

THE WELSH MEDIEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

The group was formed as a result of a series of informal seminars held in Cardiff during the winter of 1977–78. It exists to further the study of both medieval and post-medieval pottery from sites in Wales, and its activities include occasional seminars in various parts of the Principality. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr Nigel Kerr, at the Department of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff, CF1 1XL. Membership is open to all on payment of an annual subscription of £1.50. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group and sent to the Treasurer, Mr S. Sell of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, 6 Prospect Place, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA1 1QP.

In October 1978, the first volume of the group's annual bulletin entitled 'Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales' was published. This bulletin will carry articles on a wide range of topics related to pottery in Wales, including the methodology of pottery studies, site assemblages and regional studies, and documentary evidence for production or marketing. The first issue contains a complete bibliography of Welsh medieval and post-medieval pottery reports, a consideration of the future direction of pottery studies, several groups of material from Welsh sites, and a survey of imported French medieval wares in Wales.

All materials intended for publication should be sent to the Editor, Mr J. M. Lewis, Department of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, from whom copies of the 'Notes for Contributors' can be obtained.

THE LONDON KILN STUDY GROUP

The group was established in 1975 to act as a focus for the archaeological and historical study of kilns. Although the group is based in London its interests extend to kilns throughout the whole of the United Kingdom and overseas. In addition to organizing seminars (the two most recent have been on kilns in the Staffordshire potteries district, and on brick and tile kilns) the group publishes a newsletter containing advance information about its activities and a round-up of news of current interest, and maintains an index of known kiln sites. Further information can be obtained from Oliver Pearcey, 47 Westville Road, London, W12, Telephone No. Home: 749-2793 and Work: 212-4111.

THE POITIERS CONFERENCE, 1979

The 22nd Annual Conference of the Society was held in Poitiers from 29 March to 4 April 1979. The theme was 'Early Medieval Poitiers and its Region'. On the first day, members were addressed by M. Favreau on 'L'histoire de Poitiers et de la région du Ve au XIIe siècle', and were welcomed with a reception at the Hôtel Berthelot by the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale. On 30 March Dr Edward James lectured on 'Death and burial in Merovingian Poitou', Mr Stuart Rigold on 'From Aquitaine to the Loire Valley in the Merovingian Coinage', Professor Carol Heitz on 'L'Architecture poitevine à l'époque romane, avec ses préliminaires pré-romans', and Lord Fletcher on 'The influence of Merovingian architecture in England'; in the afternoon monuments in Poitiers were visited, after which the Society was received by the University of Poitiers. The following lectures were given on 31 March: Professor Rosemary Cramp on 'Anglo-Saxon sculpture and the Gaulish connection', Mme Marie-Thérèse Camus on 'L'évolution du décor monumental dans le Poitou préroman et roman', and Dom Coquet on his excavations at Ligugé; there followed visits to monuments in Poitiers. On 1 April the following sites were visited: Lençloître, Tavant, Chinon, Candes, and Fontevraud. On 2 April, after visits to the museum and monuments in Poitiers, an excursion was made to Nouaillé and Ligugé, after which the

Society was received by the Municipality of Poitiers. The following sites were visited on 3 April: Civaux, St Pierre-les-Eglises, Chauvigny and St Savin. In the evening the Society held a reception at the Hôtel Berthelot. On 4 April an optional extra excursion took place to Aulnay and Melle. The Society places on record its considerable gratitude to the Director and Staff of the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale for their great help in organizing the Conference, with particular thanks to Professor Heitz and Mme Camus for their energetic and enthusiastic assistance at all times.

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL