

for the book to finally appear, so readers should be aware that the text is essentially as written in 2008, with subsequent work not included. One cannot help but wonder why Peter Davenport, who was so evidently qualified for the task, was not invited to undertake the project from the outset, although he was evidently consulted during the project. Or failing him, N. who made a very successful job of the Verulamium assessment. Tasking a relatively inexperienced researcher with this very demanding commission may explain the delays that have occurred during the production process.

Bath is fortunate in that it has benefited from a number of very high-quality, well-contextualised excavation reports from the pens of Barry Cunliffe and Peter Davenport, who have written syntheses of the Roman and medieval evidence respectively. There is little in this volume that could not be found in their writings, at least for the Roman period. Nevertheless, it is a well-written and illustrated account that provides a useful introduction to the archaeology of Bath for individuals or organisations with little previous experience of working in the city, one of the main drivers for the urban-assessment programme. Of course an assessment of this type can only easily consider work that is documented, hence inevitably it concentrates on investigations that have already been analysed and published. But it is the unpublished excavation archives where most new information potentially resides. The former Bath Archaeological Trust did a considerable amount of work in the 1980s along Walcot Street, which overlies the Roman road leading north from the walled area (important sites include Hat and Feather Yard, Nelson Place, Aldridge's and Tramsheds). These excavations revealed significant evidence for extramural roadside activity that dates back to the first century A.D., and this suburb was likely the 'urban' rather than ritual focus of *Aquae Sulis*. Analysis and dissemination of these investigations, among others, will doubtless provide considerable insight into the sequence of development and the functions performed in the Walcot Street suburb, and potentially shed light on the often assumed, but as yet unproven, military origins of Bath. Work in advance of development in 2012 in Bathwick on the opposite bank of the Avon will likewise be instructive in this respect when it is published. One feels that much value could still be obtained from the archives produced by Bath Archaeological Trust, where future attention could usefully be directed.

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Edge of Empire: Rome's Frontier on the Lower Rhine. By J. Lendering and A. Bosman. Karwansaray, Rotterdam, 2012. Pp. vii + 193, illus. Price: £25.00. ISBN 9789490258054.

Despite the subtitle of the English translation, the focus of this book, first published in Dutch in 2000 and revised in that language in 2010, is not on the archaeology of the Roman army and its fortifications along the Lower Rhine. Of this there is still no up-to-date synthetic account in English. Rather it describes how the Roman Empire was experienced in the now Dutch- and Flemish-speaking parts of the provinces of Gallia Belgica and Germania Inferior, seen as a frontier zone embracing Germanic peoples beyond the Rhine as well as the inhabitants of the Empire. The book does not supersede previous syntheses in English, such as Edith Wightman's classic *Gallia Belgica* (1985) or Maureen Carroll's *Romans, Celts and Germans: The German Provinces of Rome* (2001), but it offers a thoughtful and brightly illustrated reappraisal of part of the territories they covered.

Lendering (historian) and Bosman (archaeologist) guide us through the Caesarean conquest, the wars of Augustus and Tiberius across the Rhine, the Frisian revolt of A.D. 28, the Batavian revolt of A.D. 69, the development of the Rhine frontier and of the provincial society it shielded, the *imperium Galliarum* of A.D. 260–73, the invasions and transformation of society in the later Empire and, finally, the rise of the Merovingian state, interestingly interpreted as having its roots in later Roman developments within the provinces rather than being a wholly separate episode introduced by external forces. The narrative is interspersed with long quotations from the literary sources, giving the whole thing the character of a source-book and meaning there is inevitable emphasis on the events which happen to be described in the literature, resulting in a heavy weighting towards the earlier imperial period.

Great play is made of the fact that 'a 25 m high paper tower could be built from the number of reports that Dutch archaeologists wrote' in the ten years preceding this edition, but it has to be said that the end-product is much more historical than archaeological. There are some good maps but only a single site plan. The

discussion of the multi-focal military and urban complex at Nijmegen cries out for an overview plan to help the reader visualise what is described, as does the account of a palimpsest of farmsteads dating between A.D. 50 and 150 excavated in 2001 at Ellewoutsdijk near the mouth of the Scheldt. On this side of the Channel, developer-funded archaeology has revolutionised our knowledge of the lower-order rural settlements of the Roman period and it is possible to produce a striking visual atlas of the provincial countryside — see Jeremy Taylor's *Atlas of Roman Rural Settlement in England* (2007) and, now, A. Smith *et al.* *New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain, Volume 1: The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (2016). If commercial archaeology has the same potential in the Low Countries, as one might expect, it does not come across forcefully here.

The title of ch. 7, 'Romanization', might get some British commentators hot under the collar, but the difficulties surrounding the term are understood and are briefly explained (80) in a section that even introduces the concept of globalization, commenting, however, that 'here we reach a level of abstraction that can no longer be tested with the tools historians and archaeologists have at their disposal'. Perhaps questionable are the assumptions that retired auxiliaries were an instrument of Romanization by becoming a major element in the provincial aristocracy (34, 80–1) (cf. Haynes' scepticism in *Blood of the Provinces* (2013), 339–55), or that significant numbers went back to spend their retirement in Germanic societies beyond the Rhine frontier (138) (cf. James in *Limes XIX* (2005), 273–9).

In conclusion, readers will have to turn to other books to obtain a good visual sense of the archaeology of this frontier region, but this is a thought-provoking survey that can be recommended to the general reader and the undergraduate student alike for its lively style, useful presentation of the literary sources, and clarity in presenting a complicated subject.

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Late Roman Handmade Grog-Tempered Ware Producing Industries in South East Britain. By M. Lyne. Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 12. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2015. Pp. xii + 179, figs 38. Price: £35.00. ISBN 9781784912376 (paper); 9781784912383 (e-book).

This volume has its origins in Dr Lyne's PhD research, conducted at the University of Reading between 1989 and 1994. The work has subsequently been updated with the results of more recent excavations, the pottery from many of which was written up by L. himself. The result is a far more substantial account of late Roman grog-tempered pottery than has been provided in the past. This is important, as the majority of synthetic work dealing with this kind of pottery was undertaken several decades ago (e.g. C. Green, 'Handmade pottery and society in late Iron Age and Roman East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 118 (1980), 69–86; R.J. Pollard, *The Roman Pottery of Kent* (1988)), while the advent of modern commercial archaeology has increased the corpus of available finds massively. What is more, there is great potential for an in-depth study of such a prominent ceramic tradition to contribute substantially to discussions of late and sub-Roman society and industry.

The bulk of the volume concerns itself with the systematic characterisation of four 'Industrial Groups' — East Sussex Wares; Hampshire Grog-Tempered Wares; East Kent Grog-Tempered Wares; and West Kent Grog- and Grit-Tempered Wares — best considered as localised variants within the larger tradition of late Roman grog-tempered coarsewares. These groups are defined by fabric and form repertoires, isolated using geographical distributions and in the case of a very few examples, such as the East Sussex group's Bardown Ware (Industry 5A), precise production locations. Each group is provided with a chapter that presents a literature review, structured typologies of fabrics and forms, brief discussions of technology and raw materials, and detailed breakdowns of chronology and distribution. A chapter is also presented on the late Iron Age and early Roman background (ch. 1), and there are two concluding discussion chapters (chs 6 and 7). Detailed appendices present the particulars of quantified assemblages and a wealth of illustrations and transect diagrams are presented throughout the text. Unfortunately, many of the 22 distribution maps lack details such as keys to symbols, or do not show crucial landmarks such as major towns, forts or roads.

The methodology of the study, then, is unashamedly traditional. The emphasis here is on characterisation — of wares, chronologies, and distributions — and there is little in the way of specialist scientific analysis such