


briefly inserted and mentioned some documents, such as an original diploma signed by Otto I (pp 93–73) in which the sovereign allowed the establishment of a mint at Rorschach (Switzerland) (p 70, fig 3.4), though this has only been summarised.

Finally, *Making Money in the Early Middle Ages* is a masterpiece, a detailed and well-documented work on medieval numismatics mostly due to its in-depth theoretical approach and the wider, overall perspectives that the author utilises to navigate such a complex subject. The structure works very well, offering the reader a valid numismatic and historical approach in Part I to help understand the evolution of coinage from the end of the Roman Empire until the eleventh century in Part II. Thus, Naismith's monumental volume can be defined as a research monograph, or, as an alternative, a valid and thorough handbook on medieval coinage that numismatists, historians and others proficient in related disciplines might profitably utilise for several purposes for many years to come.

ANTONINO CRISÀ 

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Archaeology, Economy, and Society: England from the fifth to the fifteenth century. By DAVID A HINTON. New edition. 232 mm. Pp viii + 357, 47 figs. Routledge Archaeology of Northern Europe. Routledge, London, 2022. ISBN 9780367440824. £36.99 (pbk).

Here's an admission. I had never read the first edition of this book, published in 1990. I had opened it countless times, read and referred to many of its sections and chapters and set it as essential reading for students studying medieval archaeology. But only when asked to review this revised edition have I had occasion to read it from cover to cover. To do so underlines the qualities of thoroughness and practical good sense in interpretation that it offers, with an ability to encompass abundant and precise detail and yet remain succinct, and showing where and how views differ in an even-handed manner. In the latter respect, indeed, one might occasionally upbraid the author for being too habitually non-committal; nonetheless at the heart of this monograph lies the principle that it is the evidence that is fundamental, and which

eventually will settle debates, if ever at all. It is salutary that these revisions were completed just before the publication of the new aDNA data (Gretzinger *et al* 2022) that have transformed the basis on which the model of an *adventus Saxonum* has to stand. Arguably the most important general point about the archaeology of England in the long Middle Ages from the end of Roman rule just post-AD 400 to AD 1500 surveyed by Hinton is how substantially and significantly this field continues to grow through new discoveries.

After a very short 'Introduction', really a preface to the second edition, this volume proceeds chronologically, with a chapter per century. As the title implies, evidence of economic and material life is typically treated as central, usually preceding social topics, and with little inclination to go far into ideological interpretations of the archaeological record. Discussing fifteenth-century churches, for instance, the first point made (p 250) is that urban parish church closures of that time reflect the shrinkage of most towns. A following section (pp 262–4) does present the evidence for changes in religious attitudes, lay piety and investment in rebuilding in this century, but with no suggestion that this anticipates the Reformation. The approach could not be clearer than where the book ends (p 273): this was the dawn of the Tudor period, but Hinton stresses that no one in 1500 knew that. They would not, he says, have foreseen the coming changes in the organisation of domestic space, or productive improvements in land-management; they could not have imagined a schism in the Church and something called Protestantism. 'They would probably not have placed their money on a Tudor still ruling England [a century later], let alone a queen.' These statements are narrowly true, but long-term changes, the cultural shifts we call the Renaissance and the birth of the modern era, were both surely and visibly under way.

One point needs to be made about production standards. The quality and clarity of most of the illustrations is dreadful, and the publishers owe it to their customers to make better efforts to achieve satisfactory resolution and contrast in greyscale figures. With the continuing supply of new information, we may yet see a third edition, even with the author now in well-earned retirement. If so, I hope he will also regain the confidence to employ the shift key and write 'Christianity' and 'Anglo-Saxon' in the conventional manner for proper nouns and their associated attributive adjectives rather than

ostentatiously demoting them by decapitalisation (see p 2). Whatever or whoever directed that unconvincing gesture, it not only gives rise to myriad inconsistencies but has itself already passed its best-before date. Oxygenating recently contrived terminological anxieties adds nothing to understanding of or interest in the period in question, but thankfully is so completely superficial in this case as not to detract from the second edition's real qualities as a genuinely good overview of a rich and long period of England's past.

Gretzinger, J., *et al* 2022. 'The Anglo-Saxon migration and the formation of the early English gene pool', *Nature* **610** (September), 112–19

JOHN HINES

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The Dean and Canons' Houses of St George's Chapel, Windsor: an architectural history. By JOHN CROOK. 285mm. Pp xvi + 159, 184 figs. Oxbow Books in association with St George's College, Windsor, Oxford, 2023. ISBN 9781789258653. £45 (hbk).

Windsor Castle, our largest and oldest royal residence, is not just a remarkable monument, it is home to two great historic institutions: the Royal Household and the College of St George. The college, which occupies the castle's Lower Ward, is the only collegiate foundation in England to have survived the Reformation. St George's Chapel, a masterpiece of Perpendicular architecture, dominates the Lower Ward visually. Three or four services a day are held there for 365 days a year. Windsor is one of Britain's greatest demonstrations of both architectural and institutional continuity.

In the Lower Ward, as in the Upper Ward, there is a sharp division between the public and private sides of the castle. Over a million visitors a year pass through its gates, many of whom attend services in St George's. However, hidden behind the magnificent chapel there is a more private world, like a compressed cathedral close, which is seen by far fewer people, for this is where St George's clergy and staff live and work. This unique place is the subject of John Crook's new monograph.

The book does not cover the whole of the Lower Ward. The outer curtain walls, the chapel,

the Military Knights' lodgings, the timber-framed Horseshoe Cloister where the chapel's lay clerks live, the Curfew Tower with its fifteenth-century bell-frame: these and other buildings are not included. Dr Crook's subject is the central group of residential buildings, chiefly fourteenth century in their origins, that lie behind and to the east of the chapel. The author, a distinguished medieval scholar and architectural historian, has for many years been consultant archaeologist to the dean and canons. In this role he has carried out or supervised numerous rounds of archaeological survey and investigation, in particular arising from a major renovation of these buildings of c 2004–15. Hence this book.

The book is organised chronologically, with a clear and simple structure. It is well and clearly written throughout. In the first chapter, Dr Crook sets out the prehistory of the Lower Ward – its twelfth-century origins, when a great hall and associated chambers were built there, and the gradual replacement of the original earth and timber outer defences with stone curtain walls. Henry III chose Windsor to be a secure home for his children, after the birth of Lord Edward in 1239. Major alterations were made to the 'Kings Houses' in the Upper Ward to adapt them for this purpose, while the Lower Ward was altered to serve the outward and public aspects of a royal residence: new chambers and a magnificent chapel were built in the 1240s. These twelfth- and thirteenth-century structures formed the matrix for the college buildings, which developed in the mid fourteenth century.

The key period here, as for the castle as a whole, was the reign of Edward III. In Chapter 2 Dr Crook sets out, briefly but clearly, how in 1348 the king established twin collegiate foundations, at Windsor and at Westminster. Among other things, this signalled that Windsor was henceforth to be the principal royal residence after Westminster. It was to be the seat of his new order of chivalry, the Order of the Garter, which was to become a permanent, enduring institution, linked to the new college and chapel, all dedicated to St George. Henry III's splendid chapel was adapted for the purpose: it was fitted out with complete new stalls, a new suite of stained glass windows and new roof.

Chapters 2 and 3 are the foundation for the rest of the book, for they set out how the new buildings for the college went up c 1350–5. Windsor's architectural history in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries is relatively well documented, but, as Dr Crook notes, the work of the 1350s is recorded in outstanding, almost