

one for future researchers. Whether her inter-disciplinary approach has really resulted in a proven thesis is, however, not quite so certain. Nonetheless her Scandinavian background provides the solid base against which the achievements of the earldom can be assessed; once more it is the outsider who in most respects possesses the right cultural background necessary for passing judgement on Orkney's place in history.

Dr. Barbara Crawford.

***Exploring Scotland's Heritage, Orkney and Shetland*, edited by Anna Ritchie, Edinburgh 1985, 183 pp.**

The series of books sponsored by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and appearing under the general title *Exploring Scotland's Heritage* provide an accurate and detailed, and eminently readable, account of local buildings and sites of historic interest. Information for the *Orkney and Shetland* volume in the series has been compiled by Anna Ritchie and constitutes a very comprehensive survey of both islands. Anna Ritchie is well known for her recent archaeological work in Orkney.

The book is very easy to use thanks to its logical construction with chapters or sections moving backwards in time from recent Military Architecture and Lighthouses to Early Prehistoric Monuments, and the material within each chapter is organised on a similar chronological basis.

In her introduction to the book, Anna Ritchie justifies treating Orkney and Shetland together rather than separately and, for the most part, this joint treatment is satisfactory and it is only occasionally that one feels that the unique quality of either set of islands has been submerged in the desire to emphasise the many features they have in common. Fair Isle is dealt with in a separate section, somewhat illogically sandwiched between 'Military Architecture and Lighthouses' and 'Harbours and Towns'. Other chapters include coverage of a variety of secular buildings ranging from farm steading to mediaeval palace, as well as ecclesiastical monuments and Viking and

Prehistoric Settlement.

The book is generously provided with illustrations, either in the form of photographs or line drawings and the occasional introduction of colour adds to the attractiveness of the volume.

The Foreword gives helpful information about appropriate maps for use in conjunction with the map at the end of the book which indicates position of sites referred to in the course of the book using a number-reference system. The Foreword also indicates the accessibility or otherwise of the sites for the benefit of disabled visitors, and practical advice on clothing and footwear is occasionally given throughout the text.

There are appendices to the main text which list Museums and indicate possible excursions by local transport and on foot. Finally, a very useful bibliography is supplied for those whose enthusiasm has been fired by the information gleaned from this rewarding book.

Dr. Doreen Waugh

***Swedish Book Review: 1984.* The Swedish-English Literary Translators' Association, London.**

When visiting the Swedish Institute in Stockholm in September, this attractively produced magazine (of which I had previously heard) caught my eye.

The contents of course are of great interest to all those dealing with Scandinavian Studies, but should also be of great value to anyone with an interest in literature. Not only does it give those who cannot read the original in Swedish samples of various writers in translation, but the *Swedish Book Review* also contains most competently written articles about Swedish writers as well as a survey of the season's books. A year ago there was also a supplement published, devoted to Stig Dagerman who met with an early death in 1954. This outstanding author has attracted a great deal of interest in both France and Germany where most of his writings are available in translation –