The Evidence of Material Culture. Studies in Honour of Vera Evison. Le témoignage de la culture matérielle: Mélandes offerts au Professeur Vera Evison. (Europe Médiévale 10). Edited by Ian Riddler, Jean Soulat & Lynne Keys. 21 x 30 cm. iv + 288 pp, 120 colour and b&w pls and figs, 10 tables. Autun: Éditions Mergoil, 2016. ISBN 978-2-35518-060-6. Price: €37.00 pb.

Vera Evison has been among the foremost contributors to early Anglo-Saxon archaeology, especially with regard to cemeteries and the artefacts recovered from them. Indeed, following the revered figures of E T Leeds and J N L Myres, to this reviewer Evison represents the third in the triumvirate to whom we owe the foundation and consolidation of early Anglo-Saxon archaeology as an academic subject.

In addition to a small number of short notes on her life and work, this volume contains 17 original contributions. Evison's achievements are characterised by two major types of work: reports on excavations and technical artefact studies. The first of these areas is reflected here by contributions on cemeteries at Nonnington in Kent by Parfitt, and an extraordinary arrangement of burials at Springhead in the same county by Gibson, Stoodley and Andrews. The artefact papers are both numerous and particularly strong: Riddler lends his expertise to a reconsideration of Anglo-Saxon knives; Eagles et al consider in some detail two graves from Shrewton in Wiltshire and their intriguing associated finds. Glass studies – with which Evison is most closely associated – are represented here by Broadley on gold foil decorated glass vessels in Anglo-Saxon England and beyond, Labaune-Jean on early medieval glass from Britanny, and Marzinzik on an intricate and unusual kind of glass vessel known as a *kuttrolf*. Another strange and atypical group of objects is examined by Trzaska-Nartowski in the form of iron combs, while Foreman turns his attention to the more regular bone and horn varieties from two sites in Lincolnshire. Gaimster provides a detailed account of an unusual bow brooch from Grange Farm in Kent, while Soulat investigates the Frankish links of similar decorative metalwork from Buckland in Kent. Meanwhile Harrington offers a useful summary of Anglo-Saxon weaving swords, and Constantine examines a bone cross pendant from Bamburgh. A small number of more unusual syntheses come from Squires who compares various aspects of the cremation rite in northern Germany and SE England, and Williams who critically considers the use of ethnographic analogy in interpreting this burial ritual. Bayliss provides the single scientific contribution in a methodological account of radiocarbon dating in Anglo-Saxon England. Finally, Périn and Dierkins give what is probably the most complex synthesis in the volume, namely a critical archaeological and historical account of the expansion of the Franks into northern Gaul in the 5th century. Although most of the chapters are in English, a small number are in French, which seems something of a missed opportunity to present French research to an Anglophone audience – a commodity that is in short supply.

The scope of Evison's portfolio is impressive: it deals with the nuts and bolts of early Anglo-Saxon archaeology as well as some of the biggest questions of the period. It is fair to say that most of the contributions here fall into former camp. Nevertheless, Evison's work itself has shown how those nuts and bolts hold together the very fabric of our discipline, and there are contributions here that will remain important, lasting and useful guides.

TOBY F MARTIN (*Oxford Archaeology and University of Oxford*)

505 words