

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Society Pages

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Society Notes

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H.C.G. PRIOR

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ANTHONY A. SCOTT; PROFESSOR P.M. WARREN

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 1987

The Annual General Meeting was held in the main hall of the Oxstalls campus of Glos CAT, Gloucester, on Saturday, 28 March at 2.15 p.m. The President, Brian S. Smith MA FSA presided. There were about eighty members present and sixteen apologies for absence were received. The Honorary Secretary presented the annual report of Council, the Secretary of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire presented the annual report of the Committee, and the Honorary Treasurer presented the annual accounts of the Society, all of which were duly adopted.

The Society's Rules were altered so as to abolish the category of 'junior member' and to permit an increase of three places on the Excavations and Buildings Committee.

The President proposed the election of Dr A.B. Cottle MA PhD FSA as President of the Society for the year 1987/88. Mr B.C. Frith, Mr George Boon and Mr Robert Knapp were elected Vice-Presidents. The other officers and members of Council as nominated on the agenda were duly elected.

The President paid tribute to the work of Leslie Grinsell and presented him with a specially bound copy of *Transactions* Vol. 104 which had been dedicated to him to mark his eightieth birthday.

Brian S. Smith gave his presidential address 'Gloucestershire Records: the clerks and custodians' which was warmly received. His theme was the preservation of official and private muniments from Tudor to Victorian times and he concluded by commenting that documents were now more likely to be damaged by over-use than (as in the past) by neglect or wanton destruction.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1986

The total membership of the Society at 31 December 1986 was 903, comprised of 605 ordinary members, 96 associate members, 97 life members, 1 junior member, 3 honorary members and 104 institutional members. The deaths of the following members were reported: Rev. K.B. Batchelor, S. Burchnall, Mrs A.E. Butt, R.A. Cocke, W.L. Cox, Mrs D.K.C. Mason, W.G. Neale, O.F. Parsons, M.J. Peniston, E.F. Potter, C.P. Renfrew, Prof. Charles Ross, Sir Folliott Sandford and Miss D.M. Wardley.

Council received with regret the resignation of Miss Mary Williams, who had taken early retirement from her post as City Archivist of Bristol due to ill health, and thanked her for her contribution to the Society's work over many years.

Despite the strenuous efforts of Mrs J. Morris, the Hon. Membership Secretary, some 60 members were still significantly in arrear with their subscriptions and others continued to cause avoidable difficulty by delaying their renewal until several months into the Society's year. It is also disappointing that of the 400 or so members who did not covenant their subscriptions last year only 10% responded positively to an appeal to do so. The Council is grateful to Miss Hedley for her work in this field.

Volume 104 of the *Transactions* has just been published and members will receive their copies during the next few weeks. The successful method of delivery to Bristol and Gloucestershire members by volunteers, developed by Miss Webster and her helpers, has rendered it no longer advantageous to distribute copies at the A.G.M. The Editors have once again provided members with an excellent blend of articles of an impeccable standard of scholarship. The cumulative *Index* to Vols. 91-100 of the *Transactions* was completed and will be published soon.

The Society has produced no new publications during the year, but discussions have continued on a proposal to launch a Gloucestershire Record Series to be funded by annual subscription. *The Handbook of Gloucestershire Archaeology* published in 1985 has almost sold out, and the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire is to be congratulated. Council is grateful to Miss Markwick for managing the Society's stock of publications, which she comprehensively audited during its removal to a different room on the same site.

Agreement was reached with the County Librarian on accommodation for the Society's Library. Delays by contractors prevented access for much of the year, but it is hoped that members will once again be able to make full use of their library soon.

Field meetings organised by Mrs Mary Campbell were again outstandingly successful and frequently over-subscribed. Lectures and meetings arranged by Miss Coppen-Gardner for the northern section, and by Mr H.C.G. Prior for Bristol, have been very well attended, and Mr Prior is to be congratulated on his achievement in his first year as Secretary for Bristol. These events and other matters of interest to members continued to be drawn to their attention by means of the *Newsletter*.

The main archaeological issue was the application by the landowner to build houses on Condicote Henge, a scheduled ancient monument, which was vigorously opposed by this Society in collaboration with the CAG. Many members continued to provide assessments of listed building consent applications and to represent the Society on archaeological and conservation organizations, and Council is grateful to all of them.

A unique event took place at the Senate House, Bristol in June, in the form of a dinner and presentation to mark the retirement of Miss Ralph as Hon. General Secretary. Today only a handful of members can recall the period before Miss Ralph held this office. Under her guidance the Society nearly doubled in size and grew immeasurably in influence. Many tributes have been paid to her, but there is only one member who can speak from personal experience of the volume and variety of the work she has undertaken on the Society's behalf. It is therefore fitting to close this report by expressing again the thanks of Council to Miss Ralph for her work (and especially for continuing to handle listed building consent applications with her group of local experts), and also to express gratitude for her wisdom and judgment on which I have drawn unstintingly and for the countless ways in which she has, with personal acts of kindness, eased me into burdens of the office she held with such distinction for so many years.

DAVID J.H. SMITH MA
Hon. General Secretary

ACCOUNTS

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Income and Expenditure Account for the year
ended 31 December 1986*

Income

Subscriptions and Donations			4,214
Sales of Publications			2,671
Investment Income & Tax reclaimed			<u>5,222</u>
			12,107

Expenditure

Publications			
Transactions vol. 103	6,227		
less contributions from HBMC and CBA	<u>1,197</u>	5,030	

Grants and Subscriptions

Iron Acton preaching cross	50		
Painswick chest tombs	25		
Miscellaneous subscriptions	76		
Bristol Meetings	<u>25</u>	176	
Library		292	
Administration			
General expenses	1,558		
Newsletter	<u>357</u>	<u>1,915</u>	

7,413

Excess of Income over Expenditure

4,694

Profit on redemption of Imperial Group loan
Stock

63

General Fund

Balance brought forward 1 January 1986			<u>29,832</u>
Balance carried forward 31 December 1986			<u>£ 34,589</u>

ACCOUNTS

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Balance Sheet at 31 December 1986

Investments	
at cost or value when received (market value £72,760)	18,849
Bank balances and deposits	16,140
Prepayments	(400)
	<u>£ 34,589</u>

representing:

General Fund	<u>£34,589</u>
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RECORDS SECTION

Bank balances and deposits	<u>2,094</u>
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representing:

Records Section Funds at 1 January 1986	1,777
Income for year	352
Advertising	(35)
	<u>2,094</u>

Note No value has been placed on the stock of the Society's publications or its library.

Auditor's Report

We have examined the accounts of the Society which are in accordance with the books and vouchers produced to us.

KMG Thomson McLintock
Chartered Accountants
Bristol

MEETINGS FOR 1986

Lectures in Bristol

'Medieval villages in the Cotswolds' by Michael Aston.

'The first Americans: early colonisation of the American continent' by Miss B. Noddle.

'Prehistoric animal husbandry in the Cotswold region' by Bruce Levitan.

Lectures in Gloucester

'Saints in medieval art' by Dr Basil Cottle.

'Gourmet cooking in bronze age Greece' by Dr Holly Martlew.

Field Meetings

May 14. Church Monuments at Amersham & Chenies and Chenics House. Leader – Elliott Viney Esq DSO, MA, FSA.

May 13–21. Ile de France – Leader John Coales Esq FSA; Lecturer Derek N. Hadden Esq. Headquarters Hotel de Flandre, Compiègne. Places visited – Beauvais; St Martin-aux-Bois; Noyon; Ourscamp; Soissons; Coucy-le-Chateau; Premontre; Le Tortoir; Laon; Braine; St Jean-aux-Bois; Morierval; Champlieu; Amiens; Senlis; Chaalis; Pontpoint; Rhuis; Pierrefonds; Compeigne Palace; Mesnieres en Bray; St Wandrille.

May 24. Stockton House (Capt & Mrs Derek O'Reilly) & Mells Church. Tea was held at Hassage Manor (Mr & Mrs H.G.M. Leighton). Presentation made to Mr & Mrs Robert Knapp.

June 17. Newent & Ledbury – Leader Mr Joe Hillaby.

July 25–31. Durham. Headquarters College of St Hilda & St Bede. Lecturers – Miss Susan Mill MA 'Anglo Saxon Northumbria'; James Crow Esq 'Recent Excavations on Hadrian's Wall'; Professor Richard Bailey, MA, PhD, FSA 'Hexham Abbey'; Dr C.W. Gibby FSA 'Historical Background of Durham'; Eric Cambridge Esq 'Durham'; Professor Norman McCord 'Birds Eye View of NE History'; John Weaver Esq MA 'Richmond Castle'. Places visited – Belton House, Lincs; Washington Old Hall; Tynemouth Monastery; St Paul's, Jarrow; St Peter's, Monkwearmouth; Corstopitum Museum; Chesters; Housesteads; Steel Rigg; Corbridge; Hexham Abbey; Wallington House; Durham Cathedral & Castle; Escombe Church; St Mary's Staindrop; Raby Castle; Bowes Museum; Richmond Castle & Theatre; Tatton Park & Old Hall, Cheshire.

September 13. Lecturer Douglas Price Esq. Fellow Keble College, Oxford: Wroxton Abbey; Edgehill; Broughton Castle; St Peter's Hook Norton.

Note Further information on some of these sites can be found in the Society's *Newsletters*.

COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986

During 1986 the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire met on five occasions in different parts of the county. Meetings were consistently well attended and lively, and the Committee continued to act in its traditional role as a forum for debate on all issues affecting the archaeology of Gloucestershire.

Archaeological fieldwork in the county showed a similar pattern to previous years. Evaluations, observations, and limited excavations as part of the process of consent for work on scheduled ancient monuments occur regularly within the county, particularly in urban areas. Extensive excavation of sites in advance of gravel extraction and housing developments has occurred in the Upper Thames valley and Gloucester City. Research projects involving excavation have continued at Crickley Hill, Wortley, Frocester, and in the Forest of Dean, whilst two aerial photographic research projects have taken place in eastern Gloucestershire.

The support of the Manpower Services Commission for projects of an archaeological nature, administered through the Crickley Hill Trust Agency, has continued to make a major contribution to many archaeological projects in the county.

Consolidation of an archaeological resource has also occurred at Shire Hall, where the County Sites and Monuments record is now established as a valuable tool for planning purposes. The investment in this resource over the last few years by Gloucestershire County Council and HBMC has been rewarded with the receipt of regular submissions on the archaeological impact of planning applications by the various planning departments of the county. The future development of this resource will be closely observed by all interested in the archaeology of the county.

Specific topics which engaged the attention of the Committee during the year include:

Annual symposium

The ninth annual symposium was held at the Coleford Community Centre on 14 November at the invitation of the Forest of Dean Local History Society. The morning session was devoted to the archaeology of the Forest of Dean and the afternoon included a number of short contributions on various aspects of recent work in the county. Nearly 100 people attended the symposium, and its undoubted success is a tribute to the hard work of the local society and our member Mr Ian Standing who acted as local agent for the Committee.

Handbook of Gloucestershire archaeology

The *Handbook* continued to sell well throughout the year and only a small stock remains.

Annual review for 1985

Bernard Rawes again kindly undertook the task of collecting submissions and editing the Committee's annual review of archaeological work in the county.

Mobile exhibition

Fundraising for the mobile exhibition took place throughout the year and the financial target was

achieved through the generous donations of several sponsors. Following on from this exercise the project will be commissioned in 1987.

Popularising archaeology in Gloucestershire

The Committee formed a small sub-committee to pursue initiatives in this field. During 1986 the sub-committee gathered together contributions from members and successfully approached the *Gloucestershire Echo* with a proposal to run an occasional archaeological supplement. The first supplement is due for publication early in 1987.

Condicote henge

The Committee took a leading role in opposing a planning application and subsequent application for Scheduled Monument Consent to carry out work at Condicote henge. A sub-committee was formed to pursue the matter and this resulted in a formal meeting with councillors and officers of the Cotswold District Council on 25 June when the Committee's view was presented. The sub-committee also organized a public meeting in the Condicote village hall on 17 June. The village hall was filled for the occasion and lectures by our members Alan Saville and Tim Darvill were followed by a lengthy discussion of the issues.

At the end of 1986 the matter remains unresolved, with news of a public local inquiry into the application scheduled for March 1987. The sub-committee has reconvened with a view to co-ordinating support for the preservation of the henge.

Hazleton post-excavation project

Staff of the Hazleton post-excavation project were rendered unemployed for seven weeks in April and May 1986 following the late arrival of grant from HBMC. The Committee took a leading role in pursuing the matter, ensuring that it was raised at national level with the Minister responsible.

County structure plan review

The Committee presented a detailed submission to the County Council in December on the county structure plan review. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society associated itself with CAG's submission.

Membership

At the first meeting of 1986 Bernard Rawes was elected as Chairman and Stephen Clews as Hon. Secretary. Elizabeth Bishop was co-opted as a representative from eastern Gloucestershire and also as minuting secretary. The Hon. Secretary wishes to record his thanks to Mrs Bishop for her work on behalf of the Committee during the year. He also wishes to thank Miss Fiona Dutton and Mrs Anne Clements, who, although not members of the Committee, assisted with clerical work during the year.

There were a number of changes in membership during the year. Mr G.N. Crawford resigned in July due to other commitments and was thanked for his major contribution to the Committee's work over the years. Mr D. Smith and Mr B. Walters were co-opted during 1986, and in May Dr M. Parker-Pearson was replaced as the regional HBMC inspector for Gloucestershire by Mr A. Fleming, who accordingly became the HBMC observer on the Committee.

Finances

Administrative costs for the year returned to their 1984 level at £64.46. This was entirely due to increased spending on postage, reflecting the fund-raising appeal for the mobile exhibition and the Committee's campaigning activity on Condicote henge. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society continued its support for the work of CAG by meeting these administrative costs. The Annual Symposium was a financial success realizing a profit of £80.40. Fifty per cent of the profit was donated to the Forest of Dean Local History Society, in accordance with previous practice. At the end of the year the Committee's balance showed a small increase on the 1985 figure, rising to £135.83.

Fundraising during the year raised £420 towards the costs of the mobile exhibition with a further promise of £50 from GADARG. This fund has been managed by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society on behalf of CAG, and the Hon. Secretary wishes to express his appreciation to Mr H.G.M. Leighton for his kind co-operation and assistance in the management of the Committee's financial affairs.

STEPHEN CLEWS BSc AMA
Hon. Secretary to the Committee

Obituaries

PROFESSOR GLYN EDMUND DANIEL FBA

Professor Glyn Daniel, who died on 13 December 1986, was President of the Society in 1962. His national and international archaeological achievements were chronicled in *The Times* of 15 and 20 December 1986, while shortly before he had told his own tale, delightfully and inimitably, in *Some Small Harvest* (1986). His innovative achievements as 'the first systematic historian of archaeology' (Colin Renfrew) and in his work on the megalith builders along the Atlantic seaways of western Europe may each have owed something to his links with the Gloucestershire Cotswolds, the one through the support and hospitality of Elsie Clifford at Little Witcombe, the other through the outstanding monuments of our region.

P.M.W.

HOWARD PERCY MANN

The sudden death of Howard Mann on 26 January 1987 disclosed the true extent of his many quietly-made contributions to our Society, to local history and to his native town of Wotton-under-Edge.

Except for the years 1939–45 Howard spent his whole life in the town he loved so well and for which he did so much. After leaving Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School he went into the family business. He early laid the foundations of his many lifelong interests. At the age of 18 he was a founder member of Wotton Dramatic Society, playing some 98 roles over the years and becoming its Life President. He was also a founder member of Wotton Civic Society. After the war Wotton's newly-formed Historical Society under the auspicious presidency of Dr, later Dame, Joan Evans, claimed his allegiance and for over 40 years Howard worked tirelessly for it. He represented that society on the Gloucestershire Local History Committee. One of his happiest moments of recent years was the opening in 1986, after many tribulations, of the Wotton Historical Society's own library to which our Society has generously given both monetary and advisory help. Howard's personal library was a remarkable expression of his own cultivated interests in art and literature.

Working for several years as a volunteer at the Gloucestershire Record Office Howard had helped to complete an index of marriage allegations for the diocese of Gloucester, and at the time of his death was compiling an index of 17th-century apprenticeship records for the city of Gloucester.

Howard became a Life Member of our Society in 1976 and thereafter took a lively part in its affairs. His sociable nature and quiet sense of fun enlivened its excursions, particularly the summer Meeting which he never missed. In recent years he gave invaluable help with the distribution of *Transactions* and also with the dispatch of *Newsletters*.

Many members of our society attended the memorial service at Wotton parish church on 14 February 1987 to give thanks for the life of Howard Mann who did so much in his generous, unassuming way for the advancement of all he held dear.

J.P.

SIR FOLLIOTT SANDFORD KBE CMG

The death of Sir Folliott Sandford on 5 July 1986 in the third year of his tenure of office as Chairman of the Council brought to an end a long association with the Society extending over more than 60 years. Although his distinguished careers as a civil servant and then as a university administrator took him away from the area, he always retained his interest in the Society and its activities, and following his retirement to Painswick in 1972 he was able once more to participate in its affairs, becoming a member of Council and serving successively as its Vice-Chairman and, from 1984, Chairman. He was particularly involved with the Gloucester section, and with his first wife Gwendoline who died in 1977 and later with the second Lady (Peggy) Sandford, to whom he was married from 1982 until her death in 1984, he made a notable contribution to the life of the Society.

Folliott Sandford's greatest achievements lay in his exceptional distinction firstly in an outstanding career in the Civil Service from 1932 to 1958, in the course of which he became Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Air, served under the resident minister in West Africa 1942–44, and was Deputy Under-Secretary in the Air Ministry between 1947 and 1958, and secondly as Registrar of the University of Oxford from 1958 until 1972. He might equally have enjoyed a brilliant academic career, having gained an Exhibition and then become Senior Scholar at New College in Oxford while an undergraduate, and then taking First Class Honours in Literae Humaniores and in Law. As Registrar he served his old university with great distinction during a period when new developments and expansion placed heavy demands on the administration and required particularly skillful and astute management of its affairs. He brought to the task a wealth of experience and wholehearted dedication, working unsparingly and at times to the detriment of his health. His singular services to Oxford were recognised by the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law and his election as an Honorary Fellow by New College (where he was Professorial Fellow while Registrar) and by Wolfson College on his retirement.

From 1972 Sir Folliott lived at Painswick and was able to take up a more active involvement with the Society. There were many other claims upon his time and energies locally and from further afield, among them the Skinners' Company of which he became Master in 1975. The Society was fortunate to have enjoyed his support and derived the benefit of his wisdom on Council and as Chairman, and it is with regret at his passing and with gratitude for his contribution in equal measures that we record the debt owed to a most distinguished member.

M.L.

Reviews

Edited by Tim Darvill and Jill Joyce

I.A. Kinnes and I.H. Longworth, *Catalogue of the excavated prehistoric and Romano-British material in the Greenwell collection*. London: British Museum Publications, 1985. 154pp. text, 199pp. line drawings, 1p. photo. £35.

The collection formed by William Greenwell, canon of Durham Cathedral (b. 1820; d. 1918), here presented in catalogue form for the first time, comprises chiefly the grave-goods he found in barrows in (traditional) Yorkshire and Northumbria and described by him and George Rolleston in *British Barrows* (1877) and by Greenwell alone in 'Recent researches...' (*Archaeologia* 52 [1890] 1–72).

The main interest of this volume to readers of our own *Transactions* is centred on the material recovered by Greenwell on his occasional visits to the Cotswolds to open barrows in collaboration with Rolleston and the Revd David Royce, rector of Lower (Nether) Swell (1850–1902). These were the long barrows SWELL I, IV, and V (WG 229, 231, and 232) and UPPER SLAUGHTER I (WG 230), and the round barrows SWELL 1–5 (WG 216–220), to which should be added the material from the round barrow SNOWSHILL 5 (WG 297), which Greenwell described from notes received in 1881 from G.B. Witts, possibly its excavator. (The parish designations in this review are those of O'Neil and Grinsell: *TBGAS* 79 [1960] 1–149.) For the sake of economy, here as in the catalogue, Greenwell's barrow numbers, always given by him in Roman numerals, have been converted to Arabic.

In the text, each site is given a National Grid Reference, unfortunately only to six figures, whereas for most areas of barrow concentration, including the Cotswolds, it is essential to give these references to eight figures.

It is not known to this reviewer when the text was completed, but the difficulty of keeping pace with the literature, especially that produced as theses in universities, is shown by the fact that the urn from burial 2 in WG 216 (SWELL 1, secondary burial 1; confusingly listed in the catalogue as Swell II) is described as a 'Wessex biconical urn' with four applied horseshoes, whereas David Tomalin's thesis of 1983 (*British biconical urns . . .*, University of Southampton) shows fairly convincingly that the supposed 'Wessex' association is an illusion.

This catalogue is not restricted to the Greenwell material in the British Museum, but includes material shared out with Rolleston and Royce, for example the SWELL 1 (WG 229) pottery spoons in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford and the SWELL V (WG 232) bowl now (with the rest of the Royce collection) in the Corinium Museum at Cirencester. The Anglo-Saxon materials from the intrusive burials in long barrows SWELL IV and V (WG 231–232), however, will be published elsewhere (introduction, p. 8), though the existence of these intrusions is not mentioned at the appropriate point in the catalogue (pp. 109–110).

The illustrations, whether of pottery, flint or other stone, bronze, bone, or other material, are all superbly drawn.

On present production costs, this volume, strongly bound to withstand constant usage, must be considered reasonably priced.

L. V. GRINSELL
Bristol

Barry Cunliffe and David Miles (eds), *Aspects of the Iron Age in central southern Britain*. Oxford: University of Oxford Committee for Archaeology Monograph No. 2, 1984. vi + 209 pp., 101 figs, A4 paperbound, £30.

This volume stems from a conference on 'Wessex and the Thames Valley in the Iron Age' held in Oxford in 1983. The major papers given at the conference are published here in a revised form, with additional invited contributions, together giving a 1984 overview of iron age research in the study region. The topics covered are: environment (Robinson); social analysis (Hingley); buildings (Allen *et al*); animal husbandry (Grant); crop production (Jones); bronze (Northover) and iron metallurgy (Salter and Ehrenreich); pottery (Lambrick); deposition of metalwork in rivers (Fitzpatrick); coins (Sellwood); and reviews of the iron age in Wessex (Cunliffe), Sussex (Bedwin), and the Upper Thames (Hingley and Miles).

To do the volume and its contributors justice would require an inappropriately lengthy review for these *Transactions*; suffice it to say that this is a substantial contribution to iron age studies, published with commendable speed, though many of the papers will be superseded by more definitive publication of the same material or research topics in due course.

Instead I will concentrate on the treatment which Gloucestershire receives, since the Cotswolds are clearly regarded as falling within the compass of this volume. Claydon Pike at Lechlade inevitably looms large, Bagendon and Salmonsbury are mentioned a few times, while Birdlip, Guiting Power, Lydney Park, Norbury, and West Hill (Uley) get brief passing reference. Crickley Hill has about three mentions in the whole volume, Uley Bury none.

Why so summary a treatment? The editors identify part of the problem in their introduction when they state that '. . . no Cotswold settlement has been properly sampled, let alone excavated on a satisfactory scale . . .'. There is now a serious imbalance between both the quality as well as the quantity of the data on iron age settlement known from the Upper Thames Valley and the absence of such data from the Cotswolds. The reason, of course, is that over the last fifteen years the resources of rescue archaeology have been focused on the lowland sites being destroyed by gravel extraction.

Another part of the problem, when this volume was being compiled, was that up-to-date surveys of the iron age in the county were not available, though ironically this situation was at the same time in course of rectification not only by this reviewer (Saville 1984) but also by the volume's co-editor (Cunliffe 1984).

Even so, Gloucestershire sometimes receives unfairly short shrift. Thus Robinson, in discussing the pre-iron age environmental background, makes the bald statement that 'There seems to have been relatively limited activity in the Cotswolds until the latest Bronze Age and most barrow cemeteries are small compared with those on the Thames gravels' (p.5). Even if the demographic and settlement implications of round barrow cemeteries were clearly understood, what about all the Cotswold long barrows? Robinson goes on to suggest (p.6) that the Cotswolds were predominantly grassland during the iron age and did not become a major grain-producing area until the Roman period, based it seems on a suggested rarity of storage pits in Cotswold hillforts. This shows a misreading of hillfort development in the region, since it is only the

earliest forts, like Crickley Hill, which did not have storage pits, while later ones, like Salmonsbury (and probably Painswick Beacon and Uley Bury), had them in abundance.

A marked contrast is provided by the paucity of iron age metalwork finds from the Severn compared to the Thames. Fitzpatrick does not address this question, but it is curious that such a major river should have been so unproductive in this respect, and one is left to speculate on the bias on recovery introduced by the different recent histories of the two rivers, in particular the amount and type of dredging.

Only in the case of the coin evidence does Gloucestershire come into its own in this volume, since the vagaries of chance finds counteract the imbalances of rescue funding, and the coin findspots show the importance of the county as the Dobunnic heartland. It is the coins (of Bodvoc and Corio) which form the basis for defining northern and southern Dobunnic territories, here split at the Bristol Avon (Sellwood p.199). These coins date to the threshold of the Roman invasion, but the correlation made between the southern sub-territory and the distribution of Glastonbury ware groups 2–5 (p.201) opens up the possibility of extending tribal areas back into the iron age using pottery style distributions. Sellwood recognizes all the dangers of equating pottery style with ethnicity, but this nevertheless seems a subject worth pursuing.

Minor points of irritation include Hingley's unexplained reference to Coln St Aldwyns as a Roman town (fig. 5.12) and the indexing of Beckford and Bredon as in Gloucestershire rather than Hereford and Worcester.

All in all, therefore, while this is a valuable volume for students of the iron age in southern England, the limitations of available data in 1984 did not allow the contributors much scope for applying their studies or concepts to Gloucestershire. Can we hope that this situation will have changed by 1994?

Though well designed, produced, and edited, the volume seems unnecessarily highly priced, incorrectly so for a work presumably aimed mainly at students.

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 Saville, A. 1984. The iron age in Gloucestershire: a review of the evidence. In A. Saville (ed), *Archaeology in Gloucestershire*, 140–178. Cheltenham.

ALAN SAVILLE
 Cheltenham

Julian Bennett, *Sea Mills, the Roman town of Abonae: excavations at Nazareth House, Sea Mills, Bristol, 1972*. Bristol (City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Monograph No. 3), 1985. 81pp., 29 figs. £11.50.

This report describes rescue excavations which took place in the grounds of Nazareth House, at the eastern edge of the area of known Roman occupation. It is a pity that the excavations cannot be located on the simplified plan (fig. 2). However, the results do confirm that the site was marginal to the main area of the settlement. The earliest activity was represented by 13 cremation burials of later 1st- to early or mid- 2nd-century date around the findspot of the celebrated *Spes C Senti* tombstone (*RIB*, 137, discovered in 1873), which marked the inhumation of a young woman. The difference in burial rite does not help resolve the question of the date of the stone. Three other inhumations tentatively dated to the 2nd century were recorded about 200 m to the east. All the burials were poorly furnished with grave-goods.

The inhumations had been placed in shallow pits which, like numerous other excavated examples, are interpreted as quarry pits for the extraction of dolomitic conglomerate rock, presumably to provide mortar. The rubbish with which they had been backfilled suggested that the main period of extraction was between the end of the 1st and the middle of the 2nd century, although some material continued to accumulate up to about AD 200. If the stone was used for building, it implies a period of steady development in the settlement. Apart from the pits, some structural remains (of timber buildings) were recorded and, though discounted as a probable post-medieval trackway because of the slightness of the remains, possible evidence of the line of the Bath-Sea Mills road.

For the price, this is not much information to gain about Roman Sea Mills and the finds offer no compensation. The pottery report is long, but uninformative and difficult to use. Given that it is the pottery which provides most of the evidence of date and that it is mostly of late 1st- and 2nd-century date, a type and fabric series would be quite sufficient. Equally, quantification of all the wares (including samian and amphorae) is desirable. The observation (p.27) that there was a large quantity of Spanish amphorae is not supported by any statistics; nor can a figure be attached to the conclusion that most of the pottery appears to be local (p. 27).

Owing to the inevitably piecemeal character of our knowledge of *Abonae*, the nature of the settlement remains enigmatic. A pre-Flavian military origin seems highly probable and, assuming that the settlement is correctly identified, we can presume a continued official presence with a mansio and port facilities for the crossing of the Severn to Caerwent. Around this would have developed the civil community which seems not to have extended much over about 20 acres. Curiously, as is reflected here in the parochial composition of the pottery and the rural character of the faunal assemblage, there is no evidence that *Abonae* became much of a commercial port. Perhaps the official aspect of the settlement was not conducive to entrepreneurial development.

With the publication of the remainder of the 'backlog' excavations the time will be ripe for a new synthesis and appraisal of Sea Mills.

MICHAEL FULFORD
University of Reading

Malcolm J. Watkins, *Gloucester, the Normans and Domesday – Exhibition catalogue and guide*. Gloucester: Friends of Gloucester Museums, 1985. 76 pp., 16 figs. and plates. Price not stated.

Written as an accompaniment to the exhibition celebrating the 900th anniversary of Domesday held at Gloucester Museum in 1985–6, this book is cheaply word-processor-produced, presumably to make it readily accessible to a wide public. There are sections on the Bayeux Tapestry, Domesday Book, domestic objects, sculpture, and the (now famous) Gloucester *tabula set*.

The writing of such publications needs to be considered with some care, particularly in terms of which audience is to be served by the finished work. Museum catalogues published for one-off, temporary, exhibitions should by definition be suited for a wide public, including children, and this is the test which must be applied here. Given this, the description of the historical background to the Bayeux Tapestry is far too complicated for the average reader and could have been more briefly and simply put; many of the historical allusions are obscure and themselves needed further explanation. There is no clear description of what the tapestry is, or represents; such knowledge is assumed and buried well down page 3.

The descriptive catalogue of the 19th-century Leek reproduction of the Tapestry is also lengthy and, again, will quickly lose the average reader's interest. In view of the subject of the exhibition, there is some justification for the explanation of Domesday Book, but this too could have been briefer. The text to 'domestic objects' was, however, in proportion, but in the section dealing with the *tabula* set the writer indulged in a great deal of unnecessary academic discussion better confined to the finished article on the subject than this catalogue.

Because of the method of printing, the illustrations are of indifferent quality. There is no explanation with the Bayeux Tapestry line-drawings as to how they were arrived at, or who drew them. The half-tones, particularly those of the tablesmen, fail to do them justice, although the original photographs were probably excellent, nor is any scale provided. The line drawings of the board designs are again indifferent and lack a scale. The illustrations could easily have been cross-referenced to the text or vice-versa; although they are listed in the Table of Contents this is well removed from where both text and drawings are to be found. The voussoirs from Pavement, York, on loan from the Yorkshire County Museum, do not include acknowledgement of the lenders as for the other sculpture (p. 37).

Some confusion is certain to be caused by abbreviating references (e.g. M for Mann and G for Goldschmidt in the section on the *tabula* set where they appear to be part of a cataloguing system rather than references to books!). In addition, the site code for the Commercial Road excavation where the tablesmen were found should apparently read 19/83 (*not* 13/1983). There is also no ISBN which helps to bury the book for the future.

It seems odd, and a pity, that such a book should not have been better financed given the anniversary and Gloucester's importance in the Domesday events. From this has stemmed several of the problems, particularly page upon page of uninterrupted text – better to have dropped illustrations into it and thus produced a clearer, more readable, and interesting product.

One bright spot is the substantial bibliography, useful for the few readers steeped in early medieval history. The work is otherwise a disappointment (although interesting to the specialist) and particularly so to the audience for whom such an important historical event should be more readily accessible.

M.W. PONSFORD

City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

T.A. Heslop and V.A. Skeules (eds), *Medieval Art and Architecture at Gloucester and Tewkesbury* (= British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions VII). Oxford. British Archaeological Association, 1985. 132 pp., 27 figs., 28 plates. £12.00

This volume of essays originated in the conference devoted to Gloucester Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey organized by the British Archaeological Association in 1981. Those who were present in 1981 will be relieved to learn that the published transactions bear little resemblance to what was a most unsatisfying conference. Instead, the editors have chosen to allocate some two-thirds of the volume to five essays on the construction and exposition of the designs of the two major Romanesque churches of Gloucester and Tewkesbury. The remainder of the volume consists of five shorter and unrelated papers.

A great deal of research has been undertaken in recent years on Romanesque Gloucester and Tewkesbury. Four of the five papers on the Romanesque, by Fernie, Kidson, Halsey, and Thurlby, are mainly concerned with Tewkesbury, while the fifth paper, by Wilson, is devoted principally to Gloucester though it also contains a short note on Tewkesbury. The first paper in

the volume by Fernie is a simple historiographical account of the evolution of the study of Romanesque Tewkesbury. Of particular interest is the curious interrelationship which he notes between two apparently independent strands of research, on the one hand the local antiquarian tradition and on the other hand the work of scholars of national and indeed international repute such as Bony and Clapham. In the last generation the field has been left largely to the established art-historians, although until recently discussion was confined to lectures and seminars and there was for some strange reason 'a self-denying ordinance regarding publication on Tewkesbury'.

The essays published here, along with other recent articles, make available the results of the extensive debate of recent years. It must first be emphasized that although considerable progress has been made towards understanding Tewkesbury, there is no consensus between the different contributors. Their principal, though by no means only, concern is the reconstruction of the upper parts of the choir; the original structure survives only to a relatively low level in the existing, essentially 14th-century choir. For the last 50 years the 'official' view of Tewkesbury, first propounded by Bony, has been that the choir has a four-staged elevation, comprising aisle storey with suspended tribune, triforium, and clerestory, with no provision for a high vault. The authors all agree in dismissing this traditional view, particularly in the light of evidence now available for the existence of a vault over the choir. It is possible that this was a barrel vault (though whether of wood or stone remains uncertain) and that there was no clerestory; Wilson, however, argues for groin vaulting with a clerestory.

There is no space in this review for a detailed consideration of the merits of the various viewpoints. The papers are all highly technical in their content and deploy much complex argument; a great deal of the discussion is based on architectural detail which survives only in fragmentary form. The present reviewer could not follow the discussions from an armchair despite knowing the building well. The papers are probably best read on the spot in Tewkesbury Abbey; non-one should be under the illusion that the papers on Romanesque Tewkesbury constitute light reading!

The paper by Halsey is of particular value in presenting observations made during recent repairs at Tewkesbury. It is, however, to be hoped that his essay is not intended as the definitive publication of his important observations above the north choir aisle vault. His conclusions are not easy to follow from his description and two poor photographs; a measured drawing here would have been of particular value. Nevertheless, it is important that every opportunity for further observations during repairs will be taken.

There will undoubtedly be much more debate on Romanesque Tewkesbury in coming years and the present writer would simply put forward one thought for consideration. There is a great deal of evidence for fire damage at Tewkesbury, and this damage in turn has important implications for the development of the building. The authors in this volume appear to assume that all the fire damage belongs to the recorded fire in 1178. While fires in major churches can follow extremely unpredictable patterns, it is the opinion of the present reviewer that not all the traces of fire damage can logically be ascribed to one single fire, and that the possibility of at least one other early fire should be borne in mind.

Although four of the five papers concerned with Romanesque architecture concentrate principally on Tewkesbury, the most important is undoubtedly Wilson's seminal essay on the place of Abbot Serlo's church in Romanesque architecture. His discussion of the relationship between the elevation of the choir (with galleries) and of the nave (without galleries) constitutes a major advance in our understanding of the building. His reconstruction of the upper part of the choir is open to question, as McAleer (1986) has recently shown in these *Transactions*. Nevertheless, Wilson's exemplary separation of the evidence from its interpretation makes his arguments easy to follow and in this respect contrasts notably with some of the papers on Tewkesbury.

The reader tackling these five essays on Romanesque architecture must be prepared to follow the authors in searches for parallels which cover much of western Europe. This is not intended as a criticism (though a few more photographs would have been helpful), but the general reader will find it difficult to follow much of the discussion without knowledge of the buildings under consideration.

The principal criticism which may be levelled at these five papers is, however, the quality of the illustrations. The only plans and sections used are of 19th-century date (see for example: frontispiece, fig. 6, and pl. XVII). The drawings prepared by the authors are almost entirely confined to reconstructions of what they believe to have existed. Many of the accompanying photographs are of poor quality and some are over-reduced (see especially pl. VI which consists of eight small photographs), while this reviewer has seen few photographs more incomprehensible than pl. VIID. In fact, major progress in our understanding of these buildings is most likely to come from the preparation of elevation drawings far more detailed than those which we currently possess. The problems of height mean that opportunities must normally be seized during repairs, as Ashwell (1985) has shown in his note on the south transept of Gloucester Cathedral.

The contents of the five remaining essays in this volume may briefly be summarized. Borg provides a useful discussion of the Gloucester candlestick, in which he endeavours to place it in the general context of the introduction of altar candles and candlesticks during the 11th and early 12th centuries.

Morris contributes two papers on Gothic architecture, both to the high standard of clarity which we now regularly expect from his work. In the first paper he disentangles the structural sequence of the complex of chapels to the east of the north transept at Tewkesbury. In the second he discusses the ballflower work to be found at Gloucester Cathedral and elsewhere in the vicinity (principally the north chapel at Badgeworth). The profusion of ballflower work on the south aisle at Gloucester is staggering; Morris calculates that there must originally have been about 11,000 individual ballflowers. On a point of detail, the doubts expressed by Morris (p. 114, n.38) as to the historical evidence for the construction of the dormitory at Gloucester between 1303–13 may be resolved by reference to Gloucester Cathedral MS 34; this is the best text of the Gloucester *Historia* but was not available to Hart in his published edition of 1863.

Perhaps the most readable contribution in the whole volume is Kerr's discussion of the east window of Gloucester Cathedral. She summarizes existing research, while at the same time contributing new ideas in the light of recent developments in the study of medieval glass. The volume concludes with a succinct account by Cooke of the restoration work undertaken at Gloucester Cathedral by Bishop Benson (1735–52).

While there is much that is worthwhile in this volume, the bulk of it will be of interest only to the specialist student of Romanesque architecture. It is not a volume which most members of the Society need consider as an essential acquisition for their bookshelves.

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MICHAEL HARE
 Gloucester

Lorna Watts and Philip Rahtz, *Mary-le-Port, Bristol: excavations 1962-3*. Bristol (City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Monograph No. 7), 1985. 208 pp., 92 figs., 68 plates, 10 microfiche. £27.50.

In 1940, enemy action destroyed the medieval church and street of St Mary-le-Port, Bristol. Proposed redevelopment of the whole area necessitated archaeological excavation of the church and street before their final destruction. In the event, the redevelopment was not carried out, apart from some landscaping, but the excavation provides valuable insights into the past of what was one of the oldest sections of Bristol's urban landscape.

The origin of Bristol is still very little understood. The principal evidence for the city's early importance is numismatic; the existence of a pre-Conquest mint must imply a town, but its exact location and layout is still uncertain. The problem is made more acute by the fact that the Bristol area appears to be aceramic before the 10th century. Excavations continue to produce evidence for pre-Conquest activity, but it is difficult either to assess or to date with precision; the general reader is not helped by the dearth of publication, even an overall summary, of any of the extensive work carried out by archaeologists at Bristol in the last 20 years. A report on an excavation which may elucidate the development of the town is therefore eagerly seized on.

This report is actually two for the price of one – a long one on microfiche (about 1400 pages) and the printed version here (208 pages including an index). The latter is an abbreviated version of the former, and is more than adequate for the student who is content to know what interpretations have been made of the evidence and requires general information about the origins of the city. It contains no detailed arguments for the interpretations, and we are warned that 'readers of the printed version must be on their guard, and be hesitant in taking bold statements at their face value without reference to the full data in microfiche'.

Mary-le-Port Street occupies a narrow strip of land between the rivers Frome and Avon, an obviously defensible spur which was later the walled core of the medieval town. The grid-like street pattern of the walled area, and its position centred on Bristol Bridge, have led to the suggestion that it was also the Saxon town area. However, the discovery of pre-Conquest deposits under the castle, further east, gave rise to the alternative theory that the castle occupied the Saxon burh area, and that the street-grid further west was a Norman creation.

The Mary-le-Port excavations have contributed to this debate, though not with any certain solution. What the report shows is that the Mary-le-Port Street area 'was very probably subject to substantial development before the Conquest, at a date earlier than that suggested by written sources' (p. 186). The street began as a hollow-way, dated approximately to the late Saxon period, running east-west across the spur of land between the two rivers. This hollow-way had an orientation only very slightly different from the later street-plan. At the east end of the street, on the narrowest part of the spur, was a double-ditch running north-south which may pre-date the hollow-way. The medieval church of St Mary-le-Port was preceded by an 11th-century church, and perhaps a 10th-century one also, though the evidence for the Phase 1 church is 'tenuous in the extreme' (p. 97). The churches all have an orientation which is different from the hollow-way (which may or may not precede the churches).

The report presents several interesting problems for future research. The church orientation is not particularly canonical. Could it be related to another road or feature to the south (an area not investigated extensively)? Then there is the 'double-ditch'; a tempting candidate for the eastern boundary of the Saxon burh but an interpretation that is rejected in this report because of the apparent primacy of the Norman Castle area. On the other hand, Mary-le-Port Street itself appears, from the evidence in this report, to achieve its present orientation in the late Saxon period. Also it was unmetalled; an interesting exemplar for other poorly-documented 10th-

century burhs such as Gloucester, where the earliest streets have seldom left any trace and could also have been unmetalled.

There appears to be a (well-concealed) divergence of views between Bristol archaeologists and the authors of this report; the summary in paragraph 3.2 of the topographical development of Bristol rejects the 'western burh' theory and adopts Ponsford's (unpublished) thesis that the Saxon burh was beneath the castle further east. Paragraph 5.2, however, evidently inclines to the view that the existence of the 11th-century church and street demonstrates a similar date for the rest of the 'western burh' street grid, and the authors point out that this area, with its spur location, its grid of streets, and its domination of the bridge, does look like a classic example of a Mercian burh, and will bear comparison with proven 10th-century towns such as Hereford, Tamworth, Chester, and Gloucester.

There is, of course, much more to this report than the 'origins' question. It gives the history of a small but populous area of the town from its beginnings to the present, showing, for instance, that major redevelopment and repairing of streets took place in the 13th century, and that the street was occupied in the Middle Ages and later by a variety of artisans. Many of the site owners can be traced from the leases and deeds which have been exhaustively studied by Mrs Neale, and plotted on to diagrams showing ownerships at different periods. This documentary evidence is fully set out in the printed version of the report. The 19th/20th-century information is particularly full and valuable; the survival of earlier leases is patchy and sometimes the properties cannot be certainly located on the street. Equally important were the standing buildings on the site. Though destroyed in the blitz, this picturesque row of gabled buildings was often drawn or photographed; about ten plates in the text make the late and post-medieval street spring to life. Roger Leech's excellent section on these standing buildings, and also on the medieval priest's houses, is in the microfiche section of the report. It is both interesting and sobering for the archaeologist to see how little trace these 17th-century houses left on the ground (p. 83). This makes the pictorial and cartographic evidence used by Leech all the more valuable.

One aspect of the excavation that the authors admit was poorly covered was the burial ground (pp. 15 and 128). The medieval and later burials were summarily dealt with – not unusual at the time but one is left wondering whether excavating more of the burials, even in a selective area, might have provided more confirmation of the date of origin of the church (either by radiocarbon dating or by counting back generations of intercutting burials from a known point). The cemetery south of the church, surely the earliest, was partly destroyed subsequent to the excavation by Norwich Union – here, as the authors point out, was a sadly lost opportunity. However, some of the area is still available.

Another question arises about the burials. If these are Phase 1 and 2 burials, and there seem to be a few, what is the significance for the status of the church itself? Surely the 11th/12th century is early for a small city church to acquire burial rights? What is the status of St Mary's compared with neighbouring churches? No documentary evidence is cited; perhaps there is none, but there is usually some information to be gained from studies of parish boundaries. In this respect the drawing of the parish boundaries (fig. 2) is unhelpful, as it is not related to streets or to the general topography; it also does not include the area which was once the medieval suburbs. The Cathedral is omitted too, although it or its church St Augustine-the-less might have had significance for the early town (as suggested by J.C. Dickinson in 1976). The latter church, recently excavated, has been shown to occupy the site of a Saxo-Norman cemetery, which has further implications for the area occupied by the Saxon town. We obviously have not heard more than the beginning of a debate on Bristol's churches and origins!

Artefacts from the site are on the whole few, but there are some particularly fine drawings of 19th-century coffin fittings and plates, and an intriguing account reproduced from contemporary

records of a 19th-century exhumation. The pottery report has fabric identifications by two systems (one by M. Ponsford the other by A. Vince), which is a little bewildering. However, Vince's summary (p. 163) is a ray of sunshine; it seems that the local Bristol wares of the 10th/11th centuries are not found inland but were exported at least as far as Chepstow and Dublin. There is obviously much more information to be gained from the study of the Bristol pottery sequences.

The report is divided into numbered sections which are used throughout for cross-referencing; these reference numbers are common to the two reports, since both would otherwise have different pagination systems. This numbering gets complicated (e.g. 10.32Aa), which makes for slower searching. A much more serious deficiency of the report is the fact that the microfiche are not indexed (except for the illustrations) and it is therefore necessary to look at the fiche pages, check back to the printed text to locate the next page in the report, and then search again. Assiduous users will soon have written in the microfiche numbers on their printed copy – but this should have been done for us.

The authors are engagingly frank about what they clearly see as deficiencies in the methods of excavation. Though pointing out that the circumstances and financing of the excavation were far from ideal – the initial view of the task ahead was 'a daunting sight for the excavator' (p. 70) – they several times point out that recording 'was poor even by 1962 standards' (p. 89) or that evidence was not fully recovered; 'even less appreciated was the importance of medieval Christian graves' (p. 15). 'No surveyor's level was available' (p. 125). 'No survey or architectural study of the standing structure was done' (p. 118). They perhaps do themselves an injustice, as it is clear from drawn plans and sections that the site's archaeology was adequately recorded and comprehended. The deficiencies, given the circumstances of the time, in no way detract from the value of the report. In any case, the church itself still stands if more architectural record be needed; more work could also be done, in theory, on the burial ground. Whether resources will ever allow this is very doubtful; higher standards of recording may operate in 1986 but the costs of such standards have become astronomical. St Mary-le-Port was a rescue excavation in the old style, and we are grateful for it.

CAROLYN HEIGHWAY
Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire

Ian Longworth and John Cherry (eds), *Archaeology in Britain since 1945: new directions*. London: British Museum Publications, 1986. 248 pp., 133 figs. and plates. £12.50.

This volume was published to coincide with a major exhibition of the same name at the British Museum in 1986. It is not a catalogue, nor is it a guide; rather it is a series of five essays celebrating recent achievements in understanding the past. Individual contributions deal sequentially with 'Prehistoric Britain' (by Ian Longworth, Nick Ashton and Valerie Rigby), 'A Roman province: Britain AD 43–410' (by Timothy Potter), and 'Anglo-Saxon England AD 400–1100' (by Leslie Webster). The high medieval period is covered by the two remaining chapters, one on 'Technology, Towns, Castles and Churches AD 1100–1600' (by John Cherry), the other on 'The medieval countryside' (by John Hurst). The volume is well designed and looks attractive even if there seems to be as much blank paper on every page as there is printed text. The photographs are generally clear, if mostly familiar, and the various site plans dotted through the volume have been redrawn in a clear style. Reconstruction drawings are a prominent feature, and while for the later periods they seem to work well, those in the chapter on the prehistoric

period lack interest and depth through being rather short on detail. Figure 2 is rather amusing as it appears to depict an outing by a band of naturist hunters; one wonders whether this is really the artist's understanding of prehistory or simply wishful thinking.

It is sometimes easy to underestimate the contribution that work in Gloucestershire has made to our understanding of the past. This book helps redress the imbalance as it brings the importance of many local projects into sharp focus, and places what may seem like familiar ideas and interpretations into their national context. Mention of the work at West Hill Roman temple (Uley), Hazleton long barrow, Crickley Hill, Deerhurst church, and Lechlade Saxon cemetery, can all be found in the book, together with references to the great variety of research that has gone on in our major Roman and medieval towns, particularly Gloucester and Cirencester.

Few books cover the immense timespan that this one does, and as a work of synthesis it succeeds in presenting a lot of information in a succinct and easily readable form. The evidence is generally interpreted in a fairly traditional way, but the book will no doubt provide a useful crib for anyone wishing to catch up on some aspect of British archaeology for which their general reading has slipped behind.

TIMOTHY DARVILL
Gloucester

David Richardson (ed), *Bristol, Africa and the Eighteenth-century slave trade to America. Volume 1: The years of expansion, 1698–1729*. Bristol: Bristol Record Society Publications vol. 38, 1986. 203 pp. £9.00 to non-members.

Over the past twenty years David Richardson has collected a wide range of primary material on the history of the Bristol slave trade in Africa, the British Caribbean and the North American mainland. He has analysed some of this data in several articles and in a pamphlet entitled *The Bristol Slave Traders: A Collective Portrait* (published by the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association in 1985). The book under review is a more substantial product of this research. It is the first instalment of a proposed multi-volume documentary history of the 2108 slaving voyages from Bristol between 1698 (when the monopoly of the London-based Royal African Company ended) and 1807 (when the slave trade was abolished by act of parliament). Presumably at least another two volumes will follow in due course.

The current volume adopts a chronological framework to provide details on each slaving venture from Bristol between 1698 and 1729. Vessels are listed alphabetically according to the year in which their voyages began. Each voyage entry provides information on such matters as the tonnage and armaments of particular ships, the size of their crew, the names of masters and owners, the vessel's date of departure from Bristol and arrival in America, the number of slaves carried and sold, and so on. Blanks are left where information is unavailable and export cargoes to Africa are also excluded to save space. As this brief description suggests, the presentation of material is sensible, comprehensive and straightforward, and the clear index enables one to locate individual ships very quickly.

Richardson's introduction cautiously outlines the possible pitfalls to be avoided in using the major sources represented in this edition (which are mainly shipping records in the Public Record Office). It also analyses the reasons why Bristol became the premier slave trading port in England by 1728–1732. Before 1730 Bristol merchants expanded trade with previously under-exploited sources of slave supply such as Bonny and Calabar; they improved their marketing skills in America; and they took a major share of several rapidly growing markets for slaves (notably

Virginia, Barbados and Jamaica). By the mid-1720s the overall ratio of slave deliveries to vessels' stated complements of slaves reached around 75 per cent and there was a noticeable improvement in the average number of slaves delivered per voyage in Bristol ships. These points form the basis of a fresh interpretation of Bristol's early success in handling black cargoes. However, insufficient business material survives for the author to examine more closely why Bristol slave traders outbid many of their competitors in London and Liverpool before 1730.

The Bristol Record Society should be pleased at producing a documentary edition that is carefully compiled, well introduced, and of interest not merely to Bristolians but to academic historians studying the African slave trade and the 18th-century Atlantic economy. The absence of a map showing the West African sources of slave supply is unfortunate, for laymen and specialists alike would find it helpful to confirm the location of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gambia and other parts of the slave coast. Possibly this omission can be rectified in future volumes in the series where, in addition to the shipping records used here, the author will be able to draw upon more extensive documentary evidence about Bristol slave merchants from business papers and from the Muster Rolls held by the Society of Merchant Venturers in Bristol.

KENNETH MORGAN

West London Institute of Higher Education

Christopher Stell, *Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-houses: Gloucestershire*. London: Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 1986. 50pp. + 69 b.&w. photographs + 11 plans + 4 line-drawings. £2.50.

In 1955, the brief of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England was extended to include the general recording of buildings threatened with demolition. One important result of this has been an unprecedented survey of what is often one of the least regarded and consequently most threatened groups of historic buildings in the country, namely its Nonconformist chapels. In the course of many years' work, Christopher Stell of the Commission's staff has surveyed more than 4000 current or former chapels and has compiled a unique archive for the National Monuments Record. From that record has been published what must be hoped is the first of several volumes covering the history and architecture of these buildings, *An inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-houses in central England* (1986), a substantial hardback volume covering thirteen midland counties, for each of which a separate paperback offprint – including this Gloucestershire volume – has been published 'for reasons of convenience and local interest', and also, to quote the introduction to the main volume, as 'a stimulus to further research'.

Much of the research for the survey was undertaken in the years before the 1974 local government reorganisation, and, happily for members of this Society, the Gloucestershire volume covers the historic county, including of course, Bristol and what is now north Avon. It comprises a brief introduction to Nonconformity and Nonconformist chapels within the county, highlighting in particular those buildings, such as the Old Baptist Chapel at Tewkesbury and Lewin's Mead Meeting-house at Bristol, which demand particular attention. There follows an alphabetical gazetteer of 170 buildings, for each of which its original and, if different, present denomination (or secular use) is given, along with a concise historical note and a description which varies from a single line on its external appearance to a full account of the building's interior, furnishings and fittings. A general bibliography is included, along with specific references for individual gazetteer entries.

For its terms of reference, the word 'Nonconformist' has been interpreted in its widest sense (no doubt to admit as many buildings as possible), and even includes the former Catholic Apostolic church at Bristol (now the Roman Catholic church of St Mary on the Quay), although other Catholic churches, along with synagogues, are omitted. Also included are a number of buildings which, although still standing when Mr Stell undertook his work, have since been demolished and one wishes that this could have been extended to include other earlier demolitions of major buildings for which some historical or architectural evidence is available.

With its comprehensive and well-written gazetteer entries and excellent illustrations – the black and white photographs are crisply reproduced and the volume includes clear and attractive plans and line-drawings by Mr Stell – the book is excellent value at £2.50, and will be both an indispensable work of reference and a useful companion when travelling about the county. It is only to be regretted that, presumably for the sake of economy, each county offprint has been published with an identical cover (except, of course, for the county's name) so that many readers might be confused by the fact that none of the 25 plans and line-drawings on the cover of the Gloucestershire offprint is of a Gloucestershire building!

More seriously though, it is to be sincerely hoped that the Commission's primary purpose – to draw attention to the buildings and thereby to assist in protecting them – will succeed. Certainly the threat is ever-present, and to this reviewer's knowledge at least one more of the listed chapels (the former Salem chapel in Regent Street, Cheltenham) has been demolished since Mr Stell's work was completed. Truly, the county's heritage of Nonconformist chapels is one to be treasured and it is significant that of the 63 buildings in central England deemed 'most worthy of protection' in the main volume, no fewer than eleven (more than in any other county) are in Gloucestershire, a county which, in Mr Stell's own words, includes such areas as the former manufacturing districts of the Cotswolds 'which still possess an inheritance which, in spite of inevitable losses, remains almost an *embarras de richesse*.'

STEVEN BLAKE
Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museums

Norman Jewson, *By Chance I Did Rove*. Barnsley, Glos. Gryffon Publications, 1986. xiv + 146pp., 24 illus. £13.50.

N. Mander, S. Verity and D. Wynne-Jones, *Norman Jewson, Architect, 1884–1975*. Bibury, Glos. Arlington Mill Museum, 1987. 24 pp., 8 illus. £2.50.

Anyone interested in recent Gloucestershire history will be pleased to learn that Jewson's book of reminiscences about his life in Sapperton and his years working with Ernest Gimson has now been reprinted, for the second time since its original publication in 1951.

The book has a wide general appeal, giving a vivid picture of life in the county in the early part of this century, written by an observant man who was particularly interested in country crafts and customs (and cooking), and who enjoyed the stories told to him about local characters and events. Had this been simply another work of rural literature, however, it is doubtful if interest in the book would have been sufficient to justify a third edition; but it is also a rare, first-hand account of Ernest Gimson and his friends, Sidney and Ernest Barnsley, who brought new life and work to this small corner of the Cotswolds, and in whom interest has grown considerably over the past twenty years.

All three men were architects who had been influenced by William Morris and were

particularly attracted to his ideas on the happiness to be gained through interesting and useful work. They came to the Cotswolds in 1893 to start a new life, working with their hands to create beautiful things in attractive surroundings. They loved country ways and they did their bit to conserve aspects of rural life which were fast disappearing, joining in with the social life of the village and encouraging the revival of old folk songs and dances and other traditional entertainments. More importantly, they provided jobs for local youths who would otherwise have had to look to the towns for work. As well as the furniture made personally by Sidney Barnsley and by assistants in Gimson's Daneway workshop, they also left a legacy of fine architecture in the county, ranging from Ernest Barnsley's impressive Rodmarton Manor to minor, but sympathetic, alterations to a number of cottages and farms.

Norman Jewson joined this little group in 1907 after a month's journey around the Cotswolds. He started work for Gimson as his architectural assistant and spent the rest of his life in Sapperton, practising as an architect and also engaging in craftwork of his own, particularly plasterwork and wood-carving. Jewson says little about his own life and work in *By Chance I Did Rove*, choosing modestly to concentrate instead on his heroes, but this is counterbalanced by the new introduction to this edition by David Gould, and by the small booklet, *Norman Jewson Architect, 1884-1975*, which was produced to accompany an exhibition at Arlington Mill, Bibury, in April 1987.

The booklet gives a brief summary of Jewson's career by Davina Wynne-Jones, followed by more detailed essays by Nicholas Mander on Jewson's major work, the saving and restoration of Owlpen Manor, and by Simon Verity, who learned from Jewson the skills of plasterwork, which had been passed on to him by Ernest Gimson. This kind of personal account adds greatly to our understanding of what the Arts and Crafts Movement was really about and its relevance for the present day, and it is supplemented here by lists of work carried out by Jewson, which give the reader scope for further study.

Davina Wynne-Jones has done a service to local history studies in printing these two works, which are attractively designed and well illustrated.

ANNETTE CARRUTHERS
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

This section is designed to draw attention to recent publications which make a contribution to the study of the archaeology and history of the county. It is hoped that those responsible for any such publication, whether periodical, guide, article or full-length study, will contact one or other of the Reviews Editors as soon as their work appears in print to ensure its inclusion in future lists. Books reviewed in this volume of the *Transactions* are not listed, but the inclusion of a publication here does not preclude a review at a later date.

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