

REVIEWS

The Roman Soldier. By G. R. Watson. 8½ in. × 5½ in. Pp. 256, pl. 26. Thames and Hudson, 1969. 50s.

Here, at last, is a book which can be recommended to anyone interested in learning about the Roman army in the most natural way—from the point of view of the men who joined its ranks and served in it. In just over 150 pages Mr. Watson, after a brief introduction, takes us through the activities of the recruit, the trained soldier, the conditions of service, the soldiers' religious beliefs and their chances of marriage, and the place of soldiers in society. Many of the ancient sources, literary or archaeological (papyri from Egypt or Syria), are quoted in translation; and the serious student will find in another hundred or so pages detailed notes and the full Latin texts of the documents quoted in translation earlier in the book. There are full indexes and 26 well-chosen half-tone illustrations. An apt sub-title might have been 'The Roman army as a career'; Mr. Watson would have been a good recruiting officer!

ERIC BIRLEY

Greek and Roman Jewellery. By R. A. Higgins. 9 in. × 6 in. Pp. xlvii + 236, pl. 68 (4 in colour), figs. 33. Methuen, 1961. 75s.

Dr. Higgins's book maintains the best traditions of the well-established series of Methuen's *Handbooks of Archaeology*. It is clear, very concise—a little too concise for some tastes, perhaps—very systematic, and easy to use as a work of reference. It provides the essential information on this important and very colourful branch of ancient craftsmanship, and although several more lavishly and better illustrated books on classical jewellery have appeared before and since, this one is likely to be the standard textbook for many years to come.

It covers a range a good deal wider than the title suggests, by including Minoan and Mycenaean jewellery. Indeed, some of the best and most original parts of the book are to be found in these early chapters which are nearer the author's own interests. By contrast, and perhaps rather culpably, the Roman period gets very short shrift, just fourteen pages. It is inevitable that the best of such a book reflects the author's tastes, but a better balance is expected in a *Handbook*, and Dr. Higgins's acute stylistic sense, had it been applied to the Roman material, might have produced a genuine contribution to the study of Roman jewellery.

There are excellent opening chapters on metallurgy (very brief)

and on the basic processes used in the manufacture and decoration of ancient jewellery. The reader will find clear explanations, accompanied where necessary, by drawings, of some very complex techniques. Wire chains and loops which are the basis of so many jewellery forms; the method of granulation which the Etruscans used with such skill; and the history and techniques of enamelling are extremely well described. The jewellery is discussed in a series of chapters, each of which is preceded by a brief, historical introduction; the jewellery is divided up by types in a formal arrangement which is excellent for a work of reference but does not make for easy reading. Dr. Higgins has a very terse style, which sometimes leads to lack of clarity, as for example in the discussion of the use of gold rings in Rome (p. 179), and one could wish that he would let himself go occasionally and fill in the background with rather more discursive writing.

A high proportion of the material is drawn from the jewellery in the collection of the Greek and Roman Department in the British Museum, which is incomparably the best collection in Europe, and the only one that has been well catalogued, by Marshall, as long ago as 1907. Since Marshall, Dr. Higgins himself has made the chief contributions to the study of the collection by his re-examination of the Aegina Treasure and his publication of important new acquisitions such as the Elgin jewellery. But the book draws its material from widely different sources and much new material from Greece and elsewhere is included. The monochrome illustrations do not always bring out the qualities of the jewellery and a lot of the detail is lost in some of them, but the explanatory line drawings are masterly. The few colour illustrations are not very good, but then they hardly ever are.

A major part of the book, and a clear illustration of the high quality of Dr. Higgins's scholarship, is the section of bibliography and site lists (pp. 193-223) where the students can find all the most important jewellery of the period systematically arranged. There is also an index of sites and a general index.

New discoveries and new discussions of old material may provide for the need of a new edition of this book before long, but it is unlikely to be superseded for a long time to come.

D. E. STRONG

The Archaeology of Roman Britain. By R. G. Collingwood and Ian Richmond. 9½ in. × 6 in. Pp. xxv + 350, figs. 109, pl. xxvi. Methuen, 1969. 84s.

There can be few students of Romano-British archaeology who have not had reason to consult *The Archaeology of Roman Britain*, or, briefly, 'Collingwood', since it first appeared in 1930; its immense value as a handy well-head of information has been, over the years, a lasting

REVIEWS

tribute to its author. Even such a monumental work of distillation and condensation, however, does need periodic revision in order to take into account advances in knowledge brought about by subsequent work, and it was generally known that this task had been undertaken and virtually completed by Sir Ian Richmond before his untimely death.

Now, at long last, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* has been brought up to date, steered to the press by D. R. Wilson and published. In format rather larger than the original and running to 350 pages against 293, the text has been expanded and re-written to include much new material, but the original chapter-headings have been retained; perhaps, a slight departure here might have allowed a chapter on glass. Some chapters have, of course, been re-cast more than others, and this is nowhere more obvious than in the new sections on various classes of pottery and in those dealing with military establishments, towns and villas, all subjects close to Sir Ian Richmond's heart whose hand can easily be detected in the virtually new chapter on the villas. The whole volume is profusely illustrated by numerous text-figures; some of these appeared in the original book, though the opportunity has wisely been taken both to draw afresh some of the earlier plans and to add many others, particularly in the chapters dealing with forts and fortresses, villas and towns, samian ware and coarse pottery. A welcome innovation, too, is the addition at the end of the book of 26 plates consisting of a new series of coins and photographs, with perhaps an over-fondness for air views, excellent though these are.

Dealing with the villas (Chapter VII), the new edition retains the form of the original chapter but most of its content has been altered; many archaeologists will applaud the disappearance of Collingwood's rather clumsy nomenclature of bi- and tripartite corridor houses and basilican houses and the substitution of Richmond's more easily understood cottage, courtyard and aisled houses. It is a pity, however, that Lockleys (pp. 134-5) is still thought of as belonging to the late first century A.D. when recent work has cast serious doubt on this dating which seems to be some 100 years too early. The section devoted to towns (Chapter VI) has been enlarged by the addition of new paragraph-headings to Collingwood's scheme in order to include arches and public monuments, market-halls and inns, aqueducts and pipe-lines, latrines and sewers, and to draw the distinction between private houses and shops. Chapter III, fortresses and forts, has been given an introduction, and the legionary fortresses are dealt with separately, which allows for treatment in greater depth than previously, and to treat the forts from a chronological and topographical standpoint. The section on samian ware (Chapter XIII) has been entirely re-written by B. R. Hartley, who omits Dr. T. D. Pryce's out-dated

REVIEWS

list of potters' names; for the beginner in this field, it provides an admirable introduction and a very useful series of the most common forms and their dating. The chapter on coarse pottery (Chapter XIV) has been greatly improved by new paragraph-headings and the classification of the vessels described. In these days of standardization, one observes ruefully both the disappearance of 'pie-dish' as an acceptable term and the retention of 'Castor ware' instead of 'colour-coated ware', and the inconsistency between the 'Samian' (p. 274) and 'samian' (p. 275) of this chapter and the normal 'samian' of the preceding one. Both these chapters have been much enhanced by the new illustrations, and many readers will immediately recognize the latter chapter's debt mainly to J. P. Gillam's drawings.

Unfortunately, there are too many printer's errors and inconsistencies that should not have escaped proof-reading in such a work of reference, and to mention some of these is not to render witness to this reviewer's persistence but to express the hope of their extirpation in a future re-issue. 'Durovernum Cantiorum' (Fig. 34, and p. 106), 'Shordon Brae' for 'Shorden Brae' (p. 172), 'at the end of [the] third century' (p. 20), 'superceding' [*sic*] (p. 27), 'Sherd' instead of 'sherd' (p. 63), the Flavian period/times are dated inconsistently to A.D. 69-96 (pp. 29, 227) and A.D. 70-96 (p. 257), 'coypists' (p. 193), 'proably' (p. 222), both 'Chi Rho' (pp. 205, 208) and 'chi rho' (p. 163) obtain, 'parallel to [the] surface' (p. 237), 'relationships of silver to gold is no more . . .' [*sic*] (p. 222), etc.

One of the major improvements of this new edition as additional material is undoubtedly the provision at the end of each chapter of copious references (very welcome to see, too, the find-spots, where certain, added below the illustrations of brooches), which will save many a student much laborious effort in tracing the relevant information (checking, however, is necessary here, too: e.g. R. Merrifield, *The Roman City of London*, was published in 1965 and not in 1956, as on p. 129; E. Burley, PSAS, 89 (1956-6) [*sic*]). There is also a full index.

A book of this scope is an event in itself and, in retrospect, it seems rather churlish to pin-point some of its very minor blemishes. However, in order to judge the esteem in which it is held by this reviewer, it would suffice to add that it is a very worthy successor of the earlier volume, and to add that it is a 'must' for all archaeological libraries, public and private alike, is no mere endorsement but an expression of gratitude for so much information for many interests so readily available. It will obviously remain a standard work of reference for many years to come, and one hopes that 'Collingwood and Richmond' will become as standard a quotation as 'Oswald and Pryce' has been since 1920 in another field.

A. P. DETSICAS

REVIEWS

Roman Coins. By Harold Mattingly. Second Edition (corrected). 5 in. × 8½ in. Pp. xiv + 305, pl. 64. Methuen, 1967. 75s.

The late Dr. Mattingly's book is one which no serious student of the Roman world can afford to neglect. Dr. Mattingly's writings were informed by a lifetime's devotion to classical culture, and his intimate acquaintance with its history, literature and daily life illuminate *Roman Coins* with a rare understanding that amateur and professional alike are quick to appreciate. The first edition was compiled at the time when Mattingly had first risen to numismatic greatness—the second, when he was the revered doyen of Roman numismatic studies—the new corrected reprint, edited by his no less distinguished son, Professor Harold B. Mattingly, stands now as a memorial to his greatness, and is a standard work which will not easily be superseded.

Roman Coins is grounded in a chronological framework. First, a section on the Roman Republic, entirely rewritten in the author's later years, when his researches had transformed the traditional picture; secondly, accounts of the earlier and later periods of the Empire, divided so as to bring out the fundamental differences between them; thirdly, a general treatment of the city coinages of the Greek world under Roman rule. There is also a comprehensive bibliography, enabling specific topics to be followed up.

It should be made clear that *Roman Coins* is not a book for complete beginners, and it cannot be used for coin identification and dating. It is rather a book for connoisseurs, by one of the greatest connoisseurs of the Roman world that it has ever been my privilege to know.

J. P. C. KENT

A Second Kentish Patchwork. By Robert H. Goodsall. 8¼ in. × 5¼ in. Pp. 152, 45 plates and drawings. Stedehill Publications, Harrietsham, 1968. 36s.

To say of this book that it is 'the mixture as before' in an entirely complimentary comment as the mixture is such a pleasant one. As in his previous 'Patchwork', the author ranges over a wide variety of subjects and has found interesting and unusual things to say about them all, whether they are bathing-machines or highwaymen, Follies or chalybeate springs. The two short biographical essays provide an interesting contrast between the exemplary Mr. Barrell and the sinister Mr. Collington. Not even Mr. Goodsall's disarming advocacy, however, can persuade this reader to swallow his latest version of 'The Old Straight Track'!

The quality of the illustrations, which consist of the author's own photographs and drawings, is excellent, particularly so, perhaps, in the series showing the Kent river bridges, which includes, one is glad to

REVIEWS

see, the M2 Motorway Bridge over the Medway at Rochester—surely no unworthy companion of his medieval predecessors. Of great interest, too, are the views of bygone Canterbury which, as they show buildings now lost to us by accident, enemy action or redevelopment, have a historical as well as an aesthetic value.

A. C. HARRISON

The Roman Imperial Army of the First and Second Centuries A.D.
By Graham Webster. 9 in. × 6½ in. Pp. 330, pl. 31, figs. 52. Adam & Charles Black, 1969. 63s.

This book *had* to be written! As the dust-jacket proudly proclaims, it is 'the first general survey of the development of the Roman Army'. For years now, all that was readily available in this highly specialist field, apart from the numerous treatises and articles scattered in many journals as witness the ample bibliographies that form such a feature of this volume, was the author's well-known booklet, *The Roman Army*, published in 1956. Fortunately for his readers, Dr. Webster has finally persuaded himself to venture forth into 'areas of knowledge' with which *he* claims to have 'no familiarity' and to undertake the mammoth task of digesting and rendering to a concise form practically all that is known of the Roman army; by necessity, of course, he is forced to restrict his survey to the first two centuries A.D., but even so his canvas is broad enough to satisfy all but the most specialist of scholars interested in the study of his subject.

In his introductory chapter, Dr. Webster traces the origins and organization of an army which developed from a citizen army to a highly professional and specialist body, and then continues to deal with the various frontiers the Roman soldier was called upon to defend and police, as well as the various systems of defence he employed (Chapter 2). The composition of the army, its officers and *cadres* are methodically described (Chapter 3) and whole chapters are subsequently devoted to the more permanent remains of the Roman army, its camps and forts and their internal lay-out, the tactics it used (Chapter 5) and the way information was gathered and transmitted. Not forgetting what might be described as 'the human element', Dr. Webster adds whole sections dealing with the pay of the soldiers, though here he readily acknowledges how little is known (p. 256), the food they ate and the medical services at their disposal. In a final chapter, the author discusses the non-military role of the army as a civilizing influence and has several valid suggestions to make in spite of the comparative paucity of the material available.

The text is very generously illustrated by many excellent plates and even more drawings, of which the frontier maps (*pace* 'Commegene'

and 'Mogontiagum' [*sic*]) are particularly pleasing and overshadow the twenty or so minor printer's errors which were noted.

In his foreword, Dr. Webster asks his readers to consider 'the present work . . . as little more than a compilation', but one hazards the guess that very few will entirely share this opinion: for to speak of this work in those depreciating terms is surely scant justice to the amount of methodical selection of so many diverse threads before they could be woven into a coherent pattern, to the mountainous amount of reading upon which it is so obviously based and to the author's own research and expertise in this field. In any case, what emerges is a very clear picture of the Roman army such as it must have previously existed only in the minds of the few specialists, a picture that most students will readily comprehend and a volume that has more than filled the need for a handbook on the Roman army such as they exist in other fields: it should run to several editions.

A. P. DETSICAS

The Ancient Hospitals and Almshouses of Canterbury. By the Rev. D. Ingram Hill, M.A. 8½ in. × 5½ in. Pp. 48, pl. 8. Canterbury Archaeological Society Occasional Papers No. 6, 1969. 5s. (4s. to members).

In this well-produced and pithy paper our member, the Master of the Eastbridge Hospital, describes the foundation, history and possessions of the ten surviving almshouses which form a remarkable, if little known, feature of Canterbury, and indeed of the English scene. An impression of great continuity is given—the Hospital of St. John in Northgate was founded by Archbishop Lanfranc in about 1085 and has an unbroken history of charitable works down to the present day. By careful quotation from their records Mr. Ingram Hill illustrates some of the vicissitudes through which the foundations passed and some of the problems they faced, such as non-residence of the brethren and the appearance of children in the almshouses. Over half the foundations are post-medieval and all retain some traces of the original buildings in spite of considerable modifications in the light of changing needs, a process that is still continuing as some of the older buildings are modernized. Two lazar houses have disappeared, but St. Nicholas, Harbledown, originally a leper hospital, continues to care for sixteen old men and women. Its greatest treasure, eight medieval mazer bowls, is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

This is a useful account of the Canterbury almshouses by an enthusiast who knows his subject well. He naturally lays his main emphasis on extant foundations, although a few architectural details are given of buildings, such as the Poor Priests' Hospital, now used for other purposes. Recent discoveries, such as Sir John Boys' Deed

REVIEWS

Poll of 1599, are incorporated, whilst the illustrations are of a high standard.

L. D. LYLE

The Church at Lamberhurst. By William Morland. 8½ in. × 6 in. Pp. 32, 1 map and a plan, 5 other illustrations. 1968. n.p.

When Sir Stephen Glynne wrote his notes on Lamberhurst, prior to 1840, he commented: 'The church is situated eastward of the village, closely adjoining the house of Mr. Morland . . .', and this description would still hold good today in both particulars, though, of course, the present Mr. Morland—the author of the excellent church guide-book here reviewed—is a later representative of a family resident for many generations at Court Lodge.

Now, in 1968, Mr. William Morland has traced for us the history of the church and parish from Saxon times to the present day, but this booklet is not merely the usual compendium of antiquarian information, for quite obviously the place of the church in the life of modern Lamberhurst is by no means least in the writer's interest. Significantly, therefore, two of the photographic illustrations show a Family Communion Service in progress, and also a Concert Rehearsal against the background of the fourteenth-century nave pillars. Although there is a plan of the building, the writer wisely avoids an over-elaborate analysis of the architectural development. The outstanding problem of the occurrence of the base of the easternmost pillar of the south chancel arcade three and a half feet below present floor-level is stated but left unresolved.

Numerous incidents of human interest are included, and one is entertained—or maybe shocked—by the discreet Latin reference to the incredible misdemeanour of a medieval vicar, Domicius Okenlayne, who in 1446 offended to such an extent as to be deprived of his living.

Reference is made to the skilful manner in which the church was saved in the early 1960s from literally falling to pieces, by the application on the part of Mr. Kenneth McAlpine of a new Italian process of reinforcement involving the use of thousands of feet of steel rod grouted into the disintegrating walls. Those who know the present clean and well-cared-for interior of St. Mary's Church, with its bold rearrangement to suit the requirements of modern worship, will be thankful to those who laboured to save the place from ruin, and grateful also to Mr. Morland who has told its story with such clarity and understanding.

P. J. TESTER

The Roman Villa in Britain. Edited by A. L. F. Rivet. 6 in. × 9 in. Pp. xvi+299, figs. 46, pl. 66+4 in colour. Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969. 75s.

To quote its editor, this volume 'does not pretend to offer a full

explanation' to the various problems confronting anyone concerned with the villas in Roman Britain. It is a collection of essays written by various authorities 'working in closely related fields', both surveying the current state of our knowledge, asking some pertinent questions and suggesting a number of aspects in which further research promises to be very rewarding.

In Chapter 1, Mr. H. C. Bowen ranges over the Celtic background, with his usual concise style embellished with some felicitous remarks (e.g. 'his [Tacitus's] information on the climate was reliable; he said it was foul', p. 45) and stresses above all that the Romanization of the countryside and the development of the villas did not preclude the co-existence of Iron Age patterns of living and farming—indeed, these continued well into the Romano-British period and provide many pointers for our understanding of the following centuries. Chapter 2, 'which was to form the keystone of the book' was, alas, never written by the late Sir Ian Richmond, and all that is included here, almost as an act of affectionate piety, is a surviving fragment from an early draft; to fill the gap, Chapter 7 of Sir Ian's revised version of *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* is reprinted *in toto* (see, pp. 266–8, *supra*). Dr. D. J. Smith, in a scholarly contribution, deals with the mosaics in Chapter 3, and his abundantly illustrated survey poses many questions to which there is as yet no satisfactory answer: why, for instance, did the mosaics not become very fashionable before the fourth century? Why was there no direct, gradual development from the few early pavements during the third century? Are the troubled times of that period the only reason? Were there no wealthy villa-owners before then? Chapter 4 is devoted to the interior decoration of the villas and shows how little is so far known about the furnishings of the various rooms; like the previous chapter, it is fully illustrated, though not everyone will find the drawings of wall-plaster to their liking. It is a pity, too, that Miss Liversidge clearly was not aware, in describing the wall-plaster from the Lockleys villa (pp. 141, 150), of what Dr. Webster was to say about the villa's dating in a later chapter; one also wonders whether the painted wall-plaster from Trier (pl. 4.17, and p. 146) may in fact depict the gateway to a villa-estate rather than 'a colonnade connecting buildings'. The social and economic aspects are dealt with by Mr. A. L. F. Rivet, in Chapter 5, though his many valuable points would have been better illustrated by printing his distribution maps (especially Figs. 5.1 and 5.4) to a larger format. However, the comments he makes on the relationship of villas to towns and roads, the civilizing influence of 'successful' Roman forts, the patterns of the villa-distribution and the reflections they provide on the economic organization of the country and the social status of their owners, and many others, will certainly cause many to pause and

reflect. Finally, Dr. G. Webster concludes this very useful book with a section on the future of villa studies, suggesting several directions where fresh research will make the best use of our resources and pleading for the complete excavation of type-sites or the selective examination of others likely to answer specific questions arising from the 'present state of our ignorance' (p. 236), as he so succinctly puts it; in particular, one question urgently requiring some generally acceptable explanation is that concerning the life of the villas after A.D. 367 and into the early fifth century. If one were to express some uneasiness about the quasi-categoric statements on coin needs Dr. Webster makes (p. 234), it is precisely because so much of his ideas here is based on what is reasonable to expect, on what *would* have been the case, rather than on what *has* stood the test of documentary and excavated evidence. It is very welcome to see that, at last, someone of Dr. Webster's calibre has grasped the nettle of reappraising some villa-dating (especially Lockleys), and everybody would surely agree that such sites as he tackles need to be kept under review because 'they are constantly used for references and analogies' (p. 237).

One of the great assets of this volume is the inclusion of site-references and a full index of the authorities cited, both short-cuts to further research; another is, undoubtedly, the almost complete absence of printer's errors of which few caught the eye: '*le valeur*' (p. 177, n. 2), 'statification' (p. 242), 'most' for 'must' (p. 90), a superfluous word in the line beginning 'when once' (p. 206), and an awkward sentence, due to some missing punctuation, on p. 115, 'So far as . . .'

Mr. Rivet and his colleagues ought to be well satisfied with the fruit of their collaboration; not only have they excelled themselves in placing before us much more than 'a work of reference', but have forced into the limelight of the non-specialist field all those nagging questions as a challenge to all interested in Romano-British studies.

A. P. DETSIOAS

Greek and Roman Gold and Silver Plate. By D. E. Strong. 9½ in. × 6¼ in. Pp. xxviii+235, pl. 68, figs. 40. Methuen, 1966. 90s.

This is a most useful book. It is beautifully produced and systematically arranged, a book that not only will be of reference value to the archaeologist, but also of much interest to general readers to whom the artistic products of Greece and Rome illuminate classical civilization. The comprehensive series of excellent plates has been carefully chosen, and a visit to the British Museum where much Greek and Roman silver plate may be studied, including the famous Mildenhall Treasure, will greatly enhance the value of the book.

The author has arranged his material logically, beginning with

REVIEWS

chapters on precious metals in the ancient world, and the techniques of the ancient craftsman, with sections on the trade of the silver-smith in antiquity, inscriptions on plate, including Roman weight inscriptions, and collections where the finest specimens of plate may be seen. He then proceeds to consider products of the Bronze Age in Asia Minor, Crete, Mycenae, and the Greek mainland. Thence, he reviews the strange civilization of Etruria, and the Hellenistic world. His subsequent chronological treatment of silver during the Roman Empire is scholarly, detailed and clear.

The line-drawings are most informative, showing as they do the shapes of Mycenaean drinking vessels, and the development in form of Hellenistic and Roman objects, such as cups, *patera*-handles, jugs and spoons. In addition to a general index, indexes are included of sites, museums, and private collections. This book covers a wide range and presents much detail in a clear and readable style, and it is recommended both to the interested general reader and to the archæologist.

G. W. MEATES

Roman London. By Ralph Merrifield. 9 in. \times 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Pp. x+212, 63 pl. and figs. Cassell, 1969. 50s.

Roman London is one of 'a series of books that will give a portrait of the City at significant periods in its history', and Mr. Merrifield is well qualified to write the story of Londinium, not only as the deputy director of the Guildhall Museum but also as the author of *The Roman City of London*, of which the present volume is clearly the direct descendant.

As the author himself declares (p. 5) this book 'is intended mainly as a guide to those who wish to see and understand the visible traces of the Roman city and its people', and this he proceeds to do admirably in ten chapters of closely-packed information ranging from the origin of London, its status and functions, to its physical geography and life, 'relating this as closely as possible to what is visible today' (p. 9). It is this last laudable objective that has entailed the inclusion of a mass of topographical material, as in the chapters dealing with the Roman roads, which makes its ready assimilation something of a Herculean labour of concentration.

Where the tale is based firmly on solid evidence few would disagree with the author's convincing portrayal, but not everybody will readily accept some of his speculations on the status of Roman London (especially p. 83), though further work may well prove him right, or that it is legitimate to extend the scope of the book to almost the area of modern Greater London by referring to such sites as Brockley Hill and Lullingstone, particularly when their connection with Roman

London can only be a reasonable hypothesis. One also wonders how many of Mr. Merrifield's readers will immediately associate what he calls 'Gaulish red-gloss pottery' (p. 15) with samian ware, though that awkward term favoured for years by the Guildhall Museum is rather reluctantly abandoned (pp. 164, 166) in favour of the generally accepted and understood *misnomer*. In this respect, the specialist would wonder on whether it is really desirable to include in a book of this narrow canvas some of the generalizations on samian ware: what evidence is there, for instance, for the statement (p. 164) that the silversmith's elaborate decoration 'could be supplied by the Gaulish potter for *very little more* (my italics) than the price of his plain wares' or that samian decoration appeals *generally* less to us (p. 166) than the scrolls and animals of colour-coated beakers?

The book is very well illustrated by many figures and plates, some old friends, others less well known; some of the plates are reproduced, reduced in size, a second time at the beginning of chapters, though not always appositely (e.g. a samian pot at the start of a chapter dealing with roads) and in one case (Chapter 2) one reader at least was initially mystified as to what the plate illustrated. Few misprints mar this well-produced volume, 'Dura Europus' for 'Europos' (p. 85), 'marytr's shrine' (p. 202), 'know' should read 'known' (p. 123), a word has been omitted in p. 26 (l. 31), 'the gravel surface was a hard', and, surely, lacing-course, not 'facing' (pp. 121, 124), is intended.

Mr. Merrifield has told his story with insight and understanding, both of his material and the needs of his intended readers, in a style that strikes a happy medium between journalistic reportage and factual narrative enlivened with his casual asides and observations: few coming to Roman London for the first time would wish for a better guide. A concluding chapter might be added in a future edition, both to summarize what Mr. Merrifield has so skilfully paraded before the visitor's eyes and to guide him along the path to *The Roman City of London*.

A. P. DETSICAS

Mosaics. By H. P. L'Orange and P. J. Norhagen. 7¼ in. × 9¾ in.
Pp. x+92, text pl. 16, pl. 98 (+4 in colour). Methuen, 1966.
70s.

It is over forty years since Blanchet's book *La Mosaïque* was published and, despite important contributions to the study of mosaics in the Roman Empire, in particular those of the western and North African provinces, there has been a need for a general handbook on the development of mosaic art.

Mosaics, by L'Orange and Norhagen, is a useful, well-illustrated

introduction to the subject but, since the interest of the book lies mainly in mosaics of the Late Antique and Christian periods, it cannot fairly be said to fulfil this need. The text is divided into two parts. Part One, 'The History of Mosaics', traces the architectural development of the Christian basilica and the increasingly important role mosaics came to play in its internal decoration. Mosaics before c. A.D. 300 receive limited attention; indeed, three centuries of development under the Romans are regarded as nothing more than an 'interlude' in mosaic art. To illustrate this, the authors confine themselves almost exclusively to the black-and-white mosaics of early Imperial Italy and wrongly give the impression that these mosaics, with predominantly black figures shown in silhouette against a monochrome white ground, were typical for the Empire generally and in particular for the western provinces, which they clearly were not. Mosaics of Roman date in the eastern provinces, characterized throughout by the widespread use of polychromy, are poorly represented. This is understandable since, with the notable exception of the Antioch pavements, they have received considerably less attention in the past than those from the West. One would welcome, for example, an illustration from the Roman villa at Corinth whose fine polychrome floor mosaics compare very favourably with those from sites of similar date in the West.

Wall and vault mosaics of Christian date from Rome, Ravenna and Salonika are described in more detail, and the discussion of the material from Salonika is of especial value; the mosaics cover a period from c. A.D. 400 to the ninth century and are of considerable importance for the rise of early Byzantine monumental decoration in the East.

Part Two is entitled 'The Development of Mosaic Technique' and describes the transition from mosaics made of natural pebbles to cut marble and stone *tesserae*, the development of the *emblema* in the Hellenistic East and the widespread use of tessellated mosaics under the Romans. The transfer of mosaics from floors to the walls and vaults of Christian buildings and the decorative possibilities thus created, receive more detailed attention, with particular emphasis on the importance of gold and glass *tesserae* in the new pictorial schemes.

The volume is generously illustrated and the plates are of a consistently high standard. Many of the illustrated mosaics will be familiar to scholar and tourist alike, but a number of less well-known monuments are also represented. The plates take the reader on a conducted tour from fourth-century B.C. Olynthus in northern Greece to the splendours of ninth-century A.D. Rome. Included *en route* are floors from Delos and Palestrina, wall and floor mosaics from Pompeii and Herculaneum, the delightful *emblema* of the 'Drinking Doves' from Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, the first century A.D. villa at Zliten in Tripolitania, and black and white mosaics from Rome, Anzio and Ostia. Late Antiquity is

represented by rich polychrome floors from Antioch, Piazza Armerina, Rome and Constantinople, and the mosaics from Christian contexts range from the third century representation of Christus-Sol in the necropolis beneath St. Peter's in Rome to that of Christ Pantocrator in the ninth-century church of Hagia Sophia in Salonika. Mosaics from such notable monuments as the Great Mosque of Damascus, the Palace of Khirbat al-Mafjar in Jerusalem and the synagogue at Beth Alpha are well illustrated. Again the emphasis is on mosaics of the Christian period, but the plates themselves nicely combine both detailed and general views, including some to show both floor and wall mosaics in their architectural settings. The plates are accompanied by short notes recording dimensions, materials used and the present locations of the mosaics. A useful addition is the Bibliography, although it is regrettable that Roman provincial mosaics are not better documented.

This is not quite the book one expected from its title, but nonetheless it provides a most informative and excellently illustrated introduction to the developments in the mosaics of Late Antiquity and the rise of monumental mosaic art in the Christian Church.

ELIZABETH RAMSDEN

Kentish Sources. VI. Crime and Punishment. By Elizabeth Melling. 8½ in. × 5¼ in. Pp. xii + 294, pl. 8. Maidstone, 1969. 20s.

This is the latest addition to the series of Source Books published by the Archives Committee and using material drawn from documents in the Kent Archives Office. Let it be said at once that it is not only a most useful and well-compiled selection of material but, at its modest price, represents extremely good value, consisting as it does of over three hundred close-packed pages. A valuable general introduction explains the types of record with which the book is concerned and makes plain the meaning of the various terms used and judicial processes involved. The author rightly stresses that, as it excludes both the Assize Courts and the manorial courts, this is not a comprehensive survey of crime in Kent, but, in spite of this limitation, an impressionistic view of crime and punishment emerges from the wide variety of cases involved. These reflect both usual and unusual offences, for example, both petty larceny and witchcraft, and one significant point is the large number of cases involving criminals who were mobile, vagrants, seafarers, drovers and pedlars.

This book then presents a picture of crime in Kent which, though not statistically based, is at once authentic and interesting. It is not, perhaps, possible to draw many general conclusions from this work by itself and until a number of similar studies of other counties in different parts of the country are available for comparison, it is not

possible to say to what extent conditions in Kent were reflected throughout the country. Two general points, however, do emerge very clearly which were both interesting and new, at least to this reviewer. The first was the amount of trouble that ordinary people were prepared to take in order to catch thieves and recover stolen property, at a time when there was no regular police force, and the readiness of their neighbours to assist them. Secondly, at a time when the only punishment for felony, except petty larceny, was death, this penalty was persistently evaded either by a deliberate deflation of the value of the goods stolen or by the fiction of 'benefit of clergy', which operated as a kind of First Offenders' Act. Perhaps our ancestors were both more law-abiding and humanitarian than is generally supposed!

A. C. HARRISON

Persepolis. The Archæology of Parsa, Seat of the Persian Kings. By Donald N. Wilber. 6½ in. × 9¼ in. Pp. xiii+120, 79 photographs, 1 plan, 1 map. Cassell, 1969. 55s.

Persepolis was built by Darius I and his successors Xerxes and Artaxerxes I between about 520 and 450 B.C. and destroyed by Alexander in 330 B.C. Though the site was later reoccupied by the Persians, from the time of the Arab conquest until the present day the great platform, in part artificial and extending to thirty-three acres, with its pillared halls and palaces has remained a ruin, exciting the admiration and wonder of visitors through the ages.

In the tenth century an Arab ruler removed four of the doorways for use in a palace near Shiraz and nearer to our own time fragments of the reliefs were taken by travellers; some dozen pieces can be seen in the Persian annexe of the British Museum. The site was, however, largely protected by accumulations of wind-blown dust and there has been no wholesale removal of reliefs or architectural fragments. In the late nineteenth century the local governor, Farhad Mirza, did some digging, or, rather clearing, but it was not until 1931 that proper excavation began, when the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago sent an expedition directed at first by Herzfeld and later by Schmidt.

Schmidt published two large volumes on the results of the excavation, but they are not easily accessible, and it is claimed that Dr. Wilber's book is the first about Persepolis for the general reader. Recent works on Persian and Western Asiatic art have naturally covered such an important site, but not in such detail as Wilber. After a summary of the historical and cultural background the buildings and reliefs are described in detail. The text is scholarly and straight-

forward and adequate space is given to the methods of quarrying, stone dressing and building construction. The author makes good use of the inscribed tablets from the Persepolis Treasury and other Achaemenid sites, which provide information on the dating of the buildings, the origin of the workmen and craftsmen employed and their pay. Though Persian monumental art and architecture have a decidedly individual quality, there has inevitably been much discussion of their origins, Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Ionian. Dr. Wilber mentions the main theories, indicating his own preferences. The virtual absence of references is regrettable, but the bibliography, four pages long, partly compensates for this.

The seventy-nine illustrations are reproduced on the same matt paper as the text and are interspersed throughout the book, which was printed in the United States. Though not of the same quality as glossy plates, they give an adequate idea of the buildings and reliefs, and since a book of this sort needs to be extensively illustrated it is preferable to have a large number of illustrations rather than the smaller number of plates which would have been included at the same price. The photographs appear in the same order as the buildings are described, but are not numbered and accordingly not referred to in the text. Since many pages separate photographs and descriptions it is not as easy as it should be to marry the two.

The single plan, of the whole site, based on that of Schmidt, is unsatisfactory. Whoever re-drew it omitted to indicate the stairways, which appear on the plan as solid masonry walls, except for those serving the Throne-room, which are properly drawn. The two centre columns of the middle row in the palace of Darius are omitted, though they appear in Schmidt's plan and are described as existing in the text. There is no indication of direction, the top of the plan being, in fact, north-north-west.

However, in general the book serves its purpose well. It gives a very good idea of the site and would make an excellent guide-book for anyone fortunate enough to visit these impressive ruins. Despite the lamentations of Robert Byron and Rose Macaulay, for whom the excavation was the 'familiar tragedy of archæology—the sacrifice of beauty to knowledge', the visitor is to be envied.

D. B. KELLY

Roman Archaeology and Art: Essays and Studies by Sir Ian Richmond, edited by Peter Salway. 8½ in. × 5¼ in. Pp. 294, pls. viii (+ frontispiece), figs. 11. Faber and Faber, 1969. 70s.

When Sir Ian Richmond died in 1965, he left a number of unfinished works, which various colleagues are gradually seeing through the press,

and the typescripts of the large number of lectures he had given during his fruitful life. The present volume is a collection of the latter kind, and one immediately sympathizes with the unenviable task that editing must have represented for Dr. Salway, as well as understands the reasons that must have prompted Dr. J. C. Mann to advise against the inclusion of at least part of this material (p. 282).

The problems facing Dr. Salway were many (pp. 11-12) and, once it was decided to publish the texts as originally given, he sought to revise their author's views by the expedient of numerous footnotes which, inevitably, emphasize that even an outstanding scholar of Sir Ian Richmond's calibre can be proved quite wrong by further research, often carried out by himself (e.g. at Chedworth which makes the references to fulling on p. 147 quite erroneous); one wonders, with the advantage of hindsight, whether it might have been better to leave unpublished some of these papers, even though they represent 'Richmond's views at specific periods in his career' and readers less fortunate than his listeners and pupils may otherwise have never experienced 'the felicity of his spoken word' (p. 12). For what Sir Ian Richmond himself (p. 132) described as 'the advancing tide of archaeological progress' is nowhere more obvious than in the opening paragraph on p. 135 where the Lockleys villa is dated to 'the later years of Nero' (cf. now Graham Webster, 'The Future of Villa Studies', pp. 244-5, in A. L. F. Rivet (Ed.), *The Roman Villa in Britain*, 1969); and not only progress in this field alone, if one takes into account the lecturer's casual aside on the width of the Vallum ditch on Hadrian's Wall which the Olympic long-jump record-holder should *now* be able to clear easily enough!

Slightly more than one-half of this book consists of the Ford (1951) and Gray (1952) Lectures given by Sir Ian Richmond at Oxford and Cambridge respectively, and it is this part that will prove of immediate interest to students of Roman Britain; the remainder consists of several other lectures on various topics, mainly dealing with Roman monumental art and architecture, hence, presumably, *Art* accompanies *Archaeology* in the title.

Accompanying the text are line-drawings and plates by Dr. Salway, with the exception of the well-known frontispiece. The plates, mostly of Aosta and its environs, are rather quaintly placed well ahead of the relevant text, even in the midst of a discussion of the *ara pacis Augustae*; one also suspects that their uneven contrast may be due to their being monochrome prints from colour transparencies. Some thirty-three printer's errors, e.g. 'toally' (p. 123), 'canonal' (p. 59) and 'preded' for 'presided' (p. 191), mar the text.

However greatly views on the necessity, let alone the wisdom, for such posthumous publications may differ, one should warmly con-

REVIEWS

gratulate Dr. Salway for shouldering so manfully such a thankless labour. As a volume of Sir Ian's writings, it will certainly appeal to all who cherish the memory of a great scholar.

A. P. DETSICAS

Soils of Romney Marsh. By R. D. Green. 9½ in. × 6 in. Pp. x+158, pl. 12 (1 in colour), figs. 42, 1 map. Soil Survey of Great Britain, Bulletin No. 4, 1968. 30s.

The recognition of soils as natural objects is a modern concept. The idea was practically unknown in England fifty years ago. At the beginning of this century the study of the soil mantle was largely neglected by geologists and any investigation of individual soils in those days was left largely to agricultural chemists, who generally regarded soils as mixtures of detrital mineral particles of different sizes to which organic débris had been added. But all that is now changed and individual soils emerge with an identity comparable with that of a rock such as granite, slate or chalk. The author of this bulletin, and those who have worked with him, present the subject in modern dress.

It is a most attractive treatment of a difficult branch of study, so clearly set out that the essential scientific details given are sufficient to enable those to whom the subject is entirely new to understand the general principles involved.

But apart from the main object of the book, there is a great deal in it that is of particular interest to our members. It provides an up-to-date assessment of many of the problems which have confronted many generations of antiquaries and local historians who have enquired into the origin and development of the Marsh and throws scientific light upon a number of them. The probable course of development of the Marsh from the earliest time is discussed and reasons given for agreement with the views of earlier writers or for dissension from them. Thus, for those interested in the archæology of the area, this is a most valuable appraisal of the natural agents that have been at work in the development of these coastal marshlands and of the part that man has played in the matter.

Among many topics that are considered, doubt is expressed about any need for enclosure in Roman times, the sea-level being such that beaches and tracts of land behind them would be high and dry. At Lydd, beaches were occupied in Roman times, and a similar protective beach is thought to have existed on the sea side of Dymchurch Wall until the thirteenth century. Incidentally, it is pointed out that walls were constructed not only for reclamation but also for the defence of land already settled.

REVIEWS

There is evidence that the Rhée Wall is not as early as has generally been thought, that it is not primarily an innings wall and that it was constructed or extended in the period marked by a series of violent storms which occurred near the close of the thirteenth century.

This work is amply illustrated and accompanied by a soil-map, in colour (1 : 25,000) of the area discussed. Four soil-profiles are shown in colour.

It is difficult to understand why the author states that workers in the 1930s established nine soil series in the Marsh 'mainly on a textural basis', for it is quite clear from J. K. Dubey's 'Soil Profile Studies of Romney Marsh Features', *Journ. Min. Agr.*, vol. 40, no. 3 (May 1933), 131-40, that this is not the case. It is also strange that this important and well-illustrated paper is not referred to in the Bulletin.

The dust-cover is embellished by a very fine lithograph of James Cole's engraving of Matthew Poken's (1617) map of Romney Marsh. The same map is reproduced as an inferior half-tone plate in the body of the work. It is a great pity that the lithograph was not used there as well.

The author has given us a serviceable and scholarly work, one that will always rank high among the writings about the 'fifth quarter of the globe'.

S. G. BRADE-BIRKS

Donors of Books to S. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury. By A. B. Emden. 7½ in. × 9½ in. Pp. 46, pl. 5. (Oxford Bibliographical Society, Occasional Papers, no. 4.) Oxford, 1968. 15s.

Canterbury was the greatest library-centre of this country during the Middle Ages and one of the greatest in Europe. By the later fifteenth century there were at St. Augustine's Abbey more than 1,800 books, while the collection of the Cathedral numbered no less. The medieval catalogues of the Cathedral, Abbey and Dover Priory libraries were published in 1903 (as *Ancient Libraries of Canterbury and Dover*) by Montague Rhodes James, the great medievalist, and a son of Kent (born in 1862 at Goodnestone, near Wingham). Dr. James provided an introduction to the texts, but did not follow up many of the points arising. For example, he left largely unidentified the numerous benefactors to the libraries whose names stand in the catalogues against entries of books. Dr. Emden has already placed anyone working on personalities in medieval England in incalculable debt by the publication of his immensely detailed lists of graduates both of Oxford and Cambridge. He has now enlarged the debt (especially on the part of anyone working on medieval Kent and Canterbury), by identifying benefactors recorded in the catalogue of St. Augustine's Abbey,

compiled between 1491 and 1497, and printed by Dr. James from the MS. now at Trinity College, Dublin.

Many of the benefactors prove to be the Abbey's own monks, and since the house recruited largely from its own area and from manors in its possession, there is a long list of quasi-surnames deriving from Kentish towns and villages: Faversham, Milstead, Plumstead, Ratling, Ripple, Sandwich, Selling, Shalford (near Canterbury), Sturry, Tilmanstone, Wilsborough, and many others. There is another group of benefactors with names deriving from other parts of England, and in this group can probably be distinguished that class of man who had passed a career *in saeculo* and who entered the Abbey in his later days. These retired lawyers and civil servants brought with them technical books acquired during their working life, which in due course found a way into the Abbey library.

In the former class (of local men), the most interesting is Dns. Michael of Northgate, who evidently had an origin a few hundred yards from his own monastery at the Northgate of Canterbury. He is probably the man ordained priest in 1296, and has a claim to fame and to the gratitude of students of medieval English since he produced his *Ayenbite of Inwyrt* (Remorse of Conscience), to which he thoughtfully added the date 1340, thereby offering a monument of the Kentish dialect assignable to a precise point of time. His benefactions to the library are numerous, and comprise, as might be expected, volumes on pastoral subjects, together with a volume on veterinary matters (care of horses).

In the second, non-Kentish, class of monk and benefactor is to be found Peter of Dene (or does his name betray a local origin?). Dr. Emden calls him the most 'unmonkish monk' in the Abbey's history. He was a lawyer, and supported Thomas of Lancaster. After the execution of his leader, he took shelter in 1322 at St. Augustine's as a political refugee, and was actually allowed to maintain his own private house and domestic staff. He assigned his lawbooks to the brethren. Years later he found monastic seclusion, even on such liberal terms, too much for him and made an abortive attempt to escape. His adventures, scaling the back wall of the Abbey opposite St. Martin's Church, with further excitements at 'Otehill', in suburban Canterbury, form one of the more entertaining passages in William Thorne's *Chronicle*. Another colourful character among the benefactors is Mtr. Hamo Doge, also a lawyer. He combined secular and clerkly pursuits in a singular way, for at one stage in the mid-thirteenth century he acted as Alderman of Canterbury's Westgate Ward, and can be found taking part in local politics. He has left a permanent mark of himself on the topography of Canterbury in the name 'Chantry Lane', so called from his oratory established there.

A valuable element in Dr. Emden's publication is the frontispiece, a facsimile of a page in the catalogue at Dublin. Sad to say this confirms what has long been suspected, that is that the transliteration by M. R. James is extremely faulty. A comparison between the facsimile (fol. 57v. of the MS.) and the corresponding passage in *Ancient Libraries* (pp. 294-5) shows this very forcibly. Catalogues can be repetitive, and it is legitimate to leave out much in printing, but it is evident that words and groups of words have been omitted, altering or obscuring the sense. In some cases there is actual mistranscription of authors' names by James.

Dr. Emden must be thanked for clothing books and their owners with personality. Time and again, when looking at a medieval manuscript, one is overwhelmed with a sense of exasperation at knowing no more about it than what can be seen before one's eyes. Obviously, it was someone's treasure and he gloated over it, but now we know who many of these people were, and, moreover, the quadrangles and ruins of St. Augustine's can be populated with men who are much more than mere names and the vague ghosts that they were.

WILLIAM URRY