

Reviews

The Reviews Section is returning after an over-long absence and the Editors invite readers to nominate books and other publications (in print or electronic format) which they feel should be included. As well as newly published material, consideration will be given to items which have appeared over the last several years and are still in print. It goes without saying that publishers are very welcome to submit review copies. Please write to the Reviews Editor, Dr Graham Jones, at Willowbank, 9a High Street, Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FJ (telephone 0116 259 1011 or e-mail graham.jones@sjc.ox.ac.uk).

The opportunity to revive this section came too late in the editorial cycle to include more than a very few representative items. Next year's section will be much fuller. In the meantime, readers are in any case directed to the exhaustive review pages of our sister publication *The Leicestershire Historian*, particularly for the many, often slimmer volumes of more local interest.

The Editors

Nicholas J. Cooper (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13 (Leicester, University of Leicester, 2006). 212 x 298 mm, xvi + 377 pp, 72 figs, 8 tables. ISBN 0 9538914 7 X paperback. Price £19.95.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this volume. The process that led to its publication started in 1998 and involved 'hundreds of archaeologists' (p. xi). This has already produced a mass of material available through the University of Leicester's website (p. xi for detailed reference), as well as conventionally published articles (e.g. Clay 1999; Clay 2001) which have appeared in these *Transactions*. This is part of a process going on throughout England and is not the final product, 'only the end of the beginning' (p. 291).

The area covered is Derbyshire, Leicestershire, most of historic Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. The local authority areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire are excluded, although the reader has to work this out from internal evidence (e.g. p. 92). On a number of occasions the sites in these areas are deemed so important that the exclusion is overlooked, for example in discussing the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Lindsey (p. 165).

Its publication is intended to provide a research framework for archaeological investigation, which is primarily dictated by the needs of economic development rather than archaeological research priorities. The volume is addressed to those involved in the archaeological process, who are largely full-time, professional archaeologists. Yet there is much that is of value to anyone seriously interested in the archaeology of this region, and there are a number of recommendations that specifically refer to the role of local societies and fieldwork groups (e.g. p. 290).

The first chapter sets out the national and regional context and the last deals with cross-period research and looks forward to the foundation of a research

strategy. There is also a chapter on environmental archaeology, which attempts to approach this thematically, although most of the chapter is arranged chronologically (pp. 262–84). This could, arguably, have been integrated into the appropriate period chapters, particularly as ‘charred remains of crop plants and domestic animal bones are as much an artefact of material culture as pottery’ (p. 284). However, the bulk of the volume consists of nine chapters, each with a different author, dealing with chronological periods from the Palaeolithic to the Modern. After reviewing the current state of knowledge, each contributor then sets out the research agenda for that period. How this is done varies for each of the periods. The list of seventeen contributors includes seven from the University of Leicester, an indication of its standing in the archaeological academic community.

Each chapter is substantial enough to merit a review in its own right and so it is only possible to make some general points. Because of the nature of the evidence the Palaeolithic has to deal with a much broader area than the East Midlands. As a result it provides an essential overview for anyone studying the period anywhere in the British Isles. The author acknowledges that the period is difficult and unpopular and, despite his efforts, this chapter will require more concentration from most readers than the others. One gratifying feature is how much new evidence has come from Leicestershire, an area that until a few years ago was almost totally devoid of sites of this period. The archaeology of the Palaeolithic remains, however, elusive in comparison with that of all later periods.

The Mesolithic has its own chapter but the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age are dealt with in two chapters, the division coming at the end of the Middle Bronze Age. This suggests that the continuity from the Neolithic into the earlier Bronze Age and from the later Bronze Age into the Iron Age is more important than the conventional periodisation that has been in use for so long. The Roman period has its own chapter, but after that there is a non-conventional change from Anglo-Saxon to Medieval at 850. The Post-Medieval period from 1500 becomes Modern at 1750 and the story continues to 2000.

It is inevitable that wherever the chronological breaks occur they will interrupt a story which is essentially continuous. Although cross-referencing between chapters is generally good, there are occasional problems. For example, in discussing boundary ditches in the Anglo-Saxon period, King Lud’s Bank or Entrenchment is ruled out because it ‘is now accepted as a prehistoric land division’ (p. 167). Yet the discussion of linear ditch systems in the later prehistoric period fails to include the site, even though the known examples are listed (pp. 123–4; Table 6). This is, incidentally, not quite as important an omission as in the initial quantification of Medieval rural settlements in the region, where Leicestershire and Rutland are omitted (p. 190).

There are also occasions where one views a similar subject from different perspectives and wishes that this could have been developed. For the prehistorian ‘sufficient is known of Late Iron Age Leicester and early Roman Leicester to suggest that it was an exceptionally important site at this formative time’ (p. 110). Yet for the Romanist ‘Leicester was very much a late starter’ (p. 147). Despite the listing of research issues for the origins of Roman urban centres (p. 155) there

appears to be a tension between these two views, which might have been resolved, or differently expressed, if there had not been a division between the late Iron Age and the Roman period.

It is perhaps inevitable in a publication with so much information (more than 2,000 bibliographical references, pp. 293–346; more than 3,000 items in the index, pp. 347–77) that some errors will occur. Few are likely to mislead the attentive reader, but one or two might cause some confusion. The Welby Bronze Age hoard is correctly located in Leicestershire (p. 96), but on the map (fig. 27) and in the index (pp. 362, 376) is transferred to Welby in Lincolnshire. As if for compensation Aslockton has been transferred from Nottinghamshire to East Leicestershire (fig. 33). The change of Burrough Hill to Borough Hill (pp. 119, 121, 132, the last reference being unindexed) is unfortunate, since there are other Borough Hills in the region (pp. 119–20).

There are 72 figures, which include diagrams, maps and colour plates. Not all are well chosen, or appropriate to this publication. The aerial view of Arbor Low (fig. 25), which is described as part of a complex with earlier and later sites (p. 80), appears to show it in isolation. Two complex Iron Age settlements are shown at a minute scale (fig. 30). Two colour plates showing activities by the public (pls. 5, 6) could have been better used to show some of the many artefact types which are described but not illustrated, e.g. the list of worked lithic assemblages for the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age (p. 88), particularly as they are partly sourced to a publication that has not yet appeared.

The text is refreshingly jargon-free and accessible to the general reader, although the level of expected knowledge is sometimes quite high. For example, in discussing the Mousterian period of the Palaeolithic, ‘the term *bout coupé* is used because it is known and accessible to the non-specialist’ (p. 29). On the other hand two contributors felt it necessary to explain the function of deer leaps in the later Anglo-Saxon and Medieval landscape (pp. 182, 209). On the whole the level seems appropriate to the target audience.

Although some chronological terms are included in the list of abbreviations (p. ix), it might have been useful to have included a short statement about them in the introduction and to have ensured that they were consistently explained and applied. In the Palaeolithic chapter, for example, “‘ya” (years ago) has been adopted to indicate a date in thousands of years’ (p. 13), yet later in the chapter there is a ‘radiocarbon date of *c.*10,320 ya’ (p.39). Although dates sometimes need to be expressed in different ways it can lead to confusion. In the Mesolithic, for example, ‘unless otherwise indicated, dates are given as radiocarbon years BP’ (p. 51), but one then encounters assemblages dated to the ‘ninth millennium cal. BC’ (p. 52). Later one contributor discusses the problems associated with chronological terminology and usage for the Roman period (p. 140).

None of these minor criticisms detract from the value of this volume, and the editor, Nick Cooper, deserves the thanks of the broad archaeological community, in addition to the thanks of the contributors which he receives throughout this volume. He concludes with the belief that this will be of practical use in driving forward the research agenda, rather than becoming yet another report which ‘sits

gathering dust on the shelf' (p. 291). The reviewer shares this belief and commends the volume to anyone in any way involved with the archaeology of the region. The Society, in particular, could use this as a basis for planning its future strategy, whether through active involvement in archaeological fieldwork and research, or through support for those engaged in implementing, publishing and reviewing the vast programme of research set out in this volume.

Robert Rutland

- Clay, P., 1999 'The Neolithic and Bronze Age of Leicestershire and Rutland', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 73 1–18.
- Clay, P., 2001 'Leicestershire and Rutland in the first millennium BC', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 75 1–19.

Ian Forrest, *The Detection of Heresy in Late Medieval England* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 2005). 138 x 216 mm, xiv + 277 pp. ISBN 0 19 928692 2 hardback. Price (50. jill to ? with author

The spread of Wycliffite heresy (or Lollardy) across England in the later fourteenth and early fifteenth century threatened the unity of both Church and society. If Lollardy was to be contained and extinguished, the Church and royal government had to respond effectively. But because heresy had been almost unknown in England, the authorities were largely unprepared. How England responded to heresy is the concern of Ian Forrest's book. It examines the matter in a structural way, covering relevant theological and legal principles, the making of legislation, investigation, communication about heresy, and heresy-reporting by local communities. The author has striven to avoid the condescension of the modern secular mind, and treats his subject with dispassion and sometimes sympathy.

The response to Lollardy had two priorities: first, to rebut and discredit its ideas; secondly, to discover and deal with suspected heretics. Within the Church anti-heresy activities were managed by archbishops and bishops (rather than a separate, dedicated 'Inquisition'), which provided scope for initiative and experimentation. The attack on Lollard ideas included proclamations against heresy, and the encouragement of preaching tours by 'orthodox' clergy to counter the influence of Lollard preachers. Anti-heresy texts and sermons used repulsive analogies for heresy, including association with treason, disease, weeds, and sinful sexual activity. Preachers also informed the laity about character traits and behaviour patterns suggestive of heretical beliefs (e.g., avoidance of Mass), so they would be alert to likely heretics.

Suspected heretics were dealt with by legal process based on the canon law of the Western Church, involving both Church and royal officers. Responsibilities could become blurred, though the trying of suspected heretics was emphatically reserved to the Church. The system included safeguards against injustice. A person could be tried for heresy (i.e., persistent adherence to erroneous belief) as a result

of accusation by another individual. But the bringing of fraudulent cases was deterred by the condition that if a charge was unproved the accuser would suffer punishment. Most suspects were proceeded against by inquisition (investigation and interrogation), usually after the Church authorities had been informed of suspected heretical beliefs or suspicious behaviour. Unlike in modern secular legal process, rumour, gossip, suspicion, and reputation were admissible as evidence. But they were insufficient for conviction, which required either a confession or the evidence of two witnesses. The aim of trials was not, in fact, to secure convictions, but rather to persuade suspected heretics to abjure false beliefs, undertake penance, and be reincorporated in the Church. Unrepentant suspects were, admittedly, killed by burning. Yet by the standards of late-medieval England the death penalty was used infrequently: between 1414 and 1522, only 33 out of 545 known heresy cases ended in execution.

During the first thirty or so years of Lollardy, Church and Crown activity was generally sporadic and reactive, operating in response to reports or rumours of heresy. Royal government was often the more vigorous, fearing that alleged heresy indicated treason. After the Oldcastle Rising of January 1414, Parliament provided for regular investigations: a statute required royal justices (including JPs) to investigate heresy as one of their duties. Soon afterwards, however, Henry Chichele, the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, reasserted Church control. In 1416 he issued a statute requiring bishops and archdeacons in his archdiocese to inquire systematically about heresy every six months. This was impractical; instead, bishops added heresy to the agenda for their triennial parish visitations.

In his final chapter the author studies heresy-reporting at parish level, by considering a visitation made in 1413 by Philip Repingdon, Bishop of Lincoln. Repingdon had himself once been a Wycliffite preacher; probably in reaction to his past he became, as bishop, a zealous combatant of heresy. His 1413 visitation prefigured the system introduced soon afterwards throughout the English Church. The reader now finds himself in Leicestershire: the chapter is based on Repingdon's visitation of the archdeaconry of Leicester, as recorded in Ms. Vj/0 in Lincolnshire Archives, a rare surviving visitation book.

In advance of the visitation, Church officers inquired about malpractices and failings by clergy, immoral behaviour by laity, and suspected heretical beliefs. Alleged offenders were then cited to appear before the bishop when he visited deanery centres. Heresy proved to be a minor matter – only 22 separate cases out of 784 'crimes, defects, and excesses'. Forrest's scrutiny of the individuals involved in the visitation, drawing also on other sources (e.g., *The Midland Peasant* by W.G. Hoskins and Merton College's archives), has produced important observations.

Many offences were reported at the visitation by men designated as parishioners. Forrest identifies them as the parish representatives who were called *viri fidedigni* ('trustworthy men') in other texts relating to Church visitations. He further equates them with the social segment of villages which historians sometimes call 'village notables' or 'managerial families'. Village notables were relatively wealthy, but Forrest claims that their status did not depend on wealth alone:

fidedigni were also men of reliability and established good reputation. He also deduces that *fidedigni* had at least ‘a rudimentary knowledge of documentary culture’, and surmises that they had assimilated aspects of recent anti-heresy Church legislation. Forrest also points out that reported offenders for heresy and other offences were themselves disproportionately *fidedigni*. This implies that offences dealt with at law were largely those of a ‘self-referential circle’, and that offences by villagers of lower rank were handled elsewhere, perhaps informally. Local historians will need to give this further consideration.

This illuminating book is the fruit of hard labour on difficult sources, and intense thinking. It is bound to be influential, though the profusion of longish, detailed, and sometimes complex sentences will discourage some readers. Readers would also have been helped by provision of an overview of major developments and an outline of the hierarchy of Church courts. It is also regrettable that the author’s sources did not permit extensive examination of heresy detection in towns, particularly textile centres. Historians of Leicestershire, however, will be pleased to know that more writing about the county can be expected to emerge from the author’s study at Oriel College, Oxford.

R. B. Peberdy

Barrie Cox, *The Place-Names of Leicestershire, Part 1, The Borough of Leicester*, The Survey of English Place-Names, Vol. 75 (Nottingham, English Place-Name Society, 1998), 145 x 224 mm, xxvi + 270 pp, map in pocket. ISBN 0 904889 55 6 hardback;

Part 2, Framland Hundred, The Survey of English Place-Names, Vol. 78 (Nottingham, English Place-Name Society, 2002), 145 x 224 mm, xxx + 401 pp, 1 fig. ISBN 0 904889 63 7 hardback;

Part 3, East Goscote Hundred, The Survey of English Place-Names, Vol. 81 (Nottingham, English Place-Name Society, 2004). 145 x 224 mm, xxx + 373 pp, 1 fig. ISBN 0 904889 68 8 hardback. All priced at £40.

Barrie Cox, *A Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series, Vol. 5 (Nottingham, English Place-Name Society, 2005). 156 x 234 mm, xxx + 160 pp, ISBN 0 904889 70 X paperback. Price £14.

Jill Bourne, *Understanding Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names* (Loughborough, Heart of Albion Press, 2003). 138 x 216 mm, iv + 124 pp, 4 maps. ISBN 1 872883 71 0 paperback. Price £6.95.

Victor Watts (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names: Based on the Collections of the English Place-Name Society* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2004). 198 x 253 mm, lxiv + 713 pp, 8 figs, 12 maps. ISBN 0 521 36209 1 hardback. Price £200.

Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names* (Stamford, Shaun Tyas, 2000). 157 x 220 mm, xxiv + 391 pp, 68 figs. ISBN 1 900289 25 3 hardback, Price £25; 1 900289 26 1 paperback, Price £17.95.

Publication of the Leicestershire volumes in the English Place-Name Society's county survey series is under way at last, more than seven decades after Allan Mawer and Frank Stenton's 'Buckinghamshire' appeared in 1925. From one perspective we should be grateful for the wait. Much has improved in the series over that time. Field and other 'minor' names are no longer confined to a summary list at the back of the volume, difficult or impossible to relate to their local and chronological contexts. Their fuller treatment within the appropriate parish entries now means that the coverage of individual counties normally requires multi-volume publication, rather than the single volume which was the norm in the early years. (Rutland, not surprisingly, has been an exception, but even then weighing in at 483 pages.¹) The biggest change has been in our knowledge, both philological and historical, leading to surer handling of place-name elements and forms, and a confidence to challenge old assumptions and to open up new perspectives on meaning and interpretation. Consequently there has been a sea-change in our application of these improved understandings in local and regional studies. Leicestershire and Rutland are highly favoured in this respect, having Barrie Cox as compiler. (Cox took on Leicestershire following the death of F. T. Wainwright.) His doctoral thesis at the University of Nottingham concerned the two counties' place-names and the typescript copy in the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester has been a well-thumbed quarry and god-send for students for more than a quarter of a century.² The present and forthcoming volumes flow from the refinement and expansion of that survey, achieved over the subsequent years of further investigation as Cox progressed to his chair in the Department of English at Nottingham University.

So far, three Leicestershire volumes have appeared: on the Borough of Leicester and the hundreds or wapentakes of East Goscote and Gartree. They continue the high standard of the Rutland volume, published in 1994 and now established as a critical resource for exploring that county's origins and development. Indeed, Cox's Introduction is arguably the best summary of Rutland's history in any readily-available modern publication. It is essential reading, for example, for anyone revisiting Charles Pythian-Adams' proposal that Rutland was excluded from the Danish occupation and settlement of the East Midlands because it constituted a dowry for successive queens of Mercia, Wessex, and England.³ Rutland's names are notable for the relative absence of Anglo-Scandinavian

¹ Barrie Cox, *The Place-Names of Rutland*, English Place-Name Society, Vol. 67/68/69 for 1989-90, 1990-1 and 1991-2 (Nottingham, English Place-Name Society, 1994).

² Barrie Cox, 'The Place-Names of Leicestershire and Rutland', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Nottingham, 1971.

³ Charles Pythian-Adams, 'Rutland Reconsidered', in Ann Dornier (ed.), *Mercian Studies* (Leicester, 1977), pp. 63-84; 'The emergence of Rutland and the making of the realm', *Rutland Record* 1 (1980), pp. 5-12).

elements. Another feature is the frequent occurrence of names with Old English *hām*, once regarded as indicative of the earliest periods of Anglian and Saxon settlement.⁴ We can now better relate these to such names in Leicestershire and vice versa. Cox also remarked on the absence of ‘Celtic’ names and postulated a thorough break between British and Anglo-Saxon settlement of the area – a conclusion which might well be revisited in the light of what he has now has to say about ‘transitional’ names in both East Goscote and Framland hundreds.

In all three Leicestershire volumes, discussion of names has been thoroughly revised from where it stood in Cox’s 1971 thesis and in many cases updated as well as expanded. For example, discussion of Waltham on the Wolds (Framland volume, pp. 271–2), a name in *-hām* close to the Rutland border, takes account of Rhona Huggins’ analysis of such names, supporting the view that the Old English appellation *wald-hām* represents ‘a royal (hunting) estate close to forest’.⁵ Cox’s entry on nearly Wycomb (pp. 218–20) cites Margaret Gelling’s expanded study on *wīc-hām* names from 1997, as well as Tony Brown’s description of Romano-British finds at Wycomb, published in 1995.⁶

Most notable in the progress from his thesis is Cox’s addition of hundreds of minor and field names, a treasure store for historians of individual parishes and those seeking patterns of settlement and naming across the county. Many must have been garnered as a result of Cox’s access to the Duke of Rutland’s archives at Belvoir Castle. The granting of this rare privilege, like its outcome, was a splendid service to the community which national and regional historians hope to see repeated, particularly if the *Victoria County History* is to get a new lease of life. Inclusion in each of Cox’s volumes of a glossary of place-name elements found locally greatly assists the use of such names for deeper or wider analysis. Sometimes close reading of these minor names can raise a thought about the names of the parishes themselves. For example, Cox reviews the arguments for and against interpreting Somerby as a place of transhumance, to which stock were moved in summer to upland pastures (Framland volume, pp. 225–6). Helpfully, the new Cambridge dictionary, described below, explores the possibility that Somerby derived its name from Old English **sumor + hlith*, genitive plural **sumor-hleoþa*, and so meaning ‘the “village of the concave hill-slopes used in summer” referring to summer pastures. Somerby is situated between hills of over 600ft’ (Watts, p. 559). In the minor names of the parish (Cox, p. 230) appears *Maydenstede*. Because of the late date of the first record, 1549, it is not possible to be certain about its meaning. Cox ventures ‘place frequented by girls of the village, but could refer to a farm or building owned by a young unmarried woman’. One wonders if it might rather represent the survival of a much earlier name referring to the practice of sending young women to tend the flocks and herds on their summer grazing grounds. In modern Irish memory, these girls occupied temporary

⁴ Barry Cox, ‘The significance of the distribution of English place-names in *-hām* in the Midlands and East Anglia’, *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 5 (1972-3), pp. 15-73.

⁵ Rhona Huggins, ‘The significance of the place-name *wealdhām*’, *Medieval Archaeology* 19 (1975), pp. 198-201.

⁶ Margaret Gelling, *Signposts to the Past* (3rd edn, London, 1997), pp. 67-74; A. E. Brown, *Roman Towns in Eastern England and Beyond* (Oxbow Monographs 52 (Oxford, 1995), p. 88.

huts – a seasonal ‘steading’ – where they slept on beds of black sedge and woke, it was said, ‘fresh as trout’. In the East Goscote volume Cox discusses the likelihood that *Halstead* (the reviewer’s italics) in Tilton parish carries the meaning ‘a protected place for pasturing livestock’ (OE *hald* ‘protection’) (pp. 248–9).

The volume on Leicester has national significance because it constitutes the first study of the toponymy of a major British industrial city. It covers names known up to 1850, leaving it open to others to address the street names of the later suburbs and housing estates. For specialists and non-specialists alike it is a delight to explore, aided by a print of Ellis’s 1828 map of the town and its environs which is helpfully provided in a pocket. From bridewell to dung-hills, the reader is taken on a tour of the town which in one place lifts the curtain on the later Middle Ages, at another the Leicester of the ‘long eighteenth century’, and culminates in the kaleidoscope of naming in the industrialising town of the mid-nineteenth century. There is a splendid list of inns and taverns, for example, occupying no fewer than twenty pages. There is huge scope for student essays and dissertations here. Interestingly, Cox’s analysis finds no room to deal with the widespread belief that a Danish extramural quarter developed north and east of the Anglian town. However, he does point to a cluster of names in the same area indicative of Norman habitation, such as those of a lost district of Normandy in St Margaret’s parish (p. 189) and Fremantel within the walls (p. 155), which perhaps hints at an influx of migrants following the Conquest and/or adoption of Norman ways.

We now have the first full account from a philologist of the name of Leicester itself (pp. 1–3) – although still leaving open the intriguing mystery as to why the Welsh adapted it as their name for England as a whole (Lloegr, the Logres of the Arthurian romances, p. 3). Perhaps our own Society should sponsor a day conference bringing together Welsh and English scholars to explore it. Was this the work of the court of Powys when that kingdom still reached to *Viroconium*/Wroxeter, with a claim on *Letocetum*/Lichfield, and Anglian power began around *Legoraceaster*? What would be the historical implications of such an explanation? The importance and complexity of the issue is underlined by a theme common to the Framland and East Goscote volumes: the place-name evidence for ‘British survival’ during the period of Anglian settlement – or was it acculturation? With the additional material from minor and field names it is possible, for example, to see for the first time the likely strength of that survival in the north of the county. A significant group of names has emerged in Wymeswold parish, treated in the East Goscote volume. Arrow Field is *Horrou* 1212, *Harrowefeld* 1412 etc, ‘possibly with *hærg* “a heathen temple, a sacred grove”; the site is adjacent to [the Romano-British settlement] *Vernemeto(n)* (Brit. **nemeton* “a sacred grove” with **uer* “great”)’ (p. 278). *Alfetford* (1292) and *Alfleteþorn* (thirteenth century), if not with the woman’s name *Alflæd*, have ‘*alh* “a heathen temple” and *flēot* “a stream”’ (p. 281). *Cumberdale*, recorded from 1543 onwards, is ‘evidence for Romano-British survival’ (p. 279) and *Dead Man’s Grave*, c. 1625 etc, is near ‘the large Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated beside the Fosse Way in the 1970s’ (p. 279). At nearby *Burton-on-the Wolds* Cox has found *Arrow Leas Close*

c. 1625 (p. 56) and Harrow Farm (p. 55). Walton-on-the-Wolds is ‘the farmstead, village of the Britons’ (p. 268). Seagrave yields the field-name Finch Aedes which ‘may be British “boundary woodland”’ (p. 208); Trunchit Hades 1697 etc., ‘possibly Proto-Welsh “promontory wood” (cf. Trunch in Norfolk, Trunchet 1086)’ (p. 213); and Cumberley Sike and Hill from 1601 onwards (p. 211).

Cox perceives ‘a major holy place giving rise to a series of surrounding temple enclosures’ and to the meeting place of Goscote hundred (p. xii). Even so, his interpretation of the evidence as pointing to ‘a small area of Romano-British survival’ (p. 211) threatens to sell his discoveries short. All this is potentially of huge value, especially when placed alongside other material. Similar names over the border in Nottinghamshire include that of Wysall, two miles north of Wymeswold, probably with *wīg* ‘heathen temple’.⁷ At *Vernemeton* itself we have William Stukeley’s record of a hilltop chapel at a place called The Wells (actually in the Nottinghamshire parish of Willoughby-on-the-Wolds)⁸ and the discovery there of late Anglo-Saxon metalwork of a type elsewhere associated with clerical dress (Peter Liddle, pers. comm.). Onomastics and archaeology together open new perspectives on our local narratives of conversion and social identity. The reviewer has drawn attention to the proximity of names indicative of non-Christian religious activity, including those with **nemeton* and *hærg*, and the relatively small number of churches of St Bartholomew, in legend an appropriator for Christian use of others’ holy places.⁹ At Walton-on-the-Wolds the late medieval patronal cult of Mary’s Assumption was replaced by, or restored to, that of Bartholomew, while Quorndon, like Walton a chapelry of Barrow-on-Soar, was variously under the patronage of Bartholomew and Peter in the late Middle Ages. It is intriguing therefore to find among Cox’s Wymeswold field-names Bartle Croft (first evidenced 1418) with a personal name derived from that of the apostle (p. 268). Bartholomew is also patron at Sproxton, a neighbouring parish of Wyville in Lincolnshire, the spring or stream associated with a ‘holy place or heathen temple’.¹⁰ If Cox’s Goscote names testify only to ‘a small area’ of British survival, should the same cautious interpretation be applied to his names indicative of British survival in Framland hundred? Cox’s treatment of Wycomb in Scalford, one mile south of the Romano-British small town at Goadby Marwood in Eaton parish, has already been mentioned. Also in Framland hundred is Wyfordby, where *wīg* is a possible first element (pp. 143–4). In Cox’s section on Sproxton a rare opportunity occurs to gloss his monumental work. The Assumption was Sproxton’s patronal cult in 1525 and 1754, Bartholomew in 1790 – possibly, as at Walton on the Wolds, a restoration since the two feast days are only nine days apart. Because of Cox’s reliance on late sources, he writes of *St Maries close* 1602, ‘it is unclear to what St Mary refers, since none of the

⁷ Eilert Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (fourth edn, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1964), p. 541.

⁸ William Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum* (London, W. Stukeley, 1724), 1, p. 101.

⁹ Graham Jones, ‘Ghostly mentor, teacher of mysteries: Bartholomew, Guthlac, and the Apostle’s cult in early medieval England’, in G. Ferzoco and C. Muessig (eds), *Medieval Monastic Education* (Leicester, Leicester University Press, 2000), pp. 136–52.

¹⁰ Ekwall, op. cit., p. 541.

surrounding churches are dedicated to her; a chapel in the local parish church may have been funded by proceeds from the rental of the close' (p. 248). Bartholomew also has a vicarious presence in Framland through his devotee St Guthlac, most of whose dedications occur here. Indeed, it is tempting to consider whether, in the light of these dedications, Framland might represent the patrimony of Guthlac's father, Penwalh, 'Head "Welsh-speaker"'. If Wycomb was a Romano-British town which avoided being 'swamped by Germans', in Cox's phrase, conceivably British speech survived here into the seventh century as elsewhere. This might even help to explain why Wycomb became a distant chapelry of royal Rothley.

These, we must presume, were the last of the Corieltauvi – or should we now follow Andrew Breeze and spell it Corieltavi, meaning 'Host or Army of [the territory of] Many Rivers' (Brit **Corio* 'host, army'; *el* corresponding to Old Welsh 'many'; *tauvi* related to Brit or Pictish *Tava* or *Tavus*, the Tay, 'flowing one, river')? Breeze's recently published and convincing argument is that this accords more neatly in the light of Celtic philology with Ptolemy's *Coritani* and *Coritavi*, and the Ravenna Cosmographer's *Ratae Corion* (for Leicester) and *Eltauori*, than the spelling generally adopted since R. S. O. Tomlin's article of 1983.¹¹

Alongside its 'county series' volumes, the EPNS now publishes paperback volumes for a wider audience. The Leicestershire and Rutland volume, again by Cox, deserves a place on the shelves of every family and individual interested in the history and heritage of the two counties. Lacking the scholarly apparatus of its parent volumes and the great bulk of minor and field names, it is consequently easy to handle and accessible in its arrangement and layout. Those eager for the remaining volumes in the Leicestershire 'county series' need not hesitate to buy the paperback for a more than summary preview. Paperback publication does not signal a 'dumbed-down' version of the hardback volumes – far from it (though one regrets the absence of an index). Rather, the paperback is a useful quick-reference tool in its own right. It can be used in conjunction with the hardback volumes by virtue of the inclusion of the parish (and Ordnance Survey grid-reference) towards the start of each entry.

EPNS volumes constitute a unique resource for those involved in explaining and expanding our knowledge of local and regional histories. With the benefit of Cox's etymologies, it is certain that their contributions to the pages of these *Transactions* will be hugely strengthened.

A satisfaction of working with place-names is that one does not need to be a philologist to handle them or simply to derive pleasure from them. An excellent introduction which begins with the names around us is Jill Bourne's *Understanding Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names*. Happy the recipients of this book at birthday or Christmas – particularly younger readers ready to be encouraged to develop an interest in the history of their locality and county. In a book of this size it is unreasonable to expect all the customary niceties of publications intended primarily for an academic audience – though it might be argued that without the

¹¹ Andrew Breeze, 'Does Corieltavi mean "Army of Many Rivers"?', *Antiquaries Journal* 82 (2002), pp. 307-9; R. S. O. Tomlin, 'Non *Coritani* sed *Coreltauvi*', *Antiquaries Journal* 63 (1983), pp. 353-5.

marking of long vowels, for example, those coming fresh to place-names may find pronunciation of Old English terms more difficult. In a clear and engaging style, aided by the generous, highly legible typeface and Anne Tarver's maps, the author introduces her readers to the languages and chronology of place-names, the technique of place-name study, place-name elements, and the light thrown by place-names on two important themes in the region, the influence of 'Vikings' in Leicestershire and Rutland (one imagines the term may raise the occasional eyebrow), and deserted medieval villages.

The main point of Margaret Gelling's lecture to the Society in the 2005–6 Session, underlined in her 2006 Hoskins Lecture for the Friends of the Department of English Local History at the University of Leicester, is that topographical Old English place-names were specific to the landscape. The point is driven home in the revision of her earlier magisterial guide to this class of toponyms, *Place-Names in the Landscape. The Landscape of Place-Names*, illustrated with drawings by her co-author, Ann Cole, appeared in 2000 and is still in print. The drawings and maps demonstrate Gelling's point very clearly – why, for example, a *dūn* is a hill with a 'fairly level and fairly extensive' summit, while *copp* typically indicates one with a narrow, crest-like summit. 'Billesdon Coplow [Leicestershire] is an impressive hill,' they write (p. 159). So is the *dūn* that gave its name to Great Bowden, particularly as viewed from the old turnpike road to Market Harborough from Leicester. Readings in *The Landscape of Place-Names* will enrich the non-specialist's use of Bourne, and then Cox. Those already working with place-names know how indebted they are to Gelling and their work is further enriched by this addition to the canon.

The appearance of the third of the EPNS Leicestershire volumes coincided with publication of the new *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*. There is much to be welcomed here, including a reprise of Cole and Gelling's thesis just mentioned, and particularly a series of maps showing the distribution of about a dozen common or otherwise significant place-name elements. The latter gain hugely from inclusion of the boundary of the 'Midland' zone of nucleated settlement, including Leicestershire, developed by Brian Roberts and Stuart Wrathmell and used in their recent atlas.¹² Many entries benefit from contextual comments from documents or landscape like that for Somerby, mentioned earlier, but these are haphazard, and it is doubtful that this much-heralded volume adds much to our accumulated knowledge. It was a shock to find that some important names are missing as a result of the decision to base the dictionary on the gazetteer of a modern Ordnance Survey road atlas. As the reviewer has written elsewhere,¹³ one is better off saving £190 and buying the fourth edition of Ekwall on the Internet or the latest edition of David Mills' Oxford dictionary.¹⁴ The latter now covers the whole of Britain, has 17,000 entries, and costs £7.25 on-line.

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¹² Brian Roberts and Stuart Wrathmell, *An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England* (London, English Heritage, 2000).

¹³ Graham Jones, 'Victor Watts (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*', *Speculum* 81, no. 2 (April, 2006), pp. 626-7.

¹⁴ A. D. Mills, *A Dictionary of British Place Names* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2003).

SHORTER NOTICES

Bob Trubshaw, *Good Gargoyle Guide: Medieval carvings in Leicestershire and Rutland* (2nd edn, Loughborough, Heart of Albion Press, 2004). 140 x 215 mm, xii + 100 pp, numerous illustrations. ISBN 1 872883 70 2, paperback. Price £6.95.

The title is rather a misnomer, because the book also covers corbel heads, carvings on tympana, fonts, grave-covers, and cross-shafts, and other forms of sculptural and decorative fabric in and associated with churches. In keeping with Heart of Albion's established market strategy, 'green men' and dragons are in evidence – but no-one should allow that to put them off, not least because attention to such cultural forms now benefits from the studies of Ronald Hutton and others. Trubshaw takes care to discourage readers from unwarranted flights of interpretative fancy (see, for example, the section headed 'What green men are not', p. 15). This slim volume makes an excellent accompaniment to Pevsner. The standard of photography is generally adequate to good, the bibliography is ample and the glossary useful, and Ordnance Survey grid references are given. We must hope that the author will find more of those elusive keys to churches which rightly irritate him (p. vii) and produce a further, expanded edition in due course.

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ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

John Nichols, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester (1795–1811)*. (June S. Borderick [june.borderick@ntlworld.com], 2003). Four CDs, Price £10 each.

James Wright, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland (1684)* (June S. Borderick, 2003). CD, Price £10.

Records of the Borough of Leicester, Being a Series of Extracts from the Archives of the Corporation of Leicester, 1103–1603 (London, C. J. Clay and Sons, 1899–1905) (June S. Borderick, 2004). CD, Price £10.

George F. Farnham, *Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes* with an Introduction by A. Hamilton Thompson (6 vols, Leicester, W.Thornley and Son, 1929–33) (June S. Borderick, 2003). CD, Price £20.

Thomas North, *A Chronicle of the Church of St Martin, Leicester (1866)* (June S. Borderick, 2002). CD, Price £10.

JUNE BORDERICK, a Leicestershire publisher, has brought the wealth of data in John Nichols' antiquarian history of the county within the pockets of the poorest student and scholar undertaking research or general reader interested in their locality. That would be cause enough for congratulation – a copy of Nichols was on offer on the Internet from an English bookseller at £7,420 at the time of writing this review. However, Borderick has also made available the 1,700 pages of 'Leicester Borough Records' (charters, writs, rolls, loans, grants, accounts, lists

of mayors, officers, etc, including, as the blurb points out, the names of thousands of people of the borough and surrounding villages); George Farnham's 'Leicestershire Medieval Village Notes', covering 189 parishes; and a series of other reference texts, including 'St Martin's Chronicle', compiled from original and contemporary documents from the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth; and, to our Rutland readers as important as Nichols, the antiquarian history of that county by James Wright.

This is such a huge service that it seems churlish to suggest changes to the 'second editions' when they appear. However, acknowledgement on the CD boxes and labels of the original authors, as is done in the case of Nichols and Wright, would reflect the importance of the overall project. Thomas North, as the title page of his printed volume on St Martin's announced, was at that time honorary secretary of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. Mary Bateson, editor of the Leicester borough records, is similarly deserving, as are her equally eminent and revered revisers, W. H. Stevenson and J. E. Stocks, the latter then vicar of St Saviour's and Archdeacon of Leicester.

Now to the technicalities. All the CDs bar Farnham are in HTML format, with individual pages scanned as JPG image files. Readers will find that browsing, and searching for specific pages, is best done by using image viewing software. A commercial program can be downloaded from the disks, but only on a trial basis, it seems. In this respect the CDs are not as user-friendly as those produced in PDF format by Midlands Historical Data in collaboration with Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. Examples are William Dugdale's *The Antiquities of Warwickshire* (1656), produced in 2005, and the *History of Warwickshire* by William Smith (1830), produced in 2003.¹⁵ PDF format is not perfect, but it does enable the user to view thumbnails of the pages in Adobe Reader, to switch smoothly between the index and individual pages, and to search for text (though success depends on legibility). Those with the necessary patience may find the time well spent converting the JPGs to PDF. For those intent on combing for content, Farnham's Notes are in Plain Text and Word format as well as HTML, thus enabling searches for text, and, for those with the necessary Adobe or freeware, saving into PDF.

These considerations aside, Borderick deserves our thanks, and encouragement to look for further opportunities to digitise out-of-print, copyright-expired texts in the public domain. Orders can be placed by e-mail.

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¹⁵ Both costing £11.99 from Midland Historical Data at 49 Blossomfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1NB.