

³ T. Fanning, 'Excavations at Clontuskert Priory, Co. Galway', *Proc. Royal Irish Academy*, 76, Section C (1976), 97-169, Fig. 9, no. 70.

⁴ R. Zschille and R. Forrer, *Die Steigbügel in ihrer Formen-Entwicklung. Charakterisierung und Datierung der Steigbügel unserer Kulturvölker* (Berlin, 1896), Fig. 5.

⁵ C. Blair, *European Armour circa 1066 to circa 1700* (London, 1958), 101.

⁶ For examples of the 'bear-paw' sabaton of the period c. 1500-10 see: G. A. Gloss, 'Der Harnisch der Übergangszeit von der Gotik zur Renaissance (1495-1520)', *Zeitschrift für Historische Waffen-und Kostumkunde*, Neue Folge, Bd. 3, 12, Heft 7 (June 1930), 145-48.

⁷ A. R. Duffy, *European Armour in the Tower of London* (London, 1968), Pl. I.

⁸ G. M. Wilson, 'Stirrups' in A. McGregor (ed.), *Tradescant's Rarities. Essays on the Foundation of the Ashmolean Museum 1683 with a catalogue of the surviving early collections*, Ashmolean Museum (Oxford, 1983), 186-88, cat. no. 84.

⁹ C. J. Ffoulkes, *Inventory and Survey of the Armouries of the Tower of London*, 1 (London, 1916), cat. nos. 135-41.

¹⁰ Dept. of Medieval & Later Antiquities, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

THE ISLE OF MAN CONFERENCE 1990

The 33rd Annual Conference of the Society for Medieval Archaeology was held between 20 and 24 April 1990 at the Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man on the subject of 'The Isle of Man in the Medieval Period'. The conference was welcomed by the Chairman of Manx Museum and National Trust. Stephen Harrison, Director, spoke on the new displays and conference facilities and Wendy Horn, Deputy Director, on the work of the museum and the organization of archaeology on the Isle of Man. The conference then saw a film 'The Making of Mann' and were given a reception by Manx Museum and National Trust.

On Saturday 21 April the conference heard lectures from Marshall Cubbon on 'The Early Christian Church', Paul Reilly on 'Monte Carlo and the Isle of Man', Chris Morris on 'Keeil Vail' and Sir David Wilson on 'The Viking Age in the Isle of Man', followed by visits to Andreas, Bride and Maughald led by Marshall Cubbon.

On Sunday 22 April the conference heard lectures from David Freke on 'The Early Medieval cemetery and Norse occupation at Peel Castle', Harry Gordon-Slade on 'Peel Cathedral and Vicar's Choral', Lawrence Butler on 'Rushen Abbey and religious architecture' and Peter Davey on 'Medieval and early Post-Medieval pottery', followed by visits to Tynwald, Odin's Raven, Peel Castle and St Patrick's Cathedral led by Larch Garrad and David Freke. In the evening a reception was provided by the Isle of Man Department of Tourism at Castle Rushen during which Frank Cowin and Harry Gordon-Slade led guided tours of the castle.

On Monday 23 April the conference heard lectures by Chris Morris on 'The wider setting of settlement in Viking and later Norse Man', Margaret Gelling on 'Place names in the Isle of Man', Gillian Quine on 'A Review of Upland Settlement in Man' and Ann Harrison on 'Settlement in the Isle of Man: the documentary evidence'. The President, Helen Clarke then summarized the proceedings after which the conference visited The Braid, Chapel Hill Balladoole and Cronk Ny Merriu led by Larch Garrad and Sir David Wilson.

About 110 people participated in the conference and Wendy Horn deserves many thanks for the large amount of administration and organization which she undertook as Local Secretary.

ALAN VINCE

LORD FLETCHER OF ISLINGTON 1903-1990 (Pl. x)

Eric Fletcher helped make the foundation of the Society for Medieval Archaeology possible in a typically unobtrusive fashion: by anonymously giving us £200 he provided a float on which the Society was launched. He was an honorary vice-president from the foundation and generously funded much of the Society's grant-giving activities after the death of H. Dunscombe Colt.

Despite a busy life in the law and in politics (where he was a minister in the Wilson government of 1964 and deputy speaker), he retained a keen amateur interest in archaeology.

His detailed physical examination of Anglo-Saxon churches (published in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*) with Dudley Jackson, ushered in a new understanding of these most important buildings.

That he was a good and generous man will be witnessed by many young people (myself included) who he encouraged and supported. But he was also tough. His wisdom was brought fully to bear, for example, on the practicalities of archaeology when, as a Trustee of the British Museum, he supervised with Sir Mortimer Wheeler and others the triumphant publications of the great Sutton Hoo report between 1976 and 1983 — no easy task. He will be much missed as a wise voice in many archaeological circles.

DAVID M. WILSON