

The chapter on quantification and chronology deals in detail with numbers of pottery sherds present by period. Such detailed analysis contrasts sharply with the chapter on technology, where descriptions of the manufacture of all the types present (local and imported) are considered. This section draws on modern value judgements, such as 'skill' or 'quality' and applies them to medieval production. This may make some sense at a local scale but it is hard to see how imported wares fit in, especially those types with no local parallels and whose techniques were heavily influenced by a specific socio-cultural context which is quite beyond the scope of this book. The chapter on form, function and use is a good overview by period, although it would have benefited from drawing on documentary sources in supporting some of the arguments ('dripping pans . . . may also be related to the making of gravy') or introducing parallels from other better documented sites in the country. Such lack of parallels is also evident in the final chapter of interpretation, where a summary by period is presented, together with aspects of economy and identity for each site; whether the conclusions are unique to Southampton or typical of every port in the country, however, is not explored. This is surely a missed opportunity to provide context for the years of research carried out here and raises again the question of the balance between description, catalogue and interpretation in archaeological archives and texts.

ALEJANDRA GUTIÉRREZ

## Short Reviews

*The Secret Middle Ages: Discovering the Real Medieval World.* By Malcolm Jones. 20 × 27 cm. xxvi + 374 pp., 24 colour pls. and 131 figs. Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 2002. ISBN 0-7509-2685-6. Price: £25.00 hb.

This is a book with a very clear purpose and one that it achieves with great, multi-disciplinary scholarship, passion and enthusiasm. It is a cultural history that fuses archaeology, folklore, history, onomastics, lexicography, anthropology, and art history/iconography in its mission to demonstrate and elucidate a fuller complexity of medieval art and culture, to explore what its author describes as 'the other half of late medieval art'. The book ranges over a wide array of subjects, its thirteen chapters covering (in summary): Love and Death, Popular Religion, Animal Symbolism, Nationality, Love, Gender Relations, Humiliation and Insult, Fools, Proverbs, Nonsense, Narrative, Sex, and Scatology.

Its archaeological importance lies in two main spheres. First its author makes it clear in his approach that he sees archaeology as a natural ally in seeking to understand Late-medieval culture. This does not mean the author seeks to maintain a status quo of opposition between some socially disadvantaged popular culture and socially privileged high culture. What comes through time and time again is that across all social levels a common but by no means identical culture can be perceived. This chimes well with another broad, adroit and discerning survey of medieval life, Chris Dyer's *Making a Living in the Middle Ages* (2002) and its concern to show that the medieval world was not made solely by the rich and powerful but by 'the uncoordinated ambitions and actions of thousands of ordinary people'. *The Secret Middle Ages* reveals some of these ambitions and actions. The second sphere is in the pivotal importance that the author attaches to a broad range of finds (though pottery is notably absent) and in particular to the increasing profusion of lead and pewter badges from the Netherlands in particular but also from, for

example, London, Salisbury and Paris. These badges encompass a broad range of sacred and profane themes and often blur the boundaries between the two, boundaries that are often imposed by scholarship and that do not appear to have existed in the minds of their medieval wearers.

It is a well-produced book, written with clarity and incisiveness. Its 165 illustrations of a rich variety of objects are fully integrated into the text and speak well of the author's desire to give equal emphasis to image and text and to encourage the reader to look more closely. Inevitably it has its share of printing and typographical errors (including a footnote gone astray on page 194) which future editions will no doubt rectify. They do not detract from a fascinating, generous work of scholarship that should be on every archaeologist's bookshelf.

MARK A. HALL

*The Early Slavs: Culture and Society in Early Medieval Eastern Europe.* By Paul M. Barford. 25 × 17.5 cm. xvi + 416 pp., 72 figs., 12 maps. London: British Museum Press, 2001. ISBN 0-7141-2804-X. Price: £29.99 hb.

The Slavs in the second half of the 1st millennium A.D. are a people and culture that merit serious attention. As Barford trenchantly points out, they came in this period to occupy the greatest geographical area in their known history, a good half of Europe. With modern Russian speakers included, the Slavonic language family is still as large as any other linguistic group of Europe. Moreover the phenomenon of expansive Slavdom in the Early Middle Ages is parallel to and comparable with issues that are minutely investigated and argued over in Anglophone and other western archaeological and historical scholarship. Slavs took over parts of the failing Roman Empire, and were involved in tantalising cases of ethno-territorial shift as Germanic areas in eastern and central Europe became Slavic. Inevitably, the difficulty of specifying precisely what one implies by using the term 'Slav' is ever-present: it may be defined as a linguistic group — although here the Balto-Slavonic relationship is rather more problematic than Barford indicates; it might be defined, in the classic archaeological manner, by a distinctive complex of material culture; to an extent it can be historically defined as the peoples whom at first others and eventually they themselves labelled with terms that can be translated 'Slav[on]ic'. But those too are conundra we face over and over again. The main obstacles to an appropriate interest in late Slavic prehistory and the early history of this area have been the impact on academic development within this large region of Communist dictatorship, especially from 1945 to 1989; the huge area involved and the scattered and often relatively inaccessible nature of the evidence; and, inevitably, the linguistic barrier for western scholars posed by materials published in a diversity of Slavonic languages, and indeed in either of two different alphabets.

The special situation of a British scholar who has moved to Poland and worked within the local archaeological milieu for more than two decades provides a special opportunity to start to overcome these barriers, and Barford has diligently collected, digested and sought to present the terrifying array of evidence in a clear and systematic introduction. It is laudable, too, that the British Museum Press undertook to publish it. That a hitherto poorly informed western readership is the target market has necessitated certain simplifications. The book seeks to blend archaeology and history, not least in allowing a chronological narrative to structure both the first and the final four chapters (1–4 and 10–13), with the intermediary five chapters offering surveys of economic life, society and religion. A look at any of the dozen maps at the end of the book shows just how complex the phenomena being traced are, not least in their distribution, while the figures reflect how the archaeologist of this area has to work with fine chronological and spatial variations in the form of metalwork, and above all of relatively plain pottery.

Altogether this is a careful and broad-ranging synthesis of Early-medieval Slavonic archaeology and its historical context that we should be grateful for. It is frustrating that every so often Barford prefers to go back to first principles, in discussing for instance the pitfalls of naive interpretations of archaeological distribution maps, chronicle records, or linguistic relationships, in a manner appropriate for first-year undergraduate lecture courses. Maybe this is justified in a book aimed at archaeologists and historians alike, but it seems a lost opportunity when at the same time some class of site, type of object or culture is summarily referred to with just one or two further references given. Detail has had to give way to the overall picture. Nevertheless this is a useful book, which will have served its purpose well if in the fullness of time knowledge and understanding of Slavic archaeology amongst archaeologists in Britain outstrip its basic character. Even then, it will last a good long time as an accessible and clearly written introduction to the area. It is to be recommended to anyone wishing to know Early-medieval Europe better.

JOHN HINES

*A Companion to the Anglo-Norman World.* Edited by Christopher Harper-Bill and Elisabeth Van Houts. 16 × 24 cm. xix + 298 pp., 12 figs. and 5 maps. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2003. ISBN 0-85115-673-8. Price: £40.00, \$70.00 hb.

This is a very useful collection of essays, providing solid syntheses of the work on major aspects of late Anglo-Saxon England, Normandy and the Anglo-Norman realm (including relations with Scandinavia and in the Mediterranean). All but two of the essays are specially commissioned and while much of what is contained here will probably be of most use to an undergraduate audience, readers from outside the historical disciplines contained in this book will find these a good introduction to many of the aspects of historical study. After all, the themes of (for example) the politics of pre-Conquest England, 'Feudalism and Lordship' and the organisation of the Anglo-Norman church need not be the preserve of those who have specialist research interests in these areas, and the authors ably assist the reader in what can appear as quite impenetrable areas of research to the non-specialist. The comprehensive manner in which the scholarship is synthesised is perhaps characterised by Emma Mason's unashamedly survey-based essay on the work on administration and government, which focuses on the approaches taken by scholars rather than themes. No matter what the criticisms are against such a historiographically-based approach, it is nonetheless a valid one, which helps the reader to tackle the works cited with confidence.

However, two major points emerge from this which need to be addressed. The first of these is the price. This volume should be released as a paperback; as a hardback volume, currently only affordable to academic libraries and professional historians, it can receive few recommendations as an undergraduate text. Secondly, the policy of releasing a separate volume on Anglo-Norman castles has meant that the publishers have taken a deliberate decision to exclude works which tackle the Norman policy of castle building. This is an omission from a companion to the Anglo-Norman world which is likely to cause the most grief amongst an archaeological audience, especially as the editors have otherwise striven for a multidisciplinary approach.

That said, the substantial survey chapter by Richard Plant on the ecclesiastical architecture of the 11th and 12th centuries goes some way toward making up for the absence of castles, with a chronological and geographical approach that provides a solid survey of recent work. Similar remarks could be made on the volume as a whole. Understandably, the volume does not break much new ground and given the volume of recent scholarship which it has needed to consider, the approach is a great deal heavier and generally more detailed than one might expect from most introductory works.

However, here that is an advantage; as a *Companion* and therefore a guide to a rich vein of scholarship, rather than a simple introduction to the period as a whole, it is all the more valuable for it.

RYAN LAVELLE

*A Companion to Britain in the Later Middle Ages.* (Blackwell Companions to British History Published in Association with The Historical Association). Edited by S. H. Rigby. 18 × 25 cm. xviii + 665 pp., 5 figs., 12 maps and 13 pls. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2003. ISBN 0-631-21785-1. Price: £85.00, \$124.95 hb.

This is a major compilation covering the period 1100–1500 by 23 specialist contributors from Britain and Ireland, supplemented by seven scholars from the Americas. Steve Rigby is to be congratulated in bringing this major project to print in a handsome, informative and scholarly volume. The editorial decision to treat England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales individually was a good one, with twelve of the 28 chapters devoted to Ireland, Scotland and Wales, fifteen to England. There is also a ‘British Perspective’ essay by Sean Duffy highlighting the significance of the ‘Celtic fringe’. There is plenty of jostling for position between the scholars representing the different nations. Edel Bhreathnach and Ragnall Ó Floinn in their paper ‘Ireland: Culture and Society’ are happy to concede English Romanesque influence on the architecture of Irish Cistercian houses and other Irish 12th-century buildings. They ask the question whether French and German motifs found in Ireland came directly from the Continent, or came through England or ‘through a network of Irish ecclesiastical foundations’. They give archaeology some prominence as a source of evidence (as does Nicholas Mayhew in ‘Scotland: Economy and Society’). Such questioning of past assertions is one indication of the vigorous debate and exciting re-evaluations current in the study of medieval Ireland. By contrast, Louise Fradenburg writing on ‘Scotland: Culture and Society’ uses the title ‘The Problem of English Influence’, seeking to downplay English influences to show a ‘felicitous and eclectic’ cultural mix derived only from Continental models in 15th-century Scotland.

Disappointingly for readers of this journal the English sections contain virtually no reference to archaeology. Bruce Campbell’s reference to dendrochronology identifies two periods (1163–89, 1315–53) of climatic abnormality and counts among the exceptions. However, Veronica Sekules’s ‘England: Art and Society’ is especially illuminating from an art-historical angle discussing the development of the subject from its antiquarian roots before 1900, through its adoption of central European ‘quasi-scientific’ methods and the study of iconography in the 20th century. This chapter contains six of the thirteen plates in the volume. The other seven are found in Bhreathnach and Ó Floinn’s section. One wonders why medieval archaeology apparently continues to make such a marginal impact on English medieval history, for this book includes architecture, art-history, economic and social history (and theory), literature and ‘culture’ and yet material culture is too often absent, as is archaeological theory. Maybe the arrival of Christopher Gerrard’s *Medieval Archaeology: Understanding Traditions and Contemporary Approaches* (2003) may prove a link for the future, carrying forward the torch lit by Colin Platt’s *Medieval England* (1978) and John Steane’s *Medieval Archaeology of England and Wales* (1984). Maybe it is time for a volume which allows archaeology to tell its own story of the later Middle Ages to stand alongside Rigby’s impressive historical achievement? Such a volume might be better described as a ‘companion to British History’, to occupy the passenger seat on journeys round the brilliant surviving medieval cultural resources of these islands.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

*Journal of Medieval Military History, Volume I.* Edited by Bernard S. Bachrach with Clifford J. Rogers and Kelly DeVries. 16 × 24 cm. ix + 169 pp. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2002. ISBN 0-85115-909-5. Price: £40.00, \$70.00 hb.

Although the direct application of this journal to the study of medieval archaeology may be limited, it is always good to see the appearance of a new journal in the field of medieval studies and the *JMMH* is no exception. In his editorial introduction, Bernard Bachrach is emphatic that the study of warfare itself has been overlooked by medieval academics. Countered with the growing popularity of military studies at an academic level, this provides the justification for the new journal.

Is the first volume worthy of Bachrach's justification? The *JMMH* certainly lives up to his intentions and the papers contained therein are an interesting and worthwhile read: Clifford Rogers and Stephen Morillo begin with papers which provide both sides of a debate (although sadly the editors have not taken the opportunity to present it as one) on the question of what has become conventionally known as 'Vegetian' warfare — whether the object of warfare was to draw an enemy to battle. An interest in logistics is taken in papers by John France, on the raising of Charlemagne's armies; by Bachrach himself, in which he is true to form, providing plenty of logistical calculations on the nature of the naval support of the armies of the First Crusade; by Douglas Biggs on Edmund of Langley's defensive policies in the summer of 1399; and a paper by Emily Amt, which, concentrating as it does on the defensibility of Bedford castle and logistics of the siege of 1224, may be of most direct interest to readers of *Medieval Archaeology*.

Paradoxically, in a journal which expounds the 'separate' treatment of military history, it is the ability of the papers to consider the study of medieval warfare within their wider social and political contexts which makes them valuable. Charles Bowlus's paper on the Avar campaigns of Charlemagne within the context of a Carolingian 'Grand Strategy' may provide a warning against the separation of military affairs from the political; useful though the paper is on understanding the motives and motivations of Charlemagne, it may be suggested that it places a militarily deterministic interpretation on Carolingian policy.

The articles in this journal will be useful reading for those interested in aspects of medieval warfare, and the journal should find a place in some university libraries. However, it remains to be seen as to whether the journal will provide an impetus to the understanding of medieval warfare in the manner of the website of its sponsoring society, *De Re Militari*: (<http://www.deremilitari.org>). Given the society's commendable forward thinking on the electronic availability of resources, one may wonder why the valuable space for an article could not have been saved by using the website instead of the journal to provide a translation, albeit valuable, of a 20-year-old paper by J. F. Verbruggen on 13th- and 14th-century Flemish urban militias.

RYAN LAVELLE

*Die Frühen Holzkirchen Europas.* By Claus Ahrens. 22 × 30 cm. 2 vols., 1008 pp., c. 450 figs., maps and plans, 32 colour plates. Stuttgart: Konrad Theiss Verlag, 2001. ISBN 3-8062-1397-6. Price: €128.00 hb.

Of these two very large volumes, the second gives the best indication of the scope, the strengths and weaknesses of the work. It presents a gazetteer of some 1,700 wooden churches (or their sites), scattered across 22 countries from Ukraine to Greenland, Norway to Switzerland. Five small-scale distribution maps are included, though these are rather difficult to use, as they lack any country or place names. The evidence is of three main types: excavation, standing buildings (and demolished and fragmentary buildings) and written sources (*capella lignea*, *ecclesia lignea*, etc.). Of the sites, the greatest number are in

Germany and Scandinavia, which seem to be well covered. Although the book's theme is 'early' churches, it extends to some 17th- or 18th-century examples (e.g. Hedenäs, Sweden) and even that of 1802 at Holmö, Sweden; the early 19th-century church at Kåfjord, northern Norway (built by my own ancestor to serve a copper works) is overlooked, as are the Russian churches in North America. The entries are well referenced, so that the occasional problems with location or identification could easily be corrected.

For France, three excavations and 35 written records are included, and for England, 45 excavations, 35 written references and five place name indications of timber churches, but only two standing buildings (Greensted, Essex, and Rushton Spencer, Staffordshire). Thus, it omits the major group of timber churches in Champagne, and the cluster of Cheshire churches, as well such important individual examples as Hartley Wespall, Hampshire, the belfries at Pembridge and elsewhere and the innumerable timber porches, that deserved mention.

The main volume is in three sections. The first reviews the historiography of timber churches and the types of evidence for them, subdivided as in the gazetteer. It also discusses their dating, including a list of some 50 which have been tree-ring dated, mostly from excavated material or timber fragments; the earliest standing structures are remarkably widely distributed: Greensted (plank-walled, 1063+); Torpo, Norway (stave church, 1192; much reconstructed); Granhult, Sweden (horizontal logs, 1217).

The longest section analyses the historical context of the churches within a broadly geographical framework. The most useful part is probably that relating to the development of the stave churches, from the 10th-century missions onwards and here, as well as modern recording, a considerable number of early illustrations are reproduced. The development of log-built churches, which began to supersede stave construction at a surprisingly early date, is also described. However, as might be supposed from the omissions noted above, the contribution of box-frame construction is not properly recognised. The story is carried on into the Post-medieval period including, for example, 17th-century mission churches in Lapland. An intriguing section examines the 'romantic' view of these churches in the 19th century when they began to be recorded, restored and, often, moved. One of the most remarkable examples is the simple two-cell church at Vang, Norway, rebuilt in 1842 in Bierutowice, Poland and re-decorated in full stave-church style.

The third section examines specific aspects of structure and fittings of these churches. It provides a classification of the examples by compartment and construction type, analysis of the building construction and of door, window and roof type. The choice between stone and timber churches is considered, as is the question of heathen-Christian continuity and that between secular and sacred timber construction; with the latter, the use of decorative stone detailing imitating timber is also examined.

As the life-work of the late Professor Ahrens, these massive volumes command admiration and will undoubtedly be of great value, despite their occasional weaknesses. They cover a much wider range both chronologically and geographically than the title 'early churches' might suggest.

N. W. ALCOCK

*Decorations for the Holy Dead: Visual Embellishment on Tombs and Shrines of Saints.* (International Medieval Research 8, Art History Subseries 1). Edited by Stephen Lamia and Elizabeth Valdez del Álamo. 21 × 30 cm. xxxi + 252 pp., 11 colour pls. and 107 figs. Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2002. ISBN 2-503-51088-4. Price: €75.00 pb.

As the television news shows scenes of Shia Muslims on pilgrimage to Karbala, working themselves into a frenzy of devotion as they approach the holy shrine, it is far easier to envisage medieval pilgrims travelling to the shrines of the Christian West and

their settings which stimulated extreme acts of piety and praise. This volume stresses the visual embellishments deliberately intended to heighten the experiences of the faithful at both mainstream and local shrines. The twelve different articles explore the dialogue or interaction of the visitors with the tomb or the entire holy landscape. They stress that the experience must ideally appeal to all the senses in order to refresh the body and imprint the sanctity of the location upon the mind.

The editors have provided a good survey of the recent literature on holy tombs and have given a succinct synthesis of the volume, originating at a 1999 conference at Leeds. They claim to have identified a gap in the academic coverage of shrines and pilgrimage from an art-historical viewpoint. Certainly the geographical coverage is diverse, comprising of Spain (5 papers), France (2), Italy (2) and one each concerning England, Greece and Hungary. Often a single shrine, altar-piece or cloister arcade is considered; a few articles look at a broader region or a specific category. The editors have structured this volume into three main themes, concentrating on cultic practice, on the importance of the cloister and on 'shifting the saint'. The studies are preceded by a wide-ranging essay from Peter Brown on the nature of sanctity in the Late Antique world, illustrating how worshippers were encouraged to imitate the martyrs or at least mentally accommodate the earlier struggle and triumph of the soul over the body. Martyrs were worthy of admiration but perhaps such suffering and sanctity was inimitable.

Four inter-related contributions highlight the cloister as a place of saintly burial or for reliquaries; cloister arcade capitals could provide scenes from the saint's life or of posthumous miracles. The study of two English saints, Edward the Confessor and Thomas Becket, emphasises the parallel course of their shrines' development. An Italian altarpiece at the shrine of St Margaret depicts her life but has a subtext of her efficacy to women in childbirth. In Spain (as elsewhere) both the original tomb and the shrine of the translated remains are significant in closely defining the pilgrimage route and the appropriate devotional responses.

The volume displays a high standard of editing with comprehensive referencing and indexing. There is an excellent range of illustration, both monochrome and colour. Only some church plans, adapted from earlier sources rather than drawn specifically for the volume, are indistinct or over-reduced. Altogether it is a stimulating and learned production, art-historical in content but with many archaeological resonances.

LAWRENCE BUTLER

*Le Château et la ville: conjonction, opposition, juxtaposition (XI<sup>e</sup>–XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle)*. Edited by Giles Blicq, Philippe Contamine, Nicholas Faucherre and Jean Mesqui. 21 × 27 cm. 421 pp., many figs., maps, pls. and tabs. Paris: CTHS, 2002. ISBN 2-7355-0507-3. Price: €40.00 pb.

Every three years a strange procession is seen mounting the steps leading to the wall-walk of the medieval fortifications of the city of Oxford, consisting of the robed Lord Mayor, the City Alderman and the fellows of New College in academic finery. This inspection goes back to the time when the city held the college responsible for the upkeep and military preparations of the walls within the collegiate *enceinte*. Earlier in the ceremony the college kept the mayor and party waiting when they knocked at the gate, a case of gown putting it over town. More serious versions of such 'games' were played over the 800 years covered by this book which traces the idea of the citadel, a heavily fortified strong point on the edge of a town or city in France, the Netherlands, and Italy. The scale, complexity, and strength of these structures was far greater than found in England because the boundaries of France, and the 'hot spots' of the early urbanised Netherlands and Italy were more frequently fought over. Lordship, too, had much to fear from urban uprisings, so citadels,

representing the acme of fortification techniques, and often designed by Italians, sprang up in these areas at nodal points.

Whereas Charles Coulson's latest book, *Castles in Medieval Society* (Oxford, 2003), tells us that castles had little to do with defence and much more to do with power (a thesis which holds water in England), in these areas of the Continent such crushingly impressive piles of masonry were vital if town mobs were to be suppressed and royal absolutism, French or Spanish, imposed. In Late-medieval France there was tension between county and town, and between town and nobles. The urban élites frequently threw in their lot with peasants to resist the claims of a nobility discredited by failure in battle against the English and inability to protect them from marauding soldiery on all sides. The nobility responded with the citadel.

The book breaks new ground with detailed descriptions based on documentary and (to a lesser extent) archaeological sources on the citadels of Brest, St Malo and Les Quiqu'engrogne (Corvisier), Poitiers (Rivaud), and Lille (Blieck). There are also more general accounts of Late-medieval fortification in the Low Countries and in Dauphiné (de Waha and Duguy and Perrin). English readers will be particularly interested in Henry VIII's great tower at Tournai (Dury) now flattened. These citadels were so cordially hated by the inhabitants that every opportunity was taken to obliterate them from the urban scene. Paradoxically the Dutch, having seen off Alva and his fortresses, proceeded to make their own. The book ends by tracing the decline of citadels and their destruction at the hands of town planners intent on easing the passage of the motor car and keen on the construction of boulevards.

JOHN STEANE

*The Field Archaeology of the Salisbury Plain Training Area.* By David McOmish, David Field and Graham Brown. 22 × 28 cm. xviii + 182 pp., 145 figs., maps and plans, 4 tabs. Swindon: English Heritage, 2002. ISBN 1-873592-49-3. Price: £25.00 pb.

Wiltshire has been fortunate in the number and scale of its field archaeological projects. Recent landscape surveys include Avebury, Fyfield and Overton, the Marlborough Downs and the Vale of the White Horse. This attractive and well-produced volume is the result of 30 years of recording and survey at the very highest levels of technical detail of some of the best preserved archaeology in the land. Topographical survey, aerial photographs and geophysics form the platform for an extended commentary on chalkland archaeology which should influence future research and management. In achieving this the authors and their publishers deserve enormous credit for clear language, crisp and gloriously presented illustrations, well-produced aerial photographs and lavish use of colour throughout. How production values have improved since the publication in 1994 of the Wessex Linear Ditches Project by the same publishers.

The book follows a conventional chronological layout from early prehistory to the 20th century, all spliced between introduction and discussion. The medieval periods are included in a 27-page chapter covering the 5th century to 1897. Little is known of post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation in this downland landscape; evidence for continuing occupation at Coombe Down has been published previously. Intrusive inhumations and cemetery evidence are briefly discussed, together with field-names and a more extended text on estate and territorial boundaries. By the 11th century much of the downland was in royal or monastic hands and the earthwork evidence consists of ridge-and-furrow, perhaps dating to the 13th or early 14th century and overlying earlier 'Celtic' fields. On the fringes of the chalk strip lynchets are well preserved, sometimes up to 2.5 m high and 290 m in length. Sheep were overwintered in enclosures, some of which re-use conveniently located prehistoric and later sites and contain shepherd's buildings as well as structures to shelter

the animals. Of the valleys there is rather more to say. Plans and discussion of shrunken (for example, Orcheston St Mary) and surviving settlements (for example, Bulford) balances deserted sites (for example, Knighton), and the towns of Tilshead and Ludgershall. Even trench systems, rifle ranges, splinter-proof shelters and military railways can seem intriguing when the archaeology is as well done as this. What is needed now is for someone to take some of the ideas here forward into a programme of targeted and more intensive fieldwork, though one suspects that the focus of that work is more likely to be prehistoric than medieval.

CHRISTOPHER GERRARD

*West Heslerton: The Anglian Cemetery. Volume I: The Excavation and Discussion of the Evidence; Volume II: Catalogue of the Anglian Graves and Associated Assemblages.* By Christine Houghton and Dominic Powlesland. 29.5 × 22 cm. I: viii + 198 pp., 75 figs., 55 pls., 33 tabs.; II: viii + 376 pp., many figs. and pls. London: English Heritage and the Landscape Research Centre, 2000; 2001. ISBN 0-953748-0-4. Price: £35.00 hb.

The Landscape Research Centre's work at and around West Heslerton on the southern side of the Vale of Pickering in North Yorkshire is an outstanding example of a large-scale and sustained archaeological research project, and much to be prized for that. It has proved comprehensive enough to bring together detailed empirical investigations of landscape, settlement, and ritual practice, simultaneously developing the application of a range of new techniques. From the point of view of medieval archaeology, it is particularly exciting that an Early-medieval site is at the centre of this work, which is now beginning to appear in published form in the first two volumes, reporting on the early Anglo-Saxon ('Anglian') cemetery.

Volume I introduces the site and the excavation of the burial area; Volume II is an illustrated catalogue of 201 numbered graves, one of them a horse burial and 15 of them cremations. This cemetery appears to have been carefully placed alongside a group of Bronze-age barrows, which in turn represent further ritual use of the location of a Late-neolithic timber circle enclosed by a henge. It is cautiously suggested that the Anglo-Saxon cemetery developed in up to five barely distinct clusters rather than monolineally away from this focus; the sequence and phasing of the burials is, however, as yet a particularly difficult subject to deal with as the chronological evidence is far from clear. Certainly we have here a rich group of burials from relatively late in the Migration Period (middle to later 6th century), and others continuing into the first half of the 7th century. On present knowledge, the Type E1 spearhead from grave 87 cannot sustain the significance attached to it as the single indisputably 5th-century type from the site, and otherwise the earliest burials appear to be graves 84 and 154, with brooches that could well belong to the first quarter of the 6th century. The overall life-span of the cemetery may therefore be close to the 125 years given as a minimum estimate; however with a considerable portion of the site (one hopes) still beneath the A64 road that runs across the middle of it, guesswork on this issue is best suspended for now.

With the exception of the somewhat gaudy colour tones on the covers, these are beautifully produced volumes, clearly laid out on good-quality paper. It is scarcely credible that they can be obtained at such a bargain price. The style of the many digitally created illustrations is initially unfamiliar, but the level of information available here is excellent, not least with the inclusion of many X-radiographs. The use of colour in various plans and for the illustration of beads in the finds survey of Volume I is most effective. Volume I also includes detailed data on the textile fragments found, and an osteological study of the skeletons, preserved to highly varying degrees in the graves. As a cemetery report in its

own right this is a fine and welcome piece of work, but it will grow in value as more of its immediate context is also published.

JOHN HINES

*Palácio Almoada da Alcáçova de Silves.* By Rosa and Mário Varela Gomes. 20 × 26 cm. 154 pp., many colour figs., maps, plans and tabs. Lisbon: Museu Nacional de Arqueologia, 2001. ISBN 972-776-100-3. Price: not stated pb.

Silves is a town in southern Portugal which has been systematically excavated since the 1980s. The excavations have concentrated on the Islamic and later medieval periods of the town's history. Medieval archaeology is a young discipline in Portugal and research at Silves, together with that carried out in nearby Mértola, has been at the forefront of national developments, especially in the analysis and promotion of medieval ceramics.

This is the companion volume to an exhibition held (June and December 2001) at Lisbon to celebrate the history of the town. Silves was an important town in the Islamic period, dominated by its imposing castle and surrounded by town walls. The book is a collection of short texts accompanied by catalogued pieces which formed the core of the exhibition. Sections include a short historical introduction, a history of archaeological research in the town, the pre-Islamic (including Roman and Phoenician finds) and Islamic (8th–13th centuries) period, the castle (with charming reconstruction drawings, including decorative plasterwork), the town dwellings, and the impact of the Christian conquest in 1248.

Some of the pieces are illustrated as colour photographs and include a detailed commentary with further description, interpretation and parallels. The avid reader might be disappointed to find that the catalogue offers little information (name/form, place where found, date, material type, measurements and bibliography) and it is a pity that some of the detail for each piece is not available here but is cross referenced instead to other published works.

This book is a decent synthesis of the historical development of the town, naturally centred on the Islamic period, and happily marrying archaeology and documentary sources. Unsurprisingly for an exhibition catalogue, the focus is on the finds. These include the finest examples found during excavation, including stone building materials, grave-stones, bone artefacts, coins, metalwork, glass, and ceramics. Many of the ceramics are closely dated, highlighting the presence of early wares of the 8th and 9th centuries, as well as imports from the Middle East.

ALEJANDRA GUTIÉRREZ

*Medieval Scarborough: Studies in Trade and Civic Life.* (Yorkshire Archaeological Society Occasional Paper 1). Edited by David Crouch and Trevor Pearson. 21 × 30 cm. viii + 123 pp., 32 figs., 4 tabs. Leeds: Yorkshire Archaeological Society and Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, 2001. ISBN 0-902122-96-7. Price: £15.00 pb.

Scarborough is best known to medieval archaeologists for its castle on the headland above the town and its medieval pottery industry which supplied its products to sites up the east coast of Britain, to Scandinavia and Continental Europe. The present volume was intended to provide 'a genuinely multidisciplinary review of what is now known, and can be suggested, about medieval Scarborough'. It is unfortunate that, in spite of some very fine individual contributions, the volume falls rather far short of its aim.

The castle of Scarborough was probably founded during the Anarchy by William count of Aumale in the royal demesne manor of Falsgrave, but was taken into the king's

hands by Henry II in 1155, as Paul Dalton explains in the opening chapter. A settlement and harbour appear to have been established there by the middle of the 12th century. There is no historical basis for the supposed foundation of the town in 966 which Martin Arnold shows to be based on an unsubstantiated Icelandic folkloric tradition and a 14th-century chronicle. Scarborough developed as a fishing port and its economy remained substantially based on herring catches and trade in other items continued to be comparatively insignificant in economic terms. Wendy Childs, in what is the most informative chapter in the volume, charts the mercantile economy of Scarborough and suggests that ships from that port were amongst the earliest to sail for the rich fishing grounds off Iceland from 1416–17.

The discussion of the markets, mills and tolls in the following chapter raises many questions which go to the heart of the problems with the volume. The editors have not served the authors well. They have allowed them to repeat material already covered in part by Childs. The authors discuss streets and other places in the town, which remain entirely obscure until the reader finds the street map in the final chapter. The two water mills recently constructed in 1275–6 at a place read in the document as ‘...nnesdale’ must be those in Ramsdale (the downstroke of the ‘a’ has evidently been read as a minim and the ‘m’ as three further minims). The location of these is identified, much later in the volume on page 82. One doubts whether the *selda* mentioned in 1298 were like the *selds*, the indoor market, near Cheapside in London, as the authors suggest, or simply a normal stall or shop which is the usual translation.

Archaeologists will read the chapters on the church, the domestic architecture and the pottery industry with particular interest. The first by the late Lawrence Hoey is a very useful discussion of the affinities of the parish church which are convincingly dissected. The discussion of domestic architecture is more problematic. We are not told why the reference to a ‘gavel’ within a house is likely to refer to the gable rather than to the fork of a cruck which would be the more obvious reading. Here too the light hand of the editors is apparent for the conjecture that tiles were imported to the town from Beverley or Hull is dismissed in the following chapter on the pottery. Mineralogical analysis has shown that roof tiles were made from the same clay as Scarborough ware pottery, and some flat and ridge tiles were glazed with a glaze similar to that on the pots. The chapter on the pottery industry by Daniel Normandale evidently resolves the dispute about the dating of Scarborough ware which was rehearsed at length in *Medieval Ceramics* for 1982. Sherds of the pottery have been found within the rampart of the New Borough dated to the third quarter of the 12th century. Recent work has supported David Williams’s preliminary conclusions in *Medieval Ceramics* that ‘Phase I’ and ‘II’ Scarborough ware are mineralogically identical, and it now appears that, since they are found in the same layers, they are probably contemporary.

This volume is of more than local interest, because of Scarborough’s wide-ranging contacts and the particularly important role it played in herring fishing. It is unfortunate that, in spite of a number of very informative contributions, it is difficult to assemble from the various papers a clear overall view of the medieval town and place it in its wider setting.

MARK GARDINER

*Craft, Industry and Everyday Life: Finds from Medieval York.* (The Archaeology of York: the Small Finds 17/15). By Patrick Ottaway and Nicola Rogers. 21 × 30 cm. 544 pp., 257 figs. York: York Archaeological Trust, 2002. ISBN 1-902771-26-5. Price: £39.00 pb.

The metal and stone objects, and textile fragments, from post-Norman Conquest York are catalogued in this monograph — other ‘finds’ such as coins, pottery, bone and antler have already been published. There are no major surprises; broadly, everything can

be paralleled in London or Winchester, with a few local variants such as pilgrims' insignia associated with Archbishop St William of York, whose shrine tried and largely failed to offer competition to Becket's at Canterbury. A few object-types are newly identified, such as iron blood-letting fleams; the attempt to repair a canon's knee joint at Fishergate was reported in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, but it is good to be reminded of it.

The largest site from which the objects have come is of course Coppergate, a craftworking and commercial area; for the post-Conquest period, the deposits there include a lot of dumped material, so that residuality has to be allowed for, and there do not seem to have been very many 'closed' pit fills and the like. The other sites include the Bedern Foundry, defined as industrial because of its fixed-place workshops, and two that were ecclesiastical, the Bedern College and the Gilbertines at Fishergate. There are contrasts between them, the College generally having the richest material, including glass, silk and gold objects. The coins could usefully have been brought into this discussion — not least because they reflected military activity while England was trying to hammer the Scots, and the Coppergate people might have benefited from that. The major contrast is one of period, however; from the multiplicity of crafts practised in the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods, to the exclusion from the city centre of those requiring heat and therefore posing a fire risk; nor is there much evidence for textile or leather production or of bone or horn waste, which leaves the occupants' principal trades uncertain. Dyeing, fulling and tanning could have taken place if the River Fosse had been developed differently, and if the last's smell had been tolerated. As Penelope Walton Rogers has already suggested in a previous fascicule, the number of needles could suggest wrapping of textiles for transport as one activity, though the only surviving pieces of sacking were from the Bedern, not Coppergate. What the latter's assemblage indicates, however, is primarily domestic, the equipment being things that people needed on an everyday basis rather than for some specialised, income-earning activity.

The volume is very well produced, with welcome use of colour illustrations integrated within the text, glossy paper making their reproduction of excellent quality. Line drawings are of the same high standard as in York's other fascicules. I am less certain of the value of the catalogue, which takes up a hundred pages of close-set typescript; this sort of material does not have illustrations or discussion, and could nowadays quite well go on to web-pages where it would be no less accessible provided that there was a little cross-referencing. The alphabetic formula adopted makes 'Building' the first craft encountered, and a trowel thus the first illustration; was this archaeological privileging?

DAVID A. HINTON

*Kungahälla: Problem och Forskning kring Stadens Äldsta Historia.* (Lund Studies in Medieval Archaeology 28). Edited by Hans Andersson, Kristine Carlsson and Maria Vretemark. 27 × 21 cm. 224 pp., many figs., maps and plans. Stockholm-Uddevalla: Almqvist and Wiksell, 2002. ISBN 91-22-01931-6, ISSN 0283-6874. Price: SKK 278.00 hb.

Kungahälla (Swedish)/Konghelle (Norwegian) was once the southernmost town of medieval Norway, but has been in Sweden since the Kalmar Union of 1397. The site, on the north branch of the Göta River near the Kattegat, is now mostly farmland. Mentioned by Orderic Vitalis in 1130 as one of the six towns of the Norwegian realm, it also figured in the *Heimskringla* of Snorri Sturlason. The reign of Sigurd Jorsalfar in the mid-12th century saw the town take on a role of increased importance as a border stronghold and economic centre, which continued throughout the 13th century. Excavations, begun in the mid-1980s and published here, offered a new opportunity to investigate its topography, economy and chronology. The text is written alternately in Swedish and Norwegian with

brief English chapter summaries. There are discussion papers at the end dealing with the wider context of the Scandinavian medieval church and urbanisation.

An area of black earth was investigated by Jens Rytter between modern buildings close to the river bank and the small raised fortified zone 'Klosterkullen' to the north-east which was the site of a castle and monastery. Occupation was divided into five phases spanning circa A.D. 1080 to 1250. The earliest occupation material was located on the eastern edge of this area. A dwelling existed here before burning down in the early 12th century; subsequent buildings (stave-built with wooden and clay floors) seem to have concentrated a short distance further west. Plot boundaries were detected, giving credence to an urban presence. The hey-day of Kungahälla was the 13th century when a large brick-kiln was built to cope with a wave of monastery and church building. A fine group of antler combs with waste, leatherworking offcuts, glass and metalworking debris confirm that craft activities had become significant by the late 12th century. Kristina Carlsson's analysis of the ceramic finds suggests contact with elsewhere in South Scandinavia, the Rhine Delta and northern France; eastern English wares became more common after the mid-13th century. Bird and fish bones, which included hunting goshawks and deep-sea cod, are interpreted by Maria Vretemark as indicating an aristocratic consumption pattern. The town, which remained small by contemporary European standards, continued until the early 17th century when the site was largely abandoned. Although the premise of the book is the early history of the town (which it covers in impressive detail), the subsequent decline could well have received a little more explanation here.

DAVID GRIFFITHS

*Heraldry, Pageantry and Social Display in Medieval England.* Edited by Peter Coss and Maurice Keen. 16 × 24 cm. x + 278 pp., 49 b & w pls., 12 colour pls. and 4 figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2002. ISBN 0-85115-850-1. Price: £45.00, \$75.00 hb.

The twelve papers including an introduction, all by different contributors, are the proceedings of a conference held at Cardiff University in 1997 with a couple of addenda. There is a good mix of university academics (one from France), record keepers, independent scholars and a museum curator. The texts are all dense with fully referenced details, making rewarding reading in return for sustained concentration. The illustrations, both colour and black and white, are well chosen.

David Crouch (mysteriously absent from the list of contributors) writes on lineage and heraldry, unfolding a fascinating account of motivation for heraldic emphases, for example on the part of families who through lack of living issue perceived they were not going to continue. Adrian Ailes discusses royal and other political badges, including the pewter ones that are occasionally excavated, though he seems to be unaware of the extensive recent finds of these from London and elsewhere, which limits the scope of his paper for archaeologists. Edward III's changing emphases in his use of the leopard badge is discussed from several viewpoints, including the often neglected numismatists' one. The careful discussion by Fionn Pilbrow of what is known of the ceremonies relating to the creation of Knights of the Bath was a revelation of a fresh subject to this reader. Caroline Barron on chivalry, pageantry and merchant culture in medieval London traces several complex strands and points out the curious lack of civil involvement (apart from spectating) in tournaments in London, which were left to the aristocracy to stage and participate in — a contrast with Continental practice.

Marian Campbell carefully traces the patchy survivals of some of the college plate at Oxford and Cambridge, and accounts for the present, very uneven holdings. Nigel Saul gives an insightful account of the social pressures that motivated changing trends in Late-medieval tomb brasses. The only paper this reviewer was unable to warm to was that on

dress in England before the English sumptuary laws — a subject that still has some mileage if one considers the emerging archaeological picture across the country of trends in what accessories were actually worn by a large sector of the population. This is perhaps unfair, as the volume inevitably concentrates on the more fully documented upper classes, rather than the lower ones whom archaeology tends to emphasise. There is, perhaps, another series of papers to be written from this point of view (this is not intended as a criticism, rather it is an observation stimulated by some of the work in this volume).

There is much detail of interest here. The writers are to be congratulated on having made a series of genuinely innovative contributions that will be drawn on with profit by specialists from many different fields.

GEOFF EGAN

*Stirling Castle: The Restoration of the Great Hall.* (CBA Research Report 130). Edited by Richard Fawcett. 21 × 30 cm. xi + 96 pp., 65 elevations, figs. and plans. York: Council for British Archaeology with Historic Scotland, 2001. ISBN 1-902771-21-4. Price: £19.95 pb.

The restoration of the great hall at Stirling Castle has been the flagship conservation project for Historic Scotland (and its predecessors) for a generation. The work of removing a barracks block from within this early 16th-century hall began in 1964 and was only completed in 1999. This volume is a celebration of the project and of what has been learned through the restoration about the most extravagant royal building in Scotland. Fittingly the book includes contributions relating to the conservation process as well as historical and architectural appraisals.

Of the three historical studies Richard Fawcett begins with a well-focused description and appraisal of the architecture, an account of its construction by James IV between 1497 and c. 1503 and the building's subsequent use until it was converted to barracks in the 1790s. Michael Lynch considers the role of the Great Hall in the courtly life of the Scottish Renaissance and Doreen Grove fills in the army years. These are all valuable, scholarly contributions which greatly enhance our appreciation of the cultural significance of the Great Hall.

Given that the bulk of this rather slim book is concerned with the conservation process it is rather startling to discover how the decision to restore the hall was arrived at. In his account Iain MacIvor, former Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, points out more than once that government policy throughout the 20th century was 'to conserve, not to reconstruct' and yet following the Second World War plans were made to return the building to something approaching its original form. It is revealing that even a civil servant as experienced as MacIvor is at a loss to account for how this case was made. 'Intriguing' comments from old Scottish Office files pinpoint the moment when the restoration decision entered the public record, but how the decision was arrived at remains opaque and apparently is now unknowable.

If the process behind the decision to restore cannot be seen as an exemplary case of open government, the technical aspects of the project have been impeccable. This is an area where the volume could have been more detailed. What we have are general accounts on the structural issues, such as stone procurement, by Ingvall Maxwell, and on the design of the details, including the decision to finish the exterior in bright yellow lime-wash, by project architect Peter Buchanan. Further papers provide an interim statement on the archaeological investigations by Gordon Ewart and a more detailed account of how the fabric was recorded, by Duncan Peet, the architectural surveyor who worked on the project for fifteen years. What is missing is any real discussion about the design process. Although we are told that any replaced details were based upon 'firm evidence rather than

supposition' (77) that won't quite do. All real building work throws up unanticipated problems — how were these resolved? We are told of the importance of using lime mortar, but nothing is said about how modern services were accommodated. This is not to question whether best practice was followed, it seems clear that it was, but given the scale and resources devoted to the project it would be nice if the technical lessons could be made more widely available.

Overall then, this book falls some distance short of serving as a guide to conservation practice in the coming century. Nevertheless, it does provide an interesting account of how it was done in the last century, when the pivotal decision to set government policy aside was taken behind closed doors. Of course, this is still the way that Historic Scotland determines whether or not to permit restoration, but for how much longer?

STEPHEN T. DRISCOLL

*The Black Death Transformed: Disease and Culture in Early Renaissance Europe.* By Samuel K. Cohn, Jr. 16 × 24 cm. xi + 318 pp., 48 figs. and 1 map. London: Arnold, 2003. ISBN 0-340-70647-3. Price: £14.99 pb.

This is a bold book for the new century opening with the challenging statement 'The Black Death in Europe, 1347–52, and its successive waves to the 18th century was any disease other than the rat-based bubonic plague (now known as *Yersinia pestis*) . . .'. With this statement Cohn denies more than a century of accepted historical (and medical) wisdom. The reader is held in thrall until page 247 (of 252) when he admits 'In place of *Yersinia pestis* I offer no alternatives'. Apparently as an afterthought the following page addresses the archaeological evidence of the *Yersinia pestis* DNA from two 14th-century Montpellier graves. Here the book's mantra falters and it is conceded that 'before ending the controversy, perhaps we should await corroboration'. Otherwise the archaeological evidence, for example for the increase in rats, rat-predators and rabbit populations in the Late-medieval period is not examined.<sup>1</sup> Certainly there is scope here for a future analysis of archaeological evidence. Cohn is more comfortable with historical sources and medical evidence than with archaeological materials. Supported by well over a thousand footnotes the text arises from very impressive reading of a range of historical sources and medical texts. But is Cohn right? He is not the first to make this claim: Scott (historical demographer) and Duncan (biologist) had already denied the bubonic plague theory with their *Biology of Plagues: Evidence from Historical Populations* (Cambridge, 2001) renaming the disease 'haemorrhagic plague', which has been likened to ebola in Africa in recent times. Graham Twigg's anthrax theory for the Black Death has been current since 1983. All these theories contribute to the rich and vigorous debate surrounding the Black Death and successive outbreaks, a debate which burns brightly about the disease. Scott and Duncan, for example (and unlike Cohn), believe the Marseilles epidemic of 1720–22 very likely *was* bubonic plague. Archaeology may hold the key. There is no reason, as Shrewsbury argued in his *History of Bubonic Plague* (1970), that the Black Death should not have been one of a cocktail of diseases which invaded Britain's coasts in the cold, wet Summer of 1348 and spread rapidly inland. Miasma has been locked out of the debate since Charles Creighton's career was ruined in 1894 by his adherence to miasma theory in the year that *Pasteurella* (now *Yersinia*) *pestis* was identified in Hong Kong. There is yet much scope for discussion. When Alan Dyer wrote in the context of the Black Death that 'Historians and scientists do not speak to each other very often, and when they do, frequently misunderstand one

<sup>1</sup> See, for example, T. Beaumont James, *The Black Death in Hampshire* (Winchester, 1999) and idem, 'Years of pestilence', *British Archaeol.*, 61 (2001), 9–13.

another' he was quite right. Is the same true of historians and archaeologists? We can agree that the Black Death was the worst catastrophe ever to strike Europe and that it likely wiped out half the population with all those continuing effects on art and architecture, landscape, mentality and population. Samuel Cohn's contribution is thought-provoking, but it certainly is not the last word, or one hopes, his last word, on the Black Death.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

*Medieval 'Westminster' Floor Tiles.* (Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 11).

By Ian M. Betts. 21 × 30 cm. xii + 78 pp., 49 figs., 9 tabs. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service, 2002. ISBN 1-901992-24-1. Price: £11.95 pb.

The tiles in question here are not those of the Chertsey-Westminster series laid in Westminster Abbey's Chapter House, but their considerably less well-executed cousins found in its Muniment Room and elsewhere. Hence the inverted commas — and undoubtedly the previous neglect of the series by scholars. But unlike Chertsey-Westminster, 'Westminster' tiles exhibit an unusually wide distribution (from Kent to Staffordshire with isolated occurrences in Norfolk) making them ideal for wider archaeological investigation. Indeed, there is plenty of good archaeology here, including suggestions for future work and a stated intention that new designs will be published in this *Journal*. Scientific analysis at the Museum of London has revealed the 'Westminster' fabric type of south-east England to be unique, enabling previously unpublished designs to be identified securely. This has allowed Betts to revise Eames's 1980 classifications,<sup>1</sup> and to answer vexed questions such as whether the tiles were transported from a single source or the tilers themselves travelled over long distances — 'interestingly, there is firm evidence for both processes' (16). The format too is practical, with chapters on production sources, size and dating alongside more conventional ones covering design and distribution. Moreover as in other recent publications,<sup>2</sup> a catalogue of sites (and designs) is included that will prove invaluable to future researchers.

Specifically, however, one major question remains unanswered. Reasons for the consistent shoddiness of 'Westminster' tiles are never fully explored. The consensus is that when decorated floor tiles became the preserve of more than a privileged few from the 14th century, mass production led to the cutting of corners. Yet 'Westminster' tiles, in their decorated form, were at their height in the 1250s and 60s, and this reviewer would have welcomed some expansion of statements such as 'the poor quality . . . stems in part from . . . the very careless preparation of the white slip and lead glaze', (5). Not only did decoration suffer from 'the result of insufficient care', but 'the . . . tilers were not [even] . . . particularly careful about removing stones from their clay' (6, 5). Since 'Westminster' tiles were 'used extensively in monastic buildings . . . castles and royal palaces' (44), how and why did they get away with this?

Yet this first complete catalogue of 'Westminster' tiles is, as Betts points out, long overdue (1) and it is perhaps unfair to expect neat hypotheses concerning questions that archaeology alone cannot yet answer. In the end, his work is testament to the value of analysing tiles previously overshadowed by the contemporary Chertsey and Wessex industries (the latter, rather refreshingly, does not even get a mention). It shows that much can be learned about medieval industry generally by focusing on manufacture and organisation rather than the perceived aesthetic merits of different designs, and as such it

<sup>1</sup> E. S. Eames, *Catalogue of Medieval Lead-Glazed Earthenware Tiles in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum* (London, 1980).

<sup>2</sup> For example J. M. Lewis, *The Medieval Tiles of Wales* (Cardiff, 1999).

is a prime example of the increasing shift in floor tile literature from an art-historical to an archaeological perspective.

AMANDA RICHARDSON

*Medieval Armorial Horse Furniture in Norfolk.* (East Anglian Archaeology Report 101). By Steven Ashley. 21 × 30 cm. 70 pp., 26 figs. and 6 pls. Dereham: Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, 2002. ISBN 0-905594-34-7. Price: £15.00 pb.

This slim volume surveys all known examples of armorial horse furniture held on the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record, some 400 objects, of which 246 are illustrated. The objects — pendants, studs and mounts — were worn on the breast-band, the rear strap and the brow-band of the harness. Ashley suggests that the use of armorial horse furniture started in the second and third quarters of the 12th century and that it received a major boost in the late 13th century, with the spread of small-scale enamelling, that lasted into the early 14th century, after which a slow decline set in. The study is limited to objects with specific armorial devices. However, borderline cases, whose armorial significance is open to question, are also included; as are a small group of 12th-/early 13th-century non-armorial examples.

The main text is divided into two sections: 'The Finds' and 'Discussion'. In the first of these sections, the objects are considered typologically according to form, function and (where possible) chronology; and the arms are attributed with local, national and European connections. The illustrations of the objects are of a high standard. The author explores the evidence, including archaeological and art historical parallels, for dating the objects: most of the finds were made by metal detectorists and as such have no archaeological context. The discussion is concise but well-rounded. It considers the origins, development and eventual decline of medieval armorial horse furniture. Further areas of discussion also cover distribution and ownership.

Four appendices support the main text: an ordinary (a dictionary of arms listed alphabetically by the charges they contain), this also includes the site number in the SMR and the museum accession number of the object, where appropriate; an armoury (a dictionary of arms listed by surname); a list of illustrated finds with their blazons; and a glossary of heraldic terminology used in the book. As such the volume is very user-friendly: the illustrated objects are numbered consecutively throughout the book and are easily located and cross-referenced through the first three appendices and the index.

There are few things to find fault with in this volume beyond the occasional spelling mistake. The provenance of the majority of the objects is known and it is slightly frustrating that not more could be made of the distribution of the finds; but, as acknowledged, it mainly represents the distribution of metal-detecting in Norfolk. However, this study provides a good example for future work that, for instance, may come out of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

This volume is well-produced and its value lies in the description, illustration and discussion of the range of objects. As the author counsels, it should not be used alone as a 'short-cut' to identification of arms, but it does provide an important reference tool and an up-to-date synopsis of the subject as a whole.

ROBIN BENDREY

*Spynie Palace and the Bishops of Moray: History, Architecture and Archaeology*. (Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series 21). By John Lewis and Denys Pringle. 21 × 30 cm. xvii + 205 pp., 110 figs., maps and plans. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland with Historic Scotland, 2002. ISBN 0-903903-21-0. Price: £25.00 (£16.50 trade, £4.00 p&p) pb.

This study reports upon the results of an extensive programme of investigation associated with a major programme of fabric consolidation and presentation work undertaken by Historic Scotland. The excavations were carried out by John Lewis while the architectural evidence and historical research were largely the responsibility of Denys Pringle. This is an important volume for several reasons. First, it represents one of the most extensive excavations ever undertaken on a castle in Scotland and secondly, as the seat of the bishops of Moray, Spynie was arguably one of the most significant places to the north of Aberdeen.

The crisply written excavation report deals primarily with the evidence from the 14th- and 15th-century castle, which was comprehensively investigated. Within the curtain walls all the main upstanding elements, towerhouse and ranges, were examined and in addition over a dozen small trenches were located beyond the walls to investigate the defences and related structures. Although we know that the bishops of Moray had residence here from the 12th century, there is scant evidence for what is presumed to be an earth and timber castle. The 13th-century castle does not fare much better: small masonry buildings from this period were located along with some stained glass which is similar to glass from the cathedral in nearby Elgin.

The oldest upstanding remains belong to what was probably the first major masonry castle on the site, built after the Wars of Independence in the mid-14th century. The (nearly) quadrangular curtain wall had projecting square towers except in the south-west where the principal accommodation was probably a round donjon-type of tower. A new principal entrance, a small portcullis gate with slender polygonal turrets was built around the end of the 14th century. A major refurbishment took place in the late 15th century when a massive towerhouse was erected in the south-west corner of the site and a new north range was built. The towerhouse, known as David's tower for Bishop David Stewart (1461-75), is the largest example known from Scotland (19 m × 13.5, and 22 m tall). The final significant modifications, distinguished by wide-mouthed gun loops, are attributed to the last Roman Catholic bishop, Patrick Hepburn (1538-73). Thereafter the palace passed into secular hands and was allowed to deteriorate.

In addition to revealing this sequence this work has produced an important assemblage of artefacts including an important pottery sequence and a remarkable hoard of jetons. The hoard of 33 jetons deposited in the foundation trench of David's tower (c. 1475) is remarkable because it looks like a collection rather than a functional hoard — there is almost no duplication among the jetons which were minted all over France.

Although the authors have made a conscious effort to interconnect the historical and archaeological studies (above and below ground), in places the joins still show. This is perhaps inevitable given the way the report was developed and the sound historical efforts will certainly be valuable to future researchers. The major weakness of the report is that the standing building analysis is incomplete. Although numerous elevations are presented there is no comprehensive fabric description or phasing, and they are reproduced at too small a scale to allow this to be undertaken. This failing is regrettable given that the conservation programme provided the opportunity to document the above-ground remains to the same standard as the buried remains.

*Purbeck Papers*. (University of Southampton Department of Archaeology Monograph 4). Edited by David A. Hinton. 21 × 30 cm. vii + 144 pp., 42 figs., maps and plans. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2002. ISBN 1-84217-066-X. Price: £24.00 pb.

There are six 'papers' in this volume which are a very mixed assortment. The first, which takes up over half the volume, is an excavation report on an Iron-age and Romano-British site near Worth Matravers, which has nothing in it of the medieval period. There is an unrelated, but interesting and important paper by David Hinton, entitled 'A "marginal economy"? The Isle of Purbeck from the Norman Conquest to the Black Death'. This is the only other substantial paper in the volume, and it seems a little out of place here. It, and the following paper by Neil Rushton, which is a full translation of several previously unpublished pre-Black Death surveys and extents in Purbeck, could have perhaps have found publication elsewhere. Nevertheless, these are papers which will be of most interest to readers of *Medieval Archaeology*, though they deal mostly with the documentary, rather than the archaeological evidence. The next brief paper, by David Williams, is about 'Purbeck marble in Roman and medieval Britain', but the medieval use of Purbeck marble is only discussed in a paragraph, and this adds nothing new to earlier work on the subject. It is a great pity that a detailed field survey of the Purbeck marble quarry sites was not undertaken for this report by the staff and students of the Department, though 'work at quarry sites' being published in a later volume is mentioned in the preface. The final two papers deal briefly with the 'strip lynchets' at Worth Matravers and conclude that the lynchets are 'presumed to be medieval', but that their layout can be shown to have been influenced by underlying 'Celtic fields'. An estate map of 1772 is then used to illustrate the full extent of the strip fields, and it is concluded that, though enclosure took place in the 1790s, the open field system had probably not been operating fully for some time before that.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

The following publications were also received:

*Treasure in the Medieval West*. Edited by Elizabeth M. Tyler. 24.5 × 16 cm. xii + 176 pp., 6 figs., 19 pls. Woodbridge: Boydell/York Medieval Press, 2000. ISBN 0-9529734-8-0. Price: £45.00 hb.

A collection of nine papers from the seminar series of the Centre for Medieval Studies in York in 1997. Approaches to the theme range from archaeological and art-historical to historical and literary, and specific topics discussed date from the 5th to the 15th century.

*International Handbook of Underwater Archaeology*. Edited by Carol V. Ruppé and Janet F. Barstad. 19 × 26 cm. xxviii + 881 pp., many figs. New York: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002. ISBN 0-306-46345-8. Price: \$175.00 hb.

An international, but not comprehensive, companion to its topic, compiled in America. Multi-period and mainly non-medieval, but contains a useful section on 'Europe and the Mediterranean' which includes separate sections on Britain and Ireland as well as France, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Finland and the Eastern Baltic.

*The Carolingian Economy*. By Adrian Verhulst. 14 × 22 cm. 160 pp. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. ISBN 0-521-00474-8. Price: £13.95, \$18.00 pb.

This study highlights the significance of industry and commerce, thus challenging the received wisdom of a solely agrarian economy of the Carolingian Empire (753–877).

*Warriors and their Weapons around the Time of the Crusades: Relationships between Byzantium, the West and the Islamic World*. Edited by David Nicolle. 16 × 23 cm. 340 pp., 48 figs. and 72 pp. of line drgs. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2002. ISBN 0-86078-898-9. Price: £57.50 hb.

Collected essays republished in a handy volume, with one new essay which is on 'Arms, Armour and Horse Harnesses in the Parma Baptistery Painted Ceiling'. 'Ain al-Habis. The Cave de Sueth' is specifically archaeological and is republished from *Archéologie Médiévale* (1988).

*Archéologie Médiévale* (CNRS Editions 32). Edited by Anne-Marie Flambard Héricher. 22 × 28 cm. 349 pp., many figs., plans and tabs. Paris: CNRS Editions, 2002. ISBN 2-271-06062-1, ISSN 0153-9337. Price: €36.00 pb.

In this volume the crypts of Saint Paul's church at Jouarre (Seine-et-Marne) are re-dated by Claude de Mecquenem. The Merovingian marble capitals dating from the first church (A.D. 629–37) were re-used in a later re-ordering of the crypt where the sanctified bodies of the founders and benefactors were laid in the 12th century. A ceramic assemblage of the 11th century from Ruelles à Serris reveals aspects of the rural economy as well as acting as a chronological marker (Nadine Mahé). A deserted village round Argentan (Orne) provides the earliest information on vernacular building techniques yet found in the area (Vincent Carpentier). Belt fittings with images of Daniel in the lions' den (a prefiguration of resurrection) and inscriptions tell us something of the way these objects were made and their prophylactic significance (Cecile Treffort). The funerary arrangements at the Hospitaller Commandery of Saint Jean de l'isle à Corbeil were hierarchically disposed; it is strange that women were present in numbers. Finally acoustic pots found in non-religious contexts, are given alternative and largely hypothetical explanations (Yves Henigfeld and Maxime Werlé).

This journal, the French equivalent of *Medieval Archaeology*, follows its format by a brief gazetteered round-up of excavations in France in 2001–2.

*Le Château* (Typologie des sources du moyen age occidental 79). By Michel Bur. 16 × 24 cm. 164 pp., 53 figs., 20 pls. Turnhout: Brepols, 1999. ISBN 2-503-50897-9. Price: €43.00 pb.

A typological study encompassing both defences and residential towers in which the author seeks to cut a path through a forest of specialist literature, emanating from a number of approaches, to demonstrate a clear development in the main elements of the castle through the medieval period.

*Medieval Castles*. By Oliver Creighton and Robert Higham. 15 × 21 cm. 72 pp., 58 figs. and pls. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications, 2003. ISBN 0-747-8054-6. Price: £5.99 pb.

This well-illustrated account of medieval castles by leading castle-study scholars, which combines traditional and innovative approaches to their subject. A very helpful introduction to this important topic and is supported by a valuable list of places to visit. There is a helpful bibliography, up-to-date a year ago, but already a reprint will need updating in view of a spate of new overviews this year.

*Shoes and Pattens: Finds from Medieval Excavations in London*. (Medieval Finds From Excavations in London 2). By Francis Grew and Margarethe de Neergaard. 20 × 25 cm. 145 pp., 165 figs., maps and plans, 22 tabs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2002. ISBN 0-85115-838-2. Price: £25.00, \$39.95 hb.

*Dress Accessories 1150-1450*. (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 3). By Geoff Egan and Frances Pritchard. 20 × 25 cm. xvi + 410 pp., many b & w figs. and tabs., 12 colour pls. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2002. ISBN 0-85115-839-0. Price: £35.00, \$60.00 hb.

Reprints of these two useful and in-demand works both originally published in 1991. The former, described as a 'Second Edition', includes a short introduction carrying the story forward over the last decade.

*The Various Styles of Clothing: A Facsimile of the 1562 Edition*. Edited and Translated by Sara Shannon. 14 × 24 cm. xv + 185 pp., many colour pls. Minneapolis: James Ford Bell Library with the University of Minnesota, 2001. ISBN 0-8166-4013-0. Price: not stated hb.

Deserps's illustrated volume of advice to Henry of Navarre (Henry IV to be) on the clothing 'presently worn in the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the savage islands' provides an invaluable snapshot of clothing at the end of the medieval period — and introduces some interesting characters such as 'the bishop of the sea'. This translation and careful reproduction of the original coloured woodcuts is the culmination of a ten-year project.

*Die Eisenfunde von Haithabu*. By Petra Westphalen. 30 × 22 cm. 336 pp., 257 figs. and pls., 9 tabs. Neumünster: Wachholtz Verlag, 2002. ISBN 3-529-01410-9. Price: €82.00 hb.

A comprehensive publication of the iron objects found in the excavations at Hedeby. The book provides an extensive and well-illustrated, descriptive overview of the material, comprising primarily tools and craft equipment, with some domestic equipment, weaponry and riding gear. The process of manufacturing in iron can be traced from iron bars being brought into the town to the finished and discarded products.

*Mittelalterliche Lederfunde aus Schleswig: Futterale, Riemen, Taschen und andere Objekte.* By Christiane Schnack. 106 pp., 61 figs.; *Mittelalterliche Eisenfunde aus Schleswig.* By Hilke Elisabeth Saggau. 120 pp., 72 figs.; *Das archäologische Fundmateriale II.* Edited by Volker Vogel. 310 pp., 157 figs. Ausgrabungen in Schleswig: Berichte und Studien, 13, 14 and 15. 25 × 18 cm. Neumünster: Wachholtz Verlag, 1998, 2000 and 2001. ISSN 0723-7987. Prices: not stated.

Further contributions to the series of reports and presentations of various categories of find from the medieval town of Schleswig, the successor to Hedeby. The report on leather finds concerns principally sheaths, straps and bags; leather shoes are discussed separately in the miscellaneous volume (no. 15). As at Hedeby (see above), the iron finds comprise primarily tools, craft and domestic equipment. The variety of types of find included in volume 15 also includes silks, but is dominated by an interesting collection of amulets and statuettes, coins, and a survey of the quite numerous objects with runic inscriptions. These are useful compendia both for a thorough insight into the life of a medieval town as revealed by excavation, and for finds specialists looking for comparanda.

*Village, Hamlet and Field: Changing Medieval Settlements in Central England.* By Carenza Lewis, Patrick Mitchell-Fox and Christopher Dyer. 19 × 25 cm. xi + 227 pp., 44 figs., maps and plans, 2 tabs. Macclesfield: Windgather Press, 2001. ISBN 0-953863-03-4. Price: £17.99 pb.

A welcome properly-priced paperback version of this invaluable 1997 interdisciplinary volume. New material included is a lengthy bibliography of texts revealing current approaches to and thinking about medieval landscapes, down to 2000.

*Fountains Abbey: The Cistercians in Northern England.* By Glyn Coppack. 17 × 25 cm. 160 pp., 100 figs., maps and plans, 25 colour pls. Stroud: Tempus, 2003. ISBN 0-7524-2546-3. Price: £15.99, \$26.99 pb.

An updated and corrected edition of Coppack's original Batsford/English Heritage book on Fountains.

*The Castles of Breconshire.* (A Logaston Guide. Monuments in the Landscape 8). By Paul Remfry. 14 × 22 cm. xii + 196 pp., c. 50 figs., maps and plans. Herefordshire: Logaston Press, 1999. ISBN 1-873827-80-6. Price: £8.95 pb.

A useful and sensibly-priced account of these castles in Wales, which incorporates a personal knowledge of the remains on the ground, as well as some of their history and historical context.

*Castle Moat Leominster: Excavation by Margaret Jones in 1962.* By Derek Hurst. 17 × 24 cm. 52 pp., 16 figs. and 12 tabs. Leominster: Leominster History Study Group, 2002. ISBN 0-9536314-3-5. Price: £5.00 (including p&p) pb.

These 1962 excavations by the late Margaret U. Jones discovered evidence of a substantial building having once existed within the moated area, and also two medieval fishponds. Copies of this nicely-produced and under-priced book are available from Lynne

Moult, The Old Forge, Dilwyn, Weobley, Herefordshire HR4 8HL. All proceeds go to the Leominster Folk Museum.

*The Ancient Yew: A History of Taxus Baccata*. By Robert Bevan-Jones. 19 × 25 cm. viii + 205 pp., 53 figs., 14 colour pls. Macclesfield: Windgather Press, 2003. ISBN 0-9538630-4-2. Price: £16.99 pb.

*Taxus baccata* rightly receives its own, dedicated volume. This short but wide-ranging account culminates in an archaeological perspective chapter and closes with a 'Gazetteer of Ancient Yews in Britain'.