

This is certainly not a value judgement: I really enjoyed reading *all* of the papers — an experience which gave me massive food for thought and new ideas. I was struck, for example, by one common trait to many of the contributions: namely reference to the symbolic use of the past

The Society for Medieval Archaeology

Please find enclosed x 2 copies of the review(s) of your book(s) as published in July in volume 62.1 (2018) of *Medieval Archaeology*.

Thank you again for sending the volume(s) to us for review.



Reviews Editor:

Prof Neil Christie
School of Archaeology & Ancient History
University of Leicester
Leicester LE1 7RH

Email: njc10@le.ac.uk

Soapstone in the North. Quarries, Products and People, 7000 BC — AD 1700. (University of Bergen Archaeological Series, 9). Edited by Gitte Hansen & Per Storemyr. 18 × 25 cm. 408 pp, 208 colour and b&w pls and figs, 12 tables. Bergen: University of Bergen, 2017. ISBN 978-82-90273-90-8 (ISSN 0809-6058). Price: NOK 200 hb.

This is a stand-out publication forming the long-awaited culmination of the research programme combining resources from the five University Museums of Norway. It brings together contributions from archaeologists, geoscientists and craftspeople and covers the millennia spanning the Mesolithic period to the 17th century; many of the results reported here, most particularly the scientific elements, appear in print for the first time. This rich and indeed unique combination will ensure that this volume will be in common currency for many years to come.

There are 17 chapters overall, each with a very full bibliography to assist all who are interested in pre-modern stone studies. A number of themes can be brought out: quarrying activities and the social implications of the management of the commodities; the products themselves and their distribution; the geoscientific approaches and results. The concept of 'Quarryscapes' is crucial, since this brings together the exploitation of soapstone in its social context and reaches beyond production to resource management.

Turning first to the quarrying of this versatile commodity — which is so soft to carve but so resilient to heat and usage — the traditional quarrying project at the Klungen soapstone quarry near Trondheim (Stavsøien) provides insights into stone-working and the tools required, as well as time spent on production, all aiding in the interpretation of some of the tooling visible on working faces from quarries which were exploited in the pre-modern period, and most particularly those from the Viking and early medieval periods when the industry most flourished in Norway. North Norwegian evidence is outlined by Wickler, Lindahl and Nilsson in their consideration of prehistoric to modern artefact production, with hemispherical vessels predominating but featuring also small items associated with textile production (spindle whorls and loomweights). This paper is well juxtaposed with that by Bunse considering the potential in the northern Norwegian context for multi-ethnic (Sami/Norse) utilisation of soapstone in the late Iron-Age/early medieval period.

Early examples of soapstone artefact production include Mesolithic finds in western Norway (Bergsvik) and early Iron-Age objects at Kvikne (south-central Norway: Grenne, Østerås and Stenvik). At the opposite end of the chronological spectrum, the Trondheim evidence provides crucial insights into the skills required for quarrying this material. The quarry of Bakkaunet was opened in the Middle Ages, but has been lost due to Trondheim's expansion. There has been much discussion of whether this partially underground quarry was opened as one of 30 individual quarry sources for the builders of Nidaros Cathedral between 1070 and 1350. Management of the quarries is discussed and, using the York model, it is suggested that these may have served as training centres for stone masons. The more recent restoration of the magnificent W face of Trondheim Cathedral in soapstone gives insights into the traditional skills base required. Other papers in the volume consider the use of soapstone in church building, such as along the Helgeland coast of northern Norway (Berghlund, Heldal and Grenne), in Hordaland County in W Norway (Jansen and Heldal) and Cistercian production from Lyse Abbey to Bergen (Hommedal).

The central part of the volume explores Viking-Age/medieval vessel production and trade, first in Agder (Schou) and then from Slipsteinberget vessel quarry (Østerås) where issues of home production versus a professional craft are brought together; here in fact a workshop building as well as a dwelling house have been identified. Trade and production of talc-rich schist bakestones are revisited by Baug, discussing the longevity of production, extraction and organisation at the extended quarry landscape in Hordaland. Bakestones were a commodity which, in conjunction with the soapstone vessels, formed part of the export trade to the North Atlantic regions. Typological studies and their social implications are assessed in papers by Vangstad in relation to the medieval Bryggen wharf of Bergen and to Norse Greenland by Høegsberg. New scientific provenance examinations outlined in Forster and Jones in relation to typological studies for several sites spanning Scandinavia and the British Isles (Orkney, Shetland and York) and the Faroes, make use of ICP-MS analysis for the rare earth components as well as XRF for trace elements. The outstanding issue with progressing the provenance of soapstone vessels has been the very varied geochemical make-up of the metamorphic rock faces which were quarried; this work by Jones and Forster enables an identification of similar origins for several groups of artefacts. The complementary paper by Hansen, Jansen and Heldal, considering provenance of soapstone vessels from western Norway, clearly demonstrates that Viking-Age rural households received fewer vessels from beyond the Hordaland region than those in broadly contemporary Bergen.

In summary, major developments emerge here in our understanding of the nature of 'Quarryscapes' and the social organisation of the craft and trade, as well as the enhanced information about sourcing derived from geochemical techniques. This is a highly commended volume for students and specialists alike.

COLLEEN E BATEY (*University of Glasgow*)

Princes of the Church. Bishops and their Palaces. (Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 39). Edited by David Rollason. 18 × 25 cm. xviii + 441 pp, 21 colour pls and figs, 161 b&w pls and figs. Abingdon & New York: Routledge & Society for Medieval Archaeology, 2017. ISBN 978-1-138-71494-6. Price: £105.00 hb.

This sizeable collection of papers from the 2015 Bishop Auckland conference deserves respect. Perhaps aware that such collections risk becoming rather miscellaneous, David Rollason as editor stitches them into a coherent whole with his excellent introduction. He summarises the current debate on bishops and their palaces and draws attention to succeeding papers, where they serve the volume's ambition: namely to advance the study of episcopal residences. Problems with term 'palace' are neatly side-stepped by licensing authors to use it variously (though John Hare attempts a definition). Rollason gives due credit to Maureen Miller's publication on Italian palaces, and Miller's paper is itself a highlight of this volume. Italy offers continuity of episcopal occupation: initially episcopal residences encompassed cathedral, baptistery and associated community buildings, as well accommodation for the bishop's household. But by the 11th century palaces had become not just discrete buildings, but ones indistinguishable from houses of the secular elite. Comparisons between episcopal and secular residences occur throughout the volume, such as in John Schofield's assessment of episcopal houses in London (with its useful gazetteer).

Miller's paper slots into the first of the editor's four overarching themes, developed in his Introduction: 'Projecting images of power'. His second theme is the evidently significant