously recorded prior to demolition; the recent excavations, part of a larger urban rescue and research project, have explored those details of plan and stratigraphy not previously available.

This report is an attractive monograph, clearly written in accomplished English and with good attention to archaeological detail. The illustrations are of high quality and the plans are usually clear. However it does need a map showing Svendborg in relation to the comparable Danish and N. German sites, and it requires a better location map for the five major excavated areas, particularly as some plans do not have N. at the top or have no compass point on them.

As well as this account of the excavations of the church, cloister, N. and E. ranges, lay cemetery and precinct wall, there is careful consideration of the dispersed medieval furnishings, the post-medieval uses, the development of the precinct, and the building materials. There is a full discussion of methods of burial for the 144 skeletons in the lay cemetery (out of an assumed 3000). The waterlogged harbour-side site meant that 54 wooden coffins could provide useful dendrochronological dates. The friars were buried in the cloister, while gentry families were interred in the church and a family chapel of 1586–99. There is a brief mention of 'monastic plant' evidence but fuller information on organic and human remains has already been published in previous Svendborg monographs.

The value of this report to British readers is to supply a comparison with recent excavations at Carmarthen, Hartlepool, Jedburgh and Lincoln. Similar use of brick is found at Beverley and Hull, while the relieving arches below the cloister arcade walls have parallels with York city walls near Walmgate. The presumed oversailing ranges to N. and E. are a common European feature of the mendicant orders, but Kristensen's reminder

that this friary only obtained unity in its cloister plan late in the Middle Ages is a salutary warning against simplistic assumptions.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

*Arms, Armies and Fortifications in the Hundred Years War*. Edited by Anne Curry and Michael Hughes. 17 × 25 cm. xvii + 221 pp., 46 figs., 38 pls. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1994. ISBN 0-85115-365-8. Price: £39.50 pb.

This book is a record of the lectures given by twelve speakers at one of those delightful weekend courses held at Rewley House, Oxford. Some of the lectures are largely what has been published elsewhere but most have some original work in them. The various contributions may be briefly mentioned.

Bennet discusses the changing tactics in the battles although his plans of orthodox type are less convincing than those of Robert Hardy in Chapter 10. With a range limited to 400 yards the archers must have been shooting not only from the flanks but head-on. 'Potholes' for tripping horses are not post-holes for stakes. Ayton has a lot to tell us about the 'Edwardian Revolution' in army organization following the disaster of Bannockburn. Anne Curry tells the reader about the 15th-century English army, especially some fascinating information about the English garrison sizes in Normandy. Vale describes the war in Aquitaine in so far as the largely unpublished records will allow. Ormrod describes the impact of the French wars on the home front, while most of us will feel guilt at the description of the effects of the war on the unhappy French by Jones. Hughes gives a detailed account of the French raids on the S. coast and particularly the damage done at Southampton. The valuable accounts by Kenyon of the coastal defences in England, even as far as the Cow Tower at Norwich, and by Smith on the artillery of the period, introduce us to the new arm. One is very puzzled as to what firearms were used in the small inverted-keyhole openings, and it is good to know that the very early ordnance was small, although the extent of our ignorance about these early weapons is surprising.

The climax of the book is in some ways Chapter 10 by Robert Hardy on the longbow. Hardy is an actor (the vet in 'All Creatures Great and Small') but an accomplished long and crossbowman as the reviewer can testify from seeing him at work at White Castle, Gwent. His practical knowledge seems to bring a depth of understanding into the subject, not always very prominent with his academic co-speakers. The last two papers, on ships of the period and church monuments, also have very pertinent information.

Taking all in all the reviewer certainly feels that this book was eminently worth publishing and has left him much wiser about the fighting in the Hundred Years War. I would recommend it to medieval archaeologists and hope it proves a commercial success.

MICHAEL THOMPSON

*Fortress-Churches of Languedoc. Architecture, Religion and Conflict in the High Middle Ages*. By Sheila Bonde. 21 × 27 cm. xv + 270 pp., 104 figs. and pls. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-521-45084-5. Price: £50.00 hb.

Sheila Bonde, Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Brown University, has written an expensive book illustrating well the difficulties of approaching a subject lying between the disciplines of archaeology, history and architecture. The three fortress churches of Maguelone, Agde and St Pons de Thomières are seen as being in the vanguard of 11th/12th-century military technology. Their builders re-invented the ideas

of machicolations and fighting galleries which had characterized the 8th-century Abbasid fortresses of the Middle East. Bonde spent two years in the field researching this book but its arguments are largely derived from another five years in the libraries. Her considerable understanding of 12th-century French politics is supported by a 39-page appendix of Latin with English translations.

Unfortunately the field evidence is flawed. Her measured drawings of the three chosen buildings fall far short of modern archaeological expectations set by Rodwell (England) and Holst (Lubeck) in the 1980s. Photogrammetry as a technique is ignored and consequently there are no stone-by-stone drawings of the complex multi-period elevations of the three churches. This has been rectified by French archaeologists working in Maguelone 1993–95 and their results are displayed in the cathedral this summer. Bonde's photographs are amateurish and wrongly captioned. Fig. 37 is supposed to show 'the gallery in S. wall' at Maguelone. It does not. It is looking NE. and shows the opening into the N. transept. Fig. 51 claims to be 'interior view towards the E.'. Actually it is towards the W. — the church was re-orientated after the destruction of the chevet. The plans are worse. In the case of St Pons (Fig. 52) the author claims that it is phased but fails to distinguish between the 11th and 12th-century phases noticed in Fig. 57. Fig. 57 is inconsistent with the text (p. 103) which says that the 12th-century fortifications of the church are integral with the construction of the nave. There are no location maps showing France as a whole; no individual maps showing how the three buildings fit into the present urban and rural landscapes.

My chief complaint is that whereas an architect may find it acceptable to study one category of building — the church — an historian and archaeologist would wish to look at the church in the context of its surroundings: the convent in the case of St Pons, the bishop's palace and fortified town in the case of Agde, and the port on the island between the Étangs and the Mediterranean in the case of Maguelone. Bonde ignores material considerations such as the sources of building stone, nor does she apparently penetrate into the roof spaces, while going on to a wearisome degree (and quite speculatively) about how she supposes these churches to have been defended. In the sense that she never discusses their liturgical function she misses their real point. These buildings were engaged in a more fearsome and deadly struggle than the unlikely attacks on the Saracens, namely the war against the Devil and all his works. Rich ecclesiastics such as the bishops of Maguelone and Agde had powerful enemies among the local aristocracy as well as their own clergy. They fortified their churches for much the same reason as Oxford colleges had gatehouses, crenellations and iron-barred gates: to keep out fellow townsmen, pilferers, the envious, the ambitious and the noisy. Her conclusion (p. 172) that these churches constituted 'a sentinel system' is totally unsubstantiated.

JOHN STEANE

*Manorial Domestic Buildings in England and Northern France.* (Society of Antiquaries of London, Occasional Papers 15.) Edited by Gwyn Meirion-Jones and Michael Jones. 19 × 25 cm. xvii + 206 pp., 104 figs. and pls. London: Society of Antiquaries of London, 1993. ISBN 0-85431-263-3. Price: £20.00 pb.

The eight papers contained in this book were first given at a colloquium held at the Society of Antiquaries in November 1990. It arose from the perceived need 'to look anew at manorial domestic buildings and, in particular, to reappraise the plan development of the ground-floor hall, the free-standing chamber-block and the so-called "first-floor" hall'. Five of these papers discuss developments in northern France and three are devoted to

Great Britain. They are largely, although not exclusively, concerned with the Middle Ages, and all but one (Julian Munby on manorial timber building in southern and midland England) concentrate on form and function rather than on structural elements.

The theme outlined above runs like a *leitmotif* through all the English contributions, which articulate current concerns felt by many about the validity of some of the established views on medieval domestic planning. Major contributions to the debate relating to buildings on this side of the Channel come from John Blair, on the early development of hall and detached chamber, with a refutation of the evidence for first-floor halls in manorial buildings, and from Philip Dixon, who explores the move from ground to first-floor accommodation in late medieval buildings on the Anglo-Scottish border. The English preoccupations are pursued in Normandy in a paper by Edward Impey, and in Brittany by Gwyn Meirion-Jones and his colleagues. In France this not unnaturally includes discussion of the origins of the storeyed *logis* which became ubiquitous after the Middle Ages (the dates apparently varying in different regions). Many of the new interpretations may be correct, and this reviewer is anyway disposed to be sympathetic. However, she feels bound to say that there are times when the evidence is strained in order to prove the case, and the arguments suffer accordingly.

The issues relating to ground-floor versus first-floor halls, and the existence of detached chamber blocks are as yet, however, a preoccupation of English scholars. The regional French studies on the Perche (Elisabeth Gautier-Desvaux) and the N. and E. of the Ile de France (Jean Mesqui), as well as much of the work on Brittany, describe the evidence for and characteristics of the surviving seigneurial dwellings of the Middle Ages and early modern period. The main elements were the hall, chamber and chapel, and their varied forms, dates and relation to each other are discussed. But these studies are presentations of evidence rather than reinterpretations in support of a theme. Joseph Decaens, in his paper on the development of mottes to stone chateaux over a wide region of north-western France is, like his English counterparts, concerned to reassess a large subject, but he deals with the military and political roles of his sites and their overall plans rather than with the details of their domestic ranges.

The papers in this book contain stimulating and provocative ideas. They should make us look at high-status medieval dwellings and cross-Channel relationships in new ways. They are also fascinating in showing that French and English scholars still appear to be working in mutual isolation. Joint publications of this sort should go some way to bridge that gap and lead to more fruitful exchanges of views in the future.

SARAH PEARSON

*Montanarchäologie in Europa*. Edited by Heiko Steur and Ulrich Zimmerman. 20 × 28 cm. 562 pp., 305 figs. and pls. Sigmaringen: Jan Thorbecke Verlag, 1993. ISBN 3-9395-7354-2. Price: DM286 pb.

Somewhat daunting at first sight, this substantial book, with its slightly ambiguous title, does in fact act hold much which is of potential interest to the medieval and early industrial archaeologist. It holds the comprehensive proceedings of a three-day international colloquium on current research into 'early' mining and extractive metallurgy which was held at the University of Freiberg in October 1990. The Freiberg meeting was a sequel to one held in 1985 on the subject of the 'first millennium in SW. Germany', and a number of different faculties within the University contributed. The conference was supported by the Volkswagen — Stiftung Foundation, which also helped to fund a number of the German archaeo-metallurgical projects.

Not surprisingly, all but four of the 41 papers included are in German, and some of these have proved both complicated and difficult to translate. The original editing of these has not helped a great deal: there are no abstracts with the papers and, in many cases apparently, there are no summary conclusions either. Whilst these points may seem trivial, anything one can do to help overcome barriers to the dissemination of information is of fundamental importance. The field of early mining and metallurgy is a case in point. Whilst there has been a good deal of independent research taking place, both in Britain and in Europe, a distinct lack of communication still persists, with few if any joint ventures taking place. It is hoped, therefore, that conference organizers everywhere will note the need to produce easily translatable and comprehensive sets of abstracts, since they are the keys to making the fruits of research accessible.

A simple breakdown of the contents of these papers along the lines of chronology, site, locality, and type of research might help to provide at least some idea of their possible relevance and interest. For example, some twelve of the papers concerned prehistory, or Roman sites; some 26 were medieval (including at least ten early medieval sites), whilst seven of the latter papers also covered the early post-medieval periods. Investigations covered localities in Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Bohemia, Serbia, Sweden, the British Isles, and finally numerous sites within the German mining regions. All of the papers were about the mining or smelting of gold, copper, silver or lead/silver, and iron. Topics covered included mining archaeology (twelve papers); medieval mining history, technology and organization (seven); the excavation of medieval German mining settlements (three); metallurgy, including the history of smelting technology, archaeology of smelting sites, and the analysis of slags and ores (24); and finally, the application of modern geoprospection techniques in interpreting the evidence for early mining and smelting (three).

The quality and depth of these contributions varied greatly, yet the memory of some of the better illustrated accounts of joint mining/metallurgical site investigations remain as a testimony to the overall value of this publication. Amongst the more interesting contributions I would include papers by Baily-Maitre and Alain Ploquin on 'The archaeology and palaeometallurgy of Brandes en Oisins, a medieval mining village'; Bogosavljevic and Vokovic on 'Medieval lead and silver mining in Serbia'; Pott and Spier, 'The vegetation history and examination of woodland development and land use in Siegerland and the Lahn-Dill area' (the effects of medieval iron smelting); and finally 'A short review of the evidence for Bronze Age mining in the British Isles' by Paul Craddock. On the whole, the book appears free of the technical errors or omissions which sometimes plague conference proceedings, although I did note at least one photograph (Fig. 16 of the latter paper) which was upside down!

Notwithstanding my main criticism over the lack of abstracts and conclusions to the papers, I think that the volume is an invaluable addition to the bookshelf of anyone interested in early mining research or medieval industry.

I would like to acknowledge the help of Suzanne Dyke with translation.

SIMON TIMBERLAKE

*Anglo-Scandinavian Non-Ferrous Metalworking Evidence from 16–22 Coppergate.* (The Archaeology of York 17/7.) By J. Bailey. 18 × 24 cm. 113 pp., figs., pls. (some in colour). London: Council for British Archaeology, 1992. ISBN 1-872414-30-3. Price: £18.75, pb.

Despite the precedent set by William Gowland at Hengistbury Head and Silchester in the early years of this century, for a long time it was very rare for the potential contribution

of the metallurgical sciences to excavation and post-excavation studies to be fully realised. In recent years this has changed and the analysis of metalwork and metalworking debris has greatly added to our understanding of a growing number of sites. Even so, this process has tended to concentrate on earlier periods than the Anglo-Scandinavian, and the York Archaeological Trust is to be congratulated on giving due weight to the metallurgy of Coppergate, in this volume and in a companion on ironwork. Any such work has to satisfy both the specialist in early medieval archaeology and the specialist in early metallurgy, while remaining accessible to a more general archaeological audience.

The core of the work is the catalogue of finds and the review of the categories of material within it: metal refining, crucibles, ingot moulds, objects moulds, scrap and waste metal, and tools. It might have been preferable for each section of the catalogue to be associated directly with that section of the review and its illustrations, but the separation does not greatly hinder the use of the volume. Dr Bayley has been able to connect previously unclassified material, such as 'heating trays', with specific processes, a considerable advance for the subject. We now need experiments to reproduce this debris! A crucial part of this work is a series of maps of the distribution of the different debris and processes on the site, giving us a clear picture of the possible ways in which the metalworking activity was organized. Together with the summary of the operation of each process the archaeologist must surely be satisfied and stimulated by this publication.

The same is largely true for a metallurgist such as your reviewer, though there are three areas where a greater metallurgical emphasis would have been appreciated. In the first case — the operating conditions of some of the processes — the information may not exist, and is for current and future research to discover. The second is in the description of some of the alloys, especially copper alloys where the labels used such as 'brass' are too imprecise. Brasses are indeed alloys of copper and zinc, but there are many types and the label is normally applied only to those with higher zinc contents. Many of the alloys identified are gilding metals or have other well-understood craft names, and their application would be more helpful. Of course, when the analyses made are only qualitative this increase in precision may not always be possible. The very small number of quantitative analyses is a pity because information about copper and silver alloys in York, through numismatic and other analyses, is extensive and a better link with this published data would have been very helpful. As a single instance, it has been known for some years that good-quality brass, with consistent zinc contents around 20%, was used in the 9th-century *styca* coinage. It would have been interesting to see other signs of this alloy.

Despite these drawbacks the book is extremely useful in its own right and should set the standard for publications from other cities. It would be even better with an index.

PETER NORTHOVER

*The Bedern Foundry.* (The Archaeology of York 10/3). By Julian D. Richards. 19 × 25 cm. 60 pp., 28 figs., 23 pls., 2 tables, 1 microfiche. York: Council for British Archaeology, 1993. ISBN 1-872414-44-3. Price: £12.00 pb.

This report forms a fascicule in the series *The Archaeology of York*. As ever with York fascicules one is tempted to think that a complex system of publication has been adopted in order to simulate the complexity of urban stratigraphy in the city. The discussion of proposed publication for various parts of the site (pp. 151–53) is therefore commendably lucid given the necessity to explain no less than nine other fascicule outlets for information concerning the Bedern excavations.

The meat of the work is a period-by-period account of the development of a medieval foundry of 13th to 16th-century date on the Bedern site. Earlier and deeper deposits were

not excavated (with one or two minor exceptions) although it is possible to suggest the influence of the natural topography. Post-medieval material must await a fascicule in A.Y.13.

The summary format, which incorporates data from finds, animal bones and environmental samples, provides a thorough and clear exposition of site development. This is assisted by thoughtful and well-presented drawings (it is particularly useful to have sections presented in dual form with deposit symbols and context data kept separate, e.g. Fig 63) and photographs. The text does not shy away from helpful interpretation but this is kept strictly within the context of the descriptive exposition of the site in hand, without cluttering comparanda.

Such comparanda are located in subsequent discussion sections. The largest of these, by Justine Bayley and Julian Richards, concerns medieval founding and will probably be the most frequently cited part of the report. It opens with an analysis of the moulds and casting debris from the site, providing the data for an assessment of the products of the foundry. It is noted that it is often difficult to differentiate between moulds from bellfounding and those from other founding such as for cauldrons (no attempt is made to do so in Table 2) and it is concluded that the bulk of the output was confined to domestic utensils throughout the medieval period. This is a useful observation and one which acts as a corrective to a popular conception of foundries as concerned solely with major items. It is a pity, therefore, that little assistance has been provided to enable the reader to cross-refer from the mould fragments presented in this discussion to the phases of the excavation text; more concordance between the two would have been helpful.

Notwithstanding the conclusion concerning domestic utensils, it is clear that bellfounding remains glamorous to the authors. A single fragment of possible bell mould is illustrated (Fig. 81 (b)) and 'the relatively small numbers of possible casting pits' is commented upon (p. 191). Bells, nevertheless, figure largely in the section entitled 'Comparative Evidence'. To be fair, much of this part of the report is a reasonably comprehensive survey of known data concerning foundries and bellfounding from both Britain and northern Europe (although it omits recent discoveries in London in 1986 and Norwich in 1989).

The textual report concludes with an examination of the foundry buildings, usefully discussing them in the context of other York structures and the urban topography as a whole. As with the rest of the report, the text here is clear and informative, providing a readable account which can be supplemented by the fiche data but which can also be used to extract basic information rapidly.

The work as a whole is a commendable addition to the still sparse canon of texts concerned with medieval technology as well as providing an exposition of a particular industrial activity within the life of an urban centre. It is handsomely produced with a cover which invites one to keep it on the desk, surely an advantage for any work of reference.

BRIAN S. AYERS

*Grimston, Norfolk. The Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery Industry: Excavations 1962–92.* (East Anglian Archaeology 64). By Mark Leah. 22 × 31 cm. 131 pp., 77 figs., 7 pls., 12 tables. Norwich: Norwich Museums Service, 1994. ISBN 0-905594-11-8. Price: £27.50 pb.

The products of the medieval pottery industry at Grimston have long been recognized, not only in East Anglia and elsewhere in Britain but also on the Continent, notably in Scandinavia. Evidence for the production of pottery at Grimston was identified in 1961.

Since then, several large groups of Grimston ware from East Anglia have been published, but only one excavation from Grimston itself. This publication presents the results of all excavations undertaken in the parish of Grimston between the 1960s and 1990s, and comprises sections written by many of those who have been involved in the work.

The excavations are described in Chapters 1–4. Those undertaken in the 1960s found evidence for two kilns, one of which is dated to the early 12th century. Further excavations in the 1970s revealed several buildings, a well containing a large group of complete jugs, and a multi-flued kiln, probably of late medieval date. Areas of burnt clay suggested further kilns in the area. Major excavations in the 1980s and 1990s produced evidence of Saxo-Norman occupation, domestic settlement of the mid 12th to mid 13th century, pottery production dating from the later 13th to later 14th centuries, and two kilns dated to the 15th century.

The pottery is presented as part of the chapter on the artefacts (Chapter 5). Several large assemblages of pottery are described, mainly those associated with areas of domestic occupation dating from the 11th to mid 13th centuries, and with the 15th-century kilns. A typological sequence and a catalogue of illustrated vessels is included. This represents a corpus of the pottery found in the parish of Grimston to date, but not the complete range of Grimston products known from elsewhere, as pottery found outside the parish has not been included. The highly-decorated vessels of the 13th and 14th centuries, for example, are not discussed, in spite of the photograph of the face-jug on the front cover of the book. The detailed sections on such items as leather shoes, and on the environmental evidence (Chapter 6), contribute little to our understanding of the pottery industry. The documentary evidence for Grimston (Chapter 7), while suggesting it was a relatively prosperous settlement in the medieval period, reveals little evidence either for the pottery industry itself, or for the degree of its contribution to this prosperity.

A valuable survey of the distribution of Grimston ware in East Anglia and beyond is presented (Chapter 8). The early wares of c. 1180–1225 are found mainly in a limited area around Grimston; the glazed wares of c. 1225–1375 are distributed widely in East Anglia, and found in large quantities in Norway, particularly Bergen; the distribution of the late medieval/early post-medieval wares reflects the decline of the industry caused partly by the growing domination of the products of the Bourne industry and changes in the patterns of international trade in NW Europe. This section is one of the most interesting in the book, although it is a pity it was written four years before publication since a notable omission from the bibliography is the publication of the large assemblage of Grimston ware from excavations in Trondheim (I.W. Reed, *1000 Years of Pottery. An Analysis of Pottery Trade and Use. Fortiden i Trondheim Bygrunn: Folkbibliotekstomten (the Library Site)*, Meddelelser Nr.25. Riksantikvaren, Utgravnings-kontoret for Trondheim, Trondheim 1990).

The conclusion by Mark Leah summarizes the various chapters, and acknowledges the areas in which further research is needed. In particular, further excavation is needed to shed light on the Saxo-Norman phase of the industry, as well as the period of the highly decorated wares and the decline of the industry. No workshops or buildings associated with the industry have yet been located, and a more detailed analysis of the kilns and manufacturing techniques might usefully be undertaken. This volume presents the evidence that has been revealed to date, but it is not the definitive work on the subject, and it is to be hoped that the opportunity will arise for further excavation in the area.

BEVERLEY NENK

*Die Mittelalterlichen Schuhe aus Schleswig: Ausgrabung Schild 1971–1975.* (Ausgrabungen in Schleswig. Berichte und Studien 10.) By Christiane Schnack. 18 × 25 cm. 193 pp., figs., pls. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1992. ISBN 3-529-0146-05. Price: not stated, pb.

The last decade has seen a steady flow of publications on medieval footwear in the wake of urban excavations undertaken in the 1970s and 1980s. This book on shoes from Schleswig covers the period 1000–1400 and is based on the study of 11,466 pieces and fragments. It is the tenth in a series of volumes on excavations in the old town and follows a well-defined format. The site and dating evidence are summarized, followed by a section on terminology and the recording system. The methods of shoemaking, including types of animal skin and stitching, are explained before proceeding to the different styles of footwear and their chronological development. The evidence from Schleswig is compared with that from the nearby towns of Haithabu and Lübeck, as well as more distant settlements in northern and eastern Europe. The author also attempts to discover whether the shoes can be used to indicate the social status of the inhabitants, and she presents evidence for professional shoemakers in the town.

The volume contains a wealth of information, and it is the author's misfortune that there is a gap in the sequence for the 12th century. This break appears to mark a shift in the prosperity of the inhabitants, who were succeeded by poorer townsfolk in the early 1200s. Presumably this also partly explains why they turned to calf and cowhide for their shoes and boots rather than cordwain which was favoured in the earlier period.

Some surprising points emerge, such as that 40% of the shoes were apparently made for children. This may be misleading since shoe sizes are notoriously difficult to interpret, although the problem of leather shrinkage, as well as foot measurements, has been carefully addressed since John Thornton's pioneering experiments in the 1950s. Nevertheless, it would have been worth discovering whether there was a concentration of any other childrens' goods from the excavations.

The styles show a clear chronological development which is mirrored throughout much of northern Europe, even with regard to methods of fastening and decoration. The survey of comparative material is comprehensive, although important works such as Arne Larsen's study of the footwear from Bryggen (*The Bryggen Papers*, Main Series, Vol. 4, 1992) have been published since this volume went to press. On the other hand, the distribution maps suffer the usual drawback of reflecting patterns of excavation rather than consumption.

The excellent line drawings of the shoes provide views of both sides, enabling details of the inserts to be seen. However the book lacks photographs, with the exception of a shoe-last made from maplewood. This is an unfortunate omission, since it would have been helpful to see decorative details, especially the embroidery and paint, as well as the intricate cut of some of the topbands. Photographs might also have alleviated the book's rather monotonous layout which includes numerous computer-generated graphs. A five-page summary is provided for English readers, although some jarring items have crept in such as 'half shoes' and 'half-high shoes' instead of ankle shoes and ankle boots.

The strength of this volume lies in the analytical detail it provides on a large sample of well-dated shoes. This and similar specialist studies have greatly enhanced our knowledge of medieval footwear in the last twenty years and it is a mark of good post-excavation programming that this has been achieved.

FRANCES PRITCHARD

*Bones from 46–54 Fishergate.* (The Archaeology of York 15/4). By T. P. O'Connor. 19 × 25 cm. 93 pp., figs., pls., tables. London: Council for British Archaeology, 1991. ISBN 1-872414-23-0. Price: £12.00 pb.

The author analyses animal bones from the 1985–86 excavations. The most important data are associated with the 8th to 9th-century Anglo-Saxon settlement. A carefully considered sampling strategy produced 13,630 identified mammal and bird bones obtained by dry-sieving through a 12 mm mesh. Bulk wet-sieving through a 2 mm mesh produced a further 14,163 identified bones, including over 5,500 fish bones.

Although over 60 species were identified, the Anglo-Saxon samples had low diversity and were dominated by cattle bones, with sheep and pig also commonly found. Wild mammals were poorly represented, although small pieces of worked red deer antler were abundant. Domestic fowl and goose were the only birds regularly eaten. Most of the fish were eels and several species of the carp family, which could be caught locally. Cattle-dominated assemblages with low species diversity have also been found in contemporary trading settlements at Ipswich and Southampton.

Ageing analysis indicated that cattle and sheep were killed across a wide age range. Pigs appear to have been killed mainly between 12–15 months or 24–30 months. Bones from trotters are under-represented and this may imply that some pigs were obtained as dressed carcasses from elsewhere.

Metrical analysis showed that most of the adult cattle were females of a similar weight to those found in Roman York. Sheep were on average larger than in Roman York but smaller than those represented in 10th-century deposits at Coppergate. The average size of sheep declined between the 10th and 13th centuries, a trend that has also been noted in Southampton.

The assemblage contains relatively fewer pigs, fowl and geese (species commonly kept in towns) than at 10th-century Coppergate. O'Connor argues that this reflects differences in meat provision, with the Fishergate inhabitants relying more on external provisioning. This may reflect its status as a trading emporium rather than a true urban settlement. Further samples are needed to test this theory.

Deposits from later periods, including those from the Gilbertine St Andrew's Priory, produced disappointingly small faunal samples.

The report is of a high professional standard and the author is able to synthesize the data and explain their implications to good effect. This makes the report readable for non-specialists. It is an important contribution to our understanding of animal exploitation in early post-Roman Britain.

Publication by fascicule is relatively expensive and the separation of this report from the rest of the archaeological evidence from Fishergate makes it difficult to relate these findings to other relevant studies. Presumably we must await the appearance of the synthetic volumes of the *Archaeology of York* before we can obtain a clear understanding.

MARK MALTBY

*Buildings Archaeology. Applications in Practice.* Edited by Jason Wood. 18 × 26 cm. 263 pp., figs. and pls. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 1994. ISBN 0-946897-75-1. Price: £28.00 hb.

Too often the published collections of papers that follow in the wake of conferences disappoint. The best of talks — well delivered, animated and illustrated — tend to become dry as dust when transcribed to the printed page. Fortunately this volume, the follow-up to the I.F.A.'s Buildings Special Interest Group's 1993 Chester conference, is an exception to the rule. The individual chapters vary in style but are generally well written — give or

take the occasional lapse into jargon — and the editor has moulded them into a cohesive and important work on one of the most rapidly expanding branches of archaeology.

Even today there are some archaeologists and architectural historians who feel that the archaeological study of standing buildings is not a proper discipline. There are still those in both professions who would not agree with David Stocker's perfectly reasonable statement early in this book that 'it goes without saying that old buildings are also archaeology'. The very name is open to debate — is it buildings archaeology, architectural archaeology, the study of standing buildings, or building recording? This book's title makes a stand on nomenclature — and on what the subject is, or should be, about.

Its title is self-explanatory. After introductory chapters put the subject into its broad historic and legislative frameworks, the rest are concerned with how it is used. Loosely divided into extensive and intensive survey sections, individual chapters are written by those with practical expertise in each interlinked discipline. These sections explain the choices behind the methodologies chosen in selected case studies, ranging from general surveys for strategic planning or thematic research to more detailed surveys of buildings for preservation by record or for restoration projects. Not everyone will necessarily agree with all the decisions made, but importantly there is now a generally accessible work that can be referred to in future debates.

If there is a general criticism of the book it is the sparsity of illustrations, particularly in the first half. Despite a few minor quibbles, this is an important landmark in buildings archaeology. Other books have, with only varied degrees of success, tried to explain how it should be done. This is the first academically respectable title that successfully explains why. As the C.B.A.'s Richard Morris points out, the real irony of the declining but still lingering traditional disdain of the study of standing buildings is not traditional at all. It only dates to the period between the wars when, 'like snooker balls clustered and then struck into separate pockets, archaeology, architectural history, art history, and associated legislation parted company'. This long-awaited book should go a long way to fully remedying the situation. The next logical step, especially bearing P.P.G.15 in mind, must be a less intense volume to explain all this to architects, developers, and the people that, ultimately, pay all our salaries — the general public.

RICHARD K. MORRISS

*Archaeological Theory: Who Sets the Agenda?* Edited by Norman Yoffee and Andrew Sherratt.  
19 x 24 cm. 139 pp., 14 figs. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993. ISBN  
0-521-44014-9 hb; 0-521-44958-8 pb. Price: £32.50 hb; £11.95 pb.

The debate between the processual and post-processual theoretical perspectives in archaeology has probably passed most medieval archaeologists by. This useful little volume provides an introduction and a series of case studies on this debate, although largely from the processual perspective. It arose via a symposium held at the 1988 T.A.G. meeting at Sheffield University, where a number of the papers were first given. The symposium itself caused considerable interest and uproar — it was held in very small room which was jammed to capacity, while the post-processualists were holding a rival symposium in an adjacent and cavernous lecture theatre. The conference organizers were accused of being unsympathetic to the turning tide of theoretical archaeology.

The basic premise of this volume is that archaeologists have always 'mined' other disciplines for their theoretical perspectives, on the basis that *real* theory exists 'out there' in other subjects, and that archaeologists are too stupid to develop their own native theory. The processualists have looked to kindred subjects such as geography, biology and

linguistics, while the post-processualists have gone to post-modernist thought in literature and anthropology, developing in the most extreme cases a rejection of the whole practice and activity of archaeology. It does not really matter, the authors in this volume maintain, where the theory comes from, as long as we are explicit about it. They reject the notion that there can ever be a *post* post-processual archaeology, but rather that we should look and rework the older theory as much as using the most topical.

Such discussions have been generally undertaken by prehistorians trying to explain (objectively) or not to explain (because of their own preconceived cultural position) their evidence. There must be lessons here for archaeologists working within a historical framework, as in classical or medieval archaeology. But significantly, this volume does not contain a single paper that deals with a period where there are documents as well as archaeology; for those familiar with integrating such evidence, readers may find a certain naïvety of approach. For example, can we usefully use neo-evolutionary models (that is the 'bands — tribes — chiefdoms — states' model) however refined and contextualized, to increase our understanding of the emergence of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms? I think not.

The volume ends with a paper by Richard Bradley, which quotes from Doris Lessing's *Briefing from a Decent into Hell*. In this novel a Cambridge professor of Classics is found wandering along the Waterloo Embankment, having suffered a mental breakdown. He has just met an archaeologist who has cast doubt about whether we can know anything about the past. Perhaps, when a medievalist meets a post-processualist in similar circumstances, and suffers such doubts, he should go out and buy this book as a suitable antidote.

MARK HORTON

The following publications were also received:

*Deserted Villages*. (Shire Archaeology 23.) By Trevor Rowley and John Wood. 15 × 22 cm. 72 pp., 18 figs., 19 pls. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications, 1995. ISBN 0-7478-0283-1. Price: £3.95 pb.

Second edition of this popular introduction which, in the publishers' words, it now 'reflects the current "total landscape" approach to the study of deserted villages'.

*Calanais. The Standing Stones*. By Patrick Ashmore. 21 × 20 cm. 52 pp., many figs. and pls., some in colour. Calanais: Urras nan Tursachan, 1995. ISBN 0-86152-161-7. Price: £4.95 (pb), + £1.00 p. + p. from Calanais Visitor Centre, Calanais, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9DY.

A lavishly illustrated introduction to this megalithic monument and its landscape context.

*Slavery in Early Medieval England*. By David A. E. Pelteret. 17 × 25 cm. 375 pp. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 1995. ISBN 0-85115-399-2. Price: £45.00 hb.

*The Reign of Cnut: King of England, Denmark and Norway*. Edited by Alexander Rumble. 17 × 24 cm. xvii + 341 pp., 19 figs., 27 pls., 11 tables. London: Leicester University Press and Cranbury, New Jersey: Associated University Presses, 1994. ISBN 0-7185-1455-6, 0-8386-3605-5. Price: £39.50 hb.

Interdisciplinary studies (including literary, documentary, numismatic and onomastic evidence) of Cnut as ruler of Denmark, Norway and England.

Nicholas Brooks writes in his 'Foreword': 'By emphasising the vast geographical range of Cnut's activities and examining the way that different categories of evidence for his rule can be studied, these essays throw new light both on Cnut's career and on his policies'.

*The Great Rebuildings of Tudor and Stuart England. Revolutions in Architectural Taste.* By Colin Platt. 16 × 24 cm. viii + 230 pp., 78 figs. and pls. London: U.C.L. Press, 1994. ISBN 1-85728-315-5 hb.; 1-85728-316-3 pb. Price: £30.00 hb.; £12.95 pb.

*A Catalogue of Celtic Ornamental Metalwork in the British Isles c. A.D. 400-1200.* (British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 229). By Lloyd Laing. 22 × 30 cm. 262 pp., many figs., 25 pls. Oxford: Tempus Reparatum, 1993. ISBN 0-86054-750-7. Price: not stated, pb.

*Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester. A Patron of the Twelfth-Century Renaissance.* (Hampshire Papers 5.) By Nicholas Riall. 19 × 30 cm. 32 pp., 21 figs. and pls. Winchester: Hampshire County Council. ISBN 1-85975-015-X. ISSN 0964-9883. Price: £1.75 (pb), from Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St., Winchester, SO23 8TH.

*Les campagnes de la France méditerranéenne dans l'Antiquité et le haut Moyen Age. Etudes microrégionales.* Edited by François Favory and Jean-Luc Fiches. 21 × 29.5 cm. 344 pp., figs., pls. Paris: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 1994. ISBN 2-7351-0500-8. Price: FF340 pb.

A landscape survey using aerial photography, fieldwork and excavation, of fifteen areas on or near the Mediterranean coast and Rhône valley. Concentrates mainly on the Roman period. Interesting evidence for a major restructuring of settlement pattern in the late Roman period.

*Sagas and Popular Antiquarianism in Icelandic Archaeology.* (Worldwide Archaeology Srs. 10.) By Adolf Fridriksson. 16 × 23 cm. ix + 212 pp., figs. and pls. Aldershot: Avebury, 1994. ISBN 1-85628-709-2. Price: £35.00 hb.

*Bibliographie zur vor- und frügeschichte in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Berlin (West) in den grenzen vor 1990.* Edited by Frauke Stein. 18 × 25 cm. 304 pp. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1994. ISBN 3-515-06446-X. Price not stated, hb.

*Die Säugetiere und Vögel aus der Frühgeschichtlichen wurt Elisenhof.* By Hans Reichstein. *Die Fischreste aus der Frühgeschichtlichen wurt Elisenhof.* By Dirk Heinrich. (Elisenhof, Band 6.) 24 × 32 cm. x + 300 pp., figs., pls., tables. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1994. ISBN 3-631-46215-8. ISSN 0171-743-X. Price not stated, hb.  
Comprehensive animal bone reports from excavations at an 8th-century settlement on the marshy W. coast of Schleswig-Holstein. The results can be compared with Haitabu. Detailed analyses of ageing and metrical data are given for all the major species.

*Medieval Life.* No 1. 22 × 30 cm. 37 pp. figs., pls., some in colour. ISSN 1357-6291. Price: £2.00 pb.

A new and attractively produced popular magazine based in the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York. Takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the period and aims to publish 'the fruits of recent research in a way which does not demand prior knowledge of the subject'.

*Journal of European Archaeology* Vol. 2.1. 16 × 23 cm. 151 pp., figs. and pls. Aldershot: Avebury, 1994. ISBN 1-85628-937-0. ISSN 0965-7665. Price not stated, hb.  
Articles on prehistoric and early medieval Europe.

*Il Mar Nero. Annali di archeologia e storia.* Vol.1.

A new international journal containing papers on archaeological and historical research in the countries around the Black Sea, ranging from prehistory to the medieval period.

*Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae* VII. Edited by Andrzej Nadolski. 21 × 30 cm. 68 pp., figs., tables. Łódź: Polskiej Akademii Nauk Oddziału W Łodzi, 1994. ISSN 0860-0007. Price not stated, pb.

Historical and archaeological studies with strong medieval and military flavours (and more papers in English than usual).

*Rossiyskaya Arkheologiya* 1994 Nos. 1, 3, 4. 17 × 24 cm. 256 pp., figs. Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archaeology. ISSN 0869-6063.

A quarterly journal of Russian archaeology; articles include short English summaries. Multi-period content: e.g. No. 4 includes work on A.D. 3rd to 5th-century cremation burials in Khorezm and Bactria, early medieval Khazar art, and 14th/15th-century princely estates in the Moscow area.

*Slovensko Vo Vcasnoslovanskem Obdobi*. (Archaeologica Slovaca Monographiae 3.) By Gabriel Fusek. 17 × 24 cm. 383 pp., figs., tables. Nitra: Archeologicke Ústav Slovenskej Akadémie Vied Nitra, 1994. ISBN 90-88709-17-2. Price not stated, pb.

*Slovenská Archeológia* Vol. XL1, Part 2. 22 × 30 cm. 257 pls., figs., tables. Bratislava: Slovak Academic Press, 1994. No ISBN or ISSN. Price not stated, hb.

*Slovenská Archeológia* Vol. XLII, Part 1. Both 22 × 31 cm. 251 pls., figs., tables. Bratislava: Slovak Academic Press, 1994. No ISBN or ISSN. Price not stated, hb.

Papers in Slovak, German and English, with German summaries.