achievement in the bringing together of a large and disparate set of data about the sites and a thought-provoking study of their significance.

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Frocester: A Romano-British Settlement, its Antecedents and Successors. Volume 3: Excavations 1995–2009. By E. Price. Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, Stonehouse, 2010. Pp. xxiv + 248, illus. Price: £25.00. ISBN 0 953791 85 8/ 978 0 9537918 5 9.

This third and final volume of the excavations completes the record of 49 years of examination of prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman settlement in the parish of Frocester in the Gloucestershire Severn Valley. Eddie Price has rightly been lauded for his dedication to the archaeology of his farm, and his insistence on high standards in fieldwork and reporting. This volume maintains the quality of the previous two reports and is a credit to both P. and his helpers from the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group. It reports on a series of trenches dug around the periphery of the Frocester Court farmstead and villa which were located to check the results of a magnetometer survey. Most of the work took place in front of the late third- and fourth-century villa and revealed small enclosures, roundhouses, ovens and furnaces. A small third-century industrial complex housed in a timber building continued in use well into the fourth century and thus spans the period before and after the construction of the villa house. It may have been replaced by a new complex which P. reasonably interprets as a brewhouse involved in the domestic production of ale.

Frocester Court is in many ways an unremarkable villa, and it is perhaps most widely known for its post-Roman evidence about which a little more can now be said. In Volume 1 of the excavations mention is made of a pagan Saxon bead and possible claw-beaker found near to the villa house. These pieces are now published in full (nos 25 and 63) and in both cases we find that they need not *necessarily* be later than the late fourth century. P. has always been cautious in his interpretation of the post-Roman evidence, which could date some good while after the villa house burnt down. While developer work over the last 20 years in the Cotswold-Severn region has routinely turned up grass-tempered pottery in the uppermost deposits on Roman rural sites, in every case the nature of the occupation associated with this pottery is extremely unclear. The collection of post-Roman buildings at Frocester Court therefore remains our best evidence for structures in the region outside of the Anglo-Saxon architectural tradition, although we must hope that the post-Roman occupation at Crickley Hill will one day be finally published in the detail it deserves.

A notable discovery reported in this volume is an inhumation burial with hobnails around its feet which produced a radiocarbon date of 715–1016 cal A.D. at 95.4% confidence. Burials accompanied by hobnailed footwear from places as far apart as the small town at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, the early Christian cemetery at Llandough, Glamorgan and the probable villa at Parlington Hollins, West Yorkshire, have also all now produced fully post-Roman radiocarbon dates, so we must be wary of assuming that such burials, without other dating, are necessarily late Roman. Interpretation of this burial is unclear. On the one hand it raises the possibility that some of the post-Roman occupation at Frocester Court could be as late as the eighth or ninth century, but on the other the burial could suggest that occupation had ceased by this date and that it is part of a well-attested tradition of post-Roman burials dug into the ruins of long-abandoned villa houses. If this were so, however, the lack of burials in the ruins of the main villa house is slightly surprising. Much fresh information could usefully be gained from a future programme of linked radiocarbon dating of animal and human bones from the post-Roman sequence.

We might reasonably expect after all the investigation that has taken place that we would now have a reasonable understanding of the economic base of the settlements. P. has previously concluded that the economies of the farmstead and later villa were both founded on mixed farming. In the third century the farmstead may have been involved in the collection, storage and distribution of agricultural produce, but as none of the fourth-century structures were directly associated with farming it is possible that by this time those activities had moved to outlying locations away from the villa house. Once the house was constructed more diverse activities took place in its environs, such as metal working, antler working and brewing. While the villa house might have been built on the profits of farming, once established within its

ditched enclosure (parkland?) the main business was now seemingly carried out elsewhere. P.'s intimate knowledge of the land he farms makes these observations on how the settlements sat and interacted with their landscape both fascinating and utterly convincing. This volume brings the 49 years of investigation to a highly satisfactory conclusion. P. richly deserves his recent award of a MBE.

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Die römischen Fibeln aus Wien. By S. Schmid. Monografie der Stadtarchäologie Wien 6. Phoibos, Vienna, 2010. Pp. 178, figs 43, pls 9, maps 7. Price: €34.55. ISBN 978 3 85161 025 3.

This useful volume sets the brooches from Vienna (Roman *Vindobona*) in their archaeological and historical contexts — one of a series of monographs that matches the quality of those from Augst and *Vindonissa*. It starts by outlining the history of archaeological research into the Roman occupation of the area, going back to a sixteenth-century interest in epigraphy and describing the sites and individuals involved in the familiar urban pattern of discoveries made during the building boom of the nineteenth century and the more formal excavations of the twentieth century. This leads on to sections on the origins and history of *Vindobona*, concentrating on the fortress and its troops, the other zones of occupation, principally the *canabae* and the civil settlement, the site's strategic importance on the *limes*, and its relationship to other sites in the area

Descriptions and discussions of the various brooch types from the area follow, with the catalogue and figures relegated to the end of the book. Some of the brooches are from museum collections and are not necessarily well provenanced, others are from excavations and have a good archaeological context. The types are not presented in strict chronological order, but are arranged so that groups of brooches and broad chronological trends can be highlighted. Distribution maps are included for a limited number of types and a small number of photographs enliven this section (some in colour). A silver *Flügelfibel* with elaborately pierced and decorated catchplate stands out as a stunning piece of craftsmanship, and a partially gilded silver plate brooch found in the late nineteenth century in a child's sarcophagus is almost certainly unique — it depicts the personification of the Danube reclining between river and forest. Such finds enable not only date and distribution to be taken into account for brooch types, but also gender and social status, forging links between objects and the people who wore them. The catalogue gives brief descriptions to supplement the illustrations, as well as all the archival data necessary for future curators and researchers. The drawings show brooches as worn, i.e. with the 'foot' at the top, although this could perhaps have been relaxed for the zoomorphic pieces.

Having laid out the two themes of the book — the history of *Vindobona* and the brooches found in the area — Schmid goes on to link the two more intimately, first by slotting the archaeological material into defined historical periods, then by examining the evidence for brooch production, and finally by looking at the distribution of the finds in terms of brooch type and site type. The latter include the legionary fortress, the *canabae*, the cemeteries, the civil settlement and the outlying settlements. The data are not, of course, clear-cut, but there are some interesting trends. Knee brooches are equally well-represented within the fortress and *canabae* in terms of numbers, but in the former they represent nearly a quarter of the assemblage compared to about 14 per cent in the latter. Developed crossbow brooches also occur in both zones, but form 14 per cent of the fortress assemblage and only 4 per cent in the *canabae*. In each case the numbers in the civil settlement are slightly below those in the *canabae*. Developed crossbows form over a third of the brooches recovered from graves — over half if the earlier forms of crossbow are included — stressing the perceived importance of carrying status on into the afterlife for the military population.

Plotting the later first-century brooches found in the city points up the site of an auxiliary fort on the line of the *limes*, and a plot of late Roman brooches by type within the fortress shows concentrations in the barrack blocks and tribunes' houses rather than in the baths and *principia*. A greater dataset is needed to be sure that what appears to be a use of crossbow brooches by tribunes is genuine, given that they also appear in the barrack blocks. The final part of this section broadens out to compare the brooch assemblages from several sites of varying types in Pannonia Superior, Noricum and Moesia Superior. In some cases the differences between them relate to date, in others to regional use, in others to site type.