REVIEWS

PIECING TOGETHER THE PAST. An Interpretation of Archaeological Data. By V. GORDON CHILDE. Pp. 172. 4 figs. London : Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1956. Price 18s.

It is appropriate that at the time when Professor Childe is vacating his University Chair, he should publish the content of one of the courses of lectures he has been accustomed to giving on an aspect of archaeology to which he makes an unusual and very individual approach. He is not concerned here with the methodology of excavation and recording, for which recent text-books exist, but with the proper interpretation of all archaeological data however and wherever it has been acquired. This he does by posing the problems in his chapter headings. What is archaeology about ? How young is it ? What is the ' archaeological record ' ? What is it for ? When was it made ? How long ago did that happen ? Who did it ? What happens in prehistory ? What is the good of archaeology ?

These questions are deceptively simple, for the answers provided are complex. They demand that readers bring to them something of his clarity of thought, appreciation of scientific precision, and the use of a terminology that to many will be unfamiliar. He himself describes his ' pigeon-holing diagnostic fossils in chorological racks, shuffling carded types into chronological series and sprinkling dots on maps to make exclusive distributions ' as ' arid pages of technicalities '. But he could not add that following presentation of an abstract idea, often expressed in words that cause one to reach for a dictionary, he at once gives an illustrative example taken from global prehistory which makes his point crystal clear. Archaeology, he believes, is constituted of the fossilized results of human behaviour, and the archaeologist's job is to recover the behaviour pattern of past societies. In his last chapter is set out the lengths to which he is prepared to go on the humanistic side of a study which is to a great extent an objective and materialistic approach to the problems.

But, in addition to ideologies, the short space of this book contains a wealth of specialised detailed knowledge and provides most stimulating reading. It will undoubtedly be placed on the students' book lists from now onwards, and should also grace the bookshelves of all prehistorians.

M. AYLWIN COTTON

PREHISTORY AND PLEISTOCENE GEOLOGY IN CYRENAICAN LIBYA. By C. B. M. MCBURNEY and R. W. HEY. Cambridge University Press, 1955. Price 60s.

It is all too rare for a Prehistorian and a Pleistocene Geologist to collaborate, and rarer still if they have a reputation for good field work and sound judgment such as the authors of this book. One could confidently expect a very worthwhile publication to result from such a partnership and we are not disappointed.

The book is divided into two main sections, the Geology by Dr. Hey and the Archaeology by Dr. McBurney, with short appendices by various contributors.

Dr. Hey's research was undertaken with two objects in view, firstly to establish some form of chronological framework for the area, and secondly to fit, if possible, this local chronology into the wider chronology of the Mediterranean and Europe.

In evaluation of work of this kind two considerations must be borne in mind—how the basic data was obtained and how much the interpretation of the chronology is based on sound factual evidence. The point which stands out clearly is that Dr. Hey undertook this research, not only fully conversant with previous results obtained elsewhere, but also fully aware of the difficulties involved in work of this kind. The result is a model of painstaking fieldwork and sound interpretation.

It is impossible to discuss the report in detail, but from it has come the accurate measurement of five ancient shore lines and one or possibly two more, as well as establishing that the continental deposits, the wadi gravels, fossil dunes, tufas and the marls post-date

the 6.M beach, plus some significant climatic data. The value of this post 6.M beach evidence is that archaeological material has been found related to these deposits, which will go a long way towards elucidating the chronology of the areas east and west of Cyrenaica.

The second section by Dr. McBurney deals with the prehistory of the area. The first part is a report on material found *in situ*, either associated with ancient shore lines and continental deposits or from the excavation of cave sites.

The most important site associated with the continental deposits is Sidi el Hajj Creiem in the Wadi Gahham, a tributary of the Wadi Derna. This is a Levalloiso-Mousterian living site of considerable interest, as not only was a good sample of the flint industry obtained, but there was also a large quantity of fauna. The material from the earlier continental deposits, the gravel and fossil dunes, is rather rough but indicates industries of Levallois type.

Of the two cave excavations the first, at Hagfet et Tera, was a check sounding in a cave originally excavated by Petrocchi. The reason for this check excavation was to test Petrocchi's claim for a Mousterian developing into an industry of ' Oranian ' type. The results obtained by McBurney do not confirm this claim, and the relationship between the Mousterian of the terrace and the ' Oranian ' must remain obscure.

The second cave site, Hagfet ed Dabba, consists of two cultural horizons ; the lower characterised by transverse burins and a scarcity of end-scrapers, and the upper without the transverse burins but with plentiful end-scrapers. The excavation of another site by McBurney, Haua Fteah, which is still in progress, suggests that Hagfet ed Dabba is earlier than the ' Oranian ' of Hagfet et Tera. There is also a section on the material from neighbouring sites, including an Aterian and a form of Intergetulo-Neolithic, from the Wadi Gan.

The final section of McBurney's report consists of a discussion of the Neolithic of northern Libya and the spread of the Neolithic along the North African Littoral.

The most important part of the archaeological section is the fitting of the material into the chronological framework established by Hey. In a simplified form this consists of a rough Levallois type appearing during the regression following the 6.M beach, that is, the beginning of Würm I. Industries of Levalloiso-Mousterian type continue through Würm II and are succeeded by blade industries of Hagfet ed Dabba type during Würm III. followed by those of Hagfet et Tera ; these two have recently been dated by C.14 to 14,000–10,000 and 10,000–6,000 respectively.

There is no space to give to the wider considerations of this chronology, but the ideas postulated by both authors from their evidence seem sound, and further work on the cave of Haua Fteah should increase our knowledge of the later period considerably.

The criticisms one could make of the publication itself are few. A large scale map of the area on which the sites mentioned in the text could be found would have been helpful. One also found the statistical analysis in the middle of the description of the material from Creiem rather distracting and felt that it would have been better at the end. The archaeological report as far as Chapter XV is a well-knit whole, and although the chapter on the Neolithic is of considerable importance, one feels that perhaps it would have been better as a separate paper. These criticisms are, however, trivial in what is a first-class piece of work, and the authors are to be congratulated on an excellent standard of research with well presented results, and while some may consider this as covering a rather specialised area the book should be read and digested by all prehistorians who have any pretensions to being field archaeologists. JOHN WAECHTER

THE OLD STONE AGE. By M. C. BURKITT, 1956. Third edition, 258 pp. London : Bowes & Bowes. Price 21s. net.

This is the third edition of a well-known book. Though it has changed its publisher, changes in the text are few, and it thus retains its out-of-date character almost entirely. The value of the book lies—as it has for the past 23 years—in the chapters dealing with typology and cave painting, which are useful for the student.

The revision has unfortunately caused some confusion. It is impossible to list all the cases of this kind. On p. 128, for instance, Piltdown is now described as a fake, but on p. 129 (line 5 from bottom) it is still quite seriously compared with Heidelberg Man. On p. 130 Piltdown Man appears as one of the possible hand-axe-manufacturers. On p. 142, a footnote is to be seen that refers to nowhere, the reason being the replacement of column 7, to which it referred in the second edition. The chronology is years behind the results of modern research, and the bibliography very incomplete. These shortcomings have to be constantly kept in mind when the book is read or consulted.

F. E. ZEUNER

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARTH. By C. A. W. GUGGISBERG, 1955. London : Stanford. 8°. 80 pp., including 8 coloured plates. Price 5s.

This small pocket-book is the translation of a Swiss publication. It is naturally somewhat focussed on that country and on Central Europe. For the complete novice, however, it is a very suitable introduction to the geological background that an archaeologist should have regarding the periods from the Cambrian onwards. Regarding the Pleistocene (2 pages), it is not sufficient, and the illustrations of reconstructed ice-age mammals leave much to be desired. The part dealing with physical geology will be found helpful by those unacquainted with the subject. For the low price, it is a good production. It is useful as basic matter, but certainly not exhaustive enough for the serious archaeologist. But this it is not intended to be.

F. E. ZEUNER

STONEHENGE. By R. J. C. ATKINSON. Pp. xv and 210. XXVI pls. Hamish Hamilton, 1956. Price 16s.

Stonehenge is an uncomfortable monument. Being both exotic and unique it fits into no accepted category, and being admittedly a religious structure there is no profusion of domestic refuse to assist in dating the various phases into which, thanks to the excavations of Mr. Atkinson and his colleagues, the building operations may now be divided with some assurance. We have come to expect authority and clarity from the author of *Stonehenge*, and he has in no way failed us. He is himself the leading authority on British ' henge ' monuments, and yet he has resisted the temptation to introduce a mass of comparative material which could only have confused the story of Stonehenge. There is enough but not too much. His task was not easy, for it was necessary to clear away many deep-rooted but erroneous beliefs, such as the association of Druids with this and other stone circles, before presenting the reader with a truer, if less romantic story. This story had to be built up on a number of apparently meaningless or negligible details of evidence which had either come to light in the recent investigation or were reinterpreted from the former work by Colonel Hawley. Here one may notice a refreshing humility on the part of the writer. He accepts the probability that many of his own interpretations and hypotheses may be proved wrong by future discoveries. Sometimes a scrap of evidence seems so flimsy, for instance, the finding of a single ' beaker ' shard among the rotted posts surrounding the Heel stone, that one is tempted to doubt the conclusion, but a re-reading of the passage shows that his interpretation is, in the main, the only one which could have been argued successfully.

Surely no book has ever provided the public with such a mass of new information about this most famous monument. The double circle of bluestones is an entirely new feature, and apart from articles in certain learned journals, so are the carvings. Mr. Atkinson is not afraid to indulge in hypotheses, in spite of a lurking dread of his ' more austere colleagues ', but he realises that it is the duty of a prehistorian to speculate and to confess when he is doing so.

This book is well thought out and beautifully illustrated, though plate I seems to be taken from the south rather than the south-east. It is for the prehistorian as well as for

the layman, and one is not spared some difficult reasoning, though it is made as clear as the facts allow. Here and there some words are difficult too. Even my small dictionary failed me with ' demained ' on page 169. The only typographical mistakes noticed were ' power ' for ' lower ' on page 31 and components with an ' s ' on page 58. It is surprising that Mr. Atkinson sets so little store by the statement of Hecataeus that the Hyperboreans worshipped Apollo in a wonderful circular temple. The reference to Stonehenge seems quite as probable as many of the arguments we accept at his hands. Colonel Hawley's shortcomings as an archaeologist are well known, but the medieval pottery which he excavated at Old Sarum, much of which he restored himself, belies Doctor Crawford's remark (p. 197 note) that he had an aversion for pottery, nor should we forget that he found the few secondary neolithic shards in the ditch which assisted so much in dating the first phase of building at Stonehenge. This building still retains many of its secrets. One hopes that it will always do so, but many people will look forward to reading Mr. Atkinson's explanations at least of some of them, after further work on the site.

H. DE S. SHORTT

DISCOVERING BURIED WORLDS, THE FLOOD AND NOAH'S ARK, THE TOWER OF BABEL. By ANDRÉ PARROT. S.C.M. Press. Price 7s. 6d. each.

This little series forms an admirable introduction to the study of Mesopotamian archaeology for the non-specialist. Written by Andre Parrot, Professor at the Ecole du Louvre and Director of the excavations at Mari, it has all the authenticity of one who knows both the subject and the countryside of which he is writing. *Discovering Buried Worlds* begins by describing the organisation of a Near Eastern excavation and goes on to describe the recent discoveries at Mari, the burials in jars, the temples and the vast palace. This section is enthralling reading. The next chapter which is concerned with the history of archaeological discovery in Mesopotamia is hardly less so. Written by a Frenchman it is, however, rather one-sided. Rich's work in identifying so many sites is described as ' bustling about ' and the work of other nationals than the French hardly allowed for. Parrot is, however, better on his account of more recent archaeological work in this area, that is, between the two world wars.

The later sections of the work are concerned with a brief account of the main archaeological and historical periods in Mesopotamia. Here, again, the portion dealing with Parrot's own work is much the best. Everyone would not open with his account of the prehistoric sequence or the fact that it was only recognised after 1939. The relation of Halaf to 'Ubaid in the north has been known ever since Mallowan's work at Arpachiyah in 1931, while Eridu culture can hardly be regarded as a separate phase from 'Ubaid. Certain matters of fact need correcting, for instance, it was the British, not the Germans, who excavated Saku Gozü.

Finally, the volume sums up what archaeology has to say in support of the Bible : first, that it has confirmed certain historical facts ; second, it has helped to establish the exact location of certain places mentioned in the Bible ; third, textual evidence such as the Mari texts and the Dead Sea scrolls has shed further light on Biblical records of the time of the Patriarch and the pre-Christian era.

Produced in a uniform format with *The Flood and Noah's Ark* and *The Tower of Babel*, although not forming part of the same series, *Discovering Buried Worlds* forms an excellent introduction to the other two volumes.

1. *The Flood and Noah's Ark*

This is the first of a series of booklets on Studies in Biblical Archaeology.

It clearly summarises the literary and archaeological evidence for the flood. The literary sources comprise in addition to the two Biblical versions S. and P. the Akkadian story of the Epic of Gilgamish dating at least to the First Dynasty of Babylon and based on an earlier Sumerian account of the flood. In these stories Noah is replaced by Uta-Napishtim in the Akkadian and Ziasudia in the Sumerian version. The accounts portray a remarkable similarity in arrangement and detail.

Parrot goes on to discuss the archaeological evidence for one or more floods. Thus at Ur it appears during the 'Ubaid period, at Kish and Fara between the Jamdat Nasr level and that of the Early Dynasties. Lower Iraq is always liable to floods and storms, and there must have been some disaster which over-shadowed the others and passed into Sumerian literature as the Flood. Parrot's account of the Ark and the expeditions that have gone in search of it is equally clear, whether the Ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat or Mt. Judi it would long since have disintegrated, but that has not stopped the equipment of many expeditions to look for its remains.

2. *The Tower of Babel*

The Tower of Babel is a short account of Parrot's longer work, *Ziggurats et Tour de Babel*, published in 1949. Taking the ziggurat not as a symbol of man's defiance of God but as a hand stretched out in supplication, a cry to heaven for help, Parrot again considers the literary and archaeological evidence for the construction of these vast temple towers of many storeys. The earliest account of a ziggurat is that built by Gudea of Lagash seven storeys high, but the ziggurat which appears to have been regarded as the Tower of Babel was that built by Napopolassar in the 7th century B.C. Pictorial representations of ziggurats on seals and kudduru are also considered. The confusion that has arisen between the Hebrew term babel—confusion with the Akkadian bab-el, gate of the god—is also discussed.

Finally, these series of studies of Biblical Archaeology can be warmly recommended as combining the moderate Christian viewpoint with modern research in Biblical lands. There is a clear series of maps and diagrams to accompany each volume and an adequate bibliography.

THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST IN PICTURES. By JAMES B. PRICHARD. Princeton University Press. London : Geoffrey Cumberlege. Price £8.

This is a companion volume to Ancient Near Eastern Texts published in 1950. It is extremely well produced and shows successively Peoples and their dress, Daily Life and different kinds of scripts and writing materials. It is as its subtitle suggests, the Ancient Near East relating to the Old Testament, and illustrates many of the peoples and places mentioned by Parrot in the previous books. It is a pity that it has not been brought out in the same size and binding as the earlier volume.

M. V. SETON WILLIAMS

ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND HIS TIME. By AGNES SAVILL. London: Rockliff, 1955. XX, 300 pp., 4 pls., map. Price 25s.

CHRIST AND THE CAESARS : HISTORICAL SKETCHES. By ETHELBERT STAUFFER. Trans. from the German by K. and R. GREGOR SMITH. S.C.M., 1955. 296 pp., 17 pls. Price 18s.

QUMRAN CAVE I. DISCOVERIES IN THE JUDAEAN DESERT 1. By D. BARTHELEMY, O. P. and J. T. MILIK. Oxford : Geoffrey Cumberlege. Clarendon Press, 1955. XI, 165 pp., 10 figs., 38 pls. Price 63s.

These three books cover different aspects of the centuries on either side of the Christian era. The first, a biography of Alexander, is a lively and well-told account of his short life, with some of the results of his campaigns and the subsequent assessment of the historians. In the second part, the author, a doctor and psychologist, has attempted an evaluation of his character against the background of his times, which gives a vivid picture of the man who successfully controlled so large an empire.

Written for non-classical readers, the book is a good introduction to Alexander and his period, to such notable biographies as that of Sir William Tarn and to the classical authors. The illustrations from coins and sculpture are pleasing and well produced.

The second volume of historical sketches by the Swiss numismatist is a study of the characters of the Caesars and other influential personages at the time of Christ until the establishment of Christianity under Constantine. Much of the evidence is drawn from

coins, and such chapters as that on the ' tribute money ' form an interesting background to the gospel story. From coin types light is thrown on the political character of the emperors and also on the point of view of those administering the provinces in which Christianity was struggling for recognition. The final chapters deal with the period of persecution and the final triumph of Christianity over emperor worship.

The sketches cover a less known aspect of Roman history for the general reader ; the translation is lively and well done.

The last volume is a report on the excavation of the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. The accidental discovery of the scrolls in a cave by shepherds some years ago has provided one of the most sensational archaeological stories in recent times. The account of their collection and purchase by various persons and bodies has appeared in many journals, notably the *Biblical Archaeologist* and the *New Yorker*. The publication of some of the texts has already been completed in the United States and some fragments have appeared in British journals.

The archaeological exploration of this much discussed site has now been undertaken by Mr. Lankester Harding and Père de Vaux on behalf of the Jordan Department of Antiquities, the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique française and the Palestine Archaeological Museum. This volume is the first of a series which will furnish a full account of the results of the exploration of the site, and a commentary on such other documents as they may find. In the first chapter Harding tells of the discovery of the caves and the finds ; P. de Vaux reports on the jars which contained the scrolls and a study is made of the textiles used as wrappings by Mrs. Crowfoot. The remaining section is concerned with the publication by Father Barthélemy and Dr. Milik of many fragments of scroll which were recovered from the debris. These are reproduced on admirable plates at the end of the volume.

Work continues in other caves and on the settlements associated with them, currently reported in the *Revue Biblique* ; further volumes of such clear and well-produced reports will be anticipated with interest.

J. DU PLAT TAYLOR

JOURNAL OF THE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, VOL. 182 (Jan., 1956), pt. 1, 49–66 : ' The Structural Iron of the Parthenon '. By C. J. LIVADEFS. 8½ x 11. 16 figs. Harrison & Sons Ltd.

Attention should be drawn to this contribution to the monthly journal of the Iron and Steel Institute for its valuable report on the metallurgy of the iron used for the dowels and clamps in the structure of the Parthenon. The Pentelic marble blocks are not joined by lime-mortar nor any kind of cement. Displacement of superposed and adjoining blocks is prevented by dowels and double T-shaped clamps and the method of fitting these is explained. Experimental investigation included metallographic examination, testing for mechanical properties, Brinell hardness tests and chemical analysis. The results are given in detailed descriptive and tabular form. The figures include reproductions of photomicrographs.

A. R. DUFTY

ORFEBRERIA PREHISPANICA DE COLOMBIA, ESTILO CALIMA. By JOSÉ PEREZ DE BARRADAS. Published by Banco de la Republica, Bogota, 1954. 2 volumes, Pp. xvi + 367 + 19 ; Pls. xx (colour) + 300 ; figs. 201.

Colombia has long been famous for its ancient gold work and many notable private collections have been formed, some of which have found their way into foreign museums. When the export of antiquities was prohibited in 1937 it was necessary to provide some outlet for collectors, as well as the huaqueros, professional grave robbers who are the curse of South American archaeology, who wanted to sell their gold, otherwise more objects would undoubtedly have followed all too many of their predecessors into the melting pot. In 1939 the Banco de la Republica, with great foresight, sought and obtained powers

to buy pre-Columbian gold artefacts, and this has resulted in the building up of the unrivalled collection which forms the gold museum in the basement of the Bank. Numerous examples of the various regional styles are tastefully displayed there, and they form an unforgettable sight. By its action in assembling and displaying these collections, the Bank has put archaeologists greatly in its debt, and it has increased this debt by undertaking their publication, of which the two sumptuous volumes under review are a part.

The archaeology of Colombia is a very difficult subject. The highly diversified and rugged topography has imposed great local variation in culture, and has discouraged both large concentrations of population and prolonged occupation of single sites. The result is that we know many regional styles in pottery and gold, besides the remarkable stone carvings of San Agustín, but practically nothing about the chronology, beyond the fact that certain peoples with whom a few of these styles are reliably associated were living in Colombia when the Spaniards reached it.

Until fairly recently Colombian archaeology meant little more than the Chibcha culture of the high plains round Bogotá and the Quimbaya culture of the middle Cauca valley, to all but a few specialists. Each of these had its recognisable styles of pottery and gold work, and by far the finest of the gold objects were assigned to the Quimbaya. The Calima style also comes from in and around the Cauca valley, but in the neighbourhood of the town of Cali, rather higher up the river than the Quimbaya. Its recognition as a distinct style is due to some recent rich finds in the deep shaft graves which are characteristic of the region, and some objects previously regarded as Quimbaya, including a fine reniform pectoral plaque in the British Museum, are now ascribed to it. None of the rich finds have been scientifically excavated, and we have insufficient information about their pottery associations; proper excavations in the neighbourhood have not been lacking, and deep graves have produced various pottery types, including some very near relations of Quimbaya ones, but none of them contained much gold.

The first volume contains two parts. The first consists of three introductory chapters, namely, an historical resumé of previous works on Colombian gold work, a brief description of the various regional styles, and an account of archaeological work in the region. To distinguish between the different styles is, with some exceptions, not altogether easy, and the differences are liable to be blurred by the fact that gold objects are easily carried about, but the Calima style seems to be a valid one. Outstanding objects are large pectoral plaques, often reniform in shape, with repoussé ornament, generally including a central mask, as in the British Museum example. There are also elaborate nose ornaments, double-cone earspools, diadems, beads, spear-throwers, staves, and large pins with elaborate heads made by the cire perdue process. There are also masks, perhaps for idols. The archaeological summary is based chiefly on the work of H. Wassén, of Gothenburg, done about twenty years ago, with mention of more recent work by Colombian archaeologists, but the excavations of James A. Ford, published by Yale University in 1944, are apparently unknown by the author.

The second part of the volume is a descriptive list of objects in the Calima style in the Museum, with measurements, weights and many useful analyses. They are listed according to the lots in which they were bought, since there is some reason to believe that most of these are grave groups, a method which the author adopted in preference to a typological classification, in order to emphasise associations between different classes of objects, and to show clearly which are provenanced and which are not. This part ends with three chapters on distribution. The first gives some instances of the spread of influence of Calima, as well as actual Calima pieces, to other parts of Colombia. The second attempts to relate Calima goldwork to San Agustín stonework, a relationship for which the evidence is very slight and altogether fails to convince this reviewer. The third chapter suggests wider relationships, not only with other parts of America, but even with the Marquesas, Java and Sumatra, a type of speculation from which the previous chapter is not altogether free. Having regard to the resemblances cited—the face on one pectoral plaque is likened to a Buddha—these statements can best be described as flights of fancy. The chapters in question are an insignificant part of the book, and do not detract from its usefulness.

The second volume consists of 300 beautiful photographs of the objects described; some of them, particularly the heads of pins, are greatly enlarged in order to show the delicacy of the detail, but it would be preferable if it were easier to determine the scale. The objects are figured in the order in which they are described, a procedure which separates like objects from one another, and fails to fulfil the author's desire to facilitate reference, since it is necessary to look up an index in the other volume in order to find where the size and other descriptive details are to be found. The photographs themselves are of the greatest value in providing a corpus of work of the Calima style, and they are supplemented by the twenty fine colour photographs which adorn the first volume. The text figures also are clear and of good quality, and the production of the book is admirable.

The illustrations in themselves make this a most valuable contribution to Colombian archaeology, and the Bank has earned our gratitude, not only for the publication of the book, but also for its generosity in presenting it to many libraries and specialists in the subject.

G. H. S. BUSHNELL

THE WHITE LADY OF THE BRANDBERG. By HENRI BREUIL, in collaboration with MARY BOYLE and E. R. SCHERZ. Trianon Press. Price 5 gns.

This volume promises to be the first of a series on the South African rock-paintings to the study of which the Abbe Breuil has been devoting so much of his wonderful energy. Such a corpus would be of great value in helping us to understand and appraise the many distinct groups of paintings scattered between the Transvaal and South-West Africa, the Cape and Southern Rhodesia.

The Abbe Breuil's skill in the difficult task of rendering rock-paintings on to paper has long been famous, and shows no sign of decline in these reproductions from the Maack rock shelter in the Tsisab ravine of the Brandberg Mountain, South-West Africa. An interesting feature added to the present volume is an illustrated account of his methods of work. *The White Lady of the Brandberg* also includes reasonably good photographs of the paintings, granting the student an opportunity of comparison that does not exist in many publications of European cave art. So far as the pictures go, this is a handsome album, worthy of one of the finest examples of African painting.

Not to beat about the bush, it is, of course, the text that has caused a flutter of archaeological wings. When the Abbe first published his opinion that the line of human figures in the Maack shelter might represent Cretan or Egyptian intruders, the opposition in South Africa was strong and outspoken, while the author in his reply accused his critics of the kind of blind orthodoxy that once denied the authenticity of Altamira. To judge the issue from the present text is difficult, for two interpretations are given, one very much more cautious than the other. Chapter III, where perhaps Miss Boyle was in the ascendency, contains discursive, naïf and much confused comparisons between the costume and supposed religious symbolism of the Brandberg ' procession ' and selected Cretan and Egyptian forms. If, as is finally deemed most probable, the paintings represent the Second Mystery of Egypt, the Isis-Osiris-Horus resurrection myth, the extraordinary likeness claimed between the White Lady's dress and that of the girl athletes of the Palace of Minos must be irrelevant. But this is only one confusion of many in a chapter which, frankly, should not have been published. The position assumed in the other sections is far more defensible. The Brandberg is seen as the centre of a school of ' high art ' introduced by immigrants who came down from the north in about 1500 B.C. or earlier, lingered in the south-west, then trekked to the Transvaal region where their artistic genius finally evaporated. As to their origins, Breuil comments on the ' Nilotic ' appearance of the Brandberg figures, adding : ' I use the term ' Nilotic ' not as implying exclusively Egyptian or exclusively Cretan origin, but as signifying a relationship with both Egypt and Crete. That relationship may be due as much to a remote, possibly Libyan, origin common to both. The Egyptians probably owe their naturalistic animal art to a prehistoric Libyan origin '.

No one denies some kind of connection between Libyan and other North African rock-paintings and those of the south, and this reasoning, though far from clear, and stubborn in its inclusion of Crete, could certainly be defended. It is not, however, acceptable to South African opinion that sees these paintings as the relatively recent manifestation of an entirely local talent. The costume, so far from recalling Cretan girl athletes, is said still to be in fashion in the neighbourhood. The conflict is total.

Looking with as detached an eye as possible, the reviewer is not satisfied that the White Lady is wearing either tunic or trunks, or anything but a rather elaborate version of the armlets, anklets and other beaded strappings worn by many others in the group—nor even that ' she ' is a female at all. Moreover, although the style is superior, there is something in its movement, in the striding elasticity of the figures, that seems to breathe the spirit of other ' Bushman ' art. On the other hand, there seems no doubt that differing racial types, representing neither Bushmen nor Bantu, have been deliberately portrayed.

No one can give a firm judgement as yet. Between the earliest art, proved to be many thousands of years old, and paintings executed by the Bushmen within recent memory, the range of possibilities is enormous. It is only to be hoped that increasing archaeological research will soon suggest at least approximate correlations. Meanwhile, we can look forward to the Abbe Breuil's next volume ; it is to deal with the art of Southern Rhodesia.

JACQUETTA HAWKES

THE PELICAN HISTORY OF ENGLAND. VOL. I. ROMAN BRITAIN. By I. A. RICHMOND. Pp. 240. 12 figs., 8 Pls. Penguin Books. Price 2s. 6d.

Roman Britain is the first of a Penguin series designed to form a consecutive guide to the development of English Society in all its aspects. It is a worthy introduction to the series : but more than that it forms a land-mark in the growth and spread of Romano-British studies, and is in its own right a classic. Like most classics it is destined to be a text-book.

Its author is the acknowledged leader of his subject in Britain today ; on him has fallen Collingwood's mantle. And it is to Collingwood in *Roman Britain and the English Settlements* that one inevitably turns for comparison and assessment. It might have seemed that a treatment so full as Collingwood's would have left little to add for a generation : it is sobering to think that so much that is new and inspiring can be written within a mere eighteen years, five of them war years, of the production of Collingwood's masterpiece, and it underlines the rapid and expanding development of Roman studies in this province, especially since the war, so much of it undertaken or guided by the author himself.

The first chapter, *Military History*, is a masterly survey of the impact of the Roman Army on Britain. This has been the author's special field of study. With admirable economy of words and without apparent haste the whole panorama of 400 years is encompassed in 65 pages. The viewpoint is always that of the historian rather than the archaeologist ; there is a balanced perspective of things seen through the eye of Rome, and not merely from the local angle ; and it is this quality which makes so convincing the history of the northern *limes*, which will be largely new to most readers. It is perhaps to be regretted that considerations of space must have impelled the author to omit a full account of the two northern walls (which are one of the glories of the province), especially as Collingwood's account is now out of date. We must hope that this need will be supplied, together with a fuller treatment of the Saxon shore and of the problems of the 5th century, in the much larger work for which all will hope.

Chapter II deals with *Towns and Urban Centres*, and III with *The Countryside*. Here the approach is historical and social, and every page testifies not less to the wide learning than to the penetrating understanding of the author. Research thrives on research, and with these chapters on which to build great advances are to be expected in our understanding of the Civil Area. In particular one might refer to the new treatment of the subject of urban decay in the middle and late empire, a feature which has perhaps been over-

estimated in the past ; or to the brilliant analysis of the anatomy and social significance of the villa.

Even the ' village ' sites are now interpreted as tenant farms low down in the social scale, an interpretation which has been gaining hold of theory ever since the Little Woodbury excavations, but which in this reviewer's opinion should not be allowed to become exclusive dogma ; for in some cases the associated field systems seem too large for a single simple farm ; and it may be noted that Bersu himself was of the opinion that ' the very existence of such farms as a general feature presupposes the presence of other types ' of settlement (PPS VI, 105), such as may be found, one might suggest, at Chysauster and are implied by the structure of early Celtic society.

A conscientious reviewer might question, too, the interpretation (p. 78) of the Silchester *collegium peregrinorum* as ' a guild of Roman citizens ', and the connection of some of its members with *Legio XXI Rapax* (a suggestion of Ritterling in *Eph. Epig.* IX 985 surely discredited by the disappearance of that Regiment from the Roman army over a century earlier than the date suggested by the lettering of the Calleva inscription). On the same page we have a reference to the worship of Hercules Segomo at Calleva, a reinterpretation of the SAEGON of the inscription which calls for comment in view of the continental association of Segomo with Mars exclusively. And in passing one might note that the original calculation of the Ditchley estate as *c.* 1,000 acres, here repeated (p. 112), was based on faulty data regarding the size of granary space in a cohort fort, and the figures should be halved. But these are small points of criticism.

Chapter IV deals with *Economics* and Chapter V with *Religious Cults*. In the first we have a new review of the evidence of surpassing excellence, comprehensive yet clear, and remarkable for its masterly combination of varied sources of evidence. The result is a synthesis illuminating indeed. We are struck by the consistent rapidity with which the exploitation followed the over-running of almost every worth-while natural commodity in Britain, implying a big influx of Italian businessmen and capital in the early days : but the evidence is also clear that the provincials were not slow to follow up this lead, and that they successfully retained much of its wealth in the Province. The treatment of Religions is an original contribution of the first rank, long looked for, but calling for deep specialist knowledge in a variety of fields not previously combined in one man. Not least notable is the understanding treatment of the local shrines and godlings which were such a feature of town and countryside (receiving due attention in the appropriate chapters) ; these formed the counterpart of the official cults and the imported regimental deities which are clearly explained against their background. Here, perhaps for the first time in the book, we are conscious of compression and must hope for an even fuller treatment later.

Finally, there is a Bibliography, select, indeed (it omits *Roman Britain and the English Settlements*), but giving the student a valuable introduction to the maze of specialist literature. It does much (but not all) to assist those desiring to follow up particular points, and goes perhaps as far as a ' popular ' book can go in documentation, and further than most. Misprints are few ; (on p, 220, line 16 Archaeologia IV (1898) should read LVI, part I (1898), and (line 35) ' Yorkshire ' should be italicised). The illustrations, an exceptional feature in the series, are clear and well-chosen for their purpose. This book is assured of a wide public and a long life ; it is good to find that it has already been printed in the parallel cloth-bound series of Penguin books at 8s. 6d.

S. S. FRERE

ROMAN ROADS IN BRITAIN. VOL. I. SOUTH OF THE FOSS WAY—BRISTOL CHANNEL. By IVAN D. MARGARY. 9¾ x 7. Pp. 255 + pls. 17 + 11 maps. London : Phoenix House Ltd., 1955. Price 42s.

It is fifty-two years since Thomas Codrington's book on the Roman roads of Britain was first published, the only work ever to be exclusively devoted to the subject. Since then much field-work and excavation has been carried out, the results of which are inevitably buried in many, often obscure, publications, and much, alas, has been destroyed.

An up-to-date book on the subject was urgently needed. It is fortunate for us that in the author of the present book enthusiasm and experience are combined with the means and leisure to accomplish a task which must have involved much time and labour both in the field and in the library. The decision to divide the work into two parts was a wise one, for otherwise the whole would have doubtless been long delayed, and the resulting volume cumbersome.

In his *Roman Ways in the Weald* (1948) the author devised an ideal method of recording his field observations on annotated strips reproduced from the 6-inch Ordnance maps. The result was a book admirably suited for use in the field. This method could not, of course, be applied to a much larger area. The upshot is that the present work must be considered as a work of reference to be used in the study in conjunction with the appropriate O.S. maps, and not as a field manual, or, for the most part, a book for continuous reading. Its arrangement is ingenious and works well in practice. A contour map of the whole area has numbered roads upon it, single digits being employed, as by the Ministry of Transport, for trunk routes like Watling Street and the Foss. From these branch roads, represented by two-digit numbers, the first of which is that of the trunk road from which it comes. Lesser roads again bear three-digit numbers, the first two corresponding to the branch road from which they lead. A full index, and an index to road numbers, enable the relevant description in the text to be easily found, while ten further outline maps facilitate easy reference. A page reference added to each plate would have put a finishing touch to this admirable presentation of the subject.

No branch of archaeological study has given such scope to the crank as the course of Roman roads, and no doubt the publication of this book will unleash the lunatics upon its author. There are, however, many local enthusiasts who have lived with a particular stretch of country, and whose local knowledge it is unlikely that the author has had the opportunity of tapping. That there are omissions is inevitable ; for instance, no reference is made to the valuable work of Mr. R. P. Wright on the Portway at Newton Tony (*Wilts. A.M.*, XLVII, 513) ; the well-known Roman bridge over the Trent near Cromwell (*J.B.A.A.*, XLI, 83) is not even mentioned, and where there were bridges there must have been roads. Indeed it is to be expected that attempting to add to, or even to disprove, Margary will in future become a kind of game. It is to be hoped that the victim will welcome this, for, when he has succeeded in separating the grain from the chaff, there should be much grist for his mill in the future editions that are to be expected of so important a work.

In this spirit some detailed criticisms may be offered regarding the illustrations. The sketch-maps of Silchester (No. 4) and Durobrivae (No. 8) both need redrawing. The Silchester plan, far from elucidating the fine air photograph on the opposite page, actually falsifies some of the observable data upon it. The plan of Durobrivae misses the very significant change of alignment in the western rampart at the west gate (cf. Pl. XIII), where a branch road clearly approaches the town. Perhaps, too, now that the new O.S. map of Roman Britain has been published, its nomenclature will be generally adopted, and an outmoded term like ' settlement ' discarded for Great Casterton (p. 199), which has for five years been known to be a walled town.

The plates vary greatly in quality. The full-page air views are superb, both as photographs and for the information they contain ; but the same cannot be said of the other photographs, some of which appear to be snaps taken from a moving car. The photographs of excavations on Pl. II are so uninformative as not to be worthy of reproduction.

The book as a whole is a handsome volume. Such criticisms as are here offered are made in the belief that a second edition will be demanded before long of a work that contains a great mass of permanently useful information on a subject of prime importance that has never before received such treatment as it deserves. All students of Roman Britain will look forward eagerly to Volume II, and will wish the author a continuance of the courage and determination that have borne such fruit in Volume I.

PHILIP CORDER

LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA. By G. W. MEATES. London: Heinemann, 1955. Price 21s.

The popularity of archaeology with the general public, and of excavation in particular, has laid a new duty on the archaeologist. Formerly the modest funds necessary for excavation were found by learned societies or occasionally by wealthy individuals. This is no longer so, and support must now be sought either from the taxpayer through the State, or more directly from the pockets of a large number of interested amateurs. In consequence it is incumbent upon the excavator to satisfy the legitimate curiosity of those who have made his work possible by preparing works of 'vulgarisation'—to use an untranslatable French word—that shall at one and the same time be readable, accurate, and informative, without being loaded with the scientific detail that is an essential part of the excavation report. The Press, Radio, and Television all take a share in this, for excavation is now 'news'. Every excavator must be capable of producing an adequate technical report within a reasonable time, or he is no better than a vandal. But the good excavator cannot always be expected to write well for a wider public. Colonel Meates has done both.

The villa at Lullingstone has become famous, first, for the richness of its finds, its inscribed mosaic, and the marble portrait-busts that rank with the finest classical sculpture of Roman Britain; and, second, as a result of the devoted work of Mr. Cregoe Nicholson, for the recovery of the plaster decoration of a Christian House-chapel. Accessibility from London has increased popular interest. The author's enthusiasm and devotion to the excavation over many years have certainly been rewarded by good luck. He has, moreover, a lively pen and leisure to wield it to good purpose. The result is a well-written, readable book about the course of the excavation, illustrated by admirable photographs (he was again fortunate in his photographer, Mr. M. B. Cookson), and vigorous reconstructions, though these are not always as accurate as they should have been (cf. fig. 10 and Pl. 42). So successful is the author in casting a spell on his reader that his excursions into Imperial history are resented as interruptions in the story. It emerges from the narrative that the discipline that should mark every good excavation was sometimes lacking. A very important find was purloined by a casual onlooker (p. 134), a raw recruit was entrusted with trowelling an important layer (p. 66), and the director himself was guilty more than once of being stampeded by his own enthusiasm. These errors are cheerfully acknowledged. Even if one cannot always hold up the work as an impeccable model, the zest of the writing never flags, and the readers for whom the book is intended will learn much of the aims and methods of excavating a Roman villa from the author's commentary, which is full of sound precept and good sense. Colonel Meates is to be congratulated on having achieved a notable success in a type of writing too often left by the specialist to an enterprising journalist, with unsatisfactory results.

PHILIP CORDER

LIVIA'S GARDEN ROOM AT PRIMA PORTA. By MABEL M. GABRIEL. New York University Press, 1955. Pp. vii + 55, with 3 figs, and 36 plates. Price $12.00.

To those whose habit it is to dismiss Roman-age art as a decadent and pale reflection of its Hellenistic and Hellenic predecessors, this slim, but important, volume will come as a surprising revelation. In Livia's garden room at Prima Porta, Augustan Rome offers us a masterpiece of mural painting of the first importance, unparalleled and unsurpassed by any extant work of this class by an ancient artist. Here were painters who had an understanding of aerial and colour perspective more advanced, as the authoress herself points out (p. 19), than that displayed by many artists of the early Renaissance, who excelled in subtle high-lighting and in brilliant contrasts of sunshine and shadow, whose exquisitely true and realistic renderings of every detail of tree, plant, leaf, fruit, flower, and bird remind us of the flower and 'still life' studies of the 16th and 17th-century Dutch and Flemish masters. No Greek site has yet produced the equal of these fascinating scenes.

The Prima Porta paintings represent the most perfect expression of a delight in Nature for her own sake that was more intense under the late Republic and early Empire than in any other classical age. To the taste of this period the painted garden niches in the 'Auditorium of Maecenas' in Rome (*Bullettino Comunale* ii, 1874, pls. 11–16), some Pompeian painted landscapes and friezes, a few Italian decorative non-landscape reliefs in terra-cotta and marble, such as those from Cervetri (Museo Etrusco, Vatican), from Lo Scasato (Villa Giulia), and from the famous Ara Pacis Augustae, bear significant, if less unusual and distinguished, witness. Such naturalism was, however, not traditional in earlier Italy. For its prototype in decorative work we have to turn to eastern, Hellenistic lands, in particular to 2nd-century B.C. regal Pergamon (see T. Kraus, *Die Ranken der Ara Pacis*, 1953), to sculptured altars and friezes (*ibid.* pls. 19 and 22), and to mosaic floors (Altertumer von Pergamon, V, i, 1930, pls. 12–18). Nor was the monumental three dimensional landscape-style of Prima Porta foreshadowed in Italy on the walls of Etruscan or other Italic tombs. M. M. Gabriel does not discuss the problem of the sources of this style. But it is probable that those sources also should be sought east of the Adriatic, among the lost or as yet undiscovered murals that accompanied the Pergamene and other Hellenistic architectural carvings and tessellated pavements with highly naturalistic representations of birds, insects, plants, and flowers. It seems unlikely that the consummate technique, detailed knowledge, and informed imagination that created the Prima Porta paintings had no antecedents. Meanwhile, pending new finds, the work of these Augustan masters remains unique. That they were Greeks, by origin at least, we may surmise from our knowledge of the nationality and status of many of the artists who were working in Rome and her neighbourhood during this period.

If we accept G.'s attractive theory (p. 7 f.) that the ' fringe ' at the top of the paintings represents a thatch made of reeds and covered with stucco (*incannuciata*), the spectator, now standing in the reconstructed chamber in the Terme Museum, must imagine himself in a kind of garden house, the roof of which lacks visible supports. Round this ' house ' runs a low, trellis-work fence of yellow willow, and beyond that, and parallel to it, a white stone balustrade, forming a recess in the centre of each of the six panels, into which, for convenience, G. has divided the scenes. Between these barriers runs a prim, grass walk ; and, apart from an occasional bird and plant and from the forest-tree that grows in each recess in front of the balustrade, the whole receding vista of riotous trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, and feathered creatures is fenced away behind this second barrier. The spectator is thus segregated, in his neat and formal setting, from a world of exuberant fancy, in which, as G. observes (p. 11), the flowers and fruits proper to different seasons are blooming and ripening together. He is, in fact, almost as much a prisoner as is the bird in the domed cage that rests, in panel II, upon the top of the balustrade. On pp. 15–16 we are told that ' the meaning and purpose of Livia's underground room remains unsolved ', but that we may think of it as having had ' a deeper significance '. Could this teeming garden, that stretches back into a limitless distance, be paradise, in which the soul's eternal bliss is symbolised, as in tomb-art, by the gifts of all the seasons, by the flowers of spring, summer and early autumn, by the fruits of later autumn, and by the evergreens of winter—a land in which ' light, life, and growth are all-powerful ' and where Nature luxuriates in ' overflowing abundance ' (p. 18) ? Could the caged bird symbolise the human soul that longs to quit the body for a better world ? As one contemplates these paintings one cannot but recall the 6th-century mosaic in the nave of Justinian's church at Sabratha in Tripolitania, where a caged quail occupies the centre of a mighty vine-scroll, in the branches of which birds of many breeds are feeding and strolling freely (D. E. L. Haynes, *Ancient Tripolitania*, 1947, pl. 17). Was Livia's painted room designed for meditation on happiness beyond the grave ?

G. has placed us deeply in her debt by producing this careful, delightfully written, and superbly illustrated study—the first major publication, with modern photographic record, of treasures of Italian art which Italian art-historians have, on the whole, strangely neglected. For instance, in A. Maiuri's contribution on Roman painting to Skira's well-known series, not a single scene from Prima Porta anywhere appears. The fact that G. is herself a painter lends a special value and interest to her chapter III on the com-

position, form, perspective, colour, light, and technique of the scenes (she distinguishes four layers of painting, the first in fresco, the others in tempera), and to her chapter IV on individual hands. The professional scholar may, perhaps with justice, complain that the historical and archaeological background of the pictures is inadequately treated. But every reader could spend many enchanted hours savouring the wealth and beauty of the plates with the help of G.'s sensitive descriptions and of her deliciously detailed descriptive list of the sixty-nine birds of numerous varieties that populate this Eden.

J. M. C. TOYNBEE

FURNITURE IN ROMAN BRITAIN. By JOAN LIVERSIDGE. 7¼ x 4¼. Pp. viii + 76 + pls. 69. London : Tiranti, 1955. Price 10s. 6d.

This book has been eagerly awaited by students of Roman Britain. It deals with an aspect of daily life not previously the subject of either book or article. Now that it is in our hands it is difficult to see how we can have managed without it for so long. It will at once take its place among our text-books.

Of the chairs, tables, beds and cupboards of the Romano-British house nothing has survived in our climate but a few scraps of Kimmeridge shale, rusty iron and bronze bric-a-brac. Thanks to a few cult statues of the Mother Goddesses and a considerable number of rather homely sepulchral monuments, often, as those at Chester, of extraordinary crudity, it has been possible for the author to reconstruct for us the household furniture of Britain. Even with this material the task could hardly have been accomplished without drawing freely on parallels elsewhere in the Empire. Actually 17 of the 69 illustrations are of non-British objects from as far afield as Luxor, Sabratha, Tripoli, Herculaneum, and Bordeaux. Indeed the late 2nd-century sarcophagus found at Simpelfeld in 1930, now in the Leiden Museum, showing a house-proud Roman lady surrounded by the possessions on which her life's interest had centred, serves, as the author says, ' to summarise our knowledge of furniture in Roman Britain '.

One fact emerges at once from this study—that there is no such thing as Romano-British furniture. As Professor Toynbee rightly remarks in her Foreword, ' In this monograph . . . we have, indeed, an admirable illustration of the fact that Roman Britain cannot be understood in isolation from its continental and Mediterranean background '. The forms of tables and beds (why must they be always referred to as ' couches ' ?) in Britain were as classical as were the motifs used by the mosaicists. Yet much of the furniture was clearly made in the Province. It is difficult to imagine a more unsuitable material for tables than Kimmeridge shale, yet the possession of an ugly three-legged table of this material (Pls. 44–5, 57–8, 61) seems to have been the hall-mark of the British *nouveau riche*.

The book is well arranged, the text forming a commentary on the 69 well-chosen plates, reference to which is conveniently made in the margin. The abundant footnotes at the end—no less than 10 pages of them—provide the student with much reading and show how solid is the basis of this scholarly little book. There is nothing dry about it ; it should prove absorbing reading for the non-specialist as well as a source-book for the archaeologist.

It is to be hoped that the author will now proceed to write a larger book on the whole equipment of the Romano-British house, to include its decoration as well as its movables. It could hardly be expected that lamps could be included in her present scope, but if tripods and candelabra, why not the handsome bronze lamp-stand from Flixborough ? A few additions can be made to the examples of textiles menioned on p. 54. Gypsum-filled coffins have provided evidence of velvet or plush at York (*York Museum Handbook* (1891), 110), and impressions of linen at Malton (*Antiq. Journ.* XXVIII, Pl. xxvi, g, h), while from Silchester comes the impression of a different weave (*Archaeologia*, 92 (1947), Pl. xxxvi, a, b). The Caistor lead box (p. 63) now has a fellow, possibly from the same workshop, in the inscribed fragment found in 1954 at East Stoke, and now in the Newark Museum.

The plates are so valuable a collection, and in general so good, that one is loath to criticise. But fragments of objects, like the table legs, should be reproduced to an exact scale, or, if that is impracticable, have a scale beside them. This is so elementary a rule that it is shocking to find that only the Dorchester Museum practises it, and the scale there used can only have been intended as a guide to the editor, for it is illegible when reproduced.

The addition of an index and a list of illustrations would have been a boon to the many users of this otherwise admirably arranged monograph.

PHILIP CORDER

THE TEMPLE OF NEHALENNIA AT DOMBURG. By ADA HONDIUS-CRONE. Pp. 123, including 44 plates. Amsterdam, 1955. Price not stated.

In 1647, after a great storm, some structural remains, altars, and sculptures came to light on the shore of the Island of Walcheren, near the township of Domburg. The movable stones were placed for safe keeping in the church at Domburg, where they remained until 1848, when lightning struck the building and the collection was almost entirely destroyed in the ensuing fire. Fortunately, drawings of the stones were by then in existence, and when the surviving pieces were eventually acquired by the Museum at Middelburg it was with their aid that, towards the end of the century, the Curator's daughter catalogued the fragments and succeeded in effecting some reconstructions. But during the recent war her reconstructions and notes were destroyed, and the handsome book now published is a direct outcome of the task of reassembling the collection. In addition to presenting a formal description—the first since 1845—of the inscribed and sculptured stones recovered in 1647, the author comments, in the manner of the best *catalogues raisonnés*, upon the site, the structural remains, the style and significance of the altars and sculptures, and the high status and functions of the goddess to whom no less than twenty-eight of the former were dedicated. Many of the old drawings are reproduced to illustrate lost or damaged stones.

The name of the goddess was Nehalennia ; the remains were those of her temple. On style, the altars and sculptures can be assigned to the early 3rd century, while the coin list suggests that the temple stood until late in the same century, when it was probably destroyed by Saxon pirates. The altars deserve particular notice. They exhibit a striking richness of ornament, are of exceptional interest iconographically, and can be attributed to one or other of the great schools of provincial sculpture in the Rhineland and the Moselle Valley. Nineteen are carved on the face to represent an *aedicula*, in which the goddess is enthroned, wearing what must be contemporary local costume, with a basket of fruit in her lap and a dog at her side ; four show her standing, a ship under her left foot and a steering-oar in her right hand, and one represents her as a triad of goddesses with the dedication in the singular. The symbolism and epigraphy of the altars together suggest an ancient fertility goddess in Roman guise, worshipped particularly by seamen and merchants, among whom may have been one engaged in trading pottery to or from Britain.

The book is in English, well written, though with a few misprints, and is very well illustrated and fully documented. One would like to see more studies of this type.

DAVID SMITH

GERMANIC ART. By WILHELM HOLMQVIST. Stockholm 1955, Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar, 90th part. Price : 25 Swedish kronor.

Dr. Holmqvist has set himself an interesting and useful task ; that of presenting pagan Germanic metalwork in its European setting in the light of recent Swedish research work. This is the first book to be written in the English language that has attempted to cover this field, and as such will, with its full bibliography and wonderful pictures, be most useful to the English archaeologist.

The book is short and very much to the point. It gives a fair and balanced outline of the present state of knowledge concerning the art of the ' Dark Ages ' in a readable and clear manner. Occasionally Dr. Holmqvist presents an opinion, usually his own, that is not generally accepted, but where this happens he is usually on safe ground and probably correct. For instance, when dealing with style-influences between Scandinavia and England in the period of the Winchester School, he is of the opinion that England is the donor and Scandinavia the receiver. This is becoming more and more obvious, and the ideas expressed in his article of 1948, then so heretical, are now seen to be acceptable.

There are in Dr. Holmqvist's account a number of controversial matters, but these are inevitable in a discussion of such intricacies as there are in the art-history of this period of nearly 800 years, during which the chronological basis is largely unsound in the light of the subject discussed : but Dr. Holmqvist skates lightly and competently over thin ice which only occasionally is heard to crack a little. Vague grumblings, for instance, may perhaps be heard when he accepts, with I believe, a rather unjustifiable dogmatism, the figural scene on the Sutton Hoo purse-lid as ' Daniel in the Lion's Den '.

He introduces to the English reader for the first time the styles A, B, C, D and E, although he tends to stick more closely to the three divisions of Salin. This usage is perhaps rather false, through no fault of his own, when throughout this book he refers to the English animal styles by the terminology of Salin I and II. Sir Thomas Kendrick was the first to hint at the unacceptability of this terminology in connection with the English material, and it is becoming increasingly obvious that, although there is a general similarity between the English and the Scandinavian styles, in detail they are very different. A comparison of the square-headed brooches of Norway and England show many parallels of general planning and lay-out, but many of the ornamental details are difficult to parallel. That Scandinavian and English animal ornament influenced each other is undoubtedly true, but the differences in detail are so great that it is perhaps unwise to use the same terminology in both Scandinavia and England. This is not a criticism of this book, it is only emphasised by the book, and Dr. Holmqvist has used this rather unwieldly baton with skill.

In his discussion of the Scandinavian style III and the different Viking Age styles there is little to quarrel with ; he tackles very boldly the problems of Carolingian influences in the Scandinavian area. For the first time since Brøndsted's great work of 1924 we have in English a coherent and balanced statement of the metalworker's art in the late Vendel, Viking and Carolingian times, with an adequate and masterly summary of the art of the pagan Germanic metalworker of the Migration period.

DAVID M. WILSON

IRISH CHURCHES AND MONASTIC BUILDINGS. VOL. I. By HAROLD G. LEASK. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$. Pp. 174, with 100 figs. and 21 pls. Dundalk : Dundalgan Press, 1955. Price 27s. 6d.

This is the first of two volumes designed to survey the development of ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland from the earliest times up to the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century. It carries the story as far as the end of the Romanesque, the most individual of the Irish medieval styles, which reached its finest expression shortly after the middle of the 12th century. After that date Irish architecture was radically transformed by the advancing Gothic. The earliest examples of this style, principally the Cistercian churches, already overlap the native Romanesque, but their treatment is logically reserved for the second volume.

As Inspector of National Monuments in the Office of Public Works, Dublin, the author had unrivalled opportunities of acquiring an intimate knowledge of the buildings. The delicate drawings, which form so high a proportion of the illustrations, are a sufficient testimony both to this knowledge and to a sympathy with the work of the native craftsmen. The decision to use these drawings in place of photographs to explain the finer detail is fully justified. Much of this work is carried out in soft stone, which has weathered badly and only a skilled restoration of the design can fully convey the intention of the builders. The few photographs are admirably chosen.

Mr. Leask is no doctrinaire seeking to compress the flowering of the native genius—for the Irish Romanesque is no less than this—into a rigid sequence based on a theoretical development. He considers each building or group of buildings on its own evidence and against the known background, avoiding exaggerated stress on isolated facts and comparisons, which have too often led students astray. The result is a sober and scholarly analysis, which will form the basis for a further advance.

The first chapters cover the oldest buildings, about which we know so little, owing to the scarcity of information and the difficulty of marrying the recorded data to the surviving architecture. His conclusion that mortared masonry was possibly introduced in the 7th century and certainly in the 8th, his emphasis on the low ratio of length to breadth (often substantially less than 2 : 1) as an early characteristic, his remarks on the influence on the corbelled dry-built roof of the native clochain and of timber construction, are topics that well illustrate his cautious approach to the problems of this period.

The greater part of the volume is rightly reserved for the Romanesque—the term is here confined to ' architecture more or less embellished with carved ornament '. The style in Ireland is divided into three phases. In the first, datable to the end of the 11th century and the first decades of the 12th, only the bases and capitals of piers and pillars are ornamented. In the second, between *c.* 1120 and *c.* 1165, ornament spread to the arches and, rather later, boldly invaded the piers and pillars, to culminate in ' the veil of enrichment which covers every surface of the master-work in the style : the doorway of Clonfert Cathedral '. Finally, the third phase saw a richness of decoration which was achieved only at the expense of the architectural purity of the lines of support and arch, a development first apparent in the 1160's and continuing till the style was replaced by Gothic. Cormac's Chapel and the buildings inspired by it, e.g. Kilmalkedar, are rightly seen to stand apart from the general course of development.

The general scheme carries conviction, and this conviction is strengthened by the treatment accorded to the individual buildings. Two minor points may be made. The introduction of the chevron can hardly have come except by way of England ; the date for its arrival in Ireland should therefore be post 1115 rather than *c.* 1100 A close analysis of the ornament of phase 1 suggests that this was influenced from the latest pre-Conquest style of England. If this be so the bulbous bases of Rahan I might justly be compared with the bulbous capitals and bases of 11th-century Saxon building, reinforcing the late 11th-century date proposed by the author. Such differences of emphasis only affect minutiae and serve to bring out the essential soundness of the author's treatment.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

SPANISH GUNS AND PISTOLS. By W. KEITH NEAL. London : G. Bell & Sons Ltd., 1955. Price 42s.

Despite the widely-held belief that, from the Middle Ages onwards, Spain was famous for the production of fine armour and weapons, the amount of information published on this branch of art-history has been very slight indeed. The only works available in English, apart from a few ephemeral articles on the Royal Armoury at Madrid, appear to be Sir James Mann's long paper on 'Armour worn in Spain from the Tenth to the Fifteenth Century ' in Vol. LXXXIII of *Archaeologia*, A. F. Calvert's *Spanish Arms and Armour*, which is confined almost entirely to objects in the Madrid armoury, and the chapter on 'Arms ' in J. F. Riano's *The Industrial Arts in Spain*. Only in the last-named is there an account of the development of firearms in Spain, and this is far too brief to be of any real value. The appearance of an English book devoted entirely to this subject is therefore an event of some importance, the more so when its author is the owner of one of the finest private collections of Spanish firearms in existence.

The book is divided into two approximately equal sections. The first of these consists chiefly of a general history of the development of hand-firearms in Spain from *c.* 1530–*c.* 1850. As far as it goes this is an excellent piece of work but it is disappointing in its treatment of the earlier part of the period covered. The art of the Spanish gunmaker reached its peak during the late 17th and 18th century, and Mr. Neal's

chief affection is clearly for the splendid products of this era. He gives only the briefest account of the wheel-lock unaccompanied by an illustration of even a single specimen. Similarly his treatment of the problem of the origin of the miquelet-lock and its connection with the other early form of ' snap-lock ' found in Europe is not as detailed as one would have liked. Apart from this there is little to criticise. The account is well written, clear and accurate, and a particularly useful feature is the discussion of the connection between the Spanish miquelet and the similar forms of lock found on Arab muskets.

The final chapter of the first part is devoted to a *resume* of the section on firearms in Alonzo Martínez de Espinar's *Arte de Ballestería y Montería*, published in 1644. This work, which has hitherto been known in English only from the few extracts given by Riano, is a treatise on the manufacture, choice and use of crossbows and guns, written apparently as a guide for sportsmen. It is particularly interesting because of the details it gives about manufacture and about the main types of gun-lock in use in Spain at the time, and it serves as a useful introduction to the second half of Mr. Neal's book. This comprises a complete translation of another treatise, Isidro Solér's *Historical Account of the Gunmakers of Madrid from their Origin until the Present Day*, published in 1795. Solér was a working gunsmith of considerable eminence, in fact, gunmaker to the King of Spain, and his book is fundamental to any study of Spanish firearms. He was moved to writing the book by the large number of inferior imitations of Madrid guns that were being made both in Spain and abroad and, to quote his own words, it ' has no other object but to instruct amateurs and professionals in the knowledge of the genuine marks, countermarks and history of the masters who preceded us, in order to prevent the impostures that have arisen through this lack of knowledge, and at the same time to contribute my part to preserve from darkness of ages the Memory of the Makers to whose industry and talent we owe the credit and esteem which our work and guns have gained and gain today '. The technical information given by Solér is largely concerned with the forging of barrels, for which he gives details of the old and new methods used, and with the detection of imitation Madrid barrels. This is interesting enough, but the chief value of the work lies in the lists of names of the most eminent gunmakers of Madrid from the 16th century onwards. These are accompanied by descriptions and, in the case of Solér's contemporaries and immediate predecessors, drawings of their marks. The inclusion of this translation is in itself sufficient to make Mr. Neal's book essential to all students of the history of firearms.

The book ends with a list of the names of over two hundred Spanish gunmakers accompanied by four pages of reproductions of marks, and with a hundred half-tone illustrations of firearms, mostly from the author's own collection. These illustrations are of outstanding quality and one cannot praise them too highly. They more than justify the comparatively high price of the book.

C. BLAIR

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM. EUROPEAN FIREARMS. By J. F. HAYWARD. London : H.M.S.O., 1955. Price 8s. 6d.

Most students of arms and armour will know of Mr. J. F. Hayward's two excellent handbooks dealing respectively with the armour and the swords and daggers in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The present volume completes the survey of this part of the collection with a rather more detailed account of the firearms.

The first part of the book consists of a concise general history of the development of European hand-firearms as illustrated by the Museum's collection. The last general history of firearms in English, by Major H. B. C. Pollard, appeared in 1930. Since that date an enormous amount of new material relating to this subject has been published, for the most part in foreign periodicals not easily accessible to the average student in England or America. In producing a new general history Mr. Hayward has therefore performed a very important service, and one can only regret that the form in which it has appeared has prevented it from being very much longer. Despite the fact that there are only twenty-two pages of text at his disposal, however, Mr. Hayward has managed to produce an account that is both readable and remarkably informative. The period

covered by the Museum's collection, *c.* 1540–1820, prevents any discussion either of what might be termed the prehistory of firearms or of the percussion system and its successors. Within the limits laid down, however, the account covers everything of importance relating to technical development and decoration, and even contains a good deal of information about manufacture. A particularly valuable feature is the series of eighteen extremely clear line drawings of the mechanisms of the main types of lock in use during the period covered.

The remainder of the book consists of a ' List of Illustrations ' and thirty-five half-tone plates illustrating eighty-one firearms, detached locks and designs for the decoration of firearms selected from the Victoria and Albert Museum collection. This last, although comparatively small, is extremely rich in fine-quality pieces, and all the specimens illustrated are of the first rank while many are outstanding. Amongst them, for example, are guns from the private armouries of Louis XIII and Louis XV of France, the Elector Maximilian of Bavaria, the Grand Duke Cosimo III of Tuscany, and of the princely houses of Saxony, Fugger and Liechtenstein, while the eminent craftsmen whose work is represented include Daniel Sadeler, Monlong, the Comminazzi, Werder, J. M. Maucher, Joseph Egg, Lorenzoni and Kolbe. All the pieces are described with full documentation in the accompanying ' List of Illustrations ' which, in fact, is an admirable catalogue *raisonné* occupying twenty-one pages of text. The only improvement that one can suggest is that future editions should include a plate of reproductions of makers' marks in place of the present unsatisfactory system of references to the reproductions of similar marks in Støckel's great dictionary of gunsmiths.

This book is likely to remain the standard introduction to the history of firearms for many years to come. It is strongly recommended to all interested in the subject.

C. BLAIR

BRIDGEND : THE STORY OF A MARKET TOWN. By HENRY JOHN RANDALL. Newport, Mon. : R. H. Johns Ltd., 1955. Pp. 156, 6 pls. and 4 maps. Price 21s.

This book is an act of piety in the best sense ; the author, a well-known local antiquary who has also written a stimulating book on Europe in the Middle Ages, now turns to the history of the town to which his family has belonged for more than a century, and where he is its last representative. Added to this, his profession and his standing in the town have given him access to records which no one else might have found. Bridgend became significant only after about 1425 when a bridge was built over the river Ogmore, and the two small communities of Coity and Newcastle coalesced into one at the bridge. Much that is particular about its development—its prescriptive market, its town hall rebuilt in 1843 and vested in trustees, etc.—is explained by the fact that it was not incorporated in the Middle Ages, and that the Victorian Board of Health was its first instrument of self-government. These matters, and the usual range of local topics—local industries, the development of nonconformity and banking, some prominent local families—are accurately described and the town placed in its local setting with the aid of maps. The absence of medieval development is due to the fact that the river Ogmore is not navigable.

Mr. Randall quotes admiringly the dictum that local history is concerned with the ' origin, growth, decline and fall of a local Community '. The community of Bridgend does not emerge very clearly from this book. In the main this is due to lack of evidence, as the author says, but at some points it is due to his reticence and diffidence. He could often have written much more : for instance, about the older site which led to the Norman castle at Newcastle being so named, and about local persons. An arrangement by period, rather than topic, would have made it easier to put the community, rather than its activities and sectional manifestations, in the forefront of the picture. This is an admirable piece of work, limited only by the author's fear of offending neighbours and boring more distant readers—an unnecessary fear, as any reader will agree.

M. W. BARLEY

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE MANOR AND SOKE OF NEWARK-ON-TRENT. Edited by M. W. BARLEY, M.A., F.S.A., with contributions by the late W. H. STEVENSON and KENNETH CAMERON, B.A., Ph.D. Thoroton Society Record Series, Vol. XVI. 1955.

The Record Section of the Thoroton Society has begun its new programme of publications of a wide interest by printing three documents from the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries concerning the Borough and the Manor and Soke of Newark-on-Trent. The first document is a list of the inhabitants of the borough of *c.* 1175 ; the second of the possessions of the Bishop of Lincoln *c.* 1225–31 in the Manor and Soke of Newark ; the third of the bishop's demesne lands in the manor in 1348–9. The documents are prefixed by an introduction, mainly by Mr. Barley, which discusses their significance in relation to medieval social history and to the development of the borough of Newark. It is with the first feature that the introduction, with its excellent sections on the Wapentake of Newark, the Agrarian Population and the Bishop's Demesne, very largely deals. If there is a criticism to be made it is that some of the conclusions drawn, for example, on the significance of the high rents paid by new tofts in Northgate in 1225–31, are, in the light of Kosminsky's recent article, not wrong but perhaps inadequate.

For readers of this journal the section of the introduction on the development of the Borough will be of the most immediate concern. The documents provide a list of the trades of the borough population in the late 12th century, and indicate, by implication, the bounds of the borough in the early 13th century. The origin of a fortification at Newark is ascribed by Mr. Barley to the late 9th or early 10th century and its development into a town to a somewhat later period when the manor and the soke had come into the hands of the Earl of Mercia. Mr. Wainwright has recently shown by his excavations there that the walls of Cricklade can probably be assigned to the early 10th century, and the likenesses and the differences between the siting and town-plans of Cricklade and Newark tend to confirm Mr. Barley's suggestions. One may demur at his formulation that ' the planning of the borough seems more in the English than in the Scandinavian tradition ', but certainly it appears to be of a late type. In the early 13th century tenants of the soke had the unusual duty of helping to build stalls for the fair, of which a formal grant had been made by the Bishop in 1133. The discovery of the origin of this service, presumably much older than 1133, or of the origin of an analogous case might go some way towards settling the problems of the origin of the Borough.

From the Conquest onwards the development of Newark as a borough is in most respects along the same lines as those of other large manors of the Bishop of Lincoln. There is, however, a unique feature in Newark's history, the complete absence in later years of any agricultural element in the town. This is not without importance in a consideration of the town's origin, and might, perhaps, have been rather more stressed in the introduction.

Newark's development is an interesting and, clearly, a significant problem, and the Thoroton Society and Mr. Barley have done us a service in publishing these documents with their valuable introduction.

ERIC MERCER

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS. By ARTHUR J. WILLIS. Pp. 144, 8 Pls., 3 pedigrees and 1 map. Ernest Benn, 1955. Price 15s.

Mr. Willis' book is written for all those who, aware that they are the heirs of all the ages, seek their ancestors not in the wide fields of past social activity but in strait marriage chambers and straiter charnel houses. Mr. Willis provides many helpful signposts for inexperienced travellers along those dusty paths and gives them much encouragement. He discusses briefly but well the value of such sources as Parish Registers, early Newspapers and Monumental Inscriptions, and he explains the best methods of tackling them. It is perhaps an omission that the uses of Heraldry are not specifically referred to. He who ' builds on a Herald's faith ' is likely to have his parchment pavilions tumbling about his ears but, nevertheless, quartered and impaled coats often provide a clue to the descent

of a family, or warn against confusions between two families of the same name. The last third of the book describes Mr. Willis' Adventures in Search of an Ancestor, and in so doing points many good morals for aspiring genealogists. It is a defect of the approach and not of Mr. Willis' forefathers that the result of it all is an overpowering number of ' intolerably nameless names '. Happier, one feels, is he to whom all past Humanity are ancestors ; he indeed comes of an illustrious line.

ERIC MERCER

THE MEDIEVAL FLOOR-TILES OF LEICESTERSHIRE. By NORMA R. WHITCOMB. Pp. 135. Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. Price 25s.

Although some two hundred and sixty tile-patterns have been traced in Leicestershire, it would at first sight seem an unpromising county about which to write a lengthy survey of the medieval floor-tiles found there : few of the tiles can be accurately dated by association with the buildings where they belong, and no kiln site remains in the county, if one omits the vague reference to ' round ovens ' at Burton Lazars, and the record of a reputed kiln at Gracedieu Priory. Whereas Mr. Christopher Hohler was able to focus his similar study of the tiles in Buckinghamshire on the kilns at Penn, with the support of a number of documents, Miss Whitcomb had no such centre round which an account of the Leicestershire tiles could be told. In addition, scarcely a document with reference to tiles in the county survives. However, in this survey, the author has been able to attribute a great number of tiles to sources outside the county, whether to actual places of manufacture or merely to centres from which travelling tilers worked. The 14th-century inlaid tiles, it is said, originated in Coventry or Nottingham, while the printed tiles of the 15th century were probably made at Coventry only. Attribution is, however, made more difficult by the fact that the Malvern tilers continued to use the earlier method almost to the end of the 15th century. Conversely, at Trinity Hospital, Leicester, which was founded in 1331, the tiles are printed ; on heraldic grounds, the tiles can be dated to the foundation of the hospital, and they appear to have been made for the space they still occupy. The author freely admits the flaw in an otherwise tidy and convincing story, but it is difficult to overlook the problem in view of the fact that Trinity Hospital is one of the few buildings that can be used as dating evidence in this context.

The bulk of this survey is taken up with drawings of the tiles and with a catalogue giving details of the size, clay, and glaze of each example. In addition, reference is made to other places in the Country where the same tile-pattern has been traced. The excellent drawings wisely do not attempt any reconstruction. The book, as a whole, is a model of thoroughness and methodical arrangement, and shows how far the study of medieval tiles has developed since the term ' encaustic tile ' covered practically the whole subject.

S. D. T. SPITTLE