

Kina. Bogen beskriver også, hvordan en gruppe danskere med Kina-baggrund kæmpede mod japanerne sammen med nationalist-kinesiske tropper i 1942. Hovedparten af bogens tekst er dog af kompilatorisk karakter: navne, tidspunkter, steder. Det vil næppe sære nogen at anføre, at bogen egentlig ikke egner sig til at læse; den er næppe skrevet med dette formål for øje. Den er til gengæld nyttig som opslagsværk og rummer et udmærket indeks. Og den vil formodentlig fungere som gave mange år fremover i forbindelse med dansk-kinesiske udvekslinger, ministerbesøg, osv. For en mere fyldig og kritisk historisk fremstilling af de dansk-kinesiske politiske og økonomiske relationer siden

1674 må henvises til K.E. Brødsgaard & Mads Kirkebæk (eds.): *China and Denmark. Relations since 1674* (2000). Og hvad angår kulturelle og sociale aspekter, er Tove Clemmensen og Mogens B. Mackeprangs *Kina og Danmark 1600-1950. Kinafart og Kinamode* fra 1980 stadig uovertruffen. At Christopher Bo Bramsen også kan skrive læseværdige bøger, fremgår af hans bog *Generaldirektøren. Vilhelm Meyer, en dansk forretningsmands liv i Kina 1902-35* fra 1993 (engelsk udgave med titlen *Open Doors*, 2001), der beskriver morfaren, Vilhelm Meyers, mange år som fremtrædende dansk forretningsmand i Kina i begyndelsen af det 20. århundrede.

Søren Clausen

OLDTID OG MIDDELALDER

Charlotte Fabech and Jytte Ringtved (eds.): *Settlement and Landscape. Proceedings of a conference in Aarhus, Denmark, May 4-7 1998*. (Jutland Archaeological Society, Aarhus University Press, 1999). 504 s., 348 kr.

This beautifully designed and logically-organised volume arose out of a conference in Aarhus University in 1998 whose ambitious primary focus was on landscape archaeology all the way from the Late Neolithic to around 1200 AD. It is a tribute to the two editors that the 33 contributions from all over Scandinavia and beyond hang together so well in this 500 plus page book. The well-chosen and expertly realised illustrations also enhance the narrative stream of the argument put forward within it. Also, the decision to have all the papers given in English must be applauded as it opens the volume up to a far larger po-

tential audience, and Peter Crabb must be thanked for his skilful revision of them all. Therefore, I really have only one *caveat*: the inclusion of an index would have made it much easier for a reader to navigate around these many contributions. Nevertheless, the process of unifying such a diverse and large group of contributors is assisted immeasurably by the fine introductory essay on the cultural landscape which contains many resonances for all scholars working in the field of landscape archaeology. For instance, on p. 13, the authors state that 'One of the major problems in Danish archaeology is precisely that the material relevant for research, but neither studied nor published, is extremely large.' If you took out the word 'Danish' and inserted any other country in Europe the same situation would still broadly apply.

The conference arose out of a five year research grant by the Danish Re-

search Council for the Humanities for a programme entitled 'Settlement and Cultural Landscape'. It was able to use as its basic reference point all the important research that had been completed on Danish settlement archaeology in the 1960s and 1970s, but by also utilising the term 'cultural landscape' it was able to widen out its academic terms of reference to include the much more integrated interdisciplinary focus on landscape and settlement studies which was being pursued in neighbouring Scandinavian countries such as Norway and Sweden, as well as in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. Thus scholars from all these neighbouring countries were important both to the smooth running of the conference itself, and also in writing the useful introductory essays to each of the seven themes covered in the book.

It would be impossible in the space available to fully review every paper in the volume, and because of the very broad sweep of the book no reviewer has the expertise to do this even if they wished to. Therefore, all I can attempt to do is to highlight some of the major themes covered in it. Indeed, this reviewer's task is made that much easier by the book itself being divided into these seven major sub-headings, from perennially studied topics in landscape archaeology, such as nucleation and dispersal, to other arguably more esoteric areas such as methods, or the social and mental constructs of the landscape.

The first section investigates the transformation of both settlement and landscape in prehistory alone, when all the other sections cover some of the medieval period up to 1200 AD, as well. Within Scandinavia itself this period of the last two millennia BC has been seen as being formative for the stable and settled Iron Age structure of settlement in that part of Europe. In this respect

all the papers in this section are broadly successful in re-evaluating both settlement and landscape from a much broader contextual viewpoint.

In the section of the book that deals with the fundamental question of why settlement is either dispersed or nucleated there is much discussion about the influence of particular landscapes upon the process. Therefore, Dorte Kaldal Mikkelsen concludes that soil quality and topography may often be used to explain the existence of either villages or single farms, but that socio-political forces are also important. This point is reinforced in the paper by Arnvid Lillehamer on the settlement pattern of eastern Norway where she conclusively shows that different settlement types cannot be explained by topographical reasons alone. Indeed, most of the papers in this section argue that socio-political factors are increasingly important in assessing the historical development of those settlement patterns.

The next section has five papers which deal with the landscapes that encompass both the shorelines and up to the mountains in four countries. They reveal the widespread interest within the archaeological community in investigating those socio-economic environments that lay outside the cultivated settlement landscapes: the emergence of non-agrarian production. This leads into the next section or theme on 'Human-animal relationships', which concentrated on cattle, and especially the link between cattle and status. But, Graeme Barker in his introductory essay reminds us that other stock, such as horse and pig, were also important to European farmers in this period. On a more local note, the paper by Nico Roymans entitled 'Man, cattle and the supernatural in the Northwest European plain' contains an informative discussion on the importance of cattle-raiding in com-

munities in northeastern Africa and also in Ireland. For the latter country he finds much concrete evidence of this from the contemporary sources about the extensive cattle raids undertaken in the twelfth century by the O Conchobhairs (p. 297).

When we come to examining the landscape as a social and mental construct there are four interesting papers which examine large-scale change in the landscape in Northwest Europe and Southern Scandinavia during the first millennium AD. It is in this period that the processes of acculturation become important, but also during this time the evidence from the Pre-Roman Iron Age become increasingly difficult to locate. Nevertheless, all the contributors in this section examine the 'other side' so to speak of the landscape, 'which is a reflection of our mentality and hopes' (p. 331).

In the last two sections there is first of all an examination of the processes of 'Transformations in the landscapes of power', and then finally there is a look at some of the methods employed in this type of archaeological research. In the introductory essay for the 'landscapes of power' section, Anthonie Heidinga states that this theme 'was already present in most papers of the other sections, implicitly or explicitly' (p. 409). Finally, there are five short papers on different aspects of the methodology by which we can study settlement and landscape, from the application of sediment micromorphology to Norse farmsteads in Iceland and to the setting up of cultural landscapes systems.

In conclusion, this volume of essays does indeed represent a major academic watershed in our understanding of the archaeological landscape not only of Scandinavia but of much of Europe as well, for which the academic community will be very grateful. It is a tribute to

the stimulation provided by it that the reader often wishes that many of the contributions had been somewhat longer, but obviously the editors were determined not to allow the book to become too long. As the editors stated in their preface (p. 11) 'it is not intended as an overview paying respect to all fields of enquiry equally' but it does succeed in its aim of suggesting new research objectives for this new millennium. And indeed, such academic organisations as 'Ruralia' whose focus is medieval rural settlement in Europe, and with which the reviewer is closely involved, would hope to make some progress in some of the research directions suggested in this volume in our future biennial conferences.

Terry Barry

Adam af Bremen: *Adam af Bremens kronike*. Oversat og kommenteret af Allan A. Lund, illustreret af Jørgen Kraglund. (Wormianum, 2000). 300 s., 228 kr.

Der er mange grunde til at byde denne nyoversættelse af Adam af Bremens hamborgske kirkehistorie velkommen, selv om der findes ældre oversættelser, både til dansk og andre moderne sprog. Færre og færre kan latin nok til at arbejde med middelalderens kilder på originalsproget, de er *helt* i lommen på oversættelser, og oversættelser forældes på flere måder. For det første er dansk ikke, hvad det var for 100 år siden. En oversætters job er at give teksten den form, som forfatteren selv ville have valgt, hvis han henvendte sig til et nutidigt publikum, og hvor man for 100 år siden nok til et dansk publikum kunne anvende en syntaks, der lå tæt på latin eller tysk, med indviklede relativkonstruktioner og lange bisætninger og indskud, må man i dag benytte en syntaks, der ligger væsentlig nærmere engelsk.