

fire although there is the chance that this might relate to English raids on Jedburgh in 1544–45, firstly by Lord Eure and then by the Earl of Hereford. Circumstantial evidence in the form of lead and stone shot typical of the 16th century may support this suggestion of some limited military destruction of the site. Both authors admit that it is difficult to be certain whether the friary survived the disruptions of the 1540s and was still occupied until the Reformation of 1560.

The environmental evidence gives us some indication of the lifestyle of the friars as it includes crushed apple or pear pips that might relate to cider making. It is suggested that the presence of Tormentil and Sweet Violet in association with intestinal parasites and faecal remains may suggest that these plants were being used medically on site. There is limited evidence for imported pottery in the form of sherds from Beauvais drinking bowls and Raeren stoneware mugs. A glass beaker, possibly from northern England, and two sherds of Cistercian-type ware may demonstrate cross-border links.

The structural evidence from the excavations indicates that although this was a small friary it was nonetheless an impressive foundation. This is best represented by the detailing of the door and window surrounds, which has parallels with similar details in the Palace Block of Stirling Castle. A sizeable collection of window glass, both plain and decorated, provides an indication that many parts of the friary complex were glazed. Interestingly there was absolutely no evidence for the use of ceramic floor tiles in any of the buildings; it would appear that well laid flagstone floors were the norm.

I would highly recommend this monograph to readers as an example of how a series of unconnected investigations can be brought together and published in a meaningful way. The Jedburgh Friary excavations form a useful addition to the small body of published work on Scotland's medieval friaries.

DEREK HALL

Short Reviews

L'enfant, son corps, son histoire. Edited by Luc Buchet. 17 × 24 cm. 300 pp., many figs., maps and plans. Sophia Antipolis: Editions APDCA, 1997. ISBN 2-904110-23-2. Price: FF 140.00 pb.

This volume is published under the auspices of the Centre de Recherches Archéologiques, and all the papers are in French with the exception of Theya Molleson's contribution 'Patterns of growth' (a welcome indicator of French-British cooperation and cross fertilisation in this burgeoning field of study). However, each paper is provided with a brief — though sometimes idiosyncratic — abstract in English.

The volume focuses on the archaeological, anthropological and scientific study of children in the Roman and Medieval periods, and there is some fascinating material here about European archaeological data from mortuary contexts as well as the results of laboratory-based analyses of skeletal data. Including the Editor's introduction, the volume contains 22 papers on a wide variety of subjects. The source material mostly originates in France, with some comparative evidence introduced from Spain and England. The date range is extremely wide, from neolithic to modern, with two main concentrations, in the late- to post-Roman period and the 10th to 18th centuries. There is no index. As indicated, the papers seem to fall into two main camps: the scientific study of infant osteology, and the social treatment of the infant in the funerary realm.

This approach is reflected in the Introduction. The editor, Luc Buchet, sets out the aims of the volume in his introduction, and his basic initial premise is that the child occupied a special place in life and death. He is interested in the ways in which children were treated by their communities, and how archaeological and text-based evidence can allow us to understand such aspects of social behaviour. While he accepts that many methodological problems are still far from resolved, especially with regard to the determination of the age and sex of children's remains, and the issue of differential preservation of children's remains, he nevertheless appears optimistic about both the scientific methods and the social evaluations explored in the volume.

And therein lies the main problem with this otherwise valuable publication. Not only are the papers presented in what appears to be a completely random order — it would, I believe, have been much better to have divided the volume into two sections, empirical and interpretative — but more than a few of the contributors seem unable to differentiate between empirical, scientific analysis and the process of making social judgements about the meanings of the data. Of course, this problem is in itself fascinating, revealing as it does the tendency that we have to meld, almost unconsciously, description and interpretation in this area of archaeology. Is this perhaps inevitable when one is dealing with that most emotive of subjects, the deaths and physical remains of young children?

ELEANOR SCOTT

Towns and Their Territories Between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. (The Transformation of the Roman World 9). Edited by Gian Pietro Brogiolo, Nancy Gauthier and Neil Christie. 16 × 25 cm. xvii + 403 pp., 30 figs., maps and plans. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2000. ISBN 900411869-1, ISSN 1386-4165. Price: Hfl. 224.78, €102.00, \$125.00 hb.

The papers in the volume are yet more fruits borne by the European Science Foundation project 'The Transformation of the Roman World'. The overall theme builds on the topics and case studies explored in the 1999 volume, edited by Gian Pietro Brogiolo and Brian Ward-Perkins, *The Idea and Ideal of the Town between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, published under the same umbrella. The geographical coverage of the papers is the Barbarian West and the Byzantine Empire. As set out by Brogiolo in his introduction, five themes were identified to form an overall research agenda: the evolution of the Byzantine Empire; the impact of Germanic élites; the role of the church; culturally homogeneous territories; and, economically defined territories. The chapters themselves cover these themes via regional studies, including Hispania (Diaz) and south-eastern Gaul (Fixot), while more explicitly thematic chapters include those on ceramic production and distribution (Gelichi), ecclesiastical organisation (Wataghin), the relationships between monasteries, towns and the countryside (Balzaretto) and those between towns, forts and the countryside (Brogiolo). Including the introduction and conclusions, the volume contains 15 contributions. There is simply too much material in the book to present a balanced review of each of the contributions, but certain of the papers are likely to be of particular interest to readers of *Medieval Archaeology*. 'The Transformation and End of Roman *Villae* in the West (4th–7th Centuries): Problems and Perspectives' (Ripoll and Arce) is an insightful and detailed presentation that will have resonance for those working on comparable material in the British Isles. Although the authors highlight the diverse meaning of the term over time in a range of written sources, the focus of the paper is very much on the changing functions of residential complexes. Students of British material will find much of relevance in the discussions of the transformation of residential rooms into production areas and the construction of churches on or near villa sites and their use as places of burial. The authors also consider shifts in patterns of estate centres; another factor of

crucial importance closer to home. Brogiolo's contribution on towns and forts is an exploration of the archaeological manifestation of documented social stress in various regions of northern Italy. His characterisation of 'frontier zones' with military highways and chains of fortifications is of great interest, particularly as there is so little research of this kind concerned with English frontiers in the early medieval period. Overall, the volume is well thought out and contains much fresh material presented, textually at least, in a stimulating fashion. This reviewer's principal reservation is that there is insufficient visual material. When studies of such a broad geographical remit are assembled into a single volume such as this, maps and plans are almost as important as research themes in terms of unifying the material under consideration. This aspect aside, there is much more of interest to scholars working on the northern and western fringes of the former Roman Empire than a glance at the contents first suggests.

ANDREW REYNOLDS

Roma Medievale: Aggiornamenti. Edited by Paolo Delogu. 24 × 17cm. 340pp., 75 b&w figs. and pls.; 22 colour pls. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio/Università di Roma La Sapienza/Dipartimento di Studi sulle Società e le Culture del Medioevo, 1998. ISBN 88-7814-140-2. Price: Lire 80,000 pb.

This valuable volume contains a number of contributions drawn from a seminar series held in Rome in 1996 to reflect on the substantial advances made in the last decade in particular in our understanding of the population, politics and physical characteristics of medieval Rome. It builds on the 1993 conference papers, edited by P. Delogu and L. Paroli, *La storia economica di Roma nell'alto Medioevo alla luce dei recenti scavi archeologici* (Biblioteca di Archeologia Medievale, 10, Florence), which also extended the image back to the late Roman epoch. The work is further complemented by the more recent Festschrift for Professor Bullough: J. Smith (ed.), *Early Medieval Rome and the Christian West: Essays in Honour of Donald Bullough* (Leiden, 2000). The volume under review comprises both archaeological and historical studies, extending across a thousand year span, from the 6th to the 16th century. A few of the contributors here also appear in both *La storia economica di Roma nell'alto Medioevo* and *Early Medieval Rome*. Alessia Rovelli, for example, reconsiders the circulation of coin in 6th- to 9th-century Rome and Lazio, drawing evidence primarily from the substantial and illuminating Crypta Balbi excavations; Federico Marazzi explores the evolving nature of papal and Church patrimonies (but is more focused on changes within Rome itself in the 2000 volume); while Delogu utilises documented descriptions of donated precious cloths to identify the 'exotic trade' networks maintained through papal wealth in the 7th to 9th centuries, suggesting through this how popes and merchants adapted to fluctuations in availability of such materials. These papers demonstrate a far busier or at least more active early medieval Rome than has been long imagined; it is a pity that Ludovico Gatto's text on the urban population only extends to the mid-6th century and the Byzantine-Gothic Wars, to which period he attributes a substantial demographic collapse. Yet Delogu's paper and that by Lidia Paroli on early medieval sculpture indicate that 9th-century Church wealth and papal endowment of churches were responding to the needs also of a (more) healthy urban flock.

While the first half of *Roma Medievale* concentrates on the input of the popes into the city, the second half concentrates mainly on the new medieval aristocracies, touching not just on their own power evolutions (A. Modigliani, F. Allegrezza), but also on urban fortresses and ownership (S. Carocci, E. Hubert — both, unfortunately, rather summary papers), and their church building and artistic patronage (e.g. S. Romano, V. Pace). Importantly, we hear also of the rest of Rome in terms of the work market (I. Lori Sanfilippo) and food and hospital aid (A. Esposito).

There are a few imbalances in the overall presentation of *Roma Medievale*: the archaeological contributions are all oriented towards the Early Middle Ages (6th to 9th centuries); the 10th and 11th centuries are somewhat overlooked as the documentary analyses commence with the Duecento; and whilst economics, politics and religion are studied, architectural history and fabrics are largely overlooked. Illustrations thus gather predominantly in the first half of *Roma Medievale*, with the papers arranged in a largely chronological fashion. Finally, the second group of papers are all relatively short — although such synthetic texts are ideal starting points for follow-up work, as each contribution offers a selected bibliography.

In sum, *Roma Medievale* forms a most useful addition to a welcome spate of new publications on Rome of all periods which helps move us on from the still influential *Rome: Profile of a City* by Richard Krautheimer (1980). These publications all reflect the city's busy new archaeology in which early medieval, medieval and even post-medieval Rome are finally gaining adequate scrutiny and debate.

NEIL CHRISTIE

San Giusto. La villa, le ecclesiae. Primi risultati dagli scavi nel sito rurale di San Giusto (Lucera): 1995-1997. (Scavi e ricerche 8). Edited by Giuliano Volpe. 21 × 30.5 cm. xii + 355 pp., 360 figs. and pls. Bari: Edipuglia, 1998. ISBN 88-7228-200-4. Price: Lire 90,000.

The Roman, late Antique and early medieval villa complex of San Giusto lies in the Celone valley in the territory of Lucera in northern Apulia (SE. Italy). The site was discovered in 1995 during preparation for a dam and reservoir; excavations ran to 1997 under rescue conditions initially — earthmoving had already destroyed much of the surrounding archaeology, leaving the complex floating in a mutilated landscape — but with research conditions created subsequently. The volume reviewed here is described by the editor as part-exhibition catalogue and part-excavation report: it is a glossy publication with some stunning VR reconstructions (though with the usual fault of presenting empty settings devoid of humans and over-tidy interiors), readable specialist sections, but with an emphasis on key finds (mosaics, burials and coins) rather than full catalogues of the more typical artefacts (ceramics, faunal and archaeobotanical remains). The publication coincided with an exhibition; the input of funding by a bank facilitated both.

The farm/villa lies in an area of known centuriation. It expands dramatically in form and scope in the 5th and early 6th centuries A.D. with the creation of a distinct church and baptistery complex, with the church endowed with stunning polychrome geometric mosaics and the circular baptistery enclosing an octagonal immersion font with octagonal colonnaded surround. A second church (B) is added alongside the first (A) in the 6th century and an extended narthex linked these and the baptistery. The second church had a funerary role, containing over 70 inhumations, mainly 'privileged' males; additional burials lay in the narthex. One of the rooms between the churches yielded a 'hoard' of 1,043 lower denomination coins covering the 2nd to mid-6th centuries, potentially a church store of offerings/collections.

Between the mid-6th and early 7th century Church A was burnt down, leaving only Church B operative alongside the repaired baptistery. A final phase, of the 7th century, is marked by 'poor' tombs in the baptistery, 'rough' buildings against the narthex, 'squatter' activity — all loaded terms, underplaying the likelihood of locals struggling to maintain the buildings in a period of economic downturn. Robbing and abandonment follow, with no evident medieval renewal or recognition. It is tempting to link the site's demise to the Lombard expansion in the later 6th century and a subsequent marginalisation and depopulation of the zone.

The editor suggests the villa also functioned as road-station and occasional market; in his detailed discussion he claims that the site belonged to the procurator and that the

church and baptistery denote a related rural diocesan and parish centre — although there is insufficient evidence to indicate an episcopal seat; the ‘privileged’ burials within the second church reflecting state functionaries, clergy and attached local soldiery rather than any monastic community. The arguments here are lucid and full and, like the volume as a whole, offer valuable new data on the transformation of the late Roman and late Antique Italian countryside and the role of villa-church-monastery sites into the early Middle Ages.

NEIL CHRISTIE

Courts and Regions in Medieval Europe. Edited by Sarah Rees Jones, Richard Marks and A. J. Minnis. 16 × 24 cm. xi + 226 pp., 8 figs., 19 pls. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer with York Medieval Press, 2000. ISBN 0 9529734-7-2. Price: £45.00 hb.

These essays arise from a York Medieval Seminar on Courts and Regions. They range from the 8th to the late 15th century, and encompass a wide geographical range: London to Prague, York (where the main focus lies) to Catalonia. They are multi-disciplinary: archaeology, art history, literature and (mainly) history. Each offers its own jargon and perspectives. For medieval archaeologists the key paper is Julian D. Richards’s on ‘Defining Settlements: York and its Hinterland A.D. 700–1000’. Richards redefines the series title ‘Courts and Regions’ into language ‘immediately accessible’ to archaeologists (and presumably sociologists as claimed elsewhere in the volume) namely ‘core and periphery’ and ‘town and hinterland’ that is to say ‘a problem central to their [our] discipline.’ Following a defence of archaeology beyond an ‘interdisciplinary role limited to providing illustrations for its senior partners History and Literature’, Richards focuses (not without appropriate historical and literary evidence) on a period in which archaeology sets the agenda. Discussion of different approaches to defining a hinterland includes T. P. O’Connor’s calculation of a hinterland required to support Lincoln’s 11th-century population of 4,000, essentially a flock of 5,000 sheep grazing 2–4,000 hectares (or 1.25 sheep per head, grazing something under a hectare each). Archaeology in both Anglian and Viking York is summarized, with sections on ‘The Urban Core’, ‘Environmental Archaeology’, ‘Artefact Distributions’ and ‘The Definition of Rural Settlement Patterns’ in which Wharram Percy and Cottam evidence appears. A ‘true hinterland’ emerges only with the Viking kingdom of York. Elsewhere in the volume the cult of historical personality triumphs in papers on: Alcuin’s courtly poetry; Mark Ormrod on the use made of London and York in the 14th century by successive kings; a masterly account by Paul Crossley of Charles IV’s 14th-century Bohemian architecture subtitled ‘the politics of presentation’ which might as well have been called ‘the archaeology of power’ interpreting castle, cathedral and palace, and their cycles of imagery; Peter Rycraft on the later medieval court and regions in Catalonia. Anne Curry deals with English soldiery in Lancastrian Normandy post-Agincourt and Colin Richmond treats the Norfolk Paston family’s associations with London. The work as whole reminds the reader of the mobility of medieval artefacts, artisans, craftsmen, invaders, merchants and royalty not to mention style. There are thought-provoking variations in the information given: Mark Ormrod’s computation for the early 14th century of Norfolk being four days from Westminster (with a cumbersome royal entourage?) contrasts with Colin Richmond’s 15th-century time for the same journey by the Pastons ‘a two day ride from north-east Norfolk’ with one overnight stop. In some things, subjects could, and did, outdo their masters. Whatever we find in medieval archaeology, there was always a person making it happen.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

Post-Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England: Burial Practices Reviewed. (British Archaeological Reports, British Series 289). By Elizabeth O'Brien. 21 × 30 cm. viii + 204 pp. + 2273-part gazetteer, 33 figs., 50 maps, 20 tables. Oxford: John and Erica Hedges, British Archaeological Reports, 1999. ISBN 1-84171-118 7. Price: £51.00 pb.

Like many before her, in this publication of her D.Phil., Elizabeth O'Brien has attempted to deal with the rather intractable problem of the ethnic identification of those individuals buried in 'Anglo-Saxon' cemeteries: can the native British be distinguished from the Continental invaders? In order to do this, the book first offers a useful review of Iron-age and Romano-British burial rites, thus enabling the identification of several rites 'which can indicate continuity in non-Anglo-Saxon areas in the post-Roman period, and may help with the identification of possible native burials in early pagan cemeteries in Anglo-Saxon areas' (p. 29). These seemingly significant rites include crouched inhumation, N.-S. orientation, multiple burials, burial within enclosures, chamber burials, a general lack of grave-goods, and the wearing of single brooches. Burial rites of the post-Roman period in western and northern Britain are then also usefully summarised (albeit with alarmingly literal use made of later historical sources, such as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*), and are followed by two short chapters dealing with the literary evidence for burial in this period. The bulk of the book is found though in Chapter 5, on Anglo-Saxon burial rites, and this is where holes in the argument really start to appear.

Unfortunately, the whole thesis would seem to be based on an uncertain premise: that Iron-age or Romano-British burial practices survive into Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the burial rites of indigenous natives. In other words, that people of certain ethnic origins are buried in set ways. This is a very rigid way of trying to identify ethnicity: through a formal set of grave-goods or burial practices, and does not correspond to much of the modern theoretical and historical work on the creation and maintenance of ethnic identities during the early medieval period (of which no mention is made). This rigidity leads the author, for example, to see burial with one brooch as a native British rite; in fact, this would seem to be a 7th-century innovation within Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, and one that is possibly associated with male costume. Trying to pick out the ethnic identity of individuals in this way means that there is no consideration of who is doing the burying, and why the resultant variation occurs.

These problems partly occur due to the theoretical orientation of the book, and partly are due to the general lack of analysis. While it is interesting, for example, to see the geographical distribution of cemeteries in relation to Roman roads and trackways, so much more could have been done with the data, especially in terms of the chronological analysis of rites, and looking at which rites occur together. For example, there is no mention in the section on Deira of the demonstrated association between crouched burial and 7th-century cemeteries: this is an innovation, not a hangover from a distant native past. Ignorance is also shown of others' work. Too much emphasis is placed on the distribution of decapitated burials, for example, without any reference to the work of Andrew Reynolds on execution cemeteries, and similarly no mention is made of Howard Williams's work on the re-use of prehistoric monuments.

While an enormous amount of data is offered in the gazetteer, this is unfortunately presented in an almost unusable form, as an abbreviated computer printout, which does not even list the cemeteries in order of county. While I found that the regional tables in chapter five could be used as a sort of index to the gazetteer, the information included in the entries is limited mainly to the presence/absence of certain burial rites, and site references (perhaps the most useful of all). Thus, while interesting summaries are given in various sections of the book, as an attempt to offer a new interpretation of the burial rites of this period, I feel it cannot be judged a success.

Warwickshire Anglo-Saxon Charter-Bounds. By Della Hooke. 16 × 24 cm. 145 pp., many maps, 8 pls. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1999. ISBN 0-85115 743-2. Price: £35.00 hb.

Warwickshire represents the most recent of a well-established series of charter solutions by Della Hooke, following on from studies of Worcestershire and Devon and Cornwall amongst other regions. The format of the volume follows the now familiar scheme; a chronological approach with the material ordered by century, in this case from the 8th to the 11th century, dealing firstly with charters lacking bounds and then with those with attached boundary clauses within each century. As might be expected, charters with boundary clauses attract the most detailed attention. In total, there are 21 charters or leases with boundary clauses (three of the 8th century — two with later bounds, twelve of the 10th century, four of 11th-century date and two unaccompanied sets of bounds). As Hooke notes, and as one might expect, the boundary clauses are especially notable for their use of natural features; streams in wooded countryside, hills and valleys, but also roads and other anthropogenic features including barrows. Whilst certain of the routes of communication, many of which can be traced over considerable distances, are considered in relation to the movement of salt, this reviewer hopes that much more interpretation of individual marks and features might be included in subsequent volumes. Amongst the Warwickshire boundary marks, for example, how should the *morplau* in the bounds of Kington or the *hæðenan byriggelse* in those of Shipston-on-Stour be interpreted — as execution sites and/or cemeteries? This latter aspect raises methodological issues. Hooke notes, understandably, that detailed fieldwork has proved essential, but that the depth and detail required by such work has precluded each clause being examined in the field. The approach, therefore, has been to utilise maps and terriers and awards (and the Warwickshire EPNS volume) to identify place-names and to use the earliest mapped boundaries as a starting point. Indeed, Hooke notes that charters have largely been the preserve of historians, but that a geographer's approach is also valuable — how right she is. The next (long overdue) step is to bring the skills of the field archaeologist to the fore. In particular, aerial photography, used incidentally by Hooke to great effect in her study of the early 10th-century fragmentation of Compton Beauchamp in Berkshire, should be a standard technique for charter boundary studies. Ultimately GIS mapping is required, which would facilitate sophisticated analyses of individual marks across landscapes and regions. The reviewer and Alex Langlands are currently developing this approach in a pilot study of the Pewsey Vale, Wiltshire. In fact, charter boundary studies remain one of the few fields of landscape history concerned with the physical remains of the past that does not involve archaeological recording and characterisation. The tangles of linguistic analyses, palaeography and diplomatic history, are continually, and rightfully, raised by specialists working in those fields, but considering that the boundary clauses are concerned largely with field archaeology, those with expertise in that discipline have much to offer. An archaeological approach could significantly aid the solution of bounds, but also, potentially, the refinement of our understanding of the various terms used by early medieval people when they named and characterised the world around them.

Overall, *Warwickshire Anglo-Saxon Charter-Bounds* is a most valuable contribution to charter and landscape studies, although the maps could have been more detailed and the mapping of individual marks would be useful if plotted across landscapes. These minor points aside, this is a well-organised and well-presented study and this reviewer very much looks forward to Dr Hooke's next regional episode in the formation of the English landscape.

Vikings in Wales: An Archaeological Quest. By Mark Redknap. 19 × 23 cm. 116 pp., 160 figs. Cardiff: National Museums & Galleries of Wales, 2000. ISBN 0 7200 0486 1. Price: not stated, pb.

This is a lavishly illustrated semi-popular booklet on the evidence for Viking activity in and around Wales. Until quite recently the attempt to write such a text might have put the author in competition for the joke category of the world's shortest books, but recent work by Mark Redknap and the chance discoveries of divers and metal detector users has begun to fill out the rather empty picture of Viking-age Wales.

The text draws together the evidence from Wales and in some sections uses it in conjunction with more general Viking material to give a conventional introduction to the Vikings covering place-names, ships, art, coinage and other general topics. One section draws together the rather terse historical evidence for Viking activity in Wales which starts curiously late in 852 with the death of Cyngen (not the king of Powys who dies in Rome in 856) and continues as part of Irish Sea and Welsh dynastic politics into the late 11th century. Of particular interest however is the section dealing with Redknap's current excavation of the site at Llanbedrgoch in Anglesey. Here an enclosed settlement of early medieval date was redefended in the 9th century by a substantial stone wall. 10th-century activity includes rectangular buildings matched in other parts of the Irish Sea zone. But Redknap is understandably cautious about attaching ethnic labels at this stage of the excavation. Is this a native Welsh site with Irish Sea Scandinavian influence or are we looking at 'Viking' settlement? The presence of hacksilver, coinage, merchants' weights and ringed pins make it quite clear this is part of the Irish Sea Viking world whatever the ethnic perception and language of the inhabitants.

The volume is also published in Welsh as *Y Llychlynwyr yng Nghymru: Ymchwil Archaeolegol*. The difficulties of translation are perhaps indicated by the way this is translated as 'people of the fjords' when it is presumably a translation of Gaelic *Lochlannaibh*, which has been argued may refer to Scotland rather than Norway.

The booklet is finely illustrated with artefact photographs, maps, plans and reconstructions. On occasion the sheer volume of illustrations distracts from the text as it is fitted round the edges. Nevertheless this will be a very useful introduction for both students and the interested public. For specialists, the publication of so much of the stray Welsh material and the preview of Llanbedrgoch makes it invaluable.

ALAN LANE

Quadri di Pietra: laterizi rivestiti nelle architetture dell'Italia medioevale. Edited by Sauro Gelichi and Sergio Nepoti. 21 × 29 cm. 160 pp., many figs., pls. and tables. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, Centro Museale della Ceramica, Castello di Spezzano, 1999. ISBN 88 7814-160-7. Price: Lire 50,000, pb.

This well-produced volume surveys the origins, production and distribution, and economic significance of (lead) glazed and enamelled tiles and brick in (primarily) northern Italy from the 10th/12th to 14th centuries. This has much wider relevance to Mediterranean and western Europe, since similar tiles were produced in Provence ('*petils carrés*'), extensively employed in Spain, and used also in British medieval monastic contexts. These Italian glazed and inlaid tiles derive chiefly from church and monastery walls, belltowers and arches and testify to the desire for rich display and colour in these emblems of devotion — though some wealthy secular structures also featured this method of display (notably tombs at Bologna). The exhibition at Spezzano to which this volume-cum-catalogue is linked gathered together from various museum collections (or from excavations and restorations) numerous detached examples (and photographs) of tiles as part of a wider

project of study of Italian medieval architecture. A fair portion of the volume is thus centred on producing a gazetteer or 'schede' of known instances of such glazed tiles in Italy; there is a strong emphasis in distribution in northern and central Italy; southern Italy and Sicily are limited to eight entries (pp. 85–125 with colour plates nos. 28–101). In various cases the church fabric and tombs have documented dates, allowing thereby a coherent image of evolution of form and design to be built up. From these data, Francesca Bua emphasises how 90% of the 55 examples so far known belong to the 13th and 14th centuries, with 70% of these occurring in north-central Italy, and with the city of Bologna accounting for almost 30% of this figure (fitting documentary references to such ceramic workshops here). Bua's is in fact one of just five papers included the volume. These cover the following themes: Berti examines the wider use of glazed and enamelled tile in the Mediterranean, noting in particular presumed eastern and Islamic inspirations (11th and 12th centuries, but stressing limited detailed analyses in the Near Eastern context — pp. 11–47); Gelichi and Nepoti focus on medieval Italy (pp. 49–61) and question the earliest claimed evidence at Subiaco, Lazio, preferring a 12th- not 10th-century date for the flooring here; furthermore, the authors stress how Italy contrasts substantially from Spain, France and Britain where the use of such tiles is much more commonplace and where there is a predominant usage of such tiles for flooring). Bua's article briefly considers, with charts, distributions of instances of these tiles in Italy (pp. 63–8); Gelichi then provides a detailed consideration of the early 14th-century 'bacini' of San Giacomo Maggiore at Bologna (pp. 69–78); whilst Nepoti notes examples of selected ceramic fragments cut and (re-)used in mosaics (pp. 79–84).

Italian Museums and Soprintendenze have a fine habit of producing high quality and valuable critical catalogues to accompany exhibitions; this is true also in this instance, wherein Gelichi and Nepoti have edited articles which go well beyond what the exhibition itself could show through panels. However, it must be noted that only two of the papers are lengthy and it is a shame that no other detailed case studies beyond Gelichi's analysis of S. Giacomo were included — the catalogue does at least introduce these, with the duomo of Lucca of notable interest with floral, animal and human imagery, these showing strong links with contemporary 'archaic maiolica' ceramics (pp. 104–10). Finally, it is commendable that the editors have also sought to ensure that some of the colourful display tiles were meant to produce in their medieval contexts is carried over through the high quality and generous colour illustrations.

NEIL CHRISTIE

Ludlow Castle: Its History and Buildings. Edited by Ron Shoesmith and Andy Johnson. 21 × 26 cm. ix + 260 pp., many figs., pls. and plans. Almeley: Logaston Press, 2000. ISBN 1-873827-51-2. Price: £14.95 pb.

This book is a credit to the resourcefulness of Ron Shoesmith as publisher and co-editor. It is well produced to a thoroughly professional standard at a very modest price providing a history and architectural analysis of the castle by 22 specialist contributors.

Ludlow is one of the most evocative and important of our medieval castles. It was first the base for a major marcher lordship, and then from 1471 to 1689 for the Council for the Marches of Wales, from where the Principality was governed. A third of the book is given over to a thorough digest of the documentary sources, giving a very readable history of the castle's owners and guardians. There are then chapters on the antiquarian interest in the ruins, illustrated by many contemporary plans and drawings. All this is valuable and fascinating in its own right, but it also provides an excellent foundation for discussion of the castle's development. St John Hope's magisterial *Archaeologia* paper of 1908 has been everyone's starting point, but much emerges to take the analysis further forward. While it

may seem unfair to single out individual contributions, Derek Renn's definitive account of his thoughts on the much altered Norman gatehouse is particularly welcome as is Richard K. Morriss's discussion of the low-end (solar) block within the palatial late-medieval hall range. His carefully argued context for diagnostic details at the core of both the solar and of the great hall itself is extremely plausible, giving a start-date in the 1280s or 1290s. Yet those who would prefer to see construction on this scale attributed to Roger Mortimer at his height would say such details were not outdated by then and point to similar details variously in St Peter's chapel that he was putting up in 1328 and in the high-end chambers. Such uncertainties abound throughout the range as a whole and bedevil any analysis of it. Indeed, if there is a weakness in the book it is that it rarely faces up to the ambiguities in the evidence. For example, redundant corbels suggest that the upper rooms at both ends of the hall are secondary, yet in both instances the similarity of detailing at the two levels together with a lack of evidence for the end walls having been built up from existing gables would argue they were not. To take another example, the famous round chapel is generally said to have been linked to the high end chamber in the 16th century for use as a more private chapel. That view is endorsed here. But surely a case can be made that it was done much earlier, either when St Peter's was built or nearer the end of the 14th century. At the latter time one can argue for a significant building phase affecting the great block of lodgings at the high end. There is evidence for it in the fabric, albeit not without its own ambiguities, but it has escaped mention altogether in the relevant chapters. It is part of the appeal of this castle, as of others, that so much of the interpretation cannot be cut and dried. So it is a shame that there is no sense of debate in this volume, particularly given the talent harnessed to produce it. Nevertheless, an admirable work, if not yet the last word.

BERIC MORLEY

Minstrels and Angels: Carvings of Musicians in Medieval English Churches. (Fallen Leaf Reference Books in Music 33). By Jeremy and Gwen Montagu. 23 × 25 cm. xiii + 144 pp., 124 pls. Berkeley, California: Fallen Leaf Press, 1998. ISBN 0-914913-41-7. Price: \$19.95 pb.

Music is one of those aspects of medieval life that seems to attract very little archaeological interest. Perhaps long viewed as being outside the realm of such a materially driven discipline, and confined to discussions on musical theory and musicology, it can however, as this book demonstrates, inform us about the surprisingly wide variety and types of instrument and indeed, in many cases, how they were played. The book presents a thematically based discussion on sculptural and wood-carved representations of musical instruments and musicians from 1140–1530, largely from English medieval churches. Each chapter provides an illustrated discussion on particular families of instrument, such as percussion and woodwind, and discusses the different variation of instrument. The social context of each instrument is considered, as well as the problems inherent in stylistic representation such as presentations of ensembles including instruments such as shawms and fiddles, which would not have been originally played together. One interesting fact that comes out of this study and the portrayal of instruments is in fact how accurately represented many of the musicians and instruments actually are. The shape and structure of many instruments, as well as details such as the shape of sound boxes and number of strings on lutes, citoles and gitterns, indicate how well-known such instruments were to those that portrayed them, as well as to the expertise of the craftsmen. The carvings also indicate how different types of instruments were held and played, such as the carving from St John's, Stamford (Lincolnshire) showing a man playing pellet bells which are attached to the forks of his beard, as well as depictions of left handed instruments. One of the delights of the illustrations is the realistic portrayal of some of the musicians — for example, angels grasping what look suspiciously like early Les Paul copy guitars. One criticism

however, is that some of the photographs are out of focus, presumably of those sculptures that were in largely inaccessible areas, but that aside, the book is informative and well written. Its style of writing makes it accessible to expert and amateur alike, and it consequently provides a timely addition to the study of one of medieval society's more eclectic and enjoyable pastimes, at an affordable price.

SIMON ROFFEY

Pilgrim Souvenirs and Secular Badges. (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 7). By Brian Spencer. 19 × 24 cm. xii + 349 pp. 14 figs. and pls. of 332 objects. London: HMSO and Museum of London, 1998. ISBN 0-11 290574-9. Price: £50.00 hb.

Another of the Museum of London's excellent series of Medieval Finds from Excavations in London, this catalogue is important because it provides date-ranges from the 12th to the early 16th century for pilgrim souvenirs and secular badges. Some items are reinterpreted and redated. This reference work is useful for other such finds from Britain and abroad, and it sheds light on both religious and lay popular culture. The latter is found in an important closing section on secular badges: funerary badges (the Black Prince, d. 1376), livery and tournament badges — boars, dolphins, griffins, harts, lions, swans, talbots and yales and botanical devices; lovers' tokens and lucky charms. Seasonal devices — holly for Christmas and the May Day milkmaid worn in lay contexts imitate religious items alluded to on pilgrims' tokens — the instruments of the passion and the Virgin's milk, the latter from Walsingham. There are political, religious and social satirical badges. One depicts Queen Isabella, who had deposed Edward II in 1327, threatening her son Edward III. It bears the word 'MOT:HERE' — an unusually early 14th-century use of English on such a badge.

The centrepiece is over 500 recently discovered pilgrim souvenirs. All were recovered in London. The catalogue notes 37 English and two Scottish locations, together with 67 continental sites, all of which are helpfully located on a map. Pilgrimage was big business as architectural historians can testify. This work shows a range of souvenirs which pilgrims could buy at shrines and thereby illuminates the rise and fall of locations. Late-medieval head counts show as many as 140,000 pilgrims visiting an individual shrine *in a day*. In 1492 130,000 leaden tokens were sold to pilgrims at one Bavarian shrine: virtually none has survived. The catalogue opens with Becket's Canterbury shrine souvenirs, 1171 to c. 1540. Administration of water tinged with the saint's blood brought about miraculous cures. Thousands of ampullae were produced. Spencer introduces and illustrates a wide variety of ampullae and tokens associated with Becket's death and the Canterbury pilgrimage, and draws comparisons with examples found outside London. The Virgin Mary links shrines at Canterbury (St Mary of the Undercroft) to Walsingham, Willesden and elsewhere. Badges and other memorabilia of the shrine of St Mary Walsingham — including miracles and representation of the phial of the Virgin's milk, follow. Bromholm Priory, which received a fragment of the True Cross in 1220, thereafter witnessed a great revival in its fortunes through sale of memorabilia. The weeping rood of Boxley, and another at neighbouring Chatham, were both venerated by pilgrims en route to Canterbury from the 13th to the 16th centuries, and their badges are found here. Londoners patronised a wide variety of shrines on the Continent. The top four shrines in the 13th century, Canterbury, Cologne (the Magi), Compostela (St James) and Rome are all found in the collection together with other sites — many on the pilgrim routes through France. Shrines in Scotland (St Andrews), and the Netherlands are also represented in this collection. Altogether this is an excellent piece of work, well written and clearly presented — only occasionally lapsing into impenetrable archaeology by dating many

finds by 'CP' — ceramic phase, which requires the reader to consult a table where dates are set out phase by phase. It is of interest to amateur and professional alike.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales 1300-1500. Vol. II: East Anglia, Central England and Wales. By Anthony Emery. 22 × 28 cm. xv + 724 pp., 176 figs., 364 pls. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-521-58131-1. Price: £125.00 hb.

Anthony Emery's recent volume on the manor houses and domestic residences of East Anglia, Central England and Wales is part of an ambitious three volume series published by Cambridge University Press. Volume I — on Northern England — was produced in 1996 and volume III — on Southern England — is in progress. However these volumes are also designed as free-standing interpretative catalogues and as such are excellent examples of the way in which the architectural descriptions of individual buildings can be drawn together in a coherent and meaningful way.

Volume II is divided into five parts: East Anglia, the East Midlands, the Central Midlands, the West Midlands and the Borderland with Wales and finally, Wales itself. The rationale behind this structure is both geographical and historical and each section is therefore prefaced by a useful historical introduction and county histories of the area during the period 1300 to 1500. This is followed by an 'architectural overview' of the different building types represented in the catalogue, including castles, fortified houses, stone houses, timber-framed houses, brick houses, monastic foundations, collegiate foundations and moated sites. Emery uses one house in each region to introduce the reader to a wider debate about a particular building type; Wingfield Manor, for example, introduces an essay on residential tower-houses and Butley Priory residential monastic buildings. These sections are followed by a selective regional bibliography which precedes the catalogue proper of individual buildings in each region, arranged alphabetically. Some of the entries are quite short and descriptive whilst others are detailed and analytical. Most are accompanied by notes providing further references to primary and secondary sources. The illustrations are inevitably selective but include good black and white exterior and interior photographs, ground plans and historic illustrations.

This volume will be a welcome addition to the bookshelves and libraries of interested amateurs and academics alike, although some may balk at the price. Although the text may appear dense, the prose style is clear and incisive. The bibliographies are deliberately selective and referencing is kept to a minimum. This may frustrate some scholars, as may the rather limited discussion of the historiography of the subject but it makes the text more accessible than it might otherwise have been. In a book this size it seems churlish to ask for more, but one cannot help feeling that a more detailed discussion of the archaeology of these buildings and their surrounding gardens, estates and manors would also have shed important light on their interpretation. Emery notes that 'the later middle ages is the most neglected period in English art history'; a statement which is testament to the need for a closer *rapprochement* between the disciplines in this field of study.

There is no doubt that Emery's three-volume series will become a classic reference work for all those interested in high-status medieval domestic architecture. It fills an important gap in the market, combining the sound, empirical study of medieval buildings with an awareness of their social meaning in the past.

KATE GILES