

many topographical illustrations of bridges now long gone (as well as modern photos of surviving bridges). He also looks at the economics of bridge-building; how much did they cost to build, and to keep them in use? The big disappointment to an archaeologist, however, is the lack of plans and elevations of medieval bridges, and the complete absence of maps of the medieval road systems with their associated bridges. All we have are sketch plans of rivers with bars on them to show the sites of bridges. Oddly the river names on these maps are all incomplete, so we have 'Tren, Avo, Great, Thame, etc.,' rather than Trent, Avon, Great Ouse and Thames. Presumably this is due to 'computer technology'! This is only a minor criticism, however, and this splendid volume should now be used by building archaeologists to write new structural and phased histories of medieval bridges. A pioneering account of 'structural aspects of medieval timber bridges' (largely small structures from moats) was published in this journal over 30 years ago by the late Stuart Rigold (*Med. Arch.*, 19 (1975), 48–91). Is it not time for this work to be continued on a much larger scale on the surviving stone bridges?

TIM TATTON-BROWN

Short Reviews

The Humber Wetlands: The Archaeology of a Dynamic Landscape. By Robert Van de Noort. 19 × 25 cm. xii + 196 pp., 79 colour and b&w figs. Macclesfield: Windgather Press, 2004. ISBN 0-9545575-4-9. Price: £18.99 pb.

This volume forms part of the Landscapes of Britain series, and is written by someone with a great experience of this particular landscape, a former Director of the Humber Wetlands Project, based at Hull University. Indeed, for the prehistoric periods, there would be relatively little to discuss without the Humber Wetlands Project, other than some rather poorly recorded trackways or platforms and a number of antiquarian finds out in the bogs.

However, the Project had significantly less impact on our knowledge of the medieval period. In part this is, as Van de Noort admits, an inevitable result of the survey methodology, which examined areas under cultivation and did not consider existing villages and towns. The chronology of development of the present-day settlement pattern thus remains largely unexplored, except by reference to documentary research or place-name studies. This lack of evidence means that the medieval period is dealt with in a single chapter of 27 pages.

The apparently deserted landscape of the Humber Wetlands in the early medieval period does, however, seem to be confirmed, at least as far as negative and environmental evidence can do. Only a single new early medieval pottery scatter was discovered on a spur of land in southern Holderness, north of the Humber. The site has not been investigated further. Similarly, south of the Humber, pollen evidence shows woodland regeneration after A.D. 400. However, we must remember that these pollen diagrams only have a pollen catchment in the south-west of the Humber Wetlands, so we should be wary of extending the data too far. In any case, there is evidence of both profane and sacred activity within the wetlands, with the major Anglo-Saxon site of Flixborough producing fish and wild fowl, and the jetty at Skerne covering votive deposits of dress pins, metal buckles and a Viking sword with scabbard, thus continuing a practice of offerings which goes back to the Early Neolithic.

The later medieval period sees an expansion from the Domesday settlement pattern of concentration on relatively higher ground or riverbanks. Van de Noort argues that the

absence of natural riverbanks means that banks and dykes must already have existed. This needs to be followed up by excavation. In the 11th century salt production reappears near the Lincolnshire coast. Expansion really takes off in the 12th and 13th centuries, with daughter villages founded, long dikes dug to drain land, sea-banks constructed to protect coastal settlements and motte and bailey castles controlling waterways and river crossings. As elsewhere, monasteries were prominent in ‘converting’ the wetlands into farmland and fishponds. A largely unexplored category of settlement is the moated site — although over 250 are known, only a handful have been investigated, despite the significant finds they have produced, and the significance of the moat is still debated (status or the creation of drier ground).

Overall, this is a well-written and well-illustrated account of a little known region, which also demonstrates through its gaps the need for significant excavation to understand the medieval development of the landscape.

NICK THORPE

The Peak District: Landscapes Through Time. By John Barnatt and Ken Smith. 19 × 25 cm. x + 158 pp., 74 figs. and 17 pls. Macclesfield: Windgather Press, 2004. ISBN 0-9545575-5-7. Price: £16.99 pb.

This slim volume represents an updated version of *The English Heritage Book of the Peak District: Landscapes Through Time*, which was first published by Batsford in 1997. It also forms the latest publication in Windgather’s ‘Landscapes of Britain’ series, which aims to explore the diversity of British landscapes through ‘accessible and attractive books’. These two adjectives are certainly justified in this case and both the authors and publisher are to be congratulated on providing the reader with an amply illustrated and simply written guide to the field archaeology of the Peak District National Park.

It must be stated from the outset that this is not a weighty academic book. Rather, it has been written by senior employees of the National Park Authority as a ‘brief introduction to the archaeology of the Peak District from the earliest people to the modern era’ (1). The text is straightforward and jargon-free and the subject matter comprises those field monuments that might be encountered on a day-trip to the region — from prehistoric barrows and stone circles to medieval and post-medieval fields, 19th-century lead mines and even 20th-century reservoirs and wartime pill-boxes: indeed, a handy gazetteer of places to visit is included for the prospective visitor. Lengthy captions beside each illustration provide detailed interpretations of individual monuments and ‘sites’, while an excellent (if a little untidy) series of full-page landscape maps furnishes the reader with a sense of the wider palimpsest of archaeological features within the Peak District landscape.

The basic structure of the book is predictably chronological, beginning with ‘the earliest gatherer-hunters’ (why not hunter-gatherers?) and working forward to the present day. Occasionally, however, the ‘chronological straitjacket’ is cast aside and there are themed chapters focusing on medieval and post-medieval settlements and farming, communications and industry.

I have only three criticisms of this book. The first concerns its length — it is too short — and its thematic balance. Some subjects (notably stone circles, field walls and industrial archaeology) are given satisfactory coverage, but other topics (rock art, churches and castles in particular) are skipped over in only the briefest of paragraphs. The medieval period as a whole is, I feel, undervalued and I was frequently left frustrated by the abrupt and truncated nature of discussion. Secondly, the authors are sometimes prone to making sweeping generalizations: ‘that monuments display overtly defensive characteristics is an illustration of the stress on the population’ (41); and ‘the Peak District was a political backwater in the medieval period and has relatively few castles’ (89). Lastly, I sensed that

the climate was blamed rather too often as an agent of archaeological change. This is reflected in the title of chapter 4, 'After a Worsening in the Weather'.

Despite these concerns, this is certainly a book that I would recommend as a starting point to anyone wanting to explore the landscape archaeology of the Peak District National Park. Trained archaeologists and historians will almost certainly be left wanting more, but there is an excellent bibliography with suggestions for further reading.

SIMON DRAPER

The Scandinavians: From the Vendel Period to the Tenth Century — An Ethnographic Perspective. (Studies in Historical Archaeoethnology 5). Edited by Judith Jesch. 18 × 25 cm. 374 pp., 2 maps. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2002. ISBN 0-85115-867-6. Price: £50.00, \$85.00 hb.

Those with a particular interest in the 'Historical Archaeoethnology' of the Migration Period will be familiar with this series, given that this book is the fifth to appear in the sequence of the proceedings of conferences organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Social Stress, in San Marino, in the person of Giorgio Ausenda, who contributes a final summary and commentary to this volume, on 'Current issues and future directions in the study of Scandinavians'. He is also responsible for including, verbatim, the post-paper discussions by the invited participants. These are in turn enlightening and infuriating, given that one is all too frequently left wondering what to make of remarks like, 'I can't remember just now . . . I can look it up' (172), when the edited version of these proceedings fails to enlighten one any further. And then, for example, it takes until the discussion following the sixth paper (that is to say, half-way through the conference) before a British historian is bold enough to ask: 'When you say, Vendel time, when do you start?' (171). There are of course more reader-friendly ways to organize such matters!

For students of Medieval Archaeology this is a book for consultation in a library, given that a minority of the twelve papers are written by archaeologists, and these certainly do not constitute an overview to match the promise of the book's title. Nevertheless, one can envisage some of them being well-used, including three general surveys (even if none is illustrated): Bente Magnus, 'Dwellings and settlements: structures and characteristics'; Lise Bender Jørgensen, 'Rural economy: ecology, hunting, pastoralism, agricultural and nutritional aspects'; and Svend Nielsen, 'Urban economy in southern Scandinavia in the second half of the first millennium A.D.' (although, given that the conference was held in 1998, the latter author was inevitably unable to take into account the results of the recent excavations at Kaupang, which have led to a radical rethink of its nature and origins,¹ or the final volume to appear in the series on the Ribe excavations during the 1970s²).

Two specific Swedish studies are of particular importance for providing English summaries of recent research: Birgit Arrhenius, 'Kinship and social relations in the early medieval period in Svealand elucidated by DNA'; and Lena Holmquist Olausson, 'Patterns of settlement and defence at the proto-town of Birka, Lake Mälaren, eastern Sweden'. There is much else of interest to be found within these covers, and this reviewer would particularly highlight the paper by David Dumville, 'Vikings in the British Isles: a question of sources'.

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL

¹ D. Skre and F.-A. Stylegar, *Kaupang: the Viking Town* (University of Oslo, 2004).

² M. Bencard, A. K. Rasmussen and H. Brinch Madsen (eds.), *Ribe Excavations 1970-76: Volume 5* (Jutland Archaeological Society Publications 46, 2004).

Scandinavia and Europe 800–1300: Contact, Conflict, and Coexistence. (Medieval Texts and Cultures of Northern Europe 4). Edited by Jonathan Adams and Katherine Holman. 17 × 25 cm. xvi + 369 pp., many figs. Turnhout: Brepols, 2004. ISBN 2-503-51085-x. Price €65.00 hb.

This collection of 24 papers derives from a successful conference held in 1999. Five years is a long wait for publication, and it is not unkind to note that the lack of any great sense of urgency implicit in that is mirrored in the absence of a clear common purpose. The book has a very brief introduction, and the broad parameters of the title prove to lay open a wide savannah upon which miscellaneous beasts can graze with plenty of space of their own. Only a few of these are archaeologists. Olwyn Owen contributes a paper on the Scar boat burial, now, of course, largely superseded by the monograph publication by herself and Magnus Dalland, although followed here by an informed discussion of the absence of Early Viking-age burial evidence around Scotland. Christopher Morris's paper is an introduction to a project to examine chapel sites around the northern isles. Anne Pedersen provides a thorough survey of Anglo-Saxon and English-influenced material in Late Viking-age Denmark. From a disciplinary perspective, it may indeed be suggested that the principal importance of this book will be in presenting such archaeological work to a wider, more textually inclined, readership. It was good to note effective uses of archaeological evidence in otherwise primarily historical papers by David Gore on south-western England, and Judith Jesch on the Vikings on the Continent.

It would be wrong, however, to say that, and then not consider the book as a collection of literary, linguistic and historical papers of potential relevance and value for archaeological studies. Attention can particularly be drawn to certain topics each discussed in small clusters of two to four papers. Archaeologists have long been used to accepting place-name evidence, with its durability and good distributional information, as sufficiently akin to archaeological data to serve as an effective proxy; they should therefore find much of interest in a series of papers on toponymy in the northern isles and western Scotland, building on the respected work of Bill Nicolaisen. A more considered evaluation of the congruency in theory and methodology between these fields of study would be a valuable project. Repeatedly emerging in this book is the amount of information on Anglo-Scandinavian relations from the Viking Period to the High Middle Ages residing in the much neglected Norman sources, textual, historical and archaeological. By the later period, however, there had also been a reorientation of southern and eastern Scandinavian interests towards the developing and exploitable Baltic zone, helpfully surveyed here. Archaeologists who have wrestled with questions of family relationships and kinship can find informative papers on the interface between High-medieval canon law on these issues and more traditional patterns.

All in all, this book merits a place in university and scholarly libraries, and certainly one on reading lists for students and researchers of the Viking Age and its consequences. At its price, it is reasonable value. Unfortunately it has also to be noted that the quality of the illustrations is consistently rotten: ill-adapted to the format of the book, and badly reproduced. It would have added little to the cost, but much to the character of this book, to have taken proper care of this aspect of production.

JOHN HINES

Chiese dell'Alto Garda Bresciano. Vescovi, eremiti, monasteri, territorio tra tardoantico e romanico. (Documenti di Archeologia 31). Edited by G. P. Brogiolo, M. Ibsen, V. Gheroldi and A. Colecchia. 21 × 29cm. 321 pp., 246 b&w figs. and pls., 18 colour pls. Mantua: Società Archeologica Padana srl, 2003. ISBN 88-87115-35-4. Price: €34.00.

Northern Italy has a particularly rich heritage of medieval churches and monasteries, many of which can trace roots to the early medieval or early Christian epochs.

As an archaeological resource, much of this heritage still remains untapped, especially in terms of informing us of changes in patterns of rural settlement strategy, on missionary activity, rural Christianization, monastic landholdings and regional cultural ties. This volume results from a significant initiative between a university (Padua), an archaeological superintendency (Lombardy) and local governing bodies (comuni) and archaeological groups to survey, analyse, research and, in some cases, excavate sixteen medieval (14th-century and earlier) churches in the Alto Garda Bresciano — a series of civic territories on the north-west flank of lake Garda in north Italy, between Salò and Limone sul Garda.

The sample addresses an array of locations and roles, from hilltops such as Gardola (with a 7th-century private church of San Pietro), to open lakeside seats such as Maderno (with fine extant 11th-century structural and artistic components), and to lakeside grottoes and caves, notably the hermitage of San Giorgio in Varolo (with fragmentary 11th-century murals and traces of early medieval origins) (Churches are detailed in Part II, 133–221). In some instances detached or reused (or now lost) fragments of choir screens, capitals, pilasters or cornices help identify later 8th- or 9th-century decorative phases to churches (Ibsen, 60–8, 78–93); one unique piece, a small limestone reliquary box in the form of a sarcophagus, found in a sub-altar space at San Pietro di Gardola, over which had until recently stood an original altar-table, may relate to a 6th-century cult centre (ibid., 83–4; Brogiolo & Ibsen, 135–41). In other sites, extant, if fragmentary wall paintings reflect what must have been extensive Romanesque artistic and architectural programmes or reworkings of older churches (Ibsen & Brogiolo, 43–6; Ibsen, 69–73. Gheroldi, 95–132, with colour plates IV–X, provides a valuable analysis of the images, materials and techniques of the 11th- to 14th-century murals).

Importantly, this well-presented volume aims to give a wider context for the churches: their local and regional roles, their relationships to immediate settlements and patterns of ownership and landholding. While a second volume is due to detail the evolution of human settlement and landscape exploitation in the Alto Garda Bresciano from prehistory to modern times, the scene is set here by contributions by Brogiolo (11–18) on early medieval churches, Colecchia (19–32) on local and regional Roman to medieval settlement trends, and Ibsen (33–41) on feudal, monastic and episcopal roles in the zone in the 10th to 13th centuries, arguing for largely episcopal initiatives in the renewal of the church network.

NEIL CHRISTIE

Dying and Death in Anglo-Saxon England. (Anglo-Saxon Studies 4). By Victoria Thompson. 16 × 24 cm. x + 236 pp., 8 figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2004. ISBN 1-84383-070-1. Price: £50.00; \$85.00 hb.

The study of burial customs in later Anglo-Saxon England is now beginning to be studied to the depth that the material deserves, although the volume of scholarship remains miniscule in comparison to that concerned with the pagan period. Victoria Thompson, working largely from textual evidence, has produced a study of fundamental importance for the later Anglo-Saxon period that provides a series of insightful perspectives on archaeological material including burials and stone grave markers, most notably the latter. Thompson interrogates a wide variety of textual sources ranging from penitentials and wills, to poetic and homiletic material. Her focus is evident from the outset in a careful study of the progress from death to burial of Æthelfæd, Lady of the Mercians, which emphasizes what the textual material does not tell us as much as how it informs, noting that the dying experience and funeral of lay persons is only explicitly brought into view with the death of Edward the Confessor. The methodology of the study is thus necessarily interdisciplinary and is to be applauded as a serious attempt at integrating the full range of available evidence relevant to its theme. It remains a remarkable fact that so much

scholarship in historical periods proceeds without reference to additional bodies of evidence that have a central role to play in understanding the behaviour of past societies.

The chronological focus is between the 9th and 11th centuries, but with reference to both earlier and later material. After the detailed opening case study, the book moves on to examine general trends in funerary behaviour and broader attitudes to death and burial bringing in a wider body of source material. This second chapter is a preparatory to the succeeding four chapters that chart in detail the nature of the death bed experience through to commemoration. Archaeologists will find chapters 4 and 5 of especial interest, particularly the latter where Thompson gets to grips with the interpretation of stone grave markers and their iconography forging clear links between textual references to the *wym* and their presence on memorial material culture. Overall, this is an exemplary study, written in an eloquent and engaging style and with relevance beyond the period with which it is concerned. This reviewer's only reservation is the cover price.

ANDREW REYNOLDS

Excavations at the Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, London. (MoLAS Monograph 20). By Barney Sloane and Gordon Malcolm. 21 × 30 cm. xix + 434 pp., 202 figs., maps and plans and 102 tbs. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service, 2004. ISBN 1-901992-20-9. Price: £31.96 pb.

One may be perhaps forgiven, in light of the recent plethora of popular books and novels concerned with medieval conspiracies and secret societies, that a tome focusing on the excavations within the precincts of the only English priory of the Knights Hospitaller might contain previously unearthed secrets of a dark and mysterious character. However, of course, despite many readings between the lines, this publication does not contain any such esoteria (to my eyes at least). What it does, in the vein of similar MoLAS monographs, is provide a clear, if not glossy, and well-written presentation and discussion of one of London's, and the country's, most important and unique institutions. Overall the volume provides a synthesis of excavations carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service in 1985 and 1995 and earlier work carried out at the site in the late 19th century and incorporates renovation work carried out in the crypt with excavations in parts of the inner court and precinct.

The Community of the Hospital of St John was in evidence from as early as 1080 in Jerusalem, though the first rule was probably only drawn up by Raymond de Puy sometime after 1120. Ostensibly, the role of the institution was to support the network of hospices and transport systems for pilgrims to the Holy Land. It is suggested that their military duties were introduced somewhat later. However it is likely, due to the nature of their particular brief, that it formed a necessary, if not unofficial element of their responsibilities fairly early on. The central headquarters for the order was always situated outside Europe. First Acre, then Rhodes, and finally Malta where some of their fine buildings still remain. Clerkenwell was a provincial headquarters and today only parts of the crypt and the later medieval gatehouse survive relatively intact (interestingly this was de-scheduled in 2000). The report provides an insight into the development of the priory from 1144 to the 17th century. It largely provides a chronological and thematic narrative. The thematic elements discuss the wider context of its foundation examining comparative sites and the evidence for a high standard of architectural embellishment and innovation. This latter element is supported by a set of excellent reconstruction line drawings. Of particular interest is the general discussion on the nature and use of round naves which both Clerkenwell and similar institutions, such as the London Temple, exhibit. The round nave appears to have been replaced with a more conventional rectangular design sometime in the 14th century when a large hall structure was added. Also at this period, which may reflect a related

demise of the Templar Order, and the acquisition of some former Templar land by the Knights of St John, there was a reorganization of the close. This was possibly for the use of officials and important servants of the order.

As a result of the excavations and synthesis of previous work, and study of surviving documentary sources, much of the layout of the inner precinct is now also clear. Evidence suggests that this space was occupied by a large complex of halls and gardens and may have been similar to the general layout of aristocratic residences of the period. Such layouts, of course, reflect the character of the knights themselves who occupied a potentially difficult position of being both monks and secular lords.

The report itself presents an adequate level of information and is therefore accessible to both professionals and enthusiasts. The descriptive information, formed from a series of research archives, is integrated well and is supported by clear and relevant photographs and illustrations. There is also a full description of textual and graphic conventions and a comprehensive glossary. Overall the report builds on the success of previous MoLAS monographs focusing on London's monastic houses and as such provides a significant contribution which is reasonably priced, informative and highly readable.

SIMON ROFFEY

The Black Death 1346–1353: The Complete History. By Ole J. Benedictow. 16 × 24 cm. xvi + 433 pp., 3 figs., 11 maps and 38 tbs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2004. ISBN 0-85115-943-5. Price: £30.00 hb.

To call this 'The Complete History' is a very bold subtitle indeed, and of course this is not the complete history. For a start there are no primary sources cited beyond chronicles. The dust jacket statement that this book is to be 'comprehensive' and the assertion that 'The many local studies . . . and scholarly papers have for the first time been systematically collected and thoroughly analysed' are impossible claims, although the second might survive scrutiny without the definite article. This reviewer's name is recorded erroneously against publications cited. There are too many references to the flawed and out-dated work of J. F. D. Shrewsbury (1971). One could go on to grumble about typos and misunderstandings of localities and terminology (why is York a 'city' and Winchester a 'town', for example?). These are the down sides of this work.

Ole Benedictow is Professor of History at the University of Oslo and in this book he provides an essential conspectus of many aspects of current debates about the Black Death, its causes and effects. So far as causes are concerned, Benedictow is a traditionalist, he is a bubonic-and-associated-plagues man, pure and simple. Not for him upstart ideas about anthrax, ebola fever or 'whatever it was, it was not bubonic plague', the odd conclusion — without a replacement proposal — put forward recently by Sam Cohn. We are not challenged to consider a new interpretation on that score. Benedictow briefly discusses the archaeological evidence for the widespread existence across England and the increase in numbers of black rat bones noted in the archaeological record from the period of the plague (he might have mentioned rat-predators as well). The excavated plague pit at Hereford could have been included, for example.

Overall the discussion is certainly up to date, but it tells us nothing new in itself. However, like so much of the material in this great work, references are gathered together and the wide and multilingual reading by the author carries us across Europe and beyond with the plague, and updates and greatly expands that previous excellent study of the plague by Philip Ziegler, whose *Black Death* was published in 1969. This is not an archaeological book, nor an architectural study, both terms missing from the index (although astrology finds a place), and one would have liked to have seen a more vigorous debate about the effects of the Black Death on the arts and architecture — the work of

Colin Platt is a notable omission here. But with all these criticisms this is a book which should be on every Late-Medievalist's shelf. It is packed with valuable and well-considered accounts of a very large secondary literature. Taking the book for what it is — a history of the Black Death (if not *The Complete History*), this is a wonderful compilation of data which will be widely used for many years to come. For this we should be grateful to Professor Benedictow, and look forward to new editions which build upon this most readable and clearly written text.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

Castles and Landscapes. By Oliver Creighton. 17 × 25 cm. 270 pp., 97 figs., maps and plans. London: Equinox, 2005 (2nd edn.). ISBN 1-904768-67-9. Price: £19.99; \$35.00 pb.

The field of 'castles and landscapes' has waited a long time for a monograph on the subject that can draw comparison to Richard Morris's classic *Churches in the Landscape*. With the appearance of this work the wait is over as Oliver Creighton has finally done justice to a topic that has been crying out for a monograph for years. With the appearance of *Castles and Landscapes* it is no longer possible for authors to state that 'the castle in the landscape' is an understudied area. In what will become a standard text, Creighton has set down an important marker, and this volume not only relates in great detail our current state of knowledge, but also suggests important lines of research for the future.

Creighton sets out his intentions very clearly from the outset, and takes his lead from the foundation statement of the Castles Studies Group; itself a plea for the long-aspired, but rarely achieved, 'holistic approach' to the subject. The potential of the 'landscape approach' is signalled early on in a chapter entitled 'Castles and Their Contexts' in which Goltho and Sandal castles are juxtaposed with the aim of highlighting the potential gains to be made by breaking down traditional discipline divisions.

In a series of analytical chapters Creighton then goes on to deal with themes that have, for many years, deserved a systematic and well informed treatment. Building on a wealth of evidence from sites of varying status and notoriety, we finally have in one place lucid and penetrative discussions of castle siting and distribution; the iconic place of the castle in the countryside; the castle as estate centre; the relationship between castles and ecclesiastical structures; castles and urbanism; and castles and the countryside. The conclusions offered are based on a wealth of data from a wide geographical range and Creighton's attention to detail is second to none. This, for me, is the greatest strength of the book. The sheer weight of evidence that has been digested and summarized is remarkably impressive, as is Creighton's ability to bring together this information in a readable, accessible, style.

Castles and Landscapes is an energetic work of synthesis that firmly underlines the necessity to study the castle using a multi-disciplinary approach. The author also stresses the need to avoid generalizations about what were always recognized as a diverse range of structures. This is not a trivial observation; rather, it gets to the heart of the problem and should be an invitation to future research. It will take a long time before the local and regional workings of the over-arching themes that make up the core of this book are fully understood. In due course, it will be the detailed study of individual sites in their own landscape contexts that will take the subject forward, as the approach taken in this book demonstrates.

This book first appeared in 2002 and, at the time, Creighton was badly let down by the publisher's inability to reproduce many of the illustrations at anything approaching acceptable standard. Thankfully Equinox have put this right and there are now decent images to go alongside the text. The author (and now publisher) are to be congratulated

on producing a volume that will be the starting point for researchers and undergraduates alike for many years.

ROBERT LIDDIARD

Bolig og Familie i Danmarks Middelalder. Edited by Else Roesdahl. 22 × 28 cm. 307 pp., 194 figs., maps, plans and tbs. Moesgård: Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab, 2003. ISBN 87-88415-22-8, ISSN 0107-2854. Price: DKr 288.00, €38.75 hb.

Denmark has a long and excellent tradition of settlement and buildings archaeology, as exemplified by the major excavations at rural sites in the mid-20th century by Axel Steensberg and others, which were an inspiration to the study of medieval settlement in Britain in the post-war period. In Denmark, the excavation of structures has been coupled with an emphasis on the scholarly use of experimental reconstruction in wood and other materials. Many more sites have been excavated in the later decades of the 20th century, and the associated academic debate has moved on from structural and functionalistic concerns to a diachronic emphasis on social and environmental development, linking excavated evidence to the built heritage, and crossing the urban-rural boundary.

This collection of papers stems from two conferences held at Århus University in 1998 and 1999, which focused respectively on the Medieval Family and on Viking/Medieval Building Culture. The contents are very wide-ranging indeed, but this is perhaps its real strength. A study by Jørgen Lund of the use of interior space in North European houses dating to around 0 B.C./A.D. might seem an odd companion to a paper by Ole Kristiansen on 16th-century tile stoves. However, they sit very appropriately at either end of the book's broad thematic and chronological scope, which runs from the Iron Age through Viking and Medieval to the early Post-Medieval period. Else Roesdahl sets the scene with an overview and an exhortation to multi-disciplinary research. Bjarne Stoklund follows on cue with a study of comparative philological analysis of household terminology by the linguist Svend Jespersen, as set against Steensberg's archaeological interpretation of a 1939 farm excavation at Pebringe, Sjælland. In subsequent papers, the role of domestic space in family life, the development of fortified farms and castles, and the growth of an urban building tradition, and the cultural and religious context of house-plans, interior decoration, and domestic material culture all receive attention. The development of houses is traced through the Viking Age by Dorthe Kaldal Mikkeslen, and the Medieval period by Mette Svart Kritiansen. There is an important paper on excavated timber houses in Danish towns between 800 and 1600 by Marie Foged Klemensen. Over all, surprisingly little is made of the international context: for instance, the influential work on the domestic material culture of Medieval London by Geoff Egan is unmentioned. There are excellent English summaries, but sadly no index.

DAVID GRIFFITHS

An Archaeology of Trade in Middle Saxon England. (British Archaeological Reports, British Series 376). By John Naylor. 21 × 30 cm, iv + 171 pp., 58 figs., maps, plans and tbs. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2004. ISBN 1-84171-647-2. Price: £30.00 pb.

Richard Hodges's 1982 book *Dark Age Economics* revitalized interest in the economy of Early Medieval Europe, at a time when the flow of new urban archaeological evidence for the mid-1st millennium seemed to be growing inexorably. Hodges came under fire for some of his core assumptions about the role of royal élites in his post-Pirenne model for trade and the emporia, and following perceptive critiques such as those of Grenville Astill

(*Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 4 (2), 1985, and 10 (1), 1991), attention turned towards finding more pluralistic explanations for trade, urbanization and coinage in the detail of regional economies. The spread of metal-detecting transformed this picture in the 1980s and 1990s, providing a large new corpus of metalwork and coinage. Critically revisiting the ideas of Hodges, by tackling the Mid-Saxon economy on a regional level, has become one of the most popular areas of enquiry for British postgraduate theses in recent years.

John Naylor's 2002 Durham Ph.D. thesis, which is reproduced here, derives much from the reformulation of the debate by Astill and others. A more recent stimulus is the work of Katharina Ulmschneider (e.g. *Medieval Archaeol.*, vols. 43, 44, and B.A.R. Brit. Ser. 307) which was the first major attempt to set metal-detected evidence in a regional economic context. Naylor presents case studies of East Yorkshire and Kent, set against the background of a clear and well-constructed summary of the Dark Age Economics debate. Somewhat critical of Ulmschneider's emphasis on one source of data (although Ulmschneider did explicitly set out to provide a new interpretative context for metal-detected material), Naylor's study encompasses evidence largely from excavations, also stray discovery and (to some extent) metal-detecting. Coinage and pottery figure most prominently. There is a study of non-numismatic metalwork in East Yorkshire based partly on information from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, but not Kent where the equivalent is described as problematic. The data is brought together in an outline gazetteer, which is unspecific as to type and date of most of the material listed. Naylor relies on dot-distribution maps and histograms to present the evidence graphically. In a tweak of the debate away from the minster-market hypothesis for regional trade as proposed by Ulmschneider and John Blair, the role of secular communities in promoting and developing trading networks is stressed.

DAVID GRIFFITHS

Nordeuropæisk Dyrestil, 400–1100 A.D. Edited by Karen Høilund Nielsen. (Hikuin 29). 21 × 20 cm. 309 pp., many figs., maps and plans. Moesgård: Hikuin Publications, 2004. ISBN 87-90814-21-5. Price: DKr 200.00 hb.

This collection of papers represents a refreshing and timely snapshot of current scholarship on early medieval north European animal art. Indeed, the volume appropriately opens with an exploration of the history of this scholarship by Nielsen, by way of introduction, followed by two detailed surveys of scholarly approaches, first to Migration Period animal styles by Nielsen and Kristoffersen, and second to the categorization of Viking art styles by Klæsøe. The rest of the papers in this collection are split into these two groups and focus on specific aspects of style, meaning and function.

Case studies are drawn from various regions, although there is a Scandinavian bias, while the chronological emphasis is on the earlier styles; excluding the first three papers, six contributors focus on Migration Period art and only three on the Viking Period; this sub-division is typical of early north European animal art studies and, as emphasized in Nielsen's introduction, is related to its historical development. The majority of the papers are in Danish, two in English and one in German, although English summaries are provided at the end of the volume making it accessible to a much wider audience. The papers are generally clearly written, well-illustrated and systematic in their analysis with labelled sub-sections. There is no space to discuss their contents in detail; however, it is interesting to note the range of topics for each chronological group.

The Migration Period papers are concerned with stylistic developments, with Magnus focusing on Style I brooches, Carlsen on D-bracteates and Dickinson on Anglo-Saxon disc brooches. Roth, Kristoffersen and Nielsen incorporate a broader range of material culture, respectively examining Insular ornament, South-Western Norway, and, in her third

contribution, the varied prevalence of identifiable species across northern Europe. The three Viking Period papers are also diverse in their approach, with Klæsøe's second contribution exploring the relationship between identifiable animal ornament and symbolic meaning, Paterson focusing on the exchange of specific styles between England and Scandinavia, and finally Jakobsson surveying broader long-term social trends in Scandinavia in relation to animal ornament.

Previous studies of early medieval animal art have been scattered across various journals, conference proceedings and embedded within monographs concerned with broader themes. Syntheses wholly concerned with animal ornament are far and few between and although the range of contributors could have been expanded — and some important names are missing — *Nordeuropaeisk dyrestil* represents an invaluable collection of recent and thought-provoking scholarship and a bold attempt at bridging the artificial divide between Migration and Viking period studies.

ALEKS PLUSKOWSKI

The Ruler Portraits of Anglo-Saxon England. (Anglo-Saxon Studies 3). By Catherine E. Karkov. 16 × 24 cm. viii + 209 pp., 28 figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2004. ISBN 1-84383-059-0. Price: £55.00, \$99.00 hb.

This study centres on the five surviving manuscript portrayals of specific Anglo-Saxon rulers: Æthelstan presenting Cuthbert with a book; Edgar presenting the New Minster (Winchester) charter to Christ; Edgar between Dunstan and Æthelwold; Emma and Cnut presenting an altar cross to New Minster; and Emma with her sons receiving a book. But the study is much more wide-ranging in its discussions. A range of other visual and artefactual material is considered including coins, seals, the Alfred Jewel and the Bayeux Tapestry. There is also close attention to the contents of the manuscripts and to literary portrayals of the rulers, and an emphasis on finding connections between all these different forms of ruler-portrait. Many of these sources and topics have been the subject of important recent studies, and not the least value of Professor Karkov's book is that she provides a useful résumé and correlation of previous work from which she launches her own observations and original conclusions. There is, for instance, a cogent discussion of the development of Marian imagery for the portrayal of Anglo-Saxon queens. The presentation in the *Encomium Emmae* of the widowed Emma, mother of two sons, as Cnut's virgin bride is related to this.

The central argument advanced in the book is that, although Carolingian, Ottonian and Byzantine influences can be found behind aspects of the Anglo-Saxon portrayal of rulers, the latter have their own characteristics that are not directly paralleled elsewhere. Distinctive features of the Anglo-Saxon series are that they are 'centred on books, authorship and learning rather than thrones, swords and sceptres'. In several instances the rulers are identified by inscriptions and shown holding or receiving the very books that contain the portraits of themselves. The central concerns are traced back to Asser's portrayal of Alfred as a scholar king much concerned with books ever since he famously won a volume of poetry at his mother's knee. Alfred's interest in placing himself in relation to earlier English history is also seen as influential, and comparable concerns are traced for the later rulers through consideration of the contents of the manuscripts which contain their portraits. Some observations may prove controversial. The argument that the portraits form 'a visual genealogy equivalent to the textual genealogies and regnal lists' raises questions about transmission of models and awareness of earlier works that needed to be explored in greater depth. One might also wonder whether the Anglo-Saxons would have made the same equation as the author between the borders of the manuscripts and the West Saxon rulers' interest in the expansion of the borders of their kingdom which

meant that they 'consistently placed themselves in a border position'. It is, of course, the mark of a stimulating book that it raises questions in addition to providing many answers.

BARBARA YORKE

King Harold II and the Bayeux Tapestry. (Publications of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies 3). Edited by Gale Owen-Crocker. 16 × 24 cm. 214 pp., 53 figs. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2005. ISBN 1-843831-24-4. Price: £45.00, \$90.00 hb.

Although the reign of Harold II was one of the shortest of the Anglo-Saxon period, it is one which understandably attracts a large share of attention, although few book-length studies. By contrast, a great deal has been published on the Bayeux Tapestry, a uniquely important narrative frieze with which the reputation of ill-fated king is inextricably linked. These twelve papers, mostly from a conference held at the University of Manchester in 2002, effectively present these links. The collected articles show the value of the philosophy of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies in using a multidisciplinary and at times interdisciplinary approach.

Most of the first part of the book, which focuses on Harold's legitimacy and reputation, will be of use for the historical contextualization of the period. From these, Nicholas Higham's paper is a useful introduction to the complexities of the claims to the throne, and the arguments presented by Ian Howard on Harold's legitimacy, here focusing on Harold's Scandinavian links, are an example of the complex ways in which the succession can be interpreted. However, among the readership of this journal, the book may be of most interest to those interested in the iconography of medieval art. As a collection of essays, this obviously does not provide a complete overview of the Tapestry. Rather, the book provides a snapshot of the range of current scholarship. For example, Sarah Larratt Keefer, writing on the meaning of horses in the Tapestry and Shirley Ann Brown, on the relationship between *Song of Roland* and the Tapestry, show the worth of the iconographic approach contextualized within the meaning of the Bayeux Tapestry as a historical document.

A paper by Chris Henige, advancing arguments made earlier in the volume by Gale Owen-Crocker, on the layout of the Tapestry will be of particular interest for architectural studies. Analysis of the 'shape' of the Tapestry seems useful, if indeed it was designed, as Henige suggests, for a specific nobleman's home, a potentially useful issue in addressing the Tapestry's portability (or otherwise). Michael Lewis's paper on 'The Bayeux Tapestry and Eleventh-Century Material Culture' promises much, but one does not need to follow the detail of the author's calculations to realize that the sizes of horses on the Tapestry are not in proportion to the size of contemporary trading vessels. Nonetheless, the approach is solid, and Lewis's discussions of the buildings of the Tapestry warrant note for the readers of this journal.

Overall, however, this is a useful collection of papers which, while not the last word on the subject, is nonetheless a welcome contribution to the range of scholarship on the Bayeux Tapestry and a much-needed assessment of Harold's brief reign in its own right.

RYAN LAVELLE

Norwich: 'A Fine City' (2nd edn.). By Brian Ayres. 17 × 25 cm. 192 pp., 100 b&w figs., 27 colour pls. Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2003. ISBN 0-7524-2549-8. Price: £15.99 pb.

In essence a new edition of a volume published originally in 1994, *Norwich: 'A Fine City'* aims to present a history of a city that spans the millennia. Updated with new illustrations,

this most recent rendering incorporates discoveries from the intervening decade of archaeological endeavour in Norwich. Set out in chapters of broad period affinity, the establishment of the Late Saxon and Norman town is highlighted, reflecting the significance of these periods to the development of the city and the writer's own sphere of interest. The post-medieval periods are also covered and the history concluded with archaeology since 1945.

In the preface the author states that the volume's primary purpose is as a summary of archaeological discovery in Norwich. The style and format of the publication is accessible, and the stated purpose thankfully achieved with out resorting to the type of archaeological reportage that stifles a reader's interest when consultation is born of general interest. A small detraction is that some of the black and white photographs lack impact and occasionally relevance, and despite refreshment some illustrations appear dated, those depicted in colour providing clearly better presentation.

As County Archaeologist, no one is better placed than Brian Ayers to access the archaeological record and chart the rise and occasional lacuna of a provisional city that rivalled London during 17th to 18th centuries. Recently produced volumes edited by Carole Rawcliffe and Richard Wilson on the history of the city are able to provide a greater depth of detail, but for a concise rendering *Norwich: A Fine City* remains the definitive volume.

DAVID ADAMS

Illaunlough Island: An Early Medieval Monastery in County Kerry. By Jenny White Marshall and Claire Walsh. 26 × 20 cm. xi + 253 pp., 113 colour and b&w pls., catalogue drgs., figs., maps and plans. Bray, Co. Wicklow: Wordwell, 2005. ISBN 1-86985-779-8. Price: £35.00 hb.

Following an initial survey in 1987 the small monastic island of Illaunlough (opposite Valentia Island, Co. Kerry) was excavated between 1992–5, under the direction of the authors (and initially Claire Cotter), as a partnership project between UCLA and University College, Dublin. This handsomely mounted volume, with its excellent mix of colour, black and white and drawn illustrations is the final report of their work. It is a rather striking hybrid of archaeological report and more popular contextualizing synthesis, which it achieves by dividing the book into four sections. The first is a general overview tracing the history of the monastic settlement and its economic sustainability. It contains a full discussion of the site's 8th–9th century reliquary shrine and the drystone oratory and their comparators. The reliquary shrine included scallop shells in its construction and a useful section on the early medieval use of scallop shells includes the 3rd-century Torah shrine from the Dura Europos synagogue (though does not note the even earlier dating Roman altars of very similar design such as are known from Herculaneum and Pompeii). The Gallarus style oratory is set in its Irish context with a rich discussion of the drystone oratories of western Kerry. From the same time-frame comes a significant crop of metalwork evidence, including a bone motif piece, several fragments of clay-crucibles and moulds (including for pins), a suspension mechanism for a Viking balance, the head of an annular brooch-pin and what is catalogued as a spiral-ringed baluster-headed ring-pin. The pin and ring were found separately but close together and so taken to be the same object, perhaps too readily given their midden find-spot; the possibility surely remains that they are parts of two objects not one? The second part is a detailed stratigraphy report, the third a rather conventional finds report which tackles the material by type rather than social function and the fourth part deals with an often neglected aspect of archaeological site reporting, the conservation techniques used to preserve the site and make it accessible.

There are some unfortunate errors and drawbacks. A lack of consistency and final proofing is suggested by, for example, 'copper/bronze alloy' (21) and 'copper/bronze-alloy' (20) which might more accurately have been phrased copper alloy/bronze casting. Kilbride-Jones (1980) is referred to in the text, at 179, but absent from the bibliography and endnote 67 introduces an apparently unexplained reference to Fehring (1965). More seriously, the ring-pin is described in the finds catalogue (177) as a 'spiral-ringed baluster headed ring-pin', but on p. 21 and in fig. 15 it is described as a 'penannular ring-brooch'. The book concludes with six appendices which list the headings of further specialist reports — the 1987 survey, the clay-moulded fragment, the skeletal and environmental material and the radiocarbon dates — available from the publisher's website or as PDF files on CD available from the publisher. This is commendable but for the decision not to include the CD as an insert with the book (this is comparatively cheap to do, so why opt not to?) and its absence is somewhat annoying given that the text of the book makes numerous references to the material in the appendices which are more time-consuming to pursue without the CD immediately to hand. My one attempt to try and locate the files on the website failed.

In the final analysis, this is an eloquent and lucidly written account which seeks to appeal both to general and specialist audiences and serves to remind us how important the exploration of small-scale monastic sites and their material culture can be to our understanding of social processes between the 7th and 9th centuries.

MARK A. HALL

The following publications were also received:

Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice (4th edn.). By Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. 19 × 23 cm. 656 pp., over 600 figs. London: Thames and Hudson, 2004. ISBN 0-500-28441-5. Price: £24.95 pb.

This fourth edition of 'the most complete, wide-ranging and usable archaeological textbook in the world . . .' encompasses several new themes. These include recent field methods and theoretical approaches (e.g. agency, materiality and engagement theory), as well as 'new' topics such as (at last!) the archaeology of gender and childhood. There are also new special box features and case studies, although the presence of (particularly Late-) medieval archaeology remains slight.

A Companion to Archaeology. Edited by John Bintliff. 18 × 25 cm. xxiv + 544 pp., 62 figs., maps, plans and tbs. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2004. ISBN 0-631-21302-3. Price: £85.00; \$124.95 hb.

This is billed as 'a rich portrait of contemporary archaeology' (Brian Fagan). It aims to define the field, featuring 27 essays written by 'the world's leading authorities on different types of archaeology' (e.g. gender archaeology, the archaeology of landscape, public archaeology). The volume is closer to the series of encyclopaedias published by Routledge than to Renfrew and Bahn's classic textbook, and although the thematic structure allows little regard for chronological periods, medieval technology (Kevin Greene) and monuments (Matthew Johnson) are discussed in their theoretical contexts.

Atlas of World Art. Edited by John Onians. 26 × 35 cm. 352 pp., 300 colour figs. and colour maps. London: Laurence King Publishing, 2004. ISBN 1-85669-377-5. Price: £75.00 hb.

This 'first ever atlas of world art' includes contributions from 68 leading specialists from around the world. The structure is first geographical, then chronological, running

from prehistory to the present, but this is more than a work of art history. In particular the assertion that 'the availability of raw materials has been a major factor in artistic development' encourages an emphasis on location and culture that will appeal to archaeologists.

Teeth (2nd edn.). By Simon Hillson. 18 × 25 cm. xiv + 373 pp., many drgs. and figs. ISBN 0-521-54549-8. Price: £30.00, \$49.99 pb.

This second edition of *Teeth* is not only fully updated and rewritten, but has increased the range of *taxa* covered from 150 to 325 genera, expanding the geographical range of the first edition from Europe, Western Asia and North Africa, to also include Central and North-east Asia and North America. The proportion of the book dedicated to human teeth, however, has reduced from the original edition. This book will remain a standard for those studying teeth from any period, not just medieval, and will be useful to all from student to professional.

Britons and Romans: Advancing an Archaeological Agenda. Edited by Simon James and Martin Millett. (CBA Research Report 125). 21 × 30 cm. 10 + 118 pp., 24 figs., 2 tbs. York: Council for British Archaeology, 2001. ISBN 1-902771-16-8; ISSN 0589-9036. Price: not stated pb.

This has come along late in the day, but is especially of interest for Simon Esmonde-Cleary's insightful contribution 'The Roman-Medieval Transition', which culminates in his articulation of the 'Late Antiquity' framework for moving studies forward.

Dress in Anglo-Saxon England. (Revised edn.). By Gale R. Owen-Crocker. 16 × 24 cm. xix + 400 pp., 25 b&w and colour pls., 238 figs. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2004. ISBN 1-84383-081-7. Price: £30.00; \$50.00 hb.

This well-illustrated edition of Owen-Crocker's original study, published 20 years ago, is informed by the substantial archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon dress unearthed in the intervening period. Archaeological textiles, cloth production and the significance of imported cloth and 'foreign fashions' are all put under scrutiny, and what modern observers can (and cannot) discern from contemporary representations is discussed.

Viking Age Headcoverings from Dublin. By Elizabeth Wincott Heckett. (Medieval Dublin Excavations 1962-81 Series B, 6). 22 × 30 cm. xv + 152 pp. 95 figs. and 16 colour pls., 14 tbs. Dublin: National Museum of Ireland, 2003. ISBN 0-9543855-5-1. Price: €30.00 hb.

This beautifully produced book catalogues 68 textiles from 10th-12th-century Dublin, and explores the community that used them. Detailed examination from sewing to trade routes is examined and analysed.

Norderhever-Projekt 2: Früh- bis spätmittelalterliche Keramik aus dem südlichen nordfriesischen Marschengebiet und Wattenmeer (Offa-Bucher 81). By Heinz-Josef Stumpel. 21 × 30 cm. 313 pp., 34 figs., 11 maps, 30 tbs., 29 b&w catalogue pls., 1 CD Rom. Neumunster: Wachholz Verlag, 2002. ISBN 3-529-01181-9. Price: €50.00 hb.

A comprehensive survey of early- to late-medieval pottery (8th-15th centuries) recovered from various sites in North Friesland. The volume presents a well-illustrated classification of the pottery by form within each defined ware type or ware group, also covering aspects of manufacture and vessel function. Indigenous trends in pottery manufacture are set out in their regional and international context, and the contribution to the study of medieval settlement in north Friesland is discussed. No English summary.

Medieval Allegory and the Building of the New Jerusalem. By Ann R. Meyer. 16 × 24 cm. x + 214 pp., 15 figs. Cambridge: Brewer, 2003. ISBN 0-85991-796-7. Price: £40.00, \$70.00 hb.

A multi-disciplinary study combining theology, liturgy, architecture, art, literary history and ecclesiastical organization of the High Gothic period of the 12th–14th centuries. A specialist work, but important reading for scholars working on any of these rich fields at that date.

Robin Hood: Medieval and Post-Medieval. Edited by Helen Phillips. 16 × 24 cm. 202 pp. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2005. ISBN 1-85182-931-8. Price: £50.00, €55.00 hb.

This collection of essays explores the medieval contexts of the Robin Hood tradition and its evolution in the post-medieval period. Although the main focus is on literature and drama, the sections on local traditions and monuments will be of interest to readers of this journal. These include a chapter by David Hepworth on the late-13th- or 14th-century Robin Hood grave at Kirklees (91–112), and another by Michael R. Evans entitled 'Robin Hood in the Landscape: Place-name Evidence and Mythology' (181–7).

The King's Mills, Leeds: The History and Archaeology of the Manorial Water-Powered Corn Mills. By John Goodchild and Stuart Wrathmell. 17 × 25 cm. iv + 60 pp., 34 figs. and plans. Leeds: Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, 2002. ISBN 1-870737-17-2. Price: £7.00; overseas £7.70 pb.

This booklet tells the story of a group of medieval and later corn mills in Leeds, and is based on the archaeological investigations which took place ahead of redevelopment in the 1990s. The medieval and post-medieval remains are linked to written and cartographic evidence for the mills' development from the 12th to the 20th centuries.