Reviews


This is an unusual book in that it is a collection of six essays by five authors on a common theme, but, as the authors are Swedish and the book has been translated into English, the variations in style which are usual in books of this type have been largely removed. Helen Clarke is to be complimented for the translation and editing of these essays to make them available in English, and the book is a most useful addition to archaeological bibliography.

The value of this book lies in two directions. Firstly it describes, as far as it is known, one aspect of the economic background in Sweden during approximately the 1st millennium A.D. This is important for a period which, at least in pre-Viking times, is not well served by publications in English. But, more significantly, the thematic treatment of iron makes the book much more important, and the chapter by Inga Serning in particular must become essential reading for anyone faced with the excavation of the remains of iron smelting or blacksmithing. All too often those who write about the history of technology have done their research in libraries, but here we have an archaeologist, who has excavated numerous early iron-extraction sites, describing what she saw on the ground, not as site reports, but as a history of the technological development of the various processes. Iron-ore types and sources are described followed by a description of how iron is extracted from the ore. Inga Serning then attempts a classification of furnace types, illustrated by excavated examples, and finally slags are discussed, without getting too involved in the chemistry.

Following this, the other key chapter, as far as this reviewer is concerned, is by Lena Thålin-Bergman on 'Blacksmithing in Prehistoric Sweden'. This is important for its remarks on the smith in society in the early medieval period, a subject for which the evidence is meagre and scattered. Then the smithy and its equipment are discussed and illustrated from contemporary illustrations and surviving examples of tools, which are particularly numerous in Scandinavia. A discussion of the difference between iron and steel and the effects of alloying elements in the iron on its properties then leads into a description of techniques of fabricating iron objects, especially weapons, with special emphasis on the manufacture of cutting edges and the decoration of weapons by either pattern welding or inlaying.

Of the other four chapters, one and two are by Wilhelm Holmqvist, who deals in the first with the introduction of iron into Sweden from abroad during the Bronze Age and its occurrence in the graves of the period and with the gradually increasing importance of the metal culminating in the development of an indigenous iron industry, perhaps in the 1st century B.C. In the second chapter Professor Holmqvist presents a most valuable summary of the industrial and trading complex of Helgö which he calls 'Sweden's First Industrial Society'. Although the excavations of and finds from this site have been published in English, this chapter is a useful introduction for the student, and the importance of the site cannot be over-estimated for the light it sheds on metalworking in the early medieval period.

The book ends with chapters by Åke Hyenstrand on 'Iron and Iron Economy in Sweden' and Karin Calissendorff on 'Linguistic Evidence for Early Iron Production'. The former deals with the iron producing areas of Sweden and discusses how the evidence for
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ancient metal industry has gradually been discovered and collated. Central to the argument is the type of ore which was available — i.e. mined or collected from lakes and bogs, a subject also discussed by Inga Serning. Hyenstrand then mentions trade routes and the related patterns of settlement, proposing models for how the production areas might have related to the main centres of population. Finally there is a discussion of the legendary Järnbäraland (iron-bearing land), which is described in several early medieval sources. This discussion recurs in the final chapter, which deals with words which have a technical meaning and shows that they frequently occur as elements of place names. All aspects of iron and its production are covered, including furnaces, the use of water power and the provision of timber for fuel.

If one criticism can be levelled at this book it is that the same problems do tend to recur in more than one place. The problem of Järnbäraland has already been mentioned, and another example is the question of which ores were used in the early period of iron smelting — mined ore or lake and bog ore. One possible key to source of the ore is the phosphorous content of the iron, but this is also dependent on furnace technology, and although the evidence available from the analysis of artefacts and ores is reviewed by Inga Serning, it is clear that no generalized conclusions about ore sources are yet available, except for the later Middle Ages for which descriptions of the collection of ores from lakes and bogs survive.

This, however, is not a serious drawback, and some readers may, in fact, find it helpful to have more than one view of the same problem discussed within the covers of the same book. The only other minor point is that the six pages of references could, with profit, have been expanded by fuller referencing in some of the chapters, but this will not detract from the value of the book for the student and general reader who will dip into it; needless to say it will become a standard source for historians of metal technology.

ANDREW ODDY


This volume, published under the aegis of the German Archaeological Institute in Madrid, is the first to appear in a series under the general title Hispania Antiqua. The six projected volumes will provide a survey of the monuments and art of the Iberian peninsula from the prehistoric period to the end of the Ommayad caliphate. This, the fourth volume in the series, spans from the early 4th century to the early 9th.

Of the two authors Professor Schlunk will perhaps be best known as one of the most authoritative scholars in the field of Early Christian and Early Medieval Spanish studies; having been writing on the subject since the 1930s and having published his first general survey in 1947 — the volume of the standard Ars Hispaniae series dealing with Visigothic and Asturian art. Here, thirty years later and in collaboration with Th. Hauschild, he presents a distillation of a significant part of his life’s work.

The book falls into three parts. The first in a series of short chapters provides a general synthesis of: Early Christian monuments of the 4th and 5th centuries; grave finds from the period of the Germanic migrations; Visigothic monuments of the 6th and early 7th centuries; Christian monuments on the Balearic Islands; Visigothic monuments of the second half of the 7th century. The second part is a detailed catalogue and bibliography of individual monuments and works of art. The third part is a corpus of plates of the monuments discussed in the catalogue.

The plates are wholly admirable. Clearly they are taken by photographers with an understanding of the material and not just an eye for a pretty composition (would that some English publishers would note); the result is that nearly every one makes a telling point and forms an essential part of the academic presentation. The plates in many cases
are supplemented by line drawings in the body of the text, and there is a very useful series
of plans of many of the buildings.

From a scholarly point of view the book provides a synthesis of material that will prove
itself quickly indispensable, for there is no other work available that summarizes the results
of so much recent research over so wide a field — and a great deal has been done since 1947.

The one regret that the reviewer would have is that there is not more discussion of the
controversy surrounding the dating of the buildings here assigned to the latter part of the
7th century. The authors prefer to give their own reasons for dating, and to remain silent
on the alternative views. Thus Sta Comba de Bande which a late 10th-century document
tells us had been lying ruinous for 200 years before 872 is accepted as the original building;
while San Pedro de la Mata is assigned on the basis of an inscription recorded in the 16th
century to the time of King Wamba (672-80). When it comes to San Pedro de la Nave
which has no documented date, the authors argue a late 7th-century date on a stylistic
analysis of the monument and its decoration and on the style of an incised horologium; and
with Quintanilla de las Viñas they prefer again a stylistic method, arriving at a late 7th-
or early 8th-century date — against inscriptions on the monument which can possibly be interpreted as pointing to the early 10th century. The authors may well be right but, although they
have argued some of their reasons in more detail elsewhere, it would have been useful to have
had a slightly wider view of the problem here. To what extent can we be sure that 7th-century
traditions came to a tidy end in 711? And can we rule out a conservatism that might lead to
similar formulae recurring in the 9th and even 10th century? Perhaps volume V of Hispania Antiqua will reassure us that the arguments here adopted do indeed fit into a perspective
that will account convincingly for all the material from the 7th to the 11th century.

Despite this one reservation, however, this book can be warmly recommended for its
high academic standard. Nor should this review end without due acknowledgement of the
exceptionally high quality of the production: in typography, in layout and materials it is a
joy to use (and possibly less expensive than a similar publication from some English
publishing houses would now be).

R. D. H. Gem

Earlier Medieval Sites (410-1066) in and around Bristol and Bath, the South Cotswolds, and Mendip.

By E. Fowler and others. 15 x 21 cm. 38 pp. Bristol: Bristol Archaeological Research

This is the third in a series of Field Guides published by the Bristol Archaeological Research Group, the earlier two being on prehistoric and Roman sites. These guides are to
monuments which can be seen in the field, or to material in local museums. In this area of
the south-west, early medieval sites include Dark Age hillforts and monastic sites, the linear
earthworks of Wansdyke and Offa’s Dyke, sites of battles, charter boundaries, Saxon
settlements, palaces and quarries, burials and cemeteries, churches and sculpture, and the
pre-Conquest elements of Bath, Bristol and other towns. This is a surprising wide range of
sites of pre-Norman date where there is something to be seen or at least imagined.

The Guide begins with a historical introduction; in such a brief summary there are
bound to be unsatisfactory generalizations, but even so this reviewer was startled to learn
that hillforts in the area were re-occupied because of climatic deterioration. Similarly to
call the 5th century sub-Roman and the 6th post-Roman is worse than simplistic. However
history is not the purpose of this Guide, but what to see. In most cases this is more where
things have been found, rather than visually exciting earthworks or ruins. We should note
that the ‘religious’ building at Cadbury Congresbury was not a ‘stony area’ — the whole
hill is limestone. Nor does a radiocarbon determination give a 6th-century date for anything
at Glastonbury Abbey; nor is there daub there from a monastic settlement of Irish mission-
aries, and since when have monasteries had defences?

The section on Saxon charters will be of wide interest to field-workers, and stimulate
their understanding of the landscape; good too are the sections on quarries, palaces and
cemeteries, though it must be pointed out (concerning Cheddar) that ‘witan’ does not mean a meeting of the king’s counsellors. The occasions of 941, 956 and 968 were of the witenagemot, when the king met his witan (plural of wita — a wiseman).

The Guide is on safer architectural ground with the churches, where the information is less liable to misunderstanding, and there is more to see. The section on towns too is very interesting, but the walker will have to be very persistent to see anything of Saxon Bath or Bristol, though he or she can trace the circuits of other burhs like Malmesbury or Cricklade.

There is finally an excellent bibliography, and the best hope is that the Guide will lead its readers into the field and then to the library, where prolonged reading will give them a keener and more accurate understanding of the area in pre-Conquest times than can be done in the necessarily brief space of this Guide.

PHILIP RAHTZ


The discovery and partial excavation of the palace complex at Cheddar, Somerset, was one of the most significant developments in post-war archaeology in southern England. Professor Philip Rahtz presents his full report on the site in this volume. A historical introduction is followed by description of the local context and suggested chronological sequence, which is divided into seven periods. There is then a detailed description of the structures and their interpretation, a catalogue of finds, and finally a historical synthesis.

The total excavation of an area of 0.8 hectares was a major operation by the standards of the early 1960s, and not least of the lessons learnt at Cheddar was that Saxon sites of this type contained disparate activities and occupied very large areas of ground. The foci of activity periodically altered within the site, the hall’s position being shifted three times in three centuries. The agricultural and industrial processes that took place in the Saxon period are not matched in the post-Conquest phases, a reflection of the relatively greater importance that a ‘villa regalis’ had before towns became generally more convenient for commercial and administrative purposes.

It is the evidence of metalworking of various sorts, and the finds, which provide the most interesting new material in this report, since the outline of the site's interpretation was established in Professor Rahtz’s interim report in this journal, vol. vi/vii (1962–63), 53–66. The final report is more exact about date ranges, and more hesitant in attributing some of the early structures to specific periods, but does not alter significantly the basic framework then established, except that Professor Rahtz accepts P. V. Addyman’s re-interpretation of Structure X (Anglo-Saxon England, 1 (1972), 296), originally thought to have been a mill, as a fowl-house. There is a series of reconstruction drawings by the late Alan Sorrell, and axonometric reconstructions of the timber structures by Mr D. S. Neale, some of which appeared in Professor Rahtz’s chapter in D. M. Wilson (ed.), _The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England_ (1976).

The objects from the excavations include an interesting assemblage of stone fragments from the first structure recognized as a chapel, including some with rod holes for basket-work frames, which are paralleled at Avebury and Bibury in SW. England. The glass includes two fragments of what might perhaps be vessels of the Anglo-Saxon period. All the metal objects are base, although gold and silver residues adhered to some of the crucible fragments. A pair of tweezers with animal-headed knops is the most interesting individual piece, and there is one strap-end with delicately-worked ornament, the other pieces being quite ordinary. The coins include an Edmund halfpenny, a denomination which other excavation finds show to be under-represented in hoards. A long pottery report is nearly all of local interest, although it is revealing to see (p. 322) that a single sherd can still receive several different attributions. The bone objects are unremarkable.
As a basic presentation of data, the report is excellent, providing enough detail for a proper assessment of the various structures and features. Although quantities of Roman pottery and coins were found, none of the structures at the palace can be attributed to a Roman date, although there is a villa nearby. Professor Rahtz is anxious to demonstrate the possibility of 'continuity' from villa to royal estate, but the gap in the archaeological record remains elusive. This perhaps influences his extreme caution in dating the foundation of the Period I complex to 'any time later than the seventh century' (p. 373): to believe that the earth-fast structures could be 8th-century forces the belief that they remained unaltered for over a century, which is not the pattern to be expected from the frequent re-buildings that were undertaken thereafter. The precise status of the 9th-century complex is doubtful because of ambiguities in Alfred's will, but royal use of Cheddar during the post-930 decades is attested by documentary evidence. The hall, chapel, and other excavated buildings are impressive, as is the range of finds, but it is worth noting that they are no more than have been discovered subsequently at comparable sites, not all necessarily in royal hands; these sites are not mentioned in the text.

Even in 1960 it was not true that Yeavering and Cheddar 'have furnished us with all the information we have about the layout and structure of major Saxon buildings other than churches' (p. 2), since Old Windsor had already been excavated, but it was even less true in 1979, the date of publication of the report. Cheddar's Period I hall is matched in length by Goltho's; its chapel invites comparison with the single-unit stone structure at Portchester; its entrance arrangements with Sulgrave's; its range of finds with Netherton's. The reader is left with the impression that the report was written in the 1960s, and has been only randomly updated. Why the delay? And above all, why the third-rate method of production? This site deserved to be properly printed on page of a reasonable quality, with half-tone plates on art paper, and provided with an index. Something is badly wrong with British archaeology if our most important excavation reports are to be allowed to sink to this standard of publication.

David A. Hinton


Between 1968 and 1974 the University of Minnesota and the Town Planning Institute of Dalmatia conducted a joint excavation on certain key sites within the area of Diocletian's Palace at Split, primarily to elucidate the medieval levels. Two volumes containing preliminary reports on the excavations appeared in 1972 and 1976. The present, no. III, is the first volume dealing with the finds. Janet Buerger's account of the medieval glazed pottery occupies most of the book, Mary DeMaine's on the glass, although detailed, is but fourteen pages long, and the section on the mosaics is even shorter, containing only a brief catalogue and three pages of photographs, with a promise that a much fuller discussion will follow in a later volume.

Miss Buerger's account is not just a description of the glazed pottery found during the excavations. She has deemed it not only appropriate but necessary to spread her research over a much wider area, so as to provide a detailed analysis of a whole range of medieval glazed wares, including Early Wares, Proto-Maiolica, Archaic Maiolica, Sgraffito pottery, etc., not only in Italy and the Balkans, but spreading out towards Spain in the west, Byzantium in the east, and North Africa and the Levant besides, in order to elucidate wares from, or connected with, those regions which the work at Split has yielded. Her account of these wares, dating from the beginning of the 13th to the earlier 15th century (the period covered by the Joint Expedition's finds), is concise and well written, with very full notes and bibliography. Miss Buerger has visited a great number of relevant museums
in Italy, Yugoslavia and elsewhere, has a firm grasp of the available literature, and has been in frequent touch with other scholars working in the same field. Her report must for some time to come form one of the prime sources of information for students working in this and related fields.

Miss DeMaine's report on the glass, although much shorter — for her material was, in comparison with Miss Buerger's, exiguous — is by no means unimportant, since it includes some fifty fragments, mainly of beakers and flasks, belonging on stratigraphic evidence to the 14th and early 15th centuries. Any such group of well-dated medieval glass is of value, and Miss DeMaine's analysis and discussion of this material from Split will be widely welcomed, especially since the material comes from a site so near to the geographical centre of European glass production at that period. The group includes fragments of colourless bowls with toed bases (M 18–24), others colourless with blue trails on the edges of the rims (M 25–30), fragments of necks and bodies of flasks with wrythen ribbing (M 32–34), a number of deeply kicked bottoms (M 34, 36, 38, 49), and other items of recognizable later medieval types. For more detailed comment I confine myself to one piece, a base-ring fragment of wine-red glass (M 35, pp. 129, 135) of the 13th century or perhaps somewhat later, with an opaque white trail on the bottom edge of the ring. As Miss DeMaine notes (following a suggestion of mine to her) this fragment closely resembles a fragment of a base-ring built of three coils, one above the other, the upper two wine red and the lower opaque white, joined to a sapphire-blue body, which was found below Bishop Tunstal's Chapel, Durham, and published by me in the Antiquaries Journal xxxiii (1953), 64, as belonging somewhere between the 8th and the 13th century. It is good to know that, with this close parallel from Split in mind, we may now place the Durham fragment at the end of the date-span I suggested for it in 1953, or even somewhat later.

With such a large format it were better to have used a two-column layout for the text of this book; lines of 18 cm are too long for the eyes to read with ease. The book can be faulted, too, for its wasteful design with over-wide margins and many blank pages; much space might also have been saved by reducing the pottery drawings from one-half to one-third scale. That misprints, lost lines and other infelicities are frequent is doubtless due to the book having been produced in Yugoslavia.

D. B. HARDEN


The publication in 1958 of Medieval England came at a crucial point in the development of medieval archaeology, and typified the increasing collaboration between archaeologists and historians which had developed during the previous ten years. The importance of aerial photography in interpreting the medieval landscape had been apparent since Crawford's first air photograph of a deserted medieval village in 1924, but it was St Joseph's photographs from 1948 onwards which fully developed the potential of this technique. These photographs, coupled with Beresford's pioneering skill in using his historical knowledge to interpret the landscapes that they portrayed, made in that first edition a remarkable impact, and did a tremendous amount to encourage medieval archaeology in the year after the formation of our Society. The set aim of the volume was 'a treatment of specific examples within a general account of changes and survivals in the medieval landscape, but not to offer anything like a textbook of medieval economic history ... The medieval landscape rather than the medieval economy formed our central theme'. In this the authors were very successful in developing their themes of old maps, fields, the fabric and the plan of town and village, the multiplication of villages and the dissolution of the medieval landscape and finally communications and industrial remains.

After twenty years how does the second edition compare with the first? There are many improvements. All the photographs are better produced and greatly benefit by the contrast
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of the white rather than the earlier cream paper. New photographs show improving aerial photograph techniques, especially the increased use of winter photographs, with their greater contrasts, to show earthworks at their best. The addition of the dates of the photographs helps not only in confirming the time of year that the photograph was taken but, in view of the considerable recent land-use changes, it is useful to see when in the last thirty years the view was taken. Many subjects have been photographed at closer range, or enlarged to fill more of the plate, enabling the important evidence to be seen in more detail. Unfortunately not all of the changes are for the better and in particular the redrawing of many of the plans has been done without thought of the eventual reduction so that they are not only variable but confusing and inaccurate. The first fig., 18 (Nun Monkton 1607), is the worst as there is a complete loss of the house sites, making the description meaningless. The plan in the first edition was quite clear. In fig. 28 (Toddington) the drawing had bold clear lines but the key has been redone with too thin lines again leading to loss of detail in the buildings. These have clearly been overreduced. In the first edition the Ilmington map, fig. 58, might have been over-inked but it was clear. The new version has lost all detail. The reverse has happened in the 1771 plan of Milton Abbas, fig. 408. The first edition was blurred but could be read, the new version is so over-inked as to be illegible.

How successful have the various changes and additions to the volume been? Taken in the order set out by the authors: ‘Availability of more and better photographs, taken from new angles or in different seasons’. The new photograph of Leighton Bromswold, Huntingdonshire, fig. 39, adds a new dimension to the story with the soil marks of the levelled shrunken village. In fig. 38 the new view of Cublington, Buckinghamshire, shows much more effectively the motte and demonstrates the value of winter photography of standing earthworks. The clear crop mark of the D.M.V. of Grenstein, Norfolk, fig. 44, is unfortunately the result of ploughing of the earthworks seen in fig. 42A of the first edition. The importance of keeping sites under constant surveillance is best demonstrated by Temple Bruer, Lincolnshire, where fig. 80 in the first edition did not contribute very much to the text. Fig. 68 in the second edition shows clearly the site of the D.M.V. revealed by the plough under different conditions.

It would be possible to continue listing replacement photographs which demonstrate important new points. Unfortunately, however, this is not always so. The first edition photograph of the Barnack quarries, fig. 97, showed the medieval topography much better than the new one taken in 1970, fig. 106. In the first the quarries and the general plan of the medieval settlement were clear but in the new there has been an extensive growth of scrub obscuring the pits, while new housing development completely masks the medieval village plan. Both photographs of Berwick upon Tweed in the first edition very effectively showed the impressive Elizabethan defences but the ‘new’ view, fig. 79A (in fact taken in 1948), concentrates too much on recent housing development and the railway cutting through the medieval castle, with the defences hardly visible in the distance.

‘Since 1958 photography of a far wider range of sites has been undertaken: some of these illustrate the themes of the book more adequately than those chosen for the first edition’. Open field systems at Weston Pinkney, Northamptonshire and Hollingdon, Buckinghamshire, have been replaced by Watford and Onley, Northamptonshire (figs. 9 and 10) taken in the low sun of a mid-winter afternoon, bringing out with remarkable clarity many details of the ridge and furrow, showing varying widths and accumulated mounds at the ends of some of the plough-runs. The single windmill mound overlying ridge and furrow at Stanbridge, Bedfordshire, is replaced by Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire, fig. 23, showing two mounds, also closely associated with ridge and furrow, with the hot cross bun effect caused by the decayed timbers of the cross beams for the post mill. The section on shrunken villages is greatly strengthened, reflecting the increased interest in this most common type of earthwork in the country. Bingham, Nottinghamshire, is replaced by the classic cases of Boarstall, Buckinghamshire, with its early map of 1444 and a vertical air photograph, fig. 41, and Chippenham, Cambridgeshire, with its 18th-century map, fig. 43. Unfortunately neither shows earthworks very well due to poor preservation and the presence
of trees, so they partly miss their point. Much more effective is the comparison of a 17th-century plan of Ogle, Northumberland, with the present situation showing a change from a green to a street village (fig. 42). In the section on castles the two fine motte and bailey castles with their associated earthworks at Yelden and Cainhoe, Bedfordshire, figs. 64 and 65, are very striking, but it is a pity that examples were not used from different areas of the country, for example the West Midlands which are poorly covered in the volume. The new vertical air photographs of Nottingham, fig. 72, York, fig. 71, Bury St Edmunds, fig. 91, and St Ives, Huntingdonshire, fig. 73, demonstrate an important recent aspect of the Cambridge programme of flying — the taking of more verticals in addition to the better known obliques.

‘Discarding of a few subjects has enabled us to add new topics that may appropriately be displayed in aerial photographs’. Three new subjects are included most effectively: Rabbit warrens with a 16th-century map, fig. 26A, and a photograph of pillow mounds at Ditsworthy on Dartmoor. Also on Dartmoor the extensive earthworks connected with tin mining are shown at South Tawton, fig. 110. The remarkable scale of peat workings is shown from the flooded turbaries at Barton Broad, Norfolk, fig. 114, and silted up examples at Upwell Fen, Cambridgeshire, fig. 115.

‘Commentaries have been revised to take account of the changed direction of view and of any additional features now revealed’. The revisions have been thoroughly done and new work referred to. Only in a few cases have points been missed. It was right to delete Lavenham and Long Melford, figs. 103 and 104, from the second edition, since three cloth towns from Suffolk was rather excessive, but the introductory text still reads as though Kersey and Lavenham are the examples illustrated, though this first reference (p. 265) does not appear in the Index. In fact the new Index is unfortunately not reliable ( unlike the first edition’s) for secondary references. For example, Airmyn is referred to on pp. 138-39, Badby on p. 138, Castle Rising on p. 63, Denbigh on p. 144, Devizes on pp. 144 and 215, etc. but none of these is recorded in the Index.

‘We have corrected errors that have come to our attention’. There were few of these in the first edition but simple ones like the wrong orientation of Padbury, Buckinghamshire, fig. 49, now fig. 54, have been changed. ‘And have added new references to documentary sources or to published work, where relevant to the photograph’. All the entries have been fully updated and referenced where more work has been done. Further research on the problem pictures in the first edition should have been recorded. Little more is known about Sysonby, Leicestershire though it is still most likely to be a grange, but the Argam cropmarks are now recognized as part of a major series of Iron Age and Romano-British features which are common all over the Yorkshire chalk Wolds.

Taking the volume as a whole, and despite some odd choices for new photographs, and the poor quality of many of the plans which should bring out the information in the photographs, the second edition is a great improvement on the first. Although the previously criticized geographical imbalance (brought out by the distribution map, now more suitably placed at the beginning rather than as an afterthought at the end) has not been corrected, there is no doubt that the fine quality of the production, the able choice of most of the revised and new photographs, which bleeding allows to be published at a larger size, and the high quality of the commentaries, make this volume one of the most significant contributions to medieval archaeology. It is a sad reflection that the first edition was only £2.25 but at £10 the second edition is a real bargain when compared with present general book prices. Everyone interested in the medieval period should have a copy, whether they already have the first edition or not, in view of the substantial changes.

It is a pity that while Medieval England appeared as volume II of Cambridge Air Surveys six years after volume I on Monastic Sites, twenty years later no further volumes have appeared. The remarkable collection now available covers all kinds of subjects, as evidenced by the 1965 survey The Uses of Air Photography which did much to whet our appetites, and it is gratifying to learn that after serious problems the Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography is reprieved for a further five years. To continue the Air Surveys at the high
standard of *Medieval England* would certainly be one way to justify the Committee’s con­tinued operation. It is fitting that this volume should appear just before the retirement of Professor St Joseph, as it epitomizes the remarkable contribution he has made to medieval archaeology over the past thirty years. He and Professor Beresford were among the pioneer workers in the 1940s who laid the foundations for our subject. We all owe them both a great deal for opening our eyes to the possibilities of landscape archaeology.

JOHN G. HURST


In view of the time and energy devoted to hunting in the Middle Ages, the nature of hunting and the reserves associated with it have been unjustly neglected. John Gilbert has now provided us with a masterly and impressive study of the history of hunting and hunting reserves, mainly forests, in medieval Scotland. His thorough analysis of the methods of hunting and the institutional framework of the reserves makes this a most valuable book for placing the archaeology of hunting in Scotland, both fieldwork and related objects, against a sound historical background.

The book is divided into two sections. The first covers the introduction of hunting reserves to Scotland, their history from 1124 to 1513, and methods of hunting and hawking; the second is an institutional analysis that considers its creation of reserves, the administra­tion of royal forests, non-royal forests, parks, the forest law, and ends in an assessment of the economic and social impact of the reserves. Of particular interest to English readers is the argument that David established forests as hunting reserves in Scotland in the 1300s after he had been introduced into the workings of English forest law through his ownership of lands as Earl of Huntingdon which lay within English royal forests such as Huntingdon, Rutland, Rockingham and Salcey. Nevertheless while the idea of the forest reserve may have come from England it is clear from his discussion of hunting methods that there were significant differences between English and Scottish methods of hunting. His lucid analysis of hunting methods clearly distinguishes between the drive popular in Scotland before the arrival of the Normans and the other methods of hunting, notably the chase *par force*, hunting the stag with relays of hounds, for which there is no unequivocal evidence in medieval Scotland. His suggestion that social distinctions and differences were less in Scotland than England and his indication that this may have been due to the greater dependence on the drive in Scotland rather than the *par force* hunt is an extremely interest­ing point that might be pursued further by comparing types of hunting and their social role in other European countries.

The section on fieldwork, of most direct interest to medieval archaeologists, is only seven pages long and indicates the possibilities of this approach rather than a wide survey of the evidence. He identifies a possible hunting lodge site, Glenfinglas, the excav­ation of which might well show whether Scottish hunting lodges were of a courtyard or central hall plan. He also describes the boundaries of three parks and notes the need for excavation to determine the nature of park paling. His discussion of objects relating to hunting is disappointing, particularly his lack of any specific reference to the baldric of the Earls of Moray.

A more important criticism is the neglect of any discussion of the geographical differences between different forests. They range from Inverness in the north to Liddesdale in the south and differences in their geology and geography might have led to differences in the way in which the preservation of hunting would have affected the social and economic development of the area. The evidence that lands were alienated in four forests to the north of the Forth after 1350 indicating an increase in ploughing and grazing after the Black Death is interesting not only for the indication of economic expansion after 1350 but for the suggestion that the development of forests was different according to area.

*O*
JOHN CHERRY

The institutional study of the hunting reserve is directed to assessing the effects of the reserves on economic and social life. His discussion of their relationship to the increasing shortage of timber is particularly interesting. Although the reserves created genuine suffering and inconvenience he concludes that the Scottish forest system was less rigid than the English and so avoided the acrimony characteristic of the English system. This impressive and fundamental study of the Scottish forests underlines the lack of a comparable English study.


A columnist — call him either with a small letter, but anyway a ‘good European’ — was marking up the return of de Gaulle by the suffrage of sizable towns that we had all heard of. Unwittingly he was calling the roll of civitates. Most had been given mints by Charles the Bald; their commerce and late Roman defences restored, they had been crowned by the fairest churches under Heaven. If monstrous sons had once torn a few of these down, none had been so impious as to work a sharp autopsy on his mother. Of some thirty contributors to these comptes rendus of an Oxford conference Professor de Bouard, on ‘surveys’ of France, hardly mentions this banausic kind of archaeology, for all he has championed it there: simply long and devoted observation. Nowhere is less recorded, proportionately, from the knife and shovel than in Gaul, yet nowhere is this aeternitas so impressive: not in Spain or even Italy; much less in the most favoured part of England; most exceptionally in the Levant, and not at all beyond the Roman frontier. Te duce magnificas Galliae (far more than Asiae) perspeximus urbes.

The contributors include many distinguished names: it would be invidious to range them in competition in this small space, but since some, and not only from beyond the frontier, are best known as excavators, I am grateful to ignore the scalps they have won in this field and, for the moment, even their results, and to judge them by the principles they have been free to express. The French contribution still takes a certain palm by denying itself trophies and concentrating on the preliminaries of documentation and topography, including ‘graphic’ records. Nearly three-fifths of the book is in ‘country surveys’, which show the strength or weakness of archaeological law and coverage to date, but are wildly inequitable in giving nearly as much space to fringe areas, with a few towns and late, as to the great wards of Europe, a potwalloper’s franchise to make the best of what they have. Far more informative, yet in my view less diagnostic of the broadest and strongest bond between towns, are the historical discourses in the final fifth, on their political and religious functions: Dr Brühl on his theme of palatium et civitas, Dr Gerevich on the like in the most deliberately ‘apostolic’ kingdom, Hungary, others on substitute Romes in northern Italy and on York that became the northern capital by no means entirely because it was the ecclesiastical metropolis (though it had the only semblance of a revived palatium known in Britain). The penultimate fifth reverts to the semblance of aeternitas, the co-extension of a Roman and a post-Roman town, and the section is divided between those that happen to be so and those that do not. Even M. Février’s conspectus of the West Mediterranean, from Aix (Italia verius quam Provincia) is marred when he predicates things of ‘The town’. Co-extension may be a snare; at best, in civitates, it may indicate continuity of non-urban institutions, even with a short sede vacante. Rural settlement on a site that became urban, as Oxford, or ceased to be, as Silchester, is not urban archaeology. The best criterion is surely full-time distribution of various and bulky deadstock, which, unlike law, religion or livestock, will not walk around. Not eyre, nor fair, nor pilgrimage alone may build a town. Settled burgesses to handle the stock may acquire urbanity and even dispense with them altogether; but they are very difficult to prove in continuity, and shrines, walls, even discrete estate-villages within them only provide a frame, as in Trier, where the prospects...
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before and after were most promising. There, elsewhere on the Rhine (where some industries weathered well), and in Canterbury or Winchester, thorough excavations have never attested a strictly urban continuity. It would be likely so in most of Merovingian Gaul, where the favourite tactic was besieging walls with, perhaps, palatia, but no reference to settlers. There may prove to be a few exceptions to these cities that were, for a time, not towns, but they had only a slight edge in recovery over new trading towns like Quentinovic or Hamwih. Even the denser gold coinages (Chalon-sur-Saone?) do not prove urban continuity: they need not be minted near an ordinary market and, anyway, scarcely antedate 600. D. H. Hill, from Manchester, tries this test for England as well as Gaul (Kent belongs better with Gaul, and his dating is a trifle early): he has a better case with silver coins, but not much before 700; this is not continuity but an early manifestation of a medieval phenomenon which, once it becomes positive, expands triumphantly to the end of this book.

The résultats of the conference could well serve towards a definition of medieval archaeology: whatever is sub-Roman or barbarian belongs to Antiquity; whatever is resumed, on site or off, is ours. In towns the medieval active constituent is, to use English terms, the port, whatever other occasional functions, as burh, gemot or stow, may have been associated in one place, and may even have formally convened the settlement. Wie, kaupang, Vorburg, Forebury, call it what you will, it has a refreshing repetitiousness to the limits of western Christendom and beyond. The Fürstenburg may be a reoccupied site, but it will die once more without it. Walled from the beginning, or as an afterthought, or not at all, a medieval town was usually defended by its own men, not by professionals. The expensive barbarian hirelings of late Roman towns were a dead loss, but though the Vikings burned towns, they recovered, grew and multiplied at their hands, as Thetford or Norwich. No civitas ( ? save Luna, a left-over from Antiquity) was deleted by them or their close successors. Such an act of romanité and artillery was reserved to the last properly constituted Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, at Thérouanne, where, after a long recording of site-finds, excavation has now been pursued to the bitter end of the Middle Ages. S. E. RIGOLD


This is the first of a series of publications devoted to archaeological work in Lübeck. Two of the articles discuss prehistoric material, the others describe the results of excavations in the heart of medieval Lübeck, dealing mainly with its period of greatness as a Hanseatic port.

The periodical is divided into two parts: excavation reports and analysis of the finds, both sections excellently illustrated with figures and plates. From an English viewpoint the second section is perhaps more relevant. It includes a summary of leather objects from Königstrasse 59 with useful illustrations of boot and shoe types (figs. 60–72); and lengthy discussions of textiles from excavations at Königstrasse 59, Schrangen and a bishop's grave in the Cathedral. The fine state of preservation of the textiles (pls. 33–82) has enabled detailed work to be carried out on them, and many types of weave are clearly drawn out in diagrammatic form.

Pottery is also dealt with in detail with an article by J. G. Hurst, 'The medieval and post-medieval imports of pottery at Lübeck' bringing English and West European material into the picture. The scarcity of West European wares that he notes shows Lübeck to be 'in marked contrast to sites bordering the North Sea' and he concludes that the Viking age division between Nordseeraum and Ostseeraum may well continue into the medieval period. This is of particular interest to those investigating east coast English ports (for example, King's Lynn, Boston or Kingston-upon-Hull) where evidence from excavations has so far not substantiated that from documents for contacts between the Baltic and England in the
later middle ages. Further work in Lübeck could help to illuminate this problem and we
await with interest the future numbers of the *Schriften* which may hold the key to our
understanding of one aspect of English medieval trade. 

HELEN CLARKE

Archäologie in Lübeck. Erkenntnisse von Archäologie und Bauforschung zur Geschichte und Vorgeschichte
der Hansestadt. (Hefte zur Kunst und Kulturgeschichte der Hansestadt Lübeck, 3).
29.5 × 21 cm. 161 pp., 112 figs. and large folded plan. Lübeck Museum für Kunst und

The early history of Lübeck is one of geographical upheaval. This arose from the
complex physical and political topography of the Lübeck basin between the 9th and the 12th
centuries. River and overland routes converged to an intricate pattern of access to the Baltic
and the rival authorities of Danes, Germans, and Slavonic princes intermingled at about this
point. In 1138 Libice (Alt Lübeck), the Slavonic princely and trading settlement on the R.
Trave was destroyed. In 1143 Count Adolf II of Holstein founded a new centre 4 km upstream
on the peninsula at the confluence of the Wakenitz and the Trave where Lübeck stands today.
After a fire in 1157 Duke Henry of Saxony established a new settlement further up the
Wakenitz. Early in 1159, however, Henry refounded Lübeck and the bishopric was set up
there the following year. This city became the focus of Baltic and North Sea trade and by
the 14th century, with a population of some 25,000 was one of the great cities of northern
Europe. The upheavals of the mid 12th century typified in an intensive form the history of
the district over the preceding centuries. There had been some form of settlement on the
peninsula since the late 8th century, apparently more substantial during the earlier part
of that period, and Count Adolf’s castle at the neck of the peninsula occupied the site of a
disused Slavonic fortification. The peninsula itself is 1.7 km long and there have been many
hypotheses as to the location within it of the nuclei of both the Slavonic and the German
settlements. For the archaeologist Lübeck presents a formidable challenge on questions of
origins, continuity, and the relationship of the settlement to alternative sites, as well as on
the material culture of a great urban centre.

This handsomely produced and well illustrated volume was prepared to accompany
an exhibition of the same title held at Lübeck in the summer of 1980. Archaeology and the
care of monuments have been practised in Lübeck and its territory within a legislative
framework for more than 150 years. A dreadful air raid in 1942 destroyed much of the city.
In the decades after the war Werner Neugebauer investigated many sites and made a
scholarly record of an exceptionally large and rich collection of finds. Since 1973 the town
authorities and the University of Kiel have collaborated (the precise form of the collabora-
tion is worthy of the Schleswig-Holstein Question) in a more ambitious project under the
direction of Günter Fehring. This is concerned both with the care of monuments and with
a research programme of excavation and the recording of standing buildings within the
framework of opportunities presented by current restoration and redevelopment. The
investigations of some of the massive merchant houses in the city are worthy of special
mention, since this work is among the least well represented in the volume. In addition, the
research programme includes a bold attempt to combine documentary and archaeological
evidence in a study of the social and economic topography of the later medieval city by
analysing its remarkable records of the properties held by citizens in conjunction with the
collection of artefacts recovered by Neugebauer. This aspect of the research is of particular
methodological interest.

The book contains fifty-four short essays, each with a useful bibliography, on most
aspects of archaeology in and around Lübeck. They range from the Stone Age to the Early
Modern period, but most of the contents are devoted to the *Stadthägel* itself between the
9th and the 15th centuries. There are good summaries of the early historical background
and of the difficult questions of Slavonic settlement; accounts of the principal sites investi-
gated (including a new analysis and plan of the famous hospital of the Holy Ghost);
discussions of ceramics, glass, textiles, leather, wooden objects, coins, writing tablets, skeletal and botanical material, the city's piped water supply, and encroachment on to the river. Of special value are the sensitive analyses, with maps, of the distribution of dated finds up to the late 13th century. Finally, there are some methodological observations, including an eloquent (and in the regional context appropriate) plea for excavating in 'natural layers' in the way which is so familiar here.

By the standards of British urban archaeology none of the sites excavated in Lübeck have been large. One wonders whether, if they had been on a larger scale, some of the very precise chronological determinations made within the earlier Middle Ages would have been acceptable. On the other hand, the evidence is most carefully presented and the whole enterprise is testimony to the cumulative value of systematic, relatively small-scale individual investigations carried out over a long period and within a well-founded research framework. British archaeologists should learn much from observing how this job is done. Archäologie in Lübeck is an excellent introduction to a major project and puts across well the spirit of the operation. The full-scale publication of the results is taking place in Lübecker Schriften zur Archäologie und Kulturgeschichte (1978— ), of which five volumes have already appeared.

Les archives du sol à Tours: survie et avenir de l'archéologie de la ville. By H. Galinié and B. Randoin. 22 x 31 cm. 63 pp., 11 text figs., 7 folding maps. Tours, 1979 (Obtainable from Laboratoire d'archéologie urbaine, Château de Tours, Quai d'Orléans, 3700 Tours). Price 60 F. + 9 F. postage.

The urgency of the need for a proper archaeological response to the threats posed by modern redevelopment in some French cities was brought home forcibly to members of this Society on their recent conference in Poitiers. And, indeed, this is a matter in which legitimate international concern may be voiced, for the history of cities such as Poitiers and Tours is a vital part of the history of European civilization. This current report, therefore, (which is modelled on recent English publications, in particular Biddle and Hudson's Future of London's Past) should be warmly welcomed.

The report contains a very worthwhile survey of the current state of archaeological knowledge about the development of Tours, together with a useful bibliography, and for these alone it would be worth buying. Its main thrust, however, is towards an analysis of what survives of the archaeological record in the soil, and of how the destruction of this can be properly controlled archaeologically. The means by which this can be achieved must remain a matter for our French colleagues; but that it is worth doing is a contention that should receive the enthusiastic support and encouragement of every European archaeologist and historian.

Le Château de Caen (No spécial de la revue Archéologie Médiévale). By Michel de Boüard. 25 x 18.5 cm. 94 pp., 13 figs., 36 pls. Caen: Centre de Recherches Archéologiques Médiévales, 1979. Price not stated.

This is an odd book — part history, part excavation report, part visitors' guide. Such a combination is difficult to bring off: in particular, the combination of the two latter elements all too frequently results in an over-abbreviated excavation report which is too long and too complex for the casual visitor. Sadly, this is the case here.

The excavations in Caen Castle started in 1956 and continued intermittently until 1966. Due regard must be given to this fact. Scientific excavation in France — and especially the excavation of medieval sites — was then in its infancy. Indeed, the 1956 excavation was a training exercise carried out with Dutch help, and marked a vital step in the development of the discipline in France. Professor de Boüard was himself a key
BRIAN K. DAVISON

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...figure in this development. Work carried out at such a time should not be judged by the more exacting standards of the 1980s.

That said, it must be admitted that this account is inadequate by any standards. A special number of *Archeologie Médiévale*, it has no index, no list of illustrations. The photographic illustration, though plentiful, is of very poor quality. Four plans of the castle are given, dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries: no overall plan is given of the castle as it stands today! The three detailed plans of excavated structures do not show the limits of the area excavated. Moreover, many of the statements made in the text are not supported by any presentation of the evidence, written or graphic.

If this account, then, is something of a disappointment for specialist reader and casual visitor alike, the castle itself is not. From this account we can at least see something of its shape and its history. Professor de Bouard gives us thirty pages of historical outline, twenty-four on the defences, thirty-six on the excavation of the Old Palace and the still-standing 12th-century *Salle dite de l'Echiquier*, thirty-eight on the excavation of the remains of the Keep, and ten on St George's Church and its chapels.

The castle is set on a rock spur above the confluence of Orne and Odon. No trace of occupation earlier than the 11th century has been found, though there are reasons (as Professor de Bouard explains) for thinking that such must have existed. By 1025 a town had been founded or promoted by Duke Richard II below the spur. Professor de Bouard envisages both castle and town as having been fortified by Duke William (later our Conqueror) c.1060, but no concrete evidence for this has been found. By the end of the 11th century, however, an irregular area on the spur had been enclosed by a polygonal curtain wall, entered through a gatehouse. At some date in the 12th century eleven square towers were added to the curtain. Characteristically, no plans are given of towers or gatehouse.

The square keep and the *Salle dite de l'Echiquier* were added by Henry I of England. The curtain wall was raised at the same time. After seizure of the castle by Philip Auguste of France in 1204, the old gatehouse was demolished and two new ones built elsewhere: a square chemise was built round the keep, with four large round corner towers, creating an inner citadel, and two round wall-towers were added to the outer curtain. The curtain, wall-towers and gatehouses survive, the latter altered in the 15th-century English occupation when large square barbicans were added. The keep, alas, was demolished in 1793.

The description of the excavation of the keep and the buildings of the Old Palace is most disappointing. The plans are inadequate, omitting some features mentioned in the text and contradicting others. The forebuilding of the keep, the 13th-century Constable's Hall, the 14th-century Constable's Residence — these can all be glimpsed in photographs but do not appear in plan.

The later history of the castle was unremarkable. The interest of English readers is likely to focus on the earlier periods which were the subject of the 1956–66 excavations. The shortcomings of the account of the excavation of the Old Palace — identified here as that built by Duke William about 1060 — are thus the more distressing. By contrast, the magnificent 12th-century hall, the *Salle dite de l'Echiquier* is well described and photographed. The description of this building is however reprinted from that which appeared in this journal fifteen years ago!

BRIAN K. DAVISON


I am sympathetic with the *cura pastoralis* of this son, and in many ways successor, of Canon D. Gethyn-Jones who saved the disused church of Kemble, the most perfect piece of the 'school', perhaps the most perfect (not the grandest) early Romanesque church in England, complete with its primary nave-roof, doors (i.e. door-valves, with ironwork) and superb paintings; it is now in the care of the Department of the Environment. He treats such relatively minor monuments, particularly those of the age of Henry I, when
England (and not only England) was diversifying the disciplined habit of the great orders, in their local contexts and on their own merits, artistic by any standard, not just archaeological and absolved from taste. He knows his little flock. The true question is whether we are concerned with a real ‘school’ or, more properly, with the works of one master-mason, ‘unambitious’ but completely self-fulfilling; the wider, already localized, ambit of his Lehjähre, the small circle of his mastery, where good stone and isolation have left a satisfying sample; and the relics of at least one imitator or inferior pupil. He learned little from outside after his youth, but he used the archaic repertoire he acquired then with imagination and assurance. He may still have died quite young and did not leave his name, any more than the master of Kilpeck and Shobdon, a quite different and probably longer-lived man (though some worse craftsmen did). Though architect, builder and in a restrained way, sculptor, the emphasis on the last is probably valid for his schooling.

The villain of the piece is Sir Alfred Clapham, with his cosmopolitan knowledge of plans and monuments and poor sense of local history. Our ‘school’ lies on the frontier, beyond the orbit of the great abbeys of the Severn valley, on the borders of Dean and ‘Hereford in Wallia’. But there was an alien Benedictine presence, entirely of the Conquest and the open march, which though not fulfilled, may have provided the steady patronage this purified ‘school’ needed. William fitz-Osbern, the hard-liner of the Conquest, founder of Lyre and Cormeilles, marcher-count of Hereford and lord of Wight from the beginning, established a great priory at Chepstow and a smaller one at Newent and something more than a simple parish church (retrospectively called a minster) at Dymock, for Cormeilles, which also held other classic examples of the ‘school’, Bridstow, Linton, Pauntley. Nothing is known of the priory of Newent, and fitz-Osbern was dead before the beginnings of the ‘school’ can be traced, but his legatees certainly called for our master, as did the authorities of the destroyed (but large?) church at his port of Newnham. Dymock is certainly a complicated building and Canon Gethyn-Jones may elucidate it correctly, but Kempley seems to me essentially a single build, with slight modifications during progress. The Kempley ‘ridge-cross’ is surely a well-known type of headstone.

S. E. RIGOLD

L’Architecture. Considérations générales. By L. F. Genicot. Université catholique de Louvain, institut d’études médiévales, Typologie des sources du moyen âge occidental, Fasc. 29. 16 x 24 cm. 87 pp., 21 figs. Price 50 F.

This is one fascicule of a series which is intended to take individual types of source material (e.g. annals, liturgical books, decretals, pottery, costume, coins, etc.: defined as a type primarily with regard to the purpose for which each group of material was created, and only secondarily with regard to its form and content) and to establish its special characteristics, uses and limitations as historical evidence. The object is to allow a specialist in one field to make proper use of material from another with confidence: something potentially very useful for the archaeologist who willy nilly is cast in the role of historical jack-of-all-trades. Two hundred fascicules are envisaged, covering western Europe from A.D. 500 to 1500: thirty have appeared so far.

The author of this fascicule was given perhaps an impossible task, but has produced an interesting if rather personalized essay on some aspects of the architectural historian’s work. Unfortunately he disclaims excavation as lying within his scope, but some of his material would make a useful accompaniment to the C.B.A. Research Report, The Archaeological Study of Churches.

R. D. H. GEM

The following publications have also been received:

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Landscape History (Journal of the Society for Landscape Studies), 1, 1979. 21 x 29.5 cm. 89 pp., numerous figs. Available from Society for Landscape Studies, 41 Alexandra Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 5UA. Annual Subscription £7.00.


Comprehensive analysis of data from nine sites, allowing spatial and chronological comparisons. Careful discussion of evidence emphasizes limited value of interpretations based on smaller assemblages. Results do not cause re-consideration of Devon’s rural economy, but provide information on stock sizes, etc.