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BOOK REVIEWS, 2002

S. Beckensall, *Prehistoric Rock Art in Northumberland* (Tempus, 2001), pp. 192, 169 ills. + 108 photographs. ISBN 0 7524 1945 5.

In this updated catalogue of Northumberland rock art Beckensall rightly tells us that, 'rock art is a visual experience'. In evident recognition of this the volume is liberally illustrated with excellent photographs that serve to inspire and delight. Of the 108 plates, 30 are in colour. This work is the culmination of half a lifetime of meticulous recording that has included rubbings, scale drawings, photographs, archival research and text descriptions of every piece of rock art currently known in Northumberland. Beckensall has marshalled this wealth of data into a logical and systematic survey that is helped along by a relaxed and buoyant text that dips into other topics along its way such as place-names, industrial archaeology and anecdotal recollections. An intimate and erudite handling of the landscape context of rock art sites combines well with an affable prose that could not fail to raise a smile or two in this reader. For instance, when discussing the Ketley Crag site he recounts that, 'a great feature of the recording, as I spent three hours on my knees under the overhang, was the continuous noise of the badgers from the other side of the wall. They sounded as though they were having a vigorous spring clean of their homes!' The text is engaging and amusing, at the same time making reading of the catalogue a somewhat easier, nay pleasurable, experience. On the origins of the Morwick river cliff spirals Beckensall discards the out-of-Ireland hypothesis and brings such theorizing down to earth with the observation that: 'Young children are particularly good at discovering spirals for themselves, and I have even seen people who are bored in committee meetings forming them on their note pads and agendas'. Worthy comments indeed from an ex-headteacher! After the brief introductory section the next three chapters, that form the bulk of the book, describe each piece of rock art in turn with one chapter each on outcrop sites, rock art incorporated into monuments and portables. Each site entry has the name, National Grid reference, National Data Base number and text description with invariably a photograph and drawing of the design. The volume makes a cursory nod towards the issue of explaining cup and ring marks in the two-page chapter 5 and there are some useful views on the future direction of British rock art studies in the final chapter. In an otherwise very accessible text there are some occasional typographical and grammatical errors that should have been rectified at the proof stage. The fusion of Richard Tipping and Peter Topping into 'Peter Tipping' on page 167 gives rise to visions of all sorts of preposterous images but as both have beards there may be some compatibility. In summary this book is a must for all cup and ring mark scholars providing an up to date, well-researched, and skilfully presented baseline survey that will underpin much future research. Indeed Beckensall's extensive archive has been passed to the Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where the Department of Archaeology is making it available on-line so that it can be used as a research tool by others.

Clive Waddington

G. D. B. Jones and D. J. Woolliscroft, *Hadrian's Wall from the Air* (Tempus, 2001), pp. 160, 92 ills. + 32 colour plates. ISBN 0 7524 1946 3. Price: £14.99.

Taken as a whole, Hadrian's Wall and its associated works have not attracted classic air-photographic studies. This is perhaps primarily because the remains, often already obvious on

the ground, were first surveyed and studied before the invention of aviation. In the well-known linear schedule of Wall sites there is not the same opportunity for the aerial discovery of new sites that as has occurred, for example, in the case of Roman marching camps and forts in Scotland. Given this comparative neglect, any collection of air-photographs of the frontier-works is welcome.

The present work is effectively a second, expanded edition of a booklet of the same title published by the late G. D. B. Jones in 1976, which contained 33 black and white images. With most of the work of expansion being carried out by the second author, this has now grown to 64 black and white views and 32 in colour. Not all of the views are of the best available – compare the truly breathtaking *Roman Britain from the Air* of Frere and St Joseph – and much familiar ground is covered. Some of the most important discoveries made by air-photography on Hadrian's Wall, such as the extent of the *vicus* at Chesters, or of the Roman town at Corbridge, are not illustrated here, because the collection is largely (though not exclusively) confined to photographs taken by the authors. Nevertheless this must be the most important general collection of A.P.s of the Wall easily available, and the photographs provide a new and striking perspective, as well as a record of the general appearance of the remains at the close of the twentieth century. Given that the landscape will continue to change, and that many of the sites will continue to suffer erosion or destruction, it is a real pity that the date on which each photograph was taken has not been given. This should be standard practice in any publication of archaeological air-photographic evidence.

A number of points of outstanding interest may be found among the photographs. A view (26) (actually taken by St Joseph but so far as I know not previously published) shows the unmistakable crop-mark of a Roman military site at Castle Hill Boothby, where the existence of a Stanegate fortlet has sometimes been doubted. A camp or enclosure lying outside the defences of Kirkbride (34) is suggested by the authors to be a 'compound' associated with this coastal fort (could it be a supply-base?). There is a striking view of the Great Chesters aqueduct (60). The book contains a good collection of A.P.s of the Cumberland Coast milefortlets – probably the only one of its kind available. It is gratifying for some of the aerial evidence for the increasingly complex sequence at Burgh-by-Sands to be brought to a wider audience.

The decision was evidently taken at some stage to replace the concise explanatory captions of the original booklet with a general essay which bulks the book out to over 150 pages, including a history of archaeological air-photography, a discussion of the genesis of Roman frontiers, and introductory descriptions of the components of the Flavian frontier in Scotland, the Stanegate, Hadrian's Wall (both with site by site accounts), and the Antonine Wall, and even a beginner's guide to the layout of a Roman fort. A minority of this bears directly on the photographs: there are 300 words on Netherby, where 'even its exact location is no longer known. There is nothing to see. . .even from the air'.

Unfortunately this text cannot be recommended either to the serious student or the general reader, for it is riddled with errors and misinformation. This occurs at every level. Basic spellings of names and words are wrong: P. S. Austen's name incorrectly spelled throughout; Wooden Law for Woden Law (139, 144); peninsular for peninsula (122,125); *lilia* (mantraps) are equipped with 'sharpened steaks' (85). Latin is misunderstood: *via praetorium* for *via praetoria* (120) *imperium sine fines* for *sine fine* (21, 87), *ballistaria* for *ballistarium* (138). Statements and interpretations are often odd or questionable: few would agree that a 'plausible case' has been made for a Roman fort at Bywell (34); it is strange to imply that churches have been found in *vici* (80). We hear (27) of a recent 'German announcement' that the frontier there has been redated to the Trajanic period. If only all archaeologists could really agree with each other so that such national announcements could be made! This actually refers to a *suggestion*, made on numismatic grounds, in a paper

which even specialists have difficulty in reading line by line. Bewcastle is said to have 'Hadrianic, Severan, Diocletianic and Constantinian construction periods' (139), which is to grossly simplify what excavation has revealed and to ignore the widely held view that this and other outposts were abandoned by the early-fourth century. A fourth-century occupation of High Rochester (138) is also assumed without question. The discussion of the Roman bridge across the North Tyne at Chesters (79) is garbled and out-of-date, taking no account of the re-excavation and re-interpretation of the bridge published as long ago as 1989.

Above all, the text is marred by several cardinal errors of fact: the Whin Sill is not made of granite (76); Marcus Aurelius did not succeed Pius in 160 (82); there is no evidence for a timber fort at Newcastle (90). It is far from certain that the Hadrianic garrison of Carrawburgh was *cohors I Tungrorum* (97). Twice (113 and 139) the famous Birdoswald unit *cohors I Aelia Dacorum* is given as *Aeliana Dacorum*. *Cohors I Baetasiorum* is given as the early-third century garrison of Maryport (133) although it had been transferred to Reculver by this time and the actual third-century garrison at Maryport is unknown. Even the layman's guide to the anatomy of the Roman fort is seriously in error, assigning the central range buildings (in the *latera praetorii*) to the *retentura*.

In short, *Hadrian's Wall from the Air* offers a fascinating collection of photographs, with a commentary that is sometimes insightful, but the newcomer to the subject approaches the text at his peril.

N. Hodgson

J. Graham-Cambell *et al* (eds), *Vikings and the Danelaw* (Oxbow Books: Oxford, 2001) pp. xii + 368, many ills. ISBN 1 84217 047 3. Price £40.00.

The Viking Congress meets in one of the northern countries at three-year intervals. In 1997 Nottingham and York jointly hosted a meeting which concentrated on Viking activity in the Danelaw; this handsome volume contains some of the major papers delivered on that occasion. Though the focus of attention is on the lands south of the Tees, there is much here which is of interest to our Society, even to those (admittedly few) members whose tenth-century concerns are bounded by the lands of the Cuthbert Community.

Katherine Holman begins the book by demonstrating the slippery nature of the term 'Danelaw', whether it be used legally, politically, geographically or ethnically. She is followed by Dawn Hadley who sets off 'In search of the Vikings', arguing with vigour and clarity that a cross-disciplinary approach can clarify the processes of accommodation and assimilation through which the settlers passed. Lesley Abrams is currently bringing some much-needed critical sanity to discussion of Scandinavian conversion and here has some pertinent remarks on the Cuthbert Community's involvement in the election of King Guthred and the often-claimed 'speed' of conversion. The Biddles provide the most complete statement yet published of the Viking-age phase at Repton, including the identification of the winter camp of 873–4 and a full analysis of the remarkable mass burial. Julian Richards and James Graham-Campbell complement this paper with discussions of other Danelaw burials, including material which has not hitherto been fully recognised. Although Mark Blackburn looks at 'Aspects of Anglo-Scandinavian minting south of the Humber' there is much in here relevant to York including the significance of the St Peter coinage. Richard Hall contributes a masterly survey of urban development in the East Midlands and the same theme is taken up, at a more detailed level, by Alan Vince in his discussion of Viking-age Lincoln. Kevin Leahy and Caroline Paterson reveal some of the *c.* 260 finds which have recently emerged as a result of metal detecting in Lincolnshire; the cheap materials and poor workmanship of many of the female ornaments argue that they reflect the tastes of a peasant-level of society – and these pieces show that that society had access to the developing styles of Viking art, and was in continued

contact with the Viking homelands. The final phase of Viking art, the Urnes, is considered in its English manifestations by Olwyn Owen; this chapter includes the Durham crosier-head once attributed to Bishop Flambard and the mount from Tynemouth, now in our Joint Museum, which is sadly (but accurately) characterised as 'anomalous and ungainly. . .a one-off or amateur attempt'.

David Stocker and Paul Everson look at the stone sculpture of Danelaw. Based on their work in Lincolnshire, they convincingly demonstrate how cultural and political links are reflected in these carvings and the manner in which they contribute to our understanding of the emergence of the parochial system. In a neat analysis of the well-known Southwell lintel, Philip Dixon, Owen and Stocker show that the stone has been recut on at least three occasions, and that its present position represents the third doorway over which it has been set. Julian Richards provides the final archaeological contribution with a study of Cottam and Wharram Percy.

The collection then turns to language and onomastics. Gillian Fellows-Jensen returns to a clutch of place-name issues whose study she pioneered over thirty years ago; Tania Styles presents solutions to some semantic problems of Scandinavian elements in English place-names, where she can draw upon the wealth of data now available by the English Place-Name Society; and David Parsons, whilst recognising that direct evidence of the Vikings' renunciation of their language is hard to come by, asks once more 'How long did the Scandinavian language survive in England?' The final set of essays are concerned with Skaldic verse, Eddic poetry and later perceptions of the Vikings; members should note, however, that John McKinnell's contribution, which argues a strong case for the Anglo-Norse origins of some of the Eddic poetry, draws upon the sculptural depictions of Scandinavian mythology including the stone from Ovingham.

Richard N. Bailey

Nigel Tattersfield, *John Bewick, Engraver on Wood, 1760–1795: an Appreciation of His Life together with an Annotated Catalogue of His Illustrations and Designs* (British Library (UK); Oak Knoll Press (US), 2001), pp. 256, ills. ISBN UK 0 7123 4707 0, US 1 58456 053 3. Price £45.00, US $75.00.

John Bewick was one of the first British artists to make a living almost exclusively by book illustration, and this important and attractive book provides an account of his life, brought to an early end by tuberculosis, and a valuable and scholarly catalogue of his work.

He was apprenticed to his brother, Thomas, seven years older, in the Beilby-Bewick workshop in Newcastle, where he would have learnt all types of engraving. Out of his time he worked for a further four years as a journeyman in the workshop, leaving in 1786 for London, which Thomas had hated. He was recruited by Thomas Hodgson, of Clerkenwell, and lodged with him; Hodgson's workshop produced a variety of engraving on brass, copper, and wood – the latter mainly for such publishers of children's books as Mrs. Elizabeth Newbery, which gave John a valuable introduction. Hodgson proved a hard taskmaster and a poor payer, and, although he continued to carry out work for him, John Bewick moved out of his shop and rented a room from George Percival, a house and sign painter in Clerkenwell Green.

John was fortunate in finding in London several Tynesiders, including Robert Pollard, a copperplate engraver, and William Bulmer, the 'fine printer', both of whom had served their apprenticeships in Newcastle at the same time as his elder brother. Both gave him work, Pollard for his The Peerage of Great Britain and Ireland (1793), of which the first volume only, printed by Bulmer, was issued.

It has often been observed that Thomas Bewick was never happy to prepare designs to tell a story – his splendid wood-engravings for the Alnwick-printed editions of The Hermit of Warkworth (1807–25) were designed by William Marshall Craig and cost him seventeen guineas (his letter of 25 October 1816 to William Davison, asking to be paid for these engravings, is in the Robinson Library of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne). John, on

the other hand, was a talented designer, as may be seen in the illustration of 'The Sad Historian', commissioned by Bulmer for his splendid edition of the Poems of Goldsmith and Parnell (1795). After his death, John's designs were also used by Thomas for the engravings in Bulmer's edition of Somervile's The Chase (1796).

When Thomas was at work on his History of Quadrupeds John 'took upon himself the role of his brother's London agent' (page 27), carrying out many tasks for him, including providing drawings of animals in various London menageries; he was, therefore, not unreasonably chagrined that, on its publication, Solomon Hodgson, the third partner in the enterprise – or, more probably, the 'businessman' in the firm, his wife Sarah – appointed their London correspondent, George Robinson the bookseller, to handle sales in the capital. When John became more seriously ill he felt the loss of this potential income.

Having established his own workshop John received commissions from Mrs. Newbery and from the Revd Dr. John Trusler, amongst others. Mrs. Newbery, having suffered a disastrous fire in May 1786, had lost most of her stock and was intent on rebuilding it; Abraham Badcock, her manager, engineered a change in the direction of her publishing and brought work to John. Both these publishers produced mainly books for children, which are, for obvious reasons, now difficult to find.

In the hope of halting the progress of his disease John moved to Mount Pleasant in Hornsey, where the kindly Robert Pollard visited him regularly. As might be expected, the move had little effect on his illness, and his last few years were a struggle to carry out his engraving; the Author finds this reflected in his vignettes:

> Increasingly these registered profound changes. Human figures became diminutive and vulnerable, hemmed in by shadows, overwhelmed by drear surroundings... It as though they, like John, had entered the valley of the shadow of Death (page 48).

Finally, he returned to the family home in Northumberland in July 1795, and, though he continued to do what work he could, he died on 5 December. One is left with the sad feeling that, had he lived as long as Thomas, he would now be quite as well-known.

Nigel Tattersfield has written an excellent book, containing not only a sympathetic and fully researched life of John Bewick but also an authoritative catalogue of his work. This will for long be the definitive work on the engraver, and for this the Author has recently been awarded the Harvey Darton Prize. I understand that he is now engaged on a similar, but larger, work on Thomas Bewick – and so perhaps we may soon be able to put behind us the enthusiastic misattributions of the Revd Thomas Hugo.

The British Library is to be congratulated on having commissioned Iain Bain, himself a principal expert on the Beilby-Bewick workshop, to design and set the book in Justin Howes's Founders Caslon, and the result is splendid – a pleasure to handle and read.

Peter Isaac†

Anne Orde, *Religion, Business and Society in North-East England: the Pease Family of Darlington in the NineteenthCentury* (Shaun Tyas, 2001), pp. vii + 131. Price £19.95.

Quakers, so the nineteenth-century adage had it, 'crossed to the Church of England on their second horse' but many generations of the Pease family in possession of many horses remained Quakers before this transition was complete. Anne Orde's study of the Pease family, which for so long dominated the business life of Darlington, pioneered railway development and had interests in almost every branch of the economy of North-East England, poses anew the question of the relationship between religion and attitudes to business, wealth and success.

The thesis that Protestantism, particularly those variations that placed most emphasis upon plain living and a close community of the faithful, went hand in hand with success in business has a well-known historiography. From the late-seventeenth century, Quakerism

was essentially quietist and constituted a self-contained community intent upon spiritual fulfilment. Whether it was the eschewing of worldly pleasures and a complementary capacity for hard work that made for Quaker success in business is debatable. A more important factor may have been the Quaker network; Friends trusted and helped one another.

Darlington was unique in the degree of influence exercised by Quaker families. There were bigger Quaker communities in other English towns but none was so large in proportion to the total population as Darlington's. Two families in particular came to dominate the business life of Darlington, the Backhouses and the Peases, and of the two it was the Pease family which came to dominate the business, social and political life of the town.

Like the Backhouses, the Peases got their start in Darlington because of an advantageous marriage. Wealthy and ambitious Quakers tended to marry into wealthy Quaker families. Marriage was, however, a general path in the process of upward mobility and aspiring Anglicans also looked for wealthy brides. Quakers may have had special qualities which led to business success but not all Darlington Quakers were successful businessmen and nor were all members of the Pease family. In the North East as a whole there was no dearth of Anglicans who were successful in business, while Lord Londonderry demonstrated that an aristocrat could also be a businessman.

Industriousness, abstemiousness and the trust of the Quaker network were significant factors in the rise of the Pease family from their beginnings in the wool-combing business in the early-eighteenth century to their position in the mid-nineteenth century, when they were major shareholders in the Darlington and Stockton Railway and their interests included minerals, coal mines, the Middlesbrough Estate and their own private bank. Edward Pease (1767–1858), Joseph Pease (1799–1872) and Joseph Whitwell Pease (1828–1903) were, however, all men with vision and ability who might have gone far even without their Quaker beliefs and connections.

Just as fascinating as the rise of this Quaker family is the slow and steady erosion of its plain life-style and separation from wider society and from political life. Anne Orde charts the gradual move towards higher levels of consumption, grand houses and the assimilation into the wider establishment. Joseph Pease was in 1832 the first Quaker to become a member of parliament. In the last fifteen years of the nineteenth century there were never less than three Peases in Parliament and in 1916 Joseph Pease's grandson, Joseph Alfred Pease, a member of Asquith's cabinet, become Lord Gainford. The transition was complete.

This is at once an excellent history of the family which had great influence upon the industrial history of the North East and a micro-study of the process of assimilation of successful Quakers into the British elite.

A. W. Purdue

R. Colls and W. Lancaster (eds.), *Newcastle upon Tyne: a Modern History* (Phillimore, 2001), pp. x + 374; many ills. ISBN 1 86077 167X. Price £19.99.

G. L. Dodds, *A History of Sunderland*, 2nd ed. (Albion Press, 2001), pp. 160, many ills. ISBN 0 9525122 6 2. Price £14.99.

Robert Colls and Bill Lancaster have assembled a powerful team of 16 historians to produce their new, quite excellent, history of modern Newcastle. The time was clearly ripe for this survey since it is now over 50 years since Middlebrook published his *Newcastle upon Tyne, Its Growth and Achievement*. Much has changed over the last half century – economically, socially and in the physical appearance of the city. Equally important has been the growing recognition that serious historians can properly be concerned with art, literature, sport, dialect and 'popular' culture; all find their place in this book of essays.

Inevitably in a volume which has so many contributors there are some who write less engagingly than others. But the editors are to be congratulated on persuading so many of their colleagues to produce chapters which are both scholarly and clearly written; what is

more, all keep their eye on the national and international context in which Newcastle operated. From Defoe in the early-eighteenth century to Sid Chaplin and John Silkin in the twentieth, from Bewick to the Baltic, from 'the greatest trading Town in England' to the post-industrial economy, from Victorian local government to a splendidly polemical chapter on post-war planning – the book teems with information and excitement. At less than £20, it is extremely good value.

Glen Dodds has now produced a second edition of his 1995 history and has considerably enlarged the text. It preserves the accessible style of his earlier work and the clear lay-out will appeal to an audience which requires a reliable summary of the history of one of Britain's newest cities.

Richard N. Bailey

Correction to *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 5th series, volume 29 (2001).

The article by P. R. Hill, ''Hadrian's Wall from MC0 to MC9'', on page 16, contained a ''Table of distances Wallsend to MC9''. The items in **bold** in the following excerpt were omitted in the production process, and should have been included.

'MC3' Stepney Bank	**37**	**40**	4122	4510	
'MC3' (from MC1)			4159	4550	**2 Roman miles from MacL MC1**