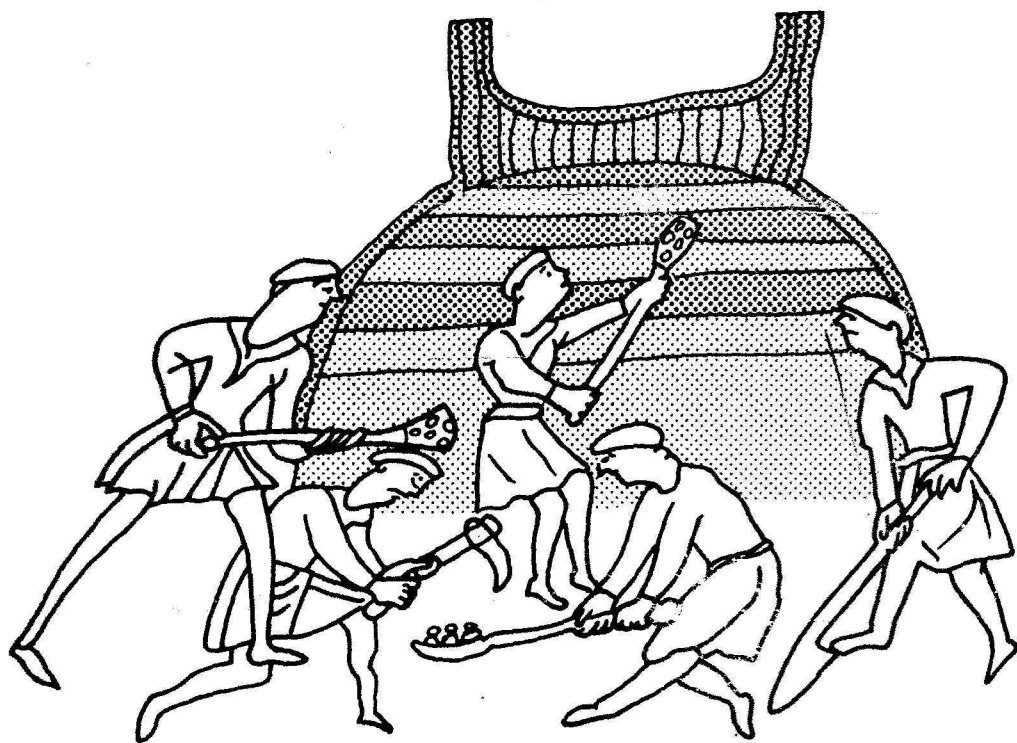


CASTLE STUDIES GROUP

NEWSLETTER Number 1



AUTUMN 1987

Dear Member

At the first informal meeting of the group, during the conference in April at Gregynog, there was unanimous support for an annual Newsletter which would help members keep in touch with each other and provide news of general interest. We are, of course, open to suggestions about the format and content of future Newsletters, so please send us your ideas! This first issue is fairly slim and is inevitably dominated by the list of members. Future issues will only contain the names and addresses of new members. Members are invited to send news items to the Secretary for inclusion in the next Newsletter, but please remember that such items must be of very general interest or they will have lost their "news" value by this time next year.

How better to start this first Newsletter than with brief tribute to the conference during which the Group was launched, at GREGYNOG, POWYS, April 3rd - 5th, 1987. With a theme of CASTLES IN WALES AND THE MARCHES, the weekend provided eight lectures on recent or current research and field visits to Dolforwyn and Montgomery. The conference was also used as an occasion to honour the work of David Cathcart King, and a volume entitled Castles in Wales and the Marches: essays in honour of D.J. Cathcart King (see Recent Publications for details) was presented to him. Congratulations to the editors of the volume, John Kenyon and Richard Arent, and to the conference organizer, Chris Arnold, for an excellent weekend.

The evening session on the Saturday at Gregynog was devoted to an informal first meeting of the Castle Studies Group, as a result of which a STEERING COMMITTEE was elected/volunteered, consisting of Bob Higham, Lawrence Butler, John Kenyon, Denys Pringle, Tom McNeill and David Johnson, the first acting as general secretary, the others representing England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland respectively. The various matters which the committee has since pursued are described below.

MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY: THE PAST AND THE FUTURE; a one day conference organized by the Society for Medieval Archaeology, 15th April, 1987, at University College, London. The day was devoted to reports on the work of the various topic groups within British medieval archaeology. Bob Higham gave a brief report on the conception and birth of the Castles Studies Group, which was useful in bringing its existence to a wider audience. Several new members have joined as a result.

REPORT FOR INCLUSION IN THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY.

Following the Society's decision to publish annually a report from each topic group, the following paragraph has been submitted:-

In December 1985 a Council meeting of the Society considered a proposal for the formation of a specialist topic group devoted to the study of castles. The idea met with general approval and throughout 1986 much correspondence took place to establish the potential support throughout the British Isles. This proved to be widespread: there had never been a group of this sort, despite the proliferation of other 'topic groups' in medieval archaeology as a whole. Two well-established concerns, the Château Gaillard conference

and the Fortress Study Group, had developed their own spheres of activity yet there had not emerged a British-based group with the simple aims of promotion and communication of current research. Within a few months, a list of over fifty members was compiled. As an initial task, information was requested from members on their recent and current work, and this is still being collected. It will ultimately be reproduced in simple form to aid communication between interested parties. The Group made its first public appearance (April 3rd - 5th, 1987) at a weekend conference, at Gregynog, Powys, on Welsh castles organized by Richard Avent and Chris Arnold. A volume of essays entitled *Castles in Wales and the Marches* (eds. John Kenyon and Richard Avent) was presented to David J. Cathcart King during the conference. At a discussion of the Group's future a Steering Committee was elected to pursue its immediate business: the production of the Register of Members, the development of a Newsletter and the promotion of a conference in 1988 along lines similar to that held at Gregynog. This committee comprises Lawrence Butler (England), John Kenyon (Wales), Denys Pringle (Scotland), Thomas McNeill (Northern Ireland) and David Johnson (Republic of Ireland). The background to the Group's development was reported at the one-day conference held by the Society on behalf of the various topic groups on 15th April 1987. At the time of writing (May 1987) there are some 75 members. Enquiries should be sent to the acting secretary: Robert Higham, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Exeter, Queen's Building, Exeter EX4 4QH.

STATEMENT OF INTENT. During the discussion at Gregynog it was felt that a simple statement of intent for the Group would be needed. This should avoid controversial problems of castle definition and seek to embrace a wide range of work. The Steering Committee offers the following to members for consideration and comment:

The Castles Studies Group includes workers both professional and amateur from a wide and varied historical and archaeological background in the British Isles. Its aims are:-

1. to promote the study of castles in all their forms and by all possible means: documentary studies, architectural history, fieldwork and excavation.
2. to promote the study of castles as resources for a more widely-based appreciation of medieval society, emphasising their social and political history, their defensive and domestic evolution, their role in settlement development and their value as a source for the reconstruction of landscapes and economic environments.

CASTLE-STUDIES: RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

John Kenyon provides the following list, which will help keep members up-to-date on current research:

Even before volume two of the writer's castles bibliography was published by the Council for British Archaeology in 1983, volume three was in active compilation. It is hoped that if I am able to visit Dublin in 1989 the text of the third volume will be submitted to the CBA in the same year. However, members may find the following selection of items published in the last two or three years of some interest.

Several new guide books, or new editions, to castles in State care have appeared, published by English Heritage (HBMCE), Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, and HMSO on behalf of Historic Buildings and Monuments, Scottish Development Department.

England: Tower of London (HMSO, 1984), Okehampton (HMSO, 1984), Castle Acre Castle (1984), Carisbrooke (1985), Tintagel (1986), Sherborne Old Castle (1986), Prudhoe (1986), Beeston (1987).

Wales: Beaumaris (1985), Harlech (1985), Castell Coch (1985), Kidwelly (1986), Conwy (1986), Caernarfon (1986), Chepstow (1986), Tretower Castle and Court (1986), Rhuddlan (1987). Also Cestyll Gwynedd (1985), a guide in Welsh to four English and four Welsh castles in Gwynedd, north Wales.

Scotland: Smailholm (1985), Scotstarvit (1985), Bothwell (1985), Huntly (1985), Caerlaverock (1986), Kildrummy (1986), Edinburgh (1986), Dumbarton (1986), Dunstaffnage (1986), Tantallon (1986). There are also brief descriptions of castles in the eight volume series *Exploring Scotland's Heritage*, HMSO, 1985-87.

Other Material

Arnold C.J., 'Powis Castle: the outer bailey', *Montgomeryshire Collect.*, 74 (1986) 70-72.

Barry T.B., et al., 'Kells motte, county Kilkenny', *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, 84 (1984) 157-70.

Brindley A.L., *Archaeological inventory of County Monaghan*. Dublin, 1986.

Brown R.A., 'Les châteaux féodaux', *Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale*, 29 (1986) 37-39.

Buckley V.M., *Archaeological inventory of County Louth*. Dublin, 1986.

Counihan J., 'Mrs. Ella Armitage, John Horace Round, G.T. Clarke and early Norman castles', in R.A. Brown (ed) *Anglo-Norman Studies VIII*, 73-87. Woodbridge 1986.

Cunningham G., *The Anglo-Norman advance into the south-west midlands of Ireland 1185-1221*. Roscrea, 1987.

Davison B.K., *The new observer's book of castles*. 2nd edition. Harmondsworth, 1986.

Drage C., 'Urban castles', in J. Schofield & R. Leech (eds), *Urban archaeology in Britain*, 117-32. London, 1987.

Ewart G., *Cruggleton Castle: report of excavations 1978-1981*. Dumfries, 1985.

Giggins, B.L., 'Barnwell Castle survey 1980-85', *S. Midlands Archaeol.*, 16 (1986) 79-84.

Higham R.A., et al., 'Plympton Castle, Devon', *Devon Archaeol. Soc. Proc.*, 43 (1985) 59-75.

Higham R.A., (ed) *Security and Defence in South-West England before 1800*. (Exeter Studies in History, No. 19, Exeter University), including R.A. Higham, 'Public and Private Defence in the medieval South West: town, castle and fort'.

Hodgson J., *Southampton Castle*. Southampton (?) 1986.

Hurst H., 'The archaeology of Gloucester Castle: an introduction', *Trans. Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc.*, 102 (1984) 73-128.

Kenyon J.R., 'Morlais Castle as viewed by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, 134 (1985) 235-37.

Kenyon J.R. & Avent R., (eds) *Castles in Wales and the Marches: essays in honour of D.J. Cathcart King*. Cardiff, 1987.

King D.J.C., 'Camlais and Sennybridge castles', *Brycheiniog*, 21 (1984-5) 9-11.

Lacy B., *Archaeological survey of County Donegal*. Lifford, 1983.

O'Keeffe T., 'An early Anglo-Norman castle at Ballyderown, county Cork', *J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 114 (1984) 48-56.

Oxley J., (ed), *Excavations at Southampton Castle*. Southampton, 1986.

Stout G.T., *Archaeological survey of the barony of Ikerrin*. Roscrea, 1984.

Tabraham C., *Scottish castles and fortifications*. Edinburgh, 1986.

Taylor A.J., *Studies in castles and castle-building*. London, 1986.

Taylor A.J., *The Welsh castles of Edward I*. London 1986.

Thompson M.W., 'Associated monasteries and castles in the middle ages: a tentative list', *Archaeol. J.*, 143 (1986) 305-21

Yeoman P., 'Excavations at Castlehill of Strachan 1980-81', *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, 114 (1984) 315-64.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

1. John R. Kenyon is preparing a book on the archaeology of medieval fortifications in Britain, to be published by Leicester University Press. It is designed to be a synthesis of the more important aspects of castle studies and town defences which have been revealed by excavations since 1945, arranged thematically. He would welcome references to recent reports which he may have missed, particularly the more obscure monographs and periodicals which tend only to have a very local circulation. The information should be sent to him at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

2. Philip Barker and Robert Higham are preparing a book on timber castles. If anyone has information on unpublished excavations, or excavations reported in obscure publications, the authors would be very pleased to receive details. Please write to either of the above at the addresses given at the end of this Newsletter.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Following the success of the Gregynog conference, it seems appropriate for the Group to organize an annual conference along similar lines, providing lectures and field visits to illuminate recent work on the castles of a particular area. The 1988 conference, organized by Lawrence Butler, will be held at Leeds and its theme will be the castles of Yorkshire. It will take place from 13th - 15th May. Further details may be obtained from Dr. L. Butler, Centre for Archaeological Studies, Leeds, LS2 9JT.

THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS

Information for a fully annotated list is still being compiled. The current mailing list is given at the end of this Newsletter.

THE FORTRESS STUDY GROUP

Members of the Castles Studies Group whose interests extend to artillery fortifications will no doubt be aware of the Fortress Study Group. Anyone wishing to join this group should write to the Hon. Sec. Dennis W. Quarmby,
[REDACTED]

OTHER EVENTS

Members are invited to notify the Secretary of events organized by other bodies which may be of interest to the Group. Details of the following have been received:-

"The Timber Castle" - day school at Birmingham University, 7th May 1988. Programme and booking form enclosed. Speakers: Philip Barker, Brian Davison, Robert Higham.

STEERING COMMITTEE

1. Dr. R.A.Higham, Exeter University, Department of History & Archaeology, Queen's Building, Exeter EX4 4QH.
2. Dr. L.A.S.Butler, University of Leeds, Centre for Archaeological Studies, Leeds LS2 9JT.
3. Mr. J. Kenyon, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP
4. Dr. D. Pringle, [REDACTED]
5. Dr. T. McNeill, The Queen's University of Belfast, Department of Archaeology, Belfast BT7 1NN
6. Mr. D. Johnson, National Parks and Monuments Service, Office of Public Works, 51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

CURRENT MAILING LIST

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Mr. Peter YEOMAN, [REDACTED]

Please use this slip to renew your subscription in April 1988, or to join the Group.

CASTLE STUDIES GROUP

Name:

Address:

Subscription - (£2.00) enclosed. Please make cheques payable to "Castles Studies Group" and send to: Dr. R.A.Higham, Castle Studies Group, University of Exeter, Department of History & Archaeology, Queen's Building, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QH.