

and removing academic frontiers.

Ian A. Fraser

Geoffrey D. Hay and Geoffrey P. Stell: *Monuments of Industry: An Illustrated Historical Record.*

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland: HMSO. Edinburgh, 1986. ISBN 0 11 492457 0. 276 x 219mm. 248 pages illustrated in b/w. Hardback. £28.00.

Monuments of Industry is a particularly significant book: it confirms a new RCAHMS thematic publication policy and marks the end of an era since it coincides with Geoffrey Hay's retirement. The book presents a beautifully illustrated account of a selection of Scottish industrial buildings and represents an important aspect of the recording work undertaken by the authors as part of the RCAHMS inventory research and threatened buildings survey programmes.

There are seven main sections to the book, each with an explanatory introduction. The sections deal with the buildings, machinery and processes associated with: farming and fishing; malt whisky distilling; textiles; metallurgy and engineering; engines and machines; extractive, chemical and related industries; and communications.

The text is authoritative, but, of necessity, limited to a summary of the background to each group of monuments. Individual entries describe the buildings, machinery and processes from a structural and technical standpoint, and the monuments range in scale from clack mills, horse engines and kipping kilns to large heavy-engineering workshops, airship sheds, harbours and quarries, and in age from medieval bridges to World War I seaplane and aircraft hangers.

The feature that makes this an outstanding book is Geoffrey Hay's line drawings. These emphasise the importance of high quality survey and analytical drawings in the preparation of a permanent record of any building or process. Hay demonstrates a wide range of visual recording techniques which helps give life and substance to

many of the processes. He has a particularly discerning eye and an outstanding draughting ability which makes his drawings vastly more informative than either photography or descriptive phrases. In his thirty years with RCAHMS, Hay has stamped his personality on the Commission's survey work and has established a standard of drawn record well above that of his predecessors. Drawings of this high standard have become a hallmark of RCAHMS Inventories published during this period. Unfortunately, this type of meticulous recording is not without its influential critics and it will be interesting to see whether the present standards can be maintained, particularly on the analytical and interpretive aspects of the work. In this book, Hay's drawings are blended with photography and a good descriptive text to highlight significant features with extraordinary clarity.

As already stated, the book represents a significant departure from the *RCAHMS County Inventory* series. These have become increasingly exhaustive in content, prohibitively expensive to produce and purchase, and depressingly slow in their rate of progress. By adopting a thematic approach to publication, rather than the county by county approach, the authors have been able to give a broad picture of industrial development over the entire country. This fills many gaps left by the earlier inventories and has allowed publication of material from counties not yet considered in the inventory series.

If there is criticism of this volume it is likely to be in the book format and dust jacket. The dust, jacket has a dull dated appearance which does little to communicate the quality or content of the volume. The English and Welsh Commissions have already successfully utilised the thematic approach, using a hardback format for books considered to be exhaustive studies and a paperback format for minor studies and regional guides. *Monuments of Industry* is by no means exhaustive yet has been produced in hardback. Apart from preventing a number of individuals from purchasing a personal copy, it may give undue prominence to those buildings included in this first volume. To take a simple example, the book includes a kippering kiln in Wick, but this is no more important in terms of Scottish industrial history than a skeo in Shetland, a smoke barrel in Arbroath, or the smoke kilns for the production of Eyemouths, finnans, speldings or many of the other local cures. Indeed, virtually every building type mentioned in the book could be the subject of a specific volume. *Monuments of Industry*

is well worth the £28 price tag, but it is too expensive to generate new interest in this class of building. Let us hope that it will be followed by a series of slimmer paperbacks, possibly using the same internal format, but selling in the £5 to £7 price range and developing some of the themes suggested in this first volume. Perhaps we might even see the abandonment of the County Inventory series and the wholehearted adoption of the thematic approach for further RCAHMS publications.

Bruce Walker

***SHETLAND ARCHAEOLOGY* Ed. B. Smith. The Shetland Times Ltd. Lerwick 1985. 220pp.**

It must have been with a great sense of relief that the papers originally delivered in May 1980, were published in 1985 as the volume *SHETLAND ARCHAEOLOGY – New Work in Shetland in the 1970s*. The archaeology of Shetland has received until now little in the way of recognition through publication, with few exceptions (the most obvious being Hamilton's volume on Jarlshof published as long ago as 1956!). However, with this volume the tide has turned: the Introduction states that '... Shetland, whose prehistory and history is visible everywhere, deserves a full time archaeologist', and here too, the advent of Ms Val Turner to fill this recently created post, will help to ensure that the contribution Shetland archaeology can make to the wider scene, can come to fruition.

Brian Smith has successfully edited in this volume, a series of papers covering most periods of archaeological activity on the islands and most of the papers provide fundamental information on specific sites or aspects. Whittle provides a useful survey of the Neolithic-Bronze Age period in Shetland, including references to more recent field surveys undertaken by Barcham and Winham. His own excavations at Scord of Brouster are outlined, expanding on the preliminary report of 1979 (in *Current Archaeology*) and considering the site in relation to wider issues. He points out that ... 'It can be argued that marginality is a relative concept..' and this holds true as the theme of the volume. He advocates extensive field survey as a cheap alternative to excavation, and in a landscape so understudied as Shetland, the results from such surveys will be crucial to the