

NOTICES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE IRISH STONE AGE. ITS CHRONOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS. By HALLAM L. MOVIOUS, Jr. Pp. 339, text figs. 59, Pls. vii, tables 7. Cambridge University Press. 1942. Price 30s.

This is a book of which the two Cambridges may well feel proud—Cambridge, Mass., for sending the Harvard Archaeological Expedition to Ireland, under the auspices of which the basic field-work was carried out; and Cambridge, England, for helping to give rise to some of its leading conceptions and, not least, for giving birth to the book itself at the incomparable University Press in the fourth year of the contemporary World War. But it is also one in which the author is entitled to a just pride, for rarely can a researcher have extracted more from material so unpromising. The flints of Northern Ireland have long been known for multitude: Dr. Movius has at last informed them with meaning.

As Movius would be the first to admit—the magnanimity of his book is one of its most attractive features—he owes a substantial debt to workers in a variety of studies. In the field of glacial geology he owes much to the pioneer endeavours of Professor J. K. Charlesworth, whose work on the retreat stages of the ice-sheets in Britain has not always been sufficiently well recognized; to Dr. R. Lloyd Praeger he is indebted for the standard section of the coastal deposits of Northern Ireland, a section originally published as long ago as 1892; and to Dr. K. Jessen he has turned for assistance in establishing the palaeo-botanical context of lithic industries and of the geological deposits from which such have been obtained. On the archaeological side the name of W. J. Knowles deserves to be remembered for his assiduity in collecting and so drawing attention to the lithic industries of the North, while the more scientific labours of prehistorians happily still active, notably C. Blake Whelan and J. P. T. Burchell, have established a number of fixed points in the pre-history of Ireland during early post-glacial time. Again, in grasping how greatly success in post-glacial studies depends on bringing the resources of diverse disciplines, geological, palaeobotanical, palaeozoological and archaeological, to bear upon common problems, and how much more firmly based are conclusions arrived at by converging roads than by a single track, Movius follows a lead given by many exponents in north-western and central Europe. But allowing all this, it must be conceded that he has applied proven principles to a new area with a precision and a persistence deserving of high praise, and that he has set out his conclusions with commendable directness and clarity, making full use of the resources of illustration and tabulation.

The nature of Dr. Movius' contribution is two-fold: in the first place he presents us with the results of a series of carefully planned excavations, calculated to probe the post-glacial prehistory of Ireland at its most telling points; and in the second he summarizes and correlates a welter of published material bearing both on the early industries themselves and on their geological setting. Of their nature the results of his excavations, already fairly widely known through their publication in the Journals of learned societies, are likely to constitute the most lasting part of his book. Yet, the service he has performed in wading through and attempting to reduce to order the very numerous papers listed in his bibliography is one for which we should be thankful. In

particular should we archaeologists be grateful for his daring where angels (with geological degrees) fear to tread; any scars he may acquire he may count honourable and in any case inevitable—short of giving up the unequal struggle. If the geological chapters of his book serve no other purpose than stinging British geologists into a realization of their backwardness by continental standards in the field of Late Glacial and Post-glacial studies, they will have been well worth the writing.

The most enduring part of his work concerns the development of the coastal mesolithic or 'Larnian' industries, of which the Harvard Expedition excavated no less than four of the five key sites. As Movius has shown, the secret of their interpretation is that they are essentially secondary, having been incorporated in the deposits in which they are found as a consequence of submergence. The vast mass of lithic material from the raised beaches and the estuarine deposits of Antrim and Down have, without exception, been derived from sites no longer accessible above sea-level. The flints frequently show effects of wave action, easily confused with secondary flaking or signs of use. Further, they represent merely a selection of the lithic industries represented; for example, the nature of Early Larnian cores makes it likely that microliths and steeply blunted blades represent a far larger constituent of the industry than the few specimens from Cushendun and Island Magee would suggest. Even more serious is the total absence of the entire non-lithic component of the coastal industries. In this connection we must beg leave to differ from our author's dictum that 'the major Campaignian activity was the manufacture of stone implements': knapping flint must in reality have featured far less in the lives of, even inveterate, flint-workers like the Larnians, than in the minds of some prehistorians. In parenthesis it should be recalled that modern flint-knappers create great heaps of waste flakes in a very short time and that the vast majority of the worked flints recovered from the coastal deposits of Northern Ireland, a region in which flint was naturally abundant and cheap, were of this nature. Finally, in addition to having a very partial picture of the purely industrial aspects of the Larnian cultures, we have no direct evidence of their general economy, no fauna, no dwelling-places, no burials, no art. In fact we know very little about the Larnians apart from the affinities of their lithic industries. Of their chronological and environmental setting we know, thanks to the excellently conducted Harvard excavations, rather more. Further advances in our knowledge of Mesolithic Ireland would seem to lie, partly in the discovery of more inland sites sealed by post-glacial deposits, like that excavated by Whelan on the north-western shores of Lough Neagh, and partly in making the most of such chance excavation below sea-level as port improvements and other coastal works may bring about from time to time. Meanwhile we must be grateful to Movius for providing a framework, in which to fit the new finds we may hope for in the future.

In a comparatively short review it would be impossible to discuss all the interesting points raised in his book and superfluous to summarize conclusions so concisely marshalled. The reader will find a clear exposition of the geological development of Ireland in relation to neighbouring areas during late Glacial and Early Post-glacial times, together with a description of the relevant lithic industries and an indication of their place in the geological sequence. The problems of survival figure as prominently as one might expect in an area peripheral to the continent of Europe. In conclusion, Dr. Movius has written a book which will stand as a landmark, not only in Irish, but also in European prehistory. The index and bibliography help to round off a notable achievement.

J. GRAHAME D. CLARK.

REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT WROXETER (THE ROMAN CITY OF VIROCONIUM) IN THE COUNTY OF SALOP, 1923-1927. By DONALD ATKINSON, M.A., F.S.A. 10 x 6½. Pp. xvii + 387. Pls. 73 + figs. 50. Birmingham Archaeological Society. Oxford: at the University Press. 1942. 21s.

The publication of this important report, eagerly awaited for fifteen years, is a major event in Romano-British studies. There is so much to be thankful for now that we really have it that it may be thought churlish to hold an inquest upon its long delay. But this at least ought to be said to those responsible for organizing and providing the funds for this excavation. No excavation is complete until an adequate and fully illustrated account of the structures examined and of the finds made has appeared in print. Excavation, which perforce destroys evidence, cannot be divorced from its publication—they are indivisible—and funds ought not to be contributed for the one without being equally available for the other. Ample time must, of course, be allowed the excavator for the study of such a mass of evidence as is contained in a volume like this, for impatience for quick results has sometimes led to a partial publication, which has given a false impression of finality. But fifteen years is perhaps excessive. It may be, however, that some of the criticism that has been directed at the author of this report should have found a more appropriate target elsewhere. Whatever the causes of the delay, Professor Atkinson has once again shown himself to be in the foremost rank of those British scholars who are also skilful excavators.

The area excavated comprised the central *insula* (444 ft. by 283 ft.) of Viroconium. The earliest occupation (c. A.D. 60-75) was represented by traces of timber buildings along the side of the main road with an open space behind them. 'Such an arrangement . . . would be extremely unlikely in a military encampment, but would fit well with the gradual growth of a civil settlement outside it' (p. 7). As the *Canabae* increased in importance these were superseded (c. A.D. 75-90) by rather larger buildings of wattle-and-daub with tiled or slated roofs. In the last decade of the century, however, the whole area was swept clear of buildings to make way for the largest and most elaborate suite of baths yet discovered in Britain. 'It is hard to escape the conclusion that they were the result of governmental initiative and were constructed largely with the help of public funds' (p. 123), and they may well have been, as the author suggests, the work of military engineers and of legionary labour. They were never completed, and it appears probable that the widespread activity in military building under Trajan in the first decade of the second century led to the withdrawal of state support for the grandiose project. The great Forum which eventually arose upon the site is securely dated to the third decade of the century, by a mass of varied evidence, and may be counted among the results of Hadrian's visit to Britain of A.D. 122. It suffered two destructions by fire. The first, within a few years of A.D. 160, is dated by a considerable body of evidence, while the second falls into the last quarter of the third century. Though sporadic occupation of the site lasted until the end of the fourth century, the Forum remained ruined and derelict and there was no evidence of the attempt to revive town-life under Constantius that is apparent in other Romano-British towns. 'In general, the picture of Roman Wroxeter which emerges is of a central government forcing urbanization on a population reluctant to receive it. For about a century, c. 150-250, the effort meets with a partial success, then, amid the disasters of the later third century, the central power weakens, and the artificial nature of the attempt is seen in its rapid collapse, nor does the recovery marked by the re-organization of Diocletian do more than cause a temporary arrest in an inevitable process of decay' (p. 125).

No concessions are made to the reader of Part I of this report, which deals with the structural history of the site. The text contains a mass of precise detail, from which nothing is omitted and in which no problem is shirked, martialled in a clear and orderly manner, which will call forth the admiration of all who have essayed a similar task. But the same cannot be said of the sectional drawings, which should illustrate and elucidate the verbal descriptions, and for which the author himself is not responsible. These are, to say the least, inadequate. They are much smaller than they need have been, even allowing for the stern economy imposed by war conditions. (The printing on figs. 12, 26 and 30, for example, is illegible even with a magnifying glass.) Constant annoyance is caused to the reader by having to turn to page 12 for scale and explanation of conventional signs, and when they are found they are minute. The accuracy even of some of the sections must be called in question, for how could the walls shown in fig. 9 (p. 28), to take one instance only, have been inserted in undisturbed soil without the digging of a wall-trench? And why do the sections terminate abruptly at walls, or colonnade, as if the stratification of a room could be considered *in vacuo*, without reference to what lies on the other side of its bounding walls? In fig. 28 the precious mirror floats in air. The majority of the sixty odd photographs are adequate and go far to lighten the reader's task, though a few (for example pls. 3B, 14B, 18B, 24A) fall below the standard of lighting, etc., that has been set in the best recent reports.

The main historical conclusions resulting from this major excavation of the central insula of Viroconium have been known, in summary form, to English students since the late Sir George Macdonald, published his *Roman Britain, 1914-1928* (*Brit. Acad. Sup. Papers* VI), even if the details and the evidence have remained undivulged. Part II, however, which comprises the greater part of the volume, and deals with the finds, is substantially new to knowledge and is of the very greatest importance. The great Forum inscription, set up by the Civitas Cornoviorum, A.D. 129/130, and the Diploma of A.D. 135 are already well known, as is the fine silver mirror, a splendid photograph of which appears on pl. 46, but the great find of 210 stamped Samian vessels and 20 mortaria from the East Portico gutter have not previously been described in detail. This find, 'enables us to provide a fixed period in the activity of a large number of second-century Samian potters and to demonstrate through a considerable body of material the stage reached in the development of Samian decoration just after the middle of the century' (p. 105). There follows a detailed catalogue, with discussion of date, of all the Samian stamps found at Wroxeter prior to 1927, including those from Thos. Wright's excavations, and those previously published by the Society of Antiquaries (Research Reports, Nos. 1, 2 and 4). The wealth of decorated Samian ware from the excavation is illustrated in 12 plates, 7 of which are folding drawings. These emphasize once again the very great superiority of even moderately good drawings over the best photographs of Samian ware from the student's point of view.

In comparison with the Samian ware the coarse pottery is somewhat disappointing. Seventy-three vessels are illustrated and discussed, nearly half of them belonging to the period ante-dating the Forum. One could wish that some means might be found to publish more of the stratified coarse pottery from such a site as this, particularly from Group C (A.D. 160-275), which here is represented by 14 vessels only, 5 of which are well-known types of mortaria, for something more than a 'representative selection' is needed as an aid to future excavators of the humbler sites in the area, who cannot hope for Samian ware or coins in quantity enough to provide a basis for their

dating. Some indication of the frequency of occurrence of different types in each period would be of value. Are we to believe, for example, that the wide-mouthed bowl (fig. 24 B5), dated A.D. 160, continued to be made locally without any change of form or fabric for well over a century (fig. 45, c5)? Further north a very similar bowl is normal at the end of the third century, and well into the fourth, but it has not yet appeared in the Antonine period.

A separate chapter is devoted to the 670 coins. A larger proportion of the copper coinage of Claudius among the pre-Flavian coins than was found in the 1914 excavations shows the pre-Flavian occupation to be heavier on the Forum site than further south, but the site of the legionary camp is still to seek. At the other end of the scale the excavations only added three Theodosian coins to the six found in 1912-14. This extreme scarcity of the latest issues is in contrast with such sites as Verulamium, Silchester and Caistor, and suggests an early end to the occupation. A few coins only are of numismatic rather than archaeological interest. Of special note, however, is an *antoninianus* of Carausius, with PAX AVG reverse, and mint-mark BRI (No. 169). It has been thought by Sir George Hill that this may be referred to a Wroxeter mint, BRI standing for VRI(conium).

Not the least valuable part of this Report is the Appendices. Appendix A deals with the excavations in 1923 in the north of the town which, for the first time, established the exact line of the defences for a considerable distance without, however, obtaining any evidence by which they could be dated. Appendix B, illustrated by 15 comparative plans, deals with the origin of the plan of the Baths and parallels to it. Appendix C is a full and interesting discussion of the type of the Wroxeter Forum and its analogies, illustrated by a folding plate showing 22 comparative plans. In this the author, discarding the theory first put forward by Lehner in his account of the great headquarters at Vetera, conclusively demonstrates that this type of Forum was derived from the military *Principia*, which had reached its full development at a date earlier than can be assigned to any civil buildings of the type. He further traces the origin of the military plan and shows how at some time in the fourth century B.C. the administrative centre, based on the Greek Gymnasium became a separate building distinct from the Commandant's house. Finally in the provinces where military influence predominated, in the Flavian period, this plan was adopted for the administrative centre of the towns.

The book is uniform in format with the Research Reports of the Society of Antiquaries, in which the previous Wroxeter Reports appeared, and, like them, attains the high standard which we expect from the Oxford University Press. Misprints are remarkably few, but two may prove a little disconcerting. Figs. 49, 50 and 51 should be numbered 48, 49 and 50, respectively, to agree with the list of figures, and the omission of fig. 48 has caused a false reference on p. 328. The last two lines on p. 335 have become transposed. 'Draendorft' makes an appearance on p. 137, while 'howl' for 'bowl' on p. 168 should give pleasure to those who abhor Roman pottery.

PHILIP CORDER.

HAGIA SOPHIA. By EMERSON HOWLAND SWIFT. Pp. xviii + 210, with 46 plates and 34 figures. Columbia University Press, New York, 1940. Price not stated.

This book contains a full description of the structure of Hagia Sophia together with a short account of the surviving decoration. The architecture and the architectural sculpture are well illustrated but the mosaics recently uncovered by the Medieval Academy of America are not included in the plates, doubtless because it was felt that Professor Whittemore's reports made this unnecessary.

Professor Swift is careful in his description to distinguish between the original work as planned and constructed by Anthemius in the early years of Justinian and the repairs carried out between 558 and 563 and subsequently. The eastern arch of the dome fell in the former year and the dome itself was rebuilt at least 20 feet higher by Isidore the Younger, the architect commissioned to repair the Great Church. Among the alterations then made necessary by structural weaknesses which had begun to develop even during the building, were the four great tower-like buttresses, which give literal support to the dome, and the square base from which it springs. These two prominent deviations from the original plan do much to give the exterior its characteristic appearance, a fact which is not always fully brought out by writers who discuss the aesthetics of the building (e.g. Zaluski, see p. 171). Herein probably lies the reason why few of those who have praised the interior so highly have found the exterior entirely satisfying. A further point brought out by this careful analysis of the structural periods, is the care which the Latins devoted to the Church during the years when they ruled Constantinople. The well planned and well constructed system of flying buttresses, by which they sought to distribute the thrust of the domes, compares favourably with the heavy masses of masonry with which the Emperor Andronicus hoped to achieve the same result a century later.

Even more interesting than the description of the capitals and other architectural sculptures is the account of the less known bronze doors, which now stand in the Gate of the Horlogium, south of the narthex. In their present form, these date from the 9th century, but Professor Swift's careful analysis of the heavy bronze frames, shows that these are a survival, which he assigns to the 4th century, suggesting that they belonged to the main portal of the original Hagia Sophia, built by Constantius in 360 and destroyed by fire in 404. The book is not confined to the church itself but also discusses the surroundings of the site and its relation to the Palace, the Hippodrome, etc. Hagia Sophia is so outstanding a monument and one so intimately linked with the history of Byzantium, that everyone will welcome this full account of its architecture, an account which has gained much from the facilities made possible by the action of the Turkish Republic in declaring the building a museum.

C.A.R.R.

ST. ANDREW'S FORMULARE 1514-1546. Text transcribed and edited by GORDON DONALDSON, M.A., Ph.D., and C. MACRAE, M.A., D.Phil. Vol. I. Pp. xvii + 405. Edinburgh. Printed for the Stair Society by J. Skinner & Co. Ltd. 1942.

The Stair Society, of whose publications this is the seventh volume, follows the example of the Selden Society in providing, in a handsome and admirably printed form, material of value, not only to the legal scholar in particular, but to the historian in general. At first sight the title of the present volume promises nothing more than a precedent-book or register of styles or common forms of official correspondence. Such books, however, do not always adhere consistently to their ostensible purpose, but enlarge their scope to introduce much which the compiler has considered of sufficient interest to be worth preservation for the sake of more than its formal merit. In this respect Master John Lauder, who brought together this mass of miscellaneous documents, showed commendable selective judgement. The editors, in their brief but very helpful introduction, give a sketch of his biography and his ecclesiastical preferments, which culminated in the archdeaconry of Teviotdale in the diocese of Glasgow. At St. Andrew's, as secretary to Archbishop Robert Forman and, after some years' interval at Glasgow, to Cardinal David Beaton, Lauder gained a close acquaintance with the procedure of the ecclesiastical courts.

To this his compilation forms a comprehensive guide, the special value of which is indicated by the editors as its testimony to the influence of the processes of canon law upon the development of civil practice in Scotland. Its collection of legal forms and instruments 'must be viewed as part of the body of legal knowledge and experience which was carried by the clergy to the judicial committee of parliament and council and so to the court of session'.

If this marks the primary importance of the work from the point of view of the legal antiquary, it also has its special value for the ecclesiastical historian. Compiled during the first half of the sixteenth century, though admitting some documents of earlier date, its contents illustrate here and there the coming changes which were to overtake the Church in Scotland. The system, however, whose workings they record, shows no very noticeable signs of approaching decay: its procedure and the character of the objects of its jurisdiction, whether graciously or contentiously exercised, follow lines familiar to students of English episcopal registers from a much earlier date. Thus Gavin Douglas, bishop of Dunkeld, the translator of Virgil, was as recalcitrant to the authority of his metropolitan as the bishops of Durham were traditionally contumacious to the mandates of the primate of York. When Archbishop Forman sent two of his clerks to Dunkeld with letters of summons addressed to the bishop, they were withstood by certain 'sons of iniquity, members of the devil and satellites of Satan'—terms hallowed by long usage on such occasions—drawn from the bishop's household, with forty accomplices or so, who, armed with double-edged axes, halberds, swords, bows and arrows and other warlike instruments, barred their approach to the cathedral church. The envoys, threatened with death, were dragged out of the churchyard by their opponents and a local mob to the bridge over the river; their letters were torn from their hands and rent in pieces, and they themselves were warned that persistence in their errand would land them in the Tay. The mind instinctively recalls the perilous visitation of Durham by Archbishop Wickwane, nearly two centuries and a half earlier, the treatment which, late in the fourteenth century, the messenger of Archbishop Courtenay received from the hands of the bishop of Exeter's partisans, who compelled him to eat his master's letters, and other incidents of the kind. The advance of the Reformation found the age still faithful to the medieval devotion to common form with slight local variations.

In the document which contains this story and in many others, the names of persons and places are indicated merely by initial letters. These, however, are the actual initials of the names concerned and are a transparent veil of their identity. Like other compilers of his type, Lauder was more nearly interested in the legal import of his documents than in the persons and events connected with them; but from time to time, he inserted a proper name from the document which he was copying and otherwise often left initials open to little doubt. The editors have taken full advantage of what to some of Lauder's fellow practitioners might have seemed an amiable weakness, and the result is a substantial contribution to the *Fasti* of the Scottish Church. Many of these letters and mandates were no doubt copied from the registers of the archbishops of St. Andrew's and Glasgow and to some extent supply the place of missing originals; but the licence which Lauder allowed himself with proper names did not extend to dates, which were irrelevant to his purpose.

The care of the editors has enumerated some of the most interesting contents of the volume in the introduction, and to this we must refer the reader for details. Those who look for incidents in the history of the monasteries and collegiate establishments of the south of Scotland will not be disappointed: Arbroath, Dryburgh, Jedburgh, Holyrood, Cupar and Newbattle are among the abbeys of which mentions occur, and, among collegiate churches, there are documents

relating to St. Giles', Edinburgh, Crichton, Hamilton and others, with one concerning the erection of the college at Crail and a papal confirmation of the collegiate chapel of Roslin. Lauder was careful to insert some letters including his appeal to the Roman court against the intrusion by Archbishop James Betoun of a canon of Dryburgh into his vicarage of Kilrenny, near St. Andrew's. Such documents are sufficiently interesting, but none perhaps is of such outstanding attractiveness as a splendid example of a mandate of excommunication in broad Scots delivered against the reivers who infested the border districts of the diocese of Glasgow. Such mandates occur south of the English border, as Bishop Fox's fulmination against the robbers of Redesdale and neighbouring parts; but for freshness and vigour Lauder's composition—for we hope that he was its author—surpasses them. The thoroughness of the condemnation which it applies to the anatomy of its victims and to their belongings is exemplary, and the catalogue of offenders against God's law with whom it classes them, from Lucifer to Julian the Apostate, omits few notable instances. For these, indeed, precedent might have been found in the title *De Haeresibus* of the Decretals, in which such calamities as that which followed the gain-saying of Core are lavishly bestowed on his followers. But there is no little ingenuity in the union of Scriptural precedent with topical allusion achieved in the wish that 'the watteris and riveris of Tuede Teviot Clyde Nyth Esk Euse and Annande and all utheris watteris quhare tha ryde gang or pass mot droun thaim as the Reid Sey drounit kyng Pharao and the peple of Egipt perseuande Goddis peple of Israel'. The editors quote Knox's description of the extremely vehement behaviour of Lauder at the prosecution of George Wishart, which he conducted in a spirit akin to that of this malediction; but it must be owned that in matter of style there was a strong likeness between Knox himself and the author of this masterpiece of cursing.

The editing of the manuscript, which is in the Library of the University of St. Andrew's, was begun under the supervision of the late Professor R. K. Hannay, and the editors record their indebtedness to other scholars. Their work has been done with extreme care. To documents already printed in Robertson's *Statuta Ecclesiae Scoticanae*, Hannay's *The Archbishops of St. Andrew's* and other works references alone are given after the English heading prefixed to each. Occasionally a document is summarized in English: in the great majority of cases the text is printed in full with such contractions of phrase and abbreviations as are due to constant repetition. To these a guide, supplying the full forms and words, is given at the end of the introduction. All this has been done so scrupulously that there is only one remark that we feel called upon to make. Memoranda of collations occur several times in the headings of which the ordinary modern construction is followed, collating the person to the benefice, while, as the text, following the correct usage, shows, it is actually the benefice which is collated to the person. The invention of the hybrid verb 'to collate' is probably responsible for this confusion, but it is curious that the point escapes so many editors of medieval texts.

A second volume will contain the documents, some three hundred in number which still remain to be printed, together with Lauder's *Registrum per litteras alphabeti* in which his Latin headings to each document, indicating its diplomatic character, are grouped and indexed.

A.H.T.