

England that, 'In no other European country have I met such sympathy, such a high appreciation of my thought'.

DONALD ATTWATER

THE KINGDOMS OF CHRIST. By Peter Bamm. Translated by Christopher Holme. (Thames and Hudson; 42s.)

THE CHURCH OF APOSTLES AND MARTYRS. By H. Daniel-Rops. Translated by Audrey Butler. (Dent; 45s.)

The history of Christianity is more than a history of ideas: the incarnational truth that lies at the heart of its teaching has, from the beginning, its concrete realization in sound and stone and stuff. The story of the Early Church is necessarily a matter of fragments and conjecture if what we seek is an ordered account of its life and practice, though the essential pattern is plain as early as the second-century *Didache* and Justin Martyr. But the evidence of the manuscripts is early supplemented in inscriptions and wall-paintings and mosaics, and as the Church emerges into freedom and public power the growing treasure of buildings and the sacred things within bears its own testimony to the Church's teaching and the life it inspires.

It is this realization of the importance of the pictorial evidence that marks Peter Bamm's magnificent book. Close on four hundred illustrations follow the story (itself a clear account, though sometimes impeded by the need to comment on the wonders displayed), and they match the Church's own geography—from Rome to India, with Anglo-Saxon illuminations to match Persian miniatures and Russian medallions. The choice of illustrations is brilliantly done, reflecting as it does the Church's catholicity. One finds the expected things, of course: the 'Orpheus' Good Shepherd now at the Louvre, and the Syon Cope. But who would expect to find photographs of Welsh inscribed stones or one of Jenghiz Khan from a Formosa museum, a mosaic from Gast Lebia in North Africa or a nineteenth-century engraving of the ruins of Laodicea?

There emerges a portrait of the Church in its true dimensions, transmitting its truths to all peoples and using, as it must, the wealth of the world of created things to express them. The author's enthusiastic curiosity, which cares as much for the Irish monks as for the glories of Byzantium—and rightly—has created a rich store of manuscripts, photographs of sites and hundreds of sacred objects which should provide an invaluable companion to the intelligent study of Church history. Admirably printed in Western Germany, and most moderately priced, this book can be commended, though it does not always avoid syncretic generalizations.

The first volume of M. Daniel-Rops' *History of the Church* is the third to appear in order of publication, and it begins with 'Brethren of Jerusalem' and ends with Theodosius and the eve of the Barbarian invasions. Once more, the author's capacity for ordering in a coherent narrative the complex researches of specialists is brilliantly displayed.

A.I.