REVIEWS


Almost everyone who looks at this review will have long ago bought the book, read it, and seen at once that it is just the thing he wanted. To recommend it, to praise it, to insist that any faults in it are mere trifles which only a prig would mention and only a pedant see at all, must be superfluous. The confidence of the Editors of the Home University Library, that subject and author would combine to make it an instantaneous success, has been vindicated as everybody in the least acquainted with either knew it would be. Its popularity is established beyond question, and not least because it reads so easily, and seems to have been written easily likewise.

It has roughly 200 pages. Piggott will have written them, I conceive, in roughly twenty days. Just so did H. A. L. Fisher write his Napoleon in a fortnight, and Collingwood his Archaeology of Roman Britain in four weeks. I compare Piggott with these masters of words deliberately, not because I think his task was easier for him than theirs, but because it was not, and I greatly wish it had been. I do not mean simply that then he would have made the book even better than it is, though I do not doubt it. I wish it because the task ought to have been easier—even for him—than it can have been in fact. Easier in two ways, and first, in the accessibility of subject-matter to be drawn upon. Since 1939, it is true, there have been four other general books on British prehistory—or if you include the C.B.A. Survey and Policy, five—all short or shortish, and the first of them (Childe's Prehistoric Communities) documented on every page.

But these too should have been easier to write than any of them were.

The difficulty for them all has been the same. For books like this, one should be able to draw on subject-matter from two main sources. One is the running stream of new work, which one can see and hear and join in for oneself, and absorb from the current periodicals. If one has the time and facilities needful, there is no difficulty there—only exertion, in other words life. But the other is the still pool of old work, which one should be able to dip deeply into, as a reservoir of comparison and reference; and here is the difficulty. For though a few special subjects, and some fortunate regions, have partial reservoirs of their own, there is far too little of this sort of thing in general: too much of what should be pooled lies about in a hundred different puddles, of uncollated literature, and still more, of unpublished museum-collections. It ought to be gathered up in source-books, like the historians' Calendars of documents. The thing is obvious. We have far too few; and in face of this, the business of equipping oneself to write prehistory for the general public—before ever one starts actually writing and whether one tackles all Britain or a single parish—is to-day laborious beyond all reason.

That is one way in which the task of a Piggott should be lightened. The other lies in overhauling the vocabulary of names and terms, in which prehistorians must tell their story. Its present condition is a mess. What exactly should be done to it is no question for broaching here; but I do want to praise the skill with which Piggott has handled it in this book. He never uses a term needing explanation without explaining it. And he never uses the same term for two different things, nor two incomparably different terms for the same thing. One knows where one is. In particular, he never uses the same term now in a technical, restricted sense, and now in a general, unrestricted sense; some people have been thoughtless about this, and it does harm. If 'food-vessel' is to be the name of a particular kind of pot, defining a culture, it is unkind and stupid to use it also of any pot whatever that one thinks may have once held food. Conversely, if one is going to call any group of urn-burials an 'urnfield' just because it is a field of urns, it is no good simultaneously trying to restrict the name to the cemeteries of an exclusive 'Urnfield culture'. People are just bewildered.

One day, these things will be ordered better—I hope not with nagging rigour, but with decent clarity and sense. Meanwhile, those are just the two qualities that Piggott shows in his use of our existing terms. To do this gracefully can be hard; but he has succeeded: art concealing art. In future editions, which will without doubt be called for, there will, of course, be things to alter—and not vocabulary only. He is rumoured to be at work on some already. But to say this is only to declare that his book is as alive as he is; and long may that be so.

C. F. C. HAWKES.
REVIEWS

EARLY DAYS IN NORTH-WEST LINCOLNSHIRE: A REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY.
By HAROLD DUDLEY, F.S.A., F.G.S. (Curator, The Borough Museum, Scunthorpe),

' We have here,' writes the Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey in his Foreword to this book, 'the product of more than forty years of single-minded devotion.' It is no more than the truth. Mr. Dudley has lived and worked in and around Scunthorpe since 1903, and through him the wealth of the district in antiquities, greatly enhanced by the many finds made in the course of its phenomenal modern rise as a centre of the iron industry, has been concentrated in a Museum of which the Borough can be proud, and is now published in a book which is a model of its kind. A sound geologist with a keen eye for country, he has kept the physical surroundings of ancient man here constantly in mind. There are excellent distribution-maps for all the prehistoric periods; and at the same time the identification and dating of material, both of those and of the periods ensuing, is presented in always accurate and modern terms, and illustrated with admirable photographs and lucid drawings. Thus 'by any standards', as the Foreword says, 'Mr. Dudley must be judged to have succeeded.' From the Palaeolithic, through the Mesolithic for which Sheffield's Hill and Risby Warren have proved so productive and important, through Neolithic and Beaker times (notable for the Risby A-Beaker settlement and other sites), the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, and an Early Iron Age passing into a Romano-British period with well-marked local features and an interesting Anglian sequel, he has good things from every age, and the skill to present them all in terms of their makers' life.

Some of them, including the Scunthorpe flint sickle, the Bagmoor Late Bronze hoard, and the enamelled hanging-bowl mounts of the seventh century A.D., were shown in the Exhibition held in connection with our Institute's Summer Meeting of 1946 at Lincoln, and recorded in this Journal, vol. ciii; yet Mr. Dudley's book does not rest on a selection, but on an exhaustive enumeration of everything he has or knows of, including a great deal never published before. His many interested neighbours will delight to see all narrated in such good order; and archaeologists not of the district will be well advised to scan his pages for record and illustration of many things occurring there in which they may be interested: they will be disappointed seldom. Friends and fellow-workers, of course, have helped him—Mr. Leslie Armstrong, Mrs. E. H. Rudkin, and Mr. D. N. Riley are only three of the best-known—and he acknowledges this generously; but the book is essentially one man's work, and the fact that to-day (to quote Mr. Phillips again) 'the archaeology of north-west Lincolnshire is no hole-and-corner matter' is predominantly to Harold Dudley's credit. One may confidently hope that younger workers whom he has inspired will perpetuate the tradition that he has so well and truly founded.

C. F. C. HAWKES.


These three inexpensive volumes, of guide-book format, vary greatly in scope and quality. Mr. Hoskins reviews the antiquities of Leicestershire from earliest times to near the dawn of living memory, giving 'archaeology' the widest possible limits of time. Mr. Lambert's Blechingley is the first number to appear in a series of local histories of individual parishes and places within the ancient county of Surrey in preparation under the general supervision of the Honorary Editor of the Surrey Archaeological Collections. The Story of Grantham begins with the Saltersford plesiosaurus and the Jurassic formation and ends with the steam-rollers made in Grantham to-day. As a piece of book-production, Leicestershire is the most attractive of the three; it is distinguished by good photographs and is printed in a bold clear type and goes far to correct the impression that the county is less architecturally favoured than others. The fourteenth-century work at Stoke Golding or the house of 1678 at Kibworth Harcourt, to choose at random, could not well be bettered by buildings of like type and scale elsewhere; a picture of the noble tower and spire of Market Harborough church graces the cover of the book. Blechingley has more than parochial fame by virtue of the church and its fittings and Brewer-street. The inclusion in this small history of a good dated plan of the church cannot be too
highly commended. May one hope that in subsequent numbers in the series plans of important houses are included? For the most part they have never been drawn and the antiquary with local contacts is in a position to make an important contribution to knowledge by their production. The prejudice, scarcely veiled, against the Clayton monument by Richard Crutcher and the monument of Sir William Bensley by John Bacon, jun., is quite out of place, and, to-day, even lacking 'period' interest; the importance of Crutcher's work, however, remains assertive enough to make the choice of an illustration of it inevitable for the frontispiece. The book ends with an admirable parish map. Dr. Bowen's and Mr. Willard's book is primarily for those born and bred at Grantham and who know in a very general way that it is an interesting old place. It is in effect a collection of cuttings and the information thus accumulated is voluminous and catholic in scope, but quite lacking in weight. Even with an introductory disclaimer, it is doubtful if the omission of all but a passing reference to so notable a building as Grantham parish church is really possible in a book with this title.

A. R. Dufty.


This is primarily intended to be a picture-book of Anglo-Saxon jewellery, introducing an important body of beautiful, precious and technically interesting ornaments not so much to the archaeologist as to the craftsman and to those who can appreciate the products of the craftsman's skill. The illustrations are thus the core of the matter, and about a third of the text is taken up with descriptive and explanatory notes on the objects illustrated. Although much that is of great interest to the archaeologist is included, Mr. Jessup has not set out to produce any exhaustive typological classifications or to demonstrate the stylistic history of any of the categories of material which he displays. He is content to tell the history of the individual jewels, where it is known, to describe the materials and methods used in their manufacture and, for the rest, to leave the objects to explain themselves.

The illustrations are well chosen. The Kingston brooch, the Alfred and Minster Lovell jewels, the Sutton Hoo purse-mount, and two strings of beads are excellently shown in colour; about half the monochrome plates are devoted to brooches of various types, a quarter to pendants, necklaces, rings, buckles, clasps and pins, and the remainder, not perhaps quite relevantly, to illustrations of Saxon life, huts and houses, barrows and other types of graves, to early scenes of excavation, and early excavators' notes, and to the various styles used for illustrating Anglo-Saxon jewels since the digging of Kentish cemeteries began in the eighteenth century. This last group of pictures falls into place beside a section of the Introduction in which is traced the history of the study and appreciation of Anglo-Saxon jewellery, a topic which perhaps inevitably leads Mr. Jessup into interesting digressions on the personalities and pedigrees of the pioneers of Anglo-Saxon archaeology (e.g. page 81, 'Fairholt, that talented sixteenth child descended from a Spitalfields silk-weaver and a German tobacco manufacturer'), the motives which led them to dig or to portray their finds and the methods they employed in digging or in portraying them. This part of the book is no more relevant to the jewellery of the Anglo-Saxons than to any other category of their equipment, say weapons or pottery, that might be under discussion, but it is none the less readable and interesting for that.

Mr. Jessup has significant things to say on some of the materials used by Anglo-Saxon jewellers: as, for example, that the bronze of their brooches is 'sometimes technically a brass and... very little different from the metal of some Roman "brass" coins' (page 46), a hint which suggests one obvious source of supply. He has moreover himself experimented in the casting of such brooches (page 47), though he says tantalizingly little about the results of his experiments.

While skilfully avoiding the discussion of controversial topics Mr. Jessup says enough to make his own position clear on many of them. Thus he tactfully (and in my view rightly) rejects Kendrick's early dating for the more elaborate Kentish jewellery (page 115), and he regards the Romano-British decoration of some saucer brooches as 'a renascence and not a survival' (page 63). Here and there chronological confusions have crept in: the Horton Kirby saucer brooch (plate x, 1) is dated both 'early in the Saxon period' and also 'Mid to late sixth century' (page 103); and if Ethelwulf's ring was only found in 1870 it can hardly have been presented to the British Museum in 1829 (page 130). Nor is it the case that the boar on the Sutton Hoo clasp is 'the only known instance of its appearance in Pagan Saxon-dom' (page 139) for there is a finely modelled boar as the handle on the lid of a pot from Issendorf, near Stade (conveniently illustrated by R. H. Hodgkin, History of the Anglo-Saxons, 1, 1935, page 9).
Archaeologists will be grateful to Mr. Jessup for this useful book, not least for the descriptive notes to the plates which provide in the handiest available form all the essential information about most of the best-known examples of the Anglo-Saxon jeweller's craft.

J. N. L. MYRES.


The largest single section of Miss Kenyon's report, occupying almost half the volume, is that on the coarse pottery. Well over a thousand examples of Romano-British pottery, mainly from stratified levels, and all from a single site, have been drawn and described. With few exceptions the drawings are accurate, and accord with the established convention, and while they do not reach the standard of Mr. G. C. Dunning's drawings of the medieval pottery, they are adequate for their purpose. Some drawings (fig. 18, nos. 25 and 26; fig. 19, nos. 21 and 23; fig. 33, no. 1; fig. 44, no. 14 and fig. 50, no. 11) show features on the half elevation which can only be seen in section, while the horizon of one of the mortaria (fig. 40, no. 19) is surely incorrect, although we are told that the 'flare' of the Leicester mortaria is pronounced.

The report deals with about a third of the drawn pieces from the excavation in type series. They are classified according to general shape and use, and types are arranged in chronological order to show development within a class. The levels at Leicester in which each type appears, and the frequency of its appearance, are indicated, and a chronological table at the end of the Introduction assigns a date to each level. We are enabled to see when, relatively at least, each type made its first appearance, became common, and tailed off to be represented only by strays and survivals. Parallels are quoted from widely distributed dated deposits, to establish the dates of the types, for the Leicester evidence alone is insufficient, and to give some indication of distribution. In a work of this size it is not desirable to work out in detail the distribution of each type or ware, and only a general picture emerges. The extent to which parallels from northern sites are quoted to pieces of different periods is revealing. None are quoted to the pre-Flavian pieces, but from Flavian times until the early fourth century there are many parallels, probably because at first both regions imported much from a common source, and then later the frontier garrisons obtained much of their pottery from the Midlands. In Mr. Eric Birley's section on the mortarium stamps we find specific examples of Midland potters of the Antonine period whose products were used on the frontiers. As late as the early fourth century the connexion was maintained, for Miss Kenyon points out that the typically northern 'hammerhead' mortarium was fairly common at Leicester, though scarce at Verulamium. Parallels cannot be quoted between the later fourth-century types at Leicester and on the frontier. The Midlands and southern Britain had ceased to supply the frontier garrisons, who now relied on East Yorkshire, while Leicester drew from as near as Castor, and as far off as the New Forest, but not from Yorkshire.

The remaining two-thirds of the pieces are dealt with by groups; the vessels found in each successive level, except those already presented in the type series to which there are cross references, are presented together. Reference is made back to the type series to establish dates, and very few parallels are quoted, except to pieces in the earliest and latest groups. As each successive group is dealt with a summary is provided of the various evidences for the date of the level. This part of the report will be of abiding value; whether or not an excavator's inferences are acceptable, when she has placed in front of us drawings and descriptions of so large a selection of the actual vessels found in mutual association in successive levels, the most valuable task has been accomplished.

While the styles of wares distributed from a single centre are the same in the corresponding levels of different sites, the styles of local wares tend to be more conservative in some regions than in others. Some examples of the tendency emerge from the report, though the use of parallels drawn from a wide area to date the types has tended to make others indistinct. The carinated bowl with the reeded rim appears to last for one or two decades longer at Leicester than on the frontiers, and yet the types that succeeded it with scarcely any overlap, on Hadrian's Wall, appear to have come into use at an earlier date at Leicester than on the Wall. It is not surprising to find town fashions in advance of frontier fashions, but it is surprising that the overlap of old and new was so much longer in the town. It is not merely that civilians do not break their vessels so quickly, for the old and new types were apparently being simultaneously manufactured at Verulamium long after the earlier type had passed out of use on the frontiers. Miss Kenyon dates the first appearance of the cavetto rim jar to the first decade of the second century; it appears so very rarely in the Stanegate forts, which were not given up until forts were added to Hadrian's Wall, that it cannot have come into use there until the third decade. On the other
hand the first appearance of Castor ware appears to have been simultaneous throughout the province; Miss Kenyon dates it to between A.D. 170 and 180, with which most students would agree.

Other students would probably have adopted a slightly different classification for the type series, depending not so much on detail, and more on general shape. A dish (fig. 19, no. 3) whose height is as much as 45 per cent of the diameter is treated not merely as of the same class but as the same type as one (fig. 19, no. 5) whose height is only 13 per cent of the diameter. A truer pair of type series would have been achieved by separating the shallower vessels from the deeper.

It is not possible to construct informative type series from too few types, and that of amphorae, consisting of only three different rims and serving to illustrate the point that amphora rims cannot be dated from form, is hardly a series in the strict sense. The inference is drawn that amphorae of the commonest type continued in use until the end of the occupation; they were commonest in the Antonine levels, and the later examples are surely survivals.

From time to time in the report vessels that are not substantially identical are taken together and treated as a single type, with the result that the dating tends to be widened and blurred. Eight separate mortaria for example are thus taken together (mortarium type B2). They have in common a hooked flange, and a bead roughly level with the top of the flange, but they differ from each other in significant detail. The type is in fact compounded of several distinguishable types, ranging from Bushe-Fox's Wroxeter type 38, made at Lugunum in Flavian times, to those, such as the example from Balmuildy quoted as a parallel by Miss Kenyon, made in the Midlands by the Locii in Antonine times.

When allowance is made for possible time lag between one part of the Province and another, and for the widening of type life as a result of her typological method and acceptance of rubbish survivals as from fashionable vessels Miss Kenyon's, dating is generally acceptable; in any case her working is always shown, she is never guilty of an over-confident close dating on slender evidence, or with no evidence shown. It is always open to the reader to look up her parallels, and to match his judgement and experience against hers. The material for the study of coarse pottery is almost limitless; the study is still in its infancy, and nobody can yet claim to have said the last word on any aspect of it. Miss Kenyon's report adds sensibly to our ideas on the subject, and very considerably to the available properly published material, and is already indispensable to any student of the subject.

The complex text, full of proper names and numerical references, is amazingly free from errors. Goldsborough appears as Goldborough in the reference list, and Professor Atkinson's Caistor pottery report, in the Norfolk and Norwich Society's Journal is omitted from the list though it is used in the text. One habit is bad, and it is not confined to Miss Kenyon's report. This is the use of Imperial names, sometimes as substantives in the way that Dr. Oswald does—Domitian-Trajan, Hadrian-Antonine—sometimes as adjectives—Claudian-Neronic, Hadrianic—early Antonine—and sometimes as both at once—Flavian-Trajan, Hadrian-early Antonine. How would one understand the word Aurelian?

J. P. GILLAM.

PIRANESI COMPOSITIONS. Edited by PROFESSOR HECTOR CORFIATO. Alex Tiranti, Ltd, 1951. 64 plates. Price 12s. 6d.

Professor Corfiato has assembled this collection of plates with a particular audience in view. He is directing the attention of architectural students towards Piranesi as a master of draughtsmanship and of the expression of form in architecture. Sixty-six works have been selected, and they succeed in demonstrating the engraver's skill in organizing and balancing great masses of building. The quality of the reproductions, however, is such that Piranesi's excellence as a draughtsman and his mastery of tone are almost entirely lost.

As a collection of views of Rome this edition may give pleasure; as an introduction to Piranesi's achievement it ranks with the posthumous prints issued by Firmin Didot.

The prints are reproduced by lithography, both with, and without, the use of a screen. The result either resembles a half-tone block of inferior quality and restricted range, or a carelessly printed line block in which over-inking of the stronger passages has destroyed detail, and many of the delicately rendered areas have not been noted at all. In either case the lighter ranges of luminous shadow have darkened into a gloom completely foreign to the originals. The extent of the damage appears clearly in the illustration of the Aqua Paola; not only do we lose all the drawing in the water, but the charming and precise rendering of the distant dome of St. Peter's, a feature not only of considerable beauty in itself but vital to the balance of the composition as a whole, has entirely disappeared. Similarly in the raking view of the Capitol the complete loss of the tones of the sky makes nonsense of the artist's intention. In the blocks where a screen has been employed, the reduction of many tones to an almost uniform drab
grey has proved most destructive in the nine plates dealing with the Carceri. They are travesties of the originals. These fantastically complicated masterpieces are organized by a superb range of tones without which their airy recessions are mere confusion; the nightmare human figures must retain their full impact or the emotional effect is lost.

The text (if we may judge by the baldness of the accompanying biographical notes) is addressed to the uninstructed. Yet little attempt is made to guide the reader through the assortment of facts presented. No clear picture emerges of that mid eighteenth-century Rome in whose intellectual life Piranesi played a vivid part. Winckelmann’s name only appears casually: Mariette is not even mentioned. The influence on Adam is stressed but without any reference to what the Englishman refers to as ‘that friendship we contracted with him during our long residence at Rome’, an intimacy productive of the dedication and portrait medallions of the Campus Martius Antiquae Urbis. Piranesi’s importance, in England, was largely due to the fact that his work realized with irresistible brilliance and force every aspiration of the Picturesque School: Burke’s idea of the Sublime, Adam’s ideal of ‘movement’, in him achieved their apotheosis.

The edition appears to have been hurriedly prepared. The plates are paired without attention to scale or to the method of reproduction employed; the style suffers from obscurities; there is no illustration of the only composition to be analysed in any detail in the text. Carlo Maderna, dead ninety years before the engraver was born, is alleged to have advised him as a young man.

One can but hope that the student, reading between the lines of these lithographs, may realize that there is more in Piranesi’s work than meets his eye, and will turn for inspiration to the originals.

M. BALDWIN.

THE PREHISTORY OF WALES. By W. F. GRIMES. Cloth Boards, 288 pp, 78 figures, 19 plates.

The Guide to the Collection illustrating the Prehistory of Wales, by Mr. W. F. Grimes, published by the National Museum of Wales in 1939, at the price of 4s., has gone out of print. To say that “it is one of the most useful manuals available to the student of British Archaeology” is true. The range, clarity and descriptive competence of its text associated with the author’s typological sequences and other explanatory drawings make a unique conspectus; and there are hundreds of the museum’s specimens, drawn to the same scales for comparative study, all by the author, together with a comprehensive catalogue.

It is thus an irreplaceable survey of Highland Zone Archaeology, and the Museum is greatly to be commended for re-issuing the work without undue delay. It has a new title The Prehistory of Wales; it is handsomely bound in cloth with a dust-cover, revised and brought up to date by Dr. H. N. Savory, Assistant Keeper in the Department of Archaeology—the new text having been read by Mr. Grimes. The new price is 15s.

The mass of material acquired by the Museum in the last twelve years is remarkable; the original catalogue had 484 entries, the new edition has 736. Ten half-tone plates have been added to the original nine, of which those illustrating new acquisitions of Bronze Age pottery are perhaps the most useful.

Distribution maps were asked for in one scholarly review of the original work; their absence is a draw-back, for the Personality of Britain does not provide a specifically Welsh comparative series. Regret, moreover, will be felt by students of Highland Zone Archaeology that not a single object acquired since 1939, including many important Bronze Age hoards, has been drawn for comparison with Mr. Grimes’ instructive, but now incomplete, series.

Such omissions no doubt are due mainly to the over-riding necessity for keeping the price of this museum publication as low as possible. The higher price asked was inevitable: and this important book emphasizes the present day difficulties of providing University students with a list of text-books they can afford to buy. They should, however, try to afford the new Guide; it is a very good book, in which the new material has been ably incorporated.

Lastly, a few notes on minor points may be useful.

The Moel Hiraddug piece is almost certainly a copy in bronze of a wood carving, and it shows a remarkable appreciation of the possibilities of this medium. References in the catalogue to Flintshire should have been collated with Ellis Davies’ new book on the county, as had been done with his ‘Denbighshire’. The very reasonable reservation as to the Llyn Cerrig material in the Introduction should have been repeated in Part II, the Catalogue (p. 133); the statement here is misleading and many people, most regretfully, fail to read prefaces. In the Bibliography the only reference to Celtic Mirrors is dated 1928: much work has been done on the subject since then.

This delightful book is addressed to 'the traveller who has no desire to make an expert study of field archaeology but wishes to flavour his enjoyment of the countryside by visiting its antiquities, or who may even be inclined to make special pilgrimages to prehistoric sites...' Travelling in these stringent times is something most of us have increasingly to indulge in the imagination and to such this book will bring a peculiar solace. Mrs. Hawkes, we suspect, sometimes prefers to travel in this way herself and her book needs the comfort of an armchair if the reader is to submit fully to its charm. Legend, folk-lore, reminiscences of childhood, personal likes and dislikes, the experiences of earlier antiquaries, these and many other strands are interwoven with sober description and often shrewd appraisal of the more visible antiquities of England and Wales. The whole is a work of art which may be enjoyed, not only by those to whom it is primarily addressed, but also to those who know the material treated at first hand.

What to include and what to leave out is an ever-present difficulty. Mrs. Hawkes intended as she tells us in her Preface to describe 'nearly all the prehistoric and Roman antiquities of England and Wales which the eye and the imagination can enjoy.' This was a daring thing to say in the opening paragraph of a book of medium size devoted to so rich a subject. A reviewer is to some extent disarmed by the author's frankness in stating what she is passing by, but the claim remains and inevitably calls for testing. It seems most appropriate to choose East Anglia as a sample, since it was in this province that Mrs. Hawkes grew up. How right she was to include Fleam and Devil's Dykes—beyond her chronological range they may be, but how impossible to leave her public wondering on monuments so visible, so majestic and yet so inexplicable in their present context! But if it was right to include these monuments of the Dark Ages, on what principle was the Roman Car Dyke left out? It has respectable associations with Stukeley and has twice been dug in modern times. It is true the dyke has been degraded along much of its course, but in places, as at Bullock's Haste, Cottenham, it is a noble monument, one of the finest pieces of Roman earthwork extant in Britain. The inclusion of a paragraph on Roman canals at the beginning of the book makes it unlikely that this omission can really have been intended.

Then, again, coming nearer the heart of East Anglia, Mrs. Hawkes may be thought over-apologetic in her reference to the sanctuary monument at Arminghall near Norwich. 'Nothing of it can be seen on the ground,' she writes. Nothing? Surely even a perusal of the excavation report should be enough to show how perceptible is the sweep of the broad bank and how clearly visible, at least in summer, is the inner penannular ditch picked out by the richer growth of the overlying turf. Arminghall was discovered from the air, but guided by the Ordnance Map the summer visitor should have no difficulty in tracing its main features on the ground.

In writing of such sites as Paviland, Kent's Cavern and Creswell, Mrs. Hawkes has much of interest to tell about the early cave-dwellers. It seems all the stranger to traverse East Anglia without mention of the earlier stages of the Old Stone Age, for which this region is famous the world over. 'Natural caves are the only class of site, normally visible, which can be associated with the hunting peoples of the Old and Middle Stone Ages.' What of the fabled cliffs of Cromer or the quarries of Hoxne or Ipswich? Buckland, MacEnery and Boyd Dawkins, yes; but why not Frere or Moir? As old Crome taught us, gravel-pits are colourful places. They are good places too for pondering the earliest ages of man.

It would be ungracious to continue—still more to conclude—in this vein. In writing this Guide Mrs. Hawkes has performed a real service to British Archaeology. She has give us a book that was badly needed and yet might so easily have been a crushing bore rather than the delight it is to any reader of sensibility.

GRAHAME CLARK.
REVIEWS

In space from India to the Highlands of Scotland and in time from the flint sickles of early Egypt to the medieval walls of Southampton and agricultural transport of Ulster that has seen service within the lifetime of the contributors.

As is natural the emphasis is on the prehistory and early history of Britain. Stonehenge Reviewed by Professor Piggott approaches once more the problems of the most impressive of monuments of prehistoric Britain. Piggott attributes the earliest monument (‘Bank, Ditch and Aubrey Holes, just possibly a central timber structure on the site of the present stone settings, and the Cursus’) to the point of transition between the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, indicating as its builders the makers of pottery of Peterborough and Grooved Ware types. Stonehenge II, the grandiose reconstruction in stone, he connects with the Food Vessel element in the Wessex Culture. Finally he recognizes a fleeting third phase in the Belgic culture of the first century A.D. when the long deserted shrine was re-used by a priesthood, ‘who can only have been Druids’. In another important article Professor Hawkes discusses the Bronze Cauldrons and Bucket Animals, linking together the industry of the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods and bringing out the essentially British element. Professor Richmond’s account of a Roman arterial signalling system across Stainmore recalls much of the work carried out by Crawford culminating in his survey of Roman Scotland beyond the Antonine Wall. Dr. Corder contributes an account of the earthworks in Edlington Wood near Doncaster, where there is a puzzling association of oval enclosures and rectangular buildings; these are shown to date from the Roman period. Two interesting historical essays illustrate the beginning and end of this period. Mr. C. E. Stevens examines Roman diplomacy in the century between the invasions of Caesar and Claudius and Mr. J. N. L. Myres discusses the meaning of the Adventus Saxonom, that obscure event in the middle of the fifth century, which forms a turning point in the history of England. The most important study in the medieval field is that contributed by Mr. B. H. St. J. O’Neil on the Town Wall of Southampton. War-damage exposed much of the structure formerly masked by later buildings and a new survey has enabled the writer to collate the structural remains with the historical record. The fortifications of Southampton are a composite growth covering a considerable period and all students of medieval military architecture will welcome this account of one of the more important English examples.

Field archaeology and Folk Culture are well represented, but we can do no more than mention some of the essays. ‘The Cross Dykes of Sussex’, by Dr. E. C. Curwen, returns to a subject on which the author has already contributed much. Mr. Grimes’s study of the Jurassic Way from Lincoln to Banbury includes discussion of the Iron Age pottery from Northamptonshire. Dr. Grahame Clark urges the importance of the study of Folk Culture for the interpretation of prehistory. Coming to more modern times Sir Cyril Fox writes of the Round Chimneyed Farmhouses of Pembrokeshire and Dr. Estyn Evans of Agricultural Transport in Ulster.

A wider field is chosen by Professor Gordon Childe in his study of the origins of the balanced sickle. This form is defined as one in which the curved blade is bent back in relation to the handle so that the tangent to the point of junction forms an obtuse angle with the line of the handle. This form appears in Europe as a revolutionary innovation in the Iron Age; the writer shows that it was known far earlier in the Near East, citing examples in wood with flint teeth from a tomb of the first dynasty of Egypt. Professor Wheeler summarizes the results of his excavations at Arikamedu in South India and discusses them against the general background of relations between that country and the Roman world. Though the reports of his excavation are easily accessible much of the other material is dispersed and difficult to trace, so that this lucid summary makes a real contribution to our knowledge of ancient trade.

The foregoing account gives some idea of the wealth and value of the twenty-one essays contained in this volume. Only a lack of space prevents the discussion of other articles that have had to be passed over without mention. Form, type and illustrations are excellent and the whole publication is in every way worthy of the distinguished scholar to whom it is offered.

C.A.R.R.

MEMORANDUM ON THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACTS. Published by the Council for British Archaeology, 1951.

The Council of the Royal Archaeological Institute has agreed to circulate with the current volume copies of this Memorandum, which summarizes the essential provisions of the Acts of 1913 and 1931. Additional copies may be obtained on application to the Assistant Secretary, Council for British Archaeology, 74 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W.7.