

## REVIEW

Medieval Floor Tiles; How they were made, Norton Priory Museum Trust Ltd. , J. Patrick Greene, Barry Johnson, Beryl Noake and Pauline Bearpark, 1979. 9 pp. all illustrated. Price: 30p (40p by post from the Norton Priory Museum Trust Ltd. , Norton Priory Museum, Nr. Astmoor, Warrington Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1RE).

The excavations at Norton Priory revealed the largest area of mosaic tile floor to be uncovered anywhere in Britain; in addition, many tiles of other types of floors were found, and the remains of an early fourteenth-century tile kiln was discovered. The building and firing of a replica medieval kiln were reported on volume II of Medieval Ceramics, and this booklet has been prepared to meet the 'enormous interest' taken by the public in this project. The booklet is excellent value being well illustrated with photographs and drawings. It explains exactly what a mosaic tiled floor is, and what is meant by line-impressed and inlaid tiles. It then discusses other techniques of colouring tiles, and describes glazes in detail. Finally, the experimental kiln is described, and its construction is well illustrated. This is an excellent booklet designed to meet the public's interest, and clearly also of use to schools. It brings an esoteric subject very satisfyingly and cheaply to public attention and that must be warmly welcomed.

NOTE

Richard Hodges

### Glossary of less common pottery forms

In 1975 working parties were set up by the DOE to produce a series of recommendations covering the analysis and publication of medieval pottery. These Guidelines were initially to contain both a glossary of terms and forms, and a bibliography of published works on medieval pottery; these are now to appear separately. The bibliography is mentioned above, p. , while work on the glossary of terms and forms continues. The glossary will contain a section on less common pottery forms, the final part of which will cover forms for which no function can at present be suggested. This to date contains nearly as many different forms as those which have a functional name.

The original work on the glossary was carried out by Regina Holden in 1976 from published sources. Since the late 1960s a great deal of material which is still unpublished has been recovered, particularly by the urban Units, and since 1976 more has appeared in print. The purpose of this note is to ask those working on medieval pottery to inform me of any new vessel forms which have been identified and of sherds for which a form cannot be suggested. It would be helpful if you could send me a drawing of the vessel or sherd together with a note on where it was found and its date, if known.

Stephen Moorhouse