

EDITORIAL

The death of Tom Delaney in the summer of 1979 is the sad note on which we must introduce volume 3 of Medieval Ceramics. Tom was one of the most delightful characters in archaeology and a powerful advocate of medieval pottery studies. His extensive excavations in Carrickfergus and his editorial activities on behalf of the Ulster Museum made him a major force in the archaeology of the Province during the 1970s. But Tom was more than this because he was a southerner who created a bridge between North and South during a troubled decade. Moreover, as a result of his frequent journeys to Britain he was to form a bond between our islands. Many of us will miss his vivacious presence and incisive views at our conferences. This sad blow is, perhaps, emphasized by the wealth of material evidence he had discovered at Carrickfergus. We are happy to be able to include a short paper in this number of our journal on the kiln site he had discovered just before his death.

Tom Delaney will be sorely missed at our Hull Conference this March, dealing as it does with pottery traded around the North Sea, English Channel and Irish Sea coasts. It will be the first of our conferences to be published and should appear as a separate monograph next January (1981). The editors hope to maintain the strong blend of themes which we believe typify this and the two previous volumes published by the Group.

Once again we have refrained from including a bibliography as part of this volume.

The executive committee of the Group has now agreed a format and method for producing a national bibliography over the next few years. This will involve the co-operation of individuals and the regional groups in order to achieve a good coverage of the literature. Full details will be available from the end of March.

We apologize for difficulties which arose in the distribution of number 2 of Medieval Ceramics. These arose mainly because too many people were involved in its organisation. Please forward any orders or queries from now on to the Hon. Treasurer, Ms. Cathy Brooks, c/o York Archaeological Trust, 47, Alswark, York. YO1 2BX.