

maintaining a common interest in peaceful relations with the U.S.S.R., by basing her relations with the Soviets on mutual trust and by increasing her co-operative relations with Eastern Europe. The paper then discussed the relevance of the so-called 'Finnish model' to modern Europe.

As well as the talks outlined above, the conference was addressed by Mr. Bo Andersson, deputy head of the research team on Internationalism and Nordic Integration in the Department of History at the University of Gothenburg. Mr. Andersson outlined the group's work on non-governmental organisations and co-operation in the Nordic area. Finally, there was a panel session at which the speakers answered questions and discussed issues with the audience.

A REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT BISHOP'S CASTLE,
SCRABSTER, 1973

Eric Talbot

Excavations at the above-mentioned site in 1970 left many questions unanswered and so a second season, carried out on behalf of the Department of the Environment, was undertaken. Work took place from August 6th to the 24th, 1973.

In 1970 an area in the middle of the site revealed courtyard cobbling with twelfth/thirteenth century pottery on the lowest cobble level. This was removed in August to show what lay beneath. A spread of tumbled stone was found and it proved to lie on the natural sandy soil. A small (1m x 0.75m) cist-like arrangement of stone (with capstone) amongst this spread suggested that the latter could represent a flattened prehistoric structure - perhaps a broch. A small amount of what appears to be pottery of the broch period (ex.inf. Dr. H. Fairhurst cf. material from Crosskirk) was found amongst the stone spread. Stone tanks are frequently encountered in broch excavations and have been interpreted as containers for shell fish.

A cut 5m x 12.5m was made running N. from the presumed entrance into the interior of the site. A range of three small and crudely constructed rooms was located and finds of pottery suggested a fifteenth century date possibly as a late addition to the main range of the castle's buildings. There was much evidence for the relatively recent disturbance of the area. A stone finial(?) was found on the floor of one room. The S.W. corner of this cut, together with a 5 metre square close to it brought to light some structural evidence to aid

the interpretation of the entrance features. A number of phases, represented by blocking, culminated in a flanked approach to the site. Disturbance in the past brought almost to the surface in this area pottery sherds seemingly of the broch period. A quern of possibly thirteenth century date was also found here together with the fragment of a bone comb and a bone 'producer'.

Further investigation is needed in the area of the entrance but as in other areas of the site a decision must be made concerning the future of the castle before more vulnerable stretches of walling are revealed.

BOOK REVIEWS

EYRBYGGJA SAGA translated by Hermann Palsson and Paul Edwards. The New Saga Library. Southside, Edinburgh. £1.95.

The latest offering from the fertile pens of Hermann Palsson and Paul Edwards, and the second volume in Robin Lorimer's courageous venture, The New Saga Library, marks something of a departure from the translators' recent interest in legendary sagas. While an instructive comparison between the latter genre and the content of Eyrbyggja can be made, the main protagonist of the story, Snorri