

of ceramic studies in the commercial sector. Together, these papers provide a clear statement of where we are, and where we are going wrong.

The volume contains much of interest, but would have benefited from a final chapter or expanded introduction, reflecting on the experience of bringing artefact research together from across specialisms and time periods, and considering whether the editors found the disciplinary/professional faultlines that concern them to be persistent. More (colour) illustrations would have helped too. In sum, this is a welcome exemplar of the current health of artefact studies, and I recommend it to anyone with an interest in the explanatory power of finds research, as well as its professional and scholarly context.

STEVEN P ASHBY (*University of York*)

*Hoard, Grave Goods, Jewellery: Objects in Hoards and in Burial Contexts during the Mongol Invasion of Central-Eastern Europe.* (Archaeolingua Central European Archaeological Heritage Series 8). By Mária Vargha. 21 × 30 cm. v + 95 pp, 56 colour and b&w pls and figs. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2015. ISBN 978-1-78491-202-4. Price: £30.00 pb.

This book examines burials and hoards in a new way, with the aim of establishing a solid chronology of 12th- and 13th-century jewellery and dress accessories in Central-Eastern Europe. There are three chapters, one about the history of research on jewellery of the High Middle Ages (with sections on hoards, coins, church graveyards, and rural settlements); another on the typo-chronology of finds (lock rings, rings, brooches, pins, buttons, belt buckles, mounts and a pectoral cross); and a third section on socio-economic interpretations of hoard finds in Hungary. It is evident that the jewellery deposited in church graveyards was of a considerable age at the moment of deposition. Jewellery is the mark of value when found together with coins in hoards, while specific dress accessories may be used to gauge the social status of the hoard owner. Though the focus of the book is on the Mongol invasion of Hungary (1241), the author relies on results of recent excavations of the rural settlement, church and church graveyard in Kána, a 12th- to 13th-century village (now within the 11th district of Budapest). Finds from here are compared with items from hoards found elsewhere in Hungary. Missing from this book is a discussion of the possibly ritual deposition of artefacts in settlements and the author looks at hoards only from the viewpoint of burial ('hiding'), without consideration of the *gradual* accumulation of the collection of coins and artefacts. Indeed, the Mongol invasion is seen as responsible for the burial of all hoards considered. Discussion of the Bjelo Brdo debate ignores the recent contributions of the Croatian archaeologists, as well as Jochen Giesler's 1997 book (*Der Ostalpenraum vom 8. bis 11. Jahrhundert. Studien zu archäologischen und schriftlichen Zeugnissen*); equally neglected is the literature on early medieval hoards of iron tools and weapons from East-Central Europe, as well as some medieval hoards from Transylvania, eg Şelimbăr. Sadly the book was poorly edited for its English, leading to some occasionally hilarious consequences. In addition, figure indications in the text do not always match the illustrations. Nonetheless, leaving aside those quibbles, this is a most valuable book on a subject that has not so far received sufficient attention.

FLORIN CURTA (*University of Florida*)

*Textiles and the Medieval Economy. Production, Trade and Consumption of Textiles, 8th–16th Centuries.* (Ancient Textiles Series Volume 16). Edited by Angela Ling Huang & Carsten Jahnke. 20 × 25 cm. iv + 252 pp, 73 colour and b&w pls and figs, 12 tables. Oxford & Philadelphia: Oxbow Books, 2015. ISBN 978-1-78297-647-9. Price: £35.00 hb.

*Textiles and the Medieval Economy* is the result of a three-day conference held in Copenhagen in 2012. Its introduction draws attention to a number of issues, principally a lack of interdisciplinary collaboration between historians and archaeologists, which the conference — and this volume — set out to address. Of the 14 papers (excluding the introduction), seven make extensive use of material culture, with the remainder firmly based on documentary evidence — an essentially chronological division, with almost all papers on the earlier Middle Ages drawing on archaeology and those covering the later period text-focused.

To some extent, this division reflects the surviving evidence from the two periods, but it is striking that few authors address textiles from a fully interdisciplinary perspective; those that do,

however, are among the most interesting in the volume. On the other hand, both archaeological and historical approaches reflect the wide range of textile studies today, with individual authors basing papers on the remains of cloth itself, textile-working tools, administrative and legislative records and financial documents. The geographical scope is also wide, ranging from Iceland to Poland, and Scandinavia to northern Italy; surprisingly, there is only one paper on England, limited coverage of the Low Countries and no papers on France. Presumably, this reflects the editors' desire to break new ground, moving away from regions that have already received extensive academic attention.

Despite the range of approaches and geographical foci, a number of themes occur and recur. Discussion of the regulation and quality of cloth dominate a number of papers, with several authors arguing that high-quality cloth was not necessarily imported, even in far northern Europe. The importance of production at rural sites is emphasised in several places, and contrasted with a system of regulation and long-distance trade that was fundamentally urban. Silk comes in for considerable attention, with a developing consensus that its use was not always confined to the very wealthiest in medieval society. There are also papers on less well-known materials, such as *vaðmál* and fustian. In general, the papers confirm the vital importance of cloth to the medieval European economy at both local and international levels. If, as the editors suggest, these papers represent 'first building blocks', then the field can expect some interesting developments in the future.

STEPHEN H. HARRISON (*University of Glasgow*)

*Sanitation, Latrines and Intestinal Parasites in Past Populations*. Edited by Piers D Mitchell. 16 × 24 cm. xii + 278 pp, 30 b&w pls and figs, 12 tables. Farnham: Ashgate, 2015. ISBN 978-1-4724-4907-8. Price: £70.00 hb.

*Sanitation, Latrines and Intestinal Parasites in Past Populations* is the first collected work on this subject and its appearance is timely given recent scholarly interest in parasites and health in bio-archaeology. This book is notable for drawing together studies that approach hygiene and sanitation from diverse perspectives: a wide range of topics are represented, including the biological analysis of faecal remains (paleoparasitology, analysis of plant tissues and insect fragments); analysis of lavatory and sewer form, function and typology; studies of sanitation infrastructure; and examination of attitudes to public health. Both introduction (Chapter 1) and conclusion (Chapter 12), by editor and paleoparasitologist Piers Mitchell, provide a valuable contextualisation of the topic and tie together what at first glance appear a disparate collection of papers into a wider narrative of global public health.

The ten contributions range from the earliest archaeologically identified pit-toilets in the 4th millennium BC to the Industrial Revolution. Several authors explicitly seek to redress the European-centric bias in current literature by considering Africa, East Asia, the Middle East and the Americas, thus making the book's scope truly global. Of particular relevance to medievalists are discussions of the functionality of waste management in late-medieval London and environmental evidence from post-Roman York. As a whole, the studies emphasise that sanitation was more than just a pragmatic solution to high population density and that its study can illuminate wider issues relating to public/private spaces, public health, hydraulic technology, urban planning, diet, migration and environment.

The use of illustrations and tables is effective, with many contributors including seemingly exhaustive lists of their data, and others detailed schematic drawings of relevant sites and structures; pictures of ancient communal toilets and disused sewers alongside hugely magnified images of intestinal parasites certainly provide a very visceral experience for the reader!

The mix of new scholarship and synthesis, combined with an accessible tone and structure, perhaps points towards a general rather than specialist readership. Certainly *Sanitation, Latrines and Intestinal Parasites* offers a very useful introduction to an understudied subject, particularly for those seeking orientation to the diversity of approaches characterising the archaeological study of health.

ELIZABETH CRAIG-ATKINS (*University of Sheffield*)

*Archaeology and Architecture of the Military Orders. New Studies*. Edited by Mathias Pana & Christer Carlsson. 16 × 24 cm. xi + 262 pp, 77 b&w pls and figs. Farnham, Burlington: Ashgate, 2014. ISBN 978-1-4724-2053-4. Price: £70.00 hb.

Copyright of Medieval Archaeology is the property of Taylor & Francis Ltd and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.