

## Short Reviews

*The Transformation of the Roman World* A.D. 400–900. Edited by Leslie Webster and Michelle Brown. 19 × 25 cm. 258 pp., 105 figs. and pls., 69 colour pls. London: British Museum Press, 1997. ISBN 0-7141-0585-6. Price: £18.99 pb.

This volume arises from the major European Science Foundation project 'The Transformation of the Roman World', a report on which, by Ian Wood, can be found in *Early Medieval Europe* 6 (1997), pp. 217–27. It comprises eight overview essays by leading early medievalists from across Europe, followed by the introductions to, and catalogues accompanying, five museum exhibitions: 'From the Elysian Fields to Christian Paradise' (Thessaloniki), 'Death on the Rhine' (Cologne), 'Elite Lifestyle' (Leiden), 'The Firebed of the Serpent' (Stockholm) and 'Heirs of Rome' (London). It is not an easy book to review, largely because its own terms of reference are unclear.

The essays cover an eclectic and far-from-comprehensive range of topics, and it is difficult to discern their intended audience. The catalogues vary: some are simply that; others are interspersed with short analytical texts. The Thessaloniki catalogue is so specifically geared towards that exhibition and museum that, without visiting it, the reader is left feeling rather excluded; when I visited the Leiden exhibition, the catalogue was very difficult to relate to the displays at all.

Nevertheless there is much of interest. The essays (especially Wood's) are frequently authoritative, though some are rather better than others. The survey of iconography on Scandinavian precious metalwork ('The Firebed of the Serpent') will be useful for English-language students. There are very interesting comments on specific artefacts in 'Heirs of Rome', but who will read them, if they are not using this simply as an exhibition catalogue? With what is half collection of essays, half exhibition catalogue (as a concept, not out of place amongst the hippocamps and quinotours of late antique art), it is difficult to imagine anyone (beyond a reviewer) reading the whole thing from cover to cover, and so benefiting from these scattered snippets of information.

More noticeable is a lack of overall direction, and of consistency in approach and conclusions. Monica Alkemade's introduction to 'Elite Lifestyles' is interesting and imaginative in its approach to material culture, far more so in fact than Périn and Dierkens' rather traditional chapter on burial. Elsewhere we see archaic and discredited ideas repeated, such as the equation of weapons and legal status (p. 73), and the association of grave-goods customs with ideas of inheritance erroneously attributed to 'germanic' law (p. 153). E.-W. burial is associated with Christianity on p. 129; elsewhere in the book this idea is, surely correctly, dismissed. Late Roman 'chip-carved' metalwork is misleadingly described as 'Federate Uniform' on p. 214, perpetuating an idea which has been discredited for 20 years. We do, however, see the material culture of the post-Roman period consistently given a Roman pedigree, sometimes to a grating degree. The contexts for the renegotiation and redefinition of Roman symbolism are never really made explicit, and the book leaps about (especially in 'Heirs of Rome') from one time and place to another, with no real unifying overview; the essays, sadly, fail to provide that because of their diversity of approach, and the lack of cross-reference between them and the exhibitions. Rather than being the product of a coherent group effort, this is a (nevertheless

historiographically very interesting) collection of all kinds of national scholarly traditions: a pleasingly unthreatening monument to pan-European academic bonhomie.

One is left thinking of Nennius' (probably disingenuous) claim to have 'simply made a heap of all that I have found'. There are many gems amidst this particular cairn, but ultimately what we have here is EuroNennius.

GUY HALSALL

*Excavations at Stonea, Cambridgeshire 1980-85.* By R. P. J. Jackson and T. W. Potter. 23 × 29 cm. 749 pp., 250 figs., 32 pls. London: British Museum Press, 1996. ISBN 0-7141-1385-9. Price: £195.00 hb.

Excavations at Stonea Grange and Stonea Camp, on a gravel 'island' in the Cambridgeshire fens, uncovered a complex series of earthworks, timber and stone constructions as well as a street plan which formed part of a major Roman settlement complex dating from c. A.D. 140 to the late 3rd century. The main focus of this weighty publication is on these important 2nd and 3rd-century phases of the settlement and what they tell us about the development of the Fenlands in the Roman period. This is obviously a key site for Romanists, but what of the Anglo-Saxon settlement which was unexpectedly unearthed at Stonea Grange?

The early Anglo-Saxon phase comprised at least four post-built timber buildings, dated (primarily by pottery) to c. 400-650. The buildings, which were aligned roughly E.-W. along the main Roman road, were of modest size and poorly preserved; this reviewer can heartily sympathise with the authors' valiant attempts to disentangle and make sense of the plans. Some occupation debris had accumulated over a cobbled surface associated with Building S1, but apart from a few pits, little else from this period survived. It is a credit to the excavators that so much information was retrieved from these limited remains. Building S1 was enclosed within a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, an unusual feature prior to the 7th century, though paralleled at Catholme, Staffs. and Bishopstone, Sussex. A single late Saxon post-built structure was identified, originally quite substantial and with a clearly made floor but otherwise poorly preserved.

Martin Welch discusses the wider archaeological and historical context of Anglo-Saxon Stonea, the first early Anglo-Saxon settlement to be excavated in the Fenlands. The key conclusions are that 'a real break' existed between Roman and early Anglo-Saxon settlement patterns, and the tentative association of the settlement with the *Gyrwe* ('fen people') named by Bede. This is followed by David Hall's discussion of the written sources for the medieval period, when Doddington succeeded Stonea as a local administrative centre. The Anglo-Saxon pottery is discussed by Andrew Russel who, following on from his doctoral study of East Anglian pottery fabrics, distinguishes relatively fine 'storage vessel' fabrics from more heavily tempered 'cooking pot' fabrics. He rightly notes that the pottery is impossible to date closely; there is no reason why it could not all have been produced at more or less the same time, with variations in form, fabric and decoration being largely due to function, and none of it need be earlier than the 6th century. The few metal finds, discussed by Leslie Webster, are mid and late Saxon in date.

The close, clearly deliberate association of some Anglo-Saxon settlements with Roman settlements is still poorly understood, despite the growing number which have now been published (e.g. Barton Court Farm, Oxon., Orton Hall Farm, Cambs. and Rivenhall, Essex). So too is the early Anglo-Saxon exploitation of the Fenland about which, prior to the excavations at Stonea, virtually nothing was known. On these grounds alone, the careful exposition of the Stonea Anglo-Saxon settlement is to be welcomed.

The grand scale of the excavation (some 8 ha) is matched by that of the publication, and despite the obviously high standards of the report's preparation and production, at £195.00 it is unlikely to appeal to the prospective purchaser primarily interested in the post-Roman remains, discussion of which occupies a mere 25 of the volume's 749 pages.

HELENA HAMEROW

*The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Empingham II, Rutland.* (Oxbow Monograph 70.) By Jane R. Timby. 21 × 30 cm. 248 pp., 165 figs., 39 tables. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 1996. ISBN 1-900188-15-5. Price: £28.00 pb.

This book, as its title suggests, is the report on an excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. All but one of the 136 burials were inhumations, producing biological evidence for at least 153 individuals. The volume follows a now well-established pattern for Anglo-Saxon cemetery reports. It begins with an introduction to the site and its excavation, local archaeology and place-names, and a résumé of the pre-Saxon finds from the site. Discussion of the cemetery layout, burial orientation, age and sex and burial position is followed by the bone report. This is interesting for the case it makes for sexing through teeth; if this is accepted it will be very useful, as so many burials have poorly preserved bones, of which often the teeth survive best. Another chapter deals with grave-goods. The author has done an efficient job in either synthesizing current work herself, or finding specialists to report on relevant material. This includes technical studies of beads, metal objects, especially knives, and organic remains. The text and illustrations of the grave-catalogue occupy the bulk of the volume. Altogether this is a valuable addition to the ever-increasing number of Anglo-Saxon cemetery reports, compiled to a high professional standard. The author is to be congratulated for having (not for the first time) made such good sense of what seem to have been problematic excavation records.

I have only two slightly negative points to make. One is that topics such as age, sex, orientation of burials etc. are frequently addressed both in reports like this and in PhD theses, where there is sometimes opportunity for lengthier and more detailed analysis of comparative evidence and theoretical issues. It would help if there were more, and speedier, cross-fertilization between the two. Maybe the best mechanism would be rapid publication of good PhD theses, as B.A.R. has tried to do. My second comment is simply that it is sad that an excavator noted for his meticulous attention to detail in both excavation and record should, for whatever reasons, end up presented here as so inadequate in both respects.

CATHERINE HILLS

*Scottish Abbeys and Priors.* By Richard Fawcett. 19 × 25 cm. 144 pp., 115 figs. and pls. (incl. 15 colour pls.). London: Batsford/Historic Scotland, 1994. ISBN 0-7134-7372-X. Price: £15.99 pb.

This is a splendid book, clearly constructed and finely illustrated, which will serve anyone who wants to do more than just gaze at buildings extremely well. The body consists of seven chronologically organised chapters, interspersed by two devoted to themes: one on the life lived within abbeys and priories, the other on monastic buildings, meaning the development of their plan, and some discussion of the function of each area. The book ends with six pages describing each of the religious groups which established themselves in Scotland in the Middle Ages, a gazetteer of 71 sites where remains still stand (marking

those places in the care of the state, and where the church is still used for worship), and a page of suggestions for further reading. The whole is a readable and well-considered book to place in the hands of anyone attracted by the subject, even if they knew little about monasticism or general medieval history.

Although there is no glossary, technical terms are kept to a minimum, and the several cut-away sketches are well labelled. I liked particularly the economical and precise description of styles (such a hard thing to do well), for example those of the period when Romanesque was giving way to Gothic, or of the different types of capital found at Paisley and Kelso. The author draws attention to buildings which show the influence of European, rather than English, styles, and indicates clearly where our present knowledge is fairly fragmentary, as is the case with buildings in the precinct, beyond those which clustered around the cloister.

My only regret is that almost nothing is said about the scale of resources necessary to create these buildings and sustain the life of those who lived in them, though David I is said to have been 'extraordinarily open-handed towards the religious orders'. The reader is therefore not left with much of an idea why powerful families in both the 10th and 16th centuries looked upon the leading offices as part of their own families' concern. In the area of my own interest I noticed that the author still thinks that Bernard entered Cîteaux in 1112, and that the period of growth for the order began after that (p. 22: there is an unfortunate typo at p. 127 where it becomes 1121). The general consensus now is that he entered a year later in 1113, the very year Cîteaux's first daughter, La Ferté, was established. The coincidence means that there must already have been sufficient recruits to staff the new house before Bernard and his relatives made their dramatic entry, though the belief that the two events were connected later induced several scribes to alter their copies of the *Vita Prima* of Bernard and have him enter in 1112. But this is a small point in a book by one who knows his subject so well that it reads effortlessly; it is a volume in which writing and illustrations work together in the best possible way.

CHRISTOPHER HOLDSWORTH

*A View from Hereford's Past. A report on the archaeological excavation of Hereford Cathedral Close in 1993.* By Richard Stone and Nic Appleton-Fox. 22 × 30 cm. xii + 68 pp., 44 figs. and pls., 1 table. Almeley: Logaston Press, 1996. ISBN 1-873827-39-3. Price: £9.95 pb.

This slim monograph describes the results of a small excavation in the SW. corner of the Cathedral Close in 1993, carried out in advance of building work for a new library. Its aim is to present some of the results of this work but, as the Chairman of the *Mappa Mundi* Trustees notes in his Preface, the excavation ran over budget, leaving 'no funds to meet our obligations for the post-excavation work', although they are seeking ways of achieving this objective. This statement conditions our approach to the book, which is clearly not a final report on what was found.

The book opens with a useful section providing the context and summarising the existing state of knowledge about Hereford. The meat is provided by a description of the excavation (a single trench) in which interim conclusions precede a detailed description of the stratigraphic sequence by period. The finds takes up a further section, and the book ends with a brief comment on the future and what remains to be done.

The most important discoveries were firstly, a metalled road with various structures, including a late Saxon stone-lined basement, along its frontage. This seemed to be contemporary with an early phase of the cemetery. Secondly, there were various cemetery phases containing remains representing thousands of individuals. Significant changes in

land use dating to around the time of the Conquest were recognized, and this is arguably the most important single contribution that the project has made to date. Ultimately analysis of the human remains will also be of immense interest, and the Dean and Chapter, together with the authors, are urged to obtain reports on the finds, which include a pattern-welded sword in its scabbard, and the 1,129 human remains which were retained, although this reviewer recognizes that the funds required to do the job properly will be quite beyond the Chapter's resources.

An interesting sidelight is the care with which the initial resource projections for the project were made, including the use of geophysics which was still unable to detect major features. Yet, despite this, the projections still failed to provide an accurate basis for budgeting (pp. 17–18). This is not a criticism, merely an observation that archaeological forecasting is not like building a house where precise numbers of bricks and other materials can be estimated from the onset. Ron Shoesmith and the authors deserve our thanks for not shelving the project, and getting a particularly well-illustrated volume into print with commendable speed. If there is a criticism, it is that the authors seem to be confused about their readership. The language used is both technical and simple and, to the archaeologist's mind, otiose. Notwithstanding this, and its idiosyncratic structure, this is a useful and affordable report to add to the relatively small corpus of Cathedral excavations.

MIKE MCCARTHY

*Excavations at the Dominican Priory, St Mary's of the Isle, Cork.* By Maurice F. Hurley and Cathy M. Sheehan. 21 × 30 cm. vi + 135 pp., 27 figs., 27 pls. (11 in colour), 8 tables. Cork: Cork Corporation, 1995. ISBN 0-902282-02-6. Price not stated, pb.

The medieval city of Cork developed on the low ground among the arms of the R. Lee, below the cliff on which St Finbar's Cathedral and the more recent University College stand. Outside the city walls were situated three mendicant friaries; industrial redevelopment in 1993 provided the opportunity to discover part of the ground plan of the least-known friary. Much of the church, the cloister, the refectory range to the N. and a small part of the E. range were uncovered, together with boundary walls to the S. This report discusses the friary buildings, the medieval finds and artefacts from later domestic and industrial site occupation.

The simple aisleless church of the 13th century expanded in the late 14th century with a S. aisle and a central tower. Burials, both internal and external, increased in number and elaboration. The early cloister was of limestone blocks set on a planked foundation; it probably supported a timber lean-to arcade. In the later 15th-century phase the cloister arcade had stone pillars and buttresses to support an oversailing range on the N. and possibly on the E. The refectory, with its stone benches and thickened wall to accommodate the reader's pulpit, was easily identifiable. In the E. range there were parts of five rooms indicated but only the vestibule to the chapter house was explored fully. Throughout the discussion of the structures, frequent reference is made to surviving friary buildings as comparative material, but only Kilkenny seems to provide a relevant model since the other houses are usually small rural sites, though built under Anglo-Norman patronage.

The finds are fully discussed and appropriately illustrated. The most useful sections are those upon burials, burial practices, demography and architectural stone. These enable a clear picture to emerge of the local population and the wide range of care given to commemoration. Apart from the rosary beads and the writing *styli* there was little of specifically religious character.

There is no discussion of the site in relation to the medieval city or of the nature of its urban deposits. One only perceives Cork's 19th-century industrialization through the artefacts (pottery, clay pipes, millstones) and their contexts.

Despite the elegant presentation of this report, scientific analyses are notably absent: no dendrochronological dates from the various timbers, no X.R.F. of copper alloys, no environmental analysis of waterlogged deposits, no comment on non-human bone which could have elucidated diet and food sources. These would seem to be major opportunities to understand the context and dating of the friary, but they were not pursued during the excavation and the preparation of this otherwise extensive report.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

*Excavations in Castletown, Isle of Man 1989 — 1992.* By P. J. Davey, D. J. Freke and D. A. Higgins. 29.5 × 21 cm. xvi + 178 pp., 70 figs., 59 tables. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1996. ISBN 0-85323-389-6. Price: £15.00 hb.

The Centre for Manx Studies has produced as its first monograph an account of three excavations in the former principal town. The attractive early 19th-century colour view on the cover, the informative air photograph, and the generous layout encourage high hopes, but for the medieval archaeologist these hopes remain largely unsatisfied.

The first report is the excavation of the NW. quadrant of the castle courtyard. Here limitations of time, space and safety meant that few of the research objectives, clearly defined by David Freke, could be accomplished. However, a medieval ditch and post-medieval pits and drains were found. It was difficult to encounter uncontaminated contexts because of the 19th-century prison building and continuous drain repairs. However, waterlogging caused by drainage impeded by the curtain wall suggests that greater potential for medieval environments may still survive. In many respects, Freke assumes considerable familiarity with the castle: the general plan of untitled solid blocks is unhelpful, references to the new interpretation by Frank Cowin (as yet unpublished) are imprecise, and the absence of site photographs is disappointing. The identifications of 'fish-house' and 'chapel' are made without adequate explanation. This sense of anticipation carried through into Peter Davey's pottery catalogue where some ceramic types are referenced only to the Peel Castle report (as yet still unpublished); the enthusiasm for abbreviation shown in the 86 pottery codes seems excessive.

The Bank Street excavation by Andrew Johnson is essentially a pottery collection because the area examined was too small to show meaningful structures, but unfortunately the pottery report is not cross-referenced to the other two reports.

The third report, by David Higgins, discussing the Castle Rushen Stores, tackles a site which had the potential to throw light on the origins of urban settlement (as Davey's wide-ranging introduction emphasizes). However, the limitations of the site meant that there was no undisturbed street frontage, and no medieval property boundary to side or rear, available for study. Whether the medieval pattern was of individual cottages (as recorded in the 1506 and 1511 surveys) set in isolation, and not consolidated along a street frontage until the 18th century, is not clear. Instead the site showed a medieval land surface spread with night soil, succeeded by 16th-century gardening before any recognizably 'urban' development occurs. The medieval pottery sample is too small to be helpful; other finds such as decorated floor tiles were strays. The possibility that the medieval settlement lay S. and E. of the castle, with very little housing to the N. until displaced by the castle glacis, is not explored.

Two other reports are valuable. The petrological analysis of the Manx-made micaceous pottery, now named granite-tempered ware, shows that wider research

questions are being tackled. The discussion of the animal, bird and mollusc remains record an essentially inward-looking economy. It is surprising that there is no mention of fish remains, unlike the evidence from Rushen Abbey.

The three reports are completed by an epilogue from Davey, who admits that the original research questions have not been answered but who sees the variety of post-medieval pottery indicating a cosmopolitan centre with a dynamic economy. Indeed the post-medieval artefacts are meticulously recorded by a number of specialist contributors, even down to the bone toothbrush, clay marble, slate pencil and British Airways formica button. This certainly expands the modern material culture, but still leaves considerable gaps in our knowledge of Rushen's medieval castle and town.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

*Archaeological Survey of the Lower Kennet Valley, Berkshire.* (Wessex Archaeology Report No. 9.)

By S. J. Lobb and P. G. Rose. 21 × 30 cm. vii + 138 pp., 19 figs., 27 tables, 1 microfiche. Salisbury: Trust for Wessex Archaeology, 1996. ISBN 1-874350-14-0. ISSN 0106-2220. Price: £20.00 pb.

This monograph draws together the results of three separate surveys carried out between 1976 and 1989 along the lower Kennet Valley between Newbury and Reading. The chronological coverage of the report runs from the Palaeolithic to the end of the medieval period. The majority of the data was collected by field walking and the report makes a useful contribution to the problems of collection and analysis of such material. The field walking results were augmented by a study of aerial photographs and, for the post-Roman period, documentary and place-name evidence.

The study area encompasses a range of soil types and underlying geology; the topography is equally varied. The study therefore presents a valuable picture of settlement and land use irrespective of the topographical or geological boundaries so often employed by archaeologists to delineate their study areas.

The first two chapters describe the study area and provide a synthesis of previous work. The following three chapters present the results of the three surveys in the form of a clear text supported with tabulated data and location maps. None of the finds are illustrated, although this was clearly not necessary. Chapter 6 comprises a discussion of the various biases of the material derived from surface collection and includes some valuable discussion of the problems of interpretation and characterization of such assemblages. After a brief round-up of evaluation excavations in the area in Chapter 7, the report is concluded with a detailed period-by-period account of the development of the landscape. Each period-specific section comprises a comprehensive review of the archaeology of the area, and the results of the recent surveys are fully integrated with the results of previous research of local and regional importance, and with current academic research.

Of interest to readers of this journal will be the evidence for Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement and land use. The quantity of evidence for early Anglo-Saxon settlements and cemeteries is small, and the authors comment that this probably reflects the reality, though they highlight the problems of bone preservation and artefact corrosion as a likely factor in the non-recognition of cemeteries during construction work. Much of the discussion of the Anglo-Saxon landscape is based upon a consideration of minster churches, place-names studies and charter bounds, with little new data derived from the surveys themselves. The medieval period is better represented by scatters of pottery, although the character of many of these would appear to reflect manuring scatters as opposed to settlements. Nevertheless, such evidence does allow a partial reconstruction of the agricultural use of the landscape.

Overall, the volume makes a useful contribution to the study of the area and makes the important observation that environmental archaeology has an important role to play in any further work on the history of occupation and land-use in the Lower Kennet Valley; certainly this would complement the work of John Evans in the Upper Kennet Valley to the W.

The volume is well produced and well written, and the drawing together of the results of three separate projects alongside numerous unpublished evaluations is to be welcomed.

ANDREW REYNOLDS

*Seasonal Settlement.* (Vaughan Papers in Adult Education 39.) Edited by H. S. A. Fox. 15 × 22 cm. 69 pp., 10 figs. Leicester: University of Leicester, Dept. of Adult Education, 1996. ISBN 0-901507-62-8. ISSN 0-038-9258. Price: £4.00 pb. incl. p. + p. from Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR.

This is an important little book. This writer is pleased to be asked to review it as he was one of those who was, as devil's advocate, sceptical about the existence of transhumance in the British Isles in the Middle Ages at the day conference in Leicester, in December 1993, which lies behind its production. This volume more than adequately argues and demonstrates that various forms of seasonal settlement, and the transhumant activities associated with them, went on in the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods in various parts of the British Isles.

But the volume is about much more than transhumance, apparently a term first used in 1911 by the geographer Marion Newbiggin, and 'seasonal settlement' is a more accurate term reflecting its contents. There are six chapters beginning with a very full introduction from Harold Fox (a third of the volume). This is followed by a wide geographical spread of articles ranging from sheepcotes in the Cotswolds (Chris Dyer), to Cornwall (Peter Herring), the Isle of Man (Gillian Quine), northern England (Mary Higham) and back to Devon (Harold Fox). The range of sources used includes documents, field evidence particularly for sheepcotes and the seasonal steadings in Cornwall and the Isle of Man, and the use of place-names in the papers on the Isle of Man and Northern England. The paper on Devon looks at particular local buildings built along the strand and associated with seasonal fishing activities.

Harold Fox has written a seminal paper for this volume, making the point that there are very many examples of temporary and seasonally used settlements. As medieval archaeologists we should appreciate that these are not difficult to recognize, but that the transient nature of their occupation usually is. He gives a variety of examples, from shielings in Scotland to longer-distance movements involving such areas as the Somerset Levels. Linked settlements and place-names often indicate the long-distance links, usually between low-lying arable areas and upland or wooded (or wood-pasture) areas of predominantly pastoral activity. An important point, in times of insecure boundaries and lack of enough pasture perhaps, is that such movement of livestock away from the home farms not only took advantage of distant grazing land which might not be used otherwise but 'rid the arable of livestock during the growing season'. It also allowed over-used pasture in the home settlements to recover and crops of hay to be taken.

There is much else here to ponder on: the difference between transhumance and droving (one way journeys to a point of sale); seasonally used chapels at coastal sites; and fairs for trading in the commodities produced by such seasonal activities — cheese, yarn and of course the fatted livestock. Most interestingly there seem to be gender differences too, with women and girls looking after the cattle and sheep in the distant pastures but men involved in the droving.

Seasonal settlements become permanent (and sometimes revert to seasonal use again). They are an important part of the early settlement pattern and the way they worked had many implications for the development of the landscape. They are part of the settlement dynamics of any area and need to be taken into consideration and identified in any future study. I was wrong to be sceptical of their existence!

MICK ASTON

*Medieval Windmills in South-Western England.* By C. J. Bond. 15 × 22 cm. 60 pp., 19 figs. London: The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, 1995. ISBN 1-898856-02-8. Price not stated, pb.

This booklet sets out to explore the evidence for the distribution of windmills during the Middle Ages in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. It uses archaeological documentary and iconographic evidence. It is not by any means comprehensive, however, and an examination of just part of the region covered by the study revealed that a number of sites were not identified. Gloucestershire W. of the Severn, for example, has easily accessible documentary evidence for nine medieval windmills not listed by Bond. In addition, though Bond cites Martin Watts' little booklet *Wiltshire Windmills*, a number of the medieval mills listed by Watts are not referred to by Bond. Neither his corpus nor the distribution of sites derived from it, therefore, are reliable.

The major part of the booklet concentrates on iconographic evidence. Such evidence may not be very familiar to many, though it has been dealt with previously most notably by Salmon in 'The Windmill in English Medieval Art' published in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* in 1941. As Bond claims, earlier coverage of the iconographic representations of windmills are not well illustrated and he attempts to rectify this. Whilst his sketches are clear and apparently well drawn, and his reasons for a lack of measured drawings acceptable, the complete absence of information on the scale of the sketches and size of the original iconographic representations limits the usefulness of his description and raises questions — quite possibly unwarranted — over his interpretations.

The booklet's most significant contribution is in its consideration of the iconographic evidence set alongside documentary and archaeological evidence. Using these sources in combination, Bond is able to shed some light on the technological and architectural development of the windmill in South-Western England. In particular he makes a convincing case for the introduction of the stone-built tower mill into the region by at least the mid 14th century. Unfortunately there is little discussion of the relevance of the distribution of the iconographic representations to the distributions of known windmills, and the booklet would also have benefited from a clearer and deeper analysis of the symbolism of the iconography.

Overall the booklet is a useful though incomplete survey of the evidence for medieval windmills in South-Western England.

RICHARD NEWMAN

*Framing Medieval Bodies.* Edited by Sarah Kay and Miri Rubin. 16 × 23 cm. 8 + 287 pp., 27 figs. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-7190-5010-3. Price: not stated, pb.

The aim of this collection of papers (if I have interpreted the rather impenetrable introduction correctly) is to present a variety of perspectives on 'the body' in medieval life

and culture. The result of such an ambitious aim is a volume of papers drawing on aspects of literature, theology, drama, illustration and (to a small degree) archaeology and spatial studies, to demonstrate how, and in what ways, the physicality of the body was important in the medieval period.

The most relevant paper for medieval archaeologists is Roberta Gilchrist's 'Medieval bodies in the material world' which deals with two small case studies, the location of hospitals and *leprosariae* in relation to medieval towns and boundaries, and the location of high-status female quarters within castles and monastic institutions. In the first case study Gilchrist argues that such hospitals were constituent parts of the urban boundary, in both a symbolic and a physical sense, helping to delineate urban from rural, and foster a sense of urban identity. She argues that the stigmatization of leprosy victims (seen as, and equated with, sexual sinners) took the form of relegation of sufferers to the liminal areas of the town, thereby creating spatial distinctions of health, purity and economic need, while at the same time allowing founders of hospitals to display their charity to (and collect alms from) those passing in and out of the town. Her second case study also deals with spatial distinctions, looking at the interaction of space and gender. She draws some interesting parallels between the layouts of castles and nunneries, arguing that in both the private accommodation intended for females (chambers in castles, and dormitories in nunneries) lies in the least accessible part. Male and female monasteries are shown to differ in this respect — while in female monasteries it is the dormitories which have the greatest degree of segregation from the outside world, in male monasteries it is the chapter house, evincing different attitudes towards the personal and the corporate body.

Other interesting papers include Wogan-Browne's 'Chaste bodies: frames and experiences' which argues that the early 13th-century *Ancrene Wisse* (Guide for Anchoresses) should not be seen as a work of female oppression and misogyny, but rather can, when viewed in the context in which it was written, provide 'glimpses of small groups of women surviving tough lives together . . . a history of lived female lives'. Rubin's 'The person in the form: medieval challenges to bodily order' looks at documentary and literary evidence for society's attitudes to 'outsiders' such as hermaphrodites and Jews, while Shahar's 'The old body in medieval culture' provides some fascinating insights into how, even in the medieval period, youth was valued and old-age denigrated.

This is an interesting book, with a small number of papers which medieval archaeologists would find directly relevant, and a number of others which give food for thought. It is disappointing, however, that in a book dealing with medieval bodies there is only one paper (out of twelve) which deals with the archaeological and architectural evidence for the physical remains which structured, and were structured by, those medieval bodies.

SAM LUCY

*A Guide to British Medieval Seals.* By P. D. A. Harvey and Andrew McGuinness. 18 × 26 cm. 133 pp., 109 figs. and pls. London: The British Library and The Public Record Office. ISBN 0-7123-0410-X. Price: £25.00 hb.

In recent years the number of medieval seals available for study has increased due to the recovery of matrices by metal detectorists. Yet until the appearance of this volume the resources available to study these new finds were a series of scattered papers in various journals or out of print museum catalogues. Only for Welsh seals was there a comprehensive, and inexpensive, study in the shape of *Welsh History through Seals* (D. H. Williams, 1982). Harvey and McGuinness, two university historians, have attempted to

cover the entire range of seals and summarize the present state of knowledge. Following an introduction, five chapters cover the seals of royalty, the aristocracy, the secular clergy and corporate bodies as well as non-heraldic personal seals. The text is admirably accessible. There is also a very useful appendix giving the legends found on seals in the principal national collections and a truly awe-inspiring 'select' bibliography. The work is well illustrated with clear monochrome photographs, each with a detailed caption.

This *Guide* will be of interest not just to museum archaeologists, but also to archivists and historians. It contains much useful information on subjects such as the material and means of attachment of seals or the legal significance of a personal seal. There are also fascinating details including a description of the elaborate three-part matrix used by Southwick Priory, Hampshire or the inclusion of a seal with Hebrew legend owned by a Nottingham Jew.

In their conclusion the authors note that 'Innumerable questions remain unanswered, some no more than points of detail, others with wider historical implications' (p. 112). This theme appears several times during their survey and is of considerable significance to those studying medieval seals. For example, in considering personal seals it is noted that no one has ever investigated what kinds of people owned or used particular kinds of seals. Elsewhere we learn that research is similarly lacking into the development of the heraldic seal.

If this work has a failing it is that it has been forced to concentrate on the seals owned by the rich and powerful in church and state, at the expense of the lower orders. The authors recognize that non-heraldic personal seals represent some four-fifths of all seals surviving from medieval Britain, yet their chapter on this subject has many gaps. Where, for example, is the discussion of seals owned by priests, or women, or even, most surprising of all, by the Scots? This is not the fault of the authors, but of scholarship generally, which has devoted insufficient effort to this category of seal usage. By drawing attention to this particular deficiency in our knowledge the authors have performed a great service to history and archaeology.

PHILIP J. WISE

The following publications were also received:

*Genghis Khan. The History of the World-Conqueror.* By Ata-Malik Juvaini; translated and edited by J. A. Boyle; introduction by David O. Morgan. 16 × 24 cm. lxxvii + 763 pp. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1997. ISBN 0-7190-5144-4 hb; 0-7190-5145-2 pb. Price: £50.00 hb; £24.95 pb.

*The Convert Kings. Power and Religious Affiliation in Early Anglo-Saxon England.* By N. J. Higham. x + 293 pp., 8 figs. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1997. ISBN 0-7190-4823-7 hb; 0-7190-4828-1 pb. Price: £45.00 hb; £14.99 pb.

*Picturing Women in Late Medieval and Renaissance Art.* By Christa Grössinger. 14 × 22 cm. xiii + 173 pp., 62 figs. and pls. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1997. ISBN 0-7190-4109-0 hb; 0-7190-4110-4 pb. Price: £40.00 hb; £13.99 pb.

*Historic Landscapes of the Great Orme. Early Agriculture and Copper-Mining.* By Mary Aris. 19 × 25 cm. 114 pp., many figs. and pls., incl. 5 colour pls. Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1996. ISBN 0-86381-357-7. Price: £7.95 pb.

*Wales Before 1066. A Guide.* By Donald Gregory. 13 × 19 cm. 144 pp., figs. and pls. Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1992. ISBN 0-86381-117-5. Price: £4.00 pb.

- Wales Before 1536. A Guide.* By Donald Gregory. 13 × 19 cm. 152 pp., figs. and pls. Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1992. ISBN 0-86381-250-3. Price: £4.50 pb.
- The Day Before Yesterday. Historical Essays on the Living Past.* By Donald Gregory. 13 × 19 cm. 144 pp., figs. and pls. Llanrwst: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1992. ISBN 0-86381-371-4. Price: £4.50 pb.
- The Iron Age in Britain and Ireland: Recent Trends.* Edited by T. C. Champion and J. R. Collis. 21 × 30 cm. vii + 161 pp., 31 figs., 10 tables. Sheffield: J. R. Collis Publications, 1996. ISBN 1-906090-51-2. Price: £15.00 pb.
- The Stone of Destiny. Symbol of Nationhood.* By David Breeze and Graeme Munro. 21 × 27 cm. 49 pp., lavishly illustrated in colour throughout. Edinburgh: Historic Scotland, 1997. ISBN 1-900168-44-8. Price: not stated, pb.
- Vestiges d'Habitat Seigneurial Fortifié en Champagne Méridionale.* (Inventaire des Sites Archéologiques non Monumentaux de Champagne.) By Michel Bur. 21 × 27 cm. 149 pp., many figs. incl. fold-out plans. Reims: Université de Reims, 1997. ISBN not given. Price: FF150 pb.
- The Temple in Ancient Egypt. New Discoveries and Recent Research.* Edited by Stephen Quirke. 21 × 30 cm. 241 pp., 57 pls. incl. 10 in colour, many figs. London: British Museum Press, 1997. ISBN 0-7141-0993-2. Price: £30.00 pb.
- Anglo-Saxon Glastonbury. Church and Endowment.* By Lesley Abrams. 17 × 25 cm. xix + 380 pp., 7 figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1996. ISBN 0-85115-369-0. Price: £55.00 hb.