inventory, protection, and presentation of archaeological sites. This volume reports principally on the first of these tasks (though in his introduction Goudineau makes some wry comments on the failure of CSRA to convince other ministries of the holistic nature of archaeological research).

The report is divided into two sections. The first section covers the work of the Ministry of Culture; it is a handbook to the organization of archaeology within that ministry, valuable in that to the outsider its structure and operations have hitherto had a somewhat impenetrable quality. The statistical data are impressive: for example, the total budget of the SDA increased from 70.6 million francs in 1985 to 180 million in 1989. However, this increase is due principally to external funding from local authorities and developers, which is paid to another state body, the Association pour les Fouilles Archéologiques Nationales (AFAN) and then used to fund excavations. None the less, direct state funding rose by 50% over the period under review. Rescue archaeology was, of course, the main area that benefited from AFAN funding, but it is interesting to see that archaeological survey, including aerial survey, has at last assumed an important place in French archaeology.

The French record in archaeological publication has long been a cause for reproach on the part of other scholars. Determined efforts have been made to improve the situation, most notably through the admirable series Documents d’Archéologie Française. Another excellent initiative is the superb series of Guides Archéologiques de la France, probably the finest site guides available anywhere in the world. There is, however, a discreet silence about the failure to publish the results of the important excavations at the Grand Louvre in Paris, which is one of the worst scandals of modern European archaeology.

The SDA also finances a number of longer-term research projects, and these are described in the second part of the volume. The traditional préhistoire/histoire division still persists, the former ending with the advent of the Iron Age. Some of the ‘history’ projects are firmly rooted in the Iron Age and Gallo-Roman periods, but others have a longer chronological span, such as H1 La ville, which is concerned with urban development from Roman Gaul to the early modern period, or H3 Mines et métallurgie. H16 Édifices et établissements religieux depuis la fin de l’Antiquité; H17 Naissance, évolution et fonctions du château médiéval; H18 Villages et terroirs médiévaux et post-médiévaux; and H19 Les ateliers médiévaux et modernes, l’archéologie industrielle: organisation et diffusion are in fact the only programmes devoted solely to post-Roman archaeology. However, the influence of medieval archaeologists such as Gabrielle Demians d’Archimbaud and Jean Chapelot and urban specialists such as Henri Galinié, combined with the increasing amount of rescue archaeology in historic town centres, is progressively weaning the younger generation of French archaeologists from the traditional preoccupations of their predecessors, prehistory and Roman Gaul.

Despite the caveats of Christian Goudineau in his introduction, this report paints an impressive picture of the growth of archaeology in France in the first half of the 1980s. To judge from recent issues of Nouvelles de l’Archéologie, however, the next report of this kind is unlikely to be so encouraging.

HENRY CLEERE

Short Reviews


These two books offer fascinating insights into the survival, reuse and influence of Roman antiquities in the post-Roman and medieval eras. Greenhalgh seeks to give an exhaustive overview of the various modes of survival of Roman structures and works of art
throughout much of the former Roman world, with particular emphasis on Italy and the West, while Maccabruni's slim volume provides a neat one-city viewpoint, namely that of Pavia in central north Italy, a city which rose to national prominence in the 6th to 9th centuries. Despite the different aims, the two volumes complement each other's conclusions and certainly provide scope for more closely defined problem-oriented studies.

Greenhalgh proffers an at times overwhelming survey of all aspects of 'survival', citing a mountain of examples of objects ranging from granaries and palaces (pp. 160-82), down to mosaics and inscriptions (pp. 160-82), to relics and tombs (pp. 183 ff.). He directly ties in the fate of Roman objects to the variable effects of depopulation and concomitant urban decline in the early Middle Ages and of population increase and economic growth in the late Middle Ages. He states as his hypothesis: 'For sites which have continuous or near continuous occupation from antique times onward, a connection might exist between population levels, prosperity, and the discovery and perhaps appreciation of antiquities' (p. 62). Unfortunately, Greenhalgh largely avoids assessing the medieval concept of antiquity and its artefacts, and in his extensive listing of examples only occasionally offers a full consideration of the whys and wherefores of survival or reuse (e.g. for Pavia's four gate-statues: pp. 79-81; for Pisa cathedral's visible mass of spolia: pp. 74-77). A result of this is that the text often stumbles along packed with detail from extensive research (witness the enormous bibliography), but wavering all too frequently between long catalogues and intricate discussion of particular points. While his examples are widely drawn, real critical assessment of their value is lacking.

Among his case studies, Greenhalgh concisely discusses the town of Pavia, concluding that here at least Roman survival is superficial and illusory (pp. 78-81). Maccabruni's volume allows us to follow up his arguments in detail, and includes an attempt to analyse the mentality behind instances of reuse or imitation. Through a chronological progression, we obtain a coherent understanding of the changing character of the town, witnessing for instance 6th-century Ostrogothic urban regeneration with palaces, baths, theatres and granaries all attested (pp. 7-26), though interestingly with restorations to the amphitheatres by King Athalaric recorded on the back of a sarcophagus fragment. For the Longobard period spolia such as columns and capitals came to be functionally reused, notably within churches, although there are hints that forms and designs rubbed off on contemporary craftsmen (pp. 27-36). More striking, however, is the emergence or revamping in the 11th and 13th centuries of elements such as the Regiole, a Roman gilded equestrian statue probably brought to Pavia under Theoderic the Great, and the Torre di Bocchio, a circuit tower adorned with large clay figures or telamoni, as symbols of Pavia's royal and ancient past (pp. 11-20, 41-46).

A failing of the Maccabruni book is the lack of a map of the city on which to locate the churches and other sites mentioned; the photographs, however, do allow for a reasonable visual guide to the range of antiquities involved in the city's medieval regeneration, in strong contrast to the dry text of Greenhalgh. Pavia certainly makes for a tidy case-study, although Maccabruni keenly admits that the urban decay and clearance activities suffered by the city in the late Roman period, previous to Ostrogothic renewal, drastically diminished the range of antiquities available for preservation and reuse.

NEIL CHRISTIE


This attractive and well-produced little book contains the text of six lectures delivered in Edinburgh by the Czech author. He had the daunting task of making comprehensible to a wide audience, including professional archaeologists, a body of complex material rendered
more controversial by generations of hostility among the many countries involved. Given the severely limited space available, the presentation could only be a highly selective introduction to aspects of eastern European archaeology from the 6th to the 13th centuries AD. In this sense the contents and related bibliography are more limited than the main title might lead the reader to expect. The author devotes one chapter to a general introduction and to Slav history; one to a survey of their settlements; two to regional studies of settlements in Bohemia and Moravia, concentrating on fortified settlements and open rural sites; one to the settlement complex at Roztoky near Prague, excavated by himself; and one to conclusions. This treatment allows the reader to sense the hierarchical structure of the evidence, and to appreciate both the theoretical basis and interpretative framework adopted by researchers. The text-aided nature of the period in some areas allows the functional inter-relationships of settlement patterns to be interpreted in the light of political development. Brief observations with the latest data introduce such fascinating subjects as the interface between Germanic tribes and the Slav newcomers, or the political significance of the appearance on sites of early churches. A particular, long-lived form of Slav settlement, the hill fort, is discussed with its various forms and functions, although the use of the English term ‘castle’ as a synonym in some places seems to be an over-simplification, if intriguing in its implications. Wisely the author avoids getting bogged down in controversial topics like Slav ethnogenesis or causative factors in the rise and fall of Great Moravia. Evidence is presented to illuminate major phenomena, for example, the rise of central authority and of urbanization. What emerges clearly is the general parallel between social, economic and political developments in some Slav territory with those in parts of the West. It is only the artificially divisive effect of modern politics and language barriers that make us feel any surprise at this. The data provide a fascinating example of an approach to problems of much wider application, in an area presently undergoing great political change and intellectual re-alignment. The lecture organizers and the University Press are to be congratulated for making accessible this insight into research of major significance, and the author for his skill in presenting it. It seems a pity that the volume was issued only in hardback when a less expensive paperback might have had wider circulation.

DAFYDD KIDD


This volume is an introduction to the early Christian collection in the National Museum of Wales and the text is also designed to provide a background to early medieval Wales. The inscribed stones in the museum form the core of the book, which therefore spans the period from the 5th to the 12th century AD. The book is printed on high quality paper and is lavishly illustrated with well-produced drawings and photographs, many in colour. The acknowledgements describe it as ‘a picture book’, published to coincide with an exhibition in the museum, but it is more than this suggests.

A short historical introduction is followed by thematic chapters, each with a short but informative text to complement the illustrative material. Thus a page about settlement in general is followed by a more detailed look at the royal residences at Dinas Powys and Llangorse. As one would expect, given the personal involvement of the writer in the project, the Llangorse crannog is particularly well covered and discusses both early documentary references to the site, which point to its importance to the ruling house of Brycheiniog, and early investigations and observations before the recent survey and excavations are discussed. The aerial view of the crannog whilst under excavation and the reconstruction drawing by T. Daly are particularly helpful in understanding the nature of the site.
In the chapter on kings, warriors and heroes, the nature of early medieval society in Wales is discussed and this is followed by a chapter on later Celtic crafts which deals mainly, as it must, with the metalwork.

The main topic of the inscribed stones is then approached, first through a discussion of the early church, its saints and burial practices, and then a review of the major scholars who have added to our understanding of the inscribed stones, from Edward Llloyd in the 17th century to the Nash-Williams corpus, published in 1950, which remains the key reference today. There is then an extended discussion of the development of the early stones themselves, the caption to each illustration including a transcript and translation of the inscription together with the Nash-Williams corpus number, allowing those who wish for more information to find it easily. Distribution maps and a discussion of the development of the art styles hold the interest of the reader and prevent this section from being a catalogue.

The last two chapters deal with trade and contacts and sacred treasures which show Wales to have been in touch with the wider world throughout the period. The final pages are devoted to a list of the stones and casts of stones in the National Museum, a list of other collections in Wales and where appropriate a much-appreciated National Grid Reference. A brief selection of further reading and a glossary of terms complete the book.

A minor criticism is that the reader would have been helped by cross-references between the illustrative material and the text. However this is a small irritation in a most attractive and informative book which links archaeological material and documentary evidence without becoming lost in the intricacies and uncertainties of either. The delicate balance between swamping the general reader with minutiae and being too simplistic has been maintained throughout.

MARGARET WORTHINGTON


The occasion of Ralegh Radford's 90th birthday has been the opportunity for drawing together a collection of essays more narrowly focused than that for his 80th on the early Church in western Britain and Ireland: here the subject is specifically Glastonbury Abbey, with which Radford had been connected since 1925. The volume is divided into three sections on 'buildings and archaeological surveys', 'manuscripts and texts' and 'interpretations': but an important feature is the way themes recur between these sections and illuminate one another.

From the early stages of the monastery, Rahtz presents a reassessment of the transition from paganism to Christianity in N. Somerset and of the character of the settlement on Glastonbury Tor. The latter is now to be seen as a 6th-century monastic site (one of the earliest excavated in W. Britain) and as the predecessor of the abbey on the lower ground to the W. The latter has produced no clear archaeological evidence earlier than the 8th century, and this may be correlated with Foot's view that the legend of a pre-Anglo-Saxon religious foundation on the site may be dismissed, although she does believe that the abbey had been founded before the reign of King Ine. For the reign of Ine, Abrams presents the evidence regarding Sawyer no. 248 as a careful facsimile of an authentic royal diploma of 705/06, which is thus the earliest West Saxon charter whose physical appearance can be known.

Abrams goes on to argue that difficulties in identifying the land conveyed in 705/06 within the landholdings of the late Anglo-Saxon abbey are indicative of a discontinuity, and suggest a changing rather than a static landscape. This is complemented by Costen's picture of the late Anglo-Saxon abbey participating in a process of estate division and lettings to tenants, leading to a change in agricultural systems. Discontinuity is again suggested in Foot's presentation of the supposed list of abbots composed in the 10th century, which does
not set out an accurately presented list of the early abbots' names or chronology. One aspect of the late Anglo-Saxon abbey's wider connections is indicated by Carley and Dooley, who present fragments of a 7th-century Irish manuscript of Isidore's *Etymologiae*, which may reflect the role of 10th-century Glastonbury as a destination for Irish pilgrims.

In the early post-Conquest period the focus of interest inevitably shifts towards the creation of the Glastonbury legends. Sharpe discusses the Glastonbury claim to the relics of St Dunstan, and Wood examines the context for the *inventio* of Arthur and Guinevere, while Crick analyses the contents of the 13th-century Trinity College MS. R.5.33 (724) which formed a compendium of earlier 'historical' material. All point to the creation of the Glastonbury legends in the service of validating the status and interests of the monastery, rather than in the service of antiquarian fancy.

For the more material side of the late medieval abbey, Bond and Weller present a preliminary study of the house's four surviving Somerset barns and attempt to link them with the historical evidence and the economy of the estates. Dunning re-assesses the so-called 'Tribunal' in Glastonbury and shows that this is in fact a domestic residence. Orme explains the role of the abbey in education.

Taken together this is a useful collection of essays (containing several besides those mentioned here) presenting some of the fruits of recent scholarship on the theme of Glastonbury. It is to be hoped that one day it will be joined by a series of full reports on the archaeology of the abbey site itself, so that we may have a more complete picture not just of the context but of the central focus of this great religious establishment.

RICHARD GEM

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There is as much advantage for archaeologists to be able to map the Anglo-Saxon landscape as there is for historians. To make the most of what we can learn by excavating a medieval rural site requires us to know about its topographical context. The site will rarely, if ever, have existed in a completely unmanaged landscape, and so knowing about the size and extent of the land-unit in which it lay, and about the fabric of the contemporary human landscape, will significantly inform our assessment of the conditions of life of the local population. And so an invaluable source for mapping the Anglo-Saxon landscape is the topographical information given in charters, in particular the detailed statement of an estate's boundary which they often contain. The landmarks which signal its course offer a guide not only to the extent of an estate (which is usually found to have corresponded to all, or to a definable part, of an ecclesiastical parish as mapped in the early 19th century), but also to the changing topography of settlement and land-use which the boundary encounters.

Arguably the best collection of boundary clauses is for estates in the medieval diocese of Worcester: in respect of both quantity and quality they form a corpus of outstanding importance to Anglo-Saxon landscape studies. From among them all Hooke has selected those for Worcestershire (though, idiosyncratically, for a version of it which has had no actual existence), and has brought to bear the linguistic skills, historical research, and intimate knowledge of the countryside which characterize all her published work. The result is a useful compilation of the topographical evidence from 233 charters, leases and unattached boundary clauses, arranged by century and with a helpfully consistent format.

However, by far the most important element of this book is its presentation of Hooke's suggested solutions of over 90 boundary clauses, each accompanied by an admirably clear, uncluttered, map. They are, as she modestly points out, to be seen as no more than interim attempts to solve the clauses — ones, moreover, which can now be tested on the ground by fieldworkers stimulated by evidence which this book makes widely accessible for the first
time. To aid such testing Hooke distinguishes between landmarks which can be precisely located and those which cannot.

The book is, then, first and foremost a research tool. It is for taking into the field and annotating, not for curling up with in an armchair. Dr Hooke and her publisher are to be congratulated for making so much data available: without such handbook guides to the Anglo-Saxon countryside we should make far slower progress in understanding the people who inhabited it.

S. R. BASSETT


Reading this offprint from the American Philosophical Society gives one the distinct feeling of reading a summary of something else, which is in fact exactly what one is doing. This is a summary of Klingelhöfer's Ph.D. and is closely allied to his Manor, Vill, and Hundred: The Development of Rural Institutions in Early Medieval Hampshire (see below, publications also received).

As summaries go (of Klingelhöfer's dissertation, which was researched and largely completed in the late 70s and early 80s), this one is a little long, but it does provide a useful and lucid account of what Anglo-Saxon landscape studies achieved in the period 1971–85. As the author admits in his preface, there has been an awful lot produced since 1986, none of which is taken into account in this write-up. There are, for instance, plenty of references to Chalton, but none to Cowdery's Down, a site whose proximity to the study area makes its omission fairly marked.

In this offprint (really an extended article), the author has clearly one eye on his American audience and is therefore more fulsome in providing background and explanations than would normally be the case. The effect of this is to lengthen what is essentially a short and valuable case study of the development of a 12,200-acre manor centred ten miles N. of Winchester into a long and well-footnoted treatise on the geographical approach. Those factors have combined to produce a piece of work that is perhaps most valuable to an undergraduate looking for a mid 1980s synthesis of topographic analysis, place-names, agrarian history and archaeology.

This, however, was not one of Klingelhöfer's goals, which he lists in his introduction as: (1) to establish field systems and other physical features of the medieval landscape of Micheldever Hundred, from documentary references, place names, and archaeological sources; (2) using these, to determine manorial boundaries and other territorial divisions; (3) to correlate the spatial evidence with that for settlement date, size, and form; (4) to establish the change or continuity in the pattern of settlement and land use, and to compare them to the surrounding areas of Hampshire; and (5) to relate the observed forms and changes to the institutions of manor, village, and hundred and to the social, political, and economic circumstances that produced them. Perhaps inevitably, he is successful in some of these and less so in others. His discussion, for instance, of the development of fields and settlements is well done, but the territorial divisions are not adequately covered and are perhaps hampered by a lack of reference to recent work, such as Barbara Yorke's studies on the political development of Winchester and Wessex. Furthermore, some fundamental issues are not really addressed, such as when and why did Micheldever Hundred become a discrete entity and how typical/atypical is it in its development?

One issue which Klingelhöfer bravely attempts to address is the vexed question of the impact of towns on the countryside. While not setting out to produce an integrated urban/hinterland study, he does nevertheless acknowledge that 'agriculture in the north
Hampshire villages of the Micheldever Hundred was probably affected by late Saxon urban growth', a statement that raises more questions than it answers.

Finally, two minor points: there are a number of spelling errors amongst the names of well-known authors in the footnotes and the illustrations are basic computer-generated maps, which are sometimes difficult to make out.

The work concludes with two appendices, one setting out references from manorial documents, the other on Domesday figures for the Micheldever area.

MARK BRISBANE


This is the publication of the 25 papers given at the third NESAT symposium, held in York in 1987, and is most appropriately dedicated to Elisabeth Crowfoot; those of us who have worked with her appreciate her marvellous precision in the analysis of such potentially intractable fragments. The majority of papers are directly concerned with medieval subjects, and the others, ranging from mesolithic to 17th-century textiles, are relevant for their methodological approaches and accounts of conservation methods, as well as contemporary ethnographic parallels. Topics range from dress and fashion to production techniques. More questions are perhaps raised than answered, an inevitable result of the fragility, sporadic distribution and random survival of early textiles in northern sites; but there is a sense that new approaches are being constantly formulated. The non-specialist can certainly benefit from these short and well-explained studies.

Taylor looks at the use of red and purple dyes in the pre-Conquest period, confirming the Anglo-Saxon liking for strong colours and providing evidence for an early Irish dye-producing site. Crowfoot elucidates the contents of Anglo-Saxon 'work-boxes', which are more likely to be preserving precious relics than useful darning thread. Through the Coppergate textile fragments, Walton demonstrates Anglian continuity and Continental imports rather than any strongly Scandinavian influence, and Heckett also looks at the strength of Irish fashions in Viking Dublin. Other studies consider various aspects of Scandinavian dress. Silk imports are seen to confer status from Viking times onwards, and Pritchard shows how in 14th-century London, they were imitated by other patterned cloths or used with the maximum economy.

There is slight inconsistency in the fact that five of the articles are in German, with no English summary, while only one English article has a German summary. The explanatory drawings are clear and helpful, as are the photographs. The front and back covers show in full colour the front and unrecognizably different reverse view of the modern reconstruction of one of the Maaseik embroideries. Stevens, its creator, analyses the original and stresses again the deliberately economical though artistic use of the precious gold thread: medieval craftspeople were also clearly capable of working to a budget.

CAROLA HICKS


The Viking Society decided to give over its Saga-Book for 1989 to Neil Price's monograph on Brittany, and also to have it published separately. This was a bold step to ensure a
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welcome widening of market for a useful essay. For Price has performed a service to European historians as well as to those interested in the North by bringing together historical and archaeological evidence and so presenting an intelligible picture of Brittany c. 800–1100 in line with the available state of the evidence.

Medieval archaeologists will naturally give most attention to his third chapter, on fortifications, place-names, burials and weapons, with supplementary comment on monasteries, rural settlements and commerce and a sideways glance to Normandy and Frankish finds in Scandinavia. The first impression is how tenuous is the evidence. Without the ship burial on the Ile de Groix and the Camp de Péran there is not much to go on. But the potential is there, illustrated, for example, in the almost throwaway line (pp. 63–64) concerning the vast number of mottes in Finistère alone, most of which are thought to have a 9th- or 10th-century origin. And Price gives a sensible historical context into which the bits and pieces appear to be fitting: pirate raids with Alain the Great playing a role parallel to Alfred’s in Wessex at the end of the 9th century; Viking conquest (907–39), followed by Breton recovery in increasing though vacillating dependence on Normandy. The key statements that will interest British historians relate to the confirmation that a critical moment in Viking endeavour came in the decade 856–66, that the ‘Great Army’ had a coherent command structure, that the Conquest (907–39) has left no obvious evidence of settlement, and that later Viking activity is intimately linked to the history of Normandy. The overall result in Brittany itself is best described as catalytic, quite like the situation in Wales, both parallel to and in contrast with that in Ireland. The Bretons grew into an identifiable political community thanks partly to the actions of Scandinavian peoples who did not settle. Certainly Bretons preserved their identity strongly in England after 1066, a phenomenon better understood as modern scholars lumber round Wallingford as well as Richmond and Totnes.

Special strength comes to Price’s work from his constant concern with British parallels. Sharp contrast is made with Viking settlement in York, and indeed with Dublin, too, based on the apparent lack of a sustained commercial background in Brittany. His plea for more excavation in Nantes, ‘the heart of Scandinavian Brittany’ (my italics), could be read in this context as a canny insurance policy against archaeological finds that could dislocate his thesis: one Winetavern Street at Nantes might yet make all the Celtic world kin! The historical section is worthy, inevitably a shade pedestrian given the author’s proper concern to make clear his sources of evidence for the narrative story. The bibliography and critical references (often embedded in the text) are helpful. With Wendy Davies’s work on the nature and shape of settlement in the background there is no excuse now for not knowing better Brittany in the Viking Age.

H. R. LOYN


This, the seventh volume to appear in the Old Oslo report series contains studies of 11th- to early 17th-century, but mainly medieval, artefacts from the excavation (cf. the review in Medieval Archaeology 35 (1991), 271–72). The work is accessible to English language readers through brief summaries and translations of the figure captions.

An initial group of contributions is devoted to reports on textiles, spindle whorls and loom-weights. The 1,570 textile fragments are mostly of woollen pieces of 12th- and 13th-century date, and of small size, leaving little scope to reconstruct garments. The discussion concentrates on techniques of manufacture (although dye analysis has not been undertaken), and includes some comment on the textile making implements reported in volume 7. This is a significant addition to the history of medieval textile production in NW. Europe.
The technological aspects of textile production are further examined in Rui's study of loom-weights and Molaug's of spindle whorls. In addition to presenting typological assessments, the relatively clear understanding of the chronology and settlement pattern within the excavated areas allows both authors to investigate the distribution patterns of their material through time and space. A variety of factors influencing interpretation is discussed, including changing patterns of refuse disposal, fluctuations in the number of inhabitants, changes in building type and advances in technology.

The book's second major component is Fuglesang's study of ornament which, like her accompanying short essay on the iconography of a decorated stylus, is presented in English. Excluding 'the separate and specialised traditions of decoration used in bone carving, shoe making and pottery production', she analyses the motifs employed on 65 decorated objects, mostly wooden, and of non-professional origin. Individual motifs are presented within 'family' headings and are discussed to see what they tell of the town's cultural ambience, and of the relationship of folk art to that fashionable in higher levels of society. The conclusions point to a marked change in the deployment of motifs in the second half of the 12th century, which Fuglesang sees as important evidence for the origins and affinities of folk art. This is a refreshing approach to an unusual survival group of wooden artefacts; there are useful comparisons and contrasts to be drawn from J. T. Lang's recent catalogue and interpretation of Viking Age Decorated Wood from Dublin. Another product of Fuglesang's study is further definition of the dating and relationship of the Urnes Romanesque and Romanesque phases of Norwegian art. Shorter studies encompass scabbards, leather draw-string purses, spoons and flint.

R. A. HALL


This is a large handsome book which should prove of great use to members of the society. Its stated aim is to be the successor to L. F. Salzman's classic *English Industries in the Middle Ages* (1913). Little has been published since on the comparatively under-studied aspect of industry in the Middle Ages although *Building in England down to 1540* by Salzman (1967) and the C.B.A. Research Report *Medieval Industry* edited by Crossley (1981) contain a great deal of interest and have become classics for many of the areas covered by this book. The approach is that of the materials used and the artefacts produced, as the subtitle reflects. It is very well done.

There are fifteen chapters each written by an acknowledged expert in the field. Thus Stone (David Parsons), Alabaster (Nigel Ramsey), Purbeck Marble (John Blair), Tin, Lead and Pewter (Ronald Homer), Copper Alloys (Claude Blair and John Blair), Gold, Silver and Precious Stones (Marian Campbell), Iron (Jane Geddes), Brick (Nicholas Moore), Vessel Glass (R. J. Charleston), Window Glass (Richard Marks), Textiles (Penelope Walton), Antler, Bone and Horn (Arthur Macgregor), Wood (Julian Munby) and Pottery and Tile, and Leather both by John Cherry. We are told that it was decided not to deal with fishing and brewing, and no doubt other omissions could be pointed out. There is a substantial introduction by Nigel Ramsey.

Each chapter has extensive footnotes at the bottom of the page with bibliographical details, and a useful section on further reading at the end. This latter feature is especially useful as it provides both a history of research into the topic under discussion in the chapter and useful references which the reader can follow up beyond this book. There are nearly 200 black and white figures and plates and four colour plates; the contributors, editors and publishers deserve praise for the number, the quality of reproduction and the wide variety of these illustrations at a time when book illustrations generally seem to be getting either fewer
or poorer in quality. There is a good bibliography at the end and the index is wide ranging; almost every item this reviewer thought of at random was in there.

Each chapter discusses fully the archaeological and historical evidence, relating the documentary sources to the technology, equipment required and items produced, craftsmen, changes through time and excavated evidence. As such the book will be of use to social and economic historians, archaeologists — both out on site faced with explaining what they have dug up, and in museums where comparative objects may already be deposited — and by art and craft historians who will be interested in the design aspects covered. The craft techniques described are as relevant today as in medieval times and would certainly be useful for experimental archaeologists. This aspect, together with the objects illustrated, certainly help to clarify the processes involved and the sort of finds which can be expected from each industry. A mass of terms and items, often in italics, will help when they are encountered in documents. Although there is no glossary of these italicized words and most are not listed in the index, both of which would have been useful, it is not difficult to locate them in the text. The range is comprehensive with, for example, cannons being discussed under copper alloys and side issues such as clocks also referred to. An enormous range of craftsmen and their surnames are listed, some quaint as well as informative; this reviewer was taken with the Lorimers, Forcennakers, Traventes, Quernpeckers, Wimplers, Sheathers, Mazers, Selers, Spanglers and Pinners!

There are few negative aspects to what is a very comprehensive volume. Little of the field evidence is mentioned except incidentally and there is not much about excavation, with few plans and sections. Coins are too big a topic for such a book and it would be as well for readers to follow up the references given. Likewise the study of medieval pottery is now a vast field and is only covered in a very generalized way here. It was probably wise not to include brewing and fishing without other aspects of food processing and food procurement; these are arguably not industries anyway. But perhaps rope making should have been included in textiles, and vellum/parchment under the animal products. It might have been useful to have more than one chapter on wood, surely the most important industrial raw material in earlier times.

It is debatable whether this book will succeed Salzman’s of 1913 or replace those mentioned at the beginning of this review and others cited in the text of the book itself. Nevertheless there is a wealth of new and useful information here. Rather, this book will stand alongside the others and be ‘quarried’ as the others are, by scholars dealing with wider and more general matters. The mass of new material, full references and detailed bibliography should prove of lasting value. We shall be, as in 1403 (p. 185) ‘sufficiently learned’.

MICK ASTON

The Origins of Lancashire. By Denise Kenyon. 14 × 22 cm. xii + 202 pp., 42 figs. and pls.
The Origins of Somerset. By Michael Costen. 14 × 22 cm. xvi + 202 pp. 48 figs. and pls.

The preface by the General Editor (Nick Higham) introducing these volumes states that this new series ‘sets out to explore the origins of each shire in the Early Middle Ages’, combining documentary, place-name and archaeological information ‘to present a stimulating picture of the territorial history of the English shires, and the parishes, estates and hundreds of which they were formed’. On the basis of these initial contributions, a rather heterogeneous group of works may be anticipated in the future.

Both authors contribute lengthy introductory sections. Kenyon provides a useful chapter on ‘environment and land use’, followed by solid chapters on the first millennium B.C. and the Roman period. Costen commences with chapters on ‘the earliest farmers’ and ‘the Romans’. Regardless of the perceived relevance of the first of these to the general theme,
any attempt to synthesize successfully several thousand years of Somerset’s prehistory in a few pages is a far from easy task and one not achieved here. This section, too, would have benefited from much tighter editing.

Subsequent chapters take the story of Somerset through to after the Norman Conquest. Drawing on extensive recent research, much of it his own, Costen describes the secular and ecclesiastical development of the region. Interesting as this is, there are places, particularly in the sections on agriculture and late Saxon towns and churches where the stated purpose of the work seems to have been temporarily forgotten. Estate formation and administration are considered in some detail, but the emergence of the shire is hardly addressed, its boundaries are not discussed and parishes, too, are overlooked.

Territorial organization and administrative history are more central to Kenyon’s *Lancashire*. Successive influences — British, Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian and Norman — are described, together with the development of the various units of local administration including the shire. As a result the archaeology of the area appears in a subsidiary role, with the emphasis on the written record and particularly on place-name evidence. Indeed, for the archaeologist, one of the more valuable aspects of both books is perhaps the demonstration of the value of modern philological analysis in elucidating settlement patterns.

These works thus offer contrasting approaches to the study of the early medieval period in two rather different parts of England. In a sense the contrast is presaged by the aerial photographs used as cover illustrations. To any reader with both books at hand this comment will not require further clarification.

BOB SILVESTER

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Hanbury, to the east of Droitwich in Worcestershire, is the real-life original of Ambridge, home of the Archers and their ‘everyday story of countryfolk’. More recently it has been the subject of a substantial research programme. Having produced a valuable monograph on the whole estate of the medieval bishops of Worcester (*Lords and Peasants in a Changing Society*: C.U.P., 1980), Professor Dyer wanted to explore in greater depth the landscape history of one of their manors. Hanbury was chosen for its size, its good surviving records, its accessibility to archaeology and the interest of its dispersed settlement, set partly in a woodland context. An added bonus was the enthusiasm of three successive extra-mural classes, which compiled a card index of the names of fields and other local features; other students investigated ridge and furrow and the earthworks of house-sites, and a large-scale programme of field walking was carried out. Dyer is to be congratulated on having directed all this effort so successfully; he has drawn on it to excellent effect as a part of his own perceptive study of the parish’s landscape and settlement history, of which this small book presents the essence.

Hanbury is a large parish, covering some twelve square miles. It is only in the last two centuries that a nucleated settlement has grown up within it. As far as can be discovered, earlier settlement was always in dispersed houses. Continuity, however, there was not. Topography gave the parish a single focus, Church Hill, that was the site of an Iron Age hill fort, possibly of a Romano-British religious centre, probably of an Anglo-Saxon minster church and certainly of the medieval parish church. It seems, however, never to have been a focus for settlement. Before the Roman period there is no evidence of settlement pattern, though widespread finds of worked flints throughout the parish point to early activity and Dyer suggests (reasonably, but from limited evidence) that ‘Hanbury supported a considerable Iron Age population’. Iron Age sherds do not survive in the local soil, but field walking
produced Roman-period sherds throughout the parish; it probably contained a good deal more cleared arable than in the early Middle Ages and supported a substantial dispersed population. Three likely Romano-British farmsteads have been located and there is no sign of continuity with medieval occupation. Indeed, medieval Hanbury seems to have started from new bases: much land must have gone out of cultivation and by 1086 only two areas, about a third of the whole parish, were used as arable. Settlement, on the other hand, was scattered in to broad zones of uncleared land. In the 12th and 13th centuries a great deal more land was cleared and cultivated, though there remained an uncleared belt containing a park and other woodlands. Settlement too seems to have expanded. High-grade sites — the manor house and other superior dwellings — tended to lie around the edges of the arable areas, while lesser houses lay along a network of roads throughout the cultivated parts of the parish, grouped, but not concentrated, in ‘ends’ and ‘greens’. From the early 14th century onwards settlement contracted: some 80 messuages are known to have been abandoned by 1331–32, another 40 since then, and plans are given of the earthworks surviving from two upper-class and two peasant sites. In the light of this contraction Dyer describes Hanbury in the 12th and 13th centuries as ‘in its prime’ — à la Miss Jean Brodie, not the monastic offices. One wonders whether the Archers would agree.

But unquestionably Dyer has given us a most important study. We still know all too little about the history and archaeology of dispersed settlements, though it is now clear that living in them was the everyday story of more medieval countryfolk than used to be supposed. In many ways Hanbury, with its ends and greens set in a mixture of arable and woodland, is reminiscent of Dr David Roden’s account of settlements in the medieval Chichlens. It will be interesting to know if this reflects a standard pattern of settlement and development in areas of this sort. To discover this will not be easy: the history of dispersed settlements is harder to follow from written sources than the history of nucleated villages, and in their archaeology the difficulties are even greater. But this work on Hanbury is a significant step along the way.

P. D. A. HARVEY


The Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum has an important collection of medieval artefacts. The original core came from finds made in Salisbury during the laying of the sewers between 1852 and 1854, when the original system of open drainage was replaced. These are significant as they will generally post-date 1220 when the new town was laid out. Numerous casual finds were made in the city and surrounding region in the subsequent 140 years. Material from the important excavations at Old Sarum, Clarendon Palace and the deserted medieval village of Gomeldon is also included. More recently a very large number of pilgrim badges was found in the bed of the River Avon and the Millstream by metal detector enthusiasts, and many of these are also in the collections.

These are the first two of a projected three-volume catalogue of the medieval collections. The project has taken the London Museum Catalogue as its model, and groups material by class with a summary but authoritative account of each object. All the objects are illustrated by fine archaeological line drawings, but very few photographs. The first volume covers harness pendants, seal matrices, rings (including those stolen from the museum in 1979), steeleyard weights, textiles, spurs, arms and armour, floor tiles, coins and domestic stonework, bringing together a distinguished group of contributors, who were allowed to organize their material as they wished. Thus Elizabeth Eames follows the format used in her British Museum
Catalogue of Medieval Lead-Glazed Earthenware Tiles, classifying tiles by design rather than by kiln group; indeed many of the tiles from Clarendon have already appeared in print. The section on spurs by Blanche Ellis is particularly useful with a detailed catalogue of 44 spurs, many previously unpublished.

The second volume, on pilgrim souvenirs, is more fun to read and contains a useful essay on the origins and meaning behind these interesting objects. That so many came to be found in Salisbury is a bit of a mystery, but it is possible that they were thrown into the River Avon whenever a pilgrim returned home as a votive offering. The use of such badges in folk magic is well documented on the continent where they were nailed to doors, above beds, used in building foundations and in bell founding. It this theory is correct, the badges from Salisbury give some indication of where the townsfolk of Salisbury went on their pilgrimages, although a small number of the badges are from the shrine of St Osmond in the city's own cathedral.

Most badges are 15th century and come from a triangular area bounded by Walsingham and Dover, a three-week journey there and back. Some ventured N. to Chester, but the most popular destination seems to have been the Thames Valley, as well as the shrine of Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. The overseas pilgrimage seems to have been popular with many locations represented, including St Hubert of Maastricht, the ever-popular St James of Compostella and Our Lady of Aachen; Rome was the furthest the Salisbury pilgrims ventured. These badges provide a graphic archaeological demonstration of medieval mobility across Europe which was generated by the 'pilgrimage industry'.

The badges themselves are little vignettes of iconography, symbolizing some facet of the saint's life or miracles; St Werburga is shown by a flock of geese, St Alban by a head suspended from a tree. The most obscure must be the badge from the cult of John Schorn, the vicar of North Marston, who was reputed to have conjured the devil into a boot; he is shown with the devil firmly trapped within a long-toed boot.

The publication of these two volumes must be warmly welcomed, both because they are so modestly priced and because they contain much useful information. Other museums with important medieval collections would do well to follow this lead and make their collection more widely known through publications.

MARK HORTON


This volume deals with the authors' excavations at the site of Thuxton in 1963 and 1964. First impressions of this volume are good: it is nicely presented and generously illustrated with figures and plates that are clear and, for the most part, informative. Yet, inevitably, there are difficulties in justifying the production of an expensive monograph based on modest excavations of 25 years ago.

The volume comprises fifteen sections, mostly written by the two principal authors. The introduction is followed by a short architectural report on the church. A brief introduction of the earthworks then precedes the account of the excavations and the various finds reports. The text concludes with three sections by Butler on the documentary evidence, a section on 'the parish and its fields' — one of the most interesting — and a discussion. It is surprising, given the complex nature of the site as a whole, that the historical section and 'the parish and its fields' were not placed after the introduction where their review of the possible morphological development of the settlement(s) would have provided a thought-provoking backdrop for the study of the earthworks remains and excavated areas.

The main body of earthworks reveals a substantial linear settlement, arguably divided into two sections, each with a moated site to its north-east. The church, whose structure dates back to the 12th century, lies in a more isolated position some distance away to the SW.,
again with a moated site in close proximity. This morphological complexity is compounded by the historical evidence for there having been two separate, though probably closely related, settlements in the early medieval period, Thuxton and Thurstaston, which, after 1300, were known by the single name of Thuxton.

The finds reports are mundane and essentially typological in their treatment. Such reports are easy to write and probably suit the specialist, but surely the finds would have been more interesting to the general reader if they had been related more closely to the different parts of the yards or buildings from which they were derived?

An inherent difficulty in all work on village sites is that, whatever the size of any excavations, they usually sample such a small proportion of the site that it makes it difficult to use the results to determine the overall development of the settlement. Indeed, the excavations at Thuxton throw very little light on the way that the settlement developed. In such circumstances reliance is placed on plans or photographs of the whole village earthworks. The 1946 RAF vertical picture of Thuxton is excellent and well deserves the double fold-out treatment it gets in this volume. Frequent mention is made of pottery field-walked areas of disturbed earthworks away from the excavations. Such pottery, if carefully collected and sorted, can provide a wider perspective to the understanding of the whole site. It seems a pity that such material was not separately reported and used to this effect.

Overall one is left with a sense of disappointment from this volume which, at first sight, promised so much. It reads as an attempt to salvage a report from a 'backlog' of excavation, and despite its highly professional production, one can't help but wonder if it really merited monograph treatment, especially given the high price of the volume, and whether it would not instead have been better suited to the local county journal.

COLIN HAYFIELD


Since 1987 Cambridge University Press has made important contributions to the ever-growing literature on the medieval castle. First they produced Thompson's companion volume to the one under review here (The Decline of the Castle, reviewed in vol. 33 of this journal), and in 1989 came Allen Brown's Castles from the Air. Now we have these two very different volumes, with the possibility of a volume on castles in Wales in the future.

Pounds has written one of the most important contributions to castle studies for a number of years, and he has been fortunate to have good resources to draw on in America, where most of the library work was undertaken. Readers expecting an architectural account of the development of the castle will be disappointed unless they have noted the subtitle 'a social and political history'. This aspect has not been treated in such depth before, and Pounds divides his work into three parts, covering the Norman period, the 13th century and the castle in the later Middle Ages. The six chapters in part 2 are the strongest section, whilst part 3 is the weakest, particularly the chapter on the northern strongholds and towerhouses.

The wealth of historical, archaeological and architectural publications, together with frequent and invaluable references to the State papers such as the Close Rolls, has enabled Pounds to present a study of the castle which serves as a reminder that too often in the past these structures have been seen somewhat in isolation, simply as examples of medieval architecture. Chapter 4 on royal castles as centres of administration and chapter 9 on the castle and church, which has two sections on 'the castle chapel' for some unknown reason, are admirable surveys; the chapel in particular is just one aspect hitherto generally neglected which the author illuminates. Castleguard, on which little has been written recently, features
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in the second chapter, although unfortunately the author was unable to take account of Suppe’s paper on this subject regarding the castlery of Clun (Haskins Soc. J. 1 (1989), 123–34).

In his preface Thompson writes that his ‘first intention had been to write about the hall’, although later he decided that ‘the hall could best be treated as part of the earlier history of the castle’. I do not know whether C.U.P. put pressure on him to write The Rise, having produced The Decline, but I think that it is unfortunate that the book is not as originally envisaged. The introduction, on the rise and use of halls from the early Middle Ages, is followed by two interesting chapters on the halls and castles in Germany and France. The later chapters take us through the development of the castle in Britain, beginning with wooden castles. Nothing particularly new is said, but the sections which will prove of most value are those which discuss the domestic accommodation.

I would certainly take issue with Thompson over the statement that ‘the parent earthwork was the motte and bailey from which the ringwork was derived’ (p. 51). An examination of the early castles of Glamorgan, as well as a knowledge of the development of Carisbrooke on the Isle of Wight, would indicate that one should make such statements with care. The chapter titled ‘Stone Towers’ has in the table on pp. 64–65, a wealth of details on keeps, such as the number of storeys, whether there are chapels, wells, etc. in each building; extremely useful for quick reference. However, it is unfortunate that another word has entered castle terminology, ‘solar-keep’. The main tower at Kenfig performed the same function as its equivalent at Rochester, irrespective of size; castle studies are not well served by this additional term, but then this reviewer dislikes using ‘hall-keep’ and ‘tower-keep’ in any description.

Greater familiarity by Pounds and Thompson with the guidebooks produced by Cadw would have avoided the error that Bigod built two halls in the lower bailey at Chepstow. Jeremy Knight has shown, and documents support this, that what was originally referred to as the lower hall was the kitchen serving the new hall. There are also a number of minor but annoying errors in Pounds’ book, and even making allowances for relying on an American library to provide him with his sources, reference should have been made to Beresford’s Goltho report (1987); post-1987 publications do appear in the notes at the end. The sentence ‘This was a lawless age’, which appears more than once, is one that I hope any history student would avoid in an essay!

Both these books should be on the shelves of all serious students of the castle; however, it is The Medieval Castle that is the more noteworthy of the two.

JOHN R. KENYON


Castles have been the subject of some interesting books in recent years, and Tom McNeill’s is a welcome addition to a series of studies which, according to the publisher, aims to ‘bring the past to life, by interpreting the great historic monuments in which Britain is so rich’. What this particular author sets out to do is explain and illustrate the range of functions which medieval castles fulfilled in such a way that the visitor to a castle can make sense of the visible remains. This emphasis on above-ground analysis means the book is essentially about stone castles with upstanding buildings: the excavated dimension is deliberately played down and the Gazetteer lists mainly accessible sites with substantial stone remains.

To explore his subject, the author pursues six themes: lords and men; building castles; the inner household; the outer core; defending castles; visiting, describing and studying castles. This thematic approach avoids the ‘chronological development’ treatment and emphasizes castles as expressions of power and as places of domestic life, work, leisure, administration and defence. Although primarily British in coverage, comparanda from elsewhere are quoted from time to time. Like any book, it should be read and not dipped into,
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but each chapter is divided into fairly short sections which should assist the newcomer to the subject. Indeed, some of the sub-section headings reflect commonly posed questions such as ‘how many people lived in a castle?’ and ‘how much did a castle cost?’.

Although the concentration on standing remains is, given the stated purpose of the book, justifiable in one sense, it causes difficulties in others. This the author is aware of and, particularly in chapter 4 (‘The Outer Core’), extends his discussion to include, if only briefly, the implications of excavated animal bones and general landscape evidence. The brief dismissal (e.g. p. 40) of timber castles, which an experienced reader might interpret correctly in the context of the book, could mislead the uninitiated reader. Perhaps the author could have reminded the reader, from time to time, of his chosen bias? It is also true that many of the stone-built sites upon which the book concentrates started life as timber ones, a fact of which visitors to castles should be aware.

The illustrations are of a generally (sometimes very) high standard, though a few of the photographs suffer from being spread over facing pages. A mixture of air photos, general views, artists’ reconstructions, line drawings of buildings (plans, sectional drawings, architectural details), medieval manuscripts and the occasional map — these should succeed in conveying to the newcomer the variety and individuality of the subject matter. Several of the drawings have been produced specifically for this book, so that there is also something new for the more experienced reader.

There are minor points of criticism on presentation. For example, it would be helpful to know which king is referred to in the caption to fig. 2. A site in Devon is misspelled in fig. 11. It is not helpful to describe a 13th-century gatehouse at Dover as ‘early’ in fig. 49. On p. 51, 1069 should be 1169 and on p. 82 1168–69 should be 1068–69. Quibbles apart, however, this is a well-produced and useful book. It should attract the amateur enthusiast (who will also find the glossary and suggestions for further reading helpful), it will be helpful for students of all sorts (a paperback edition has the merit of being within their spending power), and it contains sufficient observations from the author’s own experience to be of interest to the professional reader. It is a worthwhile addition to the Batsford/English Heritage series whose success is well deserved.

R. A. HICHAM


Beverley is one of the most important towns of the historic East Riding of Yorkshire. In the late 14th century it was ranked eleventh in the country in terms of wealth. According to Bede, it was founded in the early 8th century by St John of Beverley, then Bishop of York, at a place named inderewudu (the wood of the people of Deira). Both this place name and the later Beverley (beaver lake) indicate the likely topography of the locality at that time and fit well with traditional views of the location of early monasteries. However, Beverley also lies along one of the few easily passable routes from the Chalk Wolds across the Hull valley and was in later times involved in the wool trade and the production of cloth. It would not therefore be surprising to find that economic motives were also a factor in the monastery’s location.

Until 1979 these few facts represented the only historical context for the foundation of the minster church of St John and of the subsequent growth of the town. In that year the Humberside Archaeological Unit started to excavate a large site, Lurk Lane, immediately S. of the minster. Although on the S. side of the minster whereas the town developed to the N., this site is about as central to the settlement as an urban archaeologist could reasonably hope to get. The excavation ran from 1979 to 1982 and produced a large collection of data including 2.5 m of stratigraphy dating from the mid Saxon to the late medieval periods, a large and important collection of pottery, and remarkable collections of coins and other finds.
The report is well-produced and traditionally arranged. The initial impression is that the monograph must be a full report of the excavation.

The results of the excavation are succinctly summarized by D. H. Evans on pp. 243–50 and by and large the published data supports the conclusions in a pleasing way. Pollen evidence suggests that the site was wooded in the Bronze Age but two parallel gullies, interpreted as the remnants of a hedge, show that subsequently the site was cleared. Two large ditches, only partially excavated, are dated to the mid Saxon period on the basis of a C14 determination of 1290+-70BP (680–885 Cal. A.D.) from the earlier one. The lack of evidence for human activity suggests that the site was at that time on the periphery of the settlement. In the 9th century the second ditch was backfilled and replaced by a ditch of similar profile with evidence for revetted sides and a bank on its N. side. This is interpreted as part of the Halle monasterii. Subsequently, a cobbled path was laid behind the bank and a side path led from this path to a timber building whose S. edge lay within the excavated area. A hoard of stycas, deposited c. 851, was found in a shallow scoop in the bank. If this hoard is accepted as being in its primary position then it provides a terminus ante quem for the bank and ditch and by inference the paths and timber building.

It is only when one starts to use this report that deficiencies emerge. Most of these can be classed as editorial matters. It emerges that there is no consistency over the way in which phasing and contexts are referred to. In the glass report, for example, we are told of a scrap of mid Saxon glass from one of the earliest deposits on the site, an important piece of evidence for the early minster. However, to find any mention of the context from which it came one has to scour the report from end to end to eventually find a reference to a soil sample from which, presumably, the fragment was recovered during processing.

The animal bone report, given the expectations one now has for this type of data, is disappointing (partly due to the recovery methods used) while the graphs which accompany the report are positively misleading. Deposits were divided for analysis into two groups: ditches and other features. These are then arranged in chronological order within each group and histograms prepared placing the ditches first followed by the other deposits. Thus, as one follows the percentage of a trait from assemblage to assemblage one is led to believe that this is a chronological progression whereas in fact one is led through the sequence twice.

Nevertheless, it is possible to show that despite an increase in the frequency of sheep bones in the 12th and 13th centuries the age-at-death data indicate that from the beginning of the sequence sheep were kept mainly for wool.

Perhaps the greatest criticism as far as this reviewer is concerned is the choice of what information to relegate to microfiche. Much of the data on pottery was commendably presented in tables. Subsequently, it was decided to place all tables in microfiche. By contrast, all small finds appear to have been illustrated and are accompanied by individual catalogue entries, ripe for compression into a tabular format. The decision to place each figure on a separate page has led to a considerable waste of space.

All in all, the Lurk Lane excavation has shown the remarkable archaeological potential of Beverley whilst seemingly supporting the traditional view of the origin of the minster as a de novo foundation in a marginal locality. The results strongly support the case for further excavation in the town not only to study its origins, but also to study archaeologically the effect on Beverley’s fortunes of the foundation first of Hedon and then of Kingston-upon-Hull.

ALAN VINCE


Sandwell Priory was a minor Benedictine house with Cluniac affinities. This volume reports on excavations carried out by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council from 1982 to 1988 under the direction of the principal author.
The bulk of the volume naturally deals with the history of the monastery. It opens, however, with the important evidence for later mesolithic hunter-gatherer activity on the site, in the form of 870 flint artefacts. Hodder deals with other prehistoric and Roman material and discusses the overall prehistoric scenario. It has been suggested that Sandwell Priory was established in the corner of a pre-existing double-ditched rectangular enclosure; those ditches are indicated as ‘precinct boundaries’ on his figure 60. This occurs towards the end of the book, which is confusing.

Hodder’s description of the priory sequence is broken down into Periods 1, 2 and 3, dating respectively to 1150-1250, 1250-1450, and 1450-1524. Period 2 was the floruit of the priory. Two of the figures, fig. 9 and fig. 11, are badly off-register: this should have been corrected at proof stage. His description is workmanlike enough, but it is the specialist reports that give life to what would otherwise be a dull narrative. G. Egan of the Museum of London reports on the small finds. This reviewer would query his identification of the lead small find number 211 and object no. 4203 on fig. 33 as styli. They look more like masonry wedges.

Elisabeth Crowfoot contributes a characteristically stylish piece on textiles. As she shows, there is nothing to suggest that the Sandwell graves were ecclesiastical burials, but from the remains the occupants of the graves were clearly buried fully clothed, and were no doubt important local lay-persons, donors or benefactors connected with the priory. C. Thomas reports on ‘the leather shoes and leggings’. Six pairs of shoes and one pair of leggings were found in situ in graves.

The section on ‘graves and grave contents’ is of exceptional interest. The water-logged site yielded evidence of burials in coffins made by nailing planks together, or more simply with the body laid upon a plank or covered by a plank. Environmental remains from the graves have been analysed by Sandra Nye. Hay from damp meadows, straw and moss were used to line them. In one grave the head rested upon a pillow of moss, and the grave also contained a compacted mass of straw or hay, and herbs or flower remains probably contained in hay. Another had bushes, grasses and weeds of cultivation, and a third a mixture of species including sedges, grasses, buttercups and dock, indicative of damp grassland or wasteland. Hodder reports on 21 rounded wooden rods found in graves. Plate 6 illustrates a typical grave in the S. transept containing a full-length specimen. Rods accompanying burials have been found at Bordesley Abbey, Hulton Abbey, Barton-on-Humber, Worcester Cathedral and Glastonbury Abbey. No single convincing interpretation for this practice has yet been found. Hodder advances the hypothesis that the Sandwell rods could have been pilgrims’ staffs, but Sandwell was not a pilgrimage church. The Sandwell assemblage offers much scope for research into this enigmatic medieval burial practice.

HUMPHREY WOODS


Garden history, of course, remains something of a vogue subject, supported not only by an excellent journal, Garden History, but also by numerous key texts. Sir Roy Strong’s The Renaissance Garden in England (1978) is a personal favourite, and one of the clearest expositions of the garden as symbol and metaphor. For the Middle Ages the documentary and literary evidence is excellently presented in John Harvey’s Medieval Gardens (1981) and in Teresa McLean’s Medieval English Gardens (1981). More recently Christopher Dyer has done much to clarify the importance of the peasant garden in Standards of Living in the Middle Ages (1989).

What more, then, is there to learn about historic gardens, and what, specifically, can archaeology contribute? In this intermittently interesting volume, ranging wide in space and time, there are several good factual studies. Even to the non-specialist, however, too many
well-known sites and too much background material appear than is appropriate for a review of current research. Among the better papers two are of special interest for medievalists. One is Murphy and Scaife's admirably accessible review of the environmental archaeology of gardens. They are candid about the possible contribution that, in practice rather than theory, environmental studies may make; this study should be required reading for all those involved in the formulation of project designs for the archaeological investigation of gardens. The second study is Moorhouse's 'Ceramics in the Medieval Garden'. Despite the title, which would have struck a chord in the heart of that student of strangely neglected topics, 'Lucky' Jim Dixon, this is an important paper which contributes much both about the practicalities of medieval gardening and about its aesthetics.

We still have a great deal to learn about medieval gardens, as is shown not least by the tendency to refer to 'medieval gardens' as if they were a uniform whole, undifferentiated and undeveloping over several centuries. As yet few earthwork sites of medieval gardens have been recognized and surveyed, and an equally small number have seen excavation. That archaeology has a contribution to make to the identification of and investigation of individual sites is clear from the advances made in the study of Renaissance and later gardens over the last twenty years or so. Medieval gardens will be a harder nut to crack, not least because of the likely rarity of well-preserved sites. However, with luck and funding, a volume such as this produced a generation hence should have much more to say about the subject than the present one.

PAUL STAMPER


This book is the outcome of a conference on Cardinal Wolsey held at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, in 1988. In the extensive introduction, the editors review Wolsey's career as an example of a European phenomenon, the cardinal ministers who played an important role in the government of the monarchies of W. Europe from the mid 15th to the mid 16th centuries. The picture which emerges is of a man anxious to reorganize, rationalize, and above all control, but his reforms were in the context of the extant system rather than thoroughgoing reform of it — as they had to be since his authority derived from the king.

Of particular interest to readers of this journal will be studies of Wolsey's domestic building work by Simon Thurley (Chapter 2) and the collegiate foundations by John Newman (Chapter 3). It is clear that he shared with his monarch a passion for building, but in the planning of his houses he was rooted in the ideas of the previous generation. This has perhaps contributed to their almost total disappearance save for Hampton Court, which Henry VIII extensively remodelled after 1529. Whilst recent excavation and documentary research (not least by Thurley) has greatly clarified the major elements of the plans of many of the key buildings, tantalizingly little is known of the extent to which their decoration, especially of the interiors, was inspired by Renaissance rather than Gothic taste. P. G. Lindley (Chapter 10) discusses Wolsey's role in consolidating the influence of the Italian Renaissance in England, primarily through his tomb monument, of which a convincing reconstruction is offered. But the interiors of the buildings, decoration rather than high art, are considered essentially only en passant in the introduction, including a brief assessment of the authenticity of Wolsey's closet at Hampton Court (p. 47). Considering the domestic buildings separate from their decoration and fitting up is unsatisfactory, not least when this leads to a failure to make connections. At Southwell in 1530, no workmen could be found 'in this countrie' who could undertake 'casting of your galery with lyme and heyre, according as Mr Holgik, your surveyor lately wrote to me'. This does not sound like ordinary plastering, but something more elaborate, and is significantly earlier than the Storrington/Lacock style.
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stucco details recently excavated at Acton Court (c. 1537) and the reliefs of Nonsuch (1538 onwards).

Other contributions include Wolsey and stained glass (Chapter 4) by Hilary Wayment and Wolsey and the goldsmiths (Chapter 5) by Phillipa Glanville.

P. J. DRURY


This monograph deals principally with the pottery from 1–5 Aldwark, but includes other smaller sites in Aldwark and Shambles. It is designed to follow on from the first, 1978, fascicule on York’s medieval pottery by Jane Holdsworth. That volume selected a number of stratified pottery groups from various sites so as to illustrate the range of forms and fabrics present in the medieval city. This fascicule instead focuses on one of the several large pottery assemblages unearthed by the York Archaeological Trust in the 1970s. The monograph is well produced with a high standard of text, drawings and figures.

An opening section on methodology introduces the ‘seriograph’ as a means of illustrating the varying proportions of pottery fabrics present from each period and phase. The same section goes on to review the difficulties of quantifying pottery from such a large assemblage (opting in the end for a simple sherd count) and also, more importantly, highlights the difficulties of identifying residual material. Conservatively, the average residual element across the assemblage was 27 per cent, a salutary statistic for those who will report on the animal bone and smallfinds from the site! This is followed by a summary of the archaeology of the site showing, through site plans and description, a brief, and barely adequate, archaeological context for the various pottery bearing groups and contexts reported.

The major local fabric types are then reviewed with an update of current knowledge and cross-references to known kilns and type-sites. Like all type series there is the basic difficulty over a lack of standardized names for fabric types within even a single region. For example, what Brooks calls ‘Yorkshire Red Ware’ is elsewhere called by others ‘Beverley Ware’ or ‘orangeware’. Such lack of standardization is slowly being addressed, but still causes frustration to specialists and confusion to the general reader. The 274 illustrated pottery forms are carefully drawn and clearly presented and will interest the specialist. However, pottery reports can become too introspective, as if pottery was the only artefact material to be recovered from excavations. Surely all these groups would have been more meaningful if we could see, on the same page, not just their pottery forms but also the metalwork and other smallfinds that made up its total composition.

Jane Holdsworth’s short report on the pottery from 11–13 Parliament Street is tacked rather incongruously onto the end of this monograph, seemingly with minimal editorial attempt to relate its contents to the main body of the work.

Apology is made in the main report for the lack of any intrinsic or independent dating evidence for these pottery groups and the need to seek parallels from other dated assemblages in the region (of which there are precious few!). As a result the various ‘periods’ and ‘phases’ are very loosely dated and will provide little succour for future researchers looking into these pages to provide a chronology for their own undated assemblages. The various discussion sections also occasionally fall into the trap of assuming that the types and quantities of local and imported pottery from 1–5 Aldwark should be taken as typical of the city as a whole. Perhaps this assemblage does tell us a little more about the pottery of York, but only a little.

For this reviewer this fascicule spurred a growing realization as to just how tedious many pottery reports are becoming in their attempts at thoroughness, exactness and completeness (this reviewer holding himself no less guilty in his own pottery reports). Expansive reports
like this do little to attract the general reader, and when presented in a fascicule form that seems designed only for the convenience of publication, they seem inevitably destined for a limited and largely specialist market. Such criticism is really of the fascicule system and the general trend of medieval pottery studies rather than of Brooks, who has produced a careful and scholarly contribution to regional pottery studies.

COLIN HAYFIELD


The editor of this book is quite right to say that archaeologists can learn from the approach of the Annales school. The group of historians associated with the journal Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations (notable names are Bloch, Fevire, Braudel, Le Roy Ladurie and Le Goff) have developed a distinctive view of the past. They see change as taking place in three chronologies — the long term of centuries or millennia (the longue durée); medium-term trends and fluctuations (such as changes in population); and year-to-year events. They emphasize the enduring structures of societies, and are dissatisfied with the catalogues of events found in narratives and biographies. They explore mentalities — collective ideas, prejudices and attitudes, as well as social and economic life. In their pursuit of 'total history' no aspect of daily life and popular belief is too trivial to be beneath their notice. Their ideas are discussed by Bintliff in an introductory essay, but the remainder of the essays in this book, seeking to apply the methods of the Annales to archaeological case studies, are written by prehistorians and classical archaeologists, so readers of this journal will find only general indications of the relevance of the Annales approach to their period. This is unfortunate, because the Annales historians often write about the Middle Ages.

In practice a great deal of the school's thinking has already been absorbed by medieval archaeologists, because it has become part of the common historical culture. When we recognize the broad continuities of rural life from pre-history, we are using the concept of the longue durée; we are accepting the Annales distrust of 'events' when we minimize the importance of 410 or 1066; like Braudel we are more concerned with diet or technology than the deeds of great men. We are all Annales now. Perhaps we do not need to pay £35.00 for 127 pages (27.5 pence per page) to be told this.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

The following publications have also been received:


Basic C.B.A.-style bibliographic tool for Germany.


Grave News from Tintagel: An Illustrated Account of Archaeological Excavations at Tintagel Churchyard, Cornwall, 1991. By J. A. Nowakowski and C. Thomas. 21 × 29 cm. iii + 42 pp., 27 figs. and pls. Truro: Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 1992. Price: £5.00 post free from C.A.U., Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro TR1 3EX.


Baleeneros Vascos del siglo XVI: Estudio arqueologico y contexto historico (Chateau Bay, Labrador, Canada) (America Y Los Vascos 6). By Agustin Azkarate, Jose Antonio Hernandez and Julio Nunez. 21 × 31 cm. 261 pp., figs., pls. Vitoria-Gasteiz: Departamento de Cultura, Gobierno Vasco, 1992. ISBN 84-457-0132-0. Price not stated. A lavishly produced report published in Spanish of the work of a Basque archaeological expedition to Labrador which set out to study the Basque whaling industry of the late 16th
Results include the excavation not only of 16th-century processing sites but also those of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Finds include leather, wooden artefacts and pottery (locally produced Normandy stonewares and 18th-19th-century English wares).


Report on excavations at hill top stone castle of 11th and 12th centuries, set within triangular enclosure. Includes comparative discussion.