NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.


Every one taking part in the excavation of a Roman site must have felt the need of such a book as the volume before us. Terra sigillata, the Samian ware of British antiquaries, has attained recognition as affording next to inscriptions the best evidence of the chronology of Roman occupation, and indeed not only of sites actually held for Rome, for it drifted out far beyond the frontier. Wherever the Roman dominion was established in central, western or south-western Europe the shards of sigillata are to be found, and no less widely-spread are the publications which deal with it. The authors working at the excavation of the fort of Margidunum in Nottinghamshire, experiencing the difficulties of laboriously collating innumerable references to scattered memoirs in many languages, have endeavoured to treat the subject synthetically in a single volume.

The great mass of terra sigillata has little artistic merit. The potters of Arezzo of the Augustan age decorating their vessels with graceful scrolls and groups of figures showed technical skill and a fine sense of design. The work of the South Gaulish potters, to whom they gave the impulse, shows little of their charm, and as the industry became more widely spread the gradual deterioration is obvious. As the northern frontier grew in importance new centres of production sprang up, which gradually carried the industry from Southern Gaul to the banks of the Rhine and the Moselle, and each group of potteries has its characteristics which enable us to recognise its output, and to fix more or less definitely its period of operations. The sites of potteries which have been identified, some twenty-seven in number, are dealt with in an introductory chapter. Of several of these our knowledge is scanty, but the better known groups are treated in some detail, with particulars of the potters who have been identified with them. The centres of production, with the exception of possibly Arezzo, have left no history behind them. Their ruined kilns with the fragments of moulds and shards of broken vessels are the sole guide to their identification. From such material their characteristics may be gathered, but the period during which they flourished must be ascertained from the occurrence of their products on sites capable of being dated, and these were almost invariably associated with military occupation. A list of dated sites is thus of the greatest value in the study of pottery.

It cannot be maintained that the sixty-two sites enumerated are of equal value: indeed, in not a few of them the finds of pottery have been the most important factor in determining the date of their occupation; others were held throughout a long period, and unless that period can be subdivided they are not of much value. The Taunus limes, for example, was probably established under Domitian, but the typical collections from it preserved at the Saalburg contain little dating from Flavian times, and the great mass of the pottery was produced throughout the second century.
On the other hand, the ditches of the earth fort at the Saalburg occupied from about A.D. 120 to 140 might have been cited as producing material which can with some confidence be assigned to the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian. It is difficult, in view of Mr. George Macdonald's recent study of Roman coins in Scotland, to accept the statement that the first occupation of Newstead was a short one and practically Agricolan. It seems certain that at Newstead, and even as far north as Inchthuill, the forts retained their Roman garrisons after Agricola's recall. It cannot be said that there is much, if any, pottery at Newstead which can be definitely assigned to the reign of Trajan, but the sites which enable us accurately to distinguish Trajanic ware are few, and we have still a good deal to learn of the characteristic types imported to Britain during this period; moreover, the absence of Trajanic pottery would by no means afford proof of earlier withdrawal. The Newstead finds indicate pretty clearly that towards the close of the early period the position of the garrison was somewhat precarious. It may well have been that communications on the hill-roads across the Cheviots were interrupted, and supplies limited.

A comparison of material gathered from dated sites with the finds from the kilns makes possible a list of potters arranged chronologically, beginning with the names stamped on vessels produced during the Julio-Claudian period, found at such localities as Sels or Xanten, and ending with the late Antonine workers from Rheinzabern or Trier.

A detailed study is made of each well-known type of vessel, the period during which it was in vogue, the characteristic features of its ornamentation which have chronological significance, and the names of the potters whose stamps are associated with it. The more numerous types of undecorated vessels are treated with the same detail. The method adopted involves some repetition, as the same potter must frequently have produced a variety of dishes, but in a work designed as a guide to the subject it facilitates reference.

Decorative details which give indications of date are subjected to more detailed treatment. For the first time we have an attempt to bring together a series of examples of the 'ovolo' border, so constant a feature in sigillata. The study is worth pursuing. At present in a few cases the 'ovolo' does enable us to identify the potter who employed it. LIBERTVS, DOVECVS and DEXTER may be cited as examples, and the list can doubtless be enlarged. It gives, when studied with the form of the vessel and its glaze, a valuable indication of date and provenance, but in the great majority of cases the 'ovolo' can only be used as evidence of identification of a potter where it is associated with his characteristic designs. A series of examples of scrolls and wreaths, dating from various periods, is also illustrated. These are of interest as showing the sources from which the provincial potters drew their inspiration. The drawings, however, excellent though they are, rather tend to refine the latter work, and do not sufficiently emphasise the deterioration which lies between the Arretine Krater from Mainz and the bowl from Heiligenberg bearing the stamp of JANVS.

A chapter is devoted to miscellaneous fabrics, such as the marbled sigillata, rarely found except on early sites, the barbotine decoration chiefly employed by the East Gaulish potters of the second century, and lastly, the stamped ware with its successive zones of simple oblong geometric
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Designs, which in England are to be met with on such sites as Richborough and Pevensey, and mark one of the final stages of the industry.

A full and carefully compiled bibliography is appended. It illustrates the widespread character of the literature of the subject. As a contribution from a country which must be rich in unstudied material the authors might have included the paper on terra sigillata from Ampurias by Senor Manuel Caruzzo, published by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans Barcelona in their Annuari 1909-10.

The plates by Dr. Oswald are excellent. The series of decorative bowls and of their metal prototypes admirably exhibits the characteristic designs of different periods. The series of outlines of undecorated vessels is by far the most complete that has yet been published.

The volume represents much careful research, and brings together in a handy form the results of many investigations. It is one for which all archaeologists will be grateful.

James Curle.

THE HISTORY OF THE TOURNAMENT IN ENGLAND AND IN FRANCE.


In this history of the tournament, Mr. Cripps-Day has rendered an essential service not only to the historian, but to the student of arms and armour. Hitherto the literature on the subject in England has been exceedingly limited, being practically confined to a short account in Strutt's Sports and Pastimes, some information in Bentley's Excerpta Historica (1831), a most excellent chapter in Mr. Cornish's Chivalry, and some very erudite and valuable papers by Lord Dillon and the Baron de Cosson which have appeared from time to time in the columns of this journal.

The popular idea of this important sidelight on history has been mainly derived from the brilliant pages of Sir Walter Scott, who in Ivanhoe has given us that marvellous picture, all glowing with life, of the tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Sir Walter, however, appears to have been indebted to Froissart for his information, his description belonging rather to the Edwardian period than to the time of Richard I, and in many details is not to be archaeologically relied on.

Mr. Cripps-Day has traced the origin of the tournament to the Roman games, the Ludus Troiae mentioned in Tacitus and other authors, but it was not until about 842 that it became an institution in France, and at a rather later date introduced into Germany by Henry the Fowler, when despite the strong opposition of the Church, and many of the kings, it flourished and held its own for some seven hundred years.

It is difficult to understand the pronounced enmity of the Church, but it is a fact that several of the popes threatened excommunication to those that took part in tournaments; it may have been due to the danger of the pursuit, but more probably to the congregation of loose and licentious persons, and to the riotous festivals in the evenings, these entertainments being very extensively patronised by ladies of uncertain reputation. With regard to some of the kings, the opposition was chiefly on political grounds,
as these gatherings might be made the pretext for the assembly of disaffected nobles and thus become a source of danger to the Crown; Henry II, Edward II, and Henry V, were all prominent in opposition, whereas Stephen and Richard I were really responsible for the introduction of the tournament into England; the latter making it a source of income for the Crusades.

All the elaborate ceremonial, and the different varieties of combat, are described by Mr. Cripps-Day in detail, and he gives us many life-like pictures quoted from contemporaneous chronicles, and for every statement gives his authority; a feature of the greatest value to the student. The popularity of the joust seems to have survived until a comparatively recent period, as, putting aside the Earls Court Exhibition of a few years since, and the Eglinton Tournament, so late as the eighteenth century a course was run by Sir John Dallas and a Mussulman, an officer of Hyder Ali's army. It is also an interesting fact that trial by battle, introduced by William the Conqueror, was part of our judicial system until 1817 when it was appealed to by the plaintiff in the case of Ashford v. Thornton, but was not persisted in, and the statute was repealed shortly afterwards.

The author gives a valuable account of the body-armour and weapons used in the various kinds of combat, and the text is buttressed by a number of most excellent photographs and engravings of existing objects in churches and collections; in this connexion we wish that some light might have been thrown on the much vexed question of the functions of alerons, or ailettes—the plates worn on the shoulders during the last quarter of the thirteenth century, and the first quarter of the fourteenth—but on this our author is modestly reticent: he assigns 1325 as the latest period when they were worn, but we have an impression that the Pembridge effigy at Clehonger is of a later date.

Mr. Cripps-Day’s belief that the tilting heaume at Westminster is the identical head-piece worn by Henry V at Agincourt raises an interesting question. There was a sum of £1 13s. 4d. paid to Thomas Daunt for painting a crest and heaume for the funeral; the exact wording of the account is—‘Item eidem Thome pro pictura unius creste et unius helme pro Rege XXXIIIIS IIIJD’—this is probably the one at Westminster, but the charge for painting is very much higher in proportion than the other charges made by Daunt in the same account, and although the heaume is indubitably genuine, it rather suggests that it was provided as well as painted for the occasion, more particularly as Henry V was opposed to tournaments; he declined to have one on the occasion of his marriage, and there is no record of his ever having taken part in one. The helmet he wore at Agincourt was a bascinet encircled with a gold crown studded with pearls, rubies and sapphires, and either the Duc d'Alençon, or one of the eighteen knights wearing the badge of Croy who were banded together to kill him, got sufficiently near to strike off some of the ornaments.

Mr. Cripps-Day has lavished much industry and painstaking research on his book and has enriched it with no less than nine appendices of transcripts of ancient documents relating to the laws and usages of chivalry; there is a spacious bibliography, and the notes are most abundant and full of valuable information.

We can only regret that such a useful work of reference should have been bound in a cover so light and soilable.
ANCIENT GLASS IN WINCHESTER. By J. D. Le Couteur. Winchester, Warren & Son, 1920. 8s. 6d. net. 9 x 5 1/ in., 152 + viii pp. 40 plates, 4 plans of windows.

This careful and scholarly study of an interesting subject deserves high commendation. Few forms of antiquarian research are so exacting as the analysis of the component parts of stained-glass windows which are either a picturesque jumble of relics from other windows, or whose vacant spaces have been filled in with alien fragments by the restorer. The destruction of much of the glass in Winchester cathedral during the civil war, and the subsequent collection of its remains in some of the windows, makes the task there peculiarly difficult; while the early nineteenth-century 'repair' of the magnificent glass of the college chapel amounted to complete renewal, the result of which is not altogether encouraging to the lover of medieval art. Even the beautiful east window of Fromond's chantry chapel in the college cloister, where the casual visitor may be excused for thinking that at last he sees glass in its original home, is for the most part transferred from a window in the larger chapel. Mr. Le Couteur has traced the history of these vicissitudes with remarkable patience and accuracy, and has used his power of observation and knowledge of stained-glass technique to give a full and trustworthy account of what they have left for our mingled admiration and regret.

The considerable nature of his effort and the measure of his success may be judged by his analysis of the west window of the cathedral, a mass of fragments which afford further opportunities for examination, and of the east window of the choir, upon the original design of which authorities have differed. In this second case, Mr. Le Couteur leaves his reader to consult the theories of Winston and N. H. J. Westlake: his description of the figures, however, contains necessary corrections of the identities given to them by Owen Carter in 1844 and notes the changes effected by restoration in 1852, and at a later date, when Dean Kitchin caused new backgrounds to be inserted in two lights, because he 'thought that the original setting of light blue made the panels too dark.' It will be seen from this quotation that Mr. Le Couteur handles easily that polite form of irony which is more telling than the invective with which more violent critics have provoked restorers and their employers to continue in their wickedness. While he is rightly severe upon the treatment of the ancient glass in the college chapel by Messrs. Betton & Evans, he is just to the uninstructed zeal which induced the warden and fellows to submit it to repair, and to the uncritical admiration with which they regarded its added brilliance on its return from these unconscientious artists. He is also fair to the substitute which was supplied for the original: as most people now recognise, the glass of the twenties and thirties of the nineteenth century had its merits, and contrasts favourably with the type of stained glass which accompanied the general success of the Gothic revival.

The book has a special value as a work of reference which is more than a handbook to a particular set of windows. Documents, and especially the accounts of Winchester college, have been carefully used, with the result that the dating of the glass is given with an approximate certainty which no merely aesthetic criticism, however well informed, can attain. That important person, the artist, receives his full due as a consequence of this employment of the proper historical apparatus. The legend which regards
bishops as the architects of their own cathedral churches has never, so far as we know, gone to the extent of crediting these accomplished prelates with the design and execution of stained-glass windows, presumably because the modern conception of a glazier fits in badly with the theory. The medieval glazier, however, needs more attention than he usually receives, and much may be learned about him from Mr. Le Couteur's researches. We notice, however, that Mr. Le Couteur appears to assent to the story of Wykeham's 'skill in architecture.' Wykeham's magnificent taste in architecture, his experience in the administration and finance of building operations, learned during a comparatively short period in the royal service, and his patronage of the best artists of his day, cannot be doubted; but skill in architecture is a different matter, and the tradition of his presentation by Edyngton to Edward III 'as a rising architect'—the words are merely quoted in the text from another writer—is an unwarranted embroidery on a simple fact. If Messrs. Betton & Evans dealt cavalierly with Wykeham's glass, they were at least careful to reproduce its design, and we may still see in the east window of the college chapel the kneeling figures of Wykeham's architect, 'Willelmus Wynford lathomus,' with the master carpenter behind him, and Simon Membury, the clerk of the works who regulated the workmen and controlled the building funds, face to face with him. On the career of Membury, as on those of others, Mr. Le Couteur has excellent notes: we may remark that Membury's position with regard to Wykeham's buildings was precisely that which Wykeham himself had occupied at Windsor and other royal castles, and was quite distinct from that of architect.

In addition to the cathedral and college glass, Mr. Le Couteur describes the glass in the deanery and other houses in the close, and pays full attention to that at St. Cross. He also traces the existing remains of the college windows, which the 'restorers' of 1822 sold to various connoisseurs, and most of which have now disappeared, and adds a brief note upon the preservation of stained glass. Accuracy of statement is a noticeable feature of the book, and we have noticed only one or two slight errors—e.g. Edyngton died, not in 1367 (p. 16), but on 7 Oct. 1366, and Fox's birth-place is spelt 'Ropesley,' not 'Ropeslev' (p. 28). The illustrations include diagrams of windows drawn by the author and forty plates, twenty-three of which are from photographs by Mr. Sydney Pitcher of Gloucester, whose admirable work needs no commendation to readers of The Archaeological Journal. The plates illustrating the general progress of stained-glass art in England are well chosen from unhackneyed examples, and give a good idea of the characteristics of the various styles. The dedication of the volume to Mr. Herbert Chitty will be recognised by all who know and love Winchester as a fitting tribute to one who has given to Winchester and to Wykeham's great foundation his whole-hearted devotion.

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Christian art and to art consecrated by precedent is familiar to all who attend the summer meetings of the Archaeological Institute, and we are not surprised to find that in 'too many of the manifestations of modern so-called art' he sees 'wayward eccentricity and ugly sensationalism.' It is unquestionable that the mere novelty of certain recent monuments has been a relief to eyes tired of spiritless copies of conventional types and has produced, as a consequence, some extravagant praise; but the break with traditional design is an unfortunate fact, and it is doubtful whether, at the present time, the inspiration of medieval examples can recover its salutary influence. The Gothic revival, with its few geniuses and its crowd of mere imitators, is too recent for a speedy revulsion of taste in that direction. Meanwhile, however, a truer appreciation of the qualities of medieval art is being developed, the effect of which is bound to have some weight upon the future course of architectural design; and, if the modern architect looks to other sources for the expression of his ideas, the sanity of medieval architecture and its complete fitness for its purposes are ideals which he cannot neglect.

The characteristics of sanity and logical adaptation of plan and material to the end desired are well shown in the copious illustrations brought together in this volume. Mr. Vallance traces the evolution of the standing cross from the monolith or menhir through the stages of the cross-headed shaft raised on steps, the pinnacled or spired shaft, the preaching cross, and the expansion of the last, the market cross. As he points out, however, in his detailed account of market crosses, the development of the last type proceeds less directly from the preaching cross than from the custom of building a wooden penthouse round a shaft on steps of the ordinary kind, to shelter stalls. The illustrations show that coherent designs of stone crosses with open arcading round the central shaft are merely elaborated from this principle, and, although it is followed in some preaching crosses, in others the shaft is merely borne upon the open stage without being continued through it. Examples of contrasted types of preaching cross are shown on p. 117, where the Black Friars' Cross at Hereford stands side by side with the cross at Iron Acton; while on p. 6 the old High Cross of Bristol, side by side with the Coventry High Cross, now destroyed, illustrate the connexion of the spired preaching cross with the spired cross of which the lowest stage is solid. It may perhaps be noted that the transportation of the Bristol cross to Stourhead Park in 1766 was due to Mr. Henry Hoare, as Sir Richard Colt Hoare, to whom it is attributed here, was then only a child, though doubtless an intelligent child, of eight.

While the numerous illustrations from photographs, old prints and drawings afford a wealth of examples to the designer, the great value of the text consists in the extreme care with which the author describes and traces the history of individual crosses. He avoids the archaeological discussion into which writers upon the earliest type of standing cross are naturally tempted, and is content to record the variety of opinion which exists upon the date of the Anglian cross-shafts at Bewcastle and Ruthwell, without advancing any private view on the subject. His method is to relate facts which are actually visible or can be ascertained on sound authority, and this he does with a patience and thoroughness which deserves our gratitude, and with remarkable economy of space. Out of 189 pages, 111 are devoted entirely to illustrations, while illustrations occur on 27 more; but the
letter-press, though occupying less than a third of the book, is full of interesting material treated with a power of compression which involves no lack of clearness. The story of destruction and injudicious renovation which it reveals has its melancholy aspect. At the same time, it is one which needed writing, and the antiquary of the future will profit by this faithful record of the vicissitudes of a type of monument which, although it has its local literature in various parts of England, has never been so fully treated before. It was not to be expected, nor was it probably the author’s plan, that a *catalogue raisonné* of all remaining crosses should be given; this could be done only by a system of collaboration with local workers, and those who are interested in special districts can refer to such books as Pooley’s works on the stone crosses of Gloucestershire and Somerset or Markham’s *Stone Crosses of the County of Northampton*. Mr. Vallance’s examples have been chosen with excellent judgment, and, though he might have increased the bulk of his work by adding more, it is doubtful whether he could have added to its representative value.

Full attention is given to the series of Eleanor crosses, and the information given in contemporary documents is usefully summarised. The tradition of crosses at Harby, Newark and Leicester is mentioned: we may certainly, apart from the lack of evidence, dismiss the idea of crosses at Newark and Leicester as unlikely, as both places were quite off the traditional route of the funeral procession. A theory has been maintained of late years that it passed through Newark, and the Beaumond cross there has been cited as an Eleanor cross. The grounds for this idea, though plausibly argued, are very slight; but the Newark cross, which is not mentioned in these pages, is a beautiful piece of early fourteenth-century work which deserves some attention. Another cross of about the same period which might have received a reference is that which, originally at Mountsorrel in Leicestershire, now stands in a field on the edge of Swithland Park: the sculpture of its head is badly weathered, but still retains much of its beauty. Its successor at Mountsorrel is a classical structure with a lead cupola, of the same type as the market-crosses at Bungay and Swaffham illustrated on p. 153, but without the statue of Justice which, as Mr. Vallance remarks, distinguishes their purpose from that of the ordinary band-stand. He is perhaps unduly hard on these designs, which in themselves are respectable and meritorious, and it is certainly not their fault that the band-stand assumes a form akin to theirs, but without their dignity and excellent workmanship.

The concluding sections on unusual types of crosses and on lychgates are brief, and lychgates, though affording scope for picturesque illustration, of which full advantage is taken, are a simple form of monument of which there is not much to be said. Of unclassified crosses, the most interesting example cited is that from Bisley, near Stroud, which Mr. Vallance takes to be a combination of churchyard cross and *lanterne des morts*. His opinion on the curious churchyard cross at Kinlet in Shropshire would have been useful in this section. There are two indexes, one of illustrated examples, and the second of other places and subjects referred to in the text: these, separated by the whole length of the book, might have been combined in one. The bibliography refers to most of the important works on the subject; but Mr. Hewison’s book is by no means the only or most authori-
tative work on the Ruthwell and Bewcastle crosses, and, although Professor Baldwin Brown's volume had not appeared when this book was written, reference might have been made to Mr. Collingwood's edition of W. S. Calverley's *Notes on the early sculptured crosses, etc., in the present diocese of Carlisle*, and not merely to the latter writer's article on the cross-fragments at Aspatria and a few other places. We have noticed a few misprinted place-names, e.g., Llansandwrnen (p. 15) should be Llansadwrnen; but it is unnecessary to comment on these with regard to a book in which the general level of accuracy is so high. Mr. Vallance, like most of us, owes much to the help and counsel of the late Sir William Hope, to whom he makes affectionate reference in his preface: it is too much, however, to say that Hope was the joint editor of *Rites of Durham*, to which, edited by Dr. J. T. Fowler, he supplied plans and an invaluable note on the Sunday procession, which has been a fertile source of information to others.

A. H. T.

**THE ANCIENT ENTRENCHMENTS AND CAMPS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**


This handsome book is the work of an accomplished artist who is also an enthusiastic student of the archaeological features of his county. As 'a pictorial record of the earthworks and camps of Gloucestershire,' it will recall many sites of interest to the archaeologist, while it should certainly stimulate the curiosity of persons who hitherto have felt only a vague curiosity in striking examples of earthwork. Such remains exercise a compelling attraction upon persons who otherwise are not easily moved by memorials of the past, and we remember the case of one very competent authority whose first interest in them was awakened by the sight of the Devil's Dyke on Newmarket Heath, and who thenceforward combined his racing expeditions with the study of camps and fortresses, until the second affection expelled the first. We can imagine that Mr. Burrow's sketches will have a similarly enlivening effect upon many who take up a picture-book in hope of entertainment and insensibly find themselves instructed. They are not only accurate, with a just sense of contours and without picturesque exaggeration, but they are also drawn with due appreciation of local character and environment. To all who know Gloucestershire and the variety of its scenery they will give special pleasure; and where, in illustrating camps above the western escarpment of the Cotswolds, the opportunity is taken of including the wide prospect of the Severn plain, its features, while kept in proper subordination to the main subject, are indicated with evident delight and understanding.

Mr. G. B. Witts' *Archaeological Handbook to Gloucestershire*, published more than forty years ago, and Mr. G. F. Playne's contributions to the *Proceedings* of the Cotteswold Field Club have been used with profit for the short notes which accompany each picture, and, in each instance, a list of other sources has been supplied. The notes, however, are also the result of personal observation; and Mr. Burrow is able to add occasional examples which Mr. Witts did not note. The earlier book, valuable as it is, was without illustrations, and the large map which was published by Mr. Witts...
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in a separate volume was not easily read without a magnifying glass. Mr. Burrow's map, on which camps and entrenchments are marked by red triangles, is smaller and clearer, and his plans, though few in number, are well drawn with bold lettering. His general introduction deals briefly with Roman antiquities, among other subjects, and contains a plan and restored view of the villa at Chedworth: there are also plans of the earthworks round Cirencester and of Roman Gloucester. Dr. Haverfield's article on Cirencester in *Archaeologia* is not alluded to, though it was in print at the time of publication: the plan of Gloucester closely follows the outline of the walls as traced by Mr. John Bellows. There are a supplementary chapter on the Malvern fortresses and final remarks upon the exploration of earthworks, addressed mainly to beginners. These last will hardly be regarded as complete by the scientific explorer, but, as a designedly elementary statement of archaeological methods, they will be certainly useful. The notes in general are brief and are confined to pointing out principal features without entering into details, and measurements, where they are given, are merely approximate. There are very few of those errors in place-names from which even the most excellent local handbooks are not altogether exempt. ‘Lawrence St. Weston’ (p. 100) is a curious perversion of Weston St. Lawrence, the proper name of the hamlet usually known as Lawrence Weston, and ‘Blaise,’ rather than ‘Blaise’ Castle, is the habitual spelling of a well-known place in the same neighbourhood. Knole Park (p. 98) appears in the illustration as ‘Knowle.’ There is no reason for the insertion of a hyphen, which occurs more than once, between the two syllables of Rollright. In literary allusions there are some mistakes: the historian of Gloucestershire was Sir Robert Atkyns, but his name is always given in the possessive as ‘Atkyn’s,’ and similarly there is some variety between the forms ‘Witts’ and ‘Witt’s.’ In compensation for the omission of the last letter of Sir Robert’s surname, Mr. Allcroft’s *Earthwork of England* is quoted in the plural as *Earthworks*; while Mr. G. T. Clark, a sufficiently famous name among archaeologists in spite of the demolition of one of his fundamental theories, receives a final ‘e’ to his name. Nevertheless, if Mr. Burrow’s equipment for his task shows some weaknesses, his pleasure in it is responsible for a charming book. The binding, if exposed, will soon lose its virgin whiteness, and it would be well to preserve the wrapper which protects it, if only for the sake of the picture with which the title upon it is adorned.

A. H. T.

DEVIZES CASTLE: its History and Romance. By E. H. Stone. Devizes, G. Simpson & Co., 1920. 7s. 6d. net. 8½ x 5½ in. 201 + xiii pp. 7 illustrations, 5 plans.

At the meeting of the Institute at Devizes, particulars of which are given in another portion of this volume, the members heard the story of the castle, *quo non erat aliud splendidissim intra fines Europae*, from the author of this book. His study of the subject has extended over many years, and the fuller collections of which the present work is a popular abridgement fill six type-written volumes in the library of the Wiltshire Archaeological Society at Devizes. In applying to it the epithet ‘popular,’ we do so in the best sense; for, although Mr. Stone includes romance in his title and
is not averse from allowing a pictorial imagination to stray beyond the strict bounds of history, he is zealous in verifying his positive statements and in weighing evidence derived from many sources. If he lets his fancy run freely in surmising that Robert of Normandy supplied useful advice for the building of the castle which was his prison to its lord, the great bishop Roger, there is at least a high degree of probability that Robert watched the work with intelligent if impatient interest; and, here and elsewhere, Mr. Stone merely puts down on paper visions of a type which must often occur to the most severe historian, if he has a grain of imagination. On the other hand, he is not led into error by the romance which is due to defective knowledge and mis-reading of evidence. Paying close attention to the language of his authorities, he does not make them say more than they mean, and he very thoroughly exposes the legends of the empress Maud's ride from Ludgershall to Devizes in male disguise, and her departure from Devizes in a coffin.

Little more to-day is left of the castle which medieval historians described as unsurpassed in Europe than its great earthworks, and these were adapted, like those of Old Sarum and probably Tutbury, from the defences of a far earlier stronghold whose encircling ditch formed the line of division between the inner fortress and its outer ward. The centre of the life of the modern town has been shifted from the neighbourhood of the parish church of St. Mary to the outer precincts of the castle, within which were the present market-place and the church of St. John; and the only obvious sign of the change is the name, the Brittox, borne by a street on the site of the wooden barbican or \textit{breteche} which covered the approach to the enclosure. The tradition of the early glory of Roger's castle, although the unanimity of historians on this point is due rather to their habit of copying one another than to personal knowledge, and Leland's testimony to it is merely an echo, cannot be seriously doubted. Mr. Stone's reiterated comparison of its great tower to that of Rochester Castle seems justifiable on the ground of the date at which it was built; while the remains of foundations show that the thirteenth-century hall was on a scale worthy of Roger's buildings. Its history, however, after the death of its founder and the end of the civil wars between Stephen and Maud, is almost a blank, with the single exception of the episode of Hubert de Burgh's escape from it in 1233. The fall of its founder made it for a time a bone of contention between warring parties. When it came finally into the possession of the Crown, its active days of warfare ceased, and from 1299 onwards, it was habitually one of the castles which formed part of the dower of the queens of England, with intermediate grants on lease to temporary holders. The various stages in its ownership after the death of Katharine Parr in 1548 to the present day are clearly recorded by Mr. Stone. Granted by the Crown in 1611 to Philip Herbert, earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, and his heirs, it passed from him into the hands of a London merchant, Sir Peter Vanlore, to whom the earl had mortgaged the neighbouring Old and New Parks. During the civil wars the ruins were repaired and garrisoned by the royalists: their success at Roundway Down in 1643 left it in their hands for two years until Cromwell captured it. It was demolished in 1646, and the present house in the pseudo-feudal style, part of which occupies the site of the great tower, was built, as well as the 'ruins' in its grounds, between 1860 and 1880, by
Mr. Robert Valentine Leach, the son of a Devizes tradesman who had bought the estate in 1838.

The illustrations include some clear plans of the site of the castle and its surroundings, and the imposing, if highly imaginary, painting of the castle as it was by James Waylen, historian and artist, which hangs in the Town Hall, is reproduced on the title-page. A number of short appendices contain interesting illustrative and documentary matter, with a short account of and extracts from the older charters of the borough.

A. H. T.

HEXHAM AND ITS ABBEY. By Charles Clement Hodges and John Gibson. Hexham, Gibson & Son, and London, B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1919. 10s. 6d. net. 8|χ| in. 158 + χ pp. 46 illustrations.

Mr. Hodges many years ago gained for himself the reputation of an unique knowledge of the priory church of Hexham by the descriptive essay which accompanied his fine collection of measured drawings, and, since that time, he has more than once given us the advantage of his study of the building in a more accessible and portable form. The building of the new nave in 1907 and 1908 gave a suitable opportunity for the discovery of new facts and the revision of previous opinions, and the results of fresh knowledge are embodied in this handy volume with considerable fulness. Mr. Hodges has received the help of another antiquary, the son of one whose name occupies a distinguished place on the long roll of Northumberland archaeologists, who has had exceptional facilities for learning what is to be known of Hexham and its church; and the book is thus a valuable and trustworthy record which antiquaries will be glad to possess. Its price reminds us that times have altered since the Hexham Abbey Record, with its admirable series of illustrations, could be published at five shillings; but the numerous illustrations in this book are well reproduced, and under present conditions it can hardly be called dear. There are folding plans by Mr. Hodges of the town of Hexham, the church and monastery, and the Saxon crypt. The information at the end with regard to the institutions of the town, times of services at the various places of worship, the advantages of the golf course and the address of its secretary, etc., are more appropriate to a directory than to an archaeological handbook. A coloured frontispiece of Hexham in 1815, from a painting by A. W. Callcott, is an addition to the merits of the volume.