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Book Notices, 1998

C. Tolan Smith, *Landscape Archaeology in Tynedale* (Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle, 1997), pp. x + 102, ills. 35. ISBN 0-7017-0073-4. Price: £14.95.

This handsomely illustrated collection of seven essays represents the first fruits of a decade of research on the landscape of Tynedale, focusing on an area of lowland in a region of England otherwise noted for its upland landscapes and archaeology. The book begins with a statement of principles and approach and then works retrogressively, peeling back the landscape from its recent industrialised appearance to its prehistoric origins. It is an exciting work which draws on a variety of techniques to tell its story.

R. J. A. Wilson (ed.), *Roman Maryport and its Setting: Essays in Memory of Michael G. Jarrett* (Cumberland and Westmorland A.A.S. for the Trustees of the Senhouse Roman Museum, 1997), pp. 168, ills. 56. ISBN 1-873124-22-8. Price: £15.00 from the Senhouse Museum.

It is a tribute to the high quality of the essays in this volume to claim that Mike Jarrett would have enjoyed arguing with its contributors. His own involvement with Maryport began as an undergraduate working under Eric Birley, and all of these richly-illustrated essays reflect his continuing engagement with the study of the site—and the inspiration (and provocation) he offered to his colleagues working on Roman Cumbria.

Tom Corfe (ed.), *Before Wilfrid: Britons, Romans and Anglo-Saxons in Tynedale* (Hexham Local History Society, 1997), pp. 96, ills. 21. ISBN 0-9527615-1-3. Price: £6.00.

Though modest in size, this volume of the *Hexham Historian* offers an extremely valuable collection of essays, including an overview of Roman roads and bridges in Tynedale by Paul Bidwell, a survey of late and post-Roman occupation by Tony Wilmott and the first publication of the evidence for an Anglo-Saxon watermill at Corbridge by Margaret Snape. Rosemary Cramp summarises the evidence for pre-Wilfridian Bernicia whilst the editor presents both a vigorous re-evaluation of the Battle of Heavenfield and thoughts on Hexham's function as a "central place" before Wilfrid's arrival. The Society is to be congratulated on the 1996 conference which lies behind this publication, and on the speed with which its proceedings have been made available to a wider audience.

D. R. Perriam and J. Robinson, *The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria: An Illustrated Gazetteer and Research Guide* (Cumberland and Westmorland A.A.S., extra series, XXIX, 1997), pp. 416, ills. 570. ISBN 1-873124-23-6. Price £35.00.

In 1913 our sister Society across the Pennines produced John Curwen's *Castles and Fortified Towers*. The present substantial volume builds on that pioneering work in its comprehensive study of all the various types of defensible structures from the county which can be dated to the period 1066–1603. Curwen recorded 150 sites; this splendid study expands that number

to 490 and adds much detail to the earlier record. Its authors and the Society are to be congratulated on the production of an essential work of reference.

David Brenchley, *A Place by Itself: Berwick-upon-Tweed in the Eighteenth Century* (Berwick-upon-Tweed Civic Society, 1997), pp. ix + 309, ills. 23. ISBN 0-9530825-0-4. Price: £17.95 from the Society, Strathlea, Thornton, Berwick, TD15 2LP.

This is a very impressive work, based largely upon the original records held in the Berwick archives. David Brenchley is concerned less with the physical appearance of the town than its social organisation during a crucial period in its development. He provides a fascinating study, whose achievement should not be under-estimated; his complex material is subtly organised in a manner which ensures that the story remains coherently readable whilst never losing touch with the archival sources on which it is based. There has been no substantial work on Berwick published since 1888; Brenchley's book sets the standard for the next century.

John Dunbar (ed.), *Sir William Burrell's Northern Tour, 1758* (Tuckwell Press, 1997), pp. viii + 143, ills. 9. ISBN 1-898410-98-4. Price: £14.99.

This is the first publication of the journal kept by Burrell during his wide-ranging northern tour of 1758. As a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London he was a meticulous recorder of antiquities and fine art as well as the contemporary architecture of social life he encountered on his journey. The majority of the journal is concerned with Scotland but members of our Society will appreciate his enthusiasm for both Lumley Castle and Gibside—and savour the notion that Durham Cathedral “has little to recommend it but its antiquity”.

Margaret Maddison (ed.), *Northumbrian Building Studies, 2* (Traditional Architecture Group, 1998), pp. 38, ills. Price: £4.00 from Mrs V. Bolter, 20 Osborne Avenue, Jesmond Newcastle NE2 1JQ.

This is the second report of a group operating under the aegis of the Centre for Continuing Education at Newcastle University. It records cottages on the Gibside Estate's Cutton Farm, a derelict seventeenth-century farmhouse near Elsdon, a Newcastle town house in Rosemary Lane, and Stephen's Hall, Ryton Woodside whose origins lie in the late sixteenth century.