

## REVIEWS

An Introduction and Handbook *Scotland's Roman Remains*, Lawrence Keppie. Edinburgh; John Donald 1986, x+188 pp. £7.50.

The constantly increasing number of Roman sites in Scotland presents a difficult challenge to the many people interested in the subject but with limited opportunities to visit Scotland. Where are the sites, how does one get to them, how much actually survives? D. J. Breeze's guide, published in 1979, helped considerably, with an alphabetical list of sites, graded in terms of preservation and access. Dr. Keppie's work is larger and drawn up in a different way. After 69 pages of introduction, covering at lightning speed a lot of most useful background information, he arranges his sites in geographical sections. This is intended to allow the planning of visits to a number of sites on the one trip. He is careful to pick out the sites where something meaningful survives above ground, but also in the text and on the most useful section maps he refers to all sites [except the Antonine Wall construction camps]. This gives the book two further advantages. The total picture known to us (up to the end of 1985) is given, and the geographical relationships of the sites are clearly shown, with some indication of the physical setting. This facilitates analysis in the study as well as in the field. As in the Breeze booklet the archaeology of each site is described and in detail how access may be gained. Also as in Breeze there are a large number of plans of individual sites, though Dr. Keppie is able in his large format to add a number of stimulating photographs.

On the history of Roman Scotland, as on other subjects, there will always be differences of interpretation, and there are some interesting views put forward here. It is perhaps methodologically unsound to claim as "evident" (p. 42) what is not evident, that a defence line was established on the edge of the Highlands. There are better and safer guides to inscriptions than A. R. Burn's work.

These are minor points. The total result is a splendid contribution to our basic aids in the field and in the study, which any one interested in Roman Scotland should promptly purchase.

BRIAN DOBSON

D. Coggins, *Upper Teesdale: The Archaeology of a North Pennine Valley*, *British Archaeological Reports*, British Series 150 (1986), Oxford. pp. 222, incl. 46 figs., 19 pls. £14.

Anyone with experience of field archaeology in other countries knows how extraordinarily rich in field monuments Britain is in comparison. It is a question not just of numbers and variety of sites but also their concentration in a way which few areas abroad can match. Even more than this wealth of sites, even more than remarkable individual monuments such as Stonehenge or Hadrian's Wall, it is the

extent, range and astonishing preservation of ancient landscapes which makes Britain unique in global terms. From Cornwall to the Shetlands and north Wales to the North York Moors, nature and accident have led to the survival on our marginal lands of thousands of square miles of past landscapes, ranging in date from the beginning of the Bronze Age to the Medieval period. This volume is about one of the less well-known of these survival areas, Upper Teesdale. As has been the case with so many others, its secrets have been revealed by the efforts of a few, scantily-funded, enthusiasts, in this case Dennis Coggins and his collaborators. Their publications in recent years have given some hint of the importance of this region, but have scarcely been given the prominence they deserve (why was the crucial Bracken Rigg report not snapped up by one of our national journals?). In the present volume Dennis Coggins has brought together the multifarious threads of years of unremitting research. Unfortunately he is a modest man and I doubt, still, whether he has trumpeted his case loudly enough. This was a volume crying out for a foreword by a sympathetic outsider, one with some awareness of the region's archaeological riches. I use the phrase not in the sense that it would be applied to an Avebury or Housesteads. These upland remains are not spectacular in that sense, indeed, the untrained eye can often comprehend little or nothing of these upland landscapes at first. I am talking about something more fundamental, of standing at one of Dennis Coggins' apparently modest sites, such as Simy Folds, and seeing centuries-old land boundaries and fields running away in all directions to the horizon. Here is the true importance and uniqueness of Britain in world heritage terms, though it is realized as yet by comparatively few.

But to practicalities. Carping criticism is out of place in reviewing a work of this kind. The material it presents is too important to be smothered in complaints about presentation. They could be made, for example about the inadequate separation and formatting of the catalogue entries, but that is the nature of publication in *BAR*. This Oxford series, for all its faults, has enabled many a deserving work to see the light of day that otherwise might have sunk without trace. Rather more than a third of Coggins' volume is text, just under a third catalogue, and the same proportion illustrations. In his text the author is faced with the classic pioneer surveyor's difficulty of having a wealth of sites but little supporting excavation evidence (and most of what there is comes from the efforts of himself and his colleagues). Following an environmental chapter the survey of human settlement extends from the Mesolithic through to recent times. Inevitably there is much more to say about some periods than others: very little on the Neolithic, for example, much more on the Iron Age and Roman periods. The text is out-dated in parts, inevitably so in an age when ideas change so rapidly. Nevertheless, one criticism of this work is that its bibliography includes too many superseded works of the 60s and 70s, too few of the 1980s. I have referred already to the catalogue of sites and finds. Unfortunately it is not "user-friendly", in the sense that its internal logic is not explained. Thus listing appears to be alphabetical by site name, but each site also has a catalogue number, though these follow some other, unexplained sequence. References to illustrations are not always given. The figures are well-drawn, and include maps, plans and illustrations of finds.

The plates are better than the *BAR* average, but *BAR* still needs to improve in this area.

As one who has worked for twenty years in another upland area, I can only commend to the reader the fruits of such dedicated labours in a landscape, and amongst sites, that are unrelenting even by British upland standards. Dennis Coggins, as one of that select band of heroic fieldworkers who have revealed the uniqueness of British upland archaeology to the world, deserves all our thanks. There is clearly much more to be revealed in Upper Teesdale, and we can only hope that he presses on with his work, and wish more power (and resources) to his elbow.

COLIN BURGESS

*Bulkley & Broad, White & Wayt, W. K. Sessions* (Sessions, York 1985/6), £13.00.

In this, the latest of Mr. Sessions' gallery of early provincial printers, our chief interest is in Stephen Bulkley. For Stephen was the second printer to set up a press in Newcastle, and the first to stay on Tyneside for more than a fleeting visit. His survival through a printing-life, in London, York and Newcastle, of almost half a century may at least in part be attributed to a knowledge of when to make himself scarce. In 1642, when as a Royalist printer his survival in London became doubtful, he quietly slipped away to York, selected no doubt because the seat there of an archbishop made it a suitable base for a printer.

From 1644 York came increasingly under Parliamentary control, and in 1646 Bulkley found it expedient to respond to a call from the Royalists to join the King in Newcastle. Here he styled himself "Printer to the King's most Excellent Majesty". Charles himself was shortly borne away south and Bulkley was left in Newcastle to fend for himself. Among other things he printed *Chorographia*, the first of our local histories and one of the earlier of such histories in Britain. The many pamphlets he printed make no claim to even-handedness and their use by historians has enlivened for us the drab annals of the mid-century.

When Newcastle became too hot for him he slipped over to the obscurity of Gateshead and kept his press going with Gateshead imprints from 1653 till the Restoration when Newcastle once more appears in his imprints. His penultimate flit was back to York, whence his imprints run again from 1663 and whence he departed this life in 1679/80.

A feature of Mr. Sessions' series is the "fac-similes" of title and other pages of the publications of the respective printers. As his page is A4 any subject larger than this is reduced to go onto the page (less margin). Mr. Sessions' interest is centred on the content of the fac-simile and more specifically on the imprint and this need is adequately met by this procedure. For typographic study however it is vital to have reproductions at actual size. Few of us have scaling projectors and an arbitrary scale is merely frustrating. An alternative would be to reproduce at actual size such portion as can be accommodated on the page and to provide a transcript or possibly a miniature reduction of the whole page in addition. Whatever course is adopted will be met by a

cry of outrage from some quarter, but the reviewer feels he must voice the needs of his kind.

To his normal content Mr. Sessions in this volume adds a dimension by reference to the work of Dr. Derek Nuttall, who in a doctoral thesis of 617 pages has surveyed the type held by 17th-century printers in England and produced a body of material enabling him, for example, to say that a given book, notwithstanding its imprint, could not have been printed by the named printer in the town stated, because he did not there hold the particular types used in its printing. Without access to Dr. Nuttall's thesis a considered judgement of his specific conclusions cannot be attempted, but there can be no doubt that such a systematic extension of typographic analysis is of great potential use. It has some very interesting implications in the present context, suggesting for example that the bold publisher (under phoney imprints) of the first pamphlets promoting Monck's move to bring about the Restoration was none other than Stephen Bulkley in Newcastle. The sooner Dr. Nuttall's material can be made more widely available the better.

While apart from this development this latest in Mr. Sessions' series retains the limitations he has set for it, and pre-eminently that it precludes any examination of the paper on which the works discussed are printed, it has much of interest for members of our Society, and more especially its account of that resourceful survivor Stephen Bulkley.

JOHN PHILIPSON