

Books

Quantifying Archaeology, by Stephen Shennan. *Edinburgh University Press*, 1988. 364 pp., illus., bibliog., index. £35.

ONE OF THE biggest difficulties in teaching statistics to archaeologists is in finding a suitable textbook to recommend for background reading. From the archaeological end, both Doran and Hodson's *Mathematics and Computers in Archaeology* (1975) and my *Mathematics in Archaeology* (1980, but mostly written in 1977) are beginning to show their age, and the latter was intended to show that mathematics had something to give archaeology, not to teach it. From the statistical end, there are textbooks in abundance, and one can make a sort of *Which* guide, but without the stimulus of real archaeological examples, interest soon palls for all but the most highly-motivated student. There is clearly a need for a basic textbook geared to the techniques that are useful to archaeologists, and illustrated with archaeological examples.

Shennan's *Quantifying Archaeology* is so far the only serious contender in this field (much better, for example, than Thomas' *Figuring Anthropology* (1976)), although we may see some competitors now the market is established. It starts with the crucial but often neglected topic of how archaeological information (pots, graves, etc.) is transformed into statistical data, and looks at the various levels of data. Readers are pointed towards the techniques that are appropriate for their particular data. The order of the chapters is logical, progressing from single variable to two variables to multivariate statistics, with separate chapters on the meaning of statistical inference and the role of sampling in archaeology.

There are two deliberate omissions – statistical distributions (except for a brief excursion into the normal distribution) and spatial analysis. Distribution theory in general is probably best avoided at this level, but the binomial distribution is worth teaching, and the poisson would be if spatial analysis were included. Given the size of the book, the omission of the latter topic is almost inevitable, but nevertheless to be regretted. Spatial analysis is a fast-moving field of study, *Spatial Analysis in Archaeology* (1976) is now seriously out-of-date, and a new synthesis is very much needed.

A few points attract criticism, some of which is a matter of approach rather than substance. A *histogram* is *not* the same as a *bar chart*, but the term is first used (without any introduction) on p. 27 as if the reader already knew the terms to be synonymous. I was not very happy about the reliance on 2×2 tables to

demonstrate the use of chi-squared tests on cross-classified data (pp. 70-6), partly because there are better ways of dealing with 2×2 tables (e.g. exact tests) and partly because larger tables would have been more interesting and given more scope for examples to grip the reader's imagination. On the multivariate techniques, I was surprised that *canonical variates analysis* did not receive at least a mention; I find it one of the most useful diagnostic techniques, e.g. as a follow-up to cluster analysis. Principal components analysis may be better explained from the point of view of objects rather than variables, but that is perhaps a personal preference.

The overall presentation is competent if rather uninspiring (a typical textbook), and one longs for more really archaeological illustrations to liven up the graphs and charts. For example, a scattergram can be made much more informative by the addition of a few small drawings of the actual objects involved. There are one or two printing errors, but they should cause the reader no problems. The most serious criticism is of the price – at £35 (10p per quite small page) few will be able to afford it (especially the students for whom it is most useful), and the temptation to illegal photocopying will be enormous. I note that the price in the USA is only \$34.95! One can only hope that the book's undoubted value will encourage a paperback edition or cheaper competition.

CLIVE ORTON

From Palace to Wash house, a study of the Old Palace, Croydon, by Lilian Thornhill. *Proceedings of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society* 17, part 9 (1987). 44pp (nos. 209-48), 25 illus., 4 maps. £2.25 incl. p&p.

ALTHOUGH THE sub-title suggests a study of the building of the Old Palace, this paper illustrates the use (or misuse) to which it was put for a comparatively short period from its sale by the Church in 1780 to 1887. The main theme concerns the Starey family, calico printers and bleachers, who occupied the building during this period as "the Palace offered attractions to anyone engaged in this trade".

This well-researched paper gives a good account of the family and business during the 18-19th centuries, and the changing topography of the immediate locality. The last few paragraphs give a glimpse of the change of use of the building in 1887 when the young Duke of Newcastle bought it and gave it to the Sisters of Mercy who decided to open a school for girls, which they did in 1889. One would like to have seen a note as to its present state; will the school have a centenary next year? MARSDEN ANDERSON

An Archaeology of the Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms, by C. J. Arnold. *Routledge*, 1988. 224 pp., 14 tables, 34 figs. £27.50.

ARNOLD sees himself at the forefront of the new Anglo-Saxon archaeology and this book seeks to provide "a foothold for fellow students who also appreciate the need to abandon ... the Beowulf and brooches approach" (p. 16). In fact much of it is a descriptive and fairly conventional account of the archaeological evidence with a bias to economic and social interpretation. There is a rather strange overlap between chapters 2 and 3, because the former discusses not only the rural economy, but imported goods and the role of craftsmen under the title of *The Land's Wealth* and the latter deals with *Elusive Craftsmen*. Cemetery analysis is the principal theme of the two other major chapters, with religion and burial customs considered in *The Topography of Belief* and social status in *Mighty Kinsmen*.

Although there are observations and comments of interest in this book, it is let down by careless errors of fact, inadequate referencing, a failure to consider some important recent publications and a reliance on the unpublished theses and research of others, which is not always properly acknowledged. The trend surface diagram of the spread of Christianity on p. 139 is a real pig's breakfast. It is unclear which British monastic foundations are marked on it, but Bosham in Sussex is certainly mislocated, Bernicia should be within the 630 contour, while Sussex and the Isle of Wight should be within contours for 680 at the earliest. His description of geography is often faulty, e.g. Limoges and Paris are not in the Meuse and Moselle regions (p. 56), Herpes-en-Charente is not in the Bordeaux region (p. 64), Faversham is in east not west Kent (p. 66) and the Boulonnais is not in Normandy (p. 81). He seems to have muddled up the Coptic bronze bowls with base rings with the three-legged bowls and both with the sixth-century Merovingian three-legged bowls found, for example, at Coombe in Kent (p. 63). No reference is offered to justify the statement on p. 70 that 'even an inland centre such as Northampton was a royal centre and is also described as a trading centre', let alone the archaeological and historical evidence to support it. Again four-post structures at Apple Down, West Sussex are described on p. 128 without any reference. Incidentally they are now certainly associated with cremation burials there. C. Scull's important article on balances and weights published in *Germania* for 1986 is not mentioned, nor is the book on *Merovingian Garnet Jewellery* by Birgit Arrhenius published in 1985, though we get a reference to her 1971 study. Certainly no serious account of the problems surrounding the manufacture and distribution of

Scandinavian gold bracteates can afford to ignore the article by M. Axboe in *Acta Archaeologica* for 1981. Axboe's microscopic examination of the toolmarks and his distinction between positive and negative marks have also elucidated the problem of ornamented cast metalwork in the *Universitetets Olsaksamlings Skrifter, Ny rekke* 5 (1984) 31-42. If Arnold cannot get hold of this literature, perhaps he should avoid pronouncements on such topics. His use of the unpublished work of other scholars is also not above criticism, for one wonders, for example, whether J. Huggett gave his permission for such extensive use of his B.A. dissertation in advance of his own publication. At least Huggett receives acknowledgement, which is more than Arnold gives Dr Helena Hamerow for the summary of her phasing of the Mucking settlement, which appears on p. 44.

Arnold is still attached to ideas of his whose fallacy has been pointed out, for example that open field systems could be introduced as early as the 7th century (p. 201), when the 9th seems to be the earliest conceivable date. Then the surprise expressed on p. 137, that others have overlooked the probability that three Mercian campaigns against the West Saxons 'as late as the 660s' aimed to secure ports, by implication *Hamwic*, ignores the fact that there is no evidence for the existence of *Hamwic* before the very end of the 7th century. Wrething control of London's *wic* from the East Saxons and Kent seems to have been more important to the Mercians. If this review's comment seems too critical, it should be remembered that Arnold often makes unfair criticisms of the work of others. For example, Millett's assumption that the oak planks at Cowdery's Down were split radially (p. 99) is in fact based on soil impressions of such planks in the foundation trenches, but Arnold does not tell you this. Again, the absence of analysis and interpretation from the Bergh Apton report referred to on p. 9 is a matter of policy by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, which has chosen rapid publication. To contrast this 'earlier' report of 1978 with the full discussion sections of the Portway, Andover 1985 report ignores the fact that the authors of Bergh Apton have put us further into their debt by publishing the catalogue of the Morningthorpe cemetery in 1988 in advance of a discussion volume. So in conclusion a book to be read with care, and rather expensive for its modest size.

MARTIN G. WELCH

The South East to AD 1000, by Peter Drewett, David Rudling and Mark Gardiner. *Longman*, 1988. 400 pp., maps and illus., index, bibliog. £22 hardback, £13 paperback.

THE PUBLISHERS call this 'the first full account of the South East (the modern counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex) from the first appearance of Man in

Britain to the Early Middle Ages' – a not wholly uncontroversial billing, ignoring as it does one or two honourable antecedents and the subjective nature of the term 'full account'. It is the first to get away from the 'three ages' system for the prehistoric periods and is certainly the latest attempt to tell the story. Although one cannot be sure – the rate of growth of archaeological knowledge is probably faster now than ever before – this version will probably stand for the rest of the century.

The volume is one of a series which is intended to cover the country in 21 volumes. There will be two books for each of ten regions and an extra volume for the Welsh Marches. The division at AD 1000 is arbitrary, but it had to come somewhere, and some of the regional boundaries similarly so.

Most of the volumes have, or are going to have, a single author which helps to ensure stylistic unity – this one suffers little from the different grammatical tastes of its three contributors but may actually gain in authority. It suffers more from the fact that all three writers are on the staff of the Field Archaeology Unit of the Institute of Archaeology, a unit that operates almost entirely in Sussex. The text, as a consequence, is heavily biased towards that county (now, of course, two counties), and there are one or two mis-spelt Surrey and Hampshire place-names.

The book is clearly not intended for the complete beginner but, as a convenient up-date of the state of knowledge in other people's periods or for the generally interested, it ought to be invaluable. However, there are too few concessions to the ignorant. Few medievalists (and, I suspect, very few non-archaeologists) are familiar enough with the terminology of the glacial periods and what used to be called the palaeolithic to find their way easily through Peter Drewett's opening pages – a date-and-jargon table would have helped enormously. Things do improve and, for those with previous knowledge, the book is reasonably easy to read and seems to be remarkably up-to-date. The references include a few from 1987 (mainly Sussex) and the authors reveal something of their knowledge of unpublished Sussex sites. It is perhaps surprising that only part of the text of *Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* seems to have been made available to the authors before they went to press.

Some of the photographs are distinctly on the dark side; the result, no doubt, of printing by offset litho on the same paper as the text. The line drawings and maps are professionally executed, clear and informative with the exception of a series of diagrams purporting to be 'models of possible interrelationships' and the like. These seem to this reviewer to be

such astounding statements of the obvious that he wonders whether he is missing something.

DENNIS TURNER

Living Underground. A history of cave and cliff dwelling, by David Kempe. *The Herbert Press*, 1988. 256 pp., 13 maps, 92 pls., 15 figs., 2 tables, bibliog., index. £18.

THE SEVENTEEN chapters of this book describe many types of largely underground features from around the world which have been used or constructed by man. They range from caves and tunnels to rock-built monasteries and cone dwellings. It is very useful to have such sites collated and described, and the book should make the reader seriously consider the possible functions of underground tunnels and caves, even in south-east England, when often they tend to be dismissed as of natural origin, and their use by man as legendary. Unfortunately, the book is badly targeted, being aimed neither at the general reader nor at the more academic one: the many tales and anecdotes, while fascinating and entertaining, are of little use to the academic reader, and yet the endless listing of names of sites, species and finds is tedious. There are several errors, often produced by over-simplification of a complex subject ("Mesolithic Man was primarily a farmer who tended usually to build his house in the open"), and at times the style is clumsy. There are copious illustrations, but they are not linked to the text, and indeed have no figure numbers. The omission of colour plates for the more spectacular sites is regrettable.

The treatment of such a wide range of sites is, of necessity, superficial, but it should provide a starting point for further exploration. This is made difficult, though, by the shortness of the bibliography and the absence of references in the text. Hopefully, the book will provide a stimulus for further research into a fascinating subject.

LESLEY ADKINS
ROY ADKINS

Shoes and Pattens. Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: Vol. II, by F. Grew and M. de Neergaard, illus. S. Mitford. *HMSO*, 1988. 145 pp., 165 figs., 22 tables, bibliog. £11.95.

THIS IS THE second volume to be produced as part of a detailed study of the medieval finds from various excavations in London (listed on p. 132). It is splendidly produced and relatively easy to use, both as a work of reference and as a book to read and enjoy. The chief aim of the volume is to establish a broad, closely-dated typology of styles recovered in the excavations. As stated in the introduction, this is of fundamental importance, since the study of leather shoes and associated debris has previously been

confined to Continental assemblages. Here at last is a volume which sets out to redress this imbalance, and with nearly 1500 medieval shoes to study, the finished *coherent* volume surely achieves its aim, with examples spanning the period c 1100 – 1450 from the waterlogged deposits of the Thames.

At the outset, a summary illustration of the main types of shoes and boots from the period under consideration provides us with a clear and concise *schema* for the text. This is the first of several excellent line drawings throughout the volume; they are crucial for the greater understanding of the different types of footwear involved. There are several particularly interesting features which can be drawn out of the discussions; the development in the mid 12th century of 'waterproofing' by sealing the gap between the sole and upper with a 'rand' and the use of pattens, the wooden-soled overshoes, worn to protect the feet from the mud, bring light to the conditions prevalent in the towns at the time. Likewise the differences in the archaeological record and the written record are significant; the lack of high boots and buskins for example. The comparisons between the assemblage from London and those where waterlogged conditions have enabled leather to survive in the archaeological record – Coventry, Kings Lynn, Amsterdam for example – are also vital for our understanding of London in its contemporary setting, but surely they deserve rather more treatment than simply a brief note in the Introduction.

A useful short section on the recording methods employed, which could serve as a guide to other workers in the field, heralds a detailed breakdown of the shoe types prevalent between 1100 and 1450. This is a most useful and readable section, which will serve to establish a chronology for similar pieces in a British context. My only criticism of this section lies not in the content, but in the lack of suitable illustration and information about the contexts from which the material has been derived. We have to wait for information on the actual excavations themselves until Appendix 1, page 131 of a 145-page volume!

A section on Shoemaking and Cobbling, again enhanced by fine line drawings, includes a series of illustrations of the component parts of different shoe types, again an invaluable reference tool. Brief comments on buckles and strap ends are also useful in reminding us that we are not simply looking at an organic artefact, and in most archaeological contexts, these are the only items to survive in conditions which are not waterlogged. I found the section by Frances Pritchard on the decoration of the shoes of particular interest, and am reminded increasingly of the poverty of the non-waterlogged archaeological record. This is

followed by a study of pattens, again thoroughly illustrated and completely intelligible, providing information on a group of material which is clearly under-studied.

A highlight of the volume for me is the study of wear-patterns and indications of feet deformities, most commonly illustrated from the mid 14th century, where, from the site of Baynard's Castle, the best examples have been found.

A final section on *Shoes in art and literature* completes the study, attempting to compare archaeological information with that of written records. The important conclusion is that "... many of the conclusions about medieval shoes should be modified, or simply abandoned"; manuscript and sculptural evidence about changing fashions in footwear are simply not reliable.

A Glossary of terms used, followed by contextual information for the material discussed, Appendix 1 concerning the excavations and Appendix 2 on aspects of conservation of the actual material are all very important elements, mostly too significant to confine to the end of such a volume. It is a measure of progress in artefactual studies, however, that they are included at all.

This volume was brought to press after the untimely death of Margrethe de Neergaard. There can be no finer tribute to her than this book, which serves to bring to our attention the richness of one aspect of the British leather material from excavations with good preservation conditions. Both authors are to be congratulated on the completion of this volume, which is so crucial to our understanding of the English medieval record as part of the contemporary European scene.

COLLEENE E. BATEY

Life in the Ice Age, by Anthony J. Stuart. *Shire Archaeology*, 1988. 64 pp., 35 illus., £2.50.

THIS IS a splendid book. Unless you are a palaeolithic specialist, it has something new for you, and will put into order and perspective your rag-bag of facts about the Ice Age. It gives more information than many books on the animal species found from the various periods, and their environmental significance. It also says when the evidence is equivocal, something I particularly liked about the book. You feel the author knows what he is talking about and like any true researcher knows that discovered facts do not always fit conveniently into simple model interpretations. For instance, the presence of temperate species of beetle from phases within the Devensian/last glaciation are at odds with the fossil plant evidence. What can it mean? Read the book for a possible explanation.

The evidence for the presence of animals and plants in Britain during the Ice Age is provided by their fossils, but not so for humans. The famous Swanscombe skull is one of the very few hominid remains for the period. Were it not for the flint tools, our knowledge of human presence in Britain during the Ice Age would be scanty indeed, although they probably give a very distorted impression of human lives at this time.

I have always been puzzled by the conventional picture of the tundra region teeming with large animals during periods of glaciation, and many of these animals were of types now associated with the tropics, such as elephants and rhinos. The *average* density of animals must have been low. What area of tundra vegetation was needed to support a mammoth? And then at the end of the last Ice Age so many of the large mammals apparently disappeared quite suddenly (70% in N. America) just when one might have thought that conditions were becoming more favourable. Why it happened and whether man had a hand in it are discussed, along with much else, in this highly-recommended book priced at less than a round of beer.

COLIN BOWLT

King Herod's Dream: Caesarea on the Sea, by H. G. Hollum, R. H. Hohlfelder, R. J. Bull, and A. Raban. *W. W. Norton & Co.*, 1988. 244 pp., 178 illus., \$35.

THERE ARE two Caesareas mentioned in the Bible; Caesarea Philippi near Mount Hermon and the slightly older Caesarea on the coast of Israel, founded by Herod the Great, which is the subject of this book. It has been published on the occasion of an exhibition, touring N. America in 1988/89, based on recent archaeological work by JECM and CAHEP with help from IDAM. I found the constant use of initials for organisations (Joint Expedition to Caesarea Maritima, Caesarea Ancient Harbour Excavation Project, Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums) irritating. It looks pettily competitive and breaks the flow of the narrative – but perhaps it is required by the paymasters.

This is the city from which the Romans governed Judea after Herod's death, and a fascinating discovery by the Italians in 1961 of a re-used stone inscribed with the name of [Po]ntius Pilatus [praef]ectus Iud[ae]a almost certainly refers to the judge of Jesus. It was here too that St Paul was imprisoned for about two years before being sent for trial to Rome.

A curiosity for me in this book was the use of BCE (before the Common Era) and CE in place of BC and

AD, but I suppose this is an understandable arrangement with the non-Christian participation in the project. The city disintegrated with the expulsion of the Crusaders in the 13th century and has lain more or less desolate ever since – a seemingly unbelievable fate to those of us who are used to London with its relentless building, ever more and bigger, over the centuries. But Ozymandias said it all, and he is supported by the evidence shown in the superb colour photographs in the book.

COLIN BOWLT

Also received

Aku-Aku, the secret of Easter Island, by Thor Heyerdahl. *Unwin Hyman Ltd.*, 1988. 369pp., illus. £6.95.

The Maldive Mystery, by Thor Heyerdahl. *Unwin Hyman Ltd.*, 1988. 323 pp., illus., bibliog., index. £6.95.

HERE ARE two paperback re-issues; one of an old favourite (first published in 1957) and one of a more recent work (1986) by the same author. Although their subject matter is outside the range of all but the most footloose London archaeologist, both can be classed as a "good read". The archaeology is fascinating, as are the personal and social details with which the books abound, raising questions such as the position of European archaeologists in the Third World, the cultural vs. the academic value of artefacts, and even the role of local museums. Especially recommended for the post-Kon Tiki generation.

CLIVE ORTON

Central and East Gaulish Mould-decorated Samian in the Royal Ontario Museum, by Alison Harle Easson. *Royal Ontario Museum*, 1988. 49 pp., 113 illus. \$16.95 paperback.

OF THE 113 decorated vessels described and illustrated in this excellent catalogue, over 90 were found in the City of London, most of them having been obtained from G. F. Lawrence in the 1920s. The author includes details of find-spots where known, and also notes joining or certainly identifiable pieces from several bowls held by the British Museum and the Museum of London. In the absence of a catalogue of the enormous Museum of London catalogue, this book provides a useful small but typical sample of the decorated samian circulating in the Roman city during the 2nd and early 3rd centuries.

JOANNA BIRD