

## REVIEWS

**SOILS FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGIST.** By I. W. CORNWALL. Pp. 230, figs. 19. Phoenix House, London, 1958. Price 50s.

A book which sets out to cover such a panoramic field as this will be judged from different standpoints according to the narrower view of each reader, but it must first be judged from the standpoint of those for whom it was written, 'the archaeologists whose background is chiefly humanistic'. In this book, itself very pleasing in style and quality, the field is surveyed under four main headings: I. Archaeological Deposits; II. Weathering and Soils; III. Techniques of Soil Investigation; IV. Interpretation and Examples.

The first part is an interesting account of the origin and nature of the many materials in which man's artifacts have been found, dating back to the dawn of prehistory. These are the archaeological 'deposits'—though in many soils it was only the artifacts which were deposited. In the next section, after a general introduction to weathering and soil genesis, Kubiena's classification of soils is presented, almost undigested and in technical terminology, with no indication that other classifications are widely used too. Much of it is only of marginal concern, yet the influence of man himself on soil development, either directly or through his effect on vegetation, is given scant attention, an extraordinary oversight in a book of this title. In the third part the archaeologist finds himself in the laboratory, being introduced, with questionable wisdom, to a variety of apparatus and reagents. In Part IV he begins to touch the ground again, though he may regret that the chapter on applications to specific sites only includes three examples, and these not completely convincing in detail. Some photographs of buried soils would have been most helpful here; in fact photography as a tool of the soil investigator is not even mentioned.

It is clear that this is not really a book for the non-scientist, but a technical account of Dr. Cornwall's own work. For some years he has been demonstrating the value of scientific soil investigation in the elucidation of archaeological problems, and in addition he gives us here an insight into its potentialities. The techniques used and even the fundamental views expressed will in places come in for some criticism; the soil surveyor, the microbiologist, the ecologist, and not least, the soil chemist will all have bones to pick with Dr. Cornwall. Perhaps the most serious complaint is a general one: that an impressive edifice of basic scientific knowledge is presented with inadequate indication that much of it is still largely theoretical. The very researches which this book will inspire may indeed demolish some of this structure. Archaeologists must not be led to believe that specialists in any one field will all speak with the same voice, for there is still plenty of room for different opinions. To take only one example, it will not be agreed by all pollen analysts that the Bronze Age climate in Britain was markedly warmer and drier than that of the preceding or subsequent periods.

There is really room for two books here, the first a non-technical manual of soils for the humanistic archaeologist and the second an account for the specialist of the relevant scientific methods and the results so obtained. The former, regrettably, still remains to be written; and it is perhaps premature for the latter. Nevertheless, Dr. Cornwall has given a great stimulus to thought and research by this book, and he has presented his case in a readable and well-knit manner. He has in fact laid a foundation on which we can all build, and at the same time shown us how to build.

G. W. DIMBLEBY

**MILLIN BAY: A LATE NEOLITHIC CAIRN IN COUNTY DOWN.** By A. E. P. COLLINS and D. M. WATERMAN. (Archaeological Research Publications of Northern Ireland, No. 4). Pp. 84, Pls. XIX, figs. 17. Belfast, H.M. Stationery Office, 1955. Price 18s.

The monument described in this report consists of a central long cist, sunk in the ground, and surrounded by an oval setting of orthostats. This, in turn, was surrounded by

a concentric oval of standing stones, delimiting a low mound of sand covering the whole structure. All these features are contemporary. Within the mound were a number of cists. Both incineration and inhumation were recognised in the burial rites. The monument stood on the old beach above the eastern shore of the Ards peninsula of County Down. Many of the stones in the settings and others incorporated in the cairn material were decorated with pocked or grooved designs, which are illustrated by means of a notable series of line drawings. The only datable objects found were the fragments of a round bottomed bowl with stab and drag ornament. This was probably, but not certainly, associated with the building of the cairn. Its transitional character between the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age has justifiably influenced the authors in their search for parallels to and for the cultural affinities of this remarkable monument, which they term unique.

The report makes it clear that the site was fully investigated with scrupulous care. The facts disclosed are lucidly set down and adequately illustrated with plans, sections and photographs. The skeletal remains are catalogued in detail, disclosing interesting data the significance of which is weighed in the final discussion. That the monument remains, in many ways, an enigma is not the fault of the authors and their colleagues. They rightly compare it with an analogous site at Ballynoe, also in County Down. This was excavated before the war and still awaits adequate publication; the summary here provided cannot fill that gap. The authors' further comparison of the whole monument with the inadequately investigated sites at Balnabraid, in Kintyre, and Old Parks, Kirkoswald, in Cumberland, is not entirely convincing. These monuments have yielded datable material, but neither their form nor sequence are fully known; the resemblances may be only formal. The cairn at Millin Bay is a burial monument of the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. Its features exhibit resemblances with monuments of both the Carlingford-Clyde and the Boyne cultures and their continental analogues. We must be grateful to the Government of Northern Ireland and the authors for their careful study and admirable publication of this cairn.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

THE DECIPHERMENT OF LINEAR B. By JOHN CHADWICK. Pp. x + 148, Pls. II, figs. 17. Cambridge University Press, 1958. Price 18s. 6d.

Since 1952 Linear B, previously known to a small number of dons only, has almost become a household word. It was in June that year that a young English architect, Michael Ventris, succeeded in breaking the code, in which a large number of clay-tablets, found at Knossos and Pylos, were written sometime before the Dorian invasion. The decipherment revealed the astonishing fact that Greek was the language of the palaces not only in the Peloponnese but also in Crete, once thought to have been ruled by non-Greek Minoans down to the end of the bronze-age.

Experts can now survey the results and follow the rapid advance of 'Mycenology' in books and specialist journals. An admirable synthesis, throwing light on all aspects of Mycenaean civilization was given in 1956 in *Documents in Mycenaean Greek* by M. Ventris and J. Chadwick. But there was clearly a demand for a more popular account both of the 'story' and of the main results. Let me state right away that Mr. Chadwick has eminently succeeded in presenting the rich harvest to everyone interested in the history of Greece in the 2nd millennium B.C.

After a brief survey of the various scripts found in the Aegaeon, Chadwick describes the early attempts at solving the riddle of Linear B, of which only the methodical investigations of the American Alice E. Kober were of consequence. But all early students were hampered by the fact that of the thousands of tablets discovered by Sir A. Evans at Knossos in 1900 only a fraction had been published (120 by 1935). In 1939 Prof. C. Blegen of Cincinnati discovered the archives of the palace of Pylos, and here again publication (by E. L. Bennett, Jr.) was unavoidably delayed until 1951. But this publication was followed almost at once, in early 1952, by the Knossos-material (*Scripta Minoa II*). Ventris

was asked on April 24th (not 'at this moment', as Mr. Chadwick says, p. 67, speaking of June) to review this work for the Third Programme. But on July 1st, instead of giving a mere review, Ventris made a sensational announcement: 'during the last few weeks, I have come to the conclusion that the Knossos and Pylos tablets must, after all, be written in Greek' (Listener, 10th July, 1952—not 10th June, p. 68 fn. 1).

Chadwick gives an exciting account of the slow advance that led Ventris to this revolutionary discovery. The twenty work-notes, circulated by Ventris to a small number of scholars between January 1951 and June 1952, show how this exceptional mind grappled with an exceptional problem, in which both the script and the language were unknown quantities. We see how the painstaking study of the minutest features led to the setting up of the famous 'grid' and how, once the assumption was made that some sign-groups in the Knossos-tablets might contain names of well-known Cretan cities, identifications resulted for two thirds of the nearly 90 signs of the script. I emphasize this point because, when Ventris sat down to 'rationalize' the decipherment, the impression was given that the grid worked without experimentation. But the fact is that, however scientifically the grid was arranged, the first identifications were based on substituting *Amnisos* etc., that is on trial and error, and I am glad to see that Mr. Chadwick stresses this point (pp. 74, 77, 90). Ventris's (and our) great good fortune was that the first trial went off without error. But the important fact is that the proof of the correctness of the decipherment is not the grid but the simple fact that it worked and has continued to work on a growing number of tablets discovered since (cp. p. 92).

The impact of the decipherment on the various branches of Mycenaean scholarship can hardly be exaggerated. All are admirably discussed in Chapter 7: *Life in Mycenaean Greece*, which is a masterly exposition of the varied information concerning palace administration, social structure, economic system, pantheon, 'army and navy', use of writing, etc. The last chapter maps out the tasks left for future research, while the Appendix gives further specimens of Mycenaean tablets in transcription and translation.

Printing and illustrations are superb. Among the few factual mistakes I have noted are the Oxford Chair of *Classical Philology* (p. 79, read: Comparative), *A-ke-re-wia* for *A-ke-re-wa* (p. 123), the omission in the 'Greek' transcription of the last line of No. 4 on p. 141. To take some other points: Sign *nu*<sub>2</sub>, "more precisely *nwa*" (p. 74), is perhaps rather *nuwa* or even *nawa* (pronounced also as *nwa*); its shape suggests to me comparison with the Hieroglyphic Hittite sign *nu* (III III III) which is simply 9 verticals and shows that the value is from the word *nawa* or *nuwa* '9'; cp. Barnett, *Anatolian Studies* 3, 1954, 81<sup>3</sup>. This may be significant for the origin of some signs, and *pte* may also have to give way to *pete*: beside the normal syllabic signs there would be a few disyllabic ones. If in the tax-tablets rams outnumber ewes, that is due also (cf. p. 122) to the use of their horns for the many things described as *keraja*.

Michael Ventris was fortunate in gaining the early adherence of a devoted and expert philologist in the person of J. Chadwick, who produced in collaboration both the first article, 'Evidence', and the last joint work, 'Documents', which Ventris did not live to see. Chadwick's present work is as a whole a tribute to the greatness of Ventris as a scholar. Chapter I adds a touching portrait of the man. It was a happy idea to reproduce a captivating photograph of M. Ventris as the frontispiece.

OSWALD SZEMERÉNYI

THE ETRUSCANS. By RAYMOND BLOCH. (Ancient Peoples and Places Series). Pp. 260, 79 photographs, figs. 38, 3 maps. Thames and Hudson, London. Price 25s.

M. Bloch's *Etruscans* is a revised and expanded version of *Le Mystère Etrusque*, Paris 1956, and is another addition to the recent series of translations into English of works by foreign scholars on the Etruscans. A wide range of choice of general works now confronts the English reader of which several are avowedly 'popular', and the publishers of M. Bloch's volume inform us that this is 'popular archaeology at its best—simple, lucid and alive'. But accuracy and a high standard of illustration need not be sacrificed to this end.

It seems that in the English edition these points are considered less important than in France. There are numerous misprints, including especially confusing examples where illustrations are misnumbered (28-30), proper names mis-spelt, Paganio! p. 190, Haufmann (*sic*) p. 192 and a Gallicised spelling of Praeneste which is unfamiliar to English readers. In a 'popular' work it is surely all the more necessary to ensure that the bibliography, if not comprehensive, is at least free of errors and misleading information. Under 'History of the Etruscans, we find M. Pallottino, *The Etruscans*, 1955, with no mention either that this is a translation of the author's *Etruscologia*, Milan, 1955 (quoted as indispensable in the bibliography of General Works) or that it is in fact the admirable Pelican easily obtainable by English readers. Again Dennis' *Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria* described in the text as a 'little' masterpiece presumably refers to the Everyman edition (not mentioned in the Bibliography) as this adjective could hardly be applied to the two volume edition of 1878 of 1,080 pages, which is the reference given in the Bibliography. While there is much to mislead the general reader the scholar will often be exasperated as M. Bloch's clear and lucid text would benefit enormously from footnotes which could have been inserted, as in the Pelican archaeological series, at the end of each chapter, and could then be consulted not only by those who need further more detailed information, but those whose interest might easily extend to sources. The text of the book is short; sculpture, painting and bronzes are allowed only 14 pages; and many of the text figures are so simplified and crude in execution that they would give a false impression of the object to those unfamiliar with the originals. The standard of reproduction of the plates, many of which are the same as those used in Pallottino's *Art of the Etruscans*, also published by Thames and Hudson, is uneven and compares unfavourably not only with the latter work, but with books of a much smaller format (and price) such as Pallottino's *Etruscans* (Pelican series) or M. Bloch's *L'Art et la Civilisation Etrusque*. M. Bloch's text deserves better than this. He gives a clear survey of the problem of Etruscan origins, a useful account of the history, language, institutions and customs, literature and religion, and has been well served by his translator. This should have merited careful proof reading, editing, and a high standard of illustration. Let us hope future editions will remove the need for such criticism.

K. R. MAXWELL-HYSLOP

TOWN AND COUNTRY IN ROMAN BRITAIN. By A. L. F. RIVET. Pps. 195, figs. 9, and Pls. I. London: Hutchinson, 1958. Price 10s. 6d.

The object of this book, modestly stated in the preface, is to give the non-specialist a picture of the civilian communities of Roman Britain. This has been successfully attained and not only the non-specialist can be grateful.

The introductory chapters have a value in their own right. A fully documented assessment of the character of the available evidence warns us, with homely similes, not to expect too much from it. We are given a clear account of the origin and distribution of the cultures of Britain on the eve of the conquest, which is essential to an understanding of the communities which developed from them. The treatment of the system of Roman provincial administration is the most useful which has ever appeared at the particular scale.

The study of the towns, which are classified by origin, function, status and size, packs much into a small space. More has still to be learnt about the dates at which various large and small towns were first walled. As knowledge has increased the dating of town walls has tended to be pushed later, and the process seems to be continuing. But it is not yet time to discard the conclusion, accepted by Rivet, that many towns were first given walls and multiple ditches at a date not far removed from A.D. 200.

Rivet points out that the development of the Romanised farms seems to be parallel with that of the towns. The different rural and urban communities were complementary, both in organisation and function, and shared the same vicissitudes. It is, however, doubtful whether the contrast between 3rd-century depression and 4th-century prosperity, in both town and country, was in reality so great as the ambiguous nature of our 3rd-century evidence makes it appear.



The book closes with an account of the political geography of the province, *civitas* by *civitas*. While there are difficulties in this approach, something of the special character of each *civitas* is brought out by the grouping of the evidence in a way which had meaning in Roman times.

There are clear diagrams and useful indexes. The bibliographies are full yet critically selective; they are a special feature of the book, enhance its value and help to give it its special character.

There is a remarkable absence of minor errors or points calling for detailed criticism. The work is full of facts, derived as they must be largely from published reports, and yet over and over again, they strike the reader with the freshness of a new discovery. Their interpretation nicely holds the balance between the retention of views which have stood the test of time, and original reassessment. In short it is an excellent book.

J. P. GILLAM

EXCAVATIONS AT CLAUSENTUM, SOUTHAMPTON, 1951-4. By M. AYLWIN COTTON and P. W. GATHERCOLE. (Ministry of Works Archaeological Reports, No. 2). Pp. ix + 169, Pls. VI, figs. 37. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958. Price 45s.

This is the first report in the new series of Archaeological Reports of the Ministry of Works to be devoted to a Roman site, and its appearance has been eagerly awaited. Much labour has gone into its compilation; it is sumptuously, even lavishly, produced, at a not unreasonable price, and contains much useful information.

It deals with the Roman port of Clausentum at Bitterne, Southampton, and describes in detail not only the comparatively small-scale excavations undertaken for the Ministry before building operations destroyed what little evidence remained, but records also the archaeological history of the site, including the inscriptions, and a full bibliography.

The site is on a tongue of land formed by a bend in the lower reaches of the River Itchen. Some 27½ acres of the promontory were enclosed by a cross bank and ditch, possibly of Flavian date. This rather unusual type of Roman enclosure contained only timber buildings, which were not replaced by masonry structures until the late 2nd century. Late in the 4th century, perhaps as late as A.D. 370, the defended area was reduced to a mere 8 acres, and surrounded by a massive stone wall, which according to the records of Englefield in 1804-5, had been carried across the promontory and provided with terminal solid round bastions, and at least one interval semicircular bastion. This, as so often elsewhere, incorporated architectural fragments, among which were inscriptions of late 3rd century date. Mrs. Cotton could find no surviving trace of this well-authenticated western wall in her long trench across its site. In its place she exposed in more than one place a 9 ft. band of close-set post-holes, which she interpreted as a stockade, and tentatively dated to the late Antonine period. It is not easy to visualise such a forest of upstanding posts, and, bearing in mind the similar close-set piles discovered by the late S. N. Miller *in situ* beneath the 4th-century defences at York, it seems more probable that these formed the base for the masonry wall seen by Englefield, all trace of which has long since disappeared. A wide berm and a great shallow ditch are to be expected in a late 4th-century defence provided with artillery towers.

Half the report is taken up with an exhaustive study of the pottery: 15 stratified groups are recorded in detail in over 300 excellent drawings. These groups contain, as was to be expected on a long occupied site, a considerable amount of residual material. The Flavian group, for instance, contains a Claudian mortar (fig. 20, no. 5), and *terra nigra* platters (fig. 19, nos. 1, 2), while a pre-Claudian butt-beaker (fig. 21, no. 3) survives in a Trajanic context. The beginner must therefore be warned against the uncritical use of these groups for dating purposes.

A type series compiled from stratified groups, in an area where none exists, is highly desirable, but to be useful each type should bear a single number readily referable to a single illustration. Mrs. Cotton's ingenuity in attempting to make her code numbers act

as descriptions provides nothing but frustration. To take one example at random : her type BkNFP<sub>1</sub>= *Folded Beaker, New Forest ware, Painted with slip* (p. 86), and to find the type specimen the reader must turn to p. 115, fig. 27, no. 16.

A work so splendidly produced and printed, at public expense, might be expected to exhibit good editorship. Its absence is only too apparent. Some of the plans and sections are extravagantly large : fig. 7, for instance, is a monster of 6 folds and, when finally unrolled, is 3 ft. 4 ins. long. Its chance of survival in a library is small, and its cost must have been enormous. It should be compared with fig. 2, borrowed from the *Journal of Roman Studies*, that is just as legible at a fifth of the scale, and nicely fits its page. Mrs. Cotton's pottery drawings are both excellent and economically grouped in the best traditions of publication, but those of part 2 by Mr. Gathercole (fig. 36, for instance) are widely and wastefully spaced at twice the normal scale. These are examples which might have been passed over in an amateur production, but are serious shortcomings in a series that should set a standard, and which began so well. With all the arrears of publications that the Ministry now has in hand, is there not a strong case for a full-time editor ?

PHILIP CORDER

**EXCAVATIONS IN SOUTHWARK.** By KATHLEEN M. KENYON. (Research Papers of the Surrey Archaeological Society, No. 5). Pp. 111, Pls. VIII, figs. 37. Paper Boards. Surrey Arch. Soc., Guildford, 1959. Price, members 25s., non-members 30s.

At a time when we had to take comfort where we could find it, we used to bandy phrases about the unique opportunity which bomb damage had given us to investigate the early history of our towns. Too often, however, though the opportunity was grasped by archaeologists, the necessary means to exploit it were not available. This report, despite its mountainous period of gestation, is one of the resultant mice. The Southwark Excavation Committee, in the course of its three years' work, from 1945 to 1947, disposed of the princely sum of £84 16s. od. Its resources were 'too slender to undertake clearance from the modern surface to Roman levels, or to clear accumulated debris', and as a result excavation was confined to five small sites, all of them outside the area of the main Roman settlement, where cellars of medium depth gave comparatively easy access to the Roman levels. It is greatly to the credit of Dr. Kenyon and her volunteer helpers (including, incidentally, drafts from Holland and the United States of America) that so much information was in fact obtained.

The most interesting site was that at King's Head Yard (TQ 32718012). Here a 1st century ditch was succeeded first by a number of pits and then, at about the end of the 2nd century, by a building of some size, most of whose walls were of wattle and daub construction but which included a tessellated corridor (perhaps to be associated with the pavement found here in 1880). What may be a second section of the same ditch was found at another site, Ingledew and Davenport's (TQ 32628018), on the opposite side of Stane Street, but the area available for investigation was too small to fix the alignment accurately and since the King's Head Yard sector, at least, had a palisade on its south side the ditch's function is obscure. At 199, Borough High Street (TQ 32527985) Stane Street itself was identified, at a point where it crossed a little watercourse, and its construction dated to the 1st century. Roman material was also found at a site in Newcomen Street (TQ 32687989) where the only associated features were ditches and what appears to have been a tank, and at Mermaid Court (TQ 32587989), where even ditches were lacking.

The greater part of the report is devoted to the finds, the Samian being dealt with by Dr. Felix Oswald, the other Roman pottery (headed 'coarse', but including two fragments of St. Remy ware) by Dr. Kenyon herself, medieval and later pottery by Messrs. Dunning, Adrian Oswald and E. A. Lane, the Roman glass by Dr. Harden, tobacco pipes by Mr. Oswald, coins by Mr. B. W. Pearce and miscellaneous small finds again by Dr. Kenyon. Of particular interest are Mr. Dunning's report on a group of glazed jugs from the Ingledew and Davenport site, dated by association with a fragment of French polychrome ware to c. 1300,

and Dr. Kenyon's own report on the Roman coarse pottery. Apart from the usual generalised provincial wares this included a substantial proportion of pottery which carries the local, non-Belgic, traditions of the Iron Age forward at least into the 3rd century A.D. This will cause less surprise than it might have twelve years ago, but in view of Southwark's obvious status as the satellite of London is still interesting. It is not stated where the finds are deposited.

In view of the small scale of the excavations, Dr. Kenyon's general conclusions can be only provisional. 'It is clear,' she writes, 'that the actual Southwark area was unoccupied in the Iron Age'; yet the King's Head Yard site produced some scraps of Iron Age A pottery. The Roman occupation is still seen as concentrated around the bridgehead with ribbon development along Stane Street and presumably Watling Street (no light was thrown on the course of the latter). For the fact that 'there was little effective occupation in the area examined after the beginning of the 4th century A.D.' the tentative explanation is offered that embankment of the Thames had raised its level and that 'neglect during the disturbed period of the 4th century led to the breaking of these embankments and the subsequent flooding'. Thereafter, despite the foundation of Bermondsey Abbey soon after the Norman Conquest, the area seems to have been largely deserted until about 1300, when ribbon development is again postulated. Increased activity in the 16th and 17th centuries was succeeded by further flooding in the 17th, and much of the area continued under agriculture and horticulture until the beginning of the modern industrial phase in about 1850.

These conclusions are largely based on a careful and valuable record of levels. In other respects the treatment of the geographical aspects is less happy. The rather skeletal 'Map of Roman Remains in Southwark' is based on the R.C.H.M. *Roman London* and on V.C.H. Surrey IV, but curiously omits the burials in the region of Trinity Street and Deverell Street, which might support a different line for Watling Street from that suggested here. References to the O.S. 25-inch of 1916 (p. 29) are outmoded by the publication, in 1952-3, of the revised National Grid plans of the area. The grid reference is not only a more concise way of stating the location of the Newcomen Street site than the eight lines of description in the text, it is also a more useful one because, with the erection of Northfleet House, even the boundaries shown on the site plan can no longer be identified.

A. L. F. RIVET

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WESSEX. By L. V. GRINSELL. Pp. 384, Pls XV, figs. 18 and 6 maps. Methuen, 1958. Price 42s.

Mr. Grinsell is an assiduous collector of information, as his various county barrow surveys attest, and in this book he has undertaken the considerable task of assembling in summary form much of the more important archaeological material relating to Wessex. This material lies scattered throughout a variety of books, periodicals, maps and museums, as well as on the ground itself, and is by no means always readily accessible or intelligible. It is surprising, in view of its paramount importance to British archaeology, that no serious attempt has been made to impose some order upon it and to view it as a whole. With the emphasis on field monuments—for this is primarily a work on field archaeology—Mr. Grinsell has made such an attempt and has provided us with a much needed book which must become the standard introduction to the archaeology of Wessex.

Wessex is defined as comprising Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire, East Somerset, southern Berkshire and West Sussex—the latter area suggesting a liberal but by no means unjustifiable interpretation. In time the book ranges from the Palaeolithic through the later and richer phases of Wessex prehistory to the Roman occupation and the pagan Saxon period, separate chapters being devoted to the various archaeological periods or specific aspects of them. Although chiefly concerned with field remains it is more than a mere inventory. The topographical accounts of the monuments of each period are prefaced by short sketches of the archaeological background of the period with mention of the more notable finds, which materially increases the usefulness and intelligibility of the book. In addition to a bibliography of the more important works on Wessex there is a useful list of museums

containing archaeological material from the area. The main index is in the form of a gazetteer of sites arranged county by county. A series of six distribution maps, based on a simplified geological drift map, shows the chief concentrations of archaeological remains of the various periods and reflects the varying degree to which settlement was dependent on the chalk.

In a work cast in such concentrated form it is inevitable that there are some inaccuracies and omissions. The causewayed camp on Hambledon Hill is, for example, wrongly described as comprising two or more concentric banks, while the well-preserved settlement site at Ringmoor, Turnworth, is not mentioned. There is, too, some unevenness of treatment. The Neolithic monuments by reason of their smaller number are dealt with in more detail than those of the Iron Age and it is particularly regrettable that more space was not allotted to the consideration of Iron Age and Romano-British native farmsteads. But it would be ungrateful to cavil at such points as these when the author's main problem has been one of compression. It is to be hoped that this book is a beginning, not an end, and that it will stimulate additional interest, not merely in the general archaeology of Wessex, but more particularly in its field monuments whose numbers dwindle steadily from the downland as the plough and bulldozer complete their awful work.

D. J. BONNEY

**WESSEX BEFORE THE CELTS.** By J. F. S. STONE. (Ancient Peoples and Places Series). Pp. 207, Pls. LXXII, figs. 22. Thames and Hudson, 1958. Price 25s.

It is fitting that Dr. J. F. S. Stone should have been asked to contribute to this series the book on Wessex and we are fortunate that the draft text was completed before his untimely death in July 1957, for after four decades of research in the area he possessed a virtually unrivalled knowledge of its prehistoric archaeology. The book was originally planned as a Prehistoric Wessex but in its final form has been restricted, as its title suggests, to the period preceding the Iron Age. No attempt has been made to deal in detail with the archaeology of Wessex, instead the aim has been to present us with a summary 'of man's gradual control of his environment in this most vital region of Britain'.

Wessex is interpreted as Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset together with the eastern part of Somerset and the chalk escarpment of Berkshire. With Salisbury Plain as the focal point of the chalk downland in Southern England, Wiltshire understandably plays the major role in this work, but is arguably given too great prominence at the expense of the other areas.

Beginning with a brief survey of the natural background and the Mesolithic food-gatherers the book proceeds to a more detailed examination of the modes of life and burial customs, as evidenced in the archaeological record, of the various food-producing communities of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. An Epilogue, 'Celtic Wessex', briefly sketches in the more important aspects of the Iron Age and although it might be regretted that this section was not accorded fuller treatment it is perhaps as well, in view of the fluctuating state of Iron Age studies.

The essential characteristics of prehistoric Wessex emerge successfully. Its large areas of lightly forested chalk downland and accessibility, especially from the coast, attracted early settlers, and situated facing the continent it received from that source periodic influences in the form of both immigrations and trade. Again and again these external influences were modified by the pre-existing cultural pattern, giving rise to cultures with peculiarly insular characteristics. The Primary Neolithic colonists, for example, introduced pottery, stock rearing, the cultivation of plants and an elaborate method of burial. These innovations were partially adopted and modified by peoples of Mesolithic ancestry giving rise to the more varied Secondary Neolithic cultures. The ceremonial 'henge' monuments appear to emerge as a purely insular development. At a later stage, in the mid-second millennium B.C., as Dr. Stone vividly portrays in his chapter 'Heroes and Traders', Wessex found itself on the important trade route between Ireland, with its wealth of metals, and the continent. The rich graves of the 'Wessex Culture' furnish



evidence of widespread contacts with Northern and Central Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Insofar as the archaeological record permits, the material is presented to show the continuous development of the landscape and its dependent communities, as opposed to disconnected descriptions of the major archaeological periods, which all too frequently parade as prehistory. The plates, with the exception of No. 68, are particularly well chosen and reproduced. In short this book is a useful introductory essay to the earlier phases of Wessex prehistory and it maintains the high standard we have come to expect of this series.

D. J. BONNEY

SHROPSHIRE. By NIKOLAUS PEVSNER. (The Buildings of England). Pp. 368, Pls. LXIV and map. Penguin Books, 1958. Price 8s. 6d.

This is the sixteenth volume in Professor Pevsner's invaluable survey and like all the others, it is a *tour de force*. The very scale and comprehensiveness of the undertaking make it unique: and the same rare combination of the visual and the historical approach, the wide learning and catholic taste, the sustained enthusiasm and the gift for apt comment are evident here as in the rest of the series. It is an essential companion for the visitor to Shropshire and it can be read with enjoyment afterwards.

Shropshire has many beautiful and famous buildings, but none, perhaps, of the first national importance, except for the castles at Acton Burnell and Stokesay, the remains of Viroconium and the Industrial Archaeology of Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale. Although in the Middle Ages it produced the finest wool in England, it has very little to compare with the great Perpendicular churches of East Anglia and the Cotswolds—a caution for those who expect to find in architecture an index of economic prosperity. Provincialism and survival are two of the dominant themes of Shropshire architecture throughout most of its history. Thus its most distinctive expression is in timber building, which continued as a living tradition, both in town and country, until well after the Restoration. The timber-framed houses erected by the wealthy clothiers of Shrewsbury show, even as late as the end of Elizabeth's reign, a marked survival of Gothic forms and a relative indifference to Renaissance influence. The hammer-beam roof, almost unknown in medieval Shropshire, becomes quite common in the village churches of the 17th century. Late survival implies a tendency to early revival. The return to the Decorated style, for example, which is a general feature of Laudian Gothic, is already observable in Shropshire in the Elizabethan age, as in Old St. Chads, Shrewsbury (1571) or, in 1589, in the chancel at Shipton in Corvedale.

The ancient monuments of Shropshire are often remote and difficult of access, but Professor Pevsner has missed very little. The volume does, however, bear many signs of haste, both in proof correction and in points of detail. The timbered upper storey of the Priory gatehouse at Bromfield, for instance, (p. 86) bears no sign of 14th century date and must be a later addition. The account of Langley chapel (p. 163) omits its most interesting feature, the arrangement of the communion rails round three sides of the altar. Buildwas Abbey is not 'cut off from the river by the railway' (p. 88), which actually runs along the south side of the ruins. Many other such mistakes or omissions might be quoted. It is somewhat astonishing, too, to find the Wenlock lavatorium panels ascribed (p. 18) to the Kilpeck school of Romanesque sculpture. The main general criticism is that the method of describing important churches (such as Ludlow or St. Mary's, Shrewsbury), according to the chronological order of the various parts, somewhat obscures the architectural development of the building as a whole. Professor Pevsner has naturally made great use of that classic of English ecclesiology, Cranage's *Churches of Shropshire*: but his accounts do not always stand up very well to the comparison.

There are 104 illustrations, well reproduced and admirably representative. Whatever the particular shortcomings of this volume, no one but Professor Pevsner could have given us so much in so short a space or in so stimulating a way, investing the detailed descriptions, as he always does, with a general significance.

PHILIP STYLES

YORKSHIRE, THE WEST RIDING. By NIKOLAUS PEVSNER. (The Buildings of England). Pp. 603, Pls. LXXII. Penguin Books, 1959. Price 10s. 6d.

This seventeenth volume in the Buildings of England series is to be welcomed as a further step towards the complete coverage of all English counties which it is to be hoped will be achieved, and in which much of the permanent value of the series will lie. The task of collecting and preparing such a great mass of material in a short space of time is so immense that any criticism of the content of the book must be made with this in mind.

The 58 page introduction forms an important part of the work ; it is well written although the occasional bursts of colloquialism and asides both here and in the lists of buildings are sometimes disturbing. The buildings themselves are arranged generally under the nearest town or village, though some are under their own names. This rather arbitrary arrangement is not always very satisfactory : to mention one particularly bad instance, the village of Midgley is extended to include Broadbottom which is actually at Mytholmroyd, whose importance is not mentioned ; it is in fact an aisled hall of the 14th century. Also under this heading the author includes Old Town which has no connection with Midgley and should properly be classed either under Hebden Bridge, a town which is dismissed with only two entries, or under its own parish of Wadsworth, a name which will be looked for in vain. It is surprising that more use has not been made of parish or other local government divisions in a book which claims to give 'full particulars of all . . . buildings of interest in each town and village of the county . . . '.

The speed with which the book has been compiled which is partly its strength is also its weakness, for it has been the cause of omissions which cannot otherwise be explained. The 17th-century hamlet of Mankinholes near Todmorden is not mentioned and at Heptonstall the account is restricted to the village ; outlying houses in the parish, even of manor-house size, such as Great House at Colden or Greenwood Lee are ignored. At Sowerby the description of the 18th-century St. Peter's church is good, but haste seems to have prevented the author from walking around the outside of the building, the north wall of which is of the plainest kind with a series of six buttresses, a matter of some importance when the other sides are as Dr. Pevsner says 'grandly classical'.

Of the buildings which are described, churches and their contents are treated in considerable detail and receive by far the greatest number of illustrations, 67 in all. The notes of nonconformist chapels are particularly useful as this information is less easily obtained than for parish churches, but the two illustrations which they are allowed seems out of proportion to their number and importance ; place ought to have been found for at least one of the 19th-century chapels which give character to many of the Pennine villages. Much valuable information is given for public buildings and the larger houses, notably the many Victorian buildings of the major towns, but it is unfortunate that so many of the smaller houses have had to be omitted. In a series of county volumes it is the architecture peculiar to that county which might well be stressed and in Yorkshire as elsewhere much of this is to be seen in buildings of farmhouse size. That it is not restricted to this however is illustrated by a remarkable doorway in the Folly at Settle, which well deserves the full page it is allowed. A further opportunity of stressing local practices might have been taken with advantage in the glossary where instead of the standard King and Queen-post roof trusses shewn it would have been much more appropriate to have given actual examples from the county described. The remarkable king-post trusses of the Pennines, seen distantly in the illustration of Shibden Hall, Halifax, and wrongly described as crucks, might well have found a place here.

In spite of all the omissions and errors occasioned by compression and limited time the book is a valuable addition to the study of the architecture of the west Riding and should prove a source of inspiration to anyone wishing to pursue it in greater detail.

C. F. STELL

THE ROUND TOWERS TO ENGLISH PARISH CHURCHES. By THE REV. J. W. MESSENT. Pp. xxvi+370. Norwich; Fletcher and Son, 1958. Price 30s.

Mr. Messent implies that he has fulfilled an often expressed need for a 'complete survey' of these towers. In fact the real work remains to be done. Considered as a catalogue, the book needs a little emendation: the tall, tapering, though roofless tower of Great Hautbois is much too good to be relegated to an appendix of fragments; one, ruined, example, at Wolterton, is not noticed at all; Weeting All Saints was not circular. Mr. Messent appreciates that the towers are generally early. I would go further—seldom does their original detail demand a date much after 1100; their manner is *premier roman*. But we need a precise typology of design and fabric instead of floundering in terms like 'Saxo-Norman'. Which of the towers are pre-Conquest is a secondary question, secondary at least to marshalling the comparative evidence, which is not to be found here. Instead of photographs or, better, measured drawings, there are rough sketches, unreliable in the important matter of proportion. Texture of masonry is seldom recorded nor are any details drawn. Awaiting what Petrie did a century ago for the Irish towers, we may still formulate, and provisionally answer, the general problems of the Anglian towers more precisely than in Mr. Messent's introductory sections.

First, their distribution: the overwhelming majority, more than one hundred and sixty, are in north-east Suffolk and throughout Norfolk; some twenty cover the rest of East Anglia to the fringes of Cambridge and Essex; South Essex, Berkshire, and the Sussex Ouse have two or three apiece. The principal area, despite unusual wealth and rebuilding in later centuries, and discounting a number of early square examples, shows a concentration of primary romanesque towers unparalleled in England. Only North Lincolnshire (over thirty, all square) is remotely comparable, while in other areas—Cotswold, or Hampshire and eastwards south of the Weald—eleventh-century churches are numerous and complete enough to show that bell-towers were there exceptional when in Norfolk and Lindsey they were the rule. A dense Domesday population will not explain it; it implies special social conditions or external influence. The wider distribution of early towers to minor churches is uneven: the Spanish March (Andorra alone has eight all lateral, one round); the southern Alpine valleys, and, more significantly, the Rhine and Maas down to Gelderland; all disturbed regions of passage, lending weight to the view that they were needed as watch-towers. But the development of bell-founding may affect it. East Anglia was receptive of displaced persons and crafts, not all Scandinavian: the Thetford pottery and the moneyers of the St. Edmund 'memorial' coinage were equally foreign. So perhaps are the bell-towers.

Secondly, their construction: they are attached, western towers, usually without external doors; they are *not* heightened *porticus* or crossing-bays, though these are found in the same area. Unlike some Norman towers elsewhere, they are not of defensive proportions. They are primarily bell-towers, secondarily perhaps watch-towers. The usual explanation, lack of ashlar, alone is not adequate for the circular plan (quoins are not essential in thick walls); fashion entered into it. Externally at least, they suggest the massive stair-turrets common in Rhenish romanesque, but found elsewhere (S. Lorenzo, Verona, Fromista, Castille). Irish influence, carried by Ostmen, can be disregarded, otherwise they would occur in north-western England; but in date and function the Irish and Anglian towers are probably close together. We are near the beginning of the age of campanili. Mr. Messent is certainly wrong in ascribing the round tower of S. Apollinare in Classe to the primary, 6th-century build; Rivoira assigned another Ravennate example to c. 850-878, while Ricci argued for a century later. A 9th-century date would seem to be germinal for bell-towers in general. Historically, no East Anglian example is likely before the mid-10th century, and a beginning after Cnut's settlement (c. 1020) is preferable. Once started the fashion spread rapidly. Certain points of detail need clarification; the tower-arch should not be dismissed as secondary without conclusive evidence; the first-floor opening into the nave is normal late Saxon practice. The *original* top storeys vary (most have a later bell-stage); typical, early romanesque, paired windows are found in the finer

specimens, more rarely there are eight separate lights, but usually no upper openings at all. Was there a timber bell-cage? Detailed examination should make sense of all this. It is urgent; many towers are in unhealthy condition. Morton collapsed in 1959.

S. E. RIGOLD

**DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE AND THE STONE OF DESTINY.** By W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON. Pp. 136, Pls. XVI, figs. 3. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1958. Price 18s.

Dunstaffnage Castle, a great 13th-century fortress of *enceinte*, stands on the Argyll coast a little to the north of Oban. The site is a remote one, but both in scale and in the quality of its carved detail the castle, with its adjacent chapel, when still entire, must have borne comparison with contemporary buildings of the same type erected in more favoured parts of Scotland and elsewhere. Dr. Simpson shows cause for believing that the castle was built by Ewen of Argyll in about 1263, while some two centuries later it passed into the hands of the Campbells, Earls of Argyll, on whose behalf it has since been held by hereditary keepers known as the Captains of Dunstaffnage.

After an opening chapter in which he discusses the geology of the site the author goes on to devote the main part of the book to a detailed account of the history of the Castle, together with a full description of the existing remains. A final chapter probes the authenticity of the confused mass of tradition and legend that associates Dunstaffnage with the Coronation Stone or Stone of Destiny. The architectural description of the castle and chapel is based upon the earlier account of MacGibbon and Ross, which Dr. Simpson here quotes at length. There follows a clear and detailed description of the buildings as they appear today and this, with the three plans, gives the reader a very adequate account of the main features of interest. The original disposition of the buildings within the courtyard is uncertain, but suggestions are made as to the probable sites both of the great hall and of the principal private apartments. Too much significance is perhaps attached to the rebuilding of the gatehouse in the 16th-century, which Dr. Simpson sees as a response to the 'bastard feudalism' of the later Middle Ages, and as an example of the erection of 'a great self-contained edifice, providing complete and isolated accommodation for the lord, . . . and having the main entrance under his direct control'. The existing structural evidence seems to suggest that the function of the present gatehouse was in fact little different from that of its 13th-century predecessor, which it evidently closely resembles both in plan and in overall dimensions.

Some of the photographs, as here reproduced, are of indifferent quality, and unfortunately much of the detail of the otherwise very valuable elevation and section (Plate 9) is illegible.

JOHN DUNBAR

**THE INCISED SLABS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND, PREFACED BY A BRIEF MANUAL OF INCISED SLABS.** By F. A. GREENHILL. Pp. 256, Pls. XLII, 2 maps. Leicestershire Arch. Soc. Price 52s. 6d.

If we regard incised slabs as the poor cousins of monumental brasses, it will appear strange that they have awakened so little interest in the past. It is not necessary to delve deep into this book to discover that only certain varieties of incised slabs are related to brasses and thereupon their neglect becomes less striking since so much work remains to be done in cataloguing other forms of monumental sculpture.

Mr. Greenhill's work consists of an introductory note discussing the incised slabs of the whole of Great Britain, followed by detailed catalogues of the examples in Leicestershire and Rutland, followed by two appendices, one dealing with the heraldic puzzle of 'Villiers Ancient', and the other consisting of a county list of slabs recorded up to 1957. There are site maps of the examples in the two counties and the usual indices of names, places and subjects.



Only someone with a close acquaintance with the two counties concerned, could review adequately the catalogues, and we need only mention that they include not only a full description of the slabs with the date of inspection if still extant, but also a biographical note of the individual commemorated, which must have added greatly to the author's work.

The less specialised reader will find more interesting the introduction and the county lists. The former is, in fact, the first serious study on the subject and the author frankly admits how little he has been able to discover with regard to the craft side. However, he is able to reproduce two fascinating illustrations from manuscripts in the British Museum, both depicting a widow explaining her requirements to a tomb-maker. After the stone had been received from the quarry, it is to be presumed that the master mason painted upon it the design to be carved. Mr. Greenhill suggests that the designs may have been supplied from outside using the analogy of a reference in 1498, to a '*patron*' for the brass effigy of an archbishop of St. Andrews, which appears as a separate item in the account. It is by no means certain, however that the pattern in question was for a monumental brass and not for a cast effigy.

The cumulative impression left by the illustrations is that the artistic standard was low. The best effects were achieved with good lettering and the representation of inanimate objects. The attempts at figure subjects are at best mediocre and at worst crude. There was nothing much to choose between the standard of the work which Mr. Greenhill attributes to London and that which he gives to Burton-on-Trent which was the other principal centre of production, thanks to its proximity to the alabaster quarries. Of much higher standard were the early 14th-century slabs imported from Tournai, which in their original state must have been serious rivals for the contemporary brasses. Most readers will be surprised to learn how formidable was the invasion of these foreign slabs, though it was mostly confined to areas where good water transport was available; e.g. St. Botolph, Boston has twenty-one examples.

The Leicestershire Archaeological Society is to be congratulated on the production in an appropriate format of this excellent work, thanks to grants received from the Pilgrim Trust and the Council of British Archaeology.

CHARLES OMAN

**ATLAS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN WORLD.** By F. VAN DER MEER AND CHRISTINE MOHRMANN. Originally published as *ATLAS VAN DER OUDCHRISTELIJKE WERFELD*; trans. and ed. by MARY F. HEDLUND and H. H. ROWLEY. Pp. 215, including 40 coloured maps and 614 photographic illustrations. Nelson, 1958. Price 70s.

An atlas, it seems, is no longer a mere collection of maps. This volume, we are informed by the translators, follows the model of Grollenberg's *Atlas of the Bible*, 'whose wealth of illustration has delighted, and whose text has instructed, many on both sides of the Atlantic'. The maps occupy a modest part only (24 pages and the two end-papers). The greater part (152 pages) is an anthology of photographs with accompanying commentary, designed to illustrate every aspect of Early Christian life and thought. The maps are the work of Professor van der Meer; the rest is the joint work of the two authors.

As the translators further remark, it is almost certainly to the anthology of illustration that the reader will first turn, and, whether 'delight' or 'instruction' be his object, it is safe to predict that he will find both in good measure. There are mistakes here and there (the Barberini mosaic, fig. 237, dates from the 1st century B.C.; the apsidal mosaic at Cherchel, fig. 354, is certainly not a tombstone; fig. 469, Casaranello, not Casanarello; fig. 607, the mosaic in the church of S. Lorenzo fuori le mura is on the triumphal arch, not in the apse), and there are a few unaccountable omissions (if there was room for a portrait of Nerva, surely we could have been given that of the empress Theodora). Here and there, too, the authors' choice of illustration and the substance of the accompanying text reflect a point of view that would not command universal agreement. An extreme case of this will be found in their uncompromising statement (p. 39) of the strictly exclusive character of Early Christian

imagery, an attitude which finds its logical counterpart in their very off-hand treatment of Christianity's debt to paganism for such demonstrable loans as the figure of the Good Shepherd or the symbol of the True Vine. If one approaches this difficult question in the first place from the monuments, rather than from the texts, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that in such matters practice and precept often followed parallel, but not necessarily identical, courses. On the whole, however, the authors have struck a very fair balance and have presented a picture as reliable as it is lively and informative.

Despite the excellences of this anthology, however, it is by its maps that an atlas should surely be judged; and it must regretfully but emphatically be stated that this part of the volume falls a long way short of the rest. The two essential requirements of a map are clarity and reliability. Even the first of these requirements has not everywhere been achieved, despite a high standard of printing. Far too much has often been attempted within the compass of a single map, with the result that it is quite impossible, for example, to tell from Map 41 whether Palestine was in the Diocese of Egypt or that of the Orient; or again, in Maps 3 and 4, only a knowledge of the facts enabled the reviewer to distinguish between the churches represented at the Synod of Elvira and the Council of Nicaea, respectively, while the Arian voters at Nicaea eluded him altogether. As to reliability, a sample check covering two small provinces raises serious doubts. In Tripolitania, within the compass of seventeen sites, the compiler is not only guilty of a number of inconsistencies and omissions, which effectively neutralize the value of at least four of the symbols used (those for cemeteries, catacombs, sculpture and Jewish monuments), but he has contrived to make the following substantial mistakes of fact: Sabratha equated with the modern Zuara; the Greek-Latin linguistic boundary shown as passing to the west of Leptis Magna; the Basilica Severiana cited as possible evidence of 2nd-century Christianity (!); Tebedut and Gasr es Suq mis-spelt; Ghirza, a consistently pagan site, included, although the important Donatist site of Msufin is omitted; and what appears to be a wild guess at the site of Sinnipsa, known to have sent a bishop to the Council of Carthage in 411 and here located on the Wadi el-Caam (anc. Cinyps; Greek, *Kinyps*)—all of this despite the existence of such readily accessible modern sources as Goodchild's map of Roman Tripolitania (1954) and the fully-documented survey of the Christian antiquities of the province published in volume 95 of *Archaeologia* (1953). In Lycaonia, in Asia Minor, matters are hardly better. Of the eighteen provincial bishoprics marked on Map 16a, six are certainly located correctly (although one of these, Neapolis, was probably in Pisidia); seven (Amblada, Derbe, Misthia, Pappa, Perta, Savatra, Vasada) are demonstrably wrong, in no case by less than 20 miles, and only in two cases (Derbe and Misthia) as the result of recent research; five are uncertain, of which one (Pyrgos) is not known to have become a bishopric before the 10th century, and one (Adrassos) should be in Isauria. Gadamava (Gdanmaa), shown in Galatia, should be in Lycaonia, and two sites (Cana and Corna), both known to have been bishoprics in 381, are omitted altogether from both map and index, although the site of one is certain and has long been known. These examples (selected for no other reason than because the material for checking them happened to be readily available) have perhaps been unfortunately chosen; certainly not all the maps are as grossly inaccurate as these. But equally they do not stand alone, and by any reckoning an atlas that incorporates errors of such magnitude and in such large numbers must be held to fall short of the reasonable requirements of reliability. The student will use it at his peril.

It would, however, be unfair to end on so sour a note. Despite its rather misleading title, it is not for its maps that this book will be bought and read, but for its illustration and its commentary. In these it would be a very critical reader who did not find a great deal to satisfy the eye and to stimulate the imagination.

JOHN WARD PERKINS

EARLY CHRISTIAN IRELAND. By MAIRE and LIAM DE PAOR. (Ancient Peoples and Places Series). Pp. 264, Pls. LXXVI, figs. 36. Thames and Hudson, London, 1959. Price 25s.

This well-produced volume in the series appearing under the general editorship of Dr.

Glyn Daniel is a book of handy size, illustrated by plates of good quality, with text figures—including maps—conveniently placed. The writing is lucid and engaging in style, carrying the reader onwards with quickening interest. To the question which may be asked whether there was need for such a book in view of the comparatively recent appearance (1940) of Dr. F. Henry's *Irish Art*, the answer is that she confined her admirable work, rather strictly, to the specific subject, whereas the volume under review has a wider scope. It deals not only with the art of eight centuries but with history and monastic and social organization and material civilization; with daily life, clothes, food and transport; dwellings, forts and crannogs and the like; in fact, with all life's activities and products. The facts and inferences that can be drawn from ancient literary sources or from finds and excavations are marshalled coherently.

Irish historians will not agree with every statement or opinion expressed. There are some errors in this field, even if not all of them are relevant. None the less the historical background is convincingly portrayed. The reviewer, however, feels that the authors—by inference—lay, perhaps, too much blame for the extinction of the native art upon the Anglo-Norman invaders; the earliest work at Christ Church, Dublin, (c. 1172) shows that de Clare ('Strongbow') and his fellows were not philistines. In architecture, indeed, the severe ideals of the Cistercians—who came before the assault and founded twenty seven houses before 1200 (five of them before the mid-century)—were contributory factors. Moreover, the native Romanesque was near to its climax; its over-ripeness was bound to give place to the advancing Gothic. Native inspiration in metalwork design died earlier.

The unqualified statement (p. 182) that the Killeslin doorway was built by king Diarmid MacMurchada in c. 1160 is open to question; the well-known inscription is so defaced as to leave the authorship in doubt. In the descriptions of objects there are some errors. For instance, crucibles (p. 96) were certainly not used for 'smelting' bronze or copper; the spiral bracelet from the Boyne (p. 39) has a terminal with triskele rather ornithomorphic decoration. These are minor slips yet they tend to shake confidence in a work likely to be regarded as definitive and used as a textbook. But the book has real value in that it gives, in compact form and at moderate cost, a picture of Ireland, the land, its history, the people, their life and their art in a period which included the country's Golden Age.

(The publishers, doubtless, are responsible for the error on the dust-jacket as to 'Dublin University' which is not the *alma mater* of the authors and lacks a faculty of Irish archaeology).

H. G. LEASK

IRISH CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES. Vol. II, by H. G. LEASK. Pp. 162, Pls. XXVIII, 77 figs. Dundalk (Dundalgan Press) 1958, price 35s.

For the past thirty years at least Dr. Leask has either been directly responsible for the articles on Irish medieval architecture which have appeared in this Journal or has been very closely associated with them; and the same concision and clarity of description which have become so familiar will be found in the present book. This is the second of a projected series of three designed as a substitute for the unprocurable *Irish Ecclesiastical Architecture* of Champneys. It deals with the buildings of the 13th and 14th centuries classified under four heads; transitional, early 13th century, late 13th century and 14th century. It is most attractively produced. The photographs are excellent and so are the author's drawings; and it will be found exceedingly useful. It seems however to have been prepared primarily with an eye to the author's own countrymen, and this has disadvantages for strangers to Ireland. Almost any foreigner likely to use the book at all can reasonably be assumed to be familiar with such things as the Cistercian plan but to be woefully ignorant of the history and above all geography, political and ecclesiastical, of medieval Ireland. Dr. Leask on the whole assumes the contrary of his readers. Moreover the core of the book consists in monographic descriptions of individual buildings often going into considerable detail, things difficult to read with profit unless one already knows a fair number of the

buildings concerned, or can expect soon to get to know them, directly. It is earnestly to be hoped that the next volume will contain several historical maps shewing, besides the monuments assignable to the periods being studied, such things as diocesan boundaries, Anglo-Irish boroughs, and the frontiers of effective English control and of the more stable lordships of the interior at the relevant dates. The general trends are made perfectly clear by this book; but it is less easy to discern such things as how far fashionable building was confined to a few centres, or to get much of a picture, in terms of masons with a particular training moving from place to place, of exactly what was going on. To get such a picture would of course involve considering the castles (dealt with separately in another book by Dr. Leask) since the same masons by and large must have worked on them as on the churches. Small blame to the author that he has not attacked this range of problems: there is I think no region in all Europe for which such a study exists. But nevertheless the kind of questions which thrust themselves at one when one begins to know the churches of a given province or country are nowadays surely these: how many churches existed here already in—say—the 12th century? Did every township normally have one or were they all monastery churches of some kind? Which were built or rebuilt during the next century and why? Who paid for them, where did the builders come from and where did they learn their craft? As one reads one has the impression that Ireland is particularly suited for this sort of investigation, that history, art and geography would each illuminate the other. Perhaps one day Dr. Leask will do it for us. But meanwhile, for anyone else interested in such questions and able to travel in Ireland, this book will provide just the framework of information he needs; and he will be grateful for its convenient size.

CHRISTOPHER HOHLER

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF EARLY MUSLIM ARCHITECTURE. By K. A. S. CRESSWELL. Pp. 330, Pls. LXXII, and 63 drawings. Pelican Books. Price 8s. 6d.

The first two volumes of Professor Cresswell's *Early Muslim Architecture*, which covered the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties have been the accepted works of reference since they appeared in 1932 and 1940. These monumental volumes—monumental in size, cost and scholarship—have been here presented in précis form for the Pelican Book series. A description of al-Walid's palace at Minya, excavated since 1932, has been added in the new book but not that of the palace at Khirbat al Mafjar. Those already familiar with the early history of Islam and its architecture will be grateful that this cheaper and more manageable version has been made available; those who expect a book in the Pelican series to be an introduction to the subject may be disappointed. The series surely caters for the intelligent general reader rather than the specialist. For example, it is presumptuous of the author to believe that his readers will know, or have the necessary works of reference at hand to find out, the order and dates of the Umayyad and Abbasid khalifs; a list of these would prevent tedious searching in the text. The same may be said of arabic architectural terms of which there is no glossary. A map showing the whereabouts of the sites, many obscure, would have been useful. The lack of an adequate index is probably the most unfortunate omission. It is sufficient to take one page as an example. Page 288 mentions the three khalifs al-Muntasir, al-Mu'tazz and al-Muhtadi, but these names are not to be found in the index. As the page in question is dealing with Herzfeld's important theory that the Qubbat-as-Sulaibiya was the mausoleum for these khalifs, thus making it the earliest of Islamic mausolea, it could not be held that this was but a passing reference to these names.

Professor Cresswell is the doyen among historians of Islamic architecture. Immense knowledge, mathematical accuracy and unassailable conclusions are evident in this abridged version, but if the public is fortunate enough to have in the future a book dealing with the architecture of, say, the Ikhshids and the Fatimids it is to be hoped that the subject can be treated less microcosmically.

S. D. T. SPITTLE



DER HUSTERKNUPP. By ADOLF HERRNBRODT, with contributions by ADELHART ZIPPELIUS, WOLF HERRE and GERTRAND SIEWING. (Beihefte der Bonner Jahrbücher, Bd. 6). Pp. 220, Pls. XLIII, figs. 78, 10 folding plans. Cologne: Bohlau, 1958. Price DM. 22.50.

This book is a full report on the excavation of a medieval site about 20 miles north-west of Cologne before it disappeared in an open-cast coal pit. Its name 'Husterknupp' is compounded of two elements, the first being a corruption of Hochstaden—for here was a castle, probably the main one, of the counts of that line—the second, 'knupp', a Rhenish dialect word meaning hill. It was situated where an ancient road from Venlo to Cologne crossed the river Erft. Save for an exploratory trench cut in 1934 all the extensive digging was carried out between 1949 and 1951 in front of the advancing machines, the coal company providing material and financial help for the work and a substantial subsidy for publication.

The results are important. The settlement in its first phase, spanning the last quarter of the 9th and the first half of the 10th centuries, was protected on one side by the river and on the other three sides by a palisade and ditch. Remains of the bridge were found. Inside, five timber houses were disposed around a small courtyard in which was a rectangular timber-lined rubbish pit. The simple defences of what was hardly more than a farm were probably a reaction to Viking raids on the Rhineland in 880–882. In Phase II, covering the second half of the 10th-century, all but one of the houses was destroyed to form an earth platform (*kernmotte*), approximately round and about three feet high, on which a new house was built. This embryonic motte was surrounded by a berm, palisade and ditch, save where a causeway led to a second enclosure or bailey of similar size. Phase III opens early in the 11th-century with the building of a true motte, high, round and steep-sided, while at the same time the old ditches were filled and the bailey enlarged to occupy the whole loop of the river; it ends with the destruction of the castle after 1192 and before 1244, for in the latter year a charter of the archbishop of Cologne granted the right to build a new castle not far from the totally destroyed castle of Hochstaden. Subdivisions of Phase III reflect changes in the bailey defences. First there was a palisade, then an earth and timber rampart, which, shortly before the end, was strengthened in stone. In the final Phase IV the motte was crowned by a stone tower and in the bailey stood a stone chapel. But the main defence now lay north of the river, its walls of brick and its gate astride the Venlo road. It was short lived. A charter of 1321 speaks of a house, not a castle, and by the end of the century there was only 'Hochstaden-hill'.

Although the author draws some brief conclusions from these successive phases (pp. 117–122) the archaeology of Hochstaden could have been related much more closely to the political and social history of the Rhineland. This is the only defect of an excellent book. Something was needed comparable to the fine discussion of the timber buildings (pp. 123–200), all of which show a 'stave' technique. Using a great body of comparative material Dr. Adelhart Zippelius, the author of this section, defines the various forms of stave construction and places them in typological sequence. There is a moral here. Ever since Oelmann produced his classic reconstruction of the Roman villa at Mayen (*Bonner Jahrbücher*, 1928) German archaeologists have tried to show what their discoveries imply in terms of standing structures. Although our sites never seem to produce the surviving timbers not uncommon in Germany, much fuller analyses of the significance of postholes and footings could and should be made in Britain.

The sections on pottery, small finds and animal remains appear perfectly adequate.

J. T. SMITH

L'ARCHITECTURE OTTONIENNE : Au Seuil de l'Art Roman. By LOUIS GRODECKI. Pp. 342, Pls. XXX, figs. 96. Paris: Armand Colin, 1958. Price 2,000 fr.

This is the fourth volume of the *Collection Henri Focillon*, published under the auspices of the *Société Henri Focillon*, the Henri Focillon Society of America, and with the aid of the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*. Volume II of this collection was Focillon's own *L'an Mil*, published in 1952. M. Grodecki's book owes its impetus, aim and approach to the

revered late doyen of French history of art, and to his membership of the circle of pupils who studied, under the master's eye, the different aspects of the origin of Romanesque art. A point to be made about this book is that it comes to us from Paris and not, as its predecessors on the subject, from somewhere east of the Rhine. The author's European rather than Imperial outlook manifests itself in the inclusion of some churches on present-day French soil which, alone, is a real contribution. But this is only a bye-product. It is of greater consequence for the future study of early medieval art that M. Grodecki gives us a very clear picture of the various 'regional styles' within the Ottonian framework and of north-western Europe; how they were developed almost simultaneously, and how they led to the distinctive Romanesque groups later. This is the meaning of the sub-title in smaller print: Ottonian architecture is here presented as one of the thresholds of Romanesque art. It does not appear to be the crowning glory and symbol of the *Renovatio Imperii*, but an experimental and prolifically inventive stage on the way towards the grander and more articulate architecture of the later style. The main part of the book shows in some detail how new ideas, or revived old ones are tried out and absorbed, or rejected. Thus a great deal of architectural evidence is examined, and the main types emerge in the process. The continuous transept of Early Christian Rome, revived in Carolingian times, is again used at Hersfeld, Augsburg, Strasbourg, Mayence and several others among the largest structures. Nivelles, Lobbes, Romainmotiers develop a type of transepts which are low, and lean against the nave. Some of the finest Ottonian ensembles, and certainly the most progressively organised ones, are the fully cruciform, or double cruciform, basilicas from St. Michael's, Hildesheim, to Verdun. There are basilicas with no transepts, and there are non-basilical circular or polygonal structures in the Carolingian tradition. The main types established, the formal relationship between their various parts is discussed. Here, we get inevitably involved in the arguments over the double choirs and the 'West Work' structures, their origin and their purpose. And, finally, one chapter is reserved for aesthetic considerations (*Les Effets et les Masses*). Whilst the strength of the book lies in the fact that M. Grodecki has great knowledge of the monuments and of the truly enormous German literature (particularly since the last war, and much of it hidden in periodicals which are hard to come by in this country), the last chapter shows its weakness more clearly. Comparative discussion of architectural forms and formal developments may serve as a temporary help in establishing types and groups. They become valid categories only if the stylistic evidence can be shown to have been created by reason of historical necessity. M. Grodecki, though aware of this difficulty, rarely succeeds in giving more than 'historical background'. Some more documentary details, which exist, might have been helpful. On the technical side this publication has two serious shortcomings: the bibliographical references contain too many misprints, and hardly one of the many plans has a scale of feet, and serious students will find this irksome.

MANFRED BRAUDE

SCULPTURE AT CHARTRES. Text by PETER KIDSON; photographs by URSULA PARISER. Pp. 61, figs. 8, half-tone illustrations 117. London; Alec Tiranti, 1958. Price 18s.

This very attractive little book consists of a collection of photographs taken by Miss Pariser 'during an intensive survey of the cathedral carried out with Dr. Zarnecki for the Courtauld Institute'. Taken under normal light, the pictures do not show the exaggerated contrasts which are so much in fashion nowadays, but they have more life in them than the plates of Houvet's classic albums.

Miss Pariser can pride herself on the discovery of two unpublished subjects: a king 'tucked away at the east end of the north porch' and the corbel heads which once supported the gargoyles between the gables of the south porch.

In the statue (which provides the motif of the jacket) Dr. Kidson recognizes 'one of the race of young and noble gothic kings which we find at Reims and above all at Bamberg', but he cannot tell us who he was. That we can easily forgive. But how can he suppose that

the middle corbel, a lion's head, served as a model for Villard de Honnecourt's celebrated drawing? Has not the old architect proudly asserted that his lion was drawn from life? Dr. Kidson holds that Villard may be responsible for the appearance of the current Reims style at Chartres. Why does he not suggest that the carving was designed by Villard himself?

Modestly taking up his stand behind Miss Pariser, Dr. Kidson confines himself to the field of iconographical interpretation. Owing to his perfect knowledge of the general problems and of those which are peculiar to Chartres (such as the chronology of the cathedral which pits M. Louis Grodecki against Professor Paul Frankl in a friendly controversy), he has gone much farther than his predecessors in his attempts to trace the patterns of ideas which link the various elements of the wonderful *ensembles*. His commentary on the *Portail Royal* is especially valuable. An interesting view is that its programme reflects the 'conservative attitude' of the theological school of Saint-Victor rather than the 'more advanced' position of the school of Chartres.

About the transept façades, where the ground has been cleared by Selim Abdul Hak's thesis (*La Sculpture des Porches de la cathédrale de Chartres*, Paris 1942) the author has still many pithy remarks to make.

Dr. Kidson's essay is a full commentary on Miss Pariser's photographs, which in their turn totally illustrate the writer's opinions. In this sense, we have here a self-contained and perfectly balanced book, where the many original creations of the Chartres ateliers are set in their true light. A fresh demonstration is given that if the reputation of Chartres as the most complete of all cathedrals 'is the result of good fortune, for Chartres has contrived to survive the several hazards of religious war, revolution, foreign invasions, acts of God and, not least, the well meaning enthusiasm of restorers, there is a certain justice about it'.

JEAN LAFOND

EUROPEAN ARMOUR : CIRCA 1066 TO CIRCA 1700. By CLAUDE BLAIR. Pp. 248, 52 photographs, figs. 239. Batsford, London, 1958. Price 35s.

This book is a brief outline history of the development of armour, principally in Western Europe, from the period of the Norman conquest to the end of the 17th-century.

The author worked for a number of years in the Armouries of the Tower of London and is now Assistant Keeper in the Department of Metalwork in the Victoria and Albert Museum, he has thus the practical experience to add to a lifetime study of documentary and pictorial evidence.

In particular Mr. Blair has made a study of contemporary terminology, and his book continues the modern tendency to revert to the original names of the various pieces from the collectors' jargon which grew up in the last century and is still so regrettably common.

The author has successfully reconciled his own inclination to produce a major work of scholarship with his publishers' desire for an accurate, up to date, but popular guide. As he mentions in his foreword, lack of space has caused over simplification of the 16th-century and this is very much to be regretted as at present no guide to this period exists in English. On the other hand, Mr. Blair's extraordinary command of his sources and his remarkable ability to condense information have given us a concise and accurate picture of the development of body armour in the 13th and 14th-centuries, a period for which the evidence is relatively scanty and often confusing. While obviously unable to mention all the variations the writer attempts to dispel the impression of uniformity of armament commonly gained from a study of English effigies alone. Also particularly interesting is his chronology of the bascinet and its regional variations. There are extremely useful chapters on the decoration of armour and on the types of armour worn in each of the many forms of tournament and joust, and the writer has found room to discuss the fashions emerging from the principal centres of manufacture and those favoured by the main countries of Western Europe.

The illustrations have been chosen to cover as wide a variety of pieces as possible and they reveal a number of important sources not easily available to the ordinary student, such as the armoury at Churburg and several private collections. It is therefore a pity that

the photographs have not reproduced as well as they might have, several being either too dark or too light to show essential details. Mr. Robinson's drawings are good and show quite clearly the details lacking in some of the photographs.

Mr. Blair has produced a very sound guide book for the general student and at the same time a concise summary of modern scholarship to add to the older standard works.

A. V. B. NORMAN