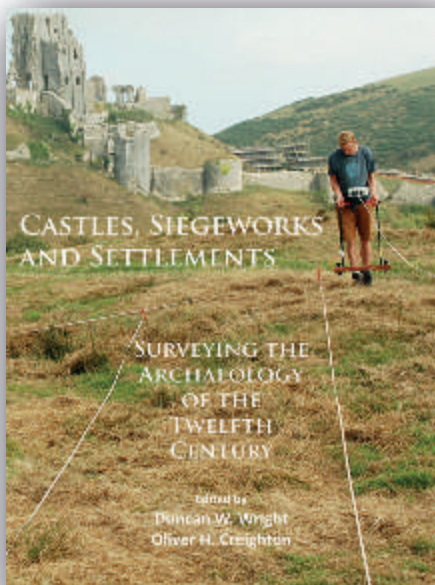


Book Reviews 2016-2017 - 'Castles, Siegeworks and Settlements'



***Castles, Siegeworks and Settlements:
 Surveying the Archaeology of the
 Twelfth Century***

Edited by Duncan W. Wright and Oliver H. Creighton
Publisher: Archaeopress Publishing
Publication date: 2016
Paperback: xi, 167 pages
Illustrations: 146 figures, 9 tables
ISBN: 978-1-78491-476-9
Price: £45

This is a companion volume to Creighton and Wright's *The Anarchy* (Liverpool University Press, 2016), reviewed elsewhere in this issue. The project *Anarchy? War and Status in Twelfth-Century Landscapes of Conflict* was funded by the Leverhulme Trust, and, at a guess, may have been stimulated by the work undertaken recently on Wallingford. This town, with its castle, was a key player in 'anarchy' of the reign of King Stephen (1135-54), and recent work on it has resulted in several publications, not least Archaeopress's BAR British Series 621 (see our journal, vol. 30, pp. 319-21) and the Society of Medieval Archaeology's monograph 35 (our journal, vol. 28, pp. 311-13).

In the LUP book, several key sites appear in various chapters, such as those on siege warfare and castles, some of which have also been discussed recently in academic journals. For example, a paper by Duncan Wright and others on Burwell in Cambridgeshire, famous for its Geoffrey de Mandeville association, has appeared in *Landscape History* for 2016, the writers also being responsible for another paper, this on Cam's Hill, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, that appeared in that county's archaeological journal for 2015.

Burwell and Cam's Hill are but two of twelve sites that were targeted as part of the Leverhulme project. The other sites are: Castle Carlton (Lincolnshire); 'The Rings', below Corfe (Dorset); Crowmarsh by Wallingford (Oxfordshire); Folly Hill, Faringdon (Oxfordshire); Hailes Camp (Gloucestershire); Hamstead Marshall, Castle I (Berkshire); Mountsorrel (Leicestershire); Giant's Hill, Rampton (Cambridgeshire); Wellow (Nottinghamshire); and Church End, Woodwalton (Cambridgeshire).

The book begins with a brief introduction on surveying the archaeology of the twelfth century in England, and ends with a conclusion and suggestions for further research, such as on battlefield archaeology, largely omitted (deliberately) from the project. A site that is recommended in particular is that of the battle of the Standard, near Northallerton in North Yorkshire, an engagement fought successfully against the invading Scots in 1138. The editors are the authors of the chapters on the sites, with Michael Fradley and Steven Trick as co-authors of many of the chapters.

At Burwell, which has pre- and post-Stephanic archaeological evidence, there are the remains of a castle begun by King Stephen in his Fenland campaign of 1143-44 against the Mandevilles. Castle Carlton's motte and bailey may belong to the 'anarchy', whilst The Rings at Corfe, a ringwork and bailey, dates to Stephen's unsuccessful siege of masonry castle in 1139. Magnetometer survey of the site of Stephen's siege castle of Crowmarsh, across the river from the town and castle of Wallingford,

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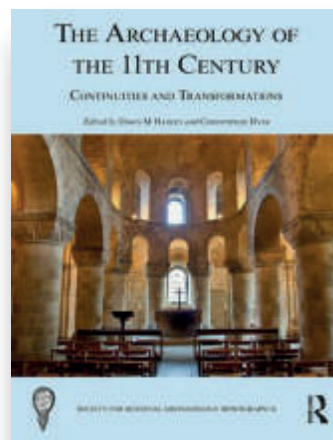
found traces of the bailey associated with the ringwork. Folly Hill, Faringdon has long been viewed as the site of a castle, but a reassessment of the work by E. T. Leeds in the 1930s has suggested that the castle itself was elsewhere, although the hilltop may have been occupied by a siegework.

Hailes Camp is an Iron Age promontory fort with a mid-twelfth-century castle enclosure built within it. The three castles of Hamstead Marshall have often attracted attention, but it is Castle I that is reported on here, a Stephanic siegework that in form is considered by the authors as a hybrid motte/ringwork. Another of Stephen's siegeworks is Cam's Hill, a ringwork of 1144, while at Mountsorrell, a castle that has been much disturbed by quarrying and which was destroyed in 1217, there is evidence for considerable below-ground archaeology.

Although Giant's Hill at Rampton later became a moated site, it is possible that originally it formed part of Stephen's Fenland campaign of 1143-44, along with Burwell. Wellow is an interesting example of a twelfth-century defended village, and, finally, Church End's earthworks, considered in the past as a motte and bailey, are now viewed as a ringwork situated on a natural formation, a castle of the Mandevilles, to which Ernulf, the son of Geoffrey de Mandeville, retreated in 1144.

The production of the volume is generally to a high standard, with better quality of photographic illustrations than in the LUP companion volume. Typos are few but include 'Malmesbury' for Malmesbury in a chapter heading and elsewhere, and while the LUP book has, correctly David Cathcart King cited as 'King, D. J. C.', in this book the references are under 'Cathcart King, D. J.'. Anyone with an interest in castle studies and the twelfth century ought to acquire this and the companion volume, although few will, I expect, due to the combined cost. Perhaps the answer is to find a library with the LUP book, but purchase the very informative and well-illustrated site reports reviewed here.

John R. Kenyon



The Archaeology of the 11th Century - continuities and transformations

Editors: Dawn M Hadley & Christopher Dyer

Publisher: Routledge - Taylor & Francis Group

HB: 460 pages

ISBN: 9781138201156

Published: February 2017

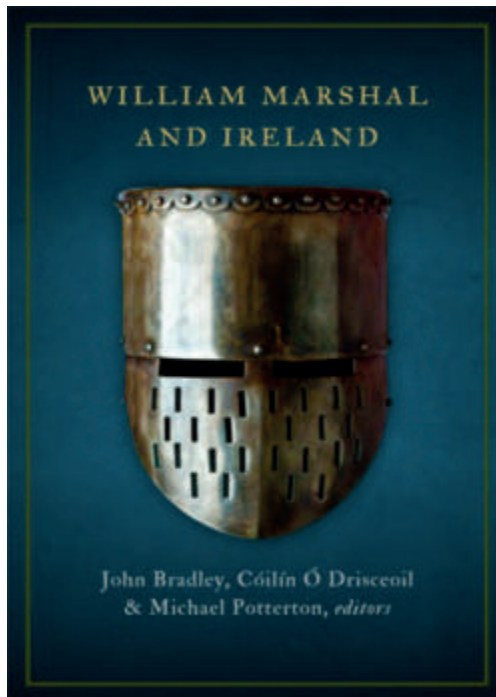
Price: £105

A Society for Medieval Archaeology monograph

The Archaeology of the 11th Century addresses many key questions surrounding this formative period of English history and considers conditions before 1066 and how these changed. The impact of the Conquest of England by the Normans is the central focus of the book, which not only assesses the destruction and upheaval caused by the invading forces, but also examines how the Normans contributed to local culture, religion, and society. The volume explores a range of topics including food culture, funerary practices, the development of castles and their impact, and how both urban and rural life evolved during the 11th century. Through its nuanced approach to the complex relationships and regional identities which characterised the period, this collection stimulates renewed debate and challenges some of the long-standing myths surrounding the Conquest. Presenting new discoveries and fresh ideas in a readable style with numerous illustrations, this interdisciplinary book is an invaluable resource for those interested in the archaeology, history, geography, art, and literature of the 11th century.



Book Reviews: 2016-17: William Marshal and Ireland



William Marshal and Ireland

Editors: John Bradley, Cólín Ó Drisceoil and Michael Potterton

Publisher: Four Courts Press

352 pp, 125 illus., 28 colour plates

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN: 978-1-84682-218-6

Published: December 2016

Was Leinster, for William Marshal, something of a clean slate? Is it here, rather than England, Wales or Normandy, that we should look for evidence of his strategic planning? This question forms the dominant theme of this collection of papers, which were originally presented at a 2008 conference, in Kilkenny, to mark the 800th anniversary of Marshal's charter to the town.

This is a remarkably well-integrated volume and, though the range of topics covered is extraordinarily wide, each of its ten contributions nicely complements the others. An impressive list of contributors, many of whom will be familiar to readers of this journal,

brought together the latest research on the earl's activities and influence. David Crouch needs no introduction to anyone acquainted with the Marshal; Dan Tietzsch-Tyler, Ben Murtagh and the late Billy Colfer are well-known in Irish castle studies, Dan scoring an impressive double with two papers, while Ben co-authors a second.

For *CSGJ* readers, the papers are of two kinds: one deals directly with Marshal's castles; the other is of more general interest, but invaluable in defining the context within which castle-building occurred. There is, however, some disagreement on the extent to which the strategic disposition of castles had been established before the 1190s, and how much of it was dictated from the top – opening up the larger question of the degree of control a major magnate had, in matters of strategy, over his tenant lords. As in Wales, the invaders took the best land, leaving the native Irish with the uplands; in this respect, a little more discussion of the extent to which native law and custom persisted in these Gaelic areas could perhaps have been included.

A number of contributors pay tribute to the role of Marshal's wife Isabel. She exercised executive power in Leinster 1207-8, and was probably influential during Marshal's absence 1200-3. And it was through Isabel that Marshal held Leinster until 1208, when it was re-granted as a limited liberty held of the king.

The volume opens with a summary, by David Crouch, of Marshal's life and career. While there is no better authority to place Marshal's Irish presence in context, David doesn't really join the debate on Marshal's role as administrator, planner, patron and builder. He also casts doubt on the effectiveness of his regime in Leinster *c.* 1192-1204, which is regarded by other contributors as a period of active reorganisation and consolidation. It is, nevertheless, an essential introductory chapter which argues that Marshal's experience of dealing with King John, Meilyr FitzHenry and his Leinster tenant lords was formative in developing the skills employed during the crisis of 1215-19.





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The titular subject of Chapter 2, by Adrian Empey, is the evolution of the demesne in Leinster, but it is rather more than that. In a magnificent piece of historical analysis, Adrian presents a detailed study of what Anglo-Norman lordship meant in Ireland, how it compared with England and Wales, and how the feudal process operated through overlordship, administration and subinfeudation. As in Wales, continuity of native territorial divisions was overlain by new tenurial structures, while the process of conquest, acquisition and grant resulted in compact lordships. Adrian places castle construction, and borough foundation, in context and advocates a proactive strategy under Marshal, which effectively plays down Strongbow's role.

Miriam Clyne's Chapter 3 is a straightforward account of a single site, the Augustinian Kells Priory in Co. Kilkenny. She shows how the establishment of Anglo-Norman institutions, under Marshal, was pursued with equal vigour by his tenant lords. The priory was founded in 1193-4, along with a castle and town which are described in brief. As elsewhere, the priory supplanted a native ecclesiastical site; unusually, however, the community was replaced with English monks. Changing conditions led to the priory's fortification in the mid-fifteenth century. Chapter 4 is essentially a postscript to this account, by Dan Tietzsch-Tyler, in which the new fortifications are described and illustrated with three of his exemplary reconstruction drawings. It would however have been nice to see a phased plan of the entire site, at a larger scale, including the fifteenth-century enclosure.

In Chapter 5, Ben Murtagh focuses on the impact, in Ireland, of Marshal's great cylindrical keep at Pembroke Castle, but brings in many other sites in Britain and France. Ben considers that the keep was built in an extended campaign, from 1201 until around 1217-18, with a long hiatus while Marshal was in Ireland. He sees influence from the Capetian court in certain features. While interpreting the keep as primarily residential, perhaps for Marshal's seneschal, he also thinks it possible that a navigation light was maintained on its summit, like the later light-

house at Hook Point, Co. Wexford. The conclusion drawn is that Pembroke's keep had little influence on Irish cylindrical keeps which were, instead, probably inspired by those under way before 1210 at Dublin and Kilkenny.

The date in the title of Chapter 6 is perhaps misleading; it is an admirably concise summary, by Dan Tietzsch-Tyler, of Kilkenny Castle's development from its beginnings, and outlines the thinking behind another of his reconstruction drawings. The sometimes tortuous process between writing and publication is nowhere better illustrated than in the differing plans shown by Dan and Ben, and I'm told the truth is now thought to lie somewhere between the two. The inner ward is attributed to Marshal's 'exile' in 1207-13, and both authors note its resemblance to King John's Dublin Castle. An administrative and judicial role is assigned to the large Southeast Tower. Dan argues, convincingly, that the gatehouse towers – now gone – were asymmetrical as at Chepstow. More speculative are the concentric outer wall and intermediate 'middle ward' or barbican.

Chapter 7 was completed, by Ben, from a draft written by John Bradley before his death in 2014, and is a major piece of scholarship. It narrows down the date of Kilkenny's charter to 1207 and includes a new translation of, and commentary upon, the full text. But it is, again, rather more than its title implies. Marshal's leading household knights are looked at in detail, King John's grants in Leinster 1177-92 are examined while a long, discursive section discusses native tenurial systems in Leinster, secular and ecclesiastical. And the authors show that Kilkenny was already an important civil settlement – and diocesan centre – prior to 1169.

Discussing Marshal's settlement strategy in Co. Wexford, the late Billy Colfer's Chapter 8 covers some of the same ground as Chapter 2. It deals with a smaller area, within which he is less certain of the extent of Marshal's intervention, presenting a well-argued case that, instead, the broad outline of Anglo-Norman settlement may have been established by Strongbow. His analysis of castle distribution implies centralised, strategic control at an early date. The discussion





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of castles, current in 2008, has however been somewhat superseded by subsequent work: Hook Lighthouse, Ferns Castle and many towered keeps, for example, are now regarded as later than 1219.

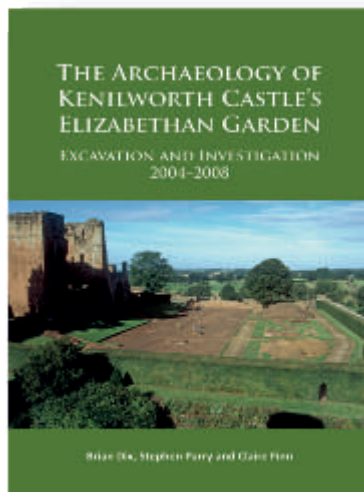
Marshal's main urban foundation at New Ross is comprehensively treated in Chapter 9, by Cólín Ó Drisceoil. Field and documentary evidence are married to produce a clear picture of the early development of the town, against a wider analysis of Marshal's urban foundations. Though its charter was issued in 1207, the town was possibly laid out during Marshal's visit in 1200. Unusually, there was neither castle nor seigneurial residence, which remained at Old Ross; the new town was a purely commercial venture, which became one of the five main ports of thirteenth-century Ireland, and among the highlights is the section dealing with its waterfront archaeology.

In a satisfying completion of the story, Gillian Kenny's Chapter 10 is a round-up of what we can determine about Marshal's wife Isabel from the sources, and a contemporary view of Marshal through her eyes. We gain insight into Gaelic inheritance law as it applied to her mother Aoife, and her kinship bonds which embraced both leading Irish houses and Anglo-Norman baronial families. Gillian uses the thirteenth-century *Histoire de Guillaume la Maréchal* to explore how Marshal, his sons and his followers visualised – and portrayed – Isabel's role, particularly during 1207-8 when she held Kilkenny against Meilyr FitzHenry and showed remarkable resourcefulness; by no means was she the tender-hearted woman of cliché.

Neil Ludlow

[Editor's Note:

For clarification, in Ben Murtagh's important chapter 5 - 'William Marshal's great tower at Pembroke, Wales: a view from Ireland' - all footnoted page references to Neil Ludlow's 'Pembroke Castle' (bar one) are to the official castle guidebook which is not in the book's Bibliography – rather than the CSG Bulletin, which is. Ref: Ludlow, N., 2001 (reprinted 2015), *Pembroke Castle* (Pembroke Castle Trust)].



The Archaeology of Kenilworth Castle's Elizabethan Garden - Excavation and Investigation 2004-2008

Editors: Brian Dix, Stephen Parry and Claire Finn.

**iv+76 pages; illustrated in colour and B & W
ISBN 9781784915742.**

E-publication ISBN 9781784915759.

Price (HB): £22.00

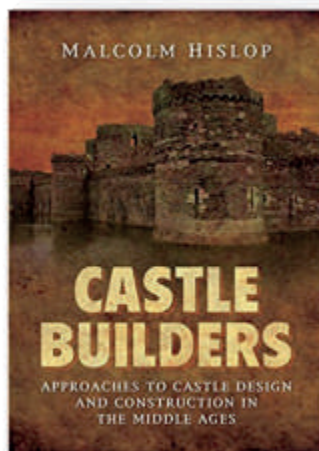
Published: April 2017

As part of the Property Development Programme for Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire, English Heritage created an ambitious reconstruction of the Elizabethan garden which formerly stood on the north side of the castle keep. In order to achieve a reliable representation of the original garden, a programme of archaeological trenching, open area excavation and watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) from 2004 to 2008.

This report discusses the results of the excavations which uncovered for the first time the foundation and culverts of an octagonal fountain basin, described by Robert Langham in a contemporary letter relating to Queen Elizabeth I's visit in 1575. The results of the excavation also clarified to some extent the original dimensions of the garden and the foundation level upon which the fine surfacing detail would have been applied.



Book Reviews 2016-17: Castle Builders. Approaches to Castle Design and Construction in the Middle Ages.



Castle Builders. Approaches to Castle Design and Construction in the Middle Ages

Author: Malcolm Hislop.

18 × 26 cm. viii + 264 pp

150 colour and b&w pls and figs.

Pen & Sword Archaeology, Barnsley

ISBN 978-1-78159-335-6

£25.00 hb

This is a very welcome, important and essential addition to the castellologist's library. It develops a thematic architectural / engineering / aesthetic approach to looking at and understanding castellar buildings. Malcolm Hislop's latest book departs somewhat from the standard purely synthetic chronological castle narrative and from those that tend to de-emphasise the balance of true military efficacy whilst sometimes overstating the importance of and evidence for social and symbolic elements.

It is a distinctive and lucid analysis of individual master masons and engineers, their building methods, styles, and affinities, often relating to tracing the *oeuvre* of individual masons/ engineers, and exploring in some finer detail the evolution, technical mechanical processes and the purpose of castle design and construction from the eleventh century through to the end of the fifteenth century. The key chapters being: Earthworks; Building in Timber; Building in Stone; Great Tower Builders Part 1: 900-1190; Great Tower Builders Part 2: 1100-1500; Military Engineering Part 1; Military Engineering Part 2; Domestic Engineering; The Castle Builder's Aesthetic.

The book's coverage is centred on England and Wales, but the British Isles in the period 1070-1400 cannot be divorced from France, and there is therefore much detail about the place and influence of the *donjons* or *tours philippiennes* of the early 13th century. Hislop has personally visited, examined and photographed most of the castles under discussion and accordingly the text reflects an authoritative understanding of their structural and architectural development.

One of the author's special interests is in identifying master masons by the clues found in the building details, in a sense continuing the seminal work of John Harvey with his biographical *magnum opus*, *English Medieval Architects* (1984). The following masons' names and their achievements reoccur throughout, some well-known, others not: Ailnoth; Elias of Oxford; Maurice; Richard Wolveston; Richard the engineer (Chester); Robert of Beverley; Walter of Hereford; William Wintringham; John Lewyn; Hugh of Tichemers; Henry de Reyns; Robert Westerley; William Hamell; John Swillington; John Cowper; Henry Yevele; John Box; William Wynford; Urricus; (names not placed in chronological order). The writer endeavours to add colour and personality to otherwise anonymous names. Perhaps one mason absent from the list that might be included is 'Master Bertram', the subject of an Arnold Taylor essay in a hard to find publication. (Arnold J. Taylor, 'Master Bertram *Ingeniator Regis*', in *Studies in Medieval History presented to R Allen Brown*, (eds) C. Harper-Bill, C. Holdsworth, Janet I. Nelson, (Woodbridge) 1989, 289-304), dealing with his possible involvement in the design of the early Edwardian castles of Rhuddlan and Flint, prior to the appearance in England of James of St George in April, 1278. A little speculative but well-reasoned.

Straight away in the *Introduction* the author pointedly makes the case for innovative design diversity, that: 'in some notable examples it was the nobility rather than the king that lead the way in innovation. William Marshal's castles of Pembroke and Chepstow owe little or nothing to the royal works, and in at least one instance directly influenced royal practice (see pp. 167-169) two of the defining concepts of the Edwardian castles of north Wales, one of the



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high points of royal castle building - concentricity and the great residential gatehouse - appear to be borrowed from the works of the earls of Gloucester at their castles of Tonbridge and Caerphilly. In the fourteenth century, the north developed its own distinctive style that, under John Lewyn, imposed itself on the royal castles of the region'. This thesis - of magnates' influence on the 'king's works' - a two-way interface - remains one of the ongoing sub-texts throughout the book and in some ways could be viewed as a counter-revisionist position to some of the new ideas posited in recent years.

The approach is successful because supporting the arguments for attribution is an impressive corpus of facts and cross-referencing between examples - primarily collated to offer and illuminate ideas on regional styles and schools of architecture and forensically ascertaining either the suspected or indelible fingerprints of known master-masons. Some of the key, significant castles referred to throughout the text include: Alnwick, Ambleny, Bamburgh; Beaumaris, Bodiam, Caernarfon, Caerphilly, Castle Bolton, Château Gaillard, Chepstow, Conisbrough, Conwy, Corfe, Coucy-le-Château, Dover, Dunstanburgh, Étampes, Goodrich, Harlech, Houdan, Kenilworth, Loches, the Tower of London, Newcastle, Orford, Pembroke, Provins, Rochester, Sandal, Tonbridge, Tutbury, Warwick, Warkworth, Windsor, Wressle, and York (Clifford's Tower). Such detailed analysis will prove to be an excellent source of reference for students and researchers interested not only in castle construction, but also the changing demands made on builders and, in particular, the dynamic between patrons and engineers/masons. Malcolm is persistently looking for affinity groups of castles that seem to suggest formal links through masonic or builder's patronage.

The approach is basically one of architectural history with masonry castles and above-ground archaeology being the focus, although earthworks and timber castles are certainly not ignored, and early chapters on **earthworks** (Chapter Two) and on **timber buildings** (Chapter Three) engage with the archaeological evidence and the need for polymath skills of the engineer. Chapter Four - **Building in Stone** - is

a well-illustrated chapter on the full range of masonry constructional elements, the building-blocks, and techniques, from foundations and plinths to vaulting, including walling; scaffolding; angle stitching, arches, lintels and joggling over fireplaces and entrances; eleven pages on vaulting, a particular interest of the author, and four pages on staircases.

Chapters Five & Six cover **Great Tower Builders**. As they are often considered to be the architectural *tour de force* of so much castle building, the great tower is afforded two detailed chapters, on early and later developments, from Doué-la-Fontaine and Mayenne through to Ashby de la Zouch (86-136) - and is perhaps, along with chapters Seven & Eight (**Military Engineering**) the beating heart of the book. These sections generally follow a chronological / typological development. Chapter Five deals with the most conspicuous and long-lasting, unbroken, component of the castle, forming an imposing architectural climax - the Great Tower. The date range covered is c. 900-1190 (Part 1) and 1190-1500 (Part 2). Part 1 is essentially the development of square keeps and Part 2 the development of round/polygonal keep towers (until the early 14th century) and then the return of the square/ rectilinear tower up to and including the Hastings Tower at Ashby de la Zouch built in 1472.

Origins are taken back to France with discussions on Doué-la-Fontaine and Mayenne, both c. 900, Langeais, c. 1000, and Loches (Fulk Nerra, 1012-1035). At Loches, 'the great tower attained maturity and established itself as an important and highly recognizable architectural form' (90). Montbazou (first half of the 11th century), may be another of Fulk Nerra's works; Beaugency (1015-1030) is significant for its introduction of a spine wall, opening up new dimensional and planning / constructional opportunities. The pre-Conquest great tower at Ivry-la-Bataille is noted as a model for the White Tower 'the original function of which is uncertain' (95). Thereafter the author places groups of 11th and 12th century towers into what he sees as coherent architectural groupings, each with distinctive regional features: first generation - London, Colchester (1070-80s); second





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generation (1085-1140) - Norwich, Falaise (1120), Castle Rising (1130s); Royal keeps: South East: Canterbury, Rochester; North: Bamburgh, Carlisle; Midlands: Kenilworth 1120s.

Both Lancaster (c. 1090-1100) and Corfe keeps are missing from this series. Corfe (arguably c. 1105) especially finds no place in this pantheon and grouping, although many have noted its affinities to Loches. (Although it must be said that Corfe is mentioned in Chapter Three – **Building in Timber** – in relation to its interesting and most unusual double-pile 'V' shaped timber roof formation, with its affinities to other early 12th century keeps e.g. at Portchester. Bridgnorth is mentioned as another example and perhaps Brough is another).

A selection of Henry II period keeps are listed – Scarborough 1158-69, Hedingham 1142, Norham 1157-74 – usually in relation to a known mason who may have had a distinctive style. Thus, Richard Wolveston who was the Durham-based master-mason for Hugh du Puiset, Bishop of Durham who was responsible for enlarging Norham; he was also the same '*Ricardus ingeniator*' who was working on the keep at Bowes in 1179 (106). Maurice the mason (*cementarius*) is partially credited with Newcastle upon Tyne (from 1174 certainly, but not necessarily from 1171), but is credited fully with the Dover great tower of the 1180s. Dover is seen as the last of the square keeps, but it is possible the it was followed by Brougham, arguably built in the early 13th century.

In **Great Tower Builders Part 2**, (1100-1500), the span ranges from Fréteval to the Hasting's Tower at Ashby de la Zouch, and for this reviewer, probably one of the most interesting chapters in the book. The author first concentrates on geometrically round towers - France 1100-1190, England 1140-1190; France 1190-1250 (including the full list of *tours philippiennes* 1190-1222, the last being listed as Dourdan), and 'Circle based keep designs in Wales and England 1200-1300'. Emphasis is placed on regions / styles and affinities. In regard to *tours philippiennes* 'The form was in distinct contrast to the rectangular donjons of the Norman and Angevin kings, and one reason for its promotion by the French king may have been

to make a political statement of independence, a point that is forcibly underlined by the juxtaposition of the two types at Falaise' (118).

There is an extended and interesting discussion of the (demolished) great tower at Coucy, 1220s, 100ft diameter by 180ft in height, twice the width / height of Conisbrough, and Hislop offers Robert Luzarches as the most likely architect or master-mason. Possible Scottish tower derivatives from Coucy in the 1240-50s are discussed – Dirleton (the de Vaux work), the Snow Tower at Kildrummy, and the great round tower at Bothwell, though not with too much enthusiasm in regard to their possible French antecedents (the Bothwell Round (Valence) Tower is currently the subject of a major revision in a paper forthcoming in 2018).

In the England and Wales section of Part 2 (126-136) much time is spent dwelling on the origins and relationships between Sandal, York (Clifford's Tower and its relationship to Étampes), Pontefract, Flint and Hawarden. On balance, the writer seems to favour Aigues Mortes (Tour de Constance c. 1250) as the immediate influence on the Flint great tower. Of Flint castle, the author notes that 'it is a reasonable supposition that the tower was designed either by James of St. George or by one of his foreign craftsmen that accompanied him to England and acted as his deputies'. On this point readers should also consult: R. Turner: 'The Life and Career of Richard the Engineer', in Diane M Williams and John R Kenyon, *The Impact of the Edwardian Castle in Wales*, 2010, pp. 47-48, and A. J. Taylor on Master Bertram (see above).

The great tower tradition is rightly seen as reflected in and transcending Edwardian castles. At this chronological point, the great tower is represented by the Eagle Tower at Caernarfon and the gatehouse at Denbigh or by 'gatehouse type' towers, such as the south tower at Stokesay (1290) – 'an octagon and two smaller dodecagons integrated to form a highly innovative design. In planning this tower the master builder was pushing beyond the boundaries of a geometrically based plan in much the same way and at much the same time as sculptors were blurring the construction lines of the monuments and buildings they embellished'.





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Military engineering Part 1 looks at the development of overt defensive features seen within the architecture for defending the great tower and the *enceinte* or curtain wall. **Part 2** discusses defending the entrance – gateways, gatehouses, barbicans (differently handling courtyard barbicans and passage barbicans), drawbridges (turning, lifting and hybrids), and portcullises. Whilst each element is treated as a discrete subject, the overall chronological narrative of defensive evolution is dovetailed into this narrative and is one which is well-established and generally familiar. The different approach of the author, is that he is, at the same time, weaving in and discussing possibilities of determining, where possible, named master masons or engineers – the clues being dates – in the similarity of detail and in regional affinities.

Hislop is unequivocal that in the early-to-mid medieval period – say from 1080 to 1300 – solid military defensive features were advanced in an empirical, scientific way and that architectural fashion was a secondary consideration. Thus: ‘What can be said is that from the last decade of the late twelfth century onwards, in a number of cases, the military intent of the great tower seems indubitable’ (138). For rectilinear curtain towers, Hislop advances the proposition that the skilfully designed outer defences at Dover (1180s) and Bamburgh (1160s) should be attributed to Maurice the engineer who ‘must be considered therefore as one of the leading English military engineers of his age’ (143). Framlingham’s rectangular curtain towers, built in the 1190s are now tentatively attributed to Ailnoth, a siege-engine specialist, after his retirement from his employment by Henry II.

The earliest round (curtain) towers are noted at Conisbrough and Pembroke (also late-12th century Chinon, Gisors and Loches), either fully rounded or D-shaped in plan. At this point (144-148) there is an excellent discussion of the defensive assets, plan and merits of Château Gaillard (Richard the Lionheart, 1196-98), noting that ‘Round towers ironed out the blind spots and allowed a less restricted field of fire from arrow loops and parapet’ (145), and that there is a measure of affinity between Conisbrough and Château Gaillard. (Whilst this

is a good incisive survey of CG, its description and assessment would, in this case, have been greatly assisted with a suitably placed ground-plan; on this and on other occasions, this reviewer needed recourse to other publications where an included ground plan would have been of great value). ‘Round towers are thought of as more stable structures that offered a greater degree of protection from mining, but equally, if not more important, was the broader panorama and field of fire that they offered to archers’ (148).....‘the D-shaped tower had the tactical advantages of the cylindrical tower but it integrated more easily into the curtain and was therefore easier to build’ (151).

The building works of King John are briefly considered (mainly Dover) and Hislop concludes that the ‘*Second Dover master*’ at this time may have been Urricus (*fl* 1184-d. 1216), a siege-engine specialist). The ‘First Dover Master’ was Maurice. (King John’s castle-building works have long been underestimated and little quantified and a detailed paper on this subject is long overdue).

The latter part of Part 1 and the beginning of Part 2 deal with gateways / gatehouses. Their evolutionary development is illuminated through seven or eight key buildings: Chepstow (1190s), Constable Gate, Dover (by 1227), Montgomery (Inner Gate, 1224), Corfe (1235-45), Newcastle upon Tyne - Black Gate (1247-50), Tonbridge 1250-65, Caerphilly (1268-71), (168-171). Again, this is a well-documented, well-established line of the most significant, extant and instructive models, although one can always argue about the dating of Tonbridge /Caerphilly. Throughout *Castle Builders* the author is usually extremely circumspect and conservative in his caution on dating and attributions. Most image captions are usually phrased ‘in the first, last, decade / quarter etc of the xxth century’ a welcome exercise in restraint where there has generally been a trend to try to establish progressively earlier dating than previously accepted – and this reviewer is sometimes equally guilty of that. Within the text, however, rather more certainties are sometimes offered. Tonbridge gatehouse (1250-1265?) is marked out as a seminal building, ‘and there is no really compelling evidence to suppose that





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the design was deeply influenced by royal precedents'. (171). On this point this reviewer agrees. But the certainty that 'Tonbridge was without doubt the model for Gilbert de Clare's inner east gatehouse of 1268-1271 at Caerphilly' (172) remains problematic. Both on the dating of Tonbridge, and whether it came before or after Caerphilly remains uncertain. Readers should read Derek Renn's contribution to this Journal (pp. 210-232), the Tonbridge survey by Martin, D. and Martin, B., 2013, 'A reinterpretation of the gatehouse at Tonbridge Castle' in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. 133 pp. 235-76, and on a future paper on Bothwell's great round Valence tower that footnotes an alternative scenario.

Moving on to 'drawbridges and portcullises' (178-185), this is a most helpful, insightful section on the different kinds of technology that developed. A good point is well made about the Caerphilly drawbridge type(s): 'At Caerphilly, Gilbert de Clare's engineer seems to have resorted to a combination of lifting and turning techniques' – 'suggesting a large degree of independence from the precedence of the royal works' (179). Fig. 8.9 illustrates the point admirably (although the date of the main [east] outer gate is probably c. 1320, not as stated. But the principle holds true, as the older 1260-70s inner west gate had a similar arrangement. See also fig. 4.2, also c. 1320s). This is a recurring theme that Hislop explores throughout the book – the degree to which magnates were often independently-minded in developing form, style and applied technology, and even how they themselves may have had an influence upon the direction taken by the 'king's works'; a counter-revisionist analysis to the prevailing view of the last ten years.

The conclusion to this chapter puts these scientific/engineering military advances into context. That beyond a certain time frame, early in the 14th century, it was not all about a progressive imperative in securing a defensive military advantage all the way through to the end of the castle story. 'The proliferation of gateway defences at Harlech, Caernarfon, Beaumaris, in particular, seems to indicate an obsession bordering on paranoia. Within a few years of Edward's I's death, however, the priority had changed, and designers of gatehouses were able

to revert to a less tense approach to security, proportionate to the expected level of risk. In the later medieval period, the drawbridge and the portcullis continued to be mainstays of the defensive repertoire, machicolations were still sometimes incorporated into the vaulting of gate-passages, (e.g. Maxstoke, 1345; Bodiam, 1385) and barbicans were still built (e.g. Tynemouth, 1390). These features were workable defences, but defence was no longer the prime object of the castle builder's attention, which was increasingly drawn to domestic matters, in particular the problem of lodging large households in the most efficient manner by optimising space without sacrificing the quality of the accommodation' (185).

These chapters are followed by a more discursive section on domestic buildings within the castle and their evolving design, especially into the integrated courtyard form (Chapter Nine) **Domestic Engineering**, (although Domestic Planning and Engineering might have been a more descriptive title). It, and the following chapter are of equal importance to earlier chapters. Key buildings in the move toward integrated courtyard planning are seen as: the early cloistral pattern of bishop's palaces at Sherborne, Old Sarum, Wolvesey; the Horn Court at Windsor (Henry II), Corfe's Gloriette (John); the work of Henry III at Windsor (1240s); Conwy, Chepstow, Goodrich; Maxstoke (1345), and the northern England group. The author has always had a special interest in the castles of the north of England, stemming from his doctoral thesis on John Lewyn in 1989. As a consequence some castles often receive more enhanced levels of discussion and description: Dunstanburgh, Bolton, Wressle, Durham etc. Bodiam, c. 1390, it is suggested, may have been designed by William Wynford, who may also have been the mastermind behind Shirburn and Old Wardour castles (195). By the last decade of the fourteenth century 'the castle builder was more of a domestic engineer than a military engineer, a change of emphasis that promoted an orderly approach to design which was not always compatible with an optimal domestic form... This emphasis on the domestic aspects was accompanied by a greater stress on architectural and decorative effect'.

Quite rightly, water supply and latrines take up nine pages, (201-209) and more could be said on





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this vital matter of domestic comfort. It obviously exercised masons greatly. A good discussion develops on well construction, and one wonders how long it took to dig the well at Beeston, rock-cut to a depth of 366 ft and lined for the first 200 ft. Discussion also touches on wellheads extended to the upper floors in early keeps and the development of cisterns and piped water systems. It is not safe to dwell too long on latrines, but this is a subject in need of further in-depth consideration. The author bravely leads the way, and highlights a number of castles with innovative ideas - Coucy, Windsor (1230s), and the later Edwardian practice where latrines were being enclosed in small wall-turrets in the angles between the curtain and gatehouses or angle-towers (although this practice is seen in England prior to the Savoyard influence). Both Coity, Pierrefonds and Langley castles (Fig. 9.11) seem to play a significant role in the development of storeyed tiers of latrines (204-7).

An important but obvious point made was the need to situate the latrine on external walls - important for ventilation and the convenience of emptying them. 'In mural latrines a vertical disposal shaft descended to ground level from where it was emptied but the shafts themselves must have been difficult to keep clean and free from odours.... It may have been a response to such a problem that some latrines were [later] built corbelled out from the external wall faces in the manner of box machicolations' (202). Thus, it appears that the short box-type latrines should be seen as a hygienic improvement upon those built within the wall spaces that took waste down to the ground, and not the other way round.

[The problem with concentric castles is that waste from the tower chutes in the inner bailey cannot outfall and be washed away by streams or moats and need to be manually and regularly dug out - e.g. at Caerphilly and Harlech. One solution was applied at Beaumaris, (and Rhuddlan) where the masons devised tidal sea-water channels that ran through and under the outer ward/berm to flush the waste from the 32 inner ward latrines. But it didn't work. Southampton castle, then near the quayside, is thought to be the earliest example (possibly by Henry III c. 1252) of tidal sea-water flushing, pre-dating the Savoyard Edwardian influence].

In **Chapter Ten** Hislop considers a rarely discussed aspect of the castle, the architectural/artistic aesthetic of the building, both in form and detail. 'Utility seldom precluded architectural effect'. Once again, Château Gaillard is held up to be an inspired example, whether it is sensuous and flowing lines, or its ashlar wall facing, with its conspicuous patterned polychrome masonry (210). The donjon is seen as a 'consummate work of art, its stylish supple lines, a tripartite meld of batter, body and prow, a display of the stone mason's art at its best'. (Fig. 6.6).

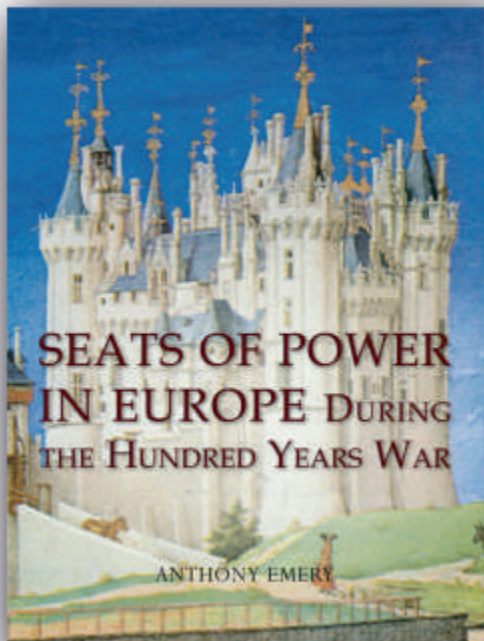
Throughout *Castle Builders* the reader can sense the respect and affection Hislop has for the personalities and skills of the medieval master-builders and their craft. They were polymaths combining engineering, geometry, carpentry, art and science, with the very best having a clear vision of the ultimate form and an understanding of the powerful impact that a well-designed building would have on our senses. Hislop describes this well, combining an eye for detail with an enquiring mind. A good accessible writer with a quest for answers. His first-hand knowledge of the buildings described lends an authority to their description. The ready assimilation of their constructional and aesthetic qualities allow for insights into the building and its constructional process and the castle's place in the overall development of castellar architecture through a spread of 1000 years. Some of the outstanding master-masons' names continue to remain anonymous, elusive - yet to be discovered - Pembroke's great tower; Barnard tower, Caerphilly Castle, Tonbridge gatehouse. The author believes that one of the keys for furthering our knowledge of these builders is in the detailed recording of the elements and combinations of elements that make up the works of a particular period or region. Careful analysis and comparison of detail will create a corpus of evidence that will help to identify further individual masons and regional schools. This is a most valuable line of enquiry for future study. The book production quality is superb, the text well-researched, accurate and precise. Details include a *Glossary*, *Referenced Works*, *Notes* and *Index*. With lavish colour photography throughout, and in hardback format, it is a pleasure to read, and is outstanding value.

Neil Guy





Book Reviews 2016-17: Seats of Power in Europe



*Seats of Power in Europe during the
Hundred Years War*

Author: Anthony Emery
Publisher: Oxbow Books
HB 352p, H280 x W216 (mm)
ISBN: 9781785701030
Publication: 2015
Regular Price: £49.95
Special Price: £14.95 (Oxbow)

In his 'Architectural Study from 1330 - 1480' of royal and ducal buildings, convened under the overarching dome of his main title, Anthony Emery set himself a gargantuan task. Although his Preface claims modestly that the study 'is intended to be no more than an introductory overview', the ambition of the work is impressive. Emery sets out to consider how architectural designs and styles commissioned by secular princes, the ecclesiastical élite and their leading supporters might reflect and relate to the politics and social change prevalent during the period of intermittent hostilities that we conveniently label the Hundred Years' War. His goal is to view the complications and quix-

otic changes that characterise this turbulent period in the history of medieval Europe through the prism of sixty major residences covering the greater part of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. While taking into account 'recent re-interpretations and revisionism, as well as the appreciation of the complex and differing roles of such residences in the political, social and cultural circumstances of the time' he seeks to interrogate the buildings, not only in terms of their varied functions and character, but in their reflection of the personality of their builders. Very reasonably, he extends the usually accepted period of the war (1337 - 1453) by a further thirty years to take into account the lead up to hostilities and the ongoing repercussions of the war after their cessation. Finally, undaunted by the bar already set, he steps outside the confines of the main contenders, England and France, to include more peripheral states - Scotland, Flanders, Aragon, Castile, Portugal, the Papacy at Avignon and even the Teutonic Order.

The architectural studies are relatively brief but, nevertheless, relating sixty architectural studies to a complex and changing background history represents an impressive breadth of research, bearing in mind that additional subsidiary buildings are also referenced along the way. This is a large body of material, and perhaps almost as daunting must have been the task of arranging it in a logical and approachable manner. Emery succeeds in both. Following an introduction, the work is divided into three Parts, each distinguished by a general date span with some overlap: Part 1 covers 1330-1400, but Part 2 covers 1380-1420 and Part 3 1425-1480. Each Part is then subdivided into chapters that focus on a national or territorial region - crown properties, those of prominent dukes and counts, or of an institution such as the papacy or the Teutonic Knights. Naturally, the main players are well represented in each Part and where there is a changing focus the territorial analysis of a single country might be considered in more than one chapter within that Part, differentiated by further subdivision of date or by nuance. This welcome acknowledg-





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Bellver castle, Palma, Majorca (1309-14). Circular castle, round & D-shaped towers, with intermediate flute-shaped turrets. 'Ground floor doorways have shouldered lintels as in several of Edward I's near contemporary castles in North Wales. Bellver is a unified and aesthetically pleasing design - one of the most satisfactory in medieval military architecture'. From Anthony Emery, 'Seats of Power' pp. 165-167.

ment that over-simplified classification in dealing with such a complex picture is neither helpful nor necessary is typical of Emery's approach. The work is extremely well ordered. Within each chapter there is at least one section or sections devoted to the pertinent political and historical background, identified in the *Contents* by an accompanying cross symbol as 'Historical Review'. The remaining sections within the chapter, designated in the *Contents* by a bullet point, focus on the architecture, which might be a broad-themed overview, perhaps of a city or duchy, or a more detailed account of an individual building. Footnotes (which tend to be few) and a short Bibliography follow directly at the end of each entry, a good, 'user-friendly' approach. The book is well illustrated with plans, maps and photographs. One can read the book from cover to cover with pleasure, but its arrangement makes negotiation of its extensive content easy, so that one can dip into it or target a particular region, point or area of interest if one wished to do so without difficulty.

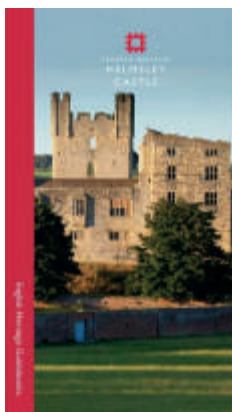
Naturally, not every castle or palace is represented: this is not a corpus, nor does it claim to be one. Neither can it attempt to cover every aspect of each building in enormous detail. As one would expect, there is considerable variation in the amount of space given to different buildings; where there is much surviving fabric there is usually more to say. But neither does Emery shy away from pointing out the gaps where survival is poor as, for example, in the Low Countries. Authors can easily avert attention where there is a better and more spectacular survival rate elsewhere, but he uses whatever sources are available where possible to fill voids that other authors might choose to ignore. The aspiration of the book lies not in covering every qualified building in enormous detail - clearly an impossible task - but in pursuing connecting threads where they occur and equally representing diversity over a large picture, an aim consummately fulfilled. Most welcome is Emery's international approach; too many authors balk at national boundaries, often artificially modern boundaries at that. He demonstrates an understanding, not only of how independent many of the great comital dynasties appeared and saw themselves, but of a more general medieval perception of contemporary territorial and cultural frontiers, sometimes, perhaps, less concrete than their more modern imposition would lead us to suppose.

I would have heartily recommended CSG members to acquire a copy of this book even at the original full price, but given that Oxbow have now made it available for £14.99 it must be counted as the steal of the decade. In summing up, I leave you with Anthony Emery's own words: 'The subject spans an extremely broad and complex landscape which leaves many areas untitled. But if it shows the range and complexity of the scene, then it may lead to a less narrow approach to castle and house studies.'

Pamela Marshall



Book Reviews 2016-17: Helmsley Castle - English Heritage Guidebook



Helmsley Castle

Author: John Kenyon

Publisher: English Heritage

Paperback: 48 pages

Published: April 2017

ISBN: 9781910907153

Price: £3.50

Kenyon is the fourth author to tackle this important site since the castle was taken into State guardianship in

1923. As was to be expected, this new red guide advances on its predecessors in every respect (Clark 2004; Coppack 1990; Peers 1986). The increased page count allows for a particularly ample provision of full-colour illustrations, and it is a pleasure to see so many artefacts from the site illustrated (37 items not counting the three Roman *denarii* p. 29).

Interpretation of the site has gone through numerous changes since Sir Charles Peers wrote the first official guide in 1932. So how does the current work update the monument for a twenty-first Century audience?

Ambiguities in the dating and interpretation of a site must be the *bête noire* of all guidebook authors: Kenyon is to be highly commended for sifting through competing theories as to the dating and function of specific features to provide an authoritative text within the confines of the familiar structure of 'tour' and 'history'. A case in point is the interpretation of the South Barbican: this deceptively simple structure has seen markedly differing opinions as to its date and development. All recent accounts agree a mid-13th century date for the original structure; the problem lies in the extent to which this was altered and the date of these changes. I'Anson (1917, 353) regarded that the gate-passage was completely rebuilt *c.* 1350-60 but Coppack (1990, 4) dates these changes to the late-16th century arguing that they incorporate re-used medieval material. It is clear that the entrance frontage incorporates 16th century work in the remarkable flat joggled lintel with its integrated

'half-moon' moulding¹ but whether this is an insertion or a new build is a moot point. A guidebook is not the place to explore these complexities and Kenyon does well to allow the possibility that the gate may re-use material from Rievaulx Abbey whilst alluding to the need for further study of the 17th century inventories held at Belvoir Castle. Indeed, unless these accounts provide detail on what materials were salvaged from Rievaulx it is unlikely that we will ever gain certainty on this point.

My own view is that a Cistercian Abbey is an unlikely source for a drawbridge/portcullis which lends credence to the idea that the 14th century work is part of an *in situ* wholesale re-ordering of the barbican which also included inserting a latrine into the northern drum tower. Dating issues aside, we may question why the window to the upper chamber is skewed to the left of the entrance rather than placed centrally: did it look out toward the ford over the Rye? The changes to the entrance in the 16th century suggest that the drawbridge and portcullis were no longer functional so there is no reason to believe that defence was a concern at this point: however, Kenyon's updated 'murder-holes' "through which pistols could be fired" are certainly novel (p. 5).

Kenyon keeps the 'tour' brief and to the point; meaning that it is actually useable on site. It has also been subtly tweaked to allow the West Tower to be considered in relation to the adjoining chamber block. For the first time we get fully-phased floor plans for each of the tower's five levels. The arguably more complex East Tower is illustrated by a single elevation (p. 7) which incorrectly vaults the basement with a single span; surely the margin space could have been used to show how this structure developed over time (*cf.* Coppack 1990, 7)?

¹ Joggled lintels can be found at Rievaulx Abbey in the late 12th century Warming House fireplace; however the Helmsley example is more similar in form to that found in the work of Henry 'the Magnificent' (1478-1521) at Wressle Castle (fig. 5). Such a date allows the possibility that the stonework could have originated at Rievaulx Abbey, though the Renaissance details of the Helmsley entrance perhaps favours a date later in the century.

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Everson & Barnwell's medieval access route has been ditched; appropriately so, given its convoluted and unconvincing trek through the outer moat (Clark 2004, 24-5). However, we also lose the idea that the lodging ranges looked out over the park. Pertinently, the view looked directly onto 'Le Haye' (Fig. 1) which was an area used for trapping deer (Milesen 2009, 31 & Fletcher 2011, 56-63).

A number of references through the guide mention the changes to the moat made in the 1930s: these were so dramatic that it would have been illuminating to reproduce I'Anson's plan showing the original form of the castle (Fig. 2). This plan highlights a number of key points, such as Kenyon's proposed drawbridge (p. 4) which would have been necessary to bridge the gap west of the South Barbican. Furthermore, it shows the location of the cas-

tle's orchards; a single bank from this northern 'Outwork' has been preserved in the car park (I'Anson 1917, 350; cf. Wilson 1989, 30).

By keeping the tour succinct, Kenyon has space to develop the 'history' section and this is the guide's greatest asset. Biographical details are amplified and some intriguing historical episodes are conveyed: from a plot to free a prisoner (p. 5 – with superb 14th-century manuscript



Fig. 1. View from the 14th century ground-floor window of the West Tower. The upper floors would have had a grandstand view of the deer being trapped at this point. Photo © Dr D. Mercer.

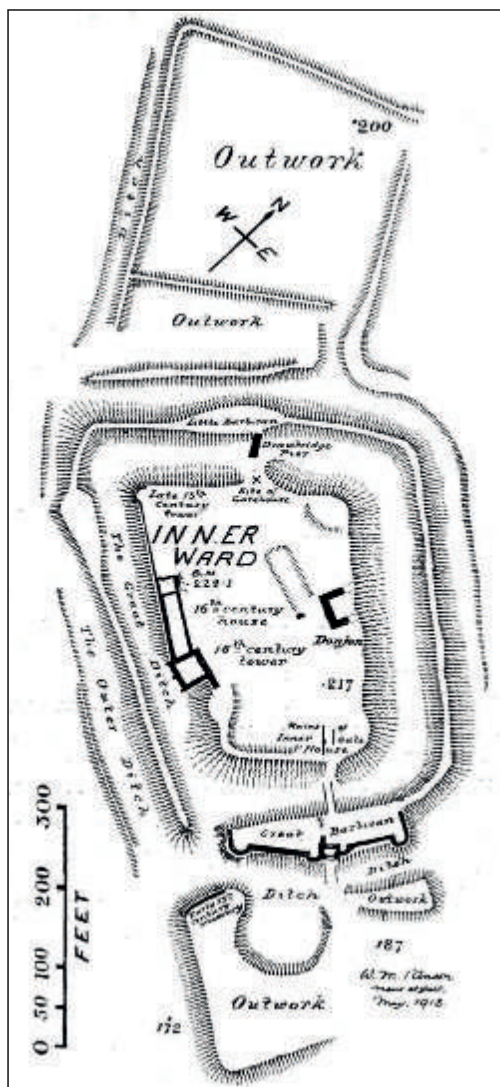


Fig. 2. I'Anson's 1913 plan of the castle showing the original layout of the earthworks prior to their refurbishment in the 1930s.

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illustration of a medieval prison) to vandalism and theft from the medieval park (p. 14). The prominence given to the Knights Templar is perhaps overstated, but it is nice to see that the effigy at the Temple Church is no-longer identified as being that of Robert de Roos II (Clark 2004, 6).

The text is to the point and strays little into the realm of conjecture: a good example is in the early history of the site; Clark speculates that Robert De Mortain may have established a castle prior to 1088 (p.23) but Kenyon re-

minds us that there is no evidence for this (p. 29). However, the association between the drop in value of an estate and William's 'Harrying of the North' has been called into question (Dalton 1994 23-5). Kenyon's pleasingly terse style means that some historical episodes are not retained from previous editions of the guide: for instance, we lose the fact that Robert de Roos had his heart buried at Croxden Abbey (surely one of the least visited of all English Heritage sites?) and his effigy is now located some three miles from Belvoir Castle at Bottesford (Fig. 3).

A welcome addition to the guide is the space that is given to the Helmsley Archaeology Store and surely this will encourage more visitors to seek access to it. There are two excellent new reconstructions of the castle by Peter Urmston showing the site *c.* 1400 and *c.* 1600. These focus the view to the inner ward and south barbican allowing more detail to be seen, though we lose the landscape context provided by the earlier Peter Dunn reconstructions (Clark 2004, 28 & 30). Furthermore, with no reconstruction of the site *c.* 1300 we also lose the sense of how impressive the timber *hourd* running the entire width of the south barbican must have appeared.

Whilst the towers of the north gatehouse at Helmsley may have looked similar to Skipton the fact that the latter is obscured by later building work may make this somewhat confusing to the general reader (p. 23). A reconstruction drawing may have been a better choice at this point. Informed Castle Studies Group readers will enjoy identifying the purported image of the Beauchamp Tower (p. 9). Also, it may be worth flagging up that there is a surviving example of a stone probably from Walter Espec's castle on display in the exhibition (Fig. 4, over).

Kenyon's new guide is a scholarly and worthy addition to the 'red guide' series and whilst differences in interpretation will always be present this in no way detracts from what is a reliable and readable guide.

David Mercer



Fig. 3. This diminutive Purbeck marble effigy is traditionally identified as being that of Robert de Roos III, and was moved from Croxden Abbey to St Mary's Church, Bottesford after the Dissolution. Photo © Dr D. Mercer.

Book Reviews 2016-17: Helmsley Castle - English Heritage Guidebook



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Fig. 4. Left: Mid-12th century decorative stone sculpture found during clearance work at the castle in the 1920s. Photo © Dr D. Mercer.

Fig. 5. Below: Joggled stone window lintel, Wressle Castle. Photo © Dr D. Mercer.





Book Reviews 2016-17: Beaumaris Castle guidebook - Cadw

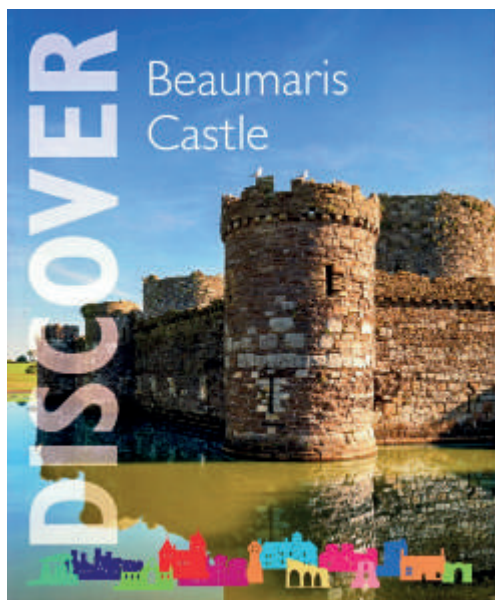


Beaumaris Castle form the south in late afternoon sunlight. The castle is often credited as being the absolute model of perfect symmetry and ideal concentricity. Started in 1295 it was pretty much abandoned incomplete by 1321, although the inner bailey curtain towers, and the north gatehouse hall and chamber were completed and roofed to first-floor level. The outer curtain with its 12 towers was also completed. The north gatehouse towers rose up to the third storey. Image © Paul Davis.





Book Reviews 2016-17: Beaumaris Castle guidebook - Cadw



Beaumaris Castle

Author: Jeremy Ashbee

Publisher: Cadw – Welsh Government

Soft covers, 56 pp, colour

ISBN: 978 1 85760 492 4

Published: June 2017

Price: £4.95

Beaumaris castle began build in April 1295, the last of the great royal castles that, from 1277 onwards, Edward I ringed around the north Wales seaboard from Flint to Aberystwyth. In the end it was left incomplete in 1321. The castle has always attracted attention through the remarkable precision of its strict symmetrical design; a quadrangular inner ward with six round towers at the corner angles and midway between each flank. In addition, and quite remarkably two substantial gatehouses and a low multi-angular outer curtain wall provisioned by twelve small round towers, two minor gatehouses and a spur walk guarding the sea dock.

The castle was eventually taken in State care, and in 1925 it was placed into the guardianship of the Commissioners of Works for preservation as an ancient monument. In 1986 the 'outstanding universal value' of Beaumaris Castle, together with Caernarfon, Conwy, and Harlech

received international recognition when they were inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites. This achievement was due, in part, to the significant research, writing and advocacy of the late Arnold Taylor, Former Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and the care and conservation initiatives put in place by the Dept of the Environment and later, Cadw. The first official guidebook was produced by W. J. Hemp, 1936, (HMSO) revised 1943, followed by Taylor's first Beaumaris guidebook in 1980. A number of revisions followed culminating in the fifth edition of 2004. Taylor had died in 2002. Even in retirement (from 1972) he maintained an active and lively interest in the Edwardian castles, a subject he had made his own since the 1950s.

At the 2007 Bangor conference, *The Impact of the Edwardian Castles in Wales*, many papers were given that suggested it was now the right time to have another scholarly look at the North Wales castles; new approaches to castle studies were encouraging further research that was beginning to develop into a more holistic understanding of the Edwardian castles and their context – elite and gendered spaces, society, landscapes, townscape, gardens, baronial castles, and a reassessment of the leading masons involved, including James of St George, Walter of Hereford and Richard the Engineer. A decision had already been taken by Cadw to revise and refresh how these castles were presented to public, and in 2007, a new Conwy Castle and Town Walls guidebook was published, authored by Jeremy Ashbee, Head Properties Curator for English Heritage. Jeremy has a particular interest in tower functions, spatial relationships and access, and royal lodgings, and his well-received paper 'The King's Accommodation at his Castles' opened up new ideas and opportunities to reassess Edward's other castles at Beaumaris, and Harlech.

Hence we come to a new guidebook for Beaumaris (2017), recently followed by Harlech. The guidebook comes in the new 'Discover' livery, similar in style to the recent Caerphilly guidebook by Rick Turner (review *CSGJ* 30, pp. 322-3). It is an attractive 56 page booklet almost A4 size, (210 x 255mm) and is presented





Book Reviews 2016-17: Beaumaris Castle guidebook - Cadw

in the usual highly-visual colourful formula that has made these Cadw guides world class. As we have come to expect, the book has a strong mix of architectural reconstructions, antiquarian prints, meaningful manuscript illuminations, historical documents and relevant perceptive photographs; the reconstructions still drawing on the best of the previous Taylor editions, including John Banbury and Ivan Lapper. Chris Jones-Jenkins has three illustrations included from previous Beaumaris guidebooks, and five new ones for this edition: the dock and castle entrance; the rear of the south outer gate; a bird's eye view of Llanfaes gate from the rear; and the malting kiln in the north-west corner of the inner courtyard.

One of the key reconstructions is that of the bird's eye view of the complete castle from the SW as it may have looked had it been totally completed. Because of a number of carefully considered changes to various architectural features, Terry Ball's 1987 similarly oriented illustration has been replaced by CJJ's cgi version (p.10), viewed from a slightly higher perspective, allowing more to be seen within the courtyard and the northern outer bailey. Some of the changes include: inclusion of an exterior wooden staircase into the first floor of the north gatehouse; the malt kiln; two turrets each (one stair, one watchtower) per mid-tower in the east and west flanking ranges; numerous (more) chimneys; town and town walls better defined; the east range hall and chamber now has a continuous roof line from the NE tower to the Chapel Tower; roof-top turret doors altered /removed. Of course, some of this is conjectural, as it is assumed that the two principal gatehouses and the six towers of the inner ward would ordinarily have stood three storeys high, and their skylines further enhanced with tall slender turrets. No third storeys were actually built apart from the front D-shaped towers of the north gatehouse.

The guidebook includes a number of useful **single-page features**, such as: '**Beaumaris Castle, 3 August 1343**' (14-15) (the original transcribed documents of William Embleton's detailed survey and his implied plea for funds for reparations, useful for identifying towers and their internal functions); '**Master James of**

St George' (23) - a discussion of his role and the current debate about the degree of influence he had over the ultimate design of each castle. '**Old and New**' (27), looking at the precedents for castle concentricity in Britain (Dover, and especially Caerphilly) prior to Beaumaris; '**Scaffolding techniques**' (37), discussing the Savoyard use and importation of the helical building ramp (see p. 8) as a building technique. This is a feature that has recently been noted elsewhere and a couple of instances of its limited use within Britain as early as 1230-40 have been recorded. One is the Dungeon Tower along the Inner Bailey at Pembroke, thought to be William II or Richard Marshal work, 1230s, (See Guy, 2016, *Pembroke Study Notes*) and the other possible example is at Dolbadarn, on the south side of the round tower c. 1230 (see Goodall, *The English Castle*, p. 227). Other features include: '**The Landscape North of the Castle**', and '**The Town of Beaumaris**' (55) with its medieval grid pattern.

A '**Tour of Beaumaris Castle**' (25-54, 31 pages), following on from the '**History**' (5-22), is a significantly expanded section compared to Taylor (20 pp). Whilst much of the description for each feature is broadly similar, there is more detailed technical/architectural discussion. **The Dock**, p. 29 (feature 6) was once thought to be a watermill but is now thought to be a sluicing device for regulating the moat's water level. The discussion of the **Outer Gate**, p. 31, adds flesh to the bare bones as to how the rooms may have been used by clerks checking and inventorying goods arriving by boat and land. A generous amount of text is rightly devoted to the **South Gatehouse**, even though it is the most ruinous of the two principal gates (32-33); describing the line of obstacles, actual or planned but not implemented that would have deterred intruders through the gate passage – three sets of portcullises etc, and (originally) gates that opened outwards (as they do at Harlech).

Jeremy Ashbee's paper in '*The Impact of the Edwardian Castles in Wales*', 2010: 'The King's Accommodation at his Castles' dwelt mainly on how the great Edwardian gatehouses and accommodation blocks may have func-





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tioned at various times in accommodating the constable, dignitaries, the king and queen's chambers, and also how the specially designed royal halls and withdrawing chambers within the castle functioned; the protocols of approach; circulation; private spaces and accommodating the large, expanded royal household. There is also good discussion of this in the Conwy guidebook (pp. 37-42). At Beaumaris, the location is differently oriented, but the principles remain the same. It is argued that the northern half of the east range was designed to accommodate the king, queen and close members of the royal household. First, the chapel royal (east middle-tower), then, progressing north, the hall, great chamber and access to the private NE tower at two levels. The NE tower seems to have had the finest apartments. (**Hall & Chamber 34-35**). Taylor had also come to this same conclusion (Taylor, *Beaumaris Castle*, 2004, p. 22, feature 6), but Ashbee is able to solidly reinforce the arguments throughout the guidebook by highlighting other features of privacy, access arrangements and architecture along the east range that help to draw this firm, logical conclusion (especially p. 35, and in the section under the '**NE Tower**' section, 40-41).

Similar considerations affect the **North Gatehouse (41-45)**. This was more developed than the south, and was roofed (at first-floor level to its courtyard side, and at second-floor level to the north - the D-shaped tower side). Ashbee dwells a little longer on the accommodation arrangements and how the well-heated chambers might have communicated with each other and between floors. Existing documentation mentions rooms for the constable. Certainly the courtyard side, with the impressive and bold line of five large elliptically-headed windows on the first floor - which 'had more in common with great houses and palaces than with defensive structure' is a step up from Harlech with its three large windows. Whilst the gatehouse is similar in layout to Harlech, the scale is greater (B: 28m wide x 25m length, H: 24m wide x 20m length OD). James of St George has also included a number of additional features to improve upon Harlech. Having been constable at Harlech for three years he would have noted areas, such as heating

(more fireplaces, including the ground floor), larger windows and the mid-range spiral stairs all added to improve its comfort and convenience.

In regard to circulating around the castle, Beaumaris offers a unique experience to visitors in being able to access many of the mural passages hidden deep within the thickness of curtain walls, and that spread out in all directions. The breadth of their reach and the skill and ingenuity of their design and engineering is briefly covered in '**Mural Passages**' (38), and '**Latrines**' (48). Perhaps more could be made of this feature, called by the writer 'one of the most atmospheric features of Beaumaris Castle', as it is one that greatly intrigues and interests visitors. There are a number of occasions, when reading the guidebook, that a clear diagram of the galleries' routes, corners, doglegs and dead-ends would be most useful in helping to clarify the directions taken or that should be taken as instructed by the explanatory text. The only castle scholar to have attempted to do this schematically is the late Sidney Toy, whose ground plan included their route both at ground- and first-floor level (Toy, *Castles of Great Britain*, 1966 - 4th ed. p. 174). A copy of the Toy plan is included below. His published original was rather indistinct when showing the first-floor galleries, and the passageway lines have been enhanced for this review. It is probably not totally accurate. This reviewer feels that the guidebook could be beneficially enhanced by such a plan, with some additional commentary on their function and design.

On a similar theme, there is only one (ground)-plan (end fold-out page, colour-coded) in the whole of the guidebook. An understanding of the castle's various interior features (such as upper rooms in the six Inner Ward round towers, with their octagonal interiors, and the upper, first-floor level of the North Gatehouse) would be greatly assisted by including these individual floor plans. The Caerphilly guidebook has the same omission, but at least here the reader or researcher can go to the Royal Commission's (RCAHMW) series of volumes on the castles of Glamorgan. The Harlech guidebook has a most useful plan of the first floor of the gatehouse (Taylor, 2002, 25) and it is to be hoped that these will be maintained in a future edition for Harlech.





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One of the highlights of any visit to Beaumaris is the **Chapel Tower (39-40)**. CJJ's reconstruction (39) is highly instructive and the chapel itself is beautifully formed with elegant blind-arcaded panelling, pointed-arch window embrasures with five narrow lancet windows, embellished with modern, tasteful, blue-based stained glass, and perfect vaulting - all combining harmoniously with pleasing classical proportions. The fine descriptive text matches the accomplishment of a mature, skilled mason.

Moving on to guidebook presentational matters, it should be mentioned that the Turner image of Beaumaris (1835), with the backdrop of Snowdonia, a delightful watercolour painting in its own right (p. 20) has probably suffered some kind of colour tone error in its reproduction. The online original, viewable at Tate Britain, shown courtesy of Huntington Library, and also published in Taylor's 2004 *Beaumaris* p. 16 is also of questionable colour authenticity. The closest to the original is probably that shown in Eric Shane's '*Turner's England 1810-1838*', (p. 245), (Cassell, 1990).

The inner page margins run very close to the centre-spine making the pages appear a bit crammed, as was mentioned with the Caerphilly guidebook. It needs to be more calm, and more generously spaced. Most of the photographs are judiciously placed, supporting the text, and helpfully sometimes marked up with feature numbers. The image on p. 23, the SW corner of the castle, reflected in the rather muddy moat is a repeat of the cover and perhaps another full-page view could be selected. Some images are overly dark or shadow contrast is too strong (17, 23, 27, 32, 38, 43, 47). Others are excellent (2, 30, 40, 50, 54).

The guidebook text is not a radical revision of Taylor's previous editions. It is not meant to be and does not need to be. It is a gentle overhaul. But there is one significant revision that needs emphasising as it is not too explicit. Arnold Taylor (2004) had a one-page feature entitled: '*The purpose of the Castle's Residential Accommodation*' (32), where he argued that, had the castle been completed it would have contained at least nineteen good comfortable chambers in addition to the five self-contained suites, all equipped to accommodate members of the growing royal

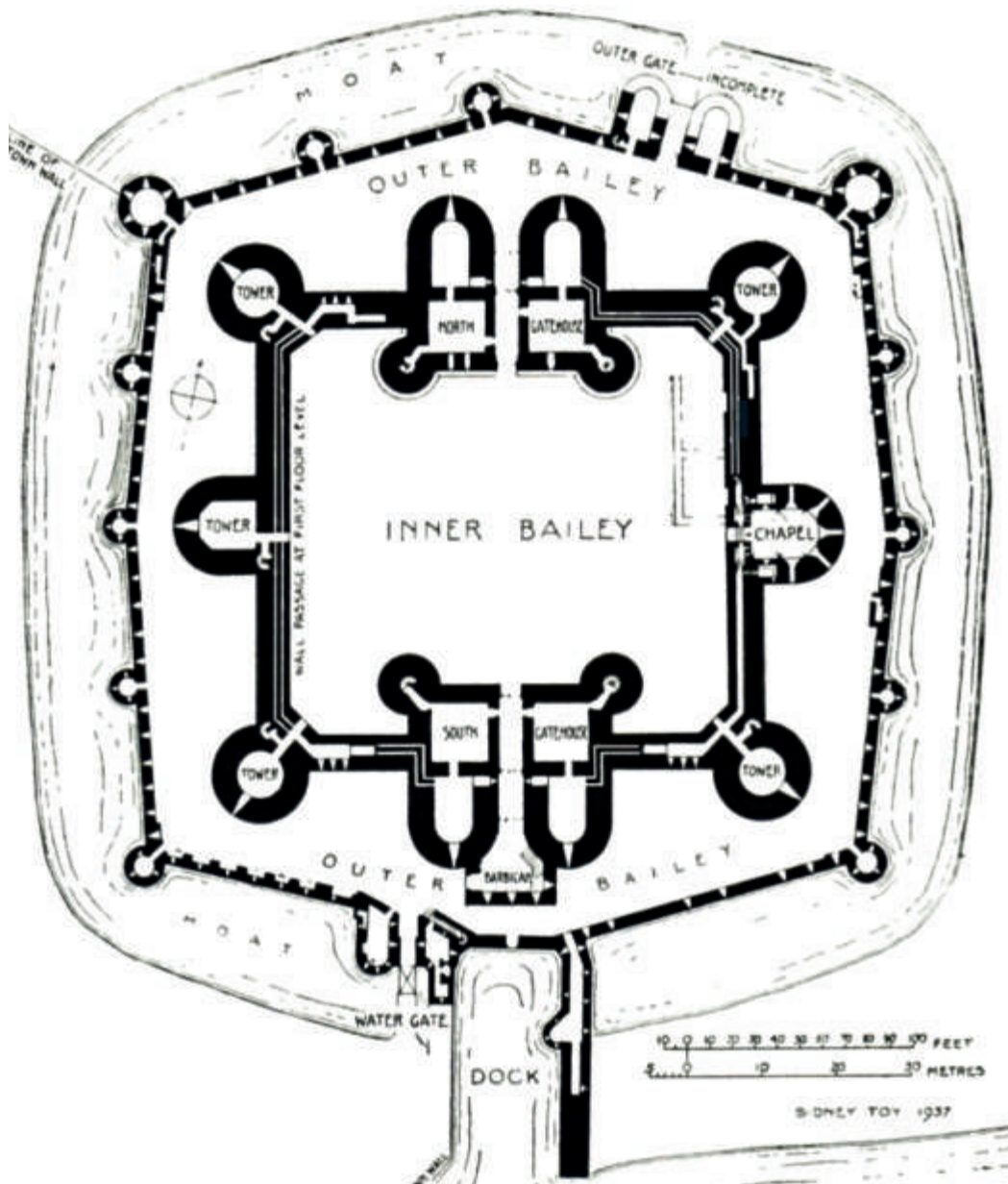
household and associated dignitaries. This view has very reasonably been updated. There is now no 'feature page' addressing this subject, but it is briefly discussed under the headings 'The Mural Passages' (39) and 'The North-East Tower' (40-41). 'The six mural towers around the inner ward were linked by these [mural] passages, as were the drum towers in the gatehouses, *all of which served as garrison accommodation*' [my italics]. The implication being that the case for garrison lodging (except that of the NE tower), is far more logical bearing in mind the rather open curtain-tower wall-walk access, very public latrine provision and the gloomy mural passageways in between.

There are also new good features adding to the overall holistic understanding of castle function, spaces, landscape, townscape. Aspects of accommodation and spaces gets a refresh and the bird's eye view incorporates some new ideas of architectural forms based on surviving or circumstantial evidence. Jeremy Ashbee's scholarship is well-established and his researches have added new and valuable layers to the Beaumaris castle story.

In conclusion it might be worthwhile reflecting on the salutary words of W. Douglas Simpson. He wrote a paper published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* in 1940, (Vol. XCV Part 2) entitled 'Harlech Castle and the Edwardian Castle-Plan' (pp. 153-168). He sings the praises of Harlech, which, he argues, represents the Edwardian Castle in its most perfect form. On the other hand, Beaumaris, he further states, is, whilst 'being a great architectural achievement, and whilst its master mason was clearly a man of first-class ability', is a lesser castle, based on its over-zealous use of symmetry for its own sake. Again referring to Beaumaris, he adds: 'In this very symmetry, we ought, in my opinion, to recognise a sign of incipient decadence - proof that the inventive genius that inspired such a castle as Harlech, so nicely adjusted to its site and functions, is not giving way to an '*esprit routinier*', in which the principle of 'two of everything' is applied with a pedantic consistency that takes no regard of planning requirements'. 'Has the desire for symmetry been overdriven to the point where functional sterility is reached'? Simpson goes on to answer that philosophical question, a question which I hope we will return to in a future CSG Journal paper.



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Beaumaris Castle ground plan showing ground- and first-floor vaulted mural passages around the inner curtain walls. From Toy, 1939 & 1966. The south gatehouse was the main approach into the castle. As an entry point, the north gatehouse never functioned. It went nowhere, as the outer gate was never completed. In fact, the gate was blocked up as early as 1306. Note the similarities of the south facade to Harlech, even down to the span of water (in the sea dock) directly on axis with the south gatehouse entrance, and designed to be both functional and to enhance its dramatic impact.



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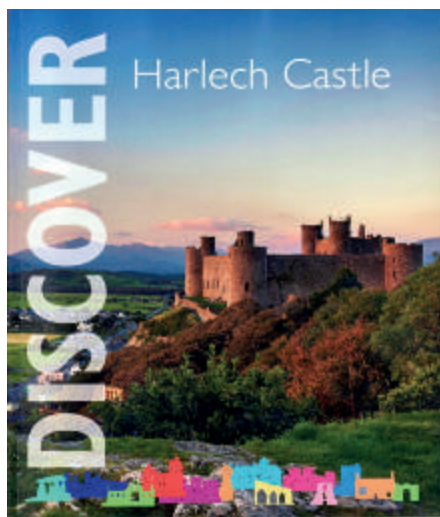


Harlech Castle from the south-east. Image © Paul Davis. Reproduced with thanks.





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Harlech Castle

Author: Jeremy Ashbee
Publisher: Cadw – Welsh Government
Soft covers, 44 pp, colour
ISBN: 978 1 85760 500-6
Published: September 2017
Price: £4.95

Harlech Castle has been described as ‘scenically perhaps the most sublime of all the north Wales castles’ (Taylor) built by Edward I (1272-1307). Construction began in 1283-4.

This excellent new guidebook by Jeremy Ashbee follows that of Beaumaris Castle published in June (reviewed on pp. 308-312), and continues in the same ‘Discover’ format, but keeping the best of the Taylor 1980 guidebook images (as revised up to 2002). This means that the illustrations by John Banbury (frontispiece), Terry Ball, (reconstruction p. 12), and Chris Jones-Jenkins (pp. 27, 28) are included from the Taylor editions, along with other time-honoured views, such as the John Speed 1610 plan, the John Cotman 1838 view from the south, and the Buck bros. view of 1742. In the light of the £6 million regeneration investment (visitor’s centre, bridge etc) the new guidebook includes a number of attractive new views (pp. 4, 10, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, etc), to take advantage of the castle’s photogenic qualities. (If only the sky at Harlech was always so blue).

The text format follows the usual familiar pattern: **A History of the Castle** 5-23; and **Tour of the Castle** 24-44. Its 44 page format compares to the 32 page format of the previous guidebook, and is sumptuously illustrated.

History:

Some time is spent clearly arguing that there is no documentary or archaeological evidence for any previous Welsh castle or royal llys on the promontory site (pp. 5-6), and this section now includes a new (to this publication) reconstruction of the Welsh royal llys on Anglesey, offering an indication of the appearance of the llys complex at nearby Ystumgwern (by CJJ, p. 5), about 5 miles south of Harlech. Additionally, there is an added ‘Feature’ on ‘**Harlech in the Mabinogion**’ pointing out that there were legends about Harlech’s history prior to the building of the Edwardian castle. (p. 6). Other welcome new short ‘Features’ include ‘**The Medieval Borough of Harlech**’, p. 19, ‘**Harlech Castle in the Second World War**’, p. 23, and two extra pages on Harlech in the 18th and early 19th centuries, relating to the popularity of visiting artists and writers. Finally, a section on Harlech in the 20th and 21st centuries describe the activities of the Office of Works in the conserving and restoration of the castle, first under the direction of Charles Peers (1868-1952) and later under the supervision of Arnold Taylor (1911-2002), ‘who remains a mainstay in our understanding of King Edward I’s castles in north Wales, including Harlech’.

A tour of Harlech Castle:

Pages 24-44 detail the architectural features in and around the castle; 20 pp compared to 17 previously. The tour route taken is similar. Rightly, emphasis is placed on describing the powerful gatehouse, and Ashbee agrees with the earlier opinion of Taylor that the first- and second-floor apartments, the finest suites in the castle, would have been reserved for the constable and his family (first floor) and other important visitors, including the sheriff of Merionethshire, the justicier of north Wales, and, on rare occasions, the king (second floor) (see this edition of the *CSG Journal* pp. 235-





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256). The guidebook currently assumes that the visitor can climb the 'stately stairs' on the courtyard side of the gatehouse to view the internal rooms just inside the round-headed doorway. Unfortunately this was not possible for the general public at the time of writing. Access to the stairs and doorway here has been blocked off for a number of years. The only clear view of these roofless chambers is by standing within the north porter's room on the ground floor of the gatehouse, or by climbing the spiral stairs on the south side to get glancing views on each floor. The labelled gatehouse plan is reproduced from the 1980 guidebook, but only at the first-floor level (p. 31) (but see *CSGJ* 31, p. 244 for a second-floor and roof-top plan). On the ground floor on the south side of the gatehouse, what was once labelled as the 'Guardroom' is now regarded, reasonably, as a '**Waiting Room**' - 'In the mid-sixteenth century the entire space served as a 'hall', though in earlier centuries it probably functioned as a waiting room'. The guidebook recognises that the second-floor rooms in the gatehouse were of the finest accommodation (p. 32), with its greater roof height, larger fireplaces and greater provision of garderobes.

One of the box 'Features' in this section is '**The Gatehouse in Context**' (p. 34). A brief analysis of the origin of these formidable 'keep gatehouses, linking Harlech to earlier precursors such as Tonbridge, Caerphilly and Roscommon, and that the Harlech design went on to influence other castles in the decade after its completion. The gatehouse at St Briavels and the pair of massive gatehouses at Beaumaris, unfortunately never finished, were closely modelled on it.' Further around the inner ward on the south side, the Ystumgwern Hall is described more fully, along with its history, with an added cut-away diagram of Llywelyn's Hall at Conwy, (Terry Ball, 1998) suggesting that this is what the Ystumgwern Hall may have looked like in 1306 when re-installed at Harlech.

The 1283-dated **South-East tower** is noted for its different internal configuration to all the other towers (p. 39), noting that it was called the 'Tower over the Garden' by 1343. 'Moreover, unlike its three counterparts around the

inner ward, the south-east tower incorporated an external stair running up to the wall-walk, making it possible for soldiers to bypass the two upper rooms. This gave these two chambers some seclusion, which, together with the views from the windows into the outer ward garden, made them potentially some of the most desirable quarters in the castle' (p. 39). This level of privacy is an aspect discussed in detail in this Journal p. 245.

An interesting revision to the previous guidebook is the interpretation of a group of buildings within the Inner Ward in the north-east quadrant, to the east of the chapel. This has always been described as either a 'bakehouse' or a 'group of service buildings, in one of which may still be seen the castle well', and they may well have been as described originally (Taylor 1980). The new guidebook now describes this area as containing **post-medieval lodgings**. (p. 41). 'The surviving stone footings show that a building was added against the curtain wall, partly blocking the postern arch...The tall and narrow form of the posited timber superstructure indicates a building of the sixteenth or seventeenth century. In turn, this suggests that it served as lodgings for the justices of the assize, sheriff and notary, together with their retinue. According to a record of 1604, these officers customarily occupied the castle when holding the Merionethshire assizes and quarter sessions at Harlech'. Hence the new colouring on the fold-out plan - 'lodgings', dated to about 1600. Apart from that small change, the ground plan dates remain the same.

The Castle Rock area, once defined, not unreasonably as the Outer Ward (Peers 1923), includes the '**Way from the Sea**' (p. 42) a part of the castle which is rarely explored by visitors, probably because of the numerous steps; to do so would be rewarding. At the rounded north-east bastion, a doorway gives access to steps leading down along the top of the (wing) wall added in 1295 to protect the castle rock on its eastern side facing the town. W. Douglas Simpson had a little more to say about this interesting feature than does the guidebook, in his: 'Harlech Castle and the Edwardian Plan', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 1940, Vol. 95, 153-68:

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Harlech Castle from the NE, showing the east ditch below the bridge and Castle Rock.

The stepped wall from the NE bastion (ringed) leads down to and gives access to the east ditch (left) and potentially the perimeter of the Castle Rock defences (right).

Image © Paul Davis.

‘The wall is a most remarkable structure, planned and executed with consummate skill. It is over 8ft thick and 14ft in height on the side toward the ditch. As the curtain climbs steeply down the edge of the rock, its wall-walk takes the form of a stair, entered through a door in the bastion of the main castle. This stair is secured by a parapet on either side, so that the curtain wall is defensible on both directions. It could be held against an enemy who had established himself on the rock, and would prevent him from invading the ditch and turning the defences by their eastern flank. And in the opposite direction it commanded the approaches to the castle from the town, and exposed the bridge across the ditch to a raking fire which would catch an attacking force on their right side - the side unprotected by their shields. Beyond the counterscarp the wall, as originally built, is much thinner, and was later thickened. I suspect it was not at first intended to carry it further forward than was necessary to close the ditch, and that the decision to wall in the whole of the rock and construct the ‘way from the marsh’ was an afterthought - though executed very soon after the main castle had been built. The importance of this curtain in the defensive scheme of the castle is shown by the prominence given to it in Speed’s drawing 1610’. [See *CSGJ* 31 p. 237 fig. 2, and above].

When visited in 2017, this stepped wall and ditch access appeared to be in very poor condition and in dire need of consolidation / restoration. For the future, this significant element in the castle’s outer defences might be better highlighted in the guidebook - more could be made of it - if it was repaired and made safe. It would make an ideal and interesting amenity to be able to walk along the wall, the ditch, or follow its original line at the edges of castle rock leading around to further features that were, at one time, close to the shore and the original boat landing stage. That includes the Water Gate and Upper Gate (the latter illustrated in the guidebook by a new Chris Smith drawing of 2016, p. 43).

Readers of this new well-written guidebook will enjoy the account of its amazing history, the details of mason’s names as recorded in the still extant expenditure accounts, and the fascinating way that well-established English castle building traditions were adapted and embellished by the master of the King’s Works in Wales, James of St. George and his team of Savoyard masons. They introduced construction techniques, and individual features rarely seen before. Arguably, Harlech represents the Edwardian castle in its most perfect form, in the grandeur of its site and its sheer formidable mass of its rock-like masonry.



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Published in 1838 this etching of Harlech from the south is by John Sell Cotman (1782-1842). It is probably based on a tour by the artist around 1800-1802, near the time of Coleridge and Hucks's visit, and it seems that at this time large sections of the original white rendering could still be seen on the walls. Cotman's drawing also highlights the horizontal break between building campaigns in the curtain wall in the 1280s. Purchased as part of the Oppé Collection with assistance from the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund 1996 <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/work/T11511>

Samuel Coleridge at Harlech

In the summer of 1794, the poet and writer Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) and a fellow student, Joseph Hucks, visited Harlech during a walking-tour of North Wales. Hucks later published an account of their travels, and described an adventure at Harlech Castle, in which the two young men narrowly avoided confrontation with local residents through diplomacy and alcohol:

'We also achieved here an exploit, which, beyond all doubt, gives us some title to military prowess; for as there did not happen to be any body in the way who might open the gates of the castle, and our time not permitting us to wait for the ordinary forms of capitulation, we boldly marched up to the assault, and scaling the walls at four different places, took possession of the garrison, as it were by a coup de main. But for this outrage, we had well nigh got into an awkward scrape; some of the inhabitants observing our operations, and probably taking us for free-booters, gave the alarm; and mustering a formidable body of forces, marched in military array to dispossess us of our strong hold. But we soon pacified our opponents and having convinced them that our intentions were neither predatory nor hostile, they retired to an ale-house to banish sorrow, and indulge themselves, at our expence, in copious libations of ale.'

Joseph Hucks, *A Pedestrian Tour Through North Wales in a Series of Letters* (London, 1795)





Book Reviews: Bodiam Castle National Trust Guidebook



***Bodiam Castle, East Sussex:
National Trust Guidebook***

Author: Jonathan Foyle
Publisher: National Trust
Paperback: 40 pages
ISBN-10:1843593777
ISBN-13:978-1843593775
Published: 24 July 2017
Price: £5.99

The new NT guidebook to Bodiam Castle supercedes that authored by John Goodall which started life in 2001 and continued, with revisions (2005), until 2015. The format is similar (square 10cm x 10cm) but the page numbers have increased from 24 to 40. The new delightful front cover shows the castle from the north east, warmly glowing and shimmering in morning sunshine.

The content also follows in a similar general sequence - the lives of the Dallingridges amidst the politics and social issues of the day; *Building Bodiam - Setting, Shape and Layout; Exploring the castle*; and *Later History - Antiquarians, Repair and restoration*. Foyle devotes considerably more time on the adventurous life of Edward Dallingridge, the builder of Bodiam, than many previous writers and carefully considers his friendship with his mentor and fellow soldier of fortune Sir Robert Knollys. Many successful years in France amongst such colleagues – including the earl of Warwick and the earl of Arundel set up Dallingridge with the spoils of war and hence the means to develop the castle and estate at Bodiam.

This is an informative section and Foyle very early on mentions that Bodiam appears to resemble the castle at Derval (Loire Atlantique), a castle that had been developed in France through Knollys's booty (see below). The discussion also, at this stage, asks the question '*Fortress or Folly*', and the consistent theme that develops throughout the guidebook, in every section, is one that supports the military efficacy, viability and credentials of the castle, bearing in mind the background experiences and outlook of the builder and the conditions that England faced at the time – local social unrest, disturbances, and French incursions along the south coast.

In the section ***Building Bodiam Castle***, documentary evidence is briefly reviewed, including the licence to crenellate (1385) 'which may signal the completion of construction' and a licence to divert the River Rother to a new water mill in 1386. Over the last fifteen years much research has been undertaken into the setting and landscaping of the immediate environs; whilst this is noted, Foyle proposes a different ceremonial approach to the castle, and the plan (p. 20) shows an approach route from the north west, skirting a succession of ponds, and a more directly aligned route to the dog-leg access across the moat to the octagon island and then a 90° turn.

For '*Shape*' the author looks at the possible origins of Bodiam's quadrangular and symmetrical design, Bodiam being built 'when the English drew much inspiration from French design (as well as native buildings)'. Foyle notes the closely comparable Shirburn Castle (Oxfordshire) (1377) built by Warrin de Lisle (1333-82) [another soldier of fortune who knew Dallingridge]. The author begins to warm to his theme that Derval (Saint-Clair) may be the key to Bodiam's plan:

'The moated French castle of Derval belonging to Dallingridge's sponsor Robert Knollys is strikingly similar to Shirburn, and even more so to Bodiam. Derval featured not only a symmetrical rectangular exterior with round turrets, but a barbican reached by a 90 degree dog-leg, as at Bodiam. Having been built in occupied territory at acute risk of French aggression, Derval was a defensible fortress. So it is particularly intriguing that Knollys's arms are shown prominently at Bodiam'. (23)





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Ms 8266 f.281 'Siege of the Chateau of Derval' by Pierre La Baud / Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France / Bridgeman Images).

Of course Foyle is boldly making the argument that, assuming Bodiam and Shirburn were copied from Derval, a castle Dallingridge and Lisle would have been very familiar with, the patrons would also have followed through with the full accoutrements of serious military defensive capabilities. This thesis - the idea that Bodiam is derived from fortified Derval, needs further work to nail it: Was Derval built from scratch in the fourteenth century or remodelled by Knollys when he acquired it temporarily from the Duke of Brittany, Jean de Montfort. In other words, was the castle already complete by the 1370s before Knollys made it his home from 1373-1380? Exactly when was it built? Does the manuscript illustration of Derval (22 & above) accurately show the castle as it may have looked in the 1380s, or was it aggrandised after the end of the 100 Years War? (The illustration shown here is undated; details: Ms 8266 f.281 'Siege of the Chateau of Derval' by Pierre La Baud, Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France). Pierre La Board died in 1505, and the Ms. is possibly dated to the second half of the fifteenth century, perhaps 70 or more years after Knollys had died in 1407).

The Derval suggestion is not something new. Reference to it as being a model or template for Bodiam is mentioned by William Cotton, (1836, *A graphic and historical sketch of Bodyham Castle in Sussex*, p. 16) and by Mark Antony Lower, (1857, 'Bodiam and its Lords' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Vol. 9, 275-302, esp. 289). Also Percy D. Mundy, 1909, *The Memorials of Old Sussex - the Castles of Sussex*. The latter reference states: 'In these [French] castles the entrance was especially strengthened by double towers and frequently had a barbican whilst the surrounding moat was made broad and sometimes duplicated. Such appears to have been the case at Derval, now reduced to an almost indistinguishable mass of ruin, but enough still remains to show that it was strengthened by nine towers, as at Bodiam, which rose out of the water, and that it was, moreover, strengthened by three moats'. The problem today is that Derval lies in ruins, and only half of one of its nine towers remains upright. It certainly lies with a wide lake-type moat, but not much more can be deduced apart from its rectangularity. But it is also true that were a number of exemplar quadrangular courtyard castles that existed in Britain even by the end of the thirteenth century and certainly by the mid 14th.

Foyle recognises that with Bodiam, Henry Yevele (1325-1400), acting head of the King's Works, was undoubtedly the advisory architect or master planner, but how much input did the patron have in directing its overall design for its water features and exterior plan-form? He notes that 'Bodiam's confidently orchestrated details such as gun loops, hexagonal tower chambers and vaulting with ring-bosses suggest an exceptionally competent designer at ease with the military court manner'.

Layout and Exploring the Castle: The feature by feature room description and planning analysis generally follows previous guidebooks, and the same Stephen Conlin bird's eye view cut-away illustrations are used as those in the Goodall guidebook, although the full-page castle bird's eye view, (as seen on p. 16, Goodall) is no longer used, which is a pity. There are still some doubts about the use / function of the west range, just as there were in the previous guidebook: Foyle: 'The West Range is the most





Book Reviews: Bodiam Castle National Trust Guidebook



Shirburn Castle, Oxfordshire, from the north west; J P Neale, 1847. Steel engraving.



Shirburn Castle. West entrance passage ribbed vaulting identical to Bodiam below.

archaeologically puzzling... it was a service range with flue-containing walls that are mostly original...it seems it was third class accommodation transformed into storage as the way the castle was used shifted in the later Middle Ages'. Hence we are getting back to the original ideas of Curzon (1926, 142) that the west range contained accommodation for 'retainers' (and/or household servants), though I do not think I would have used the term 'third class'. In regard to the building functions a few other low-key minor revisionist comments stand out:

- In the SW tower 'there is no evidence for a well, ... it was a pool, probably fed by a spring, and this supply of fresh water was ideally positioned', (29).
- In the Private Apartments (east range), when discussing the Great chamber - Parlour - Bed Chamber on the first and second floors, Foyle notes 'Royal Apartments came to be stacked separating king from queen, but this was ceremonial - we might expect Edward and Elizabeth to have customarily shared a bedchamber [on the first floor - Dallingridge's bedchamber (32, no.3)]
- On the ground plan (inside front cover) 'hearth' (12) becomes 'possible hearth' and 'Sacristy with closet above' (Goodall) (5) becomes 'Sacristy with lord's chamber above'.

Other new features include a 'Glossary' (inside front cover, and various single-page features that direct our attention to more art-historical or potentially symbolic elements - such as the heraldry featured over the great entrance gate and postern gate, the possible message that the



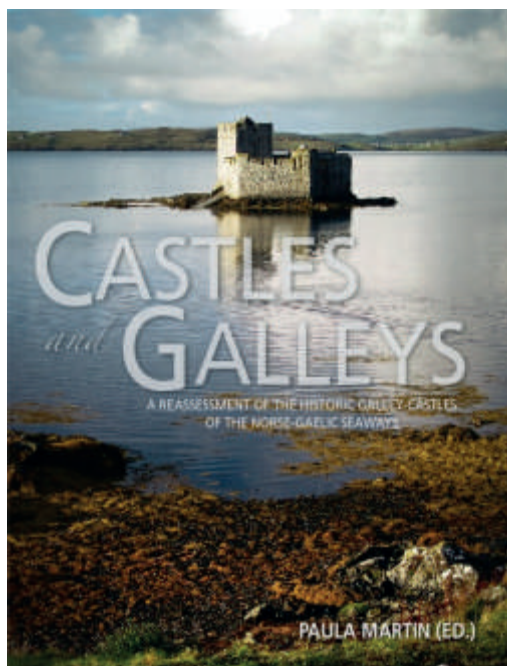
Bodiam Castle. Entrance passage ribbed vaulting in the principal gatehouse. Ring bosses and so-called murder-holes.

unicorn-crested tilting helm of Dallingridge may have presented to onlookers, and the general belief that the cult of the Virgin Mary was a key element in the protection of the castle and its occupants. The Heraldry pages include a large reproduction of the superb Wilton Dyp-tych, where Richard II is shown praying to the Virgin Mary for the protection of England.

There is much to enjoy in looking through this guidebook, but serious castellologists will also want to consult two other recent excellent Bodiam studies: Paul Drury, 2016, *Bodiam Castle Robertsbridge East Sussex - Conservation Management Plan for the National Trust Part 1: Understanding and Significance* (Drury McPherson Partnership), and Matthew Johnson (ed.) 2017, *Lived experience in the later Middle Ages: studies of Bodiam and other elite landscapes in south-eastern England*. And, of course, (Marquess) G. N. Curzon, *Bodiam Castle*, 1926.



Book Reviews: Castles and Galleys



Castles and Galleys. A Reassessment of the Historic Galley-Castles of the Norse-Gaelic Seaways

Editor: Paula Martin

Publisher: Islands Book Trust

Paperback: 320 pages

Illustrations: 43 black and white plates; a number of figs (plans, family trees)

ISBN: 978-1-907443-76-3

Publication date: 2017

Price: £11.99

In September 2015, the Islands Book Trust arranged a conference in Castlebay, Barra, in response to the request of the present Chief of the Macneils, Rory. Rory's aim was to honour and take forward a preoccupation held by his father, Ian Roderick, the previous Chief who died in 2010, that the castles of the western Scottish-Hebridean seaboard had been persistently misunderstood, that they constituted a distinct group of fortifications which he coined 'galley-castles' and that their dates of origin were frequently rendered too late on the basis of inadequate analysis in both historical and archaeological study. Ian had had a fascination for the subject, inspired by his own father,

Robert Lister, his predecessor as Macneil chief, who had rescued the iconic Kisimul castle from ruin, had it restored and entrusted to the care of the state, Historic Environment Scotland as it is now. The conference attracted the flower of those interested in Highland and Island *castelologie* and a considerable number of papers were read over a period of days. This long-awaited volume of the proceedings contains nineteen of the papers, all or almost all of what was delivered in Barra.

Some of the papers take a generalist approach, looking at the subject of these castles of the west, in the round (thus David Caldwell, Richard Oram, Geoffrey Stell). They contemplate their histories, especially when they may have been founded and to some extent their architectural features. A key area of enquiry relates to functions, partly to see if there is any mileage to the claim that these castles were so tied to maritime matters as to warrant the category name 'galley-castles'. There is perhaps a little equivocation on this, notably at the outset in David Sellar's article but on the whole, there appears to be no endorsement for recognising such a distinct category of castle. That they were located on coastal stretches, sometimes with and sometimes some distance from inlets or harbours for the birlinns or galleys that plied the seaways, did not disassociate these castles from the land. Indeed though communication, warfare, commerce *etc* in these remote parts may have made dependence on the seaways more vital than almost anywhere else in the British isles, they share a commonality with coastal castles in many other areas and so in this sense are in the mould of what is well established.

Other papers focus on particular cases or areas and this is perhaps where greatest interest lies to those already half immersed in the subject wanting to learn more. Colin Breen looks at the possibility of 'galley-castles' in Gaelic Medieval Ireland and in the main agrees that the concept is a misnomer, Sarah Gibbon looks at Norse castles in Orkney and Peter Davey on the Isle of Man. Tom McNeill returns to a latter-day favourite subject of his – the castles of Clan Donald South, specifically Dunyvaig on Islay



Book Reviews: Castles and Galleys

and Claig just off the south coast of Jura. He speculates that the former was mainly a treasury and the latter some sort of customs post. The hard evidence for either is, however, wanting and indeed, it is not even certain that Claig belonged to that MacDonald sept which Tom seems to take for granted. It is, nonetheless, a stimulating essay coloured by Tom's knowledge and love of sailing the local waters.

Another essay which brings out a particular interest is Richard Oram's. Richard proceeds from a review of a somewhat difficult historiography of Highland and Island castles to a matter he recently explored in greater depth in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*. This is the environmental change that began about 1250 and emerged fully c. 1300 in what has long been termed a 'mini-ice age'. This is scientific stuff and not for the faint-hearted. Richard understands his subject well. What isn't wholly clear however, is how this all impacted on castle-building. On the one hand, the thought is that before these climatic changes, prosperity encouraged the extravagance of lordly castle-building while after them, insecurity and altered ways of gathering wealth also encouraged castle-building. Of course there is no reason why both cannot be true and it is then worth noting how, despite changing environmental-economic factors, castles maintained an ongoing utilitarian value. In passing, it should be noted that Richard's observation that Fordun's fourteenth-century list of castles has been re-dated to the thirteenth century, does not hold up, so his comments stemming from that are to be treated with care.

Two papers are at the cutting-edge of scientific techniques now brought to bear on historical investigation. The more relevant is Mark Thacker's work on McGillechrist's Castle, that is Castle Finchart, in mid-Argyll. As he says, this castle is 'the first medieval building in Scotland to be directly radiocarbon dated'. By subjecting the wood-fuel used to fire the lime-kiln employed to make the necessary mortar, he has produced a date of 1219-1269 which he ties in with what scanty historical evidence there is. Thacker's is a specialist and highly technical subject so not an easy read. The other technical

area is taken up by David Sellar in his essay which is largely of genealogical interest so not altogether castle-related. David contemplates recent DNA evidence, specifically the Y-chromosome found in various modern Scots to deduce whether their clan groups are Celtic or Norse and so whether, as in the case of the Macneil of Barra claim, the origin is really from ancient high-kings of Ireland or in fact from piratical Viking raiders from Norway. Another paper, by D.U. Stiùbhart, is wholly of genealogical interest, centred on the charismatic Ruairidh Macneil an Tartair of the later sixteenth, early seventeenth-centuries.

Two papers (John Raven and Alan MacNiven) look at what was on or near our castle sites before they were built in the medieval period and so to what extent they were the successors of preceding Scandinavian structures. MacNiven's study is followed by an impressively detailed appendix containing data on the prominent sites in question. Other papers are more concerned with the maritime dimension. Donald McWhannell considers sailing-times in the Norse-Gaelic seaways, a subject he is well-qualified to discuss on personal experience, while Colin Martin focuses on landing-places, *noosts* and harbours, which of course is central to appreciating the extent to which these castles articulated with the sea. A particularly charming contribution is that of John Macfarlane, a native of Tobermory. He summarises a Gaelic folklore perspective from Loch Awe and the Sound of Mull in which castles bulk large and fired the imagination of stirring deeds amidst an imagined past. In Mull's case, this involved, 'witches, necromancy and ...where ... Satan was summoned by the live roasting of cats on a spit'.

At the end of this volume, Barbara Crawford does sterling work in attempting to draw the papers together and in teasing out salient strands – no mean feat given the diffuse nature of the conference offerings. The book itself is handsomely presented on good quality glossy paper with attractive images on front and back cover. Even more remarkable is the price. In terms of value for money, this may be the best castles book on the market!

James Petre





New Books 2017 - Newcastle Castle - Review



Newcastle Castle

Editor & Authors: *Peter Cumiskey, John Nolan, David Silk*

Publisher: *The Heart of the City Partnership*

Soft Covers - 32 pp with fold out plans

ISBN13: 9781527207271

Published May 2017

Price: £3.95

This new guidebook replaces the one published or reprinted in 2014 and is a lively makeover with refreshed presentation, new artwork, reconstructions and text. At its heart, it reflects the solid work of earlier archaeologists, Barbara Harbottle, (1977), with subsequent revisions by John Nolan. (Northern Counties Archaeological Services). With newly commissioned graphics the guidebook first traces the *History of the Castle*, through its Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman development. This includes a striking bird's eye view of the castle as it may have looked in the 1080s under Robert Curthose (by Judith Dobie) (p. 5). The section '*The castle at its height*' dwells on the history of the buildings in the period 1168-1200, and includes a fine cut-away drawing of the great tower by Geoff Laws, although its size has, arguably, been reduced a little bit too much compared to the 2014 version. This is followed by a '*Journey Through the Castle*', describing feature by feature and room by room, the content

and function of the Black Gate, the Castle Garth, and Keep. Throughout this section thumbnails or quarter-page illustrations are presented either as antiquarian prints, old Victorian photographs, double-page digital reconstructions and up-to-date colour photos (many of the keep rooms have been refurbished and upgraded). Interspersed with the text are various 'boxed features' randomly distributed offering insights into various historic events, people involved or incarcerated within the castle, and its various uses in the twentieth century.

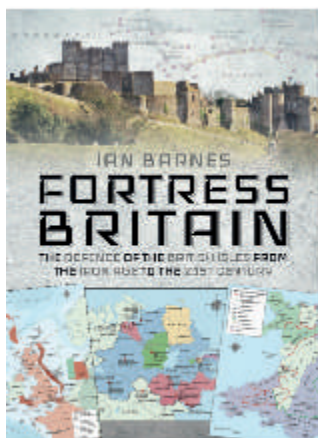
The text throughout is clear, straightforward and accessible but without addressing readers young or old in any patronising way. There is also a useful Glossary in the Appendix. Finally, there are sections on '*Restoration and Current Use*', a '*History Timeline*', with a backdrop of the interesting bird's eye view by John Storey who painted the whole of Newcastle in 1852, carefully reconstructing its appearance as it may have been 300 years earlier from evidence known in Victorian times. Finally, a '*Bibliography*' and '*Recommended Reading*'.

At the more detailed level this guidebook, like its predecessor, continues to include important scaled floor plans of the keep at each of its four levels, a cross-section (north-south from the east) showing by colour-coding the 18th century changes and additions, and a welcome new enhanced ground-plan of the Black Gate with colour-coded building periods. Having said that, the old keep room labels on the plans reflect original thinking, and are sometimes at variance with the text which has been updated with the latest expert views on room function. This is a popular, family guidebook and fulfils its remit perfectly. Perhaps a slight overdose of visual images might make some of the pages rather busy, but it is good to see them being included – they can be very instructive. In a future revision it would be helpful if source references and attribution could be made to the antiquarian prints and drawings used, to give date and context, and perhaps a little more made of the 'South Postern' about which little is known. It looks to have been more than a postern, but sadly much has been lost.

Neil Guy



New Books 2017



Fortress Britain: The Defence of the British Isles from the Iron Age to the 21st Century

Author: Ian Barnes

HB: 184 pages

Publisher: Pen & Sword Books Ltd

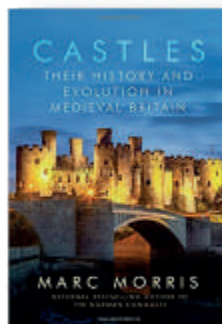
ISBN-10: 1781590176

ISBN-13: 978-1781590171

Publication date: Nov 2017

Price: £20.00

Fortress Britain analyses the security problems faced by the inhabitants of the British Isles. Defending the islands has been a difficult task and they have been invaded by successive waves of Celts, Romans, Germanic tribes, Vikings, Normans. These conquerors, in turn, had to secure their lands against the next emerging enemy. So, archaeology shows that fortifications were common to all groups: Celtic hill forts, Roman camps and Hadrian's Wall; Saxon burhs; Norman castles; Henry VIII's device forts; Martello towers; and the 'stop' lines during the Second World War. The book provides the international contexts for a variety of defence policies over several hundred years and the text is reinforced by numerous maps. The story demonstrates the importance of the sea as a medium for invasion and defence. Consequently, considerable space is devoted to naval matters. The Second World War and Cold War receive detailed treatment and the complex threat of terrorism from is also considered.



Castles: Their History and Evolution in Medieval Britain

Author: Marc Morris

HB: 262 pages

Pub: Pegasus Books

ISBN-10: 1681773597

ISBN-13: 978-1681773599

Pub. date: March 2018

Price: £21.84

At times this is an epic tale, driven by characters like William the Conqueror, King John and Edward I, full of sieges and conquest on an awesome scale. But it is also by turns an intimate story of less eminent individuals, whose adventures, struggles and ambitions were reflected in the fortified residences they constructed. Be it ever so grand or ever so humble, a castle was first and foremost a home. To understand castles – who built them, who lived in them, and why – is to understand the forces that shaped medieval Britain. [Essentially this is a reprint of the 2003 version titled 'Castle - A history of the buildings that shaped medieval Britain' by Channel 4 Books].



English Heritage Guidebook to Helmsley Castle

Author: John R Kenyon

Card Covers 48 pp

Publisher: English Heritage

ISBN: 978 1

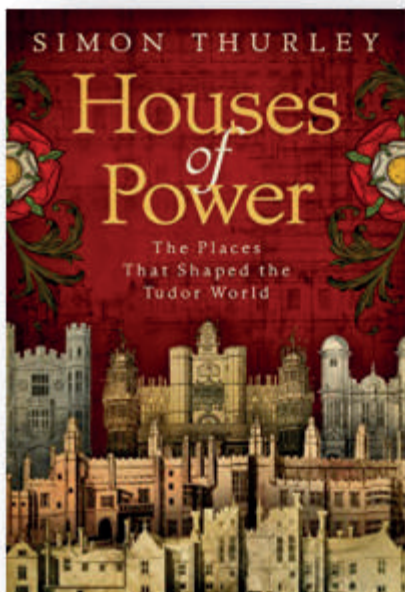
901907 15 3

Date: April 2017

Price: £3.50

CSG members had a pre-release copy when visiting Helmsley in April. The guidebook is reviewed by David Mercer in the current Journal on pp. 303-306. It replaces the Jonathan Clark guidebook of 2004 and contains an amended coloured-coded plan, revisions to dating, and more emphasis on the development of the West tower and chamber block. A very welcome addition to the series.

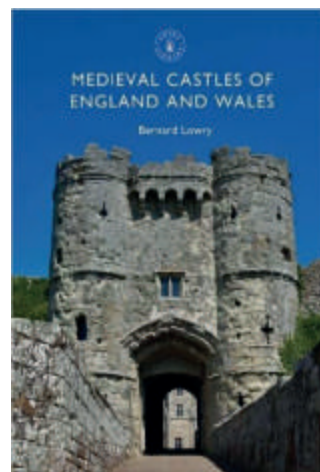
New Books 2017



Houses of Power: The places that shaped the Tudor world

Author: Simon Thurley
Publisher: Bantam Press
HB: 496 pages
ISBN-10: 0593074947
ISBN-13: 978-0593074947
Published: April 2017
Price: £20.40

What was it like to live as a royal Tudor? Why were their residences built as they were and what went on inside their walls? Who slept where and with who? Who chose the furnishings? And what were their passions? The Tudors ruled through the day, throughout the night, in the bath, in bed and in the saddle. Their palaces were genuine power houses - the nerve-centre of military operations, the boardroom for all executive decisions and the core of international politics. *Houses of Power* is the result of Simon Thurley's thirty years of research, picking through architectural digs, and examining financial accounts, original plans and drawings to reconstruct the great Tudor houses and understand how these monarchs shaped their lives. Far more than simply an architectural history - a study of private life as well as politics, diplomacy and court - it gives an entirely new and remarkable insight into the Tudor world.

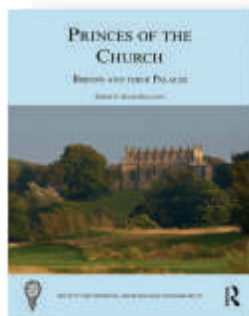


Medieval Castles of England and Wales (Shire Library)

Author: Bernard Lowry
Publisher: Bloomsbury Shire
Paperback: 80 pages
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1784422142
ISBN-13: 978-1784422141
Published: May 2017
Price: £8.99

Designed to dominate the surrounding area, to house powerful garrisons, offer sumptuous quarters for local nobility, and to discourage and repel enemy attacks, castles dominated England and Wales for more than half a millennium. Though some were built before 1066, the Norman Conquest left a lasting legacy in the form of fortifications ranging from small earthworks now barely discernible, to mighty and dominating stone fortresses. This book examines why castles were so essential to medieval warfare, their importance in domestic politics, and the day-to-day lives of those who lived and worked within them. It also shows how the development of new technologies affected their construction and design, and why they eventually fell into disrepair in the late Middle Ages. Beautifully illustrated with stunning photographs, this is the perfect guide for any castle enthusiast seeking to discover more about medieval fortifications and their inhabitants.

New Books 2017



Princes of the Church: Bishops and their Palaces

Editor: David Rollason
Publisher: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group)
HB: 460 pages
ISBN: 9781138714946
Published: June 2017
Price: £105
A Society for Medieval Archaeology monograph

Princes of the Church brings together the latest research exploring the importance of bishops' palaces for social and political history, landscape history, architectural history and archaeology. It is the first book-length study of such sites since Michael Thompson's *Medieval Bishops' Houses* (1998), and the first work ever to adopt such a wide-ranging approach to them in terms of themes and geographical and chronological range.

Contents:

Chapter 1 Introduction: Researching the Palaces of Princes of the Church, David Rollason

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Chapter 3 Late Antique Episcopal Complexes: Bishop Eufasius and his Residence at Poreč (Croatia), Jaqueline P. Sturm

Chapter 4 The Political and Cultural Significance of the Bishop's Palace in Medieval Italy, Maureen C. Miller

Chapter 5 'A Mere Domestic Life': Catherine Talbot in the Georgian Episcopal Home, Michael Ashby

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Chapter 7 Bishops' Residences, Saints' Cults, and the Legacy of Sacred Authority in the Medieval Dioceses of St Andrews and Glasgow, Penelope Dransart

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Chapter 11 The Bishop of Durham's Park at Auckland Castle in the Middle Ages, J. Linda Drury

PART III: PALACES AND THE WORK OF THE BISHOP

Chapter 12 English Bishops' Itineraries, c. 700-c. 1200, Julia Barrow

Chapter 13 How to Travel with a Bishop: Thirteenth-Century Episcopal Itineraries, Philippa M. Hoskin

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Chapter 19 Exeter Bishop's Palace, Stuart Blaylock

Chapter 20 En Route and in Residence: Integrating Documentary and Archaeological Evidence for the Itineraries and Residences of the Medieval Bishops of Durham, Caroline Smith and C. Pamela Graves, with Matt Claydon, and Mark Randerson

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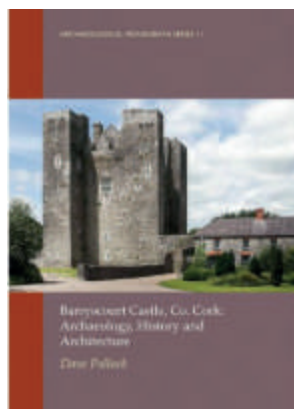
Chapter 22 Bishop Hurd's Library at Hartlebury Castle, Christine Penney

Chapter 23 Auckland and Durham Castles in John Cosin's Time, Adrian Green

Chapter 24 Bishop Hugh of Le Puiset's Great Hall at Auckland Castle: Its Place in English Twelfth-Century Architecture, Malcolm Thurlby

Chapter 25 St Davids Bishop's Palace and its Remarkable Roofscape, Rick Turner.

New Books 2017



Barrysourt Castle, Co. Cork: Archaeology, History and Architecture

Author: Dave Pollock

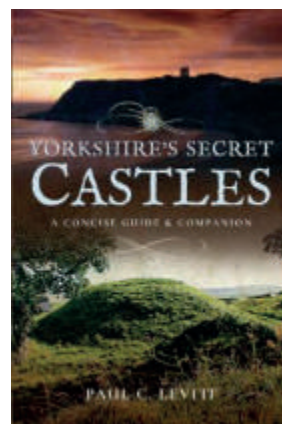
Publisher: Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

ISBN: 9781406429350

Published: May 2017

Price: €30.00

This volume, the eleventh in the Archaeological Monograph Series of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht contains the results of excavations carried out at the castle between 1992 and 2015. The main author of the book is archaeologist Dave Pollock. Extensive excavations in the bawn of the castle have thrown considerable light on the use of the site over a lengthy period from early medieval times up to the nineteenth century. The book also contains an authoritative history of the Barry family up to the seventeenth century by Cork historian Paul MacCotter and a description, analysis and full survey of the castle as well as an account of its restoration. Recently commissioned radiocarbon dates indicate that the castle was built around 1400. The likely builder was John Ciotach Barry, Lord Barrymore between 1393 and 1420. A later Lord Barrymore, David Barry, deliberately damaged the castle while in rebellion in 1580 but restored it after he was pardoned. Initially acquired by the Barryscourt Trust in the late 1980s, the castle was later taken into State care and is now fully restored. It is currently closed to visitors, while rewiring and other necessary works are being undertaken but is expected to reopen again in 2019.



Yorkshire's Secret Castles

Author: Paul C. Levitt

Publisher: Pen & Sword Books, Barnsley

ISBN/EAN: 9781526706201

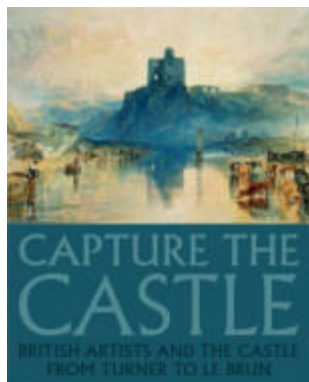
Paperback, 152 pp

Publication Date: 30/11/2017

Price: £12.99

There is no single event in the history of our nation that has impacted society as profoundly as the Norman Conquest. These were brutal times and revolts prompted the erection of a large number of timber and earth castles, the majority being built between 1071 and 1145. Yorkshire has many examples and this book goes in search of sites that represent the earliest feudal stamp of the Normans on the county's landscape. Many are situated off the beaten track and command superb views of outstandingly beautiful countryside, while others are close to populated areas. In some instances, the visible remains have long since blended into the local scenery due to land cultivation, decay, neglect, vandalism, or uncaring (or unwitting) civil engineering works. A few were subsequently developed in stone, but the majority remain obscure and go largely unnoticed by all but the most informed visitor. Indeed, many locals are blissfully unaware of what once existed on their very own doorsteps. Where can they be found? Who built them? What were they like? What tales can be told about their turbulent histories? What traces of them remain? *Yorkshire's Secret Castles* has the answers

New Books 2017



Capture the Castle: British Artists and the Castle from Turner to Le Brun

Authors: Sam Smiles, Tim Craven, Steve Marshall

Publisher: Sansom & Co

ISBN: 9781911408055

Pages: 176, colour

Dimensions: 270 x 210 x 14 mm

Published: June 2017

Price: £25.00

This is the hard-bound catalogue that accompanied the *Capture the Castle* exhibition at Southampton City Art Gallery from June until September 2017. The catalogue is sumptuously illustrated with some rarely known paintings and drawings of British castles from the time of J. M. W. Turner or a little before (e.g. Samuel and Nathaniel Buck's *Carisbrooke*, 1733) to the contemporary artist Christopher le Brun, including, along the way, works by Girtin, Cotman, Ibbetson, Paul Sandby and John Varley.

There are scholarly introductory essays by Sam Smiles (*Castles and British Landscape Art 1750-1950*), Roy Porter, (*Castles Curated*), Andy King (*The Castle in Medieval England - Aesthetics, symbolism and status*), Anne Anderson, (*Building Castles in the Air*), Steve Marshall (*Lines of Defence*). Most of the authors are academics from Southampton University or associates. It was good to see six Alan Sorrells on display, which is probably due to Professor Matthew Johnson's influence. Andy King, in his fine piece, brings in some serious work on late medieval northern castles. His paper was included in the 2015 CSG

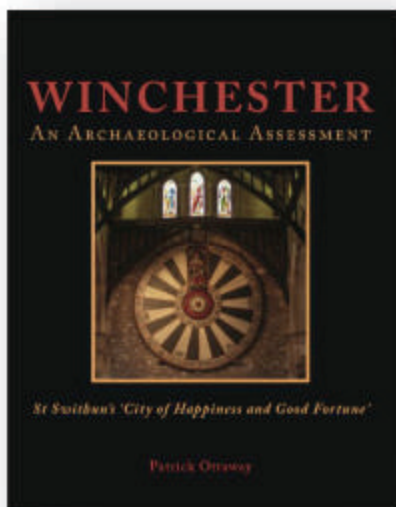


Bibliography; one or two of the introductory essays, very good in themselves and important in the right context, seem a little detached from the exhibition content (e.g. Roy Porter, the EH curator at Dover (or one of them) and Battle Abbey).

The exhibition was jointly curated by Steve Marshall and Tim Craven. Marshall's individual drawings' captions occasionally lapse on some accuracy of detail. See (Craven's) entry on *Chun* (62), where the tower has been re-dated, another by David Gentleman (96) labelled *Harlech*, when it should be Beaumaris, and *Powis* (140) which is actually an imaginary capriccio by John Sell Cotman. However, what small errors there may be certainly does not detract from the essence of the overall thread of seeing talented and true representational art down to the contemporary period. Steve's artwork captions are about the detail of castles themselves but occasionally discuss the artist's style / influences / medium and development which is also a vitally important ingredient. One of the most insightful essays is by Sam Smiles - on the transition from topographical emphasis in the early-mid eighteenth century to the Romantic (Sublime and Picturesque), and tensions between the two genres as they developed in the mid-to-late eighteenth century. It would have been good to have expanded on this in the catalogue. It is a pity there is only one Thomas Hearne (135, *Newark*, above). He was one of the finest landscape painters and illustrators of the late 19th century. His watercolours are typified by applying a wash of subtle subdued colours over a clear outline in fine brush, pen or pencil; and only one (very good) Paul Sandby (134, *The Eagle Tower, Caernarfon*)

Neil Guy.

New Books 2017



Winchester: Swithun's 'City of Happiness and Good Fortune': An Archaeological Assessment

Author: Patrick Ottaway

Publisher: Oxbow Books

HB 416p, b/w and colour

ISBN: 9781785704499

Publication Date: July 2017

Price: £40.

This critical assessment of the archaeology of the historic city of Winchester and its immediate environs from earliest times to the present day is the first published comprehensive review of the archaeological resource for the city, which has seen many major programmes of archaeological investigation.

There is evidence for activity and occupation in the Winchester area from the Palaeolithic period onwards, but in the Middle Iron Age population rose sharply with settlement was focused on two major defended enclosures at St Catherine's Hill and, subsequently, Oram's Arbour. Winchester became a Roman 'civitas' capital in the late 1st century AD and the typical infrastructure of public buildings, streets and defences was created. Following a period of near desertion in the Early Anglo-Saxon period, Winchester became a significant place again with the foundation of a minster church in the mid-7th century. In the Late Anglo-Sax-

on period it became the pre-eminent royal centre for the Kingdom of Wessex.

The city acquired a castle, cathedral and bishop's palace under Norman kings but from the late 12th century onwards its status began to decline to that of a regional market town. The archaeological resource for Winchester is very rich and is a resource of national and, for the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods, of international importance.

Part 1: Introduction

1 An archaeological assessment for Winchester

Part 2: Analysis and synthesis of the archaeology of the study area

2 Winchester in prehistory

3 Winchester in the Roman period (c AD 43–c 410)

4 Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon Winchester (c 410–c 860)

5 Late Anglo-Saxon Winchester (c 860–1066)

6 Medieval Winchester (1066–c 1350)

7 Late medieval Winchester (c 1350–c 1600)

8 Post-medieval Winchester (c 1600–1837)

9 Winchester in the Victorian and modern periods (c. 1837–2014)

Part 3: An overview of Winchester's archaeology

10 Winchester through the ages

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of sites

Appendix 2a: UAD Monument gazetteer

Appendix 2b: UAD Event/Site gazetteer

Bibliography / Index

Please note: Winchester Studies: (WS 6.i) Winchester Castle: Fortress, Palace and Garrison

The castle volume by Martin Biddle and Beatrice Clayre should go to press in 2017-18. It covers in detail all three stages in the life of the site, as a medieval royal castle, Wren's palace for Charles II, and a major military garrison for two centuries from the 1790s to 1985. Also in preparation is: WS 6.ii *Wolvesey Palace*

See: <http://winchesterstudies.org.uk/>

New Books 2017



From Carrickfergus to Carcassonne: The epic deeds of Hugh de Lacy during the Albigensian Crusade

Authors: P. Duffy, J.-M. Picard, T. O'Keeffe (eds)

Publisher: Brepols

HB: 250 p., 61 b/w ill., 156 x 234 mm

ISBN: 978-2-503-56781-5

Languages: English, French

Published: December 2017

Price: EUR 81,00 excl. tax (Brepols) (Amazon: £74.72).

Hinging upon the personal story of a charismatic individual – Hugh de Lacy, earl of Ulster, ‘*From Carrickfergus to Carcassonne*’ explores the wider interplay between the Gaelic, Angevin, Capetian and Occitan worlds in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. This book brings to light new research linking de Lacy to a conspiracy with the French King and details his subsequent exile and participation in the Albigensian Crusade in the South of France. The combined papers in this volume detail this remarkable story through interrogation of the historical and archaeological evidence, benefiting not just from adept scholarly study from Ireland and the UK but also from a southern French perspective.

The ensemble of papers describe the two realms within which de Lacy operated, the wider political machinations which led to his exile, the Cathar heresy, the defensive architecture of France and Languedoc and the architectural influences transmitted throughout this period from one realm to another. In exploiting the engaging story of Hugh de Lacy, this volume creates a thematic whole which facilitates wide ranging comparison between events such as the Anglo-Norman take-over of Ireland and the Albigensian Crusade, the subtleties of doctrine in Ireland and Languedoc and the transmission of progressive castle design linking the walls of Carcassonne and Carrickfergus.

Professor Picard, a native of Provence, has published several books on the history of contacts between Ireland and the continent during the Middle Ages. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy. Professor O’Keeffe is a specialist in the archaeology of the middle ages, with special emphasis on architectural history. Mr Duffy is the director of Grassroots Archaeology and has published in peer reviewed volumes in Ireland, the UK, France and Australia.

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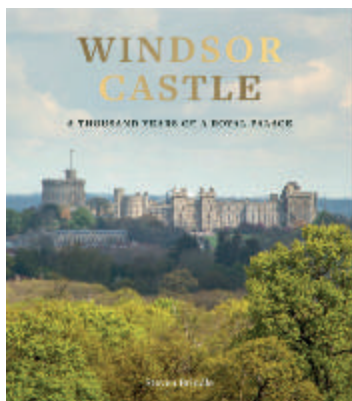
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New Books forthcoming 2018



***Windsor Castle:
1,000 Years of A Royal Palace***

Steven Brindle (ed.)

Publisher: Royal Collection Trust

Hardcover: 560 pages, 600 colour plates

Size: 12 x 9 1/2 in.

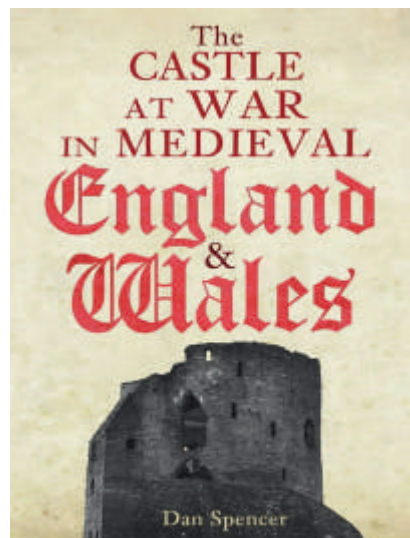
ISBN-10: 1909741248

ISBN-13: 978-1909741249

Publication Date: 19 Apr 2018

Price: £95.00

When we envision the British monarchy, one of the first things that comes to mind is Buckingham Palace, with its gilded gates and changing of the guard. But it is Windsor Castle that can claim pride of place as the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, dating to the earliest days of the monarchy, a symbol of strength and magnificence over a nearly thousand-year history of sieges and soirees alike. Witness to both great moments in the country's history and those that threatened to destroy it, the castle has become a symbol of English culture and architecture. Throughout England's history, Windsor Castle has stood fast and evolved, much like the monarchy that inhabits it to this day. The magisterial *Windsor Castle: A Thousand Years of a Royal Palace* illuminates the castle's past using evidence from archaeological investigation and documentary sources, and is illustrated with paintings, drawings, and both historical and specially commissioned contemporary photographs, as well as stunning reconstructions of the castle's past appearance which bring this essential piece of English history to life.



***The Castle at War
in Medieval England and Wales***

Author: Dan Spencer

Publisher: Amberley Publishing

HB: 336 pages

ISBN-10: 144566268X

ISBN-13: 978-1445662688

Publication Date: 15 Mar. 2018

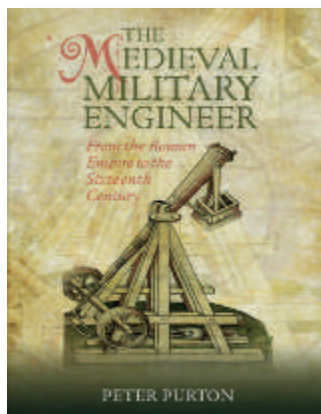
Price: 20.00

This book explores the role of the castle in warfare in England and Wales, focusing on the period from the Norman Conquest to the reign of Henry VIII. Previous authors have tended to concentrate on the architecture of castles and on establishing a narrative of how castles changed throughout the Middle Ages, which can be characterised as their 'rise and fall'. Instead this book adopts a new approach by discussing castles in relation to the military history of medieval England and Wales, with chapters covering specific conflicts such as the Normans, the twelfth century civil war, known as the Anarchy, War on the Frontiers, War with Scotland, The Owen Glendower Rebellion and the Wars of the Roses. It therefore combines two popular topics, medieval military history and castles, in one book. In this highly readable and groundbreaking book, the 'story' of the castle is integrated into changes in warfare throughout this period providing us with a new understanding of their role.





New Books forthcoming 2018

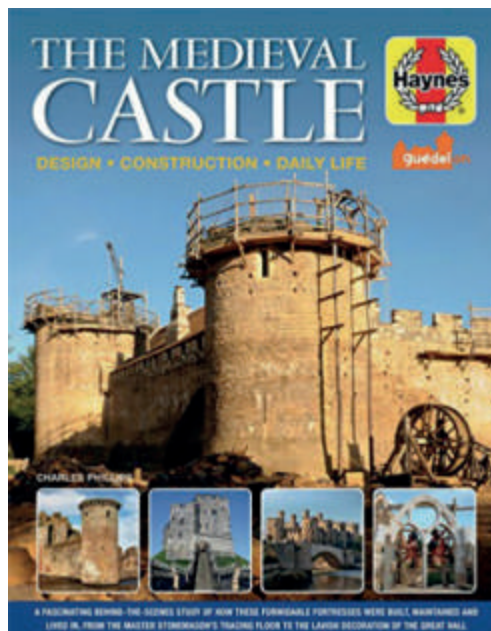


The Medieval Military Engineer

Author: Peter Purton
Publisher: Boydell Press
HB: 320 pages, 30 b&w illustrations
ISBN13: 978-1783272785
Publication Date: April 2018
Price: £60.00
Discounts available to CSG members

Sheds light on the skills and techniques of the medieval military engineer, over a thousand year sweep. The results of medieval engineering still surround us - cathedrals, castles, stone bridges, irrigation systems. However, the siege artillery, siege towers, temporary bridges, earthwork emplacements and underground mines used for war have left little trace behind them; and there is even less of the engineers themselves: the people behind the military engineering achievements. The evidence for this neglected group is studied here. The author begins by considering the evolution of military technology across centuries, and the impact of new technologies in the context of the economic and social developments which made them possible. He looks at how military engineers obtained their skills, and the possible link with scholastic scientific awareness. With the increased survival of government records from the middle ages, engineers acquire names and individuals can be identified. And the fifteenth century - the age of polymaths such as Leonardo da Vinci - saw a new type of literate military engineer, part of a recognized profession, but with its roots in a thousand years of historical development.

THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP



The Medieval Castle

Author: Charles Philips
Publisher: Haynes Publishing Group
HB: 192 pages
ISBN10: 1785211471
ISBN13: 978-1785211478
Publication Date: April 2018
Price: £22.95 (Amazon)

The Haynes *Medieval Castle Manual* explores the background story to castle construction in Medieval Europe, showing that castles had both a domestic and defensive function. It uses the 'new' medieval castle-building project at Guedelon in Burgundy as the centrepiece for the book, examining the construction and anatomy of these awe-inspiring structures, section by section. Life inside the castle walls is explored, from the perspectives of the lowliest servants to the mighty lords and all those ranks in between. Ordinary daily routines to how a castle's inhabitants would have been fed and watered and the building itself heated and furnished are also covered. When it came to survival in times of unrest, the castle presented would-be assailants with a formidable array of defensive measures, some of which were truly frightening in their ability to inflict injury and death.

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