

within and outside the *colonia*, initially developed to supply the military in the first century and later, in the early second century, to supply the *colonia*. Although the Northgate kilns are second-century, evidence from London shows that the same fabrics were made earlier. Interestingly the author suggests that a stock of samian vessels at Northgate House might be evidence for a retail outlet at the kiln with vessels being sold direct to the consumer.

The volume is produced in the standard MoLAS format and includes many colour photographs. The authors have presented the evidence very clearly with all the supporting dating evidence and the finds are meticulously described. This report should be seen as a model for describing a kiln site and the wares and the authors should be congratulated for their achievement. Discussion of the distribution of the products from the kilns is limited to a brief consideration of the mortaria stamps, which would seem to indicate a mainly local market with a regional distribution into Kent. Given that the incidence of mortarium stamps must be well documented for London, it is perhaps unfortunate that no figures are given as an index of how significant the Northgate potters were in supplying the London market. Even if it is not clear which of the whitewares are from the Northgate kilns as opposed to the Brockley Hill and other kilns, some gauge of the importance of the products for the London market could perhaps be extrapolated for the other fabrics. The time is clearly now ripe for a complete comprehensive review of the Verulamium region pottery industry and a consideration of its products not only in London but across Britain.

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*Grinding and Milling: A Study of Romano-British Rotary Querns and Millstones Made from Old Red Sandstone*. By R. Shaffrey. British Archaeological Reports British Series 409. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2006. Pp. xi + 175, figs 64, tables 22. Price: £35.00. ISBN 978 1 84171 938 2.

Shaffrey's book contains the greater part of a 1998 PhD thesis that has already generated a study of sources of querns from Silchester (*Britannia* 34 (2003), 143–74). It includes querns and millstones made from Old Red Sandstone (ORS) that has been derived from sources on either side of the Severn Estuary. It proceeds from petrographic characterisation to the provenance of specimens, followed by typological classifications of upper and lower stones; discussion of their spatial and temporal distributions includes extensive consideration of economic contexts. A short study of production precedes a concise conclusion, gazetteer of sites, and list of references. The remaining 74 pages contain tabulated appendices of petrological data, petrographic analyses, quern typologies, and descriptions of individual specimens. Informative maps, drawings and tables are included throughout the text; some photographs of grinding surfaces would have been helpful, however.

S. follows a productive pattern of research established by David Peacock at Southampton University (and followed at Reading by S.'s supervisor, Michael Fulford) in which empirical characterisation, classification and dating provide a sound foundation for economic interpretation. Thus, distribution patterns and transport costs are analysed to detect different forms of exchange (market, redistribution etc.) and the manufacture of querns is related to Peacock's 'modes of production' (defined in *Pottery in the Roman World* (1982)). Production appears to have taken place in households, on estates, and at specialised locations (76–8). The results support an optimistic view of the effectiveness of land transport in the Roman Empire, since these heavy artefacts did not depend on rivers for their distribution. Interestingly, the pre-Roman Iron Age pattern increased in quantity, but not in distance. S. is to be congratulated on integrating data and interpretation in this way; detailed studies of this kind are precisely what we need to improve our understanding of the Roman economy. The economic models could have been extended to include approaches to material culture that focus upon social identity (for example Eckardt's work on lamps and candlesticks); likewise, unusual deposition practices (hinted at in S.'s *Britannia* paper) might have proved interesting.

This book displays both the positive and negative characteristics of the British Archaeological Reports format. The table of contents, list of figures, and chapters with plentiful subheadings retain the high level of detail one would expect in a PhD thesis, but there is no index or concordance to allow readers to locate a specific topic or an individual site. The appendices could have been printed more compactly, and the distribution maps chosen more selectively (figs 3.8 and A3.10 have only three dots). Basic data provided

on a CD or in an Archaeological Data Service online archive would have allowed readers to select and sort information according to their own criteria. Some histograms present data as percentages without indicating actual sample sizes, making it difficult to evaluate those that show potentially interesting variations — for example site-types and the occurrence of ORS querns (50, figs 5.1–5.2). S. is aware of the problem of small sample sizes (51–2), but selective use of significance testing as recommended by Cool and Baxter (*Journal of Roman Archaeology* 18 (2005), 397–404) would nevertheless have made it easier to assess the meaning of typological variations (48). GIS techniques might have allowed the production of quantified distribution maps like those used for pottery by Hodder (*Britannia* 5 (1974), 340–59).

Historians of technology researching powered mills will find the lack of an index frustrating, but should read pages 30–1 and 47–8. ORS millstones were predominantly late, with the largest examples falling in the fourth century: ‘larger rotary querns and millstones were not introduced until the late 2nd or probably 3rd centuries AD. ... the introduction of millstones, which have been found mainly at villa sites from the 3rd century, reflects a change in emphasis from urban to rural sites’ (79). I hope that S. will use her proven geological and archaeological skills to enlarge upon this and other topics, incorporating comparative work on additional sources of stone.

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*Priory Road Garden. Excavations by Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group (GADARG) at Priory Road Garden, St Mary's Street, Gloucester, 1972–1975.* By N. Spry, J. Punshon and P. Moss. Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, Gloucester, 2006. Pp. x + 95, illus. Price: £6.00. ISBN 978 0 9537918 3 5.

This volume records the results of the excavation of a site threatened by road works in the years 1972–75. In the Roman period it lay close to the east bank of the River Severn, to the north-west of the Roman fortress and *colonia*. In the Middle Ages it lay just outside one of the city gates. Occupation began late in the first century A.D. with the construction of timber buildings, apparently following the alignment of the fortress; the beginning of a rather desultory occupation which continued until a road was laid over part of the site late in the third or fourth century. The discovery of iron slag suggests that the area may have had an industrial function. The site was abandoned in the Saxon period, but in the eleventh century ditches were cut across it, although it was not until the thirteenth century that simple timber buildings were constructed within the excavated area. From then on the site was effectively divided into two parts, the western area being occupied by the rear of buildings which fronted onto the road, with their yards filling the rest. This basic pattern continued until the final demolition of the houses in the 1930s, marked only by a few significant changes such as the introduction of stone foundations for the major walls in the fourteenth century and the appearance of brick in the eighteenth century. The continuity of their simple plan for some half a millennium is striking, and it was not until the nineteenth century that small rooms were added at the back of the houses, probably to provide separate kitchens or sculleries.

The report covers all of the archaeological features period by period in great detail with rather schematic site plans showing the various phases. The major sections are all duplicated with one drawing showing only the layers, while a second shows the section drawing printed in light grey with the feature codes in black. There are no drawn sections of features which were not on the lines of the main sections, though in some cases these would have helped to clarify the text. The finds reports are authoritative, but the site was not very productive, and the authors note that no significant groups of pottery were recovered from the pits. Such documentary evidence as there is, including memories of the area before the houses were demolished, forms part of the discussion.

It is a thorough report on a minor site, which would probably have achieved wider circulation had it been placed in a local journal rather than been published as a monograph.

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