Reviews

*Christianity in Roman Britain to A.D. 500.* By Charles Thomas. 15.5 × 23 cm. 408 pp., 60 figs., 8 pls. London: Batsford, 1981. Price £14.95.

*Christianity in Roman Britain to A.D. 500* (hereafter *CRB 500:* the date is important) might be described in the jargon of American film-makers as the prequel of Professor Thomas's seminal book *The Early Christian Archaeology of North Britain,* published in 1971. In that earlier volume Thomas galloped through the initial transmission of the Christian faith and its establishment in Roman Britain in some half dozen pages. Here this theme is treated within the broader compass of eight chapters, followed by five more which examine the development of Christianity through the 5th century. The book ends on the eve of the emergence of organized monasticism and thereby interlocks with the subject matter of its predecessor. The dedication to Dr C. A. R. Radford could not be more appropriate.

In construction *CRB 500* might be described as Gothic rather than Romanesque. Linguistic, onomastic, archaeological and literary materials are skilfully assembled into a lofty structure. From a distance, to develop this metaphor, the silhouette looks to be strikingly simple. Thomas believes that 'there is a Christianity of late Roman Britain' and argues that 'the evidence for survival — in the face of early English settlements — of the Church and of much of late Roman Britain with its Latinity and its romanized population, is now rather stronger than any evidence that the Romano-British church died out completely during the 5th century' (p. 352). Seen close to, the building is elaborate, pinnacled by detail and valuable digressions, mortared by a humane style, pointed by wit and heavily abutted by inference. Hence the epithet 'Gothic'. Romanesque building relies on mass. Bits or entire faces may be broken off leaving the building disfigured but intact in substance. Gothic, on the other hand, is the architecture of counterpoise; if certain key pieces, even small pieces, are removed, collapse may follow. *CRB 500* is a splendid edifice, but is it a Chartres or a Beauvais?

It must be recognized that Thomas has written about *Christianity in Roman Britain.* This is a book about people, beliefs, and religious organizations. It is not strictly an archaeological text-book, even though there can be very little of relevance to the subject in the archaeological record which has been overlooked. Out of fifteen chapters, and setting aside the first (which contains an engaging exploration of the relationships between history, archaeology and language) and the last, one deals with written records and historiography, one examines linguistic evidence, two concentrate chiefly upon archaeology and the remainder rely upon an amalgam of literary, material and place-name evidence. Frequently beguiling, these inter-disciplinary sections are also a source of some concern. For one thing, they rely, inevitably, upon conflations of materials which differ not only in type but also in reliability and date. A 5th-century tombstone and place-name which occurs in no surviving record before the 11th century may be deployed in near juxtaposition, as on p. 270, in support of a single argument. For another they make the book virtually impossible to review. Archaeologists at ease with their coins or pondering deposits of dark earth may feel diffident about venturing opinions on the education of St Patrick or the significance of the Vetus Latina. Historians may not be fully acquainted with the material evidence or sure of the uses to which it may legitimately be put. To members of both schools, as to their colleagues in the adjacent fields of art history and onomastics, *CRB 500* promises to restore vision to those who feel themselves to be partially sighted. Moreover, there is sufficient explanatory material here for the book to be enjoyed and understood by lay folk as well as scholars. But the difficulty is that
almost everyone who peruses CRB 500 is likely to be placed in the position of having to accept large parts of it on trust. Everyone, that is, except those who belong to the militant tendency within the new archaeology: for them, CRB 500 will probably be a source of great agony.

Accepting then that this is an unusual work, one which may require more years yet for proper assimilation, what are the leading features which impress on early acquaintance? Among the most palpable hits are those scored in the areas of language and literature. In Chapter 3 Thomas garners the fruits of several important studies in socio-linguistics, explores and applies the concept of gradience to Romano-British speech and writing and argues for a continued element of colloquial Vulgar Latin, alongside spoken British and written Latin, well into the 5th century in SE, Britain and longer in the west and north.

The reviews of material evidence which occupy the central portion of the book are concise, thorough and useful. Thomas's tripartite categorization of expected types of church — extra-mural (cemetery), intra-mural (congregational), estate — seems likely to give good service, although before it becomes embedded in university syllabuses it should be remembered that to some extent this is a predictive model, and one which may require modification in the light of new discoveries. In Chapter 5 we meet the first of Thomas's 'weighted' maps, designed to maximize material evidence for the presence and strength of Christianity in late Roman Britain. The form of presentation adopted here (Fig. 16) has the character of an ersatz trend surface, and one is led to wonder whether the real thing might have been even more illuminating.

After a well-illustrated survey and discussion of church buildings, locational aspects of late Roman ecclesiastical and mortuary geography, baptism and baptisteries, the author turns to examine 5th-century Britain and the British Church. In Chapter 10 Thomas confronts the view that evidence for Christianity in the 6th century 'was the result of a massive reimplantation of the Faith from outside, probably from Gaul' (p. 268). Among Thomas's counter-arguments to this is that the archaeological evidence for Gallo-British contact is of an essentially restricted, Atlantic nature, whereas the total body of evidence for the presence of Christianity occurs across an area which is roughly two-thirds of southern Britain (Fig. 49). When he comes to balance probabilities, Thomas suggests that 'whatever the true course of Britain's history . . . in the 5th and 6th centuries, neither the majority of the Britons in the lowland half of Britannia, nor the Christian faith increasingly practised, was expunged' (p. 274).

Readers who, like this one, confess to puzzlement at the controversy which continues to surround retrospective reports about the career and habitat of that wraith-like figure, Ninian (or Nynia, as Thomas would advise) will welcome the summary of this and connected issues in Chapter 11. Illuminating too is the discussion of Britain, Ireland and pre-Patrician Christianity which follows. If, from lack of materials, these two chapters emerge as the most frustratingly speculative sections of the book, there are nevertheless some strictly archaeological points to be set alongside the uncertainties (e.g. the recent discoveries at New Grange, introduced on p. 296). CRB 500 is brought towards a conclusion in 40 especially valuable pages on the career of St Patrick, and the reflex of that career: a 5th-century British Church.

Doubts in CRB 500 arise not so much from its conclusions (with which this reviewer concurs) as from the author's occasional tendency to juxtapose fresh and stimulating insights with interpretations that some may find curiously conservative or even wayward. Thus, to give examples, while a vigorous case is made for a Patrician chronology contained entirely within the 5th century, the conventional but conceivably suspect dates of Gildas are accepted without demur. Do the 'auxiliary, mercenary forces' visualized as residing in or beside the towns they were meant to defend from c. 360 onward (p. 241) really fall within an 'area of common agreement' (p. 6) nowadays? If, as Thomas here proposes, the first phase of St Pancras at Canterbury was late Roman, why should this oblige us to suppose that this must be the St Martin's of Bedan testimony, when such an interpretation leans so heavily upon a literal acceptance of Bede's opinion that the building in question had been a Romano-British church: a diagnosis which must surely be as suspect as the rest of Bede's contribution on this topic, which Thomas himself warns 'cannot be accepted without very great reservations'.

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Turning to presentation, there is some small scope here for pedants who wish to comb out misprints, and a few voids and incompletenesses in the bibliography. This reader found the arrangement of the references to be irksome, as the footnotes, grouped by chapter at the back, often consist of no more than Harvard-style entries for which frequent further journeys to the bibliography are then required. On the positive side, there are three indexes, covering persons and places, words and phrases other than in English, and general topics, respectively.

CRB 500 is a tremendous book, possibly even a great one. But this brings to mind Francis Bond's dictum that 'A great book is a great evil'. Whether in this instance Professor Thomas has inadvertently built a Chinese Wall across his subject remains to be seen. Probably not: interest in Christian origins has never been stronger, and discoveries made even since CRB 500 was published seem likely to ensure that its themes will remain in the forefront of archaeological and historical concern for some time to come. Familiar sites, like Lullingstone, have become the subjects of reinterpretation; new ones, like the extensive late Roman cemetery at Northover, Somerset, have risen to attention. And, just as Thomas observes towards the end of his book that 'advances in our knowledge will now be won in the field, probably at an increasing rate; from archaeological discoveries, from further field-work and probably too from fresh interpretations of material we already have', so another of his prophesies may not now be far from fulfilment. 'Sooner or later' predicts Thomas, 'one of our many parish churches known to stand on Roman foundations will be shown to be sub-Roman in origin.' If this happens, the implications will run wide and deep for the study of early Christianity everywhere in lowland Britain.

RICHARD MORRIS


The last dozen years have seen a tremendous growth of Merovingian archaeology in France. The origins are roughly contemporary with the founding of the periodical Archéologie Médiévale; now there is an Archéologie Mérovingienne, an Association française d'Archéologie Mérovingienne, and annual conferences, organized so far at Creil in 1979, Dijon in 1980 and Reims in 1981. Public interest has been aroused as well, most recently thanks to the various activities of 'les années Clovis, 1981–82', the 1500th anniversary of the death of Childeric and the accession of Clovis; there have been two major exhibitions in Paris associated with this — 'À l'Aube de la France' and 'Paris Mérovingien'. The latter was organized by the archaeological curator of the Musée Carnavalet in Paris, Patrick Périn, a leading figure in this current revival of Merovingian archaeological studies. It is fitting that both the important academic works of revaluation which have appeared in France in these years should be associated with his name.

The first volume contains twenty contributions, from English, German and Swiss scholars as well as from the French; all the contributions are in French. After an introductory section containing summaries of Böhner's chronological scheme for the Austrasian cemeteries and Bruce-Mitford's ideas on Sutton Hoo, the book is divided into four sections, dealing with late Roman weapon graves, with the transition period from late Roman to Merovingian,
with methodological examples of the problems of chronology, and with 'Mélanges' (on two strap-ends, and on early medieval pottery kilns at Haucourt). The articles vary considerably in scope, quality and usefulness. Certainly the brief summaries of work done on individual cemeteries — Rheden, Krefeld-Gellep, Pry, Vron and others — and a few studies of individual graves, as at Landifay and Famars, do conveniently assemble some basic information and a quantity of plans and drawings in one place, but they are too brief to be really helpful. Much more interesting are the methodological studies, although most of them do repeat or anticipate research which can now be consulted elsewhere. They do, however, provide a handy discussion of different techniques and approaches, ideal for the hard-pressed teacher with students unwilling to consult large French tomes let alone an intimidating German monograph. The Böhner and Böhme chapters are particularly valuable in this respect. In addition Souvé looks at the problems of vertical stratigraphy in cemeteries; Ament at 'horizontal' stratigraphy, in relation to Rübenach (a fascinating survey, but marred in this volume by the second-rate reproduction of his plans); Martin discusses problems of sociological interpretation, with reference to Basel-Bernerring; and Périn introduces his own methods of chronological analysis for the Ardennes cemeteries. All in all this is a retrospective volume, offering no dramatically new approaches.

Nor, according to the author himself, does Périn's revised thesis, La Datation des Tombes Mérovingiennes. 'We have not sought to innovate at any price, . . . but to attempt to assemble a basic bibliographical documentation, to examine it critically, and to set out as clearly as possible, on a theoretical as well as a practical level, the methodology needed to date Merovingian graves in a scientific manner' (p. 321). Like the previous volume, the book concentrates entirely on the chronological problems, but it does so in a much more concentrated and rewarding fashion. It too is retrospective, in the sense that much of it is a critical discussion of earlier attempts at dating, from Chifflet in 1655 down to Ament in 1977. The history of research into the question, which occupies the first third of the book, in fact forms not only the most useful general history of Merovingian archaeology yet published, but also one of the most accessible introductions to the subject as a whole, discussing as it does many of the crucial contributions and debates of continental archaeologists. The central section of the book deals with the various methods of relative and absolute dating: stratigraphy, 'horizontal stratigraphy' (which Périn calls la topochronologie), dendrochronology, the analysis of grave-goods, coin-dating, and so on. The third section consists of the application of these techniques to the regional study of the cemeteries of the Ardennes-Meuse region, and, with René Legoux, to the study of the as yet incompletely excavated cemetery of Bulles (Oise). It is a well-produced volume (although it must be a matter of deep regret that neither of these books has an index); there are several appendices, including a full list of tombes-références, graves whose grave goods include a datable coin; there are numerous cemetery plans and diagrams, which amply and clearly demonstrate Périn's analytical methods.

Those methods rely in particular on what Périn calls permutation matricielle manuelle: seriation analysis using grids of hundreds or thousands of black or white plastic cubes linked by metal rods, with the vertical and horizontal rows (representing types of object and individual grave assemblages) being manoeuvred until clear patterns emerge. He and Legoux also make use of permutation matricielle automatique, analysis with the aid of a computer, both on its own and in conjunction with the manual system. The manual system seems cumbersome and slow; the computer programs used seem old-fashioned and unsophisticated; both rely on a good deal of subjective sorting. But the results are clear and striking. They confirm, as Périn expected them to do, the general chronology set up by Böhner for the nearby region of Trier. There are refinements, which are important; Périn suggests, for instance, that for his area at least there is a significant change in the 570s or thereabouts, corresponding to the beginning of Böhner's Stufe IV, which Böhner dated to 600. The subdivisions of Böhner's Stufe suggested by Ament in 1977 do seem archaeologically detectable by Périn's method. Above all, however, there is added conviction; Périn's method does attempt to eliminate intuition and guesswork as far as possible.
As an introduction to the problems of dating this book serves its purpose admirably. Anyone not versed in the German literature, or without access to it, will find it an excellent guide to the ideas and achievements of past generations. And if it serves, as Périm hopes, as a guide to the new generation of excavators in France, then we may hope for many more of the comprehensive and detailed cemetery reports which have only now begun to be published in France. There is little doubt that it is the most important French contribution to Merovingian archaeology since E. Salin’s *La Civilisation Mérovingienne*: a comparison of the two would show the enormous progress that has been made in the last quarter-century.

EDWARD JAMES


This is an account of a series of opportunist and necessarily small-scale excavations carried out under the direction of Dr Reece on the Columban monastery of Iona between 1964 and 1974. Chapter I describes an inconclusive trench across a geophysical anomaly which may mark the southern arm of the monastic vallum, and follows this with details of soil samples taken at points on the vallum. The interest here lies in the pollen analysis, which suggests extensive grazing in prehistoric (probably Iron Age) times, followed by a pre-Columban desertion.

Chapter II describes a lime-burning clamp, which may have provided lime for agricultural purposes, perhaps in the Columban period. Site III produced little structural evidence, its importance lying in its yield of a bronze bell, a mould for a glass stud, and a sherd of E-ware. Reference is made here to a section DE, which appears to have been important for interpretation, but which is not published. Chapter IV reports a drainage ditch, probably attributable to the early monastic phase.

Chapter V records a number of post-holes underlying the Old Guest House, and offers an interpretation of some of them in the form of incomplete plans of one circular and one straight-sided building. Unfortunately, we are given reason to doubt the validity of the recording and interpretation in this trench. On facing pp. 34 and 35 are two conjoined sections, which cannot be matched at the line of junction. The photographs and text do not help to resolve the discrepancy. Indeed, the text claims that part of a layer which had been cut by a massive foundation trench was preserved in the body of the wall raised on the foundations. This chapter concludes with an interesting comparison, by Barbara Noddle, of the subsistence diet represented on the Iron Age fort of Dun Cul Bhuirg, and the altogether richer diet of the monastery, heavily dependent on beef.

Chapter VI relates the basic archaeological findings of trenches around the abbey church, omitting the architectural details. The trenches clarified the plan of the church showing, in particular, that it had never extended further to the east. A major new discovery was of the existence of considerable areas of stratified pre-Benedictine activity, worthy of following up in extensive excavations. Chapter VII describes a cemetery of rare cist-graves and frequent dug-graves at Martyrs’ Bay, to the S. (not N. as on p. 63) of the modern village. Analysis was difficult because the various skeletons in the dug-graves were almost inextricably intermingled. The late Calvin Wells provides, on pp. 85–102, an exquisite demonstration that the graves were those of a population of elderly, barren women: in short, a community of nuns.

Finally, in Chapter VIII, Dr Reece presents a major discussion of the chronology of his excavations. Here his handling of both historical and radiocarbon dating is distinctly unsure. On p. 104 he asks what weight ought to be given in an archaeological summary to dates which we know only from historical sources. His use of ‘only’ here demonstrates a failure to appreciate that historical references are necessarily the sole source for dates in calendar...
years. On p. 107, in discussing radiocarbon dates, he writes of ‘flagrant special pleading whose very desperation has a ring of probability’. But the conclusion of this special pleading is the rather obvious one that charcoal from burned timber buildings dates their construction, not the conflagration.

Dr Reece’s attitude to the use of historical sources in establishing a chronology reflects the wider philosophy which underlies this report. He has deliberately chosen to treat the site as prehistoric, or more correctly anachronistic. He writes that ‘to indulge in a general synthesis of the archaeology with a sprinkling of suitably chosen historical references would proclaim a complete failure of belief and nerve’. In part this may be because he is not really conversant with relevant documents. On p. 104 he refers to ‘Scottish Annals’ as the source of a tradition that Iona was a royal burial place. He may mean the so-called Old Scottish Chronicle, or he may mean the Regnal Lists; but unless he has some documents hitherto unknown to historians of the period, he cannot mean Annals.

However that may be, it is disappointing that he so steadfastly refuses to write a full historical synthesis. It is not enough to leave that task to the Royal Commission in its Iona Inventory. Any excavator who insists on confining himself to ‘archaeological fact’, and eschews the interpretative studies which he alone can validate, must thereby diminish the craft of excavation to a series of techniques. He may even leave us wondering whether his monograph was worth publishing at all: should it all have been consigned to the archive?

Finally, special mention should be made of the photographs. At first glance they appear to be contact prints from 35 mm negatives. In fact, they have been enlarged to a format of 53 × 37 mm, a new standard for the publication of excavation records.

LESLIE ALCOCK


The fourth volume of the Inventory of Argyll is entirely worthy of the importance of its subject. It is not just an inventory but a work of research that substantially increases knowledge in many fields. The passing of the Island of Iona into the care of the National Trust for Scotland in 1980 and the recently improved communications with Mull will inevitably create new priorities and it is indeed fortunate that this record of the antiquities has been completed and a recommendation made that the entire island be given statutory recognition as an area of archaeological importance.

The excavation of the only Iron Age site, Dùn Cùl Bhuirg, on the W. side of the island, with its large assemblage of pottery defining a single occupation of the site ending in the 3rd century A.D. contrasts strongly with the excavations on the eastern side. The major ecclesiastical monuments of Iona occupy one site built upon through the centuries and have been impaired by neglect and unsupervised restoration. The resulting ‘discouraging havoc’, to use Charles Thomas’s phrase, has been bravely probed by a number of excavators since the 1950s, largely financed by the Russell Trust. It is now clear that the Columban monastery occupied the general area of the Benedictine Abbey and that the vallum, possibly of two-period construction, extended further south than was previously thought, covering an area of approximately 20 acres. Of necessity excavation has been extremely patchy, although according to Richard Reece, whose Excavations in Iona 1964 to 1974 appeared in 1981, areas with pre-Benedictine deposits are still available for future excavation. Consciousness of the ample historical documentation for the international importance of the monastery of Iona hangs over the intractable archaeological evidence. The Commission accepts that much further investigation is required. The difficulties of interpretation are fully discussed in John Barber’s report of his productive 1979 excavation published in Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., 111 (1981).
The growth of the cult of St Columba is the unifying factor in the medieval development of the site. As full an investigation as possible has been made of the small chapel at the NW angle of the nave known popularly as St Columba's Shrine and 're-built' by the Iona Community in 1955. It has been established that the building was originally free-standing and pre-dated the Abbey. The side walls projected in the manner of early Irish stone churches and a date of the 9th century at the earliest is proposed. While there is no positive evidence for there having been an earlier timber structure on the site, the Commission is clearly sympathetic to the view that the site was a focus of veneration from an early period. The deliberate preservation and incorporation of the stone building into the plan of the Benedictine Abbey, the proximity of two High Crosses and the numerous associated graves of uncertain date all support the late tradition that this was the site of Columba's own burial place.

The listing and description of nearly 80 cross-bearing slabs and boulders, including no doubt some of the earliest stone monuments of the monastery, is a major advance in a neglected aspect of early medieval Scottish sculpture. A significant new group of shrine posts has been identified. The results of the Commission's work on the High Crosses have been eagerly awaited. For the basic construction of the multi-piece crosses the pioneering work of Robert Stevenson has been developed. The fragments from St Oran's Chapel are shown to belong to one cross. The chief task of the Commission was cleaning out and reconstructing the St John's Cross which has been shattered by many falls and obscured by botching repairs. The remaining authentic fragments are indicated in two unsatisfactorily small photo-montages. The Commission's reconstruction differs from Stevenson's in that the lower arm of the cross-head is shown to have been a separate stone linking the shaft with the transom. It was this piece, weakened finally by too many mortices, which accounted for the cross's subsequent instability. The arguments put forward for a fall of the cross at the time of its original erection are convincing. The consequent introduction to the originally ringless cross-head of the lower ring quadrants to take some of the weight of the transom neatly accounts for the origin of the ring cross on Iona. The identification of the large boss which used to lie detached in the Nunnery as a central boss on the St John's Cross recovers a major decorative component. The suggestion that St Oran's Cross also had a central boss is surely correct although one must quarrel with the description of the bossed side of this cross as 'the back'. On Iona as in Pictland higher relief sculpture is placed on the fronts of crosses. The Iona crosses are oriented and the newly identified St John's Cross boss, like the boss ornament of St Martin's Cross, is placed on the E. face.

The drawings of the ornament on the crosses are clearly the result of long examination and painstaking effort. As a result modern scholars are seeing this ornament for the first time. On the other hand, the photographic record of the crosses in the Inventory is disappointing and in strong contrast with the lavish illustration of the Abbey buildings. It is to be hoped that there will now be a speedy return of the St John's Cross to Iona. It and the St Oran's Cross should be displayed in a manner consistent with their supreme artistic importance. Present conditions in the Nunnery Museum are unacceptable.

The Commission endorses Stevenson's view that the inspirational background of the Iona crosses is in Northumbria and Pictland rather than Ireland. The clarification of the nature of the ornament on St John's Cross has refined understanding of the relationship between the Iona sculpture and the mature monuments of Pictland. One can see now that Iona has boss ornament that can be compared exactly to the Pictish boss ornament created by the three-dimensional rendering of spirals. On the other hand, the method of connecting spirals in certain positions seems to be unique to Iona sculptors and suggests easy familiarity with spiral ornament in other media. The composition of the serpent and boss ornament, in so far as the boss is composed of interlaced serpents' bodies with their necks and heads spinning off, is identical to bosses on the St Andrews Sarcophagus. But there are significant differences. Iona serpents menace each other; they frequently have widespread jaws, and most interestingly of all, some serpents are given lizard-like forepaws. Such serpent types are found on metalwork like the St Germain plaques and the bronze plaque from Romfæjellen.
now in Oslo. This is metalwork which the present reviewer was inclined to claim for Pictland but must now concede to Iona. The Nigg cross-slab may not have serpent-lizards but Iona does not have the fragile dripping spiral tongues of the Nigg serpents. The creativity of the sculptors of this period is highlighted by an awareness of these distinctions.

The suggestion that the ornament of the Iona crosses stands closer to 'jewellery techniques' than to the other techniques used in precious metalwork seems to require an unsustainable separation of expertise and taste. The derivation of the 'bird's-nest' bosses of St John's Cross from filigree-filled glass studs is strained, particularly since an evolution in sculptural terms can be traced in Pictish sculpture. One would have welcomed some thoughts on the models and general implication of the programmes of figurative sculpture on the other crosses.

Courageously, the Commission commits itself to dates for the crosses in the 8th century, with the St John's Cross in the middle or second half of the century. This seems to depend on a set of historical circumstances and artistic relationships to be fully explored by Ian Fisher in a forthcoming paper, and on a currently favoured date for the Book of Kells. The connection with Kells, stressed by Stevenson, seems clear, and Mr Fisher's suggestion that both the High Crosses of Iona and the great Gospel Book were planned as part of the celebrations for the enshrinement of the relics of St Columba is an interesting one and we await his explanations and evidence.

Sculpture and the small stone building discussed above provide the only visual traces of the monastic life and veneration of St Columba which we know from written sources continued on the island after the Columban headquarters had moved to Kells at the beginning of the 9th century. The identification of a new fragment of St Matthew's Cross confirms its close relationship to the crosses at Kells, and the discovery of part of a shaft decorated in the Picto-Scottish style of the 9th and 10th centuries is new evidence for continuing artistic contacts with eastern Scotland. The assertions of the Scottish medieval chroniclers that the kings of the Scots were buried on Iona until the 11th century remain unconfirmed. If such royal burials did take place they would have been in the Reilig Odhráin, the ancient burial ground still in use. The associated St Oran's Chapel, burial place of the Lords of the Isles, patrons of the Abbey, is the earliest surviving stone building on the island. Sometimes associated with the patronage of Queen Margaret, the Commission on the grounds of comparable Irish work prefers a date in the 12th century.

The detailed analysis of the buildings of the Augustinian Nunnery and the Benedictine Abbey has produced a completely new interpretation of their building history set against a fully researched historical background. Abbey and Nunnery were probably founded around 1200. The present deceptively homogeneous appearance of the Abbey church posed particularly intricate problems. The most substantial part of the earliest building to survive is the north transept. In the early 13th century the E. end of the church was re-modelled on two levels which accounts for the surviving arcade on the N. side. Such an expansion implies the growing prestige of the site. This is confirmed by the Commission's excavation of the grandiose south transept planned and begun in the late 13th century. Obviously Iona, like Dunkeld at exactly the same time, had spectacular relics of St Columba to display. Financial set-backs caused by the Wars of Independence may have been the reason for the abandonment of this ambitious scheme. The next building period did not come until the mid 15th century when there was a major re-building of the church and Chapter House inaugurated by the powerful Abbot Dominic. In the 14th century, when evidently no work was done on the buildings, the Iona school of monumental sculpture established itself, and in the 15th century was able to display its skills in the decoration of the capitals of the new south choir arcade and crossing. Both the figure capitals of the choir of the Abbey church and the remarkable carpet-patterned quoin-stones in the Nunnery cloister-arcade demonstrate the impression made on 15th-century sculptors by works of art accumulated during Iona's 13th-century prosperity.

The fine quality of the drawing of ornamental features, elevations and plans, and the remarkably full selection of early antiquarian views and photographs make the Inventory an
exceptionally attractive publication, well served by its designer. A store of local history is incorporated in the descriptions of townships and shielings, dykes and causeways, scattered over the island. The only topographical feature of Iona which seems to have been missed in this remarkably comprehensive survey is that puzzling cavity in the stoney beach of Port Beul-mhoir.

ISABEL HENDERSON


_The Anglo-Saxons_ is a glossy, lavishly illustrated study of the development of England in the early Middle Ages, and is concerned with all aspects of culture from peasant settlement to fine art, political narrative to _mentalités_. Its three authors contribute (successively) three chapters each, in chronological order from the end of Roman Britain to the Norman Conquest, James Campbell taking the early centuries, Patrick Wormald the 8th and 9th, and Eric John the final phase. Some features are given special treatment in nineteen ‘picture essays’ — each a double page spread of comment, with maps and illustrations — written by the principal authors and others. There are more than 200 maps and illustrations in addition to the picture essays — many full page and many in colour — and these have unusually informative captions. The main text is well written and of a quality far superior to that normally found in picture books: it therefore provides a wide-ranging introduction to both recent and older work (indeed a sense of changing attitudes to the period informs the whole book) and a sensible guide to many areas of debate in Anglo-Saxon history. It is, in fact, a very good synthesis and, despite the triple authorship, hangs together as a coherent work. All three authors stress the remarkable development of government in England from the late 9th century onwards, Campbell’s Epilogue underlining its importance for the long-term development of the English state; and all three are particularly concerned with social change — a useful antidote to presentations of the Anglo-Saxons as a single homogeneous society. Much of the book is therefore a sheer pleasure to read. This is especially so with James Campbell on early retinues and weaponry, and on the royal site of Yeavering and its British context; Patrick Wormald on early English approaches to Christianity, getting inside the minds of the converts and feeling a way through the dynastic politics of the 8th century; and Eric John, as he has done so often, probing the nature of social change in the late Saxon period, with a beautifully handled treatment of the feudal problem (‘This kind of society is usually called feudal, except in the special case of English history’). There are some hints of new approaches, and passages on the property interests of ecclesiastical communities in the 8th and 9th centuries (drawing heavily upon Nicholas Brooks’s as yet unpublished work) are particularly exciting.

One can of course, find things to criticize. The string of superlatives about Offa and the Mercian kings in chapter 5 is extreme given the problems of evidence. The determining influence of residual British institutions is often invoked — and effectively immortalized in the Epilogue; although this is a healthy reminder that the immigrant English neither destroyed nor swamped the indigenous population, such insistence on this influence is curious given the diverse nature of British institutions in the areas which are evidenced. Some aspects might have borne more weight: the book is less concerned with economic change than with other matters; it is not ignored (coinage and urban growth are highlighted in a series of picture essays) but there is no questioning about the nature of economic change in this, one of the most critical periods of development. The book is also thin on the problem of jurisdiction: despite a valuable trailer on the possible Anglo-Saxon origins of 12th-century judicial ‘innovations’, and a proper emphasis on the machinery of local government in the 10th century, there is little exploration of the relationship between rights of jurisdiction and the disposition of political power, nor of the significance of the contrasts between England and...
the Continent, especially in manorial jurisdiction. It would also have been useful to have some exploration of regional differences in England; quite apart from differences in the north, the contrast between urban development in the Midlands on the one hand and the south and east on the other has consequences for understanding the pattern of urban growth and is itself a comment on differing patterns of social development.

The points raised above are— at the least— debatable. My only real criticisms are to do with production and format. The photographs do not always relate well to the text, particularly in the latter parts of the work, and most of the full colour pages from manuscripts seem to have been primarily included for decoration. The book is not always easy to use: the picture essays, though interesting in themselves, interrupt the text and might have been better placed at the ends of chapters. The notes (which contain much useful information) are not referred to precise points in the text but to groups of pages; it is often therefore difficult to deduce which reference is appropriate to a particular piece of information or discussion, particularly when the references run for several lines.

These are quibbles. The collaboration of three scholars of distinction has resulted in a very readable, intelligent and well-informed survey— one to be enjoyed.

WENDY DAVIES


Academic piety is sometimes hypocritical and more often unmerited. Not the least remarkable thing about the late Kathleen Hughes is that the tones of affectionate respect in which all contributors to her Gedenskschrift speak of her was fully matched in her own lifetime; and of how many other protagonists on the field of early Irish historical studies could that be said? Dr Hughes’s virtues as a historian included courage, common sense and, perhaps above all, generosity of spirit. Those whom she criticized never had reason to feel mauled. Seldom, therefore, has such an admirable collection of papers as that edited by Dorothy Whitelock, Rosamond McKitterick and David Dumville been so well deserved.

Two quibbles may be disposed of at the outset, and neither, one assumes, is the fault of editors or contributors. In the first place, it is clear enough that this book has been a long time coming; at least three papers were unable to take account of important work which was published or in an advanced state of preparation well before it appeared. Second, and more serious, is the truly shocking price; even granted the high standards of production invariably attained by Cambridge University Press, a price of this order seems to bespeak a failure of publisher’s nerve, so that it is possible to envisage ever more harassed university librarians reluctantly dispensing with an extremely important collection of essays. Publishers have their problems, but they had better be aware that the slashing of library budgets is one of the relatively uncontroversial responses of universities to the intolerable pressures that they are now under.

That said, Ireland in Early Medieval Europe ought to be an indispensable element in private and communal libraries alike. The papers range from Iceland and Pictland to western Gaul, with Ireland as the proper central focus, and from homily and hagiography, through annals and genealogies, to literature and diplomatic, art history and external relations; and though some contributions are heavy going, nearly all materially advance their subject. It is invidious, but also unavoidable, to single out particular efforts. Readers of this journal will certainly need to consult Isabel Henderson’s long-promised demonstration of the Pictish affinities of the Book of Kells, even if it does suffer from what one might call the ‘Roi Soleil’
complex: artistic masterpieces do not have to be produced in politically ascendant cultures. Equally, they will wish to ponder Edward James's partial resurrection, with a new archaeological dimension, of Heinrich Zimmer's case for the contacts of Ireland with western Gaul. Students of the early Irish Church will profit from Clare Standifire's reassessment of a famous text on the colours of martyrdom, from evidence presented by Dorothy Whitehead and Ann Hamlin for its less well-known sabbatarianism, and from the demonstrations by Daniel Binchy and Donnchadh O Corrain that unpromising hagiographical sources can be used to illustrate archaic and contemporary Irish society respectively. All those interested in early Scottish history must take the important papers by Marjorie Anderson and Molly Miller into account, and urgently needed editions of the Irish Annals must reckon with those of Kenneth Harrison and David Dumville. Peter Sawyer throws new light on the Vikings in Ireland with a stimulating account of early Iceland: it turns out to have more in common with Ireland than its size. Finally, perhaps the pick of the whole collection is the paper in which Wendy Davies develops her discoveries on the Llandaff charters into a most persuasive discussion of the diplomatic tradition throughout the 'Celtic' world. Rosamond McKitterick tells the story of Kathleen Hughes's sadly short life briefly and sensitively, while David Dumville's bibliography of her writings is, as he says, a work of research in its own right. If the coherence of the volume as a whole can be argued only with some distinctly nimble footwork in an anonymous preface, coherence is hardly to be looked for in such contexts.

*Celtic Britain in the Early Middle Ages* is a collection of six of Dr Hughes's papers, three previously unpublished, on Welsh and Scottish studies. The way in which they range from the *minutiae* of liturgical and annalistic criticism to a magisterial survey of the vicissitudes of Scottish archives down to the 18th century, whilst retaining the same even and judicious tone throughout is itself a vivid illustration of her qualities as a historian. Again, medieval archaeologists should note in particular her discussion of the Book of Deer, the only certain case of a 'Dark Age' Gospel Book from east of the spine of Britain. If artistically undistinguished, it is evidence that at least one early medieval Scot knew how to make a book. This point relates to, though does not necessarily conflict with, the important argument in her other unpublished Hunter Marshall lecture, that there never were extensive written sources for early Scottish history. She had argued the point for the Picts in particular in her Janow lecture of 1970, republished here; this anticipated several later views that the Columban impact in Pictland was much less than in Northumbria. In 'Where are the writings of early Scotland?', she goes on to demonstrate, at least to this reviewer's satisfaction, that, though books were certainly lost in the 11th, 13th, 16th and 17th centuries, such catastrophes will not explain the dramatic dearth of early Scottish evidence; and this must materially affect the strength of Isabel Henderson's case for a Pictish Book of Kells. In the Welsh half of the book, we have Dr Hughes's discussion of the major Welsh hagiographical manuscript (though not, alas, her O'Donnell lecture on early south Welsh culture), and her published paper on the Welsh Annals, accompanied by a piece found among her papers after her death, which to some extent duplicates, but also amplifies it. The collection is excellent value at £12.00, and one eagerly awaits the promised publication of the Irish papers, which were Kathleen Hughes's main life's work.

The anonymous preface to the *Gedenkschrift* (it is not in fact difficult to identify the editor responsible!) rightly observes that 'it is still too often the case that the history of individual European cultures is studied . . . in ignorance or disregard of the cultures of neighbouring countries'. This is perhaps truer of early medieval Ireland than even Anglo-Saxon England, and Kathleen Hughes, as I have written in these pages before, was better aware of the problem than most. Conversely, of course, historians of other parts of the early medieval west are all too often ignorant of Ireland; as David Dumville observes, Dr Hughes herself was able in 1972 to identify a particularly illustrious example! My own feeling is that the study of the Celtic world in its wider setting could be taken further still than by Dr Hughes and her friends and pupils. Much that looks 'odd' in Ireland does not perhaps seem so odd, once one has thoroughly absorbed the atmosphere of, say, Merovingian hagiography, or Spanish Paschal disputes or Icelandic law and saga. It is to be hoped that Celticians and Germanists alike will
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profit from the example set by both these books, and work to erode further the 'Celtic isolation', which may be more a feature of modern scholarship than of early medieval realities.

PATRICK WORMALD


This is the second archaeological monograph to be produced by the Northampton Development Corporation, and the first to be devoted to sites within Northampton itself. It is a lavishly produced book, subsidized by the D.o.E. and Northampton Development Corporation, and, with its clear illustrations, phase diagrams (pink!) and many photographs, a pleasure to handle. The format, then, is splendid — but does the content live up to the wrapping? The scale of the publication might well lead the reader to expect it to be a definitive work of synthesis on Saxon and medieval Northampton, but it proves to be purely an excavation report with a great quantity of raw data and proportionately little synthesis.

The sites that are reported here lie to the E. and S. of St Peter’s Church, now a predominantly 12th-century Romanesque building. The excavations revealed foundations of what seems ‘almost certainly’ to have been the square east end of an 8th-century church roughly aligned with the present church and therefore assumed by the excavators to be the original St Peter’s. There were also associated industrial complexes including three probably 8th-century mortar mixers, perhaps used during the building of the church, and later Saxon and post-Conquest domestic properties. The history of the sites, which straddle modern St Peter’s Street, is traced archaeologically up to the end of the medieval period and could have been followed to the present day but ‘a conscious decision was taken to generally disregard the post-medieval levels’ (p. 8). So what we are presented with is a report and assessment of the archaeological evidence for the sites from their initial occupation in prehistoric, or possibly Romano-British times, to c. 1500. There is a three-page discussion of St Peter’s Street in the post-medieval period which is based solely on the evidence of documents, maps and standing buildings.

The publication begins with a section on the archaeological and historical background to the St Peter’s Street sites (pp. 3–7), relying heavily on published documentary sources. It forms a useful summary of the history of Northampton for the general reader but is not specifically helpful in interpreting the results of the St Peter’s Street excavations. So much of this book is devoted to the supposed 8th-century precursor to the present St Peter’s Church that we could reasonably expect to be told something about the present standing structure and the documentary evidence for it or any earlier building. There is no mention of these.

There then follows a report of the excavated sites (pp. 8–133), prefaced by a description of a most elaborate and surely unnecessarily complicated method of recording. The division into both House and Areas (neither of which seems to coincide with the other) appears altogether too subtle for readers not personally acquainted with the excavations. A simpler method of recording would certainly be more intelligible and encouraging to the reader who is faced with many pages of layer lists in the main body of the text.

The remainder of the work consists of a short synthesis of the excavated evidence (pp. 137–47) and lengthy reports on the finds (pp. 151–339). There is no index. The synthesis sets the excavated remains in context, gives radiocarbon dates for the ‘church’ and mortar mixers, and discusses the relevance of St Peter’s Street in the continuing discussion of Saxon town planning. It is refreshing to hear a note of scepticism here, and one must hope that the author will be able to pursue his thoughts on the lack of ‘evidence for imposed planning’ (p. 141) in publications of other sites in Northampton in the future. On the other hand, it is a
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little perturbing to read the assumption that two of the three mortar mixers must have been used in the (still hypothetical) 8th-century church (p. 139). Thin-section and heavy-metal analyses of the residues in the mixers 'does not provide conclusive evidence that those mortars found in the church were actually mixed in the St Peter's Street mixers' (p. 133), the mixers lay up to 50 m away from the 'square east end', and one lay on the far side of the contemporary boundary ditch. It might have been wiser to postulate their association with a possible 8th-century church more cautiously.

There is no doubt that the excavations at St Peter's Street have made significant contributions to an understanding of middle and late Saxon Northampton and mark an important step forward in our knowledge of the development of one of England's lesser known Saxon towns. This volume, however, could usefully have concentrated more on the significance of the excavations and less on their raw data. A book as sumptuous and beautifully produced as this should surely be devoted to something more than material better stored in the site archive.

HELEN CLARKE


This volume comprises no. 3 in the Archaeological Series of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and is a comprehensive account of a quite unexpected and outstanding find from the Kentish Marshes in the autumn of 1970. As Basil Greenhill, Director of the National Maritime Museum, points out, it should 'provide a model for future work in this branch of archaeology', and 'the obligation to publish fully has been met'. Certainly no-one will quarrel with the decision to publish this at this level and we must hope that pressures from Fortress House to publish similar sites at a lesser level in the future will be resisted.

That is not to say that everyone will agree with the manner of full publication. The BAR Series is not the best vehicle for outstandingly important sites, and, although this volume is refreshingly well-produced as regards plates (as compared to other volumes in the series), some illustrations yet suffer (e.g. Fig. 7.5.). The fault cannot always be laid at the door of the publishers: clearly the originals of 8.26 and 8.21 leave much to be desired, and 7.9 and 8.18 are nonsensical in their extravagant use of blank space. Equally, the non-nautical archaeologist will be puzzled by the reproduction of pages of original notebooks (Figs. 2.3.3 and 2.3.5) and by the reproduction of 27 original drawings of parts of the hull (3.2.1 — 3.2.27). Inconsistency of style in lettering of figures further detracts from the quality of the final production, as does the variable reproduction of the typed captions to the illustrations. Oh, for the days of conventional letterpress reports that, if they did not delight the eye, at least did not immediately strain it!

The report begins with both a Foreword (by Basil Greenhill) and an Introduction (by Valerie Fenwick), and the non-specialists' alarm-bells begin ringing immediately. If the different members of the staff of the National Maritime Museum cannot agree (at least in print!) on the use and definition of such basic terms as 'boat' or 'ship', then what chance have non-specialists of grasping the nuances of 'clenched lap', 'clinker', 'carvel' etc? However, through (rather than over) that hurdle, the reader then comes to three very short sections in Chapter I on the 'Discovery, Excavation and Recovery of the Remains'. In Part I, the absence of other than verbal description of the primary deposit above the keel means that it is not good enough to say that '(the filling) showed no signs of stratification until at c. 0.1 to 0.15 m above the keel it became much darker and had a somewhat gritty texture'. Equally, what are we to make of note 3: 'Pottery identified as local Roman by the writer, but see chap. 4.3'? Does this mean Mr Jenkins maintains it is 'local Roman', or does he agree with Mr
Hurst that it is related to imported pottery in Late Saxon England? And does the account of sticks and stakes here said to be under the boat, not deserve at least one illustration? When we move to Part 2, we get rather too much illustration: Figs. 1.2.4, 1.2.7 and 1.2.8 are certainly far less important than basic data about the boat and the site. And yet we are not told what the Letratone on Fig. 1.2.9 signifies in the centre of the boat itself! In all, the impression of Chapter 1 is that it would have been improved by having the three parts integrated into a single text.

A similar impression strikes the readers of Chapters 2 (Recording) and 3 (Description of Finds). In the latter particularly, there seems no clear reason why a list of numbers of finds are juxtaposed with a set of drawings, especially as the former are not elaborated upon, and the latter are accompanied by rather turgid descriptions. Next are Chapters 4 on ‘Dating’, 5 on ‘Environmental Studies’ and then 6 ‘Geographical and Historical Background’. Although there seems no logic to this order, nevertheless the content is fascinating. An instance is the section on the hops — although in this case, the appalling illustration of the hop seeds (Fig. 6.5) is of no use to anyone, and if I were the author, I would not admit to having copyright! Some of the material here is misplaced: the reports on the imported pottery and the lava querns do not help at all with ‘dating’, and would have been far better placed with the ‘description of finds’. And why is Ellis’s report on Quern Gr 112 on p. 153, when Smith’s report is on p. 131? Other material is, frankly, pointless: the 28 miscellaneous bones, we are told, were compared with an 18th-century context in Orkney (why?) and had a high proportion of abnormalities (does this tell us anything about the boat or its environment?). And what are we to make of a report on molluscs ‘from the 13th-century horizon downstream’, when this is the first mention of this horizon, and there is no obvious connection with the boat-find?

Chapters 6–7, by Valerie Fenwick are concerned with the Background to the Site, and its possible use as a landing place. The first is interesting — if puzzling that here on p. 173 we have the third separated section on quern stones! The second is more speculative (the evidence is slight for boat-repairing here) and unnecessarily over-loaded with footnotes (nos. 7 and 8 are long and largely irrelevant).

With Chapter 8 by Fenwick we move to the fundamental work of comparison with other North European boat finds. Again there is misplaced material: the Appendix on the Rother Barge should be published elsewhere (more prominently), and the description of the hull is repetitious and should have been put with McKee’s work on the hull earlier in the report. The discussion covers most aspects, and concludes that ‘the balance of evidence at present favours a place of origin in southern or eastern England in the first half of the 10th century’. Again, there is overlap with the following chapters on ‘Reconstruction’ and ‘The Replica’. These latter chapters are fascinating, but take one further and further away from the excavation, until one ends up with a list of tools on p. 309 for making a replica of the boat! The report ends with a chapter on Conservation and Display followed by a Glossary.

In all then, this Report, if inconsistently edited, is an adequate reflection of the importance of the Graveney Boat. Let us hope that future boat finds will be accorded the same level of comprehensive reporting.

CHRISTOPHER D. MORRIS


This book has been long and eagerly awaited. Ever since the first article in the National Geographic Magazine and Heige Ingstad’s book Westward to Vinland, with their tantalizing, chatty summaries of the finds of a Norse settlement in Newfoundland, Viking archaeologists have been waiting for a full archaeological account of the site. At least since 1970, we have
had Anne Stine's preliminary account published in *Acta Archaeologica*, and the Ingstads are surely correct to ensure that the final report is published with full documentation in a durable format, after mature consideration of the results. We still await the second part of the report (by Helge Ingstad) 'which will take the form of a historical assessment of the Norse voyages to Vinland, partly viewed in the light of the settlement at L'Anse Aux Meadows', and it is right that publication should begin with the sober facts of archaeology, and then, later, attempt to place them into a wider context.

Most discussion of the Vikings in America (including Helge Ingstad's earlier work) has been bedevilled by the obsession with finding Vinland and correlating Sagas and archaeology. It has led to some amazing assertions but it has also led to the discovery of this site, for which we must be eternally grateful to Helge Ingstad. The site is situated at the northern tip of Newfoundland, hitherto far from the beaten track (but most unlikely to remain so, now!), and consists of groups of structures and other archaeological features around a small brook above a shallow sandy bay. The work undertaken by the Ingstads took place over eight seasons, and the published report is suitably extensive, with no irritating microfiche to take elsewhere to squint at! The work is divided into three parts: the first concerned with the excavations themselves, the second with 'Interpretation and Assessment', the third with various specialist reports.

One of the most annoying aspects of the book is the complete inconsistency of referencing. In the first Part there are no references for sections I-IV, but there are individual lists for sections V and VI. In Part II, there is a simple reference list for sections VII-X inclusive, but in Part III, there are again four separate lists for the four (un-numbered!) sections. Equally perplexing are the plates and figures. Consecutively numbered through the text of Part I and II are 105 figures (mostly photographs), where Part III has sets of mixed photographs and figures (all labelled Figs. and beginning with 1) for each sub-section. There are in addition, two plates (I and II) in Part III, and a separately numbered group of 62 figures (mostly photographs) after Part III, but before the 63 plates (mostly figure-drawings), which refer back to Parts I and II and are listed on pp. 270-71 in the middle of the book! The result is confusion and is very difficult to use. The inadequacies of the references and illustrations highlight the need for a professional editor to tidy up inconsistencies in a book of this kind. It is a pity that the high quality lavish production by the Norwegian Universities' Press did not extend to this simple but fundamental matter.

As for the text, it is good to have the details of each individual structure and the long discussion of the 'Cultural Affinities', for the basis of the Ingstads’ interpretation is clear. However, again, there are inconsistencies, for instance in section V of Part I. This is a 'Preliminary Report' by Charles Bareis and Jon Winston of some of the Eskimo material, which is not further considered in any detail. Indeed, the non-Norse material is specifically reserved for later treatment (by others). Another source of worry for the reviewer is the statement that 'All the house-sites were excavated, drawn and photographed in three levels. As a rule, only the lowest level will be published in this paper, as the available space does not permit of a detailed publication of all levels'. Was it really the case that there were invariably three levels (presumably 'phases' is meant) in all structures? If so, surely it merited considerably more demonstration and analysis, for it is fundamental to one's conception of the length of occupation of the settlement? Or do we understand that there were three arbitrary levels to which the site was dug and recorded . . .?

Related to the question of length of occupation, is that of cultural affinities and dating. Although the Norse cultural affinities are demonstrated by a copper alloy ringed pin, a soapstone spindle-whorl, and a stone lamp none of these can be used with any confidence on their own to demonstrate a probable date for the settlement. It is, indeed, most unfortunate that the illustration of the pin (in common with most others) is lacking a scale. But the overall assemblage needed more discussion, and could have merited the sort of treatment the structures received. In the end, the C-14 dates are what are used to date the site. Few will be convinced by R. Nydal's attempt to produce a mean age (920 ± 30 A.D.) from 16 disparate samples from different parts of the site. Much more useful would have been analysis of groups
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of C-14 determinations within the total, particularly as they range from 640 ± 130 (T-310) to 1080 ± 70 A.D. (T-327). To take a single example, House A produced two dates listed by Nydal (p. 343); 1000 ± 90 A.D. (T-530) and 640 ± 130 A.D. (T-310) plus a third: 1320 ± 80 B.P. (T-818) (i.e. 630 ± 80 A.D.), not listed by Nydal (ref. p. 37). T-530 and T-818 were of turf, and T-310 of 'scattered charcoals from the cultural layer very highly eroded by the brook'. Since T-530 came from the southern wall and T-818 from the northern wall (ref. p. 335), there is a problem here, not allayed by the statement that T-818 'is in better agreement with the age one might have expected'. Another date not listed by Nydal is to be found on p. 335 (T-817: 1300 ± 70 B.C.) for 'the wall' (which?) of house-site D. Another case for editing?

This excavation was a co-operative Nordic and North American exercise (excepting Danes) and so there are understandably separate reports by them. However, it does not help the reader to have 'Rooms I and II of House D' written up as such, while Room III comes under a separate section headed 'Excavation No. 1, The House'! Equally the investigations of the 'Boat-sheds' are inexplicable. Plate 58 shows the surface indications in relation to the test excavation areas, which might as well have been randomly placed over them. Plates 59 and 60 (reversed in order) display the results — which will convince no-one. And yet good photographs of boat-sheds from Norway, Faroes and Denmark, are included in the text, together with a whole page of level readings (p. 124) for the discursive account by Arne Emil Christensen Jr. Again a case for more rigorous editing.

There is no doubt that this report indicates the great potential and importance of this site, and we are grateful to have the material presented to us. It is also essential to have the information now that new excavations have taken place (see Research Bulletin nos. 20, 1974, and no. 33, 1976, of Parks Canada, by Bengt Schönback et al.), which build upon the primary investigations by the Ingstads. That there are some inadequacies of presentation has been indicated above, but these should not take precedence over the overall achievement both of the discovery and excavation, and of the publication of it. All workers in Viking archaeology, and especially those of us concerned with the archaeology of North Atlantic Settlements, will be grateful to Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad for this labour of love extending over the best part of two decades. It is the function of reviewers to seek out shortcomings and inadequacies; it is also their duty to draw attention to work that has radically changed the conception of a subject. The site of L'Anse Aux Meadows will always be remembered as the site found by Helge Ingstad, and excavated by Anne Stine Ingstad, which first unequivocally established archaeological evidence of the Viking presence in the American Continent. Let us salute this outstanding contribution to Viking studies.

CHRISTOPHER D. MORRIS


Rescue excavation over the last fifteen years has added considerably to the data available on the plans and physical setting of the houses of the mendicant orders. The House of Austin Friars at Leicester has many familiar characteristics, but what makes this report particularly interesting is the considerable amount of environmental evidence from the site. We can see in this report perhaps for the first time how archaeology can contribute much more than just a building sequence to aid our understanding of the life and work of the Friars.

The House was founded in 1254, possibly by Simon de Montfort. It was situated on a typically damp site outside the borough. The Church was built in 1306 and lay on the S. side of the site with Great and Lesser Cloisters on the N. It is these clostral buildings and particularly the Lesser Cloister which were the subject of the report which covers not only the
buildings themselves, but also two E.–W. ditches which ran through the site. These ditches provided welcome drainage to the friars and just as welcome environmental evidence for the archaeologists.

The documentary history of the site is discussed by Janet Martin and the excavations by Jean E. Mellor and Terry Pearce. Both sources of evidence are used to trace the history of the site from its pre-Priory use, through a period of earliest timber buildings and a major early 14th-century period of stone building up to the completion of the Lesser Cloister in the early 15th century. By the early 16th century at the latest parts of the Priory were already being abandoned. It was surrendered in 1538 and demolition took place before 1543; after that time only a few ruins survived. The site reverted to pasture and meadow until 1832 when the Leicester and Swannington Railway Company created its terminus known as the Augustine Friars on most of the site; four railway turntables were one aspect of the site's industrial archaeology. The remainder of the site contained a braces factory.

The reader would have been greatly helped by a general introduction to the site which would have provided welcome background to the more detailed sections. As it is, the documentary evidence and the archaeological evidence are kept separate and they are nowhere fully integrated although there is constant overlap between the objective description of the excavation and its interpretation. It might have been better if the discussion sections of each phase had been grouped together to form one continuous narrative. The figures are clear, but since so much of the interest hinges on the evidence of the ditches it would have been helpful if the direction of flow of the two branches of the R. Soar could have been indicated. It was also tantalizing to have several references to the importance of a 1722 drawing in the Bodleian Library Oxford, which was not reproduced. The drawing is actually a delightful line drawing which would have lost nothing by printing in offset litho (much better in fact than the dark plan showing the New Cut drawn in c. A.D. 1600 which was reproduced). The authors do not reveal that the artist was William Stukeley which adds to its antiquarian interest. The specialist reports take up the bulk of the report even though much of the detailed environmental material has been published in microfiche. The information contained within the specialist reports has been admirably integrated into the main body of the interpretative sections of the excavation reports.

This is obviously an early attempt at the use of fiche given the period of time from the submission of the report to the printer and the appearance of this review. One suspects that the report was not originally intended for the use of fiche at all. As it is the scientific sections, arguably some of the most important, have been consigned to the fiche rather than the reports on the more conventional subjects. Some of the other specialist reports could well have been split into a summary and a fiche section. A separate table of contents of the fiche would have been useful with each printed specialist section and at the very least as the first frame of each fiche.

Clare Allin's interesting general discussion of ridge tiles and roof tiles might have been better published as general articles. The analyses of the mortar samples show convincingly how they can be used to corroborate the interpretation of building sequences deduced by conventional stratigraphical techniques. The pottery is also given very full treatment since it forms an important group for the region. The tables at least seem, however, obvious candidates for fiche treatment. A case might also have been made for presenting the pottery as a synthesis of fabrics and types with the appropriate illustrations rather than in pit groups. The latter could then have appeared in fiche.

The environmental evidence is undoubtedly the most original part of this report, since this must be possibly the most extensive use of this type of evidence on a mendicant site. As is the way of such reports there are some curiosities in Maureen Girling's report such as the now extinct Gyrinus Strigulosus, a species of 'whirly-gig' beetle. But to archaeologists, of more significance is the evidence for a well-planned drainage system, a high standard of cleanliness (although the contrast with the squalor of York Viking sites is probably not very relevant) and good grain storage conditions. The grain must have been given or purchased but the bare evidence suggests that the friars were keeping their own 'domestic ungulates' which were
butchered on the site. There was no evidence of tanning on the site but the friars were apparently working leather. The close connection between the Leicester friars and the Leicester Shoemakers' Guild was attested by the discoveries of numerous shoes and other leather items.

The friars' diet included marine shellfish while of the eleven species of fish identified, nine were marine including one prodigious halibut and a sturgeon; such fish were presumably salted. In view of the interest of the bone evidence it is a pity that no sieving was carried out to recover small fish and bird bones.

It is evidence of this sort which makes this report more than simply the report of a typical urban friary. Jean Mellor and Terry Pearce with their specialists are to be congratulated in pointing future directions for enquiries on other mendicant sites. Priority should now be given to those sites where the evidence for the domestic life of friars, so absent from the written records, can be found.

T. G. Hassall


This is by any reckoning a remarkable piece of work. The fact that it is a work of collaboration involving many local correspondents and theoreticians does not lessen the magnitude of Dr Alcock's achievement. It is claimed, no doubt justly, to be the most ambitiously detailed series of distribution maps covering a single architectural feature ever published.

No other architectural detail has exercised quite the archaeological fascination of the cruck truss since C. F. Innocent published in 1916 a seminal if somewhat misleading map, and posed his cruck versus post-and-truss antithesis, a theme later greatly expanded by R. A. Cordingley in his _Classification_.

The present work is a continuation of a list started by J. T. Smith, and first published by N. W. Alcock as a _Catalogue of Cruck Buildings_ in 1973. The introduction consists of a series of essays on the date and origins of the cruck illustrated by maps based on different aspects of cruck design, and this is followed by the catalogue itself. Alcock contributes a general introduction, and together with R. Hall a survey of the documentary evidence. He also discusses the origin and spread of cruck construction in Britain arguing a medieval origin, a view challenged by J. T. Smith who favours a prehistoric beginning. Smith goes on to discuss variations in the design of the apex and suggests that forms of apex where the blades do not directly connect are older (because more widespread) than those where they touch. It would have helped if the apex forms had been sketched on the maps in question as it is difficult to carry Alcock's code in one's head. P. V. Addyman admits that firm early evidence for crucks in excavations is extremely tenuous. G. I. Meirion-Jones summarizes the continental evidence though some of his parallels are better than others, and he does not explore sufficiently the question of whether the forms illustrated are representative of the local style or oddities. C. P. Stell, A. Gailey and D. McCourt offer short sections on Scotland and Ireland. F. W. B. Charles discusses the carpentry problems, though his claim that crucks are normally reared from the 'upper' to the 'lower' end is not borne out by this reviewer's observations which suggest they are normally reared from ends to middle.

In spite of this very comprehensive study, and maps whose balance is not likely to be altered much by further discoveries, there remain many unsolved problems. Those who argue that the invention of cruck building does not long antedate the earliest surviving examples have to provide an earlier type of roof in contrast with which the cruck would not appear an improbable retrogression. Amidst the dearth of positive excavated evidence one wonders if crucks would be identifiable in the ground. The _indicia_ expected seem to be an
inward inclination, but many latter-day crucks have no perceptible inward inclination until well above ground level. There is also the very odd distribution showing major concentrations towards its fringes and revealing no very good relationship with any known political, physical or ethnic boundaries. While it avoids those eastern parts of England where Celtic place-names are least frequent it is also absent from parts of the Celtic west (as Innocent had noticed) although this latter difficulty might be partly explained by the dearth of ancient vernacular building in the outer highland zone.

The problem of the cruck cannot be isolated from the problem of other types of roof and here we come back to Cordingley’s hypothesis, that the cruck is the roof form of the ‘double’ roof where the rafters are carried by ridge-beam and purlins resting on trusses, and in complete contrast with the trussed-rafter roof and its derivatives. Seen in this context it becomes easier to relate the British distribution with the continental evidence. The British cruck has at least some affinity with the steep ridge-beam and king-post through-purlin roof which predominates at the vernacular level in NW. France while the ridgeless trussed-rafter roofs of E. England have some affinity with the ridgeless rafter roofs which predominate at the vernacular level in lower Germany and in the Netherlands. It thus looks as if our distribution patterns and problems find an echo on the Continent and can only be understood in the widest European context.

P. SMITH

La ceramique médiévale en Méditerranée Occidentale Xe-XVe siècles: Valbonne 11-14 Septembre 1978
(Colloques Internationaux du Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique No. 584).

This is an important volume in the annals of medieval archaeology. Within the 40 papers published here are several which more than demonstrate that some of the finest research in the field is being undertaken around the shores of the Mediterranean. Of course, the volume emphasizes the need for more work in N. Africa as well as the artificial and unnecessary divide between the E. and W. Mediterranean in terms of ceramic research. In this review, however, there is space only to note just a few of the especially interesting papers arising from the conference at Valbonne.

Pride of place must go to Professor D. d'Archimbaud who not only edited the volume but also contributed four major papers. Her first two papers are in collaboration with M. Picon, and essentially review the characterization studies that they have been carrying out on Provencal medieval wares. As they indicate, the implications of their work are far-reaching when interpreting the production, distribution and chronology of both fine and coarse wares in the region. D'Archimbaud’s third paper, in collaboration with C. Lemoine is the first classification of Spanish Levantine and Andalusian pottery which has been found in Mediterranean France. The study again arises from the chemical analyses pioneered by Picon, and is a model of its kind. However, her most outstanding essay in this volume is a brief but immensely impressive summary of the analyses of the Rougiers ceramics (the full report appears in the immense excavation report published in 1980). In this essay she illustrates the location of the pottery within the large hill-top settlement and discusses the movement of sherds across the site. She then outlines the evolution of the fabrics and forms of these wares during the period in which Rougiers was occupied. It is surely a significant step towards archaeology as anthropology, and it must be hoped, at least, that one day this approach will be applied to sites as well documented as Montaillou. When that happens medieval archaeology will really have come of age.

Similar new directions are also revealed in a significantly large number of papers by ‘Italian archaeologists’. D. Whitehouse summarizes much of this new work in a short but
useful paper which encourages us to look forward to his book on the subject. H. Blake and others have contributed short papers condensing some of their influential work on bacini, putting this type of study on a systematic footing. Mannoni contributes two papers in collaboration with others, illustrating that he is also deeply committed to the physical analysis of maiolicas and allied glazed wares (in this case from Liguria). Another notable paper is that of Francovich and Gelichi — again a valuable precis of a forthcoming monograph. Their work on the archaic maiolica of central and S. Tuscany is certain to be a classic. All in all there is a feeling that N. Italian later medieval ceramics will be the most thoroughly studied medieval pottery in western Europe.

Mention should also be made of C. L. Redman’s paper at Valbonne. Anything that this eminent member of the ‘New Archaeology’ writes is worth reading, and his earliest contributions to medieval archaeology are likely to hold a special fascination. His paper in this volume is principally a descriptive report on the important assemblage of western Mediterranean wares found in the excavations at Qsar es-Seghir, Morocco. The paper indicates the striking range of pottery from this first major excavation in western N. Africa, and equally for those impressed by his sampling strategy at Qsar es-Seghir, it shows he knows his stuff (i.e. potsherds).

There are, of course, a number of papers which leave something to be desired, and a few summarized papers given at Valbonne serve simply to intrigue four years later. However, the collection of better papers shows the great strides being made by medieval archaeologists working in the western Mediterranean. Indeed, there are signs that while early medieval archaeology may be still dominated by those working north of the Alps, Mediterranean archaeologists may be leading the way when it comes to the later medieval period. In short, the Valbonne conference marks an important new step in medieval archaeology. There is evidently a long way to go but we should be grateful to Gabrielle Demains d’Archimbaud for arranging these proceedings so successfully.

RICHARD HODGES

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Rougiers is a medieval hill-top site in Provence, with the walls of its castle, and more remarkably of some peasant houses, still standing to a considerable height. It was the first medieval village to be excavated in France, and work since 1961 has investigated the bulk of its small but complex area of occupation. Now the results have been published in this large, lavishly illustrated volume.

One of the strong points of the report is the author’s willingness to generalize, to make comparisons with other sites, and to attempt to use this intensively-studied example to throw light on medieval rural settlements in the Mediterranean world.

When work began at Rougiers the initial questions were being asked about settlement desertion, but the scope of the research extended to include the origins and development of the village. The desertion of Rougiers (and of other hill-top sites) is now seen as an episode in a series of shifts of settlement from valley to hill and back again. In immediately pre-Roman times the main settlement in the area was the hill-fort of Piégù. The Gallo-Roman period saw the development of valley settlements, but growing insecurity led to a retreat to the hills in the 3rd century. People moved down again in the post-Roman period. In the late 12th century a castle and an associated village were established on the hill-top of Rougiers, in a move closely analogous to the process of incastellamento in early medieval Italy. In the later Middle Ages the valley settlement grew again, but the village on the hill survived, and even expanded temporarily in the uncertain times around 1400, until final abandonment came in the 15th century.
This two-way short distance migration between lowlands and uplands makes the desertion of Provencal villages seem rather less cataclysmic than the statistics suggest at first. There was a drastic drop in the population of Provence in the later Middle Ages, leading to a 59% reduction in the numbers of taxable hearths between 1315 and 1471, and a 42% loss of settlements, greater than the ‘quotients’ of settlements abandoned in much of Germany. However, the demise of hill-top sites like Rougiers did not necessarily lead to a large-scale desertion of fields, because the land could still be worked from the villages in the valleys. The documentary evidence for Rougiers reveals a complex relationship between hill and valley settlements, whereby houses in each were held by the same tenants, so that the excavated houses may not always represent the only dwellings of permanent inhabitants. The ‘descent’ to the plain may have involved no more than the giving up of ‘second homes’.

Rougiers seems to have owed its origin to the family of lesser nobles who built a small castle on the hill top in the late 13th century. The village grew up within the castle’s circuit of outer fortifications. There is little trace of a regular lay-out, but this could hardly be expected of a settlement built on alarmingly steep slopes, with houses necessarily taking advantage of available sites. The elements of planning lay in skilfully fitting a settlement into a very difficult environment.

The village houses lay in three closely packed zones, linked by roads and paths, the most important of which varied in width from 2.1 to 2.4 m. Most of the houses consisted of one or two rooms within larger blocks, with the floor area of each house often amounting to less than 30 sq. m. Though the building space at Rougiers was unusually constricted, the houses belonged to a Mediterranean type that is also found on less cramped sites. Walls, of mortared stone, were thin and high, sufficient for two storeys, with tiled roofs. The external hearths were situated in adjacent yards into which the life of the house spilled. In the 14th century living space was reduced by pressure for building room, and houses were subdivided so that three families might occupy the site of one former house. The trend, continuing even in the period of declining population, seems to have been connected with the development of a stronger industrial element in the economy of the village. The smaller houses were occupied by artisans rather than peasants. Life on a hill top of course entailed logistical difficulties, and a notable feature of the site was the scatter of water cisterns and food storage ‘silos’, some of them impressively well built.

Professor d’Archimbaud emphasizes the ‘urban’ appearance of the village, huddled within its protective walls. This is again characteristic of the Mediterranean world, where towns and villages were not as topographically distinct as in northern Europe.

The environmental evidence from Rougiers provides the useful background information that in the 13th and 14th centuries the deciduous oaks of the nearby woodlands declined in favour of more scrubby species, such as buckthorn, probably as a result of the more intensive grazing, notably by sheep and goats, the proportion of which can be shown to have increased in the later part of the period.

A striking feature of the site is the wealth of its finds. There were 114 coins and jettons, 94,000 potsherds, and 2,600 small finds (mostly of metal) from a site covering less than one ha. Such quantities reflect the concentration of households into a small space, the accumulation of deep stratification within buildings, and the use of large collective rubbish pits. The finds are not simply evidence of the wealth of the inhabitants of the castle, as they occur in plenty in the village area. There was clearly a vigorous trading economy, bringing to the site raw materials and finished goods from the surrounding region, and, in the case of the finer glazed pottery, from more distant sources of supply, such as Spain. Glass fragments were especially abundant, and the presence of wasters and crucible fragments shows that a glass-making workshop was established on the hill top in the early 14th century. The excavators saw this development as intensifying the village’s relationship with the market, providing additional evidence for ‘village urbanism’.

This report gives English medieval archaeologists a window on to a Mediterranean world, with settlements and a material culture differing markedly from those of northern Europe. At the same time useful comparisons can be made with English evidence. Southern
European *incastellamento*, for example, bears some resemblance to northern nucleation. Similarly the close association between castle and village can be paralleled in many other settlements. The introduction of industry is analogous to the growing artisan element in late medieval English villages, well-known from documentary sources.

It is useful also to notice the methods and approach of French medieval archaeologists. The beginning of the excavation was encouraged by a historian, George Duby. Professor d'Archimbaud handles documentary sources such as tax records and charters with ease, and her interpretation of the site makes use of historical concepts, such as the growth of feudal power, or the influence of partible inheritance on peasant houses. In the analysis of the purely archaeological data, much more attention is given to small finds than would be found in an English excavation report. The distribution of finds over space and time has been plotted, leading to some valuable conclusions. For example, bronze objects seem to have been particularly numerous in the 13th century, and high quality iron artefacts became more plentiful after 1350, suggesting an improvement in the performance of the iron industry.

While there is much to admire in this report, it has a serious flaw. The technical presentation can only be described as amateurish. The excavator was given an enviable opportunity to write at length and to use large quantities of illustrations; however, the failure to illustrate the report adequately seriously impairs its value. Maps sometimes lack north points or scales; they are rarely fully annotated. The excavations are recorded in numerous (over-reduced) elevations and sections, and many photographs, but with very few plans. A single plan, in which the detail is legible only with a magnifying glass, is expected to serve as a guide through hundreds of pages of description of the castle and the zones and blocks of houses. Without separate plans of these structures the verbal accounts are almost unintelligible, and the reader is left in doubt as to whether the structural relationships have been properly worked out, as he is not given the means either to understand or check the interpretation. It is unfortunate that the standard of publication does not match the intellectual sophistication of the report as a whole.

**CHRISTOPHER DYER**


This substantial and well-produced volume is a worthy tribute to a much-respected scholar. The breadth of the papers here presented is an adequate reflection of his catholic interests; many of the articles rightly indicate the generosity with which he shared his encyclopaedic knowledge with others, particularly the younger generation. The 33 contributions in this book would all have given pleasure to Stuart Rigold, especially since so many are concerned with his native Kent and with medieval architecture. A measure of 'Riggy's' scholarship is provided by the Bibliography of some 300 articles, notes and reviews; from this it is clear that his reputation rests not upon a single work or on one great theme but on a mosaic, often interlocking, of many small jewels.

The contributions to this volume start with a characteristically delicate journey among megaliths old and new from Ronald Jessup, with four Roman articles, mainly concerned with Richborough, and with two papers exploring facets of early Kentish Christianity in its wider context. The heart of this book is the score of articles dealing with medieval buildings, furnishings and fittings, the majority in Kent. For most of these articles *Archaeologia Cantiana* would have been the obvious place of publication, though for the surveys of churches, houses and hospitals the inspiration from Stuart Rigold runs through as a common theme. Three articles on castles deserve a wider audience: Jeffrey West's survey of Acton Burnell in Shropshire re-interprets Dr Ralegh Radford's work on that castle and stresses the anachronistic use of a great keep in the late 13th century. Derek Renn elucidates the gatehouse at Tonbridge, places it in context with contemporary Caerphilly and assesses two centuries of gatehouse development in England. Beric Morley shows that the forms of 14th-
century castle planning suggested by Faulkner are not universally applicable and in a
thought-provoking survey indicates other possibilities in plan, form and design.

Another article which places a feature of a Kentish site in a far wider context is Roy
Gilyard-Beer’s consideration of the reader’s pulpit in the cloister walk at Boxley Abbey,
known only from a building contract of 1373. Papers on vernacular architecture discuss
widely-drawn examples of plan and construction (from Peter Smith and Guy Beresford) as
well as more locally applicable material.

Three articles touch upon fields in which Stuart Rigold made significant contributions.
John Kent describes a newly-discovered George noble of Henry VIII whose existence he had
already predicted from its mention in merchants’ handbooks of coins. Perhaps in view of
Rigold’s many papers bringing together medieval archaeology and medieval numismatics
this field might have been more strongly represented. The second area in which Rigold made
sapient forays was the production of memorial brasses and John Blair’s paper on English
monumental brasses before the Black Death is a substantial and well-illustrated paper
providing clear national guide-lines upon a subject where isolated and local observations
have too often been the rule. The third subject requiring comment is Mark Horton’s
catalogue and discussion of a group of mid 16th-century Dutch floor tiles imported into
England south of a line drawn from Ipswich to Gloucester. Tiles, that ‘hard-wearing carpet’,
were another of Rigold’s many interests, and the origin of these motto tiles in Middelburg or
Antwerp is an apt reminder of how many friends Stuart made through his participation in
conferences abroad, particularly at Rotterdam, and how freely he conversed in European
languages. Three post-medieval articles and an index complete the work.

The whole volume with its fine production and careful editing commemorates a leading
medieval archaeologist. In Stuart Rigold, the many strands of the discipline, as well as many
of its by-ways, were brought together and by him willingly shared. The Kent Archaeological
Society has paid a fitting tribute.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

Catalogue of Medieval Lead-Glazed Earthenware Tiles in the Department of Medieval and Later
Antiquities. By E. S. Eames. 2 vols. 23 × 29 cm. Vol. 1, Text, Catalogue and Indices,

Writing in the Archaeological Newsletter for October 1948, R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford
discussed progress in medieval archaeology, referring to a landmark in the subject, the
publication of J. B. Ward-Perkins’ London Museum Medieval Catalogue, to the progress of G.
C. Dunning’s great work on medieval pottery, and to the British Museum’s plans to
published a new catalogue of the museum’s medieval tiles, then recently enriched by the
acquisition of the late Duke of Rutland’s collection of 9,000 examples. Bruce-Mitford
remarked that with these works beside the London Museum catalogue on our shelves, ‘the
foundations of medieval archaeology will have been well and truly laid’. The long-awaited
publication of the catalogue of tiles, some five years with the printers, is a formidable
achievement, surely one of the greatest contributions to medieval archaeology. For the last 30
years all work on medieval floor-tiles has been carried out by Elizabeth Eames, or she has
supervised, encouraged and initiated work by students, giving generously of her unrivalled
knowledge, not only of the British Museum collection but of almost every other museum
collection and of the surviving material in churches and abbeys throughout the country.
Taking the important but inevitably inadequate work of 19th-century writers Elizabeth
Eames had to start from scratch and by writing many seminal papers and contributions to
articles (over 30 are included in the catalogue’s bibliography), as well as by her Medieval Tiles. A Handbook (1968), she has established a thorough academic approach to this most
decorative and numerous of medieval artefacts.
The British Museum collection of medieval floor-tiles is unrivalled. There are over 15,000 tiles, 13,822 now catalogued, of over 3,000 different designs, from many sites in Great Britain as well as from the Continent. Those collected by the Duke of Rutland, acquired in 1947, form the main holding. This unique and remarkable private collection was started by Captain Lindsay, assisted by the Marquis of Granby. In 1924 it was left to the Marquis of Granby who became Duke of Rutland in 1925 and added to it until his death in 1946. The collection includes the Canynges pavement from Bristol, purchased by Captain Lindsay in 1913, pieces of pavement from Halesowen, West Midland, found by the Duke in 1934, part of a pavement from the leper hospital at Burton Lazars, Leicestershire, a reconstructed roundel from Byland, Yorkshire, many hundred tiles from the kiln-site at Bawsey, near Kings Lynn, and large groups of tiles from the abbeys at Hailes, Chertsey, Halesowen and Rievaulx and from Maxstoke Priory. The Rutland collection added considerably to the tiles already in the museum which included the notable collection of over 3,000 tiles from Chertsey Abbey but which is here catalogued for the first time, and a series of wall-tiles from Tring. Since the acquisition of the Rutland collection the museum has acquired two pieces of decorated pavement, separate tiles and a tile-kiln from Clarendon Palace, Wiltshire, excavated material from Meaux Abbey, Yorkshire, and tiles from many other sites, most recently 90 tiles formerly at Hailes Abbey, Gloucestershire.

Volume One of the catalogue is arranged in three sections: sixteen chapters of introduction; the catalogue entries; nine indices; a bibliography. In Volume Two there are drawings of mosaic arrangements, mosaic shapes, and all the tile designs.

The introductory chapters provide the most up-to-date analysis, not only of the museum collection but of British material in general and show Mrs Eames's extensive knowledge of widely-scattered material and arcane literature. The variety of techniques of manufacture and decoration is discussed in detail in Chapter 2; unusual techniques are examined in Chapter 3. However, these two chapters require some familiarity with the subject to be understood easily. The information in the section on kilns would have been more accessible had illustrations been provided and had editing brought in here the information on the Meaux kiln which follows several pages later. The kiln from Clarendon Palace, reconstructed in the museum's tile gallery and discussed here, would be more easily appreciated if drawings had been included. The terminology for the wide range of decoration has been refined and improved since Mrs Eames's Handbook of 1968. So great is the difficulty in sometimes determining the techniques used that it is suggested that the terms inlaid and printed should be abandoned in cases of doubt in preference for two-colour tiles. The complexities of this section are perhaps beyond the understanding of those who have not handled the material discussed and it is a pity that diagrams and photographs, which would have eased the discussion, are not included. It is curious that the appropriate but long-winded slip-over-impression and stamp-over-slip defined in 1975 by Drury and Pratt for the two main types of slip decoration are not included here. In the discussion of irregularly-shaped tiles arranged to form animals at Ely, Norton and Old Warden and human figures at Ely and Old Warden, Mrs Eames uses the term mosaic opus sectile: this is an unfortunate choice since the arrangements of the tile panels have nothing in common with the term as used normally. The extent of Mrs Eames's investigation into the wide variety of techniques used to decorate medieval floor-tiles is well demonstrated in an extensive series decorated with line-impressed motifs. The exact nature of the stamps which produced this decoration baffled this reviewer for many years until Mrs Eames's experimental work showed that the stamp had been made of a thin metal sheet into which the design was punched, the sheet then being mounted on a wooden block.

There follow twelve chapters discussing medieval tiles according to the techniques used. The chapters include details of all the major series of medieval tiles with comprehensive reviews of the literature and thorough examinations of material not included in the British Museum collection. Much new information is put forward for the first time, for instance, a reconsideration of the Canynges pavement published by Mrs Eames in 1951, and a reassessment of the arrangement of the king's chapel pavement, Clarendon Palace, while other published material has minor amendments. Inevitably, papers published or research
carried out since this work went to the printers provide different chronologies or confirm more cautious hypotheses. The small area of tile pavement in the Corona Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral (p. 72), is now shown by Norton and Horton as not associated with the altar step in use in 1220 but belonging to an enlargement of the step and reorganization of the chapel shrine using tiles made by Parisian workmen c. 1285–90. Norton, in his examination of the excavated floor-tiles from Winchester, has now identified the earliest appearance of inlaid tiles in the country to the first half of the 1240s, dated by documentary evidence at Winchester Castle to 1241–42, and found also at Marwell Manor near Winchester. These tiles are earlier than the king’s chapel pavement at Clarendon Palace, ordered in 1244 and discussed by Eames (pp. 134–39), and have no parallels there. Eames’s discussion of the queen’s chamber pavement at Clarendon refers extensively to tiles of the same series laid in the retrochoir of Winchester Cathedral (‘1235’, p. 190), and in Salisbury Cathedral (‘1250s, pp. 139, 189). However, Norton’s work on tiles from Winchester and Christchurch has shown that Dr Emden’s dating for the retrochoir pavement at Winchester (1272–1307), is preferable since that pavement, with those at Salisbury and Christchurch, may be put c. 1280. For a later series of tiles, a fine set from Gloucester (pp. 255–56), includes the arms of Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1501–03. These tiles can now be placed firmly in the context of Llanthony Priory Gloucester, of which he was prior.

One of the most important chapters (8) considers the tiles from Chertsey Abbey, which form the largest group in the collection. These tiles are without doubt the finest examples of medieval tiles in Britain and are without parallel on the Continent; they are the only medieval tiles of significant artistic merit. This series has not been studied adequately since Manwaring Shurlock published a book on them in 1885. A kiln was found at Chertsey in 1922 and some 800 tiles from the kiln site and from the abbey have been added to the museum’s collection through the Rutland purchase. Mrs Eames’s exhaustive study of this series is of crucial importance; the catalogue contains the first corpus of Chertsey designs with complete concordance and detailed discussion of the techniques of manufacture and of the famous decorated roundels which were probably designed c. 1250 for Henry III’s palace at Westminster.

The volume of illustrations is arranged by designs. This has the advantage of making it easy to appreciate the use of design variants but has the disadvantage of separating tiles from a particular series and of making it difficult to compare tiles from one site or indeed from one pavement. This arrangement is the more unfortunate for tile designs which form part of nine- or sixteen-tile sets, for instance, 3053 is part of a sixteen-tile set which includes 3041, 3042 and 2918: 1496/7 and 1498 are part of a sixteen-tile set with 2882/3. Working from the designs to discover which site any tile comes from, reference first has to be made to the list of designs giving the catalogue numbers, then to the catalogue itself. This is a time-consuming and unwieldy operation: it would have been easier if the catalogue numbers had been included alongside the design numbers in the volume of illustrations. The constant reference backwards and forwards in the hefty Volume One is beyond the construction of the binding and this reviewer’s copy is already showing signs of strain: it would have been more practical to have bound up the introductory chapters separately.

The catalogue is part of a lifetime’s work and Mrs Eames must be saluted for producing a work on such a monumental scale and of such great importance for tile studies. This reviewer knows full well the burdens she has carried to see the project through to publication. Now that the volumes are happily on our desks we look forward to further works to complement the wealth of knowledge and expertise contained in this outstanding contribution to medieval archaeology.

Laurence Keen
Short Reviews


The three papers published here (delivered at Leeds in 1978) are extremely important statements about research on place-names and Merovingian archaeology. John Kousgård Sørensen's is noteworthy for the very lucid account of the methodology devised to interpret and date place-names in Scandinavia and in particular Denmark—a region where, because of the uninterrupted occupation by the same people speaking the same language, internal rather than external explanations have to be sought.

James Campbell's 'Bede's Words for Places' is a characteristically eloquent demonstration that Bede's terms are used to distinguish different types of settlement. Particularly rewarding are Campbell's insights into the importance of the Roman 'background' to some settlements, and the prominence of royal centres in administering the redistribution of surplus goods.

'Cemeteries and the Problem of Frankish Settlement in Gaul' by Edward James is not just a review of recent French and German work on Merovingian archaeology; it also offers a reinterpretation of the cemeteries. Whereas some stress the ethnic links between the early Germanic military graves and the later reihengräber, recent work has tended to emphasize the role of the aristocracy, whether Gallo-Roman or Frank, in the development of Merovingian cemeteries. The cemeteries are therefore used to illustrate the evolution of a social system rather than the migration of a particular group, with of course serious implications for current ideas about settlement.

All in all an extremely useful volume which introduces us to much recent continental research.

G. G. ASTILL


This is a painstaking attempt to classify objects from Anglo-Saxon graves of the pagan and early Christian periods which might have been used as amulets. The net is thrown very wide, and so much scattered material brought together, profusely illustrated by line drawings, that the book will be a useful work of reference. It is however marred by the author's inability to resist false trails. She was forced to conclude that many of the strange objects considered are unlikely to be amulets, and could therefore have left out detailed discussion of them. Plant remains, for instance, could not easily fit into the definition at the beginning of the book; they are very difficult to identify, and involve the study of early herbal treatises, and so, not surprisingly, the chapter about them ends in vain surmise. Excursions into 17th-century magical lore do not help, nor do long speculations as to the possible motives for the retention of some object by the living, and for the placing of it in the grave with the dead. On the other hand, to cut out objects which might have some religious significance seems mistaken policy, since vague associations with a cult might cause them to be retained as luck-bringing or protective objects. The fact that there are few things that cannot be put to symbolic or magical use, if men or women are so minded, makes this kind of study a perilous enterprise, leading on to ever-increasing speculation rather than sound conclusions. Dr Meaney may be commended for her brave attempts to force a path through the tangle; the industry she has put into the task may help others to follow with greater success where she has led.

H. R. ELLIS DAVIDSON
REVIEWS

Saxon Churches in South Yorkshire (South Yorkshire County Archaeology Monograph No. 2). By P. F. Ryder. 21 x 30 cm. 126 pp., numerous figs., 10 pls. York: South Yorkshire County Council, 1982. Price £1.85.

This publication comprises a description of seven churches in South Yorkshire where clear evidence survives for early fabric (sc. Anglo-Saxon or late 11th century), together with a gazetteer of all the medieval churches in the county, and another of pre-Conquest sculpture. There are also introductory essays, including one on the historical background to early ecclesiastical provision in the area.

The material is useful as far as it goes, but is not a wholly comprehensive and integrated analysis. A gazetteer of the historical evidence for all the medieval churches (i.e. first mention, relation to other churches, etc.) would have been a useful complement to the archaeological gazetteer, and the want of a map of the ecclesiastical geography is a serious omission (not even all the churches referred to in the historical essays are mapped).

There is a feeling perhaps of the work being published before it was ready (the pressure of dwindling resources or manpower?), which is a pity. It may be hoped that the project will be taken further so that these foundations may be built upon to produce a really useful structure.

R. D. H. GEM

Stave Churches and Viking Ships. By Else Christie Kielland. 27 x 22 cm. 120 pp., 44 figs., 29 pls. Oslo: Dreyers Forlag A/S, 1981. Price not stated.

This curious book is the second volume to appear in a projected trilogy entitled Depth and Movement. It is sub-titled 'Studied in the Light of Egyptian-Greek Methods', which tells you all you need to know to locate it on those booksellers' shelves properly entitled 'Speculative Archaeology', for it will not provide you with a reliable introduction either to Norwegian stave-churches or to Viking ships in general. It is an attempt to demonstrate that a geometric way of thinking, developed in Egypt, was used by the builders of such churches and ships. 'An analysis is a kind of interpretation: our task is that of selecting the important lines, those of significance to the boat — there are, after all, considerably more lines' (p. 64). There are indeed.

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL


This fascicule is a well-researched addition to the increasing number of faunal remains reports from urban sites, and the author makes good use of the published comparanda now available. He considers all aspects of the bone data and the inferences to be drawn about diet, stock breeding and Lincoln's catchment area, concluding that the animals eaten were not young, but nor were they very old. The cattle and sheep were from a rural hinterland where they were required primarily for draught purposes and wool: dairying and meat were secondary, Lincoln providing a welcome outlet for expendable surplus but not a sufficient market to stimulate specialized herds.

The Flaxengate site had a long sequence of well-stratified late 9th- to 12th-century levels, and from these the author is able to suggest changes over relatively short periods, such as a fairly steady increase in the proportion of sheep and a change of butchery to carcass-splitting during the 11th century. Some of the nicer points are arguable: a brief period of preference for younger sheep between 1040 and 1100 is deduced from a dangerously small number of mandibles, and the Norman Conquest garrison's possible effects, although
argued, is far from clear-cut. Nor is it stated whether the bones are exclusively from the dated contexts: parts of Flaxengate were dug in spits, not stratigraphically, and if bones from the spits were included, there would be an effect on the finer points of the statistics. Nevertheless the more general conclusions would not be invalidated.

DAVID A. HINTON


The British reader leafing through this catalogue may wonder, with envy, why no equivalent has been contemplated, let alone published, of the early medieval earthwork fortifications here, notably the late Anglo-Saxon burhs and the Norman mottes.

This volume is the first of a projected series which will describe every medieval earthwork fortress in the Land Schleswig-Holstein. Between the 9th and 12th centuries this frontier zone between the Slavs in the east and the Saxons in the west of Holstein was also influenced by the activities of the Scandinavians and especially the Danes. The catalogue uses a standard format to describe each of 36 Slavonic forts in Holstein. First it lists all medieval documentary references to each site, Adam of Bremen and Helmold of Bosau featuring prominently, then a list of the modern literature. A review of its history, if it has been documented, is followed by a description of its location. Next comes a summary of archaeological finds, survey and excavation, together with relevant finds and sites in the immediate vicinity and then a conclusion, in which the documentary and archaeological evidence can be put together. Each entry is accompanied by a variety of plans, sections, reproductions of post-medieval plans and often rather murky photographs of the site. Twenty-two sites are also provided with loose colour contour plans at 1:1000 in a separate folder, while anyone interested in visiting each site can use the 1:25000 colour location maps at the back of the volume.

Most of the sites are dated from their Slavonic pottery, but Struve's own excavations at Scharstorf in 1959 and 1971–72 revealed a preserved timberwork box construction, permitting the use of dendrochronology to date two 9th-century building phases, which can be related to buildings at Haithabu (Hedeby). This is a regional survey, but it does seem a pity that the map on p. 11 should show the location of only the Slavonic fortresses of Holstein with none of their Slav counterparts across the modern frontier with East Germany. Nor are the Saxon forts built to counterpoise those of the Slavs featured here, but then these will be appearing in a subsequent volume, which will be as welcome as this one.

MARTIN WELCH

Hvadůlko u Davle (Monumenta Archaeologica 20). By Miroslav Richter. 21 × 30 cm. 320 pp., 174 figs., 64 pls. Československá Akademie ved Archeologický Ústav, Prague, 1982. Price not stated. (With German summary).

This is the report of excavations of a 13th-century defended secular settlement and a Benedictine monastery situated at the confluence of the rivers Vltava and Sázava, south of Prague. Its chief interest for British readers lies in the description of the Grubenhäuser which made up the secular settlement and the metallographic analysis of the iron tools found there.

The Grubenhäuser, of 13th-century date, are generally square in plan, ranging from about 4 m to 6 m in wall length, dug down into the sandy subsoil to a depth of 1.5 to 2 m, and with well defined stepped entrances. The sunken areas were lined with wattle-and-daub or stave-built timber walls (preserved in some cases) or with mortared stone walls surfaced by a skin of clay. Some, but not all, have central hearths, so the excavated surfaces acted as living
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surfaces during occupation although some seem to have served as cellars for ground-surface buildings in a secondary phase. Comparisons between these structures and Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings might be salutary.

A number of iron tools discovered from the site were analysed and the results are presented in plates and text by Radomir Pleiner. The fascinating conclusions that he reaches about the level of technical skill displayed by the tools which were manufactured at this small and fairly insignificant medieval centre are a reminder to the British reader of the comparative neglect which medieval metallographic studies have suffered up to the present day. The scientific study of medieval industrial processes is vital if we are to understand the economic level and achievements of the Middle Ages. Scholars in central and northern Europe have long understood this but, with notable exceptions, we in Britain have been slow in coming to the same conclusion.

HELEN CLARKE


Recent excavations in England of the Dominican friaries of Newcastle and Oxford make this account of the complete excavation of the Dominican friary in Buda worth noting by English archaeologists. Made possible by the demolition of buildings previous to the construction of the Hilton hotel, the excavations were thorough and this well published report provides a most useful survey of a Dominican house in eastern Europe. After an initial chapter devoted to the methodology, there follows a detailed analysis of the various elements of the building, a discussion of the architectural fragments and their reconstruction, and finally a section on the siting of Dominican friaries both in Italy and Germany, the history of Dominican houses in Hungary and a discussion of the evidence for Dominican workshops. Traces were found of an earlier settlement and this is discussed with reference to the siting of Dominican friaries near the intersections of trade routes. The exact date of foundation of the friary is unknown and the development of the friary in the 13th century is not easy to ascertain. Clearly an early nave was pulled down before both the principal 13th-century nave and choir were built. It is difficult to relate this phasing with the available historical evidence for the development of the Dominicans and evidence of the Tartar invasions. The most remarkable architectural development was the building of a new choir in the Gothic style in the early 14th century. The plan of this stone vaulted choir is compared with that of the church of Kassa dated to the 1290s. The finds are well illustrated both with photographs and drawings. A remarkable find is a 15th-century silver beaker decorated with overlapping leaves. The discussion of the fragments of gravestones is of considerable interest since Katalin Gyürky links the almost complete absence of German gravestones with the well known dislike of the German citizens of Buda for the Dominicans. The report is concluded by a long bone report by Janos Matolcsi with an interesting analysis of the implications for the life of the friary. The excavations provided the earliest evidence for guinea fowl, pheasants, and capercailzie in Hungary.

JOHN CHERRY


This volume contains contributions read at a conference in Leicester in 1978. It commences with a paper by Mrs J. le Patourel on moats in their European context, which is
full of thought-provoking ideas. C. J. Spurgeon writes on all the known moats in Wales. This is characterized by the neat line-drawings which we have come to expect from the Welsh Commission and which makes the other drawings in the volume seem crude. The paper by T. B. Barry continues his earlier work on moats in Ireland, here examining those in Cork and Limerick. He shows that the moats there are short-lived and reflect the fluctuating frontier between the native Irish and the Anglo-Normans. M. Bur describes research on 80 moats in NE. France which show close parallels with those in England.

The excavation of a moated site in Normandy is described by C. Lorren. Apart from a plan which is difficult to understand, the account indicates that nothing was discovered which would be out of place in an English context. F. Verhaeghe reports on an integrated survey and excavation programme on moated sites in coastal Flanders. Again the sites themselves are similar to English ones in terms of form and date, but the very large numbers suggest that they range lower down the social scale. Moated sites in the County of Holland in the Netherlands are discussed by C. Hoek. While many are again similar to those in England, there are differences and the problem of definition is apparent. The 9th-century site described in detail would be difficult to accept as a moat on this side of the Channel.

These papers are a valuable contribution to the continuing study of moated sites, if only indicating how far we have still to go in understanding them.

C. C. TAYLOR


These two volumes deal with industrial processes practised either specifically in the Middle Ages (Medieval Industry) or over a longer period (Woodworking Techniques). They are very welcome additions to the study of subjects which until recently have been sadly neglected by the archaeologist, and where only scant evidence has been published. (A cursory glance at the ‘Medieval Britain’ sections of this journal will show little emphasis has been placed on industry and industrial sites over the past 25 years.)

Medieval Industry contains a number of articles on metalworking and metal extraction (D. W. Crossley, R. F. Tylecote, I. H. Goodall on iron; A. R. Goodall on bronze; I. S. W. Blanchard on lead; T. A. P. Greeves on tin), several substantial contributions on pottery (S. A. Moorhouse) and tiles (P. J. Drury) and slighter discussions of glass (J. R. Hunter) and milling (P. A. Rahtz), but only one paper on textiles (M. L. Ryder, ‘British medieval sheep and their wool types’). This of course reflects the necessary archaeological emphasis on excavated and preserved artefacts and structures, but diminishes the contribution that archaeology can make to the mainstay of the medieval economy, the textile industry. As D. J. Keene points out in his summary, this must have been ‘the most important of all manufacturing enterprises’ (p. 153), and archaeology should be making a greater contribution here. It can be argued that the material evidence for cloth, methods of weaving, loom types and so on is unlikely to be preserved in the archaeological record but, as more waterlogged sites are being excavated, surely we should be discovering and paying more attention to the detritus of this industry whose importance was paramount in the development of medieval England.

That such evidence is available is shown by Woodworking Techniques which deals with the archaeological evidence for an essentially perishable material, recovered from sites of all periods. A third of this volume is devoted to the medieval period, with papers ranging from a description of working methods (‘Working unseasoned wood’ by R. Darrah) to the tools used by the medieval woodworker (P. Walker). The publication shows how much evidence we now have from archaeological excavations and how this evidence can be treated. Let us hope
that a future volume on medieval industry will devote more space to the treatment of those materials which are not, perhaps, so well preserved in the archaeological record but which were essential to the life and economy of the Middle Ages. A publication on the archaeological evidence for the medieval textile industry might perhaps be the next step towards realizing this.

HELEN CLARKE


Urban archaeologists, at least those that actually publish, do not have an easy time of it. One person’s scholarly caution is another’s mindless verbiage, and while some reviewers despair at the merciless incantation of data, others recoil from attempts to build models as unsavoury exercises in fantasy. Neither have readers had their lines of communication improved by changes in publication policy which require a complete text to be sliced up and redistributed into printed and microfiche sections. The author who can endure this, and still present evidence with great clarity, and conclusions of outstanding interest, as Ron Shoesmith has for Hereford, has done the study a major service. The two volumes, together with the third ‘The Finds’ (yet to appear), have really to be considered as a set; Table 11, Vol. 2, summarizes the results of the last twelve years’ work, while fig. 7, Vol. 2, instantly reveals its limitations: 32 excavations, all but three of which (Castle, Castle Green and St Guthlac’s) have been undertaken in pursuit of defensive circuits. The most productive sites were probably the investigation of parch-marks in Castle Green (middle Saxon cemetery and chapel, and burial sequence), Victoria Street (middle Saxon corn-dryers and timber buildings, and later defensive sequence) and Berrington Street (early medieval ‘planned’ layout of gravel streets and timber buildings). The general introduction is given in Vol. 2, pp. 1–12, and the general acknowledgements in Vol. 1, p. vi. D. A. Whitehead’s admirable historical chapters are intended for the subject of each volume (ecclesiastical for Vol. 1 and military for Vol. 2); while Shoesmith’s own welcome evocation of the evolution of Hereford in Vol. 2, pp. 69–104 calls on additional documentation, as well as the forthcoming Vol. 3. The Vol. 2 microfiches are essential to the reader (dual magnification advisable), but like everything else in these volumes, are carefully and sympathetically organized and cross-referenced — the whole package is decidedly user-friendly.

Volume 2 contains the unforced arguments for the thesis that elements of defence and planning occurred in Hereford before they did in Wessex. I personally remained unconvinced by them, feeling that the earliest ramparts and the Berrington Street buildings can as easily belong to the late Saxon, post-Alfredian town; but this in no way detracts from their importance or interest. Readers will want to study for themselves the defensive sequence, the seventeen excavated buildings of the 12th century and earlier, and the sequence of early medieval burial rites from Castle Green, and they will find in the author a sensible and entertaining guide.

M. O. H. CARVER


First impressions: the pages separate audibly to reveal a picture on nearly every page, many of continental castles. The dust jacket carries illuminations of non-English subjects.
Whilst the photographs are fresh, the sketches are disappointing both in quality and in being derived from familiar photographs.

Concentrating on the castle in the context of events, Dr Platt sets out to explain the reasons for building and then adaptation to changing needs. He makes several important points about the need to subdivide accommodation and particularly that the form of the early castles on both sides of the Channel reflected the wide variety of their builders' aims, experience and resources.

Where the book falters is in treating of the 13th-century events. Château Gaillard was not concentric, a fact which contributed to its capture (the slightly earlier concentric works at Dover enabled that castle to hold out against an equally hard-pressed siege). Some of the continental parallels are specious: Castel del Monte and Restormel may have been contemporary fortified hunting lodges, but there is the world of difference between them in design and accommodation. Castles built by the Welsh are ignored, and the reasons for Edward I's campaigns in Wales are not given. The omission of Degannwy may be excused, but not Aberystwyth or Builth (copied with improvements at Rhuddlan and Flint in 1277). The Clare gatehouse at Tonbridge, like that at Caerphilly, belongs to the years before, not after, the Welsh wars of Edward I.

The author is at his best in dealing with the later period, with the collapse of public order in the 14th century, the effects of the Hundred Years War and baronial fortunes and misfortunes. The swing from private to public fortification around 1500 is dealt with superficially as 'Last Things': Bari and Salses are not significant in an English context, and the essential point about Dartmouth castle (that it was built at the charge of the mayor and bailiffs of the borough) is omitted.

DEREK RENN

The following publications have also been received:


Thirteen papers arising from a meeting of the Historical Geography Research Group, linking archaeological and climatological research, including three on the medieval period.


The first of a projected series, it contains specialist reports on the written sources, and on the sceattas and other coin finds, of this Viking Age trading settlement.


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Arqueologia, No. 4, December 1981. 17 x 24 cm. 160 pp., numerous figs. and pls. Grupo de Estudos Arqueologicos do Porto (GEAP), Rua Antonio Cardoso, 175, 4100 Porto, Portugal.

Two multi-period journals, the latter published twice a year.

‘all that capital messuage called Wickham Place’. Excavation and research on the manor house at Wickham, Hampshire, 1975–1980 (Winchester Archaeology Office Report, No. 1). By R. Whinney. 21 x 30 cm. 28 pp., many figs. and pls. Winchester: City of Winchester, 1981. Price £2.00.


A selection from the collections of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.


This volume studies the medieval town in Sweden, with seventeen specialist articles (English summaries and abstracts).


Oxford Parks. By F. Woodward. 20 × 21 cm. 36 pp., 38 figs. Woodstock: Oxfordshire Museum Services, 1982. Price £1.50 (plus 30p postage) from County Museum, Fletcher’s House, Woodstock, Oxford OX7 1SN.

Reviews


Twelve essays, including C. Dyer on diet in the later Middle Ages and G. G. Astill on archaeological evidence for economic change in later medieval England.