a ‘preferable reading’, Sylina. Why it is preferable and what the alternatives may be are not examined, but clearly the form and the identification are speculative. Only a hint of these uncertainties survives in a further use (p. 149) of the same reference and by page 173 there is no doubt at all that the two bishops were the first Christians on the island. This name in this form, however, is also used as an essential link to the Celtic goddess, Sulis, celebrated at Bath, and the further speculation that the site at Nornour, with its high quantity of Roman metalwork, may be somehow connected with another major cult centre of hers. This shift from speculation to certainty is apparent at other places in the book and is the product of linear hypothesis formation without systematic testing. Many archaeologists let the model become the proof of their argument rather than the test-bed of the data, and I would include myself in that, so it should not detract from my final verdict that this well-produced book is a stylish essay on a fascinating subject. We must hope that the author, unlike Prospero, will return to these islands again in print.

DAVID AUSTIN

Short Reviews


Fifty years ago a remarkable volume appeared, volume 1 in the Oxford History of England, Roman Britain and the English Settlements, known to successive generations simply as ‘Collingwood and Myres’. For reasons intelligible on academic grounds as well as personal it was the only joint venture in the whole series. Collingwood, firm-minded though he was on Arthur, had no wish to discuss the coming of the English in detail and Sir Frank Stenton, busy on Anglo-Saxon England, was unhappy to take the story back beyond the Conversion to Christianity. The general editor solved his problem in masterly style by asking the then young scholar, J. N. L. Myres, to contribute chapters that would make good the gap between the end of Roman Britain and the arrival of St Augustine in Kent. Collingwood’s Roman Britain was replaced by Peter Salway’s in 1981, and now, in what must be an exceedingly rare if not unique occasion, Myres has brought out his section as an independent volume, The English Settlements. The result is a new work, though not, happily, in spite of the publisher’s claim, an entirely new work. For Myres is the same man and his thought and central ideas such as the contrast between Gaul and Britain in the matter of urban and villa survival, though by no means rigid and inflexible, remain steadfast and powerful, buttressed by all available evidence and especially by the evidence of coinage, language dominance, and place-names. It is as hard now as it was in 1936 to quarrel with his conclusion (p. 217) that ‘The language, institutions, culture, and material resources of the Romanized population virtually disappeared and their actual numbers must have been drastically reduced by war, flight, disease, and economic disaster’. Yet emphasis on general consistency must not give a false impression. There are new riches to be won from this volume. Over the last half-century Myres has himself contributed mightily to the scholarly understanding of the period, notably by his magisterial studies of the pottery. He has also kept abreast through articles and reviews of all that is going on in the field in Britain and in Europe, and especially in the work of the German scholars. The old virtues that made the choice of author in 1936 so appropriate are still there and include a splendid clarity of style, firm yet modest judgement, and a superb eye for country and feeling for countryside. It is a delight to welcome this new distinguished contribution to an old and distinguished series.

H. R. LOYN

This is a brave but perhaps foolhardy attempt to provide ‘an overview of the current thinking concerning the origins of the English nation’. Such a book needs to be firmly based on the source material and to be fully referenced. Unfortunately the author draws on selected parts of the secondary literature and presents his arguments in a rather amateurish manner. Despite one reference to a 1977 History article by Dumville, he shows little awareness of the current rigorous reassessment of the written sources being undertaken by ancient and medieval historians for this period. The discussion of the place-name evidence in the main is dependent on the published work of Margaret Gelling, but it is doubtful if she would accept the author’s suggestion that many English place-names represent garbled British names for which Old English sound-value equivalents had been found. While we should be critical of the old tendency to attribute the first element in place-names as otherwise unrecorded personal names, other solutions can be found for ‘difficult’ place-names without making them garbled British.

Turning to the archaeological evidence, some recent articles from national journals such as Medieval Archaeology have been utilized, but major regional surveys for the period, such as that on Humberside by B. Eagles (Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 68, 1979) have been ignored. In general the author is one-sided in his presentation and clearly he has been impressed by the writings of J. N. L. Myres. Readers seeking to understand Myres’s views can now read his rewritten Oxford History of England volume. Those using Whittock’s book will not find there any summary of the case made against Myres’s interpretation of so-called Romano-Saxon pottery, let alone a reference to the crucial article in this debate by Gillam (Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 71, 1979). The early dating of the Caistor-by-Norwich and Sancton handmade cremation urns by Myres is also controversial, as is the claim that we can map the territories abandoned by the Anglo-Saxons after Badon. The supposed break in the pottery sequence of the Sussex cemeteries proposed by Myres can be demonstrated to be illusory, and the case for large-scale Germanic settlement in eastern Britain before A.D. 400 is still unproven. Finally it should be noted that archaeological site names are frequently misspelt, for example, Jarre for Sarre (p. 44), or strangely abbreviated, for example, Chalton Down for Church Down, Chalton (p. 64) and that throughout Scandinavian is misspelt as Scandanavian.

MARTIN G. WELCH


This is the first of the ten volumes that will comprise the corpus of the British Museum’s Anglo-Saxon coins. A brief introduction explains the classificatory system used, which includes a new typology based on inscriptions (horizontal and circumscription) or portraits. There are the usual indexes of donors, mints and moneyers, and plates on which the individual coins are reproduced from photographs of rather variable quality. Members of this Society will note with pleasure that one of the co-authors is our former President, and that he is also to be co-author of Coinage in Tenth-Century England, which promises to be a magisterial survey of the kind which the Sylloges help to make possible.

DAVID A. HINTON


The exhibition English Romanesque Art at the Hayward Gallery was an impressive assemblage of material from England and overseas. The catalogue ably guided the visitor to the major items on display and placed these in their historical and artistic context by means of sixteen scholarly introductions to the main categories of material. Of great comparative interest were the treasures from abroad such as that from St Maurice d'Agaune and those from private collections such as the baptismal casket (289) and the Monmouth crucifix (241). The high quality of the catalogue's colour plates brings out the glowing colours of the stained glass, the crispness of the sculpture and the iridescence of the illuminated manuscripts. Equally striking were the reconstructions of the architectural settings for the Much Wenlock lavabo and the voussoirs from York. Inspired by Professor Zarnecki, the exhibition and its catalogue indicated the major advances in scholarship since he wrote his thesis in 1950 but also accentuated new themes, contacts and contexts.

The collection of essays from the Society of Antiquaries symposium represent variations and enlargements on the exhibition theme; they can only be fully appreciated if the reader makes constant reference to the exhibition catalogue. The theme they address is 'what did England and the English give and receive in the age of the Romanesque?'. If the medieval archaeologist is a mere technician — a serf-provider of aesthetically pleasing material for art-historical seigneurial appraisal — then these essays will have little appeal. If, as should be the case, the archaeologist is fully involved in seeing his sites and their material culture in a wider context and in discussing their significance with colleagues in a multi-disciplinary approach, then there is much to please and inform him. On sculpture there are papers by Zarnecki and by Wright, on metal working by Stratford and by Heslop, on book illumination a review by Kauffmann of the decade's research, and on Thomas Becket's patronage, a penetrating assessment by Nilgen. Two standing structures, both now sadly reduced, are cogently analysed: Bishop Robert's Chapel at Hereford (Gem) and the monastic infirmary at Ely (Cocke).

A few papers could with advantage have incorporated archaeologically obtained material: Golding on St Albans could have referred to the chapter-house finds additional to those in Kahn's 1983 paper in F. H. Thompson (ed.), Studies in Medieval Sculpture. Muratova in her discussion of the Bestiary stresses the influence of the canons of Lincoln, apparently unaware of my paper in 1982 stressing the influence of the chapter at York. Derek Phillips's R.C.H.M. volume on the Minster of Thomas of Bayeux at York may have appeared too late for scholars to take note of its arguments. The book under review is well produced, though the illustrations vary greatly in quality unlike the excellence of the Catalogue. Three authors will have been amused by printers' errors, particularly the concept of Henry of Blois 'buying old statutes in Rome', perhaps intent on establishing a legislatory treasury!

The recurrent theme of patronage is pursued in many papers taking a person, a building or a manuscript as their point of departure. These different essays and the Exhibition Catalogue amply show the different routes that are needed to obtain a fully-rounded picture of Romanesque art.

LAWRENCE BUTLER
REVIEWS


Charles Hodges's drawing of the elaborate triple cross slab with nearly every secondary symbol represented by way of book, sword, keys and shears from Darlington is an apposite cover illustration for this monograph. It not only represents the richness of the material from County Durham but, like Peter Ryder's foreword, testifies to the labour of love that the survey is. Hodges's work remained incomplete and this is its resolution. Even the style of the immaculate drawings of each monument is in tune with those of Hodges which appear alongside. The recording of the ornament is meticulous.

The catalogue describes every known slab, including the lost ones, giving some indication of the geology and date in addition to precise measurement. It is preceded by a sound introduction which classifies the series into groups where, in the absence of inscriptions, the chronology rests on the typology. This is always a problem with early sculpture and the author is rightly cautious about attributing too fine a dating. There is an acknowledged reliance on Butler's chronology though Ryder points out that styles a hundred miles further north may not chime with Midlands criteria for dating. Perhaps the dates given to each stylistic group are too end-on and fit quarter-centuries too neatly, especially when we are pointed to the notable diversity in the county: it is a step forward to read of 'localized traditions' in the Tees Valley rather than the establishment of a school.

Naturally the long debate over the significance of emblems is given a run for its money. Ryder is right to stand off from the Edwards approach through Revelation and settles for social scale and trade for safer ground. The shears, he agrees with Hodges, is a female emblem. It would be interesting to explore the possibility of recutting and reuse in this area. Similarly, more research might ultimately be done into quarry sources and transport of monuments. Meanwhile this publication is an excellent tool and a model for other county surveys. It is to the credit of the Society who published it that a quite small, local association can produce such a professional piece of work of more than local importance. Hodges must be well pleased.

JAMES LANG


This study was undertaken in 1978 as a consequence of the coffin's deterioration since being put on display in 1946 and as a preparation for its redisplay in the new Cathedral Treasury Museum. It is an illuminating and often gripping account of the methods and principles of modern conservators as they painstakingly reinterpret the work of their predecessors while ensuring that their own must be reversible for posterity. In addition the sometimes narrow view of the art historian should be widened by the conclusions presented.

The complex history of the shrine is elucidated by the sequence illustrated in fig. 3 defining three coffins in the years up to 1104. The original coffin is shown to have been made from six planks of top quality wood from a slow-growing oak tree, some 300-400 years old when felled. It was held together by simple joinery methods and wooden pegs; any nails were secondary. At least two different craftsmen are recognized and their carving methods and various tools deduced (in Appendix 7 by C. E. Hewett). The coffin is now reconstructed as rather smaller than the 1939 version with a slightly tapering body, the taper not however reflected in the lid. The sides and ends are shown to be flush and oversailed by the lid, which was held in place by easily detachable pegs, convenient perhaps for occasional viewing of the body. Tests failed to reveal any evidence for paint or gesso on the surface. Drawings and
generous fold-outs complement this admirably lucid account, while Rosemary Cramp’s introduction sets the coffin in a wider context.

CAROLA HICKS


In its field this is a famous book. When I was a student my tutor’s copy of the first edition (London: Batsford, 1954) had become loose-leaf by dint of constant use and was certainly not up to use on site visits.

The *Dictionary* was a significant departure in 1954, not only because of the wealth of new information it suddenly showered over the whole subject, but because it displayed for the first time at length a different, more vigorous approach to the whole question of ‘style’ in medieval architecture. The *Dictionary* is an important expression of the conviction that architectural style can be analysed by tracing the individual mason responsible for a given fabric: discovering where he had been previously, to which influences (i.e. other masons) he had been subject and, indeed, whom he could have influenced in his turn. This was an ‘individualistic’ approach — the difficult and contentious notion of ‘style’ in medieval architecture was thereby pinned down and described in terms of a series of known exponents and so the Middle Ages, which had hitherto been problematic for Art History, was made compatible with later epochs. One could now talk about Sponlee in the same terms as Scott. Harvey may not have been the first scholar to grasp the importance of this approach (and generous tribute is paid in the new edition to his predecessors — ‘Looking back from 1983’), but the *Dictionary* is set apart from all other works in the field both by the very large number of entries and by the scholarly rigour with which these entries have been compiled. Furthermore, although there is no consideration here of the development of the subject since 1954, it is also a tribute to Harvey that he himself recognized the *Dictionary* as a starting-point only and he has been in the forefront of those scholars who have developed the subject in subsequent books.

Clearly, then, no apology is needed for a second edition — indeed, one might ask rather why the first edition has not been kept on the booksellers’ shelves — but it was a fine gesture to commemorate Harvey’s 70th birthday. The new edition contains both amended and additional apparatus. There are new ‘explicatory’ sections, a new Preface, a note on the genesis of the second edition, an ‘Epilogue’ and a brief biography of Arthur Oswald, who provided Harvey with much of the information on Cambridge, Canterbury and Durham. Also there is revision and expansion of the nucleus of the book — the biographies themselves. There are, apparently, nearly 400 new entries (making a total of some 1,700) but probably more important are the expanded entries for the major figures. The John Harvey Birthday Fund, marshalled by Richard K. Morris, is to be warmly congratulated for its efforts on the content of the new volume and Alan Sutton should be given perhaps two cheers for keeping the price as low as £30.00.

D. A. STOCKER


It is now almost a century since those two eminent Victorians, D. MacGibbon and T. Ross, laid the foundations for the study of medieval Scottish church buildings in their three-volume *Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1896–97). Yet in spite of the advances that have been made since then in the study of individual buildings, apart from Stewart
Cruden's own short guide to *Scottish Abbeys*, published by H.M.S.O. in 1960, no general survey of Scotland's medieval church architecture has appeared until quite recently. Now, as if by chance, within a year of one another, we have Richard Fawcett's *Scottish Medieval Churches* (H.M.S.O.: Edinburgh, 1985), Sharratt's *Écosse romane* (Editions Zodiaque: La-Pierre-qui-Vire, 1982), and the book under review.

Although, confusingly, Cruden's book shares the same title as Fawcett's, its contents are very different. For while Fawcett's text is of necessity brief and pithy, Cruden's is expansive and scornful of the 'overly intellectual'. The author's intimate knowledge of many of the buildings that he describes, acquired during the course of his career in the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, can only increase the value to future scholars and students of a work which is by any standards a very readable and usable introduction to the subject. The writer's lifelong involvement in his subject matter, however, may also account for a certain bias discernible in his selection of buildings for detailed treatment. The fact that most attention seems to be given to monuments in the care of the state, and of these to monastic houses, may perhaps not seem altogether unreasonable in view of the nature of the surviving evidence. But while only 25 to 30 pages are devoted to each of the three periods pre-1100, 1200-1300 and 1300-1500, the 12th century on its own receives no less than 110 pages — and this despite the observation made by Cruden that it is only in the later period that Scottish religious architecture begins to find a distinctive style of its own. There are therefore some notable omissions, particularly amongst parish churches (and even Fortrose Cathedral) of the 13th century and later, and, more surprisingly perhaps, the great burgh churches of the 15th century, such as St Michael's in Linlithgow, St John's in Perth and Holy Rood in Stirling.

The publishers have produced an exceptionally well-printed text, accompanied by some excellent black and white photographs. The figures, on the other hand, are no more than rough sketches without scales; and although apt for illustrating some of the points made in the text, may seem to detract from an otherwise high standard of book production.

**DENYS PRINGLE**


This volume, published as the third of a new series of Southampton Archaeology Monographs, presents the results of various excavations on the site of Southampton castle carried out between 1973 and 1986. Though third in the series, it is the first to appear, and deals basically with the structural evidence recovered at the castle. Discussion of finds is limited to those aspects, notably chronology, which affect the overall interpretation of the castle. The various excavations discussed were conducted in response to archaeologically determined developments, and did not constitute a research strategy into the site as a whole. Areas of the castle (approximately 10 per cent of the site) which were illuminated include the motte ditch, the bailey walls and the castle hall, all probably of early to mid 12th-century date. A massive barrel vaulted room with access to the castle quay may have been the king's cellar referred to in the early 13th century. A large latrine channel is all that remains of a sophisticated garderobe block from later in the same period. The motte ditch had an accumulation of rubbish which suggested an early 14th-century period of neglect, with a recut perhaps associated with the documented building of the circular keep in 1378-88. The motte ditch also produced a rich sample of botanical evidence. The skeletons of a number of males offer an unusual archaeological glimpse of documented activity: perhaps casualties of the French raid of 1338.

This is all very interesting, but the castle which emerges from these excavations is hardly the rich and extensive site known from the historical sources (usefully summarized in four pages). Numerous buildings are known to have existed of which nothing whatever has come
to light, and the finds hardly reflect an important royal site. The excavations did not illuminate the problem of the origins of Southampton castle.

Three microfiches (containing context and finds lists and animal bone evidence) ensure the availability of information which might not otherwise have been published, while also ensuring that virtually no-one will ever read it. The figures and photographs are clear enough, though none is likely to become widely reproduced as an illustration of a medieval castle. It is to Southampton’s development that this volume contributes rather than that of the castle in general. It is, nevertheless, in that context, an important publication.

R. A. HIGHAM


Freddie Charles is well known to our Society both as a longstanding member, and as author of our second monograph, on cruck building. With his archaeological interests and as a practising architect with much experience in work on historic, and especially framed, buildings he is well placed to write this book on their conservation. It is intended primarily for architects, and to any dealing with conservation of framed buildings it is essential reading. It has, too, much for the archaeologist and especially for those involved with analysis of structures and the recreation of buildings from post-hole and other archaeological evidence.

Part 1 discusses the structural types, reducing the problem to two roof types, namely rafter and purlin, and then shows their development into boxframe, post-and-truss et al. This leads us from simple post-built peasant houses through the halls at Cheddar, to the Bishop’s Palace at Hereford and other exotic buildings. A section on timber and its use includes an interesting discussion on the size of trees needed for the Ely octagon, Westminster Hall, and more recently York Minster. The organization of a medieval building contract is considered, as is the prefabrication and erection of the frame. Part 1 concludes with ‘Historic Change’ showing the development of different building types, and discussing architectural and technical changes which, over-riding regional variations, give the most reliable basis for dating. Part 2 is given to survey, of which the Preliminary is useful in showing what should be recorded, in what detail, and the quality of the ultimate drawings. Proficiency in survey is evidently taken for granted which unfortunately is not always the case. A section on survey techniques would be useful. The Case Studies and Gazetteer (mainly of Worcestershire examples) in parts 3 and 4 have much of interest and perhaps give answers to problems elsewhere.

The text is well supported by photographs, helpful sketches of details, and especially by admirable reconstructions. It concludes with a proposed Ethic for Conservation (by Bernard Fielden), a useful ‘Terminology’, and a full bibliography. Altogether a most useful book. It is a pity that it is priced so highly. When can we expect a paperback?

PETER E. LEACH


This volume consists of the papers delivered at a conference on ceramic building materials held at St Omer in 1986. Two papers were devoted to early 13th-century brick in Brandenburg and Flanders, a phase of which our own Coggeshalle may be a reflection, though at Flemish Coxyde elaborate moulding was already well developed by the beginning of the century, and this was not to reach England for a couple of hundred years. Contributions based on recent excavations of brick and tile kilns in s’Hertogenbosch and Mons, and a survey of documentary evidence in Hainault, all demonstrate municipal industries
flourishing in the mid 14th century, their products initially used for town defences and only later for important town houses, an analogy again, perhaps, with our own experience. It would have been useful if the chronology of development beyond the towns had been explored, but early brickwork is still a field in which few are competent, and the overall pattern in NE. Europe was not discussed, let alone the fundamental question of its relationship to the brick of southern France and Spain.

Most of the papers devoted to floor tiles and their distribution are solidly based on scientific analysis of glazes and clays, and two specialized papers are concerned with techniques used in France. Dereux shows the distribution pattern of industries in Artois and Flanders, one of which traded as far south as La Rochelle. Lewis considers the logistics of such water-borne trade in connection with Worcestershire tiles carried as far away as St Davids. Cherry, discussing tiles of the English Midlands, warns of the limitations of clay analysis in regions where there are no distinctive inclusions. He has a nice reminder, too, of the vagaries of medieval trade, for Ulverscroft Abbey bought tiles from Chilvers Coton even while possessing its own tileworks, a situation that can be matched at Tattershall, where brick was bought in at a time when the products of brick-kilns set up to rebuild its own chamber tower were being sold to others. Norton, in an important contribution on the origin and development of two-coloured tiles, considers material from both sides of the Channel, favouring beginnings somewhere in Normandy. Just how the 14th-century tiles at Avignon, discussed by Gagnières and Thiriot, fit into the pattern of development, is uncertain. They are tin-glazed, as indeed are some of the products of NE. Europe, and they were made in the locality, but their decoration is that of the Saintonge jugs with which we are familiar, designs which must be of ultimate Iberian origin.

The volume, like the conference from which it stems, raises as many questions as it answers; that is the function of such meetings. It is well presented and illustrated, sturdy for a paper-back, and is provided with an English summary of all papers and an excellent bibliography of French tiles compiled by Christopher Norton.

H. E. JEAN LE PATOUREL


The title of this book could perhaps be misleading, for coverage extends through and beyond the Middle Ages; in that the science of metallurgy only became defined during the 19th century, the wording is of course appropriate. This is much more than a revision of Professor Tylecote's _Metallurgy in Archaeology_ (1962), for plentiful material has subsequently appeared. We also have a complete change in format, with a page-size and layout which allows more illustrations and tables. Many of the diagrams originated elsewhere, but are often simplified to good effect; a few, however (e.g. 127, 152, 157), retain annotations which are not meaningful here. The book is divided between non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, smelting and fabrication. For medieval Britain the picture of non-ferrous smelting is still fragmentary. For example, documentary references to copper mining in the Lake District, Devon and Cornwall cannot yet be supported from field work. For tin and lead, new evidence is coming forward. Although little is known of tin smelting in Cornwall, Geeves's work in Devon has shown the change-over to water power and Tylecote rightly emphasizes the importance of these Dartmoor surveys. In the case of lead, this book came just too soon to include Kiernan's work on Derbyshire, which explores the change from boles to ore-hearth smelting. Tylecote implies a backwardness on the part of Mendip smelters, but it appears that it was thence that the Derbyshire ore-hearth was developed, rather than from Cranich's German furnace. Of the alloys, most, particularly pewter, are thoroughly discussed, but it would have been useful to have more information on bell-casting. With iron, even if the reader seeks guidance on medieval methods, the prehistoric and Roman chapters are important, for these
show how bloomeries of different kinds were worked. The medieval sections then give listings and comments on the main sites. The chapter on the water-powered bloomery shows how much remains to be done, for there is no comprehensive excavation of a 14th-/15th-century site where all the innovations hinted at by documents can be explored. The author aims to place the use of water-powered bellows as early as possible, but despite a section on the horizontal water wheel, including drawings of the Tamworth corn mill and the 14th-century Chinese use of such a wheel for box-bellows, he produces no hard evidence that Domesday forges were thus powered.

This book deserves to become a standard text for everyone confronted by metallurgical remains, for it fills out the material in the same author's *History of Metallurgy* (1976) in ways which are most helpful to the non-specialist.

**DAVID CROSSLEY**


This is a very welcome addition to the regrettably small number of analytical publications on excavated iron artefacts from Britain. Professor Tylecote, who is responsible for the first part of this publication (edge tools), will be well known to readers through his pioneering work on the metallography of both prehistoric and medieval tools.

Much of the book is taken up with detailed reporting of the analyses of specific tools or weapons, mostly of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date although there are a few Roman and Iron-Age examples. These will be of interest to the specialist in artefacts, but to the general reader the concluding sections on tools and weapons are the most illuminating. We are told about the standards of cutlery in the various periods, and there is a very clear description of pattern-welding with good illustrations. One of the most interesting sections discusses the standard of sword-making in the early and mid Saxon periods. The early Saxon settlers seem to have had poor quality swords while their mid Saxon descendants produced pattern-welded swords which were incomparable in strength and beauty. Gilmour suggests that in the early Saxon period swords were needed for display rather than use, whereas in the mid Saxon period they were regarded as weapons of war.

**HELEN CLARKE**

*Information Through Sherds: a case study of the early glazed earthenware from Dalby, Scania* (Lund Studies in Medieval Archaeology, 3). By Anders Lindahl. 21 × 29 cm. xv + 200 pp., 90 figs. (some in colour), 29 tables. Price not stated. Distributed by ProImage in Lund, Box 723, S-22070 Lund, Sweden.

There are now many techniques available for the scientific analysis of archaeological assemblages of pottery. They give the archaeologist a potential tool kit to investigate the pottery found on a site. They can be divided into those which help to characterize the raw materials from which the pots were made (such as thin-section analysis), those which describe the technical properties of the ceramic (such as its hardness and porosity), those resulting from the actions of the potter during manufacture which give information about the original form of the vessel and how it was made, and those which are the result of the breakage and disposal of the vessels.

The author of the present report uses as many of the available techniques as possible as a means of studying the glazed pottery from Dalby, an 11th-century church which became an Augustinian monastery in the early 12th century. Most of the pottery came from a deposit dated by coins to the 13th century or later, and is, therefore, a potentially useful fixed point in
the chronology of later medieval Baltic pottery. Only seven layers were excavated with over half of the collection coming from what could be a single-period deposit. Many of the techniques are usefully applied, and there are some embellishments to established methods which will interest the specialist (for example the use of colour photomicrographs as an aid to textual classification would make a useful, if expensive, addition to the ceramic petrologist's repertoire, as would the staining of thin-sections to highlight felspars). Nevertheless, the overall impression is of a battery of techniques used without any underlying research design. The petrological study is a good case in point, where no attempt is made to compare the Dalby fabrics with those from the other sites, nor with local clay resources.

All in all, the volume contains some interesting ideas and data and certainly represents a good deal of work. However, this work appears to have been expended on a collection of pottery which could not be expected to repay the effort.

A. G. VINCE


The reserve collections of the Museum of London contain one of the largest and most impressive series of complete medieval pots in Britain. It was assembled in the late 19th and early 20th century when the major building developments in London were carried out by hand and many complete vessels were recovered, but without their stratigraphical and datable associations being recorded. Recent archaeological excavations in the City of London have produced large quantities of datable pottery, much though fragmentary. The Department of Urban Archaeology has linked these sources together and is publishing a corpus of the main types of pottery current in London between the mid 12th and the mid 15th century, based on origin, fabric and form. This is intended both to provide a catalogue and to reduce the length of excavation reports and the time needed to prepare them.

This volume deals with London-Type ware. Part 1 of the corpus dealt with Mill Green Ware, part 3 with Late Medieval Hertfordshire Glazed Ware (Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc., xxxiii (1982) and xxxiv (1983) respectively), and further studies are in preparation of Kingston-Type Ware, other Surrey Whitewares, South Hertfordshire Greywares and imported wares: a useful summary recently appeared in this journal. London-Type Ware, a sandy reddish-brown fabric, was the major glazed pottery type in London from the mid 12th to the mid 13th century, and continued to be made until the mid 14th century. The volume discusses the various fabric groupings, methods of manufacture and possible sources. The maps depict its wide, especially coastal, distribution to the West Country and Scotland. Although not yet fully assessed, the important finds of the ware from Bergen, Norway, should at least have been mentioned. But even without this, the demonstration of London-Type Ware as one of the main types of pottery traded over long distances is of considerable importance. The evidence for the dating framework includes an admirable diagram showing the life-span and evolution of the main pottery forms.

The major part of the volume comprises descriptions and drawings of the wide range of forms, though jugs predominate. The general colour photographs of jugs, and the close-ups of decorative details, are a most useful supplement to the drawings. The discussion is not only typological: there are major sections on function, including capacities and chemical analysis, and the origin and affinities of London-Type Ware. The volume fully lives up to our expectations; when the corpus is complete it will form the essential basis for all future study and publication of the medieval pottery of London.

J. G. HURST

With this volume the programme of research and publication of the King's Lynn Archaeological Society begun in 1962 comes to a worthy conclusion. It brings together documentary sources for the medieval history of the town, printing many texts in full, usually for the first time, with selections from others and summaries of, or cross-references to, other documents. The 490 items have been chosen from the records of the town itself, the bishop and monks of Norwich, other religious houses holding land in the town, and the Exchequer, Chancery and other departments of central government, and are arranged largely by subject. The result is a rich collection illustrative of the social, economic, and administrative life of the town from the 11th century to the 16th, which will be welcomed by those working on other towns as well as Lynn.

Some of the records relate closely to the concerns of earlier volumes in the series. The section on topography includes the text of the late 13th-century survey of Newland, the northern part of the town (no. 174). Printed in full its value as a starting point for reconstructing the layout and histories of the properties in the town can be seen, through its combination of topographical progression and details of tenurial layers. The assessment of movables (c. 1285-86; no. 281) complements the topographical survey with a picture of household contents and the possessions of Lynn citizens. Items common to most households included treen and brass utensils, mazers, spoons, trivets, sheets, and blankets. Some had more linen, featherbeds, and furniture, and several had small stocks of food and fuel — turves, peat, and firewood. Larger stocks of grain and malt, and live animals, were also listed: it is not clear if these were kept in the town or elsewhere. Merchandise and ships were also noted. There is an important section on trade, including some 14th- and 15th-century customs accounts, which show Lynn's trade in fish, timber, steel, pitch, tar and potash with the Baltic. It is not so easy to get a picture of change in Lynn over the centuries, though the references to disused salterns on the town boundaries in 1486 (no. 68) and to tenements standing empty in the rental of St Margaret's Priory in 1490-91 (no. 111) will be noted.

One problem with the volume, however, is that it is not clear how far it is representative. In some ways a collection of this kind seems rather an old-fashioned concept: the specialist may say that its range is too wide and insufficiently focused, while other users may find difficulty in the fact that most texts are in Latin and there is little editorial comment on problematic sources. As a general comment, more editorial discussion would have been helpful, both of the criteria for the selection of documents and the context from which they were chosen, and of the individual documents and their significance. And it seems a pity that there is no map.

Nevertheless, the book is very welcome, both as a major contribution to the study of Lynn and as a valuable sourcebook for the comparative study of medieval towns.

Vanessa Harding


This is the ninth of a projected twelve-volume period-by-period county history sponsored by the enterprising History of Lincolnshire Committee. It forms a companion volume to Dorothy Owen's acclaimed Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire (1971). Dr Platts has striven valiantly to accomplish the difficult task set him by the series editor, of satisfying the 'general reader' as well as the scholar. For the most part the volume contains what is to be expected in a conventional, modern, social and economic history: studies of lords and peasants and their roles in society; of the rural economy; of the growth of towns; of law and order; and of the changes that followed the successive crises and calamities of the earlier 14th
REVIEWS

century. A refreshingly original last chapter looks at the culture and mentalités of the medieval county.

Perhaps inevitably, given his brief and the ground to be covered, Platts's approach is to present history's current orthodoxies and to enliven and illustrate them with Lincolnshire examples. While the author is a confident and well-read guide to the myriad scholarly duels (and mêlées) that he touches on, there is a slight unevenness over the volume as a whole in the use of local sources. In the greater part, examples are used merely to illustrate a theme or idea drawn from elsewhere, and some (e.g. Ingoldmells, pp. 55, 75; Goltho, 73, 121) appear more than once as Platts labours to find local colour. But elsewhere a great deal of documentary material is distilled and presented, notably in the chapter on Agriculture, one of the best in the book. Here regional and chronological subtleties can be seen with considerable clarity. Occasionally Platts falters when faced with matters practical: it is not enough, for instance, simply to say that ridge and furrow resulted from strips being individually ploughed. But, wherever possible, buildings, objects, and the evidence of excavations are used alongside the written sources. It is a salutary lesson, however, to see how little of Platts's story has been provided by the excavator.

The criticisms I have made are few and minor. Overall this is an excellent volume both in terms of its content and its production. It is well printed and bound, and the text is supported by traditional footnotes. The copious illustrations are mostly relevant and illuminating, although sadly a few of the plates are murky after the unfortunate modern fashion. The price is remarkable; how did they do it?

PAUL STAMPER


This is a curious work, a mixed bag of essays: 'studies in places and place-names, the Sutton Hoo ship-burial, saints, mummies and crosses, Domesday Book, and chronicles of Bury abbey' as the sub-title puts it. There are also four pieces on aspects of medieval East Suffolk originally written in connection with the Aldeburgh festival, together with a retelling of two of Ralph of Coggeshall's exotic stories and one from the late-medieval Hundred Mery Talys. The style is idiosyncratic and very personal, sometimes irritatingly so. The author is in turn fulsome and cantankerous, traits which are perhaps most notable in his essay on the Bury cross.

It is difficult to determine the audience for whom this collection is intended, for though it concentrates on three topics: early and mid Saxon Suffolk; the abbey of Bury St Edmunds, and the settlements of E. Suffolk, there is no real unifying theme. More disturbingly no effort is made to set the local essays in a wider context. The chief value of these essays may be to bring their subject-matter to a wide audience but it is when Scarfe moves from these useful and wide-ranging syntheses to his own analyses that he becomes much less convincing. He suggests that the coins found in the Sutton Hoo ship-burial form part of the bribe given by Aethelfrith of Northumbria to Raedwald to betray the former's rival, Edwin. This is arguable, but it is at least as likely that these Merovingian coins were acquired in trade or diplomacy with Gaul and that they represent the payment made by the living for their conveyance to the after-life. Again in writing on the Bury cross Scarfe provides an excellent account of recent art-historical research on the date, style and provenance of the cross, but his own attempt to redate the work and attribute it to master Hugo by suggesting that it was a 'preaching cross' or teaching aid to convert the Jews of Bury is not convincing.

It is impossible to consider everyone of these wide-ranging essays in a short review. Some do, indeed, shed light upon aspects of medieval Suffolk. As such they will be of interest to the local historian but, for reasons stated above, in only a few instances will specialists find new insights.

BRIAN GOLDING

One of the remarkable archaeological events of 1986 was the *Archaeology in Britain since 1945* exhibition in the British Museum planned to coincide with the controversial World Archaeological Congress. This was accompanied not by a catalogue of exhibits but a more ambitious survey of archaeological trends and achievements since the Second World War. Each chapter, moreover, is prefaced by a succinct summary of the historiography of the subject. Written by the staff of the British Museum (supported by John Hurst of English Heritage), Chapter 3, 'Anglo-Saxon England' (Leslie Webster), Chapter 4, 'Technology, Towns, Castles and Churches A.D. 1100-1600' (John Cherry), and Chapter 5, 'The Medieval Countryside' (John Hurst) are likely to stimulate members of the Society for Medieval Archaeology. Webster has some interesting insights to make when she points out that women’s role in Anglo-Saxon society is expressed in terms of burial more than just jewellery; various items and groups of equipment delineate status more precisely. I do not follow her in her enthusiastic greeting of the Northampton mortar mixers as a graphic expression of 'technological expertise'. The line illustrations by Simon James are attractive and, in the main, plausible reconstructions. Where, however, are the paned windows mentioned in the text (p. 149) in the reconstruction of the Tamworth mill (p. 148)? Cherry’s remark (p. 189) that Grove changed from secular to religious use omits to notice that it later reverted to the crown. Hope Taylor and Rahtz are not acknowledged in the captions on p. 208. There is some duplication about the Saxon settlement between chapters 3 and 5 caused by a change from a chronological to a thematic approach which tougher editing would have eradicated. There is no mention of Scotland despite the title which is referred to in the last sentence of the book. Despite these minor flaws *Archaeology in Britain since 1945* is a well-timed pointer towards the need for works of synthesis.

JOHN STEANE


The 1970-76 excavations in the northern part of Ribe, outside the medieval city centre, did not find the Viking-Age settlement that had been hoped for, but they did reveal unexpectedly rich 8th-century cultural layers. This first volume of reports is devoted to two topics. First, Inge Skovgaard-Petersen collects and discusses the written sources relating to Ribe’s early history. The town is first mentioned c. 860 in *Vita Anskarii*.

In the second part, Kirsten Bendixen discusses the remarkable coin finds which are critical for dating the occupation layers. Some 30 early silver pennies (commonly termed *sceattas*) of the ‘porcupine’ and ‘woden/monster’ types were found on five separate sites and in various stratified levels. They were struck in the period c. 720-50, though they may have continued to circulate in Denmark during the second half of the 8th century. Bendixen follows the usual attribution of these types to Frisia, but Metcalf has since suggested, partly on the strength of these finds, that the ‘woden/monster’ type may in fact be Danish (Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 128 (1984), 159-64). Excavations at the nearby site of Dankirke have produced similar finds, comprising three Merovingian coins of Dorestad of the later 7th century and ten early pennies from the first half of the 8th. Although these had been published in *Medieval Scandinavia* in 1974, they are included with a fuller description in a supplement to the present volume.

The Ribe and Dankirke finds provide sensational new evidence for the economic history of Scandinavia at the eve of the Viking Age. Before 1965 only four coins of the Merovingian period were known to have been found in Denmark. As a result of these two excavations that number was increased to 47, and subsequent discoveries at several sites in Denmark and Scania, including further coins from Ribe in the 1986 season and a hoard from the North
REVIEWS

Frisian island of Föhr, has brought the total to over 150. Denmark can now be seen to have had much closer commercial links with Frisia by the mid 8th century than had previously been imagined, and the concentration of finds at particular sites suggests that a local monetary economy was emerging at a number of locations. Perhaps the closest parallel for the finds from Ribe is those from Hamwic of just the same date, though much more numerous. One hesitates to press the analogy, yet the Scandinavian evidence is growing so fast that one wonders what the position will be in ten years’ time.

MARK BLACKBURN


This collection of essays is the Festschrift for Professor Erik Cinthio of the University of Lund, one of the first European academics to hold the title of Professor of Medieval Archaeology. The tabula gratulatoria at the beginning of the volume lists the names of the many of his students and associates who as a result of his influence have become leading lights in medieval archaeology in Scandinavia and further afield. Because much of his own work has been published in Swedish Erik Cinthio has not received the acknowledgement from British scholars that he deserves as a pioneer in the subject, although his article, ‘Medieval archaeology as a research subject’ (Meddelanden från Lunds universitetets historiska museum 1962-63, 186–202) ought to be compulsory reading for all students of the subject.

It is to be hoped that the present volume will at least partially redress the balance. It comprises 27 essays by Cinthio’s students, and is a beautifully produced and illustrated work which encapsulates the present state of research and thinking in Scandinavian medieval archaeology. All the essays have English summaries. Two are particularly relevant to British studies.

Kristina Carlsson’s contribution is on English pottery discovered in the W. Swedish medieval port of Gamla Lodose (north-east of modern Gothenburg), the only site in Sweden to have produced English wares in any quantity from its excavations. This article lays the foundations of further research (already anticipated to some extent by Carlsson’s Importkeramik i Gamla Lodose, Stockholm, 1982).

Pilgrim badges commemorating St Birgitta of Vadstena, Sweden, form the subject of the essay by Lars Andersson. Syon Abbey was the only Bridgettine house in England and a number of pilgrim badges are known from London, apparently produced in England. Here is another medieval contact between the two areas which is worthy of further research.

HELEN CLARKE


This study deals with the medieval development of the province of Blekinge which was, like the rest of southern Sweden, under Danish rule until the end of the Middle Ages. It was a border, or buffer zone between Sweden to the north and Denmark to the west, and thus might most relevantly be equated with the Welsh and Scottish marches better known to British readers.

The work is essentially an exercise in landscape history, using geological, archaeological and historical sources to illuminate the development of the province from c. A.D. 1000–1550. It discusses the significance of the area for trade routes, particularly between medieval Germany and Sweden where its geographical position made it a crucial point, and resultant
urban development. The rural hinterland and agricultural resource areas are also discussed, as are the evolution of the parish system and the growth of military fortifications.

The main point of interest for British archaeologists is probably the methodology employed here in Stenholm's approach to landscape evolution; the comprehensive (although badly proof-read) English/American summary outlines the main aspects in an incisive way. It is interesting to note that the Institute of Medieval Archaeology of the University of Lund has in recent years been concentrating on concepts of landscape development, now much in favour in Britain. Co-operation between archaeologists in the two countries could lead to fruitful results, and I recommend this short book to those working on the subject in the British Isles.

HELEN CLARKE


This work, with the English title The Urban Scene. Towns and Society in Medieval Denmark, is a doctoral dissertation from the University of Lund, submitted in 1985. The author is a product of the lively and innovatory Institute of Archaeology there whose medieval section has been one of the few departments of medieval archaeology in Europe to accept and exploit the potentialities of the 'New Archaeology'. Anders Andrén is a representative of the new school of medieval archaeologists who have grown up in Lund under the tutelage of the former professor, Erik Cinthio. During the past 20 years medieval archaeology in Sweden has advanced from a primarily art-historical and artefact-based study to one which investigates social conditions, rural and urban development, and general socio-economics.

For his dissertation Andrén took one of the major preoccupations of Scandinavian archaeology in recent years: the medieval town. He chose to study the towns of the old Danish kingdom which comprised Denmark, the present Swedish province of Scania, Blekinge and Halland, and that part of N. Germany which lies to the south of the Cimbrian peninsula: 115 towns in all. He has gathered together all the rather sketchy historical references to the towns and presented these alongside archaeological data and, more particularly, churches and religious houses. He takes the presence of ecclesiastical buildings, particularly a multiplicity of churches, as the most important of all urban criteria. On the basis of this he has divided the development of towns in medieval Denmark into three main periods: 1000–1200, 1200–1350 and 1350–1550, within which are sub-periods. By subdividing urban development in this way he has been able to describe and account for the many changes to which towns were subject in the high Middle Ages.

It is a moot point whether the criteria employed by Andrén could be applied to British towns, but his methodology should be considered. The excellent English summary, the thorough appendices and the clearly drawn maps make this work accessible to all interested in the origin and development of medieval towns.

HELEN CLARKE


This is a collection of short essays on the theme, The King's Might and Honour. It covers the material evidence for royal power in the Middle Ages and more recent times, the most interesting contribution for the medieval archaeologist in Britain being that on regalia and symbols in the ship burials of Vendel and Valsgärde which includes a section on Sutton Hoo. Other essays deal with coins as symbols of power, Romanesque church towers in Denmark and royal coats-of-arms in Norwegian churches. There are summaries in English and German.

HELEN CLARKE
The following publications have also been received:


The new, rewritten, popular guide.


Contains good photographs of metalwork.


Interim report on archaeological work in the 1970s in three Norwegian towns.

**Meddelelser Nr. 2 fra prosjektet Fortiden I Trondheim Bygrunn: Folkebibliotekstomten.** By Trevor Anderson and Hans Gothberg. 21 × 30 cm. 36 pp., figs., pls. Trondheim: Utgravningskontoret for Trondheim, 1986. Price not stated.

An interim osteological report on 389 skeletons from a multi-period church site, with a brief description of the chronology of the churchyard. Largely in English.


Danish text with English summary and captions. Art historical study with useful photographs.


A popular account of buildings associated with Mary Queen of Scots.

**The Half Moon Battery** (Peel Castle Excavations Final Report, 1). By R.H. White. 21 × 30 cm. 62 pp., 17 figs., 7 pls. Isle of Man: St Patrick’s Isle Archaeological Trust, 1986. Price £7.95. Distributed by Oxbow Books, 10 St Cross Road, Oxford.

Includes a report on a small late medieval cemetery.


Popular guide to the subject, as illustrated by monuments in care.


Duplicated typescript report on hall houses with integral cross-passages in Essex.

A policy and resources document, with useful sources and addresses.


Report on a multi-period site. About 7 pp. of the hard copy concern the Saxon material from the site.


A fairly advanced how-to-do-it manual of illustrative and photographic techniques.


Includes colour pls. of the ‘St Bees man’.


MS A is the earliest of the surviving copies of the Chronicle and physically the most complicated.


4,684 items, many with useful comments.


The paperback reissue of this standard work, first published in 1977.
CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

1. The Society shall be known as the Society for Medieval Archaeology.

2. The Office of the Society shall be situate within Great Britain.

3. The object of the Society is the furtherance of the study of unwritten evidences of British history since the Roman period by the publication of a journal and in any way that may be approved from time to time by the Council.

4. The membership of the Society shall comprise Ordinary Members, Honorary Members, Student Members, Joint Members and Institutional Members.

5. The expenses of the Society shall be met from the subscriptions and from such funds as the Society may by donation or otherwise acquire.

   Each member shall pay his subscription on joining the Society and shall then be entitled to receive a copy of the journal for the current year and to take part in all activities of the society.

   The annual subscription for each member shall be as agreed at the Annual General Meeting, and this shall entitle them to all the privileges of membership and to receive one copy of the journal jointly. Subscriptions shall fall due on 1 April of each year.

   Any member, whose subscription is twelve months in arrears, and who fails to pay the amount due when requested to do so, may be struck off the list of members by the Council and shall thereupon cease to be a member.

   The subscriptions and all other property acquired for the purposes of the Society shall be deemed to be vested in the Officers of the Society as trustees for the members.

6. The Council of the Society shall consist of the President, Hon. Vice-Presidents, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor of the journal and nine ordinary members, and shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting. An honorary auditor (who shall not be a member of the Council) shall also be elected by the Annual General Meeting. They shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election at an Annual General Meeting of the Society except as provided in rules 7 and 8. At least fourteen days' notice shall be given to members of the Society of the names of candidates for election. All nominations for election to the Council shall be received by the Secretary before 1 September.

7. Subject to any resolution of the Society at the Annual General Meeting, the President shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years.
8. Ordinary members of Council shall serve for a term of three years. Vice-Presidents shall serve for a term of five years. Retiring members of Council and retiring Vice-Presidents shall not be immediately eligible for re-election.

9. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Council. At any meeting of the Council the presence of seven members shall constitute a quorum. The Council shall present a report of its proceedings to the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Casual vacancies among the Officers or among the other members of the Council may be filled by co-optation by the Council until the next Annual General Meeting.

10. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on such date as the Council shall fix. Special General Meetings shall be held at such times as the Council may decide, or on the written request of not less than forty members of the Society.

11. The Council shall have power to appoint from the members of the Society an Editorial Committee and any other Committees which may from time to time be required.

12. The Council shall have power to fix the amount of any fees that it may be desirable for members or guests to be charged for attendance at conferences or other functions of the Society. They shall also have power to pay such honoraria for assistance as they deem desirable.

13. Any proposal for the amendment of the Constitution of the Society must be submitted to the Annual General Meeting. The text of the proposed amendment shall be circulated to the members with the notice convening the meeting. No amendment shall be regarded as adopted unless two-thirds of the members present at the meeting vote in favour of it.

(Corrected to 31 December 1987)