

such as the Coventry, Abthorpe and Canons Ashby jugs where the effect would appear to be mainly visual, an imitation of more prestigious objects, and others like the Spilsby,¹⁶ Utrecht¹⁷ and perhaps the Glastonbury pot which would seem to be more specifically inscribed.

That pottery should be inscribed at all is a measure of its growing status in the 13th and 14th centuries. It is one aspect of developments that produce a flowering of highly decorated pottery and a demand for prestigious imports like the Saintonge polychrome wares.

On the Glastonbury jug, whilst the use of a band to place the inscription on is clearly derived from contemporary metalware, the use of a white slip band, sgraffito, and the rim form are all part of the range of processes commonly employed by the potters of SW. England. The care with which this fusion of ideas has been carried out has implications for ideas about the changing rôle of the late medieval potter.

OLIVER KENT

NOTES

¹ Cat. no. GLSGA/1989/4/1 P8.

² R. Hodges, *The Hamwih pottery: the local and imported wares from 30 years' excavations at Middle Saxon Southampton and their European context*.

³ G. C. Dunning, 'Late medieval jugs with lettering', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 11 (1967), 233–41; idem., 'A late medieval jug with lettering from Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 18 (1974), 160–63.

⁴ J. Cherry, 'Sex, magic and Dr. Gerald Dunning', *Medieval Ceramics*, 9 (1985), 5–20.

⁵ J. Musty, D. J. Agar and P. F. Ewence, 'The Medieval pottery Kilns at Laverstock, near Salisbury, Wiltshire', *Archaeologia*, 102 (1969), 83–150.

⁶ M. R. McCarthy, 'The medieval kilns at Nash Hill, Lacock, Wiltshire', *Wilts. Archaeol. Nat. Hist. Mag.*, 69 (1984), 97–145.

⁷ J. Allan, *Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter 1971–1980* (Exeter Archaeological Reports 3) (Exeter, 1984).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ R. Coleman-Smith and T. Pearson, *Excavations at the Donyatt Potteries* (1988).

¹⁰ P. Leech (ed.), *The Archaeology of Taunton. Excavations and Fieldwork* (Western Archaeological Trust Excavation Monograph 8) (1983).

¹¹ Fabric 7 in G. L. Good, 'The Excavation of Two Docks at Narrow Quay, Bristol, 1978–9', *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 21 (1987), 25–126.

¹² O. Kent, 'The Pottery', in H. Woods, 'Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, 1987–1993', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, forthcoming.

¹³ J. Clark, 'Medieval enamelled glasses from London', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 27 (1983), 152–56.

¹⁴ Dunning, op. cit. in note 3.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

RUPERT BRUCE MITFORD 1914–1994 (Pl. IX, A)

Rupert Leo Scott Bruce Mitford was born in 1914 and died on 10 March 1994. Educated at Christ's Hospital and Hertford College, Oxford, his first post in 1937 was at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, where he recorded with Martyn Jope the pottery found in the rubbish pits revealed during the building of the New Bodleian Library. His paper which appeared in *Oxoniana* in 1938 marks the beginning of the scholarly study of medieval pottery in the Oxford region, and also the beginning of the long series of articles that have contributed so much to the archaeology of that region. Later this interest in pottery was to be reflected by his enthusiasm for setting up the Reference Collection of Medieval Pottery in the British Museum, which was announced in this Journal in 1964.

In 1938 he joined the British Museum to which he devoted the rest of his working life, becoming Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities in 1954, and Keeper of Medieval and Later Antiquities from 1969 to 1975. His many official distinctions and a broader

account of his career can be found in the obituaries that appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* of 16 March and *The Times* of 23 March 1994.

He was the first President of the Society for Medieval Archaeology and delivered the first Presidential address 'Some comments on the Miniatures and Ornaments of the Lindisfarne Gospels' on 6th December 1957. He had been interested in manuscripts since his days as an undergraduate. The facsimile edition of the *Codex Lindisfarnensis* appeared in 1956 and was accompanied by a considerable volume of commentary and discussion by himself and others. He was particularly fascinated by the relationship between the manuscripts and metalwork in early medieval insular art. He published on the *Codex Amiatianus* as well as the hanging bowls which form one of the outstanding group of Celtic artefacts of the period 400–800 A.D. His last great task, the *Corpus of Late Celtic Hanging Bowls A.D. 400–800* was completed only shortly before his death. This corpus bears witness to his life long interest in Celtic art, and it is notable that he wrote a long review for this journal of *Early Christian Ireland* by Maire and Liam de Paor (*Medieval Archaeology*, vol 2, 1958, p. 214).

When the Sutton Hoo ship burial was discovered near Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1939 he was carrying out the first scientific excavation of a deserted medieval village at Seacourt, near Oxford. In 1949 he excavated the 10th- and 11th-century settlement at Mawgan Porth in Cornwall, and in 1955 he excavated the chapter house graves at Lincoln Cathedral. Seacourt was published in *Oxonienia*, Mawgan Porth was discussed in his *Recent Archaeological Excavations in Britain* (1956), and the final report will shortly be published by English Heritage. The Lincoln graves were published in *Tribute to an Antiquary, Essays presented to Marc Fitch* (1976).

It is the publication of the Sutton Hoo excavations and finds that is his greatest memorial. The first volume which appeared in 1975 was hailed as 'one of the great books of the century' and it bears witness to the depth and breadth of his scholarship. The two subsequent volumes appeared in 1978 and in 1983. He conducted excavations at the site in 1966 and 1968 (Pl. ix, A). The volumes are not only major works of scholarship, but they record the many discoveries that were made in the meticulous and painstaking programme of conservation that was carried out in the Museum. He was an enthusiastic advocate of further excavation at Sutton Hoo, and was a keen supporter of the recent series of research excavations on the site conducted by Professor Martin Carver for the Society of Antiquaries and the British Museum.

In all his archaeological work two aspects stand out. He saw and examined objects with an intense eye, combining this intensity of analysis with a great breadth of scholarship. Secondly he attracted the affection and respect of colleagues of all ages across Europe, and was a great source of encouragement to younger colleagues, and institutions such as this Society.

JOHN CHERRY

THE BRISTOL CONFERENCE 1995

A joint conference was held with the Department of Continuing Studies, University of Bristol, on 2–3 December 1995 on the theme of Bristol and its Region in the Middle Ages.

On the first day speakers showed Bristol's individual character and its reliance on sea and river trade: Late Medieval Bristol (Joe Bettey); The Medieval Port (Bob Jones); Topography and Buildings (Roger Leech); Medieval Shipping (Gillian Hutchinson); and A Thirteenth-Century Severn Estuary Boat (Nigel Nayling). There was also a paper by Mike Blackwell, on the project to rebuild a replica of *Matthew*, which in 1497 sailed from Bristol on a voyage of discovery to Newfoundland. On the second day Mr Blackwell guided conference over that replica while Roger Leech lead a walk around medieval Bristol.

PAUL STAMPER