A *festschrift* is perhaps not the most ready vehicle for those analytical and speculative essays on the archaeology of York which are needed to complement the fascicules containing the detailed results. Among the papers published here, it is really only among those dealing with the Roman city, notably R. F. J. Jones on the cemeteries, that the reader gets much sense of the dialectic of the subject. Yet again it is revealed that where archaeology is but one of many potential sources for our knowledge of a town, a correspondingly greater leap of the imagination is required to frame a coherent scheme of archaeological enquiry. In particular, it would have been valuable to have had an assessment of the remarkable evidence for crafts and trading activity in early medieval York. Some broader considerations on these lines would have made this book a more valuable contribution to medieval archaeology, as well as reflecting Barley’s particular humane approach to the subject.

DEREK KEENE

**Short Reviews**


This doctoral dissertation is based on the excavations in Torsburgen on Gotland, the largest hillfort in Sweden. The fort was defended by a timber-laced (and subsequently vitrified) stone rampart encircling an area of 112 ha, and was in use from A.D. 300–400 until c. A.D. 1100. The dating is based on radiocarbon and themoluminescence analyses as the excavations produced very little in the way of finds, certainly insufficient to postulate permanent occupation for the site.

The hillfort is situated in eastern central Gotland, no more than a day’s journey on foot from most parts of the island. The author argues that the entire population of early medieval Gotland (calculated as somewhere between c. 6,000 and 10,000) and their animals could have taken refuge in the fort at any one time, and goes on from there to suggest that Torsburgen was a communal fortification illustrative of some form of centralized organization or power. Our own burh fortifications may come to mind here, but Torsburgen is their predecessor by many centuries.

By building an experimental length of rampart Engström attempted to calculate the period of time required to build the fortification. There is a continuous stretch of rampart 2 km long in the south, but elsewhere there are only short stretches of wall designed to reinforce the defensive capabilities provided by steep natural slopes. So the entire 112 ha were not encircled. The time arrived at was 11,406 man days; 2.8 months with a work-force of 200 men. Here again, centralized organization is postulated.

A further section of the book is devoted to the question of vitrification (i.e. was it intentional or not) and a comparative review of timber-laced ramparts. This ranges widely, throughout Europe from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages, but concentrates largely on early medieval examples from Scandinavia and the Baltic states. It is a useful survey of fortifications in these areas, otherwise perhaps inaccessible to English readers.

HELEN CLARKE


Basically a report on 47 fragments of glass found in the fortified settlement of Eketorp II in S. Oland, this is a doctoral thesis submitted at Uppsala in December 1984. Ten different
vessel types are recognized from these fragments, of which eight footless types are dealt with at length. The last two types, 9 and 10, a claw-beaker and a bowl decorated with reticella trails, are the latest in date, and are reserved for a future study. The work is mainly based on publications, but an extensive range of literature has been examined and a valuable record made of relevant vessels. The author shows he is well aware of all the difficulties involved in working with the generally low standard of publication of these glass vessels, both as to descriptions and illustrations, which makes it sometimes impossible to identify types. It is to be hoped that personal examination and accurate descriptions will soon be the rule.

The author has produced a comprehensive study of each of the eight types represented by the fragments. A drawing of each surviving piece of glass is accompanied by a detailed description and a figure suggesting the vessel's appearance when complete. One of the vessel types discussed is ornamented with incised grooves, five are ornamented with cut oval or facettted decoration, some with blue or green flashing, and two have applied decoration in the form of coloured blobs or self-coloured trails. Distribution maps are given of most types, covering Scandinavia and Europe between the Black Sea and England. The date of deposition of the glass fragments in the Eketorp settlement extends throughout the 5th century, but some of the types were actually produced earlier, in the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. Type 2, with coloured blobs, belongs to a well-known series probably originating at Cologne in the late 4th century, but most of the cut glass types come from the Black Sea area. Type 8, the Snartemo type, uses the same decorative pattern of vertical loops and horizontal trails as the Kempston cone-beakers, but can be distinguished from them in general by differences of proportions and the usual presence of a foot, by the comparative thickness of the glass and trails, by the chemical composition and by the distribution. The author's distribution map 8a, however, treats together all cone-beakers with vertical loops and horizontal trails without differentiating between Kempston and Snartemo types, but the Snartemo cones are very few. As the Snartemo type combines characteristics of the Kempston type which was produced in England and the Merovingian kingdom, and similar vessels which were produced as far east as the Black Sea area, it is plausibly suggested by Näsman that the Snartemo vessels may have been produced in the area between, in S. Germany or Thuringia.

Readers will appreciate that the English summary gives an adequately full account of the Swedish text.

VERA I. EVISON


This is the fourth published volume in the Argyll Inventory and it describes the 455 monuments of the southern Inner Hebrides, which lie within sight not only of Mull and Kintyre but also of the north coast of Ulster; Irish connections are evident from the Neolithic onwards. The Commission resists the temptation to identify the complex monastic structures at Eileach an Naoimh on the Garvellachs with the Columban Hinba which, it is suggested, may have lain to the north of Mull. The artistic influence of Iona however is strong, both in the Early Christian and later medieval periods; but the islands are revealed as contributing also to the development of the free-standing cross. There are fine drawings of the confidently decorated ringless cross of Kilnave, while other ringless fragments from Nave Island and Colonsay House suggest parallels to the form of St Oran's Cross. Also fully drawn is the ringed Kildalton of Islay Cross, described as the first of the Argyllshire group to use the ring as an integral part of the design and therefore representing a crucial phase in the Iona sequence. While the proportions of Kilnave recall Northumbria, its elaborate, although unsuccessful, secondary composite base is compared to that of St John's Cross but is thought
to replace a solid pyramidal base of Irish type. A decidedly Irish outlier is the Riask Buidhe, Kiloran, face-cross, whose curious ears and features should be compared to those of the White Island, Co. Fermanagh, figures.

Islay is rich in Early Christian chapels (although it is admitted that their dating remains uncertain), several with associated enclosures and proportions like those of Manx kecials; possible teacha are identified on Nave Island and Eileach an Naoimh. There was also substantial Viking settlement, with the remains of at least eleven graves, providing some evidence for boat burial but also signs of Christian conversion at a relatively early stage. While the remains of medieval churches are sparse, there are numerous parochial chapels, some associated with the patronage of the MacDonald Lords of the Isles, as is much of the monumental sculpture; the medieval grave slabs include previously unpublished examples of the Iona and Oronsay schools. The castellated sites are dated from the 14th to 16th centuries but lack comparable features to the established types of Argyll. Domestic buildings include several examples of crucks and there are townships founded in medieval times but deserted in more recent centuries.

The generous illustrations are not numbered consecutively but are given their inventory number; this can sometimes cause confusion, as when there is a group of grave slabs from one site, and also in the notes at the end, where indentation of the page reference numbers would help to clarify this most thorough survey.

CAROLA HICKS


This volume contains a synthesis of the results of five years of archaeological investigation begun in Göttingen in 1979. Founded in the 13th century, Göttingen was one of the more important medieval towns of Lower Saxony, becoming a powerful member of the Hanseatic League in the 14th century. The town was virtually undamaged during the Second World War and so many medieval buildings survive.

The book is lavishly produced in large format with illustrations and photographs well dispersed throughout. An introduction with town plan showing the location of sites excavated and examined is followed by a series of very short contributions on various aspects of the medieval town and its material culture. Students of planned towns will delight in the intriguing, albeit brief discussion of Göttingen's five-cornered layout and its mystical significance or Zahlennymystik. Historians and archaeologists alike will regret the lack of any historical documentation prior to mid 14th-century property registers.

The market place, churches, religious houses, town houses and town defences are all discussed separately with selected finds illustrated from each area. This is followed by a more comprehensive discussion of the material evidence for crafts and industry emphasizing the cloth trade which predominated in the later Middle Ages. Some of the dating and recording methods used in the town are briefly described and the museum's role in the care and conservation of finds is stressed. The botanical evidence is neatly summarized and the volume concludes with a selection of the better medieval and post-medieval finds, collated by date from the 13th century to the 16th century.

The use of town maps in this book is particularly striking. No fewer than five town plans using red colour overlay are dispersed throughout the work, a pleasing contrast to the average British report. The use of colour photography extends beyond the dramatic and appealing cover to a selection of colour insets mostly of ceramics, thus giving the book a vitality that is often lacking in other reports of this sort and for the specialist presenting a very useful extra dimension. This volume aims at, and achieves, the difficult equation between pleasing the general and more specialist reader. The lack of an ISBN is regretted as is also a
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map in the introduction showing the geographical position of Göttingen. These are minor criticisms and the book remains an object lesson to all who wish to produce an impressive, less ephemeral, general work without compromising academic credibility.

J. CHARLES MURRAY


This brief survey of key engineering developments is divided into three sections: civil engineering, embracing irrigation, dams, bridges, roads, building and surveying; mechanical engineering, concentrating on water-raising machines and power from water and wind; and the finer technologies, comprising the development of instruments, automata and clocks. The arrangement gives rise to some separation of topics best considered together, notably in the field of hydraulics. In most sections, as is to be expected from the author's past interests and publications, there is emphasis on developments in the Arab world, with the implication of a bridge between classical and medieval traditions. If this is a controversial emphasis, it does have the virtue of drawing together a bibliography which includes Near Eastern studies sometimes overlooked. There are references to developments in China, but examination of oriental technologies is not central to the author's plan.

Most sections give the impression that the writer's interest diminishes as the medieval period proceeds. This is typified by the coverage of water power, where the range of late examples is limited. The problems of the survival and distribution of the horizontal wheel in the middle ages receive cursory treatment; of early medieval examples, the mill at Tamworth is mentioned, although included neither in the index nor the bibliography. The author does not seem to be aware of the interim note published in this journal (Vol. II (1958), 183–85) for Old Windsor, indicating a horizontal wheel in the second phase of the mill. The rich vein of northern ethnographic material for these wheels is barely touched upon. The vertical wheel (which, p. 155, does not have a vertical spindle) needs a better set of examples. Old Windsor, again, is missing, and the author has not seen Bedwin's report on Batsford, the best example of a medieval water-wheel yet excavated (Medieval Archaeol., xxiv (1980), 187–201). The section on timepieces, also, gives interesting emphasis to early development of water clocks, leaving the invention of the mechanical escapement to a brief section at the end of the chapter. The emergence of the verge escapement from the mechanical experiments of the period of Dondi and Richard of Wallingford begs many questions about the engineering skills of the early 14th century, as well as the problems of installing and maintaining large timepieces in contemporary buildings.

DAVID CROSSLEY


This volume, like far too many current archaeological works, is without an index, that necessary tool for any work of scholarship. Apart from this omission it is nicely produced, sturdy for a paperback, well laid out with a pleasant type face and good and for the most part clear, illustrations and maps.

The book comprises two main themes, rather loosely tied together, an excavation report and an account of the development of the parish landscape. The excavation on the site of the local castle was devoted primarily to Roman structures, which, as there was no continuity of development into later periods, do not concern us here. However a single corner of an early 12th-century keep was uncovered, thus increasing the already considerable number known north of Oxford and reducing the region's mottes by one, as what had been thought to be a
motte turned out to be a mass of demolition rubble. The report is accompanied by a disproportionately long analysis of the bone material found, much of which would have been better in microfiche along with other back-up material so consigned, for its conclusions are hardly revolutionary.

The second theme, discussion of the development of the landscape backed up by consideration of the earthworks within the parish and the parish boundaries, would have been improved by more careful editing. The account of the parish boundaries is difficult to follow, not only because a relevant clause remains in Anglo-Saxon, but also because few of the locations mentioned are named on the published maps. As far as can be determined from the information given, they have remained unaltered through the centuries. The chapter contributed by Elizabeth Leggatt is somewhat disjointed. A crucial clue to understanding parish development, the fact that the single settlement was moved bodily early in the 19th century, lurks coyly in a small-print table of 'Documented historical facts', but there is an interesting account of the rise and fall of the early borough. None of the contributors have been much interested in the manorial complex, apart from its park, though there is a good survey of the castle earthworks and an effort has been made to extract as much information as possible about the medieval field system from the excellent early estate maps. All in all however one gets the impression that this part of the volume, representing, as it does, a précis of a larger work, has suffered much in the process. There remains however a good deal that will be of interest, especially to groups working on similar projects.

H. E. JEAN LE PATOUREL


These sumptuous volumes are the fruits of a research project, Nordseeküstenprogramm, initiated more than twenty years ago by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The results from archaeological excavations and scientific investigations of a very large number of late prehistoric and early medieval sites are brought together here in a most attractive and handy format. Sites which have previously been published only in individual monographs or scattered periodicals are presented together for the first time and this, together with a magnificent bibliography, make these volumes indispensable sources of reference, particularly for scholars interested in NW. Europe during the migration period and Viking age.

The first volume concentrates on rural settlements in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony, both those in the flat marshlands and in the slightly higher, sandy, inland Geest. There is a very interesting introductory section on excavation techniques and recording on both Wurten sites (the example being Feddersen Wierde) and flat sites (Flögeln); this is followed by a long (117 pp.) section on investigations into environmental changes in the area over the period, notably the changing coastline and sea-level.

The section on settlements begins with a general survey of buildings from the pre-Roman iron age to the early middle ages, with many comparative ground plans all drawn at the same scale; and then there is a run-through of different settlement types in marsh and Geest. Feddersen Wierde once again figures largely here, but there are other examples taken from sites probably less well known to the British reader (e.g. Bentumersiel in the marshland, p. 209; and Gasselte in the Dutch Geest, p. 240).

The final section in Volume I is devoted to the economic and social aspects of settlement including arable production (a very jolly page on Dungung!) and pastoralism. There is also an extremely interesting description of the methods used for providing drinking water (for both
cattle and men) on Wurten, a subject not often regarded with sufficient seriousness. Finally in this volume there is a brief concluding section about the North Sea area as a cultural melting-pot (Der Nordseeraum als kulturelle Ausgleichzone). This is obviously of particular significance for Anglo-Saxon archaeologists.

The second volume moves on to early medieval trading settlements with Haithabu (Hedeby) predominating; reports have been, and continue to be, published in fascicules (Berichte über die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu) but here for the first time many aspects of Viking-age Haithabu are brought together: the technical methods used in its excavation and recording, its hinterland, topography, buildings, trade, social structure, relations with Scandinavia and so on. Finally there are three succinct pages by Herbert Jankuhn, the original excavator of Haithabu and doyen of early medieval urban archaeologists, on the significance of trading sites in the development of medieval urbanization (Bedeutung der Handelsplätze für die Entwicklung des mittelalterlichen Städtes). In this is summed up all that can be said to connect the early medieval trading structures with later urban life, and Jankuhn’s words are a fitting end to two volumes of fascinating early medieval archaeology.

HELEN CLARKE

The following publications have also been received:


*Exploring Local History.* No. 1, April, 1984. Monthly journal, 75p per volume, annual subscription £9.50 from Maggs House, 78 Queen’s Road, Bristol BS8 1QX.


Thirteen articles, including D. Owen on Lincoln Cathedral, D. Park on the Lewes wall paintings and R. Gem on Shipley Templars Church.


Twenty articles, including A. Macdonald on early monasteries, C. J. Tabraham on Norman settlement in Galloway, J. Barber on medieval wooden bowls, R. Fawcett on medieval window tracery and A. Taylor on the King’s Works at Linlithgow, 1302–03.

These Reference Publications in Art History contain material published up to the end of 1981. They are intended to provide comprehensive but selective coverage of the periods. The former surveys art in England from the early 5th century to 871 (and in Ireland to 1017), the latter excludes coins and architecture and covers the last third of the 9th to the first quarter of the 12th century.


Ten articles describing aspects of the development of the Wood Quay site and the campaigns against it.


The volume contains fifteen articles on N. Italian archaeology over the last ten years, including reports by H. Blake, M.O.H. Carver, B. Ward-Perkins, D. Andrews and D. Whitehouse, together with twenty shorter reports on current fieldwork and research. Majority in Italian, with brief English summaries.

*Quaderni della Soprintendenza Archeologica del Piemonte 3.* Edited by Gabriella Panto and Giulia Molli Boffa. 17 × 24 cm. 330 pp., 113 figs. Turin: Ministero per I Beni Culturali e Ambientali. Price not stated.

Seven articles, excavation summaries and reports on prehistoric, Roman and Medieval Piedmont.