

In such a vast field, any author of an elementary text must be selective, and any reviewer must resist the temptation to complain if his hobby-horses are not ridden, provided the book fulfils the purpose for which it was written. Prof. Bawn has achieved his object brilliantly, and there can be little doubt that his book will rapidly and deservedly become a standard university text.

The publishers of the book have departed from the usual English scientific book practice in certain respects. *Times* New Roman type has been employed, and this contributes greatly to the ease of reading. The same cannot be said of the other features. There is no author index, and the subject index is both incomplete and badly cross-referenced. Where subdivisions of sentences or paragraphs occur, brackets are rarely placed round the number or letter. This makes for difficult reading even when the letters are italicized. On p. 46, brackets are employed, and the pleasing contrast with the earlier part of the same paragraph where they are omitted is most noticeable.

F. S. DAINTON

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## MOHENJO-DARO AND HARAPPA

### Early Indus Civilizations

By Dr. Ernest Mackay. Second edition, revised and enlarged by Dorothy Mackay. Pp. xiv + 169 + 30 plates. (London: Luzac and Co., Ltd., 1948.) Stiff paper, 15s.; cloth, 17s. 6d.

STUDENTS of Indian archaeology will welcome this second edition of Dr. E. Mackay's useful text book on the Indus civilizations. The magnificent volume of Sir John Marshall on "Mohenjo-daro and the Indus Civilization" is far too expensive for the average archaeologist, and the other publications of the Archaeological Survey of India are also expensive and not easily accessible. In this new edition the illustrations have been enlarged and increased in number; but it is a pity that the amulets referred to on pages 59-60 are not included in the additional illustrations.

Interpolations have also been made in the text to bring it up to date in accordance with the results of field-work carried out since the first edition was published, and an addendum at the end gives a general view of the conclusions to be drawn from this later work. Thus the linking up of Harappa material with Sumerian and Babylonian chronology involves a consequential change in Harappa dating which would nearly, if not quite, bridge the gap between the Indus civilization and the invasion of the Aryan-speakers. This implies a very long period at Harappa with a remarkably slow rate of change. There is nothing inherently improbable in this, and a parallel can be found in the continuing culture of Achaemenid-Alalakh which was reported by Sir Leonard Woolley in 1947. Other examples can be provided from Arabia, and such a slow rate of change is probably typical of India. It is not impossible that the cities and wealth of the Dasyus, Nagas, etc., mentioned in the Rigveda and the early epics, have reference to the Indus civilization, and that the tradition which describes the Dasyus as black and noseless may have been taken over from a race of previous invaders and interpreted in the course of time as referring to the immediate precursors of the Aryan-speakers.

The graphs on the seals are also discussed, but it is unlikely that these inscriptions will be deciphered

until some bilingual record with a second character has been discovered.

The index has been extended, and there have been added an air photograph of the Mohenjo-daro site and plans of the city. The number of plates has been doubled, but the absence of scale is a serious drawback; for example, there is nothing on the plate to tell the student that the steatite bust depicted on Plate 16 is not life-size, instead of being, as it is, on a miniature scale; one may be permitted to hope that the next edition will give not only scales to the illustrations, but also some reference to the relative pages of the text.

J. H. HUTTON

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## BEQUEST TO BIRD-LOVERS

### Birds in Britain

By Frances Pitt. Pp. xiii + 576 + 17 plates. (London: Macmillan and Co. Ltd., 1948.) 25s. net.

DURING the Second World War the amount of bird-watching and the number of bird-lovers in Britain increased considerably. This has led to a steady stream of books on birds and their behaviour, to cater both for the experienced bird-watcher and for the enthusiastic beginner. But no apology need be made for the appearance of yet another book on birds, since "Birds in Britain" is the fourth of the now well-established "in Britain" series which have been enthusiastically received by many readers. Previous issues in the series have dealt with flowers, trees and dogs, and now comes Miss Frances Pitt with her long experience and discerning eye. In her book are found not only scientific accounts of wild and domestic birds in Britain but also personal anecdotes which enliven the text and captivate the reader. Her experiences have been gathered in many parts of the British Isles and have given her an 'understanding' of birds which, by description, she successfully transmits to her readers. These descriptions are supplemented in many instances by well-chosen and apt literary references both from the classics and lesser-known works.

Nor is the text the only delightful feature of this book. The frontispiece consists of a painting by Winifred Austen on which it would be hard to improve either in the original or as a reproduction. Roland Green has painted a series of sixteen plates which, because of their natural effects, are a joint tribute to artist and publishers. Miss Pitt herself has contributed a number of clear, explanatory line drawings, and the book is also provided with a large number of black-and-white photographs drawn from the rich store of our leading bird photographers. The reproduction of some of these is probably the only blemish in a book which will be of value to the specialist, and generate enthusiasm with the not so learned. For the specialist better accounts of certain topics like "Birdsong", "Migration" and "Territorial Behaviour" may be found elsewhere; but it is probable that of all works on birds this book comes nearest to providing something of interest both for the specialist and the novice. There is evidence that its predecessors have helped to kindle the enthusiasm of many beginners in the study of trees and flowers, and it will not be surprising to learn later that "Birds in Britain" has increased the number and knowledge of bird-lovers in Britain.

T. H. HAWKINS