

## XIV

### BOOK NOTICES, 1999

All of the books listed here have been placed in the Society's Library.

J. Hawkes and S. Mills (eds.), *Northumbria's Golden Age* (Sutton Publishing, 1999), pp. xii + 452, ill. 121. ISBN 0-7509-1685-0. Price: £35.00.

This magnificently illustrated volume is edited by two of this Society's members and contains 34 of the papers contributed to a conference organised in conjunction with the highly successful 1996 exhibition, *Treasures from the Lost Kingdom of Northumbria*, held in the Laing Gallery. Its subjects range from the settlement archaeology of pagan Northumbria through the sculpture, metalwork and manuscripts of the Christian Golden Age to the works of the Venerable Bede. Many of the papers will become standard points of departure for future study and the editors are to be congratulated on attracting almost every scholar who is active in the field to contribute – and on cajoling them into such prompt publication. The editorial decision to assemble a cumulative bibliography from the contributors will further ensure that this remains a essential work of reference for many years to come.

W. M. Aird, *St Cuthbert and the Normans: The Church of Durham, 1071-1153* (Boydell Press, 1998), pp. xvi + 311, figs. 18. ISBN 1-085115-6150. Price: £45.00.

The Anglo-Saxon Community of St. Cuthbert and the Benedictine Priory which succeeded it at Durham have received much attention in recent publications. This substantial volume is a welcome addition to that growing library. It focuses first on Bishop William of St. Calais' foundation of the cathedral priory, arguing for

a greater degree of continuity from earlier centuries than Symeon of Durham's narrative would imply. After examining the relationship between successive bishops and the convent, a convincing attempt is then made to outline the Norman military settlement of the Patrimony and to trace the creation of the honorial baronage of St. Cuthbert in the period. Finally the influential role of the kings of Scotland in the policies of the Durham Church is sensitively analysed. This is a valuable work on an institution which was central to the life of our region throughout the medieval period.

M. Brown, *The Black Douglasses: War and Lordship in Late Medieval Scotland, 1300-1445* (Tuckwell Press, 1998), pp. x + 358, ill. 30. ISBN 1-86232-036-5.

This is a well-documented study of the rise and fall in aristocratic power and status of one of the dominant dynasties of later medieval Scotland. Brown shows how the family's political power was inextricably linked to warfare – and much of that warfare reached across the Tweed and Tyne. The book thus makes an important contribution to our understanding of English, as well as Scottish, history.

F. Palgrave (ed.), *Hetton-le-Hole Pitmatic Talk, 100 Years Ago* (Reprint of 1896 edition, with forward by D. Ridley; Johnstone-Carr Publications, 1997), pp. xv + 53. ISBN 0-9531402-0-2. Price: £4.99.

Palgrave's collection of dialectal forms from Hetton and the surrounding district has long been of interest to linguists and local historians, not least for its preservation of words which were already archaic when he recorded them during his Co. Durham curacy between

1890 and 1893. This welcome reprint, with a helpful introduction by David Ridley, makes his entertaining work more widely available.

M. Maddison (ed.), *Northumbrian Building Studies*, 3 (Traditional Architecture Group, 1999), pp.38, ills.. Price: £4.00.

This is the third report of a group working from the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the

University of Newcastle and records, with excellent illustrations, three buildings. The first study is of the documentary history, existing structures and machinery of the Mill complex at Holburn. This is accompanied by papers on two farmhouses : Monkridge Hall, which was built in the 18th century, and Middlepart farm whose origins lie in the 17th century.