

REVIEWS

MESOPOTAMIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. By SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY. Pp. 259, Pls. LX, figs. 73+1 map. Methuen, London, 1961. Price £2 5s.

A lifetime of activity within the area covered by this, his last volume, made the late Sir Leonard Woolley particularly well qualified to write this kind of book. A great diversity of place and period characterised his work, which took him from Nubia to the Euphrates and included excavations at Buhen, el Amarna, Carchemish, al 'Ubaid, Ur, and Alalakh. In vivid and forthright prose he traces the development of what is now called the Middle East, from the beginnings of civilisation down to c. 500 A.D., following the early history of Elam, Sumer, Akkad, Babylonia, Syria, Palestine, the Hurri lands, Hatti and the Hittites, Urartu, Lycia, Assyria and Neo-Babylonia, and demonstrating the remarkable impact of Hellenism upon Western Asia and Arabia. His last phase covers Pergamon, Palmyra, Dura Europos, Petra, and the South Arabian Kingdoms.

Woolley's advantage is that he always has something fresh and stimulating to say. He is also scrupulous to indicate where his own views may not be generally accepted, as with the so-called nationalist uprising at the beginning of the Early Dynastic period, or the disputed dates of the reliefs from Carchemish. On the basis of the Carchemish evidence he proposes the possible derivation of Assyrian art from the Syro-Hittite; not everyone would agree with his early attribution for the Carchemish reliefs, but this in no way invalidates his argument or his authority.

The fundamental unity and disunity of the Middle East is clearly understood by Woolley:—

"The term 'The Middle East' is used here to include the countries later known as Anatolia, Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Elam, which is part of Persia, together with the whole of the Arabian peninsula. Those countries differ widely from one another in character and climate; from the outset they were inhabited by peoples of very different stock, and in most of them the original inhabitants had, by the close of our period, been replaced by wholly alien folk; it might therefore be objected that there can be here no unity, that we are dealing with a congeries of independent cultures and should treat of them *seriatim*, that, in fact, 'The Art of the Middle East' is a misnomer, and 'The Arts of the Middle Eastern Countries' would be our only proper title.

"The diversity of the countries is indeed obvious, and it would be foolish to disregard it. On the contrary, it should be emphasised by the historian because it was so marked that the different areas became to a large extent complementary one to another. Economically and politically their inhabitants were forced to collaborate if they were to make real advance; for any of them isolation, even if it were possible, meant stagnation. The Middle East as a whole provided everything that man required to achieve civilisation, but that was not true of any one of the areas that comprised it; none were self-sufficient. Great civilisations came to birth there, but each was obliged to acquire, by trade or by war, some or other essentials to progress which in their own land were lacking." (p. 15).

Sir Leonard states in his foreword that an inducement to writing this book had been the prospect of illustrating it in colour. Most of the plates are certainly well chosen and on the whole excellently produced. It is indeed a pleasure to handle a book in which colour has been used in a restrained and dignified way and in which some attempt has been made to give the correct colour values. A few are unfortunately marred by poor lighting or a bad background, notably the lion on p. 138, which is not a plate Woolley himself would have passed for publication. Indeed, as the publishers have made clear, none of the blame for shortcomings can be laid at Woolley's door, as he died before the work had gone to press and certain changes affecting his original selection of plates had to be made. The text figures tend to do little justice to the originals, the rein-ring from Ur and the Alaca reliefs being perhaps least well-served in this respect. In one case (Fig. 19) no attempt has been made by the artist to render the cuneiform text, a point on which the author would have been sensitive.

Some of the (posthumous) captions to plates and text-figures are curious if not definitely misleading, and here, as sometimes in the text itself, one detects ideas and amendments which could not have come from Sir Leonard's pen. A particularly regrettable error on p. 23 and elsewhere attributes Arpachiyah to the Khabur valley instead of to the Tigris, while al 'Ubaid is everywhere written with the *ain* in reverse. For Til Barsip we find Tell Barsip, and for Tell Ahmar, Tell Achmar, mistakes that Woolley would never have passed. What might have been a useful map is marred by slips and discrepancies: the rivers Diyala and Amardus appear to join in the Zagros mountains; spellings of Turkish place names are only partially modernised; and there is no consistency in the differentiation of modern and ancient place names. As for the chronological table, this can only be described as extraordinary; it contains so many errors that only the most mystifying can be mentioned here. Where are the village settlements of Southern Mesopotamia dated to 6000 B.C.? The pre-pottery discoveries at Ras Shamra/Ugarit are not shown, Hacilar is entirely omitted, and so is all mention of Egyptian sites prior to the Badarian. The Tell Halaf culture, attributed on p. 23 to "the close of the fifth millennium B.C.", is nevertheless dated to 3700 B.C. in the table for reasons unknown. Al 'Ubaid pottery is not found at Alalakh, though it did occur at a neighbouring site, Tell esh Sheikh. Whoever was responsible for attributing terra-cotta reliefs to the temple at al 'Ubaid presumably had never seen them. Woolley would have been the last to attribute the commencement of the Early Dynastic period to 2600 B.C., let alone to imply, as does the table, that the Royal Cemetery was later than the First Dynasty of Ur, or contemporary with the Stele of the Vultures. In fact on p. 22 the author himself ascribes the Early Dynastic to "shortly after 3000 B.C.", a dating consistent with his other recent works (cf. *Excavations at Ur*, p. 16). And what are we to make of Mari "under Babylon" c. 1900 B.C., when Hammurabi's dates are given in the same table as early eighteenth century? It is equally surprising to find the invention of the alphabet comfortably dated to c. 1750 B.C. In Egypt there never was an Amenophis V; and the "Ptolemeian" period seems a changeling in our midst.

In the Glossary too there are some unfortunate misunderstandings of terminology, as in the case of the *bît hilani*. Both the Table and Glossary might well be omitted from any future edition of this book, which has otherwise so much to recommend it, including that inimitable wisdom and friendly approach that bring alive not only Woolley's work but also the man himself.

M. V. SETON WILLIAMS

PREHISTORIC CRETE. By R. W. HUTCHINSON. Pp. 374, Pls. 32, figs. 73 and a Chronological Table. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1962. Price 10s. 6d.

This is a comprehensive account of the archaeology of Crete from earliest times down to the Greek archaic period. The author was for many years the British School's Curator at Knossos and has a profound personal knowledge of the whole island and its antiquities. He has written a valuable guide to Cretan prehistory for the general reader. In such an ambitious subject for a paperback there are inevitably gaps, and some important classes of objects get short measure, but the marvel is how much is included and what diversity of subjects is offered. Separate chapters are, for instance, devoted to the Natural History of Crete, Minoan Marine Trade and Communications, Religion, Society and Economic Life, etc. There are plenty of good line drawings, but the plates are rather poorly reproduced by comparison with others of this series. One map, marking only fifteen sites, is quite inadequate. Footnotes are admitted and good bibliographies are given for each chapter, including books and minor articles; indeed several lesser known works and essays are allowed a rather unexpected prominence even in the main discussion. The author's knowledge of Near Eastern archaeology and the way he can illuminate his theme by pointing out telling modern analogies are not the least attractive merits of the work.

Scratch any prehistorian and you will find, if anything, a mystic or dreamer beneath. This is why not one of the many popular or semi-popular accounts of prehistoric Greece which have appeared in recent years can unreservedly be put into the hands of students. Even Hutchinson has his share of prejudices about dates and events. For example he puts

the Thera eruption at 1400 B.C. and with it destroys all the palaces at once. Several other adjustments to accepted chronology can be noted but they are introduced with authority. At any rate, this is a period in which the evidence is not so stringent as to prohibit some degree of personal choice, although not so much as some have taken; and this reviewer at least is glad to see that the author and his distinguished editor, Professor Mallowan, are not for a moment taken in by the uninformed attacks which have recently been made on some of Evan's deductions about Knossos.

J. BOARDMAN

PHYSICS AND ARCHAEOLOGY. By M. J. AITKEN. Pp. x+181, Pls. XXVIII, figs. 50. Interscience Publishers, New York and London, 1961. Price £2 3s.

The natural sciences are becoming increasingly assimilated into the pattern of archaeological research. The biological sciences have long been so; now it is the turn of the physical sciences. In this book Dr. Aitken gives a lucid and authoritative account of the collaborative work, in much of which he has himself taken part, in both laboratory and field. It is an encouraging sign for the future that there can be at Oxford a Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art with resources adequate to pursue this type of work as its main objective.

In chapter six the author gives a 30-page account of C-14 dating, with its promise of precision and of global synchronisms. He assembles arguments for reasonable confidence in C-14 estimated dates, provided they form a coherent inter-related pattern on a statistical basis, and are not merely a sprinkling of spot-dates. His plea is for 'a highly critical appraisal of all factors' (including the archaeological and biological contexts of the sample). As he says, 'a series of carefully obtained dates for a given cultural phase, when considered *in toto*, provides reliable information of immense value not obtainable in any other way'; this might have been illustrated by the Copenhagen Laboratory's graphical presentation of data from Danish and Swiss neolithic sites (*Science*, cxxiv (1956), 879).

There is a residual uncertainty of some ± 100 years in C-14 estimated dates due to unassessable short term variations in C-14 distribution through the parts of the world reservoir. This is quite distinct from the statistical uncertainty due to the randomness of radioactive disintegration; it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the latter is the *only* factor represented in the conventional ' \pm ' manner of stating of 'error'. There is moreover a misleading sense of assurance about this convention, which we must learn to assess with caution. Dr. Aitken's text leaves no excuse for misunderstanding, and those who need to incorporate C-14 estimated dates into their arguments can now be expected to do so with full understanding of their significance.

He points out the advantages of well-preserved wood as a sample material, with its original carbon locked up in large cellulose molecules. Contaminants introducing more recent carbon, such as rootlets (or more ancient, such as fossil shell) must be removed; they are particularly disturbing in samples over about 20,000 years old (fig. 6, 4). For small counts from samples older than 50,000 years the limiting factor is the effective shielding of the counter from radiation background. By isotopic enrichment the counts may be enhanced, and the method extended to 70,000 years or even further (p. 106; *Nature*, CLXXXIV (1959), 1365-6). Beyond this, on the fringe of geophysics, the disintegration of Potassium-40 to Argon-40 has been used (independent of cosmic radiation, pp. 81-3), notably in the recent Olduvai Gorge work.

Isotopic fractionation within the sample may be assessed from C-13/C-12 ratios estimated by a mass spectrometer. This should now be an integral part of programming a C-14 laboratory, and the same instrument can be used for O-18/O-16 ratios to assess palaeotemperatures, a complex subject deserving attention in this book. Dr. Aitken discusses the effects of modern nuclear explosions and extensive burning of fossil fuels. The latter has caused discrepancies in standards used, and two reference standards are now accepted (pp. 105-6). In Washington a new determination of the C-14 half-life is nearing completion; accuracy here is basic to the method, though this will go only part of the way to removing the anomalies between historical dates and 'C-14 dates' (*Germania*, xxxix (1961), 420-33).

Work on remanent magnetism may be linked with the fundamentals of C-14 dating, for variations in the earth's magnetic field affect the incidence of cosmic rays which form the C-14 from N-14.

Although not so directly concerned with fundamentals, magnetic surveying has proved of great value in revealing the full extent of occupation within our hill-forts, exploring an area much larger than possible by excavation. A most important aspect of both magnetic and resistivity surveying is that they can prepare the excavator for what he *may* find, and so ensure a more precise recording right from the initial uncovering. This may be of greater scientific value than saving of expenditure on unproductive trenching.

Dr. Aitken professedly limits the scope of his book to procedures yielding quantitative data. Some other aspects of applied physics might however have been usefully included, such as X-radiography of pattern-welded blades or of corroded iron with silver inlay. He sometimes extends his scope, as for pollen analysis (p. 5; H. Godwin, *A History of the British Flora* (1956), should have been in the bibliography), or phosphate analysis of soils for tracing human and animal activity. With even more justification Polarography could have been included as a sensitive method of element analysis. X-ray fluorescence spectrophotometry which has been developed in the Oxford Laboratory, for non-destructive analysis, is of particular application to archaeological material. Along with fluorine and nitrogen analyses for relative dating, Obsidian dating might have been included (I. Friedman *et al.*, *American Antiquity*, xxv (1960), 476-537).

This book should be widely seen on the shelves of archaeological libraries, institutional and private. It is a stimulus to the new direction of archaeological research. The whole book eloquently shows that a serious archaeological excavation of any consequence must be a carefully programmed research project, with the natural sciences often intimately involved in the initial operational planning, and not merely brought in as an afterthought.

E. M. JOPE

THE WEST KENNET LONG BARROW. EXCAVATIONS 1955-6 (MINISTRY OF WORKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT No. 4). By STUART PIGGOTT. Pp. xii + 103, Pls. XXVII, figs. 20. H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1962. Price £3.

Until lately the 'great old mound' at West Kennet near Marlborough, Wilts., was ruinous; it was even notorious being associated with Aubrey's ambiguities, Stukeley's bizarre prose, Thurnam's baffling plan and the odd assortment of sherds published by Maud Cunnington.

This present monograph — a master-work from an experienced hand, embellished by contributions from Professor Atkinson, Mr. Brothwell, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Lisowski and Professor Wells — describes excavations in 1955-6 which illuminated obscurity, gave brilliant new evidence and enabled restoration worthy of a national monument to be carried out.

In plan, the megalithic structure, with a terminal chamber approached by a tapering passage with two transepts, is seen as a fine example of a type (termed Pornic-Notgrove by Piggott), found chiefly around the lower Severn and lower Loire. The larger stones are sarsens, orthostats filled in with dry-walling and capstones levelled with corbels. This structure was incorporated at the east end in the central axis of a long trapezoidal barrow of chalk rubble, which has a core of sarsen boulders and was flanked by quarry-ditches. The passage opened on a small forecourt set in a façade of orthostats, also filled in with dry-walling, and was blocked by a core of rubble which contained a false portal and was faced with three great orthostats.

The terminal chamber and part of the passage had been cleared by Thurnam in 1859. The four transeptal chambers were Piggott's outstanding discoveries. Here remains of upwards of thirty-five burials, including two cremations, were found in deposits on the old surface, associated with Western Neolithic pottery showing affinities with the Abingdon style and with Peterborough ware in the Ebbsfleet style. Sherds of true Peterborough ware in the same deposits are held to have belonged to the secondary filling of the chambers. Where undisturbed, this filling of chalk rubble interspersed with occupation earth was found to reach the capstones. It was a deposit of a single period, made after the interior had become

slightly dilapidated. It contained sherds of Peterborough ware in the Ebbsfleet, Mortlake and Fengate styles, of Rinyo-Clacton ware and of bell-beakers. Piggott infers that robbing of the burial-deposits for skulls and long bones, as deduced by Wells in a brilliantly helpful Appendix, occurred immediately before the chambers were filled.

Such are the main facts and inferences, presented with much other highly important information, with conciseness of text, abundance of illustration, and elegance in both. To a hypercritical taste some of the collotype plates may appear lifeless. Presumably needs of conservation precluded cuttings to observe whether the mound was of an earlier period than the megalithic structure.

The discussion is admirably ingenious but perfectly objective, stimulating and not disarming criticism. The view is taken that the sherds in the secondary filling, although they had been freshly broken, are most unlikely to represent pots which were in contemporary use. Piggott infers that the pots had at various times been deposited complete in a cult-house apart from the barrow, during rites connected and contemporary with the burials in the chambers. Thus some of the pots may have been stored for many years and others have been quite new, when the barrow and cult-house were abandoned and broken sherds of the offerings used in the filling of the chambers. But, since one cannot dismiss the possibility that all the pots represented in the secondary filling of the transeptal chambers overlapped in use in southern England, the cult-house remains a shadowy postulate. In discussing the pottery, too much may have been made of allusions to late beakers with barbed-wire ornament; in the Netherlands, finger-printed pots such as B1 were contemporary with early bell-beakers (*Helinium* I (1961), 223-8).

A reasonable *terminus post quem* for the primary burials is 2500 B.C. If the filling of the transepts is dated by the bell-beakers to soon after 2000 B.C., then a range of use of 'hardly less than a millennium' is inadmissible for this part of the monument. On the contrary, quite a late date in the first half of the second millennium could be assumed for the sherds of long-necked beakers reported from Thurnam's excavation of the terminal chamber. But this chamber contained only weathered sherds, and its filling was rather different.

Mystery is deepened when one considers the method by which the chambers were filled. The filling of the south-west chamber, with the bedding shown (in two planes, fig. 9 and Pl. XVIII), can hardly have occurred without removal of the capstone. Can it be that the monument was first desecrated early in the second millennium B.C., with the intention of robbing it of stone for the Avebury Complex — being partially dismantled, robbed, filled and partly rebuilt? And that this cycle was repeated in the terminal chamber a century or so later? After all, the monument has been excavated twice in less than a century and in recent times has suffered repeated quarrying and been thrice rebuilt.

HUMPHREY CASE

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP OF SOUTHERN BRITAIN IN THE IRON AGE. Map, scale 1:625,000; text, pp. 55, 8 distribution maps. Ordnance Survey, Chessington, 1962. Price 17s. 6d. (Text only, 8s.; Map only, unfolded, 7s. 6d.)

This new map with its accompanying text of 55 pages is a major advance in British prehistory and embodies a great deal of research. It is a collation of facts which will undoubtedly lead to progress in the study of the Iron Age, while the short introduction by Mr. A. L. F. Rivet and the chronological table (p. 24) should be useful to general students of the subject.

Following the third edition of the now famous map of Roman Britain, this is the first general map of prehistoric Britain to be published by the Ordnance Survey, although regional maps were issued before the war. The chronological period covered by this Iron Age map is only some two centuries longer than that covered by the map of Roman Britain. It is to be hoped that it will be followed by at least one other map covering the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

Although the chronological period involved in Northern Britain is longer, and the cultural situation less clear, it seems a pity that a map of this region is not to be attempted. Such a map might well prompt the very work, the absence of which the Ordnance Survey regrets, and it would be most useful to see all the sites put into their topographical setting

as the Ordnance Survey can do so well. Meanwhile the general reader might refer to Mr. Rivet's article, 'The Iron Age in Northern Britain' (*Antiquity*, XXXVI, 24-31).

The publishers are to be congratulated on their choice of cover, which shows a panoply of arms, very ably drawn by Dr. B. Hope-Taylor. He has drawn these objects as though they were in mint condition, and this was no doubt the best way to sum up the British Iron Age visually, by depicting the richness of the arms and armour of the warrior aristocracy. Even allowing for artistic licence, however, one or two criticisms may be made. The Witham shield is a palimpsest. After the boar had been removed it must have been largely invisible, at least to contemporary eyes, by the time the shield spine was added; but here both motifs are shown at once, the earlier almost being the clearer. Again, the Uffington White Horse lies at the bottom of the cover on a sort of parchment scroll. While we would be happy to think that hill-figure designers had a blueprint, we do not know this, and the picture goes ill with the assemblage. Earthworks could have been better represented by a vignette of a hill-fort — perhaps a reconstruction of a set of defences. Anachronism creeps in, for this trophy of arms could never have been seen together, and here, oddly enough, it has been piled into some Iron Age Chieftain's hearth.

The introduction by Mr. Rivet consists of a general discussion followed by a section in which Belgic *oppida*, hill-forts, open settlements, lake villages, farms, fogous, shrines, burials, dykes, communications and other points are considered in turn. Then comes a chronological table and an admirable section on Celtic coins by Mr. D. F. Allen, illustrated by distribution maps, and finally an index of all sites which appear on the map. Had this latter been arranged in alphabetical order, rather than in the numerical order of grid references, it might have been more useful.

Mr. Rivet first discusses the literary and archaeological evidence, and wisely distinguishes between a cultural unit, in the archaeological sense, and a political one. There are also some well-written comments, notably one on the limits of archaeology: 'Though we can discern the people we cannot see their faces, though we can label them we cannot know their names' (p. 10). The problems of dating are discussed (the 250 Greek coins found in Britain are shown on the distribution maps); Mr. Rivet is pessimistic about the chronological usefulness of imported metalwork, but perhaps too much so about the value of Italian-type brooches. He explains Professor C. F. C. Hawkes's A, B, C system which is used in the map. The distinction between A and B may not always be as clear as Mr. Rivet hopes, and this point will perhaps have to be reconsidered in the light of some recent criticisms (*P.P.S.*, XXVIII (1962), 140-55); it is perhaps just as well that monuments of both A and B cultures are indicated by the same colour, black, so that the map shows a prudent conservatism which ought to prevent it from becoming outdated for some time.

The chief features of the main cultural phases are briefly described, beginning with the earliest settlements of Iron Age A. Recent excavations have, however, proved that more hill-forts may turn out to belong to this early phase, the evidence being hidden by later fortifications (*e.g.* Winklebury, Hampshire, excavated by the reviewer); only a greater amount of hill-fort excavation will provide much needed information on this, and other, points. The cultural background of the chariot burials of the 3rd century B.C. is visualized as the source of the threat in response to which south downland hill-forts were built. Multivallation is seen as a feature of the Iron Age B culture in the 2nd century B.C. Then follows a description of the Iron Age B culture and its different regional variants.

With Iron Age C we are introduced to the Belgae and the appearance of the first Gaulish and British coinage. This exciting aspect of Iron Age archaeology is described in a separate section by Mr. D. F. Allen. Indeed it is the back-dating of the beginning of the North Gaulish series to as early as 150 B.C. which has been one of the most significant recent changes in Iron Age chronology.

The design of the general map, to a scale of 10 miles to the inch, is pleasing. Belgic material is distinguished in red and, where it acts upon earlier cultures, in purple. Continental imports are shown in brown, but this is not always very visible.

Mr. Rivet uses the word *oppidum* to refer only to defended settlements of the Belgae; this limitation is perhaps unnecessary, and certainly confusing, as it is contrary to the present

wider usage. Hill-forts are divided according to size and according to whether they are univallate or multivallate; perhaps a further category of promontory forts might have been distinguished. It is however a most useful empirical classification, and the best that can be done when the majority of hill-forts remain unexcavated. Isolated small finds are marked by crosses, and detailed information about them is available from the Ordnance Survey. Trackways are shown, which is a useful addition.

One or two small additions could be made to the map, especially to the Essex hill-forts; Loughton is probably unfinished, and Uphall is now known to be bivallate. The site of the Romano-British temple at Harlow might possibly now be added as a Belgic shrine.

For the first time the general archaeological position of any region, and indeed almost the whole of England and Wales can be seen at a glance. All concerned in the study of the Iron Age in Britain will be most grateful.

REAY ROBERTSON-MACKAY.

THE REBELLION OF BOUDICCA. By D. R. DUDLEY AND G. WEBSTER. Pp. xiv+165, frontis.+Pls. XIII, figs. 4. Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1962. Price £1 8s.

The major part of this book is an account of the rebellion led by Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, against the Roman government in A.D. 60-61. This is preceded by chapters on the Iceni and their neighbours and on the Roman army and the military situation in Britain. The slight archaeological traces of the revolt are discussed but the most interesting and lively chapter is devoted to Boudicca in history and tradition. She appeared as 'Bundiuca' in the works of the Florentine Ubaldini, as 'Voda' and 'Voadicia' in those of the Scot Boece, as 'Bonduca' in Fletcher's play of that name, and as 'Boadicea' in the poems of Cowper and Tennyson. Professor K. H. Jackson thinks that 'Boudica' is most correct (Appendix II). There are 24 pages of appendices and of useful notes including the text and translation of Tacitus' accounts in the *Agricola* and *Annals*, where Suetonius Paulinus is translated as saying, somewhat colloquially, 'win the victory and you've got the lot'.

The authors discuss the Iceni at length and have a full note on the goddess Andrasta by Dr. Anne Ross; they might, therefore, have spared a paragraph to mention Stamford's much-publicised claim to be the site of the battle between Boudicca's forces and the Roman army, if only to dismiss it as untenable. The authors say 'The British antiquary clings firmly to the belief that all historical events can be placed on the map and that most of them happened in his own county'; they realise that this can in fact be turned against themselves for they locate the battle near Mancetter, Warwickshire.

It is useful to have a summary of present knowledge of the military position before the rebellion, but the account of events, though more detailed, adds little to the livelier narrative in A. R. Burn's *Agricola and Roman Britain*. The plates are nearly all very familiar to the student of Roman Britain; some explanation of the reconstruction of a Roman fort at Metchley (surely too flimsy?) is required to relate it to the text. The authors are inconsistent about the location of the Second Legion and the existence of a fort at *Margidunum*. The identification of the Hockwold site as a Roman town, and still more its identification as *Camboritum* is more dubious than a reference suggests. Nevertheless the student will find this the most detailed account available of events in Britain between the years A.D. 43 and 62. Material previously only to be found in scattered articles is now handily compiled in one book.

R. M. BUTLER

THE CITY OF YORK: VOL. I, EBVRACVM, ROMAN YORK. By THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS (ENGLAND). Pp. xliii+168, Frontis.+Pls. LXXI, figs. 90, folding map. H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1962. Price £2 12s. 6d.

York was one of the most important places in Roman Britain, a key site where history was made. And so well did the Romans choose that it has remained inhabited ever since, with all that this means of archaeological difficulties. Explorations of Roman York have been small, scattered in time and place, not always published or at best hard to track down, difficult to synthesise. In consequence York has been more neglected than its importance warranted.

The present volume reviews with meticulous care all or almost all the information available. It is less strong on synthesis, but there is a ten-page historical introduction by Professor Richmond to sketch the background; this could well have been twice the length, so as to have written in more of the monuments. The historical interpretation is conservative, being linked with the traditional periods of Hadrian's Wall, with the result that on the drawn sections of the fortress defences the various ramparts are labelled Trajanic, Severan, Constantian, in such large letters that they look authoritative. The dating evidence on which some of these attributions depend, as set out on pages 6-11, is far from convincing, nor is it easy to accept that York was destroyed by attack in 196-7 and 296. Not only are there so far no burnt destruction levels inside the fortress, or even (more significantly) in the extra-mural settlement, but (to take the case of 196) it is difficult to see how York could have fallen when (as excavation has shown) unwallled Catterick did not. Furthermore, the 'Severan' rebuild may have been occasioned as much by decay and neglect as anything else; the famous section (p. 36), here somewhat inaccurately redrawn from Miller, with its underlying piles wrenched sideways, suggests a slow slipping of the fortress wall on the unstable clay for at least two feet, a process not arrested by the insertion of a concrete apron in front, as the movement of its own piles proves. These facts show that the fortress was due for a rebuild anyhow; no enemy action can be demonstrated, while the new discoveries at Carpow (made since the book was set up) point to the removal of at least a large part of the VI legion to a new fortress in Scotland in the reign of Severus. All in all we may well prefer to think that the 'Severan' reconstruction of York was really Caracallan, and the fruit of his reassessment of the problem of Scotland. As for 296+, once again in the absence of destruction we should perhaps assume that the neglect of a century, the presence of an Emperor, and the inauguration of a new command (p. xxxiv) were sufficient motives for grandiose reconstruction.

The book is chiefly remarkable for the munificent and very full publication of the mass of sculpture, inscriptions, glass and small objects of jet, bone or bronze, which illustrate the wealth of the site in a way no longer possible otherwise; this alone will make this book indispensable to libraries and to students of the Roman world. There is a mine of photographs and facsimile drawings which make all this available for the first time. The jet industry has never before been treated so comprehensively and there is an important study of the glass by Dr. D. B. Harden. It is perhaps a pity that many of the half-tone blocks are adequate rather than perfect, and that there is no inclusion of amphora- or mortarium-stamps — minor though sometimes revealing forms of inscription. The half-tones of excavations and walls are of higher standard, though the air-photograph (Pl. I) with its purple overprint will not be to all tastes, and a vertical might have served the purpose better.

After the historical introduction there is a short section on the approach-roads; then comes the detailed inventory of the fortress defences and the few internal structures known; next the colonia and the extra-mural settlement across the river from it; then the cemeteries and finally the inscriptions, sculptures, glass and jet. All the first chapters are very fully illustrated with maps, plans and sections. It is curious that the roads marked on fig. 2 do not all appear on fig. 1, the general map of N. Britain, where more of the sites should have been named — at the very least all those named in the text. The sections and plans perhaps tend to look diagrammatic, and in almost every one the eye is distracted by over-heavy lettering (*e.g.* fig. 38); often it has not been well designed for eventual reduction to a page size which could have been anticipated. In some cases drawings seem to have been prepared for a reduction different from that eventually decided upon (*e.g.* figs. 46 and 47, on facing pages); it was, however, no doubt a wise decision to redraw all plans and sections to uniform style, but the interpretation offered (where not that of the original excavator) occasionally does not make sense (*e.g.* fig. 22, when the 'remains of earlier defences' seal the 4th-century wall foundation).

In a work of this sort it would not be hard for a reviewer to make mountains out of such comparative molehills, but our proper feelings should be of gratitude that so much has been accomplished, and of pride and thankfulness that it is still possible for the Commission to publish on this scale with so many illustrations at so reasonable a price. For it is humiliating to reflect that no other body in England today could have done it. Long may they continue.

S. S. FRERE

ART IN ROMAN BRITAIN. By J. M. C. TOYNBEE. Pp. 220, Pls. frontis. + 261, figs. 2, 1 map. Phaidon Press, for the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, 1962. Price £3 10s.

The immediate cause for the issue of this splendid volume, which fills such an obvious *lacuna* in Romano-British studies, was the Exhibition of Art in Roman Britain held in the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, from 26th June to 22nd July, 1961, to celebrate the Jubilee year of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. Those who attended the opening of the Exhibition will recall the extraordinary impact it made upon the eye; a skilful choice of 200 exhibits — mostly originals or replicas but with some photographs — coupled with the distinguished presentation by Mr. Alan Irvine made it a remarkable event. Professor Toynbee had already prepared a hand-list for the use of visitors and, in addition, agreed to produce this illustrated catalogue as a permanent record. One cannot but marvel at the speed with which she has discharged her heavy task, without the slightest loss of scholarship, and credit too must go to Mr. Otto Fein of the Warburg Institute for the sheer excellence of his photographs and to the Phaidon Press for the quality of publication. It is, of course, a catalogue of only a proportion of the surviving art of Roman Britain but the mere fact that the Exhibition assembled works of good or outstanding quality in almost every medium has enabled the author to make valuable and convincing generalizations, applicable to the whole field.

This is the theme of the introduction, in which Professor Toynbee explicitly claims to be writing for the non-specialist; but there is little doubt that many specialists, as well as students coming fresh to the subject, will find this analytical commentary useful. It leads on to the plates in which the objects are illustrated by groups — sculpture in the round, in relief, architectural reliefs, decorated armour, metalwork, figured glass, pottery, fresco painting and mosaics. These are followed by the *catalogue raisonne* in which each work is described and analysed, and information provided about the original discovery and present whereabouts of each, together with publication references. A glossary of Latin and Greek terms, a general bibliography, a list of acknowledgments, and separate indexes of names and places, admirably complete the work.

It was inevitable that the Exhibition should have included many familiar pieces, such as one of the Lullingstone busts, the Walbrook Mithraeum finds, part of the Mildenhall Treasure (in replica form) etc., but the author has secured a freshness of approach which is a major contribution to the history of art. Not only does she provide a sensitive and scholarly analysis of each piece as a work of art, but supplements this, in many cases, with comments on the technique adopted; and all this in language which it is a pleasure to read. One might cavil at the juxtaposition with major works of some of the minor products in metal and pottery, but the Exhibition itself set out to portray the entire field of art in Roman Britain and it was perhaps only fair that this humbler material should find a place; in any case, as Collingwood pointed out, the division between art and manufacture was not recognized in the ancient world.

One returns to Miss Toynbee's introduction for a balanced assessment of the art of Roman Britain. She emphasizes the tremendous diversity which it shows, the result of the demands of patrons at different levels for subjects of widely differing kinds. She stresses the function of the army in introducing a conquered population to Mediterranean art forms, at first imported but later produced locally by immigrant craftsmen and the native Britons whom they trained. The point too is made that this was not an imposed culture since even before the conquest the Belgic aristocracy had acquired a taste for works of Roman art, if only pottery and metalwork. The author accepts the long-held dichotomy between Celtic abstraction and Roman naturalism, but where Collingwood claimed that the native genius was swamped by 'a blundering, stupid ugliness', she asserts that there was a synthesis of the two, a true Romano-British style which produced works of great appeal, particularly in the field of figure sculpture. This is a judgement which should perhaps be accepted with caution since it reflects the modern taste for primitive and abstract art; in Roman Britain, heads such as nos. 41, 42, 42a, 45, and 48 surely represented the response of a local craftsman to the demands of a small garrison or humble peasant community.

Throughout the occupation, it was the classical tradition which exerted the most powerful influence. Wealthy patrons demanded objects of Mediterranean origin, the army demanded

Greco-Roman iconography on its tombstones, and the mass of the population demanded pottery, glass and metalwork from Gaul and the Rhineland. Paintings and mosaics in Romano-British houses are, with few exceptions, the work of foreign craftsmen, commissioned by Romanising British gentry and using Greco-Roman copybooks. But it is the strength of Miss Toynbee's analysis that she can give full weight to this and yet demonstrate the extent to which the Celtic tradition could still survive.

F. H. THOMPSON

THE ROMAN TOWN AND VILLA AT GREAT CASTERTON, RUTLAND, 3RD REPORT FOR THE YEARS 1954-58. Edited by PHILIP CORDER. Pp. 90, Pls. XVIII, figs. 28. University of Nottingham, 1961. Price £1 5s.

This third and final report which, like its two predecessors (still available), owes its form and much of its content to our late President, is a fitting climax to the work of one who did so much to inform us about Roman towns, villas and industries, and to encourage amateur work of professional standard. The provision of extra-mural training in archaeology has been one of the most significant post-war developments; Nottingham was the first in the field and, thanks to Dr. Corder and his colleagues, the Great Casterton school set an enviable standard. Its principles, touched on by Maurice Barley in his introduction, are worthy of study by those concerned with this sort of enterprise whether as teachers or administrators.

The present report rounds off the story, as far as it can now be taken, of what we believe was a more or less typical small town on Ermine Street, and of an adjacent villa. An indirect by-product has been the discovery — summarized here by Dr. St. Joseph since it was not part of the School's work — of the long-expected Claudian fort, which led ultimately to the growth of the 18-acre township and, like its neighbour fort at Water Newton, lay slightly off the line of the Roman road. The earliest civil occupation, ill-defined but of pre-Flavian date, began before the abandonment of the fort and was apparently without official limits until towards the end of the 2nd century, when the earth-backed stone wall was built excluding some part of the area formerly inhabited — an event which Dr. Corder associates arguably with a grant of urban status. The added bastions and vast new rock-cut ditch were amongst the first of these features in Britain to be closely dated to the mid 4th century, and the town must be supposed to have survived well into the 5th, if not so much as a commercial centre as a nucleated village or *caput* of the neighbouring estate. Great Casterton has therefore done much to set the trend in town wall dating.

Internally our knowledge is less full. Traces of a late 1st-century bath-house near the south gate, possibly belonging to a *mansio*, remain to be followed up; otherwise there is no clue to the character of public buildings. Other structures were elusive. Traces of only six stone buildings were found, of which we are given descriptions of two. They were all probably stone-based with timber superstructures, lacking deep foundations; one of them, of the 4th century, was not even based on the natural limestone surface, which elsewhere, we are asked to believe, served both as floors and streets, dispensing with any need for a normal metalled street system. It is difficult to believe that ruts and hollows would not be detectable in the limestone, if this had been so. The two better preserved buildings — although this might have been more significant if they had been further apart — were on similar alignments; but, as far as one can judge when they are not shown in either of the town plans provided, this axis fails to find any response either in the walls or in the line of Ermine Street through the town.

The best preserved building is here described by Mr. J. P. Gillam who supervised its excavation, and to whom we also owe the fine description of the important pottery series from Great Casterton. It was a simple rectangular structure of peasant type, dated to the early 3rd century. The conclusion that it was aisled rests on the selection of four post-holes out of 10 (and 3 of these in one line) as belonging to this phase, the resulting 'nave' being under 4 ft. wide. The span, only 20 ft. wide overall, would not demand internal posts, and any post-holes that can confidently be assigned to this phase may more safely be treated as evidence for some degree of partitioning without major structural implications. A sleeper-trench and the rest of the post-holes within these stone footings, and several more outside

them, were regarded as belonging to three separate earlier timber structures, the first of them pre-Flavian, none of which was more than partially recoverable in plan within the area cleared. The evidence for these is, frankly, unconvincing, and ignores obvious difficulties such as the variations in the angle of setting of the three square posts chosen to represent the second building on the site.

What we can accept is that there was some kind of a sequence of timber structures visible in the only real 'area dig' at Great Casterton. The trial trenching within the walls, rightly and properly when one cannot have everything, was more impressive in length than in breadth, and we must suppose that there were many more such timber buildings, and indeed stone ones, to fill the gaps in what the excavators suggest was a sparse occupation. It cannot have been sparse in so long-lived and extravagantly defended a town, nor can Mr. Gillam's building be typical of its domestic best, any more than Mr. Hildyard's Catterick cottages were typical, so it has proved, of that similarly long-lived small town. The late 3rd or 4th-century owner of the first barns on the future villa site, if indeed he did live in the town as is suggested, would have wanted something better.

The last part of the report, preceded as in the case of the town by a useful summary of results already published, concludes the account of the villa, in many respects a remarkable and anomalous establishment, notably improved when it ought to have been 'declining', and with a south wing that must surely have been designed as a façade for something that never materialized.

R. A. H. FARRAR

MONASTIC LIFE IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND. By J. C. DICKINSON. Pp. xiv+160, frontis.+Pls. xxxii, plans 6. A. and C. Black, London, 1961. Price £1 18s.

English monasteries form a neat and circumscribed subject. For most practical purposes they exactly cover the period between the Hildebrandine and the 16th-century reformations. As Mr. Dickinson insists, before the Conquest they were relatively few and the remains of these are extremely scanty. They were cut off in full working order, untouched by any counter-reformation. In France and Germany the picture is complicated by large and controversial Carolingian remains and, above all, by vast post-Tridentine rebuildings; hence, in spite of all the destruction, strictly medieval monastic plans are best studied in England.

Such a subject lends itself to generalisation and Mr. Dickinson has produced a masterpiece of generalisation in three parts: first, the buildings, where everything possible is referred to a Benedictine prototype and only the Mendicants and the Carthusians are intractably specialised; secondly, the orders, rules and daily routine, where, after distinguishing pre-Benedictine 'Celtic' monasticism, the author shows the paramouncy of the Benedictine example upon canons regular and friars as well as monks proper, and roundly covers all the last by the generic name of Benedictine; thirdly, the Dissolution, and its consequences, where he summarises much recent research. Every statement is supported by examples and the illustrations are well tied to the text. Some of the best photographs are the author's own, but the reproduction is not brilliant. The almost child-like simplicity of his language, except in the final section, exposes the clarity of his thought and the accuracy of his detail, and the minimum of technical terms is introduced apologetically. But who would even open such a book, who had to be told what an altar is, or told twice that St. Francis was the founder of the Franciscan Order? In the number of plans it is immeasurably poorer than Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer's *Abbeys*, which is comparable in precision and arrangement, or even than Mr. G. H. Cook's *English Monasteries in the Middle Ages*, which is comparable in format but less reliable in detail. Does this exemplify the same fear of technical apparatus? Or is it an instance of the occasional but inevitable tendency towards over-generalisation?

To demonstrate the breadth of the book we may instance the pervasive understanding of the devotional side of monasticism (the author is a cleric, if not a regular), the adequate coverage of minor obedientiaries and extra-claustral buildings, and, of course, a quintessential account of the origin of canons regular. There is an interesting distinction here between regularised minsters (Wessex) and enlarged parochial foundations (East Anglia—and also the Netherlands).

Certain vulgar misnomers are scouted: the retrochoir, a word often wrongly applied to the shrine-area east of the altar, is placed, properly, behind the choir. In these circumstances minor criticisms seem impertinent, but one may suggest that the explanation of north cloisters is too simple (they are common in early foundations on unobstructed sites), that the cloister lane, a form of sound-insulation, was more usual than the author implies (Sibton or Buildwas, for instance) and that, even if the omission of Wales excuses reference to the Tironensian connexion, the Grandmontine deserves a mention. The section on minor arts, though sensibly placed and admittedly cursory, is curious. Since when have painting and sculpture been minor arts? And less might be said of crafts that are better studied in secular churches and houses and more of those found almost solely in a conventual context—mosaic tiles, extensive iron grilles and real cloister-crafts like book-illumination. There is another English Dominican retable at Battle Hall, Leeds, Kent.

The 'finale' on the Dissolution may seem disproportionately long, but it opens many avenues of relevant social history. Two questions obtrude themselves on every observer—why were monasteries so many, and why were they all destroyed? In this book he will find a cool assessment of the society that founded and sustained them, and a less complete account of the strange fact that nunneries, after their promising start in the missionary period, were less important in England than elsewhere. In Germany they were such a social necessity that the Lutherans did not dissolve them. But of the final catastrophe no dispassionate explanation is possible, save to recollect that the Tudor reformation was England's only unrestricted political revolution, beside which 1688 and even 1649 were but skin-deep and the religious programmes were almost irrelevant. All the symptoms of more notorious revolutions were there—the ferocious chauvinism, the proscriptions and the violation of the dead, the excitement of the theoreticians and the stupefaction of the rest, the incredible compliance with outrageous swings of autocratic dogma, the 'national discipline' imposed by the centre on recalcitrant provinces, the scramble for pickings and over all a strange cloak of respectability. The Dissolution of the monasteries is very much part of the Reformation in this sense, however much or little it had to do with the official theology of the moment. As with other revolutions, traditionalists have tried to believe that it never happened, but the tremendous vacancy of the gables proclaims the fact to the skies.

S. E. RIGOLD

GISLEBERTUS: SCULPTOR OF AUTUN. By DENIS GRIVOT and GEORGE ZARNECKI.
Pp. 180, Pls. CIX. Trianon Press, and Collins, London, 1961. Price £3 10s.

This work constitutes a major contribution to the history of Romanesque art. The authors, Abbé Denis Grivot, choirmaster of Autun Cathedral, and George Zarnecki, Deputy Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art, and a recognised authority upon the subject as a whole, have spared no effort to present their subject in as thorough and as complete a manner as could be desired, most ably assisted by the photographic skill and execution of M. Gerard Franceschi, whose magnificent illustrations command admiration from a first perusal of the work.

Situated upon a branch line of the former P.L.M. railway system, Autun has hitherto been little visited or known by the majority of students of medieval sculpture and architecture. This in itself enhances the value of the work to us in Great Britain, and much of the detail, especially from the higher levels of the structure, is brought before the reader in a manner which would only otherwise be possible by a stay in the city of some days. The account of the sculpture is preceded by an excellent summary of the history of the building, which was not originally the cathedral church and only commenced to share this dignity with the neighbouring church of St. Nazaire in 1195, the latter subsisting, at least in part, until the 18th century. Some further details of this unusual position would have been welcome. It appears established that the present cathedral of St. Lazarus was constructed between the years 1120 and 1146, with the exception of the porch with its twin towers, which is slightly later. Architecturally, it is therefore a complete example of a Burgundian Romanesque church of the 12th century, constructed without any material cessation of operations. Side-chapels were

added, the central tower rebuilt, and the spire erected, in the latter part of the 15th century, but these have not affected the main character of the whole.

As in the majority of the churches of France, the rage for 'improvement' of the interior in an ornate Classical style, which prevailed throughout the course of the 18th century, did not leave the cathedral of Autun unscathed. The main apse was revetted in marble in the style of the period, this being intended to serve as an elaborated reredos for a High Altar of similar character. This alteration entailed the concealment and consequent mutilation of the original capitals and arcading of the apse; its removal in 1939 has had the most happy consequences, both as regards the work of Gislebertus, and the internal aspect of the structure itself. Apart from the mutilation of the north portal, and, to a lesser extent, of the great tympanum over the main western entrance of the church, little further damage appears to have been caused by the zeal of the Chapter to conceal the manifestations of 'barbarous superstition' so offensive to their ideas of beauty and taste. In reflecting upon what happened in so many other important French churches, one must be thankful that they did no worse. Little material damage appears to have been done during the period of the Revolution, but in 1860 an extensive and very necessary restoration was initiated under the direction of Viollet-le-Duc; of this the major items were the uncovering, and restoration, of the tympanum of the great west doorway, and the reconstruction of the two western towers, entailing the re-opening of the arches of the porch beneath and between them. The piers of the central tower were reinforced and rebuilt, and new capitals were provided in a number of instances; fortunately, the originals which were preserved, and are now in the cathedral museum, have afforded evidence of an important nature to the authors in determining the solution of questions arising from others still *in situ*.

The authors have dealt with their subject so thoroughly and scientifically that there can be no criticism of the work as a whole. On the other hand, it constitutes one of the most valuable contributions to our knowledge of Romanesque sculpture which has appeared for many years past. In their suggested identification of many of the subjects described and illustrated, is exhibited the result of profound and extensive comparative study. In instances of obscurity or doubt, they have not hesitated to leave the question open, as for example in Plate 7 which depicts a man riding upon a huge bird. The exposition of Luxuria (Pl. 4) is convincing, as being inspired by a Roman sculpture of Venus and Vulcan; but surely Vulcan may be regarded as a personification of that physical urge now euphemistically called sex-appeal. On the other hand, the execution of nude figures is characterised by an admirable degree of restraint.

The number of subjects, most of them serving as capitals, is great and especial interest attaches to those derived from the Old Testament, amongst which the Death of Cain is outstanding; it depicts an interpretation, current in medieval times, of *Genesis* 4, xxiii-xxiv. Mention should also be made of the remarkable representations of Eve, and the Flight into Egypt; these have been magnificently rendered by the photographic plates. The description, literary and pictorial, of the tympanum of the great western entrance and what has been discovered of that of the North transept, is of so thorough and convincing a character as to leave no room for further comment.

As regards the personality of Gislebertus, the only record in existence is that of his work, which was carried out at Autun between the years 1125 and 1135. In the opinion of the authors he holds a unique place in the history of Romanesque sculpture in France, and of this there can be no denial. Perhaps one might add that he may with justice be compared to the householder in the Gospel (*Matthew* 13, lii) 'which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old'.

It only remains to make a few minor comments. The reference on page 19 to the abbey church (III) of Cluny might be taken to refer to the general plan of Autun; at the latter there is neither ambulatory nor eastern transept—it is of a type normal to Burgundy in the 11th and 12th centuries. A perusal of the book only serves to enhance the immense loss sustained by the destruction of Cluny III under the First Empire. The suggestion of the authors respecting the capital representing ball-players (Pl. 46) is hardly convincing. The lesson of the wolf and the crane (Pl. 51a) is all too true today. The reference to *Samuel* 17 (p. 79 n. 6) should be to *I Samuel* (Vulg. *I Kings*). The numeration of the plates might be improved in the interest of

ready reference. But these are mere trivialities as compared with the style and quality of the whole undertaking, upon the production of which the authors, photographer, and publishers are to be congratulated.

J. PELHAM MAITLAND

MEDIEVAL TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL CHANGE. By LYNN WHITE, JR. Pp. 194, Pls. X. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1962. Price £1 10s.

This book has as its background the progress that man has made to discover, harness and divert to his advantage the latent forces that surround him. We may wonder that some inventions which are accepted today as mechanically basic, were not discovered until the Middle Ages were drawing to a close. For example, the carpenter's brace based on the principle of the compound crank was not to appear before the 1420's, although the cam, and geared machines, were known in Hellenistic times. The author traces the origin of many of these innovations from all corners of the globe, but he concentrates largely on medieval Europe to show how these affected man's environment. In many instances the effects were far from parochial, for they had in fact far-reaching consequences on political systems. It is suggested that the introduction of the stirrup so altered the pattern of horse combat that the land-owner was able to acquire for the first time a personal force of fast manœverable horsemen, thus heralding feudalism, chivalry and the image of the horse as a status symbol. The horse too is given credit for revolutionary changes in agriculture as a result of the introduction of the horse-shoe; the team consisting of draught horse and plough was suited to the type of cultivation required by crop rotation. The author analyses in detail earlier theories on the cultivation of fields and shows how field shapes are dictated by different methods of ploughing. Finally he lists numerous devices discovered during the Middle Ages which radically altered man's way of life. Mills (water, wind and tidal), blow-guns, Greek fire, clocks, the crank, the fly wheel, the pendulum, are but a few of the manifestations of man's fight to harness power. All these aspects of man's achievements are admirably presented in this book; a large section of notes at the end allows the main text to be read easily without diversions. The references are extremely thorough, making a bibliography unnecessary. One can regret however that ten plates were thought sufficient to illustrate so diverse a subject. These illustrations could have been supplemented profitably by a selection, at least, from the sketch books of Villiard de Honnecourt and Leonardo da Vinci.

S. D. T. SPITTLE

STUDIES IN BUILDING HISTORY. Edited by E. M. JOPE. Pp. 287. Pls. XXXII. Maps and figs. 72. Odhams Press, London, 1962. Price £3 3s.

The bibliography of the publications of Bryan O'Neil, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments at the Ministry of Works from 1945 until his death in 1954, is in itself a tribute to a remarkable career, for it shows that he produced a steady flow of excellent articles on the most diverse subjects.

Many authorities, all well known in their own fields, have combined here to honour his name, and every chapter contains material of great value, even though three of the themes may have been developed elsewhere.

The first chapter, on Roman timber building by Professor I. A. Richmond, has the terse minute observation and erudition which one expects of the writer. Most aspects of walling and other timber construction are reviewed, accompanied with clear diagrams, and particularly interesting is the point that many shallow trenches, hitherto deemed slots for ground plates, may have been gutters to collect water from the eaves; in any case sole-plates were rare in Roman timber-framed structures.

In the next essay Mrs. O'Neil studies Roman buildings in the countryside, and above all one must commend her account of five stone-lined wells, quite closely dated and found at the Farnworth Romano-British settlement at Great Chessells in Gloucestershire; the constructional details are admirably presented.

Dr. Harden's paper is a pioneer work; one is aware of his great researches into the production of glass objects, but here he limits himself to window glass of Roman, Saxon and medieval date. The description of the two main techniques of making glass is enhanced by the examples given, which turn it into a fundamental paper that should form the basis of any future consideration of the subject.

The account of the Anglo-Saxon church at Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, by E. D. C. Jackson and E. G. M. Fletcher, embodies that sort of analytical examination which is now proving that Saxon churches have been modified and altered as much as later ones. One could, however, have wished for a little more help from the illustrations.

Mr. G. C. Dunning's article on a series of chimney pots in southern England is an important and first rate one, clear and well-marshalled, with good drawings and details.

Mr. Raleigh Radford's paper on Acton Burnell Castle, Shropshire, is a capable account of an interesting late 13th-century building; its plan has the most divergent affinities, for while it is like the Norman keep at Middleham, on the other hand John Smythson continues to use the same arrangement in the early 17th century.

Mr. A. J. Taylor's chapter on Castle Building in Wales in the later 13th century is a masterly account of a well organized operation and covers the economic and social aspects involved in the building of Edward I's great castles. He gives interesting details of the order in which the castles were built, and how plans were changed to suit the vicissitudes of the campaign, and records the behaviour of the administrative officials and their monetary difficulties. The recruitment of craftsmen and the sources of material provide enthralling information, presented in a scholarly manner.

John Harvey's essay on the origin of the Perpendicular style brings together ideas evolved and facts collected over many years and includes very good and useful drawings of mouldings and window tracery. He proves the pre-eminence of William Ramsey in this exciting story, and leaves little doubt of that master's leading position in the evolution of the style. But perhaps there is still room for a colleague of equal calibre in the west, for the south transept window at Gloucester is very advanced compared with coeval examples derived from William Ramsey. Mr. Harvey's notes are full and often as inspiring as the main text; his appendices on the Canterbury masters and on the character of the 'trasura' are also very illuminating.

Medieval Inns by W. O. Pantin is an eminently readable account of a pleasant subject, illustrated by capable plans and elevations. He divides the inns into two categories, the courtyard type and the block or gate-house type, and gives details of outstanding examples, making many discoveries in the process.

Important new material is presented by E. M. Jope in a study of houses in Cornwall. He keeps to the larger ones and thus does not duplicate the work of others in that hitherto little surveyed field.

Mr. H. M. Colvin gives a neat compact article on a house built at Weldon in Northamptonshire by Humphrey Frisbey, a mason, in 1643; his survey, illustrated by lucid plans and elevations, is not lost in too much architectural description, and the real delight arises from the documentary detective work that connects Frisbey with the more famous masons from Weldon, the Grumbolds, but also with John Thorpe, the surveyor.

The Tower House in Scotland is well covered by the chief exponent of that most interesting subject, Professor Douglas Simpson, and the only fault I could find was in his suggestion that the Norman Keep was like a medieval house up-ended, for the early house seldom had a range at each end of the hall in the 12th century.

The volume ends with complementary essays by Dr. H. G. Leask and Mr. D. N. Waterman on Irish 17th-century houses; this subject has been neglected, and examples are very little known in England. Now the gap is filled and perhaps the most noteworthy feature is the Scotch influence, which one might expect.

The format of the book is good, and the publishers should establish a reputation with the quality of their relatively new venture into this field. The only criticism is that the plates are not sufficiently related to the subjects they illustrate; they could perhaps with advantage have been put all together at the back.

E. A. GEE

ARCHITECT AND PATRON. By FRANK JENKINS. Pp. 245, frontis.+Pls. x. Oxford University Press, for University of Durham, London, 1961. Price £1 15s.

Of the two latest books on the history of the architectural profession, Jenkins' has appeared after Barrington Kaye's *Development of the Architectural Profession in England*, but too soon to make use of it. In fact, the two books are complementary. Barrington Kaye records the minutiae, over the last two centuries, of the struggle for professional organisation and recognition, the relations with other professional bodies and the misgivings of 'artist-architects' about inclusion in a professional institute—limited themes, expertly handled. Jenkins takes the relations at all levels, of architects, builders, and the public, from Tudor times to the present day. It is an ambitious, wide-ranging book, a mine of information and always fresh and interesting. Standard authorities, like Gotch and Salzman, are used expertly. But the subject is rather too big for the book, embracing everything from Vasari's view of Giotto to 18th-century pattern-books, from Lord Milton's quarrel with James Paine to Aitchison's absurd lectures and Sir Leslie Martin's conferences; not to mention several hares started by the author—e.g. whether second-year students, thirty years ago, could really design classical buildings up to the standard of the 18th century. We have, perhaps, two books intertwined here, a history of taste and a history of professional practice. But the main arguments seem sound, and can be disentangled, as follows.

Jenkins takes the two roots of the modern architect, the Elizabethan surveyor-mason, who co-ordinated the various craftsmen in building a work according to design from several sources, and the scholarly designer just back from Italy. The latter knew that the Classical Orders were not just decoration, but furnished the modular basis for a whole building (as in fact they did for nearly all buildings between the mid-17th and mid-19th centuries). After Inigo Jones, there were always some scholarly architects at the head of the profession—gentlemen who, like John Webb (over Lampport, p. 137) could take a strong line with their clients. Jenkins shows (p. 148) that in the 1770's, at least, they observed an unwritten professional code among themselves. But in the highly aristocratic 18th century, noblemen were too ready, after Lord Burlington's undoubted success as an architect, to pretend to be designers themselves, and so called into being a depressed class of 'ghost architects'. Another danger to the profession was the contractor-architect who supplied designs, workmen and materials. Even Sir William Chambers descended to such work.

These early malpractices, together with corrupt competitions, were frowned upon and largely suppressed by the group of leading architects who in 1834 formed the Institute of British Architects as a voluntary body. But architecture now faced subtler dangers. In the 18th century, the architect needed only to suggest his detailing to a workman fully competent to interpret it. But in the 19th, new patent materials and the kaleidoscope of styles meant that the architect must now produce working drawings and complicated specifications for everything, down to the most trifling details. Worse still, his new clients from the industrial middle class did not know what they wanted, and were titillated with faked perspectives. Committees, too, acted as clients for more and more buildings, and were unsatisfactory. The Royal Exchange and the Law Courts were only the most sensational instances. The profession did divest itself of some duties—civil engineering, surveying, and quantity-surveying. Its greatest practitioners, Waterhouse, Lutyens, etc. worked marvels in an almost impossible situation. Finally, mechanisation 'took command' and certainly freed the architect from a mass of detailing—but it brought new problems in its train.

Taking the 19th century as a whole, Jenkins seems too blind to the disastrous influence of A. W. N. Pugin. With him, for the first time, historical correctness completely supplanted modular proportion and elegance as the touchstone of a building's worth. Barry and Cockerell were not mere antiquarian draughtsmen. Pugin surely was. So in the 19th century architects had far too much history. Now, as a reaction, they have far too little.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CULTURE FROM PREHISTORY TO THE RENAISSANCE.
By JACK LINDSAY. Pp. 425, Pls. LII and many line drawings. Studio Books, London,
1962. Price £2 5s.

This book embraces many aspects of archaeology, anthropology and the arts, which are in general arranged chronologically. Particular stress is given to anthropology in the earlier chapters and to literature, music and the visual arts in the later ones. To cover such a vast field is an ambitious project and its success must depend not only on the accuracy of the material but on the ability to present this material with reasonable balance. Without this latter quality the overall picture becomes distorted. Brevity forbids a complete review of all the varied subjects in this book, but if the sections on architecture, for example, are examined, one wonders if these conditions are satisfied. Taking the account of Arab architecture one finds that the Umayyad dynasty alone is considered, apparently on account of its pure Arab background; what is said is more or less correct, but the reader might reasonably expect a general survey of the trends and features of the architecture in a chapter broadly labelled 'Asia and Africa'. In the sections dealing with Romanesque and Gothic architecture there are many generalisations which are introduced to support the visual impressions of the architecture on the author, but the generalisations are sometimes so broad, e.g. 'the Romanesque church is vaulted in stone', as to be valueless. Confronted by such statements as 'Palladio built no churches' the reader may well have an uneasy feeling that other sections, about which he knows less, may contain errors which would upset the neatly presented theories. Mr. Lindsay is a prolific author and he here displays a practised literary style which is clear and fluent. It is a pity that the plates and figures are not cross referenced by number in the text, which, so it seems, does not mention some illustrations at all. One is left with the impression that it is extremely difficult to condense such a wide subject into a medium sized book.

S. D. T. SPITTLE

A HANDBOOK OF LOCAL HISTORY, DORSET, with a Supplement of Additions and
Corrections to 1960. By ROBERT DOUCH. Pp. 178. University of Bristol, 1962.
Price 7s. 6d. (Supplement only, 3s. 6d.)

The original edition of this handbook which first appeared in 1952 has been out of print for several years and its re-issue will be welcomed by everyone concerned with the history of Dorset. The present edition comprises a photographic reprint of the earlier work, bound together with a 44-page supplement including a subject index and a place name index covering both parts. The supplement includes a number of amendments to the original text; these are unfortunately not separated from the additional references and it will entail considerable work by each user to find and mark the alterations in the text, but the circumstances and cost of reprinting did not permit the correction of the printed original.

The general arrangement of the subject matter, which covers printed and manuscript sources and local societies and institutions, is good, although with 19 separate sections much use has necessarily to be made of the index. Greater use of alphabetical order would, however, have facilitated reference to the sub-sections, and in these the supplement follows the order of the original; for example, under 'Ecclesiastical History', the Nonconformist entry commences with Quakers, followed by Congregationalists and then by Presbyterians and Baptists jointly — the last entry, which might surely have been divided, appears to have been used in the earlier edition as a convenience to cover a work dealing with both sects. Another example of apparently arbitrary placing is the inclusion of T. Hudson, *Temperance Pioneers of the West* (1887), under 'Sport and Entertainment' although it must be allowed that the subjects are not necessarily unrelated.

These are of course very minor criticisms of what is undoubtedly a most valuable work of reference. It includes besides purely local matter many general works and sources of information that are of national relevance; the *Handbook* will therefore well repay study by local historians throughout the country.

C. F. STELL

SURREY. By IAN NAIRN and NIKOLAUS PEVSNER. (The Buildings of England). Pp. 501, Pls. LXIV. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1962. Price £1 1s.

Surrey is a county usually associated with the growth of suburbia, and also with large areas of great scenic beauty; it is not, however, generally connected with buildings or sites of archaeological or historic interest. This recent production in the Buildings of England series will correct the picture. It shows that the county, besides containing certain buildings of great architectural or historical value such as Sutton Place or Farnham Castle, also retains in nearly all its towns and villages, buildings which are worthy of more than a passing glance; the ecclesiastical buildings have suffered in the past century from over enthusiastic restoration, but retain many of their early features. From an archaeological point of view it is unfortunate that the results of the excavation at Abinger Motte have been misread: the timber building, which stood on top of the motte, was not the hall or house but a timber tower defended by a circular palisade, the hall or house being sited in the bailey, perhaps on the site of the existing house. It might also have been wiser to omit references to prehistoric monuments, which can hardly be a complete list, and it should be mentioned that the views on Nonsuch Palace given in the Introduction may not be borne out in the future report on the excavations, which has still to be published. Use of descriptions from Ministry of Housing and Local Government lists should be made with caution; these may not be completely accurate and can only be used as a general guide to the importance of the building.

Mr. Ian Nairn's contribution is welcome, especially regarding those buildings which are termed 'modern' and therefore omitted from the usual county guides; his views on certain small towns in the county are rather harsh, but perhaps he is considering the architecture of the town individually and not as a whole. Previous guides to the county are not satisfactory and this new publication, which is excellently illustrated, will give students and the general public useful information when visiting Surrey at weekends or on holiday. It is, however, noted with regret that the price of volumes in this series tends to increase, and it is to be hoped that this can be kept within bounds.

R. S. SIMMS

WOTTON UNDER EDGE, MEN AND AFFAIRS OF A COTSWOLD WOOL TOWN.
By E. S. LINDLEY. Pp. 344, Pls. XVII, figs. 29, maps 2. Museum Press, London, 1962.
Price £1 15s.

According to the interests of the author and the nature of the region, local histories can vary immensely. The sub-title tells us that this is a book about 'men and affairs', and this is a particularly apt description of the contents. These people are not, as is sometimes the case, of the landed gentry alone; we read of the Berkeleys and the Beauchamps, but the bulk of the work concerns the wealthy clothiers, the preachers and teachers, the doctors and lawyers, the clockmakers and carriers who were essential to the development of any town.

Wotton under Edge is a small town, once a local centre for a series of important woollen mills, but so situated that modern traffic finds it easier to by-pass it by several miles. Symptoms of this slow decay appear repeatedly, and will undoubtedly enhance the importance of this work to students of social history. Mr. Lindley has been lucky not only in the choice of this town, but in the help he has received from local people who appear to have granted him unlimited access to the deeds of their properties, and equally if not more important, in the help he has had from Dr. Joan Evans to whom the book is dedicated.

It is obvious that the author loves the town although he no longer lives there. His intimate knowledge of the district is frequently the cause of concern to the non-resident reader whose sole guide to the district is an 18th-century town-plan and a contoured map of the parish showing some of the more interesting houses, mills and hamlets. One looks in vain for some of the places mentioned in the text. The maps conveniently fold out away from the book, but the position of the town-plan renders its use almost impossible through over 200 pages. Not only would more maps have been desirable, but a number of family trees would have clarified the descent of scores of properties; this omission is particularly noticeable throughout the first chapter. On the other hand, some subjects are particularly well dealt

with, especially the tombs in the church, and the history of local transport and of schools, both of which have been carried up to quite recent times.

A considerable number of old timber-framed houses survive in the centre of the town, often masked by stucco and recent shop fronts. Several of these are described, but none of the plates gives any clue to the extent of the architectural wealth that still remains. With the publication of this book, Mr. Lindley has opened the field of local history in Wotton. Is it now too much to hope that the next project there might be a full record of all these houses before it is too late?

This book is the culmination of years of research, and is a worthy addition to the few comprehensive parish histories to have appeared in Gloucestershire. Although its illustrations vary considerably in quality, it is on good paper, well bound and has an extremely good index. I personally like the touch of humour that creeps in from time to time — a reminder that no historian should take himself too seriously — without detracting from the factual evidence. This book, already popular, is sure to remain a standard work of reference for a long time to come.

LIONEL F. J. WALROND

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN. STUDIES IN LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY. By H. J. RANDALL.
Pp. 109, Pls. XII, maps and figs. 9. R. H. Johns, Newport, 1961. Price £1 1s.

The area of southern Glamorgan long known as 'The Vale' has a longer and richer record of human settlement than most other parts of Wales, and in this collection of occasional pieces the influence of topography on this record is emphatically stated. The author has made full and reliable use of a large body of documentary material and he knows the territory intimately. His presentation nonetheless reads pleasantly and even the necessary introductory geology is less indigestible than is usual. Such unexpected information as the former prevalence of Borough English is brought to light, but the book's chief value lies in the account of village sitings and soils, place-names and the boundaries of parishes and lordships. However, on one topic at least, the location of the earlier castles, the topographical argument is less than convincing, particularly so with regard to Coity castle, and the account of the Norman conquest, potentially the most rewarding chapter, is vitiated by assuming Fitzhamon's 'scheme of strategic defence'; reference might have been made to 'The Lordship of Glamorgan' in *Morgannwg II* (1958) which also, incidentally, supports the element of continuity. For the topographical interest of their siting (in terms of tactics rather than strategy) several other castles in the Vale might usefully have been discussed. The book's origin in occasional lectures is most evident in repeated material, by no means always to the point, and the reader would gladly forego summaries of general history to have further details of the places and incidents of immediate concern. Though prehistoric parallels are often cited, the book lacks a chapter on prehistoric settlement and folk movements. To the note on boroughs founded by Welsh lords (p. 97) might be added the names of Nevin and Pwllheli in Gwynedd. More than a fair scattering of misprints including dates distracts the reader, and footnote 27 to chapter viii has strayed beyond recovery. There are several well-drawn maps and an adequate index.

W. GWYN THOMAS

THE SHELL GUIDE TO IRELAND. By LORD KILLANIN and PROF. M. V. DUIGNAN.
Pp. viii+478, 7 maps and 17 Pls. in colour with many illustrations in text. Ebury Press, London, 1962. Price £2.

This attractive volume, though following the lines, in most respects, of other guides to Ireland (Murray's, Black's, 'Blue', the A.A. etc.) differs from them in other ways. It is not a road-book, for instance, but a gazetteer most meticulous and more fully detailed in every way than any of them. Hardly an antiquity of any kind, be it no more than a bullaun stone, ogham or pillar stone, cross, megalithic tomb, ancient or medieval church or monastery, motte or castle or even an eighteenth century house of note, but finds a place. Moreover, the historical introduction, admirably concise, is supplemented under each entry by local history,

myth and legend together with mentions of all the notable saints and scholars and notabilities, ancient, medieval and modern, connected with the place—even modern architects and artists receive mention. Much of the history is disastrous and bloody—that of the 16th and 17th centuries in particular may fall unpleasantly on English ears today—but a knowledge of it is essential to the understanding of the Irish scene and past. The book is, in fact, a history of Ireland combined with a survey of all its antiquities. It is not surprising that its compilation has occupied the authors for twelve years; the wonder is that it did not take a much longer period. Obviously every printed source—and some not yet in print—has been consulted, and that many people with detailed and accurate local knowledge have played a part is equally clear.

There are very few errors and these are of minor importance; omissions rarely occur. Both the full plate colour illustrations and the 200 or more half-tones in the text are excellent and representative. Production and printing cannot be praised too highly. It is a book to prize; for both native and serious visitor an essential possession, though the traveller will find a good map, such as the 'half-inch' Ordnance Survey, a necessary supplement.

H. G. LEASK

BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL. VOL. I (1962). Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, Luton. Price £1 15s. (subscribers £1 10s.).

The journals of all archaeological societies are faced with the problem of reconciling a relatively static income with rising printing costs. A few have succumbed in the struggle, the majority have grown slimmer and disturbingly few new periodicals have emerged to fill any of the gaps. The very process whereby new societies and off-shoots from the older ones have proliferated in recent years has tended to spread even more thinly the funds available for publication.

The launching of a county archaeological journal against such an austere background will be greeted with pleasure and surprise, for Bedfordshire possesses neither a county archaeological society nor, except during the time of Worthington Smith some sixty years ago, a distinguished record of archaeological publication. A recent revival of activity, hitherto made known outside the county through fugitive publications and occasional articles in national journals and the *Bedfordshire Magazine*, has led to the formation of new societies, none in itself, however, capable of supporting a permanent journal. Now the leading societies have taken the enterprising steps of pooling their resources under a single editor and representative council and of securing donations from local firms to swell the somewhat slender funds accruing from an initial list of 85 subscribers.

The journal is carefully and attractively printed and illustrated. Its layout is refreshingly spacious. Indeed, a lower margin of 2 ins. verges on the extravagant. Another inch of text per page would have freed space for a ten-page article.

Two-thirds of this volume are devoted to the early Saxon period. A hut-site and two small grave-groups on Puddlehill, Dunstable, are dealt with by Mr. C. L. Matthews, who also collaborates with Dr. John Morris in a detailed account of a late 6th-century cemetery at Marina Drive, Dunstable. Dr. Morris also contributes a useful gazeteer of pagan Saxon discoveries in Bedfordshire and a general account of Saxon settlement. The volume is completed by Mr. J. F. Dyer's account of two sites, one Neolithic, the other Bronze Age, at Barton Hill Farm, near Luton, and by his note on Ravensburgh Castle, a bivallate hill-fort.

It is in some respects a pity that the contents of this first number do not appeal to a broader range of archaeological tastes. Nevertheless, now that the journal is obviously a going concern, it can deservedly expect to receive much wider support.

BRIAN SPENCER