

## REVIEWS

*Industrial Archaeology of North-East England, Volume I*, Frank Atkinson, David & Charles, 1974, £4.25

THE SECOND volume of this important survey is to consist of a gazetteer of industrial archaeological sites in the region. A final judgement of its comprehensiveness can only be given therefore when Volume II is published. For example, the impressive remains of the paper-mill at Haughton are not mentioned in Volume I but may appear in the gazetteer.

Meanwhile it can be said that the introductory volume is both useful and enjoyable. Naturally those chapters are best which are based on a broad foundation of earlier research, such as those on lead- and coal-mining. The lead-mining chapter is quite nostalgic reading for one who as a boy roamed the moors about Blanchland when many evidences of old workings now long overgrown could still be seen, as well as broken rooftrees and abandoned gardens with bushes still fruiting which are now pasture or rough grazings.

Even where a chapter may be less balanced it is stimulating as prompting the reader to note aspects imperfectly covered calling for further work to be done. Has Mr. Atkinson any record of the substantial Elswick tannery that closed about 1970? Photographs of this firm's 19th c. tannery at North Shields still exist. It is suggested that corndrying kilns erected alongside upland mills should be distinguished from the oven-type kiln in lowland corn-mills. Presumably the lime-kilns on Holy Island also fulfil the conditions of those at Seahouses and Beadnell in being dependent upon carriage by water. Is the reviewer right in believing that a series of 18th c. milestones was removed during the last war from the old "corn-road" to Alnmouth lest they give guidance to hostile paratroops? If so, where are they now? One of the functions of this book is surely to stir the memory and prompt such questions as these.

There are reminders from gaps here and there of the difficulty of knowing where industrial archaeology begins and ends. Under transport, for example, Mr. Atkinson deals at proper length with railways, but says nothing of stage-coaches, nor indeed of trams. The printing and engraving industries are not noticed, perhaps they fall to bibliography? Industrial archaeology may be said to have a bias in favour of the mechanical as can be seen in the chapter on agriculture which notices the 23 farms in Northumberland which formerly had stationary steam engines, but (rightly) makes no attempt to tackle the much more significant and difficult study of field-systems.

Mr. Atkinson's dedicated work is valued by all of us and we are grateful that his survey has achieved publication and is available as the accepted framework for future work in this field in the region. There should be many editions of this work so perhaps we may end with two small queries. On page 55 Mr. Atkinson refers to "locally produced" tiles: Thomas Sharp said that the former preponderance of red pantiles on this coast arose from their import as ballast in ships returning from Holland. Which is right? On page 120 how did the proof-reader miss "quarry" for "quay"?

J. PHILIPSON

## BOOKS RECEIVED

*Haltwhistle and South Tynedale* (60p. Cameo Books) by Tony Storey traces the evolution of the landscape of its area taking account of historical and industrial influences.

*Museum of Antiquities: An illustrated introduction* (60p. The Museum) by D. J. Smith illustrates and describes almost fifty selected objects from the Newcastle Museum.

*Field Archaeology in Great Britain* (£1.50, Ordnance Survey) began fifty years ago as a modest pamphlet. It has grown to be a comprehensive text-book to archaeological field-work in this country.

*Family, Lineage & Civil Society* (£5 Oxford) by Mervyn James is "a study of society, politics and mentality in the Durham region, 1500–1640". This book will be a fruitful starting-point for further study and discussion of this transitional period in County Durham.

*Britain before the Norman Conquest* (£3 Ordnance Survey) is the latest addition to the OS series of archaeological and historical maps and covers the two centuries ending in 1066. It consists of a north and a south sheet covering the whole of Britain and an explanatory text and index of 68 pages, including specialised contributions such as on *Pit*-prefix place-names in Scotland. A carefully worked out series of symbols is used to distribute the information on the maps. Happy is the county that has no history: Northumberland must have been a happy place at that time as there are so few symbols in our confines. A few pre-Conquest churches there are and "hybrid" place-names, but scarcely a symbol and not even a trackway. Notwithstanding this idyllic hiatus between the Tyne and Berwick, this map assembles in a lucid form much carefully sifted information.

## SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

from *Archæologia Aeliana*

*Offprints available from stock* Postfree prices

		<i>Prices</i>
COWEN AND BARTY	A lost Anglo-Saxon inscription recovered. 1966.	35p
DOLLEY AND TAYLOR	The 1958 Whittonstall treasure. 1963.	30p
GILL, M. A. V.	Marks of the Newcastle Goldsmiths, 1702–1884. 1974.	90p
HARBOTTLE, B.	Excavation and survey in Newcastle upon Tyne, 1972–3. 1974.	75p
HARBOTTLE, B.	Excavation of the South Curtain Wall of the Castle, Newcastle upon Tyne. 1966.	40p
HARBOTTLE AND SALWAY	Excavations at Newminster Abbey 1961–3. 1964.	40p
JOBEY AND TAIT	Excavations of palisaded settlements and cairnfields at Alnham, Northumberland. 1966.	40p
PARSONS, J. E.	The archaeology of the clay tobacco pipe. 1964.	40p
TUCK, R. A.	Origins of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. 1968.	40p
	Facsimile map of the Roman Wall c.1750.	30p

Cash with order to The Librarian, The Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne 1.