

purpose, Wells should have been able to abandon the descriptive level of his analysis and expand the general model through its application to the specific situation, and such work has been done with far greater expertise and success by Frankenstein and Rowlands. It is therefore difficult to see that Wells' book makes any original contribution to, or expands on, these earlier studies of essentially the same problem.

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VERA I. EIVISON, ed., Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Essays Presented to J.N.L. Myres. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1981. 255pp. £20.00 (Hard) ISBN 0-19-813402-9.

Reviewed by Carole Morris

To scholars of the Anglo-Saxon world, J.N.L. Myres is best known for his life-long interest in and study of the pottery of this period; both from England and the Continental homelands of the so-called 'Angles', 'Saxons' and 'Jutes' who later settled in England. Most of his studies were carried out as a 'part-time' archaeologist when he was Oxford's Bodley Librarian between 1948-1965. The definitive two-volume corpus of Anglo-Saxon pottery published in 1977 must be regarded as the culmination of his work.

Myres seems always to have maintained that the settlement of Anglo-Saxon England must be studied in relation to the Angles, Saxons and Jutes on the Continent. The precise origin of the settlers of England, and their tribal identity, has long been a bone of contention. Bede left us a probably insoluble problem when he wrote that the settlers came from "tribus Germaniae populis fortioribus, id est Saxonibus, Anglis, Iutis" ("the three most formidable peoples of Germany, the Saxons, Angles and Jutes" (*Historia Ecclesiastica*

I, 15). Although we can tentatively identify 'Angles' and 'Saxons' in the material from archaeological excavations, 'Jutes' have always proved difficult to locate with certainty. These eternal problems, then, could be seen as inspirational for the papers in this book. All the contributors refer, in some way, to one of these three peoples, whether on the Continent or in England. The title of this festschrift could be called an all-embracing one; it signifies not only the peoples on whose material culture Myres based most of his pottery studies, but also the varied nature of the contributions made to the volume by many of his friends and colleagues. There are papers by English, German, Danish and Norwegian scholars, and each has contributed from his or her own knowledge and specialist field within the scope of post-Roman North West Europe.

The Continental papers are presented first, with the Jutes represented by two papers, one by Hans Neuman on the parallels between burial customs in Roman Iron Age Jutland, and those in later burials in Kent, and the other by Egil Bakka on Scandinavian-type gold bracelets found both in Continental and Kentish graves. The Continental Saxons are then represented by three papers. The first, by Peter Schmid, discusses some pottery bowl forms found in the excavations at Feddesen Wierde. The second, by Albert Genrich, discusses grave 119 from the cemetery of Liebenau and draws attention to metalwork which may be attributed to an individual craftsman or workshop in the same way that Myres suggested for pottery manufacture. One of these pottery workshops is the subject of a later paper in this volume in which Barbara Green, Bill Milligan and Stanley West discuss the work of the Illington/Lackford workshop. The third is by Hans-Jürgen Hässler, who discusses late Migration to

Merovingian period metalwork from Lower Saxony.

The six English papers tackle a wide range of subjects on settlements, artefacts and cemeteries. Catherine Hills discusses the origin and dating of banded zoomorphic bone combs, many of which have been found in her excavation at Spong Hill. Vera Evison presents distribution maps of certain early artefact types and aims to demonstrate parallels between some English grave groups and 4th/5th century 'Germanic' burials on the Continent. Leslie Alcock's paper deals with the small number of Anglian graves in Bernicia and compares the sparse material with much 'richer' cemeteries further south. His analysis of the social implications of the grave groups is at once interesting and refreshing and suggests Bernicia was still basically a British, not a Saxon kingdom. David Brown's paper on swastika designs not only discusses this single pattern but also has implications for the study of Anglo-Saxon enamel-working in 6th/7th century East Anglia. Finally, John Hurst presents some ideas on the continuity of settlement and boundaries at Wharram Percy from

Roman to Medieval times. A useful feature of this festschrift must be the comprehensive bibliography of Myres' published works. However, the book has a few shortcomings. There is no index and some of the Continental papers have been translated into English and seem to have lost their original crispness in the process. The figures and maps and bibliographies for each paper come after the paper's text but the plates are grouped together at the back of the volume. Angles, Saxons and Jutes is a specialist book of interest probably to a limited number of mainly Anglo-Saxon scholars, and its specific nature will probably limit its distribution to these scholars and libraries. It probably has little value for the non-specialist apart from the interesting nature of the papers. Most of them, however, will prove to be definitive statements for many years to come just as some of the papers in E.T. Leed's festschrift, Dark Age Britain, published in 1956, have survived the test of time. On these merits, and as a tribute to a great scholar, this book will stand.

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