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BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TRANSACTIONS

VOLUME XCVI

Issued 1979

1978

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BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1876. Its objects are to promote the study of the history and antiquities of Bristol and Gloucestershire of every period; to encourage their conservation and publish original records, excavation reports and other papers relevant to this field of study.

A volume of *Transactions* is published annually and is issued free to all members. In addition special volumes are occasionally published by the Record Section of the Society.

The Society's Library is housed at the Public Library, Gloucester. Members have access to it every week-day (except public holidays) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturdays 12 noon), and, with a few exceptions, books may be borrowed by members for not more than 3 months.

Field meetings at places of archaeological and architectural interest, including private houses not open to the public, are held in spring and autumn. A Summer Meeting lasting three or four days affords similar opportunities further afield. Evening lectures are given during the winter at Bristol, and can be arranged at other centres.

Forms of application for membership (Entrance fee, 50p, annual subscription, £2; Associate Members, £1; Overseas Members, £3; Junior Members under 18, £1; Life Members, £25; Institutional Members in U.K., £4, abroad £6) can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Ralph, M.A., F.S.A., 9 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3AU.

Those having papers which they wish to submit for publication in the *Transactions* are asked to communicate with the Hon. Editor, Dr N. M. Herbert, Gable Cottage, Park Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, Glos., and to obtain a copy of 'Notes for the guidance of contributors', published at the end of Vol. XCIII. Books for review should be sent to the Reviews Editor, David J. Viner, Corinium Museum, Park Street, Cirencester.

The Council are not responsible for any statement made, or opinion expressed, in the *Transactions* of the Society: the authors alone are responsible for their several papers.

TRANSACTIONS

of the

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EDITED BY B. S. SMITH, M.A., F.S.A.

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Society Notes

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REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1978

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester on Saturday, 8 April 1978 at 2.30 p.m. The President, C. Roy Hudleston was in the chair and 91 members were present. Apologies were received from 36 members. His Worship the Mayor of Gloucester welcomed members. The annual report presented by the Hon. General Secretary was adopted. The annual balance sheet and statement of accounts were presented and adopted. Mr Bernard Rawes gave a report of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire. The retiring President proposed the election of the Very Reverend A. G. G. Thurlow, M.A., F.S.A., Dean of Gloucester as President for 1978-9. The Vice Presidents, Members of Council and Officers were duly elected.

C. Roy Hudleston then gave his Presidential address, 'Non Residence'. The President thanked him and also His Worship the Mayor of Gloucester who entertained the members to tea.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1977

Membership

It is most gratifying that the membership of the Society continues to grow. There are 936 members, made up of 710 members, 82 associates and 15 junior members. During the year, 74 new members joined the Society whilst 31 members resigned. The Council records with regret the death of five members: Dame Joan Evans, Mrs H. L. F. Cubitt, Mr L. E. O. Fullbrook-Leggatt, Mr Herbert Byard and Mrs N. M. Marshall. By the death of Dame Joan Evans, the Society lost a great friend and benefactor.

Transactions

Volume 95 of the *Transactions* will appear rather later this year, probably towards the end of May.

Library

The Society's library has been moved back into the main Public Library where it was from 1913 until 1957, when it was moved to St Michael's Rectory. The Council wishes to thank Mr Hiatt, the Librarian and his staff for their work in moving nearly 6,000 books.

Council

The Council has met quarterly during the year. It has been suggested that because meetings are held in the daytime and on days other than Saturdays membership of Council is only possible for those who hold positions which enable them to take time off to attend meetings. A questionnaire was sent out to members of Council to canvass their opinions. As the result was not very conclusive, the Council decided to seek the opinions of those members who attended the annual general meeting.

The second *Newsletter* has been issued thanks to Mr Geoffrey Sanders who kindly offered to undertake the editorship for which the Council is grateful. Since the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire has been established the Council has dealt with less archaeological matters.

The volume of Listed Building Consent applications submitted to the Council has greatly increased. The Society has been involved in several public enquiries and in a number of instances has made successful representations. There are, however, several buildings of historic interest which give the Council cause for concern. In Bristol, Blaise Castle which is a folly built in the late 18th century is in a ruinous state. A survey has been prepared by Mr Alan Rome with suggestions for what might be done by way of repair. In Gloucester, Llanthony Priory site, which was acquired by the Gloucester City Council, is still being used as an industrial scrap heap and so far all representations to the City Council have failed.

A revised list of Listed Buildings in Bristol was published in the autumn of 1977. It runs to more than 500 pages and includes many 19th-century buildings. This gives some idea of the immense task that faces the Society in the conservation of Listed Buildings in Bristol alone.

During the year a number of meetings have been arranged. In the Spring nearly 100 members visited Frampton on Severn, Frocester and Leonard Stanley. The summer meeting, 12–15 July, was based on Guildford. It was a meeting of superlatives, for the Society visited 'the oldest man-made dwellings' in England at Abinger and Farnham; the oldest monumental brass in England at Stoke d'Abernon; the oldest Cistercian abbey in England at Peper Harow and the unique Romano-British enclosure at Earley Heath. To this was added visits to such great houses as Loseley and Polsden Lacy. This attractive programme was made possible by the assistance of one of our members living in Guildford, the Reverend Bryan Taylor. Lastly the autumn meeting to Bisley was a great success despite the cold September day. For that enjoyable day we have to thank Mr Geoffrey Sanders. In addition to the main meetings, both Mrs Vera Robins and Mr Robert Knapp arranged a number of local meetings. Mrs Robins took a party of 100 members to London to see the Pompeii exhibition and in June arranged a visit to the important excavations at Kingscote. In Bristol were held a series of winter lectures ranging widely over a variety of subjects.

The lectures were as follows:

'Christian thought & practice outside the Established church before 1730' by Rupert E. Davies.

'Local Iron Age Torcs' by Georgina Plowright

'The Bomford collection of Roman and Pre-Roman glass' by Nicholas Thomas

'The stained glass of Bristol Cathedral' by Dr Michael Q. Smith

'The Scrope Davies papers' by Martin R. Davies.

Two summer meetings included a visit to 9 Bathwick Hill, Bath and Farleigh Castle and a conducted tour of Axbridge by Mrs Frances Neale. This section of the report would not be complete without a most grateful reference to the work of Dr Basil Cottle, Mrs Mary Campbell, Mrs Vera Robins and Mr Robert Knapp.

The Council trying to find ways of effecting sizeable economies in the cost of the *Transactions* resulted in the decision of not printing reports of the meetings. At £24 a page, the Council decided that this cost was not justified. Mrs F. Neale is thanked for her valuable work in contributing reports of field meetings for about fourteen years.

This year marks the end of the chairmanship of Mr David Large and tribute is paid to him for the leadership and counsel which he brought to the office. Each year the Council finds itself greatly indebted to its officers. The Council appreciates all the help given in a voluntary capacity without which the success of the Society could not be maintained.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Committee has met regularly about every two months, and all meetings have helped in the exchange of archaeological information in the county, which is one of the main aims of the Committee.

Particular subjects which have received attention are the extension of the sites and monuments record established by the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, the need to devise satisfactory means to watch ground disturbance in connection with new building proposals, and the appointment of parish correspondents, for all of which we appeal for more voluntary helpers.

The Committee has taken note of many excavations in the county and 50 replies giving information on excavations and fieldwork have been received and edited and are published elsewhere in the *Transactions*. This archaeological review is a major success of the Committee and is intended to be a regular feature of the *Transactions*.

The Committee has also sought the aid of the Members of Parliament for Gloucestershire to press the government to reconsider recent proposals to cut the services of the Archaeological Division of the Ordnance Survey, has made comments on the archaeological aspects of the County Structure Plan and has arranged in Gloucester a symposium on 'Recent Archaeology in Gloucestershire'.

OBITUARY

MRS H. L. F. CUBITT

Mrs Cubitt will be remembered as a remarkable personality who attended the meetings of the Society right up to the time of her death at the age of 94. When the Society visited Kingscote last summer to see the excavations there, she was presented with a basket of flowers, it being her birthday. She joined the Society in 1933. The daughter of the Revd Arthur Charles Jennings, rector of Kings Stanley for 30 years, she often spoke of the early days of her life when most of the the able and learned men of the Society visited their home.

She had great charm and grace of manner and was a delightful hostess when inviting members to her home to see the unique collection of dolls which she had made herself.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Back numbers and Index volumes of the *Transactions*. For all prices and orders please apply to the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. Ralph, M.A., F.S.A., 9 Pembroke Road, Bristol BS8 3AU. Some volumes, of which the stock remaining is very small, can only be supplied with long runs and at a special price; the Society has no stock of many volumes.

The Society has limited stocks of the following special publications:

G. B. Grundy, *Saxon Charters of Gloucestershire* pt. 2, paper covers.

J. N. Langston, *Headmasters & Ushers of the Kings' School, Gloucester, 1541-1841* (Records of Gloucester Cathedral vol. 3 pt. 2) paper.

R. T. Cole, *Church Plate of Bristol*, pt. 1 (all published), paper.

T. P. Wadley, *Great Orphan Book of Bristol* (wills) in 5 parts, paper.

J. T. Evans, *Church Plate of Gloucestershire*, cloth.

D. Royce, *Winchcombe Landbook* (cartulary), cloth, 2 vols.

Most recent special publications are:

A GLOUCESTERSHIRE & BRISTOL ATLAS. A Selection of Old Maps and Plans—comprising a complete reproduction of Isaac Taylor's large scale map of Gloucestershire 1777 with other maps and plans 1545-1961; cloth.

ESSAYS IN BRISTOL & GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORY. B.G.A.S., Centenary 1876-1976—essays on a wide range of archaeological, historical and architectural subjects, from prehistoric to 19th century, by a number of distinguished contributors; cloth.

RECORDS SECTION PUBLICATIONS

- VOL. 1 MARRIAGE BONDS FOR THE DIOCESE OF BRISTOL, 1637-1700. Transcribed by Denzil Hollis, B.A. and edited by Elizabeth Ralph, M.A., F.S.A.
- VOL. 2 GLOUCESTERSHIRE MARRIAGE ALLEGATIONS, 1637-1680. Edited by Brian Frith.
- VOL. 3 THE REGISTERS OF THE CHURCH OF ST AUGUSTINE THE LESS, BRISTOL, 1577-1700. Transcribed and edited by Arthur Sabin, M.A.
- VOL. 4 THE PARISH REGISTERS OF DYMOCK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1538-1790. Edited by Irvine Gray and J. E. Gethyn-Jones.
- VOL. 5 A GUIDE TO THE PARISH RECORDS OF BRISTOL & GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Edited by Elizabeth Ralph and Irvine Gray.
- VOL. 6 THE CHURCH BOOK OF ST EWEN'S, BRISTOL, 1454-1584. Edited by Betty R. Masters and Elizabeth Ralph.
- VOL. 7 CHELTENHAM SETTLEMENT EXAMINATIONS, 1815-1826. Edited by Irvine Gray.
- VOL. 8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1775-1800: A STUDY OF THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. By Esther Moir.
- VOL. 9 GLOUCESTERSHIRE MARRIAGE ALLEGATIONS II, 1681-1700. Edited by Brian Frith.
- VOL. 10 THE COMMISSION FOR ECCLESIASTICAL CAUSES, 1574. Edited by F. D. Price.
- VOL. 11 AN ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY. Edited by David Walker, W. J. Sheils and John Kent.

Reviews

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *Ancient and Historical Monuments in the County of Gloucestershire I: Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds* (HMSO, 1976), lvi + 159 pp., numerous figs., 68 plates. £25.

A reviewer in the county's premier archaeological journal must first welcome a major work of scholarship, a rare addition to that select topographical bibliography—Atkyns, Rudder, Lysons, Witts, Crawford and Grinsell,—of major Gloucestershire studies. This volume really matters if Gloucestershire's archaeology matters; but despite the optimistic note struck by its designation as Volume I, it will sadly be a long time before the rest of the county's cultural heritage also receives the Commission's attentions. Apart from local gratification that at least part of that heritage has been officially recorded, however, this western foray also slightly counterbalances the Commission's national tendency to operate in the east and south. 'Foray' is perhaps nevertheless not quite the right word for a piece of work which has taken well over a decade to produce.

The Cotswolds surveyed are those of the 'historic' county, that is, they include parishes now in the county of Avon; but they otherwise keep entirely in Gloucestershire so that those Jurassic parts of Wiltshire and Oxfordshire are excluded while, somewhat anomalously, the large area of Upper Thames gravels in east Gloucestershire is included. In all, 182 civil parishes are surveyed, 32 of them having no archaeology of iron age or Romano-British date to be recorded (yet). Some 330 'relevant monuments' are noted, 74 of them being listed as 'Most Worthy of Preservation'. These latter include Barnsley Park villa (currently being excavated) and its fields (recently ploughed), Salmonsbury iron age settlement (building development), Crickley Hill (current 'total' excavation), Norbury and Nottingham Hill hillforts (under plough), Kingscote Romano-British settlement (under plough and small-scale excavation) and Uleybury hillfort (interior under plough, trenched for pipeline in 1976 and also abused by metal-detecting treasure-hunters).

The reason for the survey is clearly stated: 'The responsibility of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments to record ancient Monuments which are threatened with obliteration by present-day development has prompted the compilation of this Inventory . . .' (p. xiii). And the Inventory is largely a catalogue of the despoliation of the Cotswolds' archaeological resource from the thousand years or so centred on 1 BC/AD (nowhere is the 'Iron Age' defined, incidentally, which is a bit hard on lay readers since not even archaeologists, even if they still use it, are sure what the term means). Even of the most obvious later prehistoric Cotswold sites, hillforts, any one of which might begin c. 1000 B.C. or even, Crickley-like, harbour evidence of 4th-millennium date—even of the hillforts the Commission sadly notes that only ONE, and that in woodland, 'is . . . wholly untouched by ploughing or quarrying' (p. xxv). Imagine the outcry if it were stated as fact that only one of the major documents of medieval Bristol or only one of the stained glass windows of Gloucester cathedral now remained intact. The hillforts like the long barrows, well illustrate in their parlous state of partial survival, the wholly realistic fact that the field archaeology of the Cotswolds is a *finite* quantity of which some parts are under threat of extinction. Furthermore, that archaeology is non-renewable, yet the resources, indeed the will, to cope with the present and predictable situation are not apparent. The other fact, that all this obliteration (to use the Commission's own

word) of the cultural landscape is taking place in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, illustrates all too well the lack of true understanding of our countryside.

Academically, this Cotswold volume is also important. Perhaps most controversially, while adding three new hillforts, it dismisses 37 previous claimants to that title, leaving a total of only 29 (both here and in other categories of site there is some confusion over absolute numbers). Nevertheless, the case is well-argued and well-illustrated, and certainly the onus of proof is now on those who would move the hillfort total back towards its former figure in the sixties. What does remain is illustrated by line-drawings different from, and in this reviewer's opinion, of a poorer convention than, the hachured plans which normally grace the Commission's pages.

For the Roman period, between 37–40 villas are identified. The distillation and synthesis of a large amount of incoherent and largely poor quality evidence, not least in producing villa plans to a standard scale (80 ft to the inch—but not very useful in the rest of the Roman Empire), probably represents the major, single achievement in the volume; certainly is this so bibliographically. But the context of these villas remains enigmatic: Commission integrity is well informed and, properly, very cautious e.g. Finberg has only 'indicated lines of enquiry in papers on Withington' (f. n, p. xxiv). The reason is that 'it is difficult to discuss questions of grouping and pattern when the known distribution is so incomplete' (p. xxiv; *c. f.* also p. xlv); and how incomplete is indicated by the inclusion of only 56 Romano-British settlements, an average of only 1.5 per villa and clearly a nonsense. 'There must be many unknown Romano-British sites in the area' (p. xxiii)—nearly half (24) of the 'Cotswold' total turned up on the narrow line of the M5 motorway in the Vale of Berkeley alone. In view of the criticisms of that 'rescued' evidence, especially in matters of chronology and morphology, it is interesting to note the Commission castigating in precisely similar terms its own evidence from thorough, scholarly and more leisurely investigation of large settlements 'few (of which) can be dated closely or defined precisely' (p. xlv).

But then, as this formidable volume implies, all archaeology on the Cotswolds now is, by definition, rescue archaeology; for archaeologically-speaking, the Cotswolds are a disaster area. They are nevertheless still of prime archaeological importance but their research and amenity potential is annually reduced.

P. J. FOWLER

Keith Branigan, *The Roman Villa in South West England* (Moonraker Press, Bradford-on-Avon, 1976), 127 pp., 49 figs. & plates, £4.25.

This book brings together many of Branigan's thoughts on the south-west during the Roman period and follows and expands several lines laid down in his earlier publications. It is, in general, well produced in a useful format, and misprints are not too numerous, e.g. on map 5 Winchester is unfortunately labelled Old Sarum (which is unlabelled), and fig. 43 is of Atworth, as it says in the text, not Chedworth.

There are three levels of information in the book; the raw facts that Branigan quotes, the manipulation of the facts, and the questionable theories he then builds.

Level I: Frocester Court is referred to throughout as a villa with a yard in the middle of it (intramural yard villa)—this is room 2 on Captain Gracie's plan. Capt. Gracie never called this room a yard, it belongs to the early 'block' house which is surely a unit with a single roof; there is no evidence of it being a yard. Frocester Court is therefore *not* an intramural yard villa.

Level II: Around Cirencester there are 7 villas (let us accept this) within 8 km and a further 19 within 16 km. This is said to show a clustering of villas in the eight to 16 km band around the town. A circle of radius 8 km has an area of about 200 sq km, a circle of radius 16 km has an area of about 800 sq km; the 8 to 16 km band therefore has an area of about 600 sq km. In the 8 km circle there are 7 villas in the 200 sq km; in the 8 to 16 km band there are 19 villas in the 600 sq km: three times the villas in three times the area. Clustering?

Level III: The refugee Gauls (see Branigan's earlier works) who built the intramural yard villas

such as Frocester Court, some of which are non-clustered round Cirencester, were apparently not very 'British' even after three or four generations. After the 'chaotic months' of 367 and 368 'they may well have felt less tied to the land which they now owned than did indigenous farmers in other parts of Britain' (p. 108). Oh!

This is a book about which I shall warn my students, for if ideas from it, unsupported by corroborative evidence, appear in their Roman Britain examination papers, marks this year are likely to be low.

RICHARD REECE

Iain C. Walker, *Clay Tobacco Pipes, with particular reference to the Bristol Industry* (Vols. 11a, b, c, and d, of *History and Archaeology*) 4 vols., (Ottawa Parks Canada, 1977), 1839 pp. + plates \$ 30. (Available from Books Canada Ltd., 1 Bedford Place, Finchley, London N2).

Dr Walker's book will interest several different types of historian or archaeologist, for he has not only studied the standing remains of the industry and investigated the pipe-fragments so common in post-medieval excavations, but has also studied the technical processes described in early books, as far back as the 16th century, and has compared them with the processes being used by British and Continental pipe-makers of the present day. In addition he has also studied the development of the St Jude's area of Bristol, which once contained the pipe-makers' quarter, from its construction in the early 18th century to its clearance and redevelopment in the 1960s. Dr Walker has thus produced a fully rounded and exceptionally valuable study of a local industry considered from its technical, social and economic standpoints, as well as the archaeology of its remains, and has placed this in its national and international contexts.

This book shows that it is essential to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the study of industrial history, but in contrast to most writers in industrial archaeology the author has actually tackled his subject in this way. It is hoped that more scholars who claim to be industrial archaeologists will be moved to adopt the standards displayed here.

The size and price of this book, as well as the seeming obscurity of its subject-matter and the small printing of this edition will ensure that it will not be widely read. It is hoped that a British publisher will be found who is prepared to issue an edition aimed at a wider readership, for this most distinguished contribution to the study of the history of Bristol's industry deserves no less. It has all the marks of becoming a classic.

A. P. WOOLRICH

Roger Leech, *The Upper Thames Valley in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire: an archaeological survey of the river gravels* (Bristol 1977), 34 pp. 5 figs, 6 maps and 8 plates, £1.75.

Alan Vince, *Newent Glasshouse* (Bristol 1977), 32 pp. 9 figs, £0.75.

Both publications of the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset, Archaeological Centre, Mark Lane, Bristol 1.

The first fruits in Gloucestershire of the decision by CRAAGS to act as the publisher of its own rescue and survey work should be noticed here, for this step is indeed a bold one with important future implications for archaeological publication in the county. So far however—in print at least—the major problem of how and in what format to publish lengthy and detailed excavation reports has not been resolved and these early CRAAGS publications are concerned with essential survey and recording work.

The gravels of the Thames valley have been surveyed already in Oxfordshire and Berkshire for their archaeological potential and this third survey completes the picture for our area, the format

of the previous publications being followed for the sake of conformity. The result is well considered and well executed with maps and plans clearly indicating both the potential and the threat in the Cotswold Water Park area. This is the second of CRAAGS' proposed surveys to be published, although numbered fourth. The evidence is now marshalled for a comprehensive treatment of the archaeology of the Thames valley; it is clearly badly needed.

Shorter studies are also to be published individually as CRAAGS Occasional Papers, of which Alan Vince's rescue-recording of the late 16th and 17th-century glasshouse at Newent with its associated pottery is number two in the series. The intention is to bind the papers at intervals to achieve a permanent record, although perhaps disparate in content. Again, the presentation is clear and easy to absorb, and reasonably priced considering the high costs of initiating small runs of such productions.

CRAAGS is to be congratulated on pressing forward with its policy of publication in series; it must, however, beware of the shortcomings noticed with similar series elsewhere of allowing insufficient publicity for its publications to deprive a wider public of an important and developing regional archive.

DAVID VINER

Peter J. Fowler, Approaches to Archaeology (A. & C. Black, London 1977), 203 pp. + 22 plates + 33 figs. £6.50.

The author describes the relationship between this book and Stuart Piggott's similarly-titled classic *Approach to Archaeology* as 'successor or sequel rather than a replacement', and like Piggott he is writing for the adult 'who has become vaguely interested' as well as for the schoolboy and the undergraduate 'about the why rather than the how of a confused yet dynamic discipline'. The six chapters—'Approaching Archaeology', 'Topographical', 'Buried', 'Scientific', 'Theoretical' and 'Present Archaeology'—have much in detail that is excellent and are particularly valuable for their up-to-date summaries of techniques, but they somehow make an unsatisfying whole. Perhaps this is because British archaeology is itself in such a dissatisfying phase—and in this book we often hear its mid 1970s voice: happier to describe differing currents of thought and practice than to set them in an overall framework; and liable, it has to be said, to be intimidating and even dour at times, quote: 'To the serious archaeologist, 'fascinating' is among the less acceptable adjectives for his subject. . . .'

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Reviews

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *Ancient and Historical Monuments in the County of Gloucestershire I: Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds* (HMSO, 1976), lvi + 159 pp., numerous figs., 68 plates. £25.

A reviewer in the county's premier archaeological journal must first welcome a major work of scholarship, a rare addition to that select topographical bibliography—Atkyns, Rudder, Lysons, Witts, Crawford and Grinsell,—of major Gloucestershire studies. This volume really matters if Gloucestershire's archaeology matters; but despite the optimistic note struck by its designation as Volume I, it will sadly be a long time before the rest of the county's cultural heritage also receives the Commission's attentions. Apart from local gratification that at least part of that heritage has been officially recorded, however, this western foray also slightly counterbalances the Commission's national tendency to operate in the east and south. 'Foray' is perhaps nevertheless not quite the right word for a piece of work which has taken well over a decade to produce.

The Cotswolds surveyed are those of the 'historic' county, that is, they include parishes now in the county of Avon; but they otherwise keep entirely in Gloucestershire so that those Jurassic parts of Wiltshire and Oxfordshire are excluded while, somewhat anomalously, the large area of Upper Thames gravels in east Gloucestershire is included. In all, 182 civil parishes are surveyed, 32 of them having no archaeology of iron age or Romano-British date to be recorded (yet). Some 330 'relevant monuments' are noted, 74 of them being listed as 'Most Worthy of Preservation'. These latter include Barnsley Park villa (currently being excavated) and its fields (recently ploughed), Salmonsbury iron age settlement (building development), Crickley Hill (current 'total' excavation), Norbury and Nottingham Hill hillforts (under plough), Kingscote Romano-British settlement (under plough and small-scale excavation) and Uleybury hillfort (interior under plough, trenched for pipeline in 1976 and also abused by metal-detecting treasure-hunters).

The reason for the survey is clearly stated: 'The responsibility of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments to record ancient Monuments which are threatened with obliteration by present-day development has prompted the compilation of this Inventory . . .' (p. xiii). And the Inventory is largely a catalogue of the despoliation of the Cotswolds' archaeological resource from the thousand years or so centred on 1 BC/AD (nowhere is the 'Iron Age' defined, incidentally, which is a bit hard on lay readers since not even archaeologists, even if they still use it, are sure what the term means). Even of the most obvious later prehistoric Cotswold sites, hillforts, any one of which might begin c. 1000 B.C. or even, Crickley-like, harbour evidence of 4th-millennium date—even of the hillforts the Commission sadly notes that only ONE, and that in woodland, 'is . . . wholly untouched by ploughing or quarrying' (p. xxv). Imagine the outcry if it were stated as fact that only one of the major documents of medieval Bristol or only one of the stained glass windows of Gloucester cathedral now remained intact. The hillforts like the long barrows, well illustrate in their parlous state of partial survival, the wholly realistic fact that the field archaeology of the Cotswolds is a *finite* quantity of which some parts are under threat of extinction. Furthermore, that archaeology is non-renewable, yet the resources, indeed the will, to cope with the present and predictable situation are not apparent. The other fact, that all this obliteration (to use the Commission's own

word) of the cultural landscape is taking place in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, illustrates all too well the lack of true understanding of our countryside.

Academically, this Cotswold volume is also important. Perhaps most controversially, while adding three new hillforts, it dismisses 37 previous claimants to that title, leaving a total of only 29 (both here and in other categories of site there is some confusion over absolute numbers). Nevertheless, the case is well-argued and well-illustrated, and certainly the onus of proof is now on those who would move the hillfort total back towards its former figure in the sixties. What does remain is illustrated by line-drawings different from, and in this reviewer's opinion, of a poorer convention than, the hachured plans which normally grace the Commission's pages.

For the Roman period, between 37–40 villas are identified. The distillation and synthesis of a large amount of incoherent and largely poor quality evidence, not least in producing villa plans to a standard scale (80 ft to the inch—but not very useful in the rest of the Roman Empire), probably represents the major, single achievement in the volume; certainly is this so bibliographically. But the context of these villas remains enigmatic: Commission integrity is well informed and, properly, very cautious e.g. Finberg has only 'indicated lines of enquiry in papers on Withington' (f. n, p. xxiv). The reason is that 'it is difficult to discuss questions of grouping and pattern when the known distribution is so incomplete' (p. xxiv; *c. f.* also p. xlv); and how incomplete is indicated by the inclusion of only 56 Romano-British settlements, an average of only 1.5 per villa and clearly a nonsense. 'There must be many unknown Romano-British sites in the area' (p. xxiii)—nearly half (24) of the 'Cotswold' total turned up on the narrow line of the M5 motorway in the Vale of Berkeley alone. In view of the criticisms of that 'rescued' evidence, especially in matters of chronology and morphology, it is interesting to note the Commission castigating in precisely similar terms its own evidence from thorough, scholarly and more leisurely investigation of large settlements 'few (of which) can be dated closely or defined precisely' (p. xlv).

But then, as this formidable volume implies, all archaeology on the Cotswolds now is, by definition, rescue archaeology; for archaeologically-speaking, the Cotswolds are a disaster area. They are nevertheless still of prime archaeological importance but their research and amenity potential is annually reduced.

P. J. FOWLER

Keith Branigan, *The Roman Villa in South West England* (Moonraker Press, Bradford-on-Avon, 1976), 127 pp., 49 figs. & plates, £4.25.

This book brings together many of Branigan's thoughts on the south-west during the Roman period and follows and expands several lines laid down in his earlier publications. It is, in general, well produced in a useful format, and misprints are not too numerous, e.g. on map 5 Winchester is unfortunately labelled Old Sarum (which is unlabelled), and fig. 43 is of Atworth, as it says in the text, not Chedworth.

There are three levels of information in the book; the raw facts that Branigan quotes, the manipulation of the facts, and the questionable theories he then builds.

Level I: Frocester Court is referred to throughout as a villa with a yard in the middle of it (intramural yard villa)—this is room 2 on Captain Gracie's plan. Capt. Gracie never called this room a yard, it belongs to the early 'block' house which is surely a unit with a single roof; there is no evidence of it being a yard. Frocester Court is therefore *not* an intramural yard villa.

Level II: Around Cirencester there are 7 villas (let us accept this) within 8 km and a further 19 within 16 km. This is said to show a clustering of villas in the eight to 16 km band around the town. A circle of radius 8 km has an area of about 200 sq km, a circle of radius 16 km has an area of about 800 sq km; the 8 to 16 km band therefore has an area of about 600 sq km. In the 8 km circle there are 7 villas in the 200 sq km; in the 8 to 16 km band there are 19 villas in the 600 sq km: three times the villas in three times the area. Clustering?

Level III: The refugee Gauls (see Branigan's earlier works) who built the intramural yard villas

such as Frocester Court, some of which are non-clustered round Cirencester, were apparently not very 'British' even after three or four generations. After the 'chaotic months' of 367 and 368 'they may well have felt less tied to the land which they now owned than did indigenous farmers in other parts of Britain' (p. 108). Oh!

This is a book about which I shall warn my students, for if ideas from it, unsupported by corroborative evidence, appear in their Roman Britain examination papers, marks this year are likely to be low.

RICHARD REECE

Iain C. Walker, *Clay Tobacco Pipes, with particular reference to the Bristol Industry* (Vols. 11a, b, c, and d, of *History and Archaeology*) 4 vols., (Ottawa Parks Canada, 1977), 1839 pp. + plates \$ 30. (Available from Books Canada Ltd., 1 Bedford Place, Finchley, London N2).

Dr Walker's book will interest several different types of historian or archaeologist, for he has not only studied the standing remains of the industry and investigated the pipe-fragments so common in post-medieval excavations, but has also studied the technical processes described in early books, as far back as the 16th century, and has compared them with the processes being used by British and Continental pipe-makers of the present day. In addition he has also studied the development of the St Jude's area of Bristol, which once contained the pipe-makers' quarter, from its construction in the early 18th century to its clearance and redevelopment in the 1960s. Dr Walker has thus produced a fully rounded and exceptionally valuable study of a local industry considered from its technical, social and economic standpoints, as well as the archaeology of its remains, and has placed this in its national and international contexts.

This book shows that it is essential to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the study of industrial history, but in contrast to most writers in industrial archaeology the author has actually tackled his subject in this way. It is hoped that more scholars who claim to be industrial archaeologists will be moved to adopt the standards displayed here.

The size and price of this book, as well as the seeming obscurity of its subject-matter and the small printing of this edition will ensure that it will not be widely read. It is hoped that a British publisher will be found who is prepared to issue an edition aimed at a wider readership, for this most distinguished contribution to the study of the history of Bristol's industry deserves no less. It has all the marks of becoming a classic.

A. P. WOOLRICH

Roger Leech, *The Upper Thames Valley in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire: an archaeological survey of the river gravels* (Bristol 1977), 34 pp. 5 figs, 6 maps and 8 plates, £1.75.

Alan Vince, *Newent Glasshouse* (Bristol 1977), 32 pp. 9 figs, £0.75.

Both publications of the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset, Archaeological Centre, Mark Lane, Bristol 1.

The first fruits in Gloucestershire of the decision by CRAAGS to act as the publisher of its own rescue and survey work should be noticed here, for this step is indeed a bold one with important future implications for archaeological publication in the county. So far however—in print at least—the major problem of how and in what format to publish lengthy and detailed excavation reports has not been resolved and these early CRAAGS publications are concerned with essential survey and recording work.

The gravels of the Thames valley have been surveyed already in Oxfordshire and Berkshire for their archaeological potential and this third survey completes the picture for our area, the format

of the previous publications being followed for the sake of conformity. The result is well considered and well executed with maps and plans clearly indicating both the potential and the threat in the Cotswold Water Park area. This is the second of CRAAGS' proposed surveys to be published, although numbered fourth. The evidence is now marshalled for a comprehensive treatment of the archaeology of the Thames valley; it is clearly badly needed.

Shorter studies are also to be published individually as CRAAGS Occasional Papers, of which Alan Vince's rescue-recording of the late 16th and 17th-century glasshouse at Newent with its associated pottery is number two in the series. The intention is to bind the papers at intervals to achieve a permanent record, although perhaps disparate in content. Again, the presentation is clear and easy to absorb, and reasonably priced considering the high costs of initiating small runs of such productions.

CRAAGS is to be congratulated on pressing forward with its policy of publication in series; it must, however, beware of the shortcomings noticed with similar series elsewhere of allowing insufficient publicity for its publications to deprive a wider public of an important and developing regional archive.

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