

MEDIEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Medieval Pottery Research Group held in the Lecture Theatre, the Lawns Centre, Cottingham, on Friday 28th March, 1980, at 9.15 am.

1. Apologies were received from Mr P. Davey.
2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 21st March, 1979, were approved and signed.
3. Secretary's report: A number of new regional groups had been established during the year, and now most of the British Isles is covered by regional organisations. Following the Cardiff conference, the Committee felt that a theme should be adopted for future meetings, while still looking at the local material from the region in which the conference is held. The next conference is to be held in Canterbury, in association with the Medieval Tile Seminar Group, with the theme of the uses of medieval pottery and tiles. Future meetings were planned for Oxford looking at the late medieval transition, Aberdeen based on methods of distribution and an overseas meeting in Holland with a theme yet to be decided. The Secretary asked for further suggestions for both venues and themes. Following a fruitful discussion the meeting was in agreement with the thematic approach and a number of suggestions for future meetings made, including Wexford, southern Europe and a working conference in the Saintonge, while technology was suggested as a theme. As the Society for Post-Medieval Archeology were proposing a conference based in the Paris Basin it was suggested that the Group approach the Society to hold a joint meeting; the Secretary was to make enquiries. It was suggested that for future conferences, the programme should not be as condensed, with few, if any, evening lectures, and for long conferences at least one half day excursion or free period should be included.

The Guidelines had been forwarded to Mr Mendoza, the Director of the DOE, for consideration and a reply was awaited. Miss Robinson asked about the level of editing for the Guidelines, particularly her own contribution. In the absence of Mr Davey, the editor, The Secretary replied that in view of the time lapse between final editing and the publication date, there would be ample opportunity to make necessary or minor alterations before final printing. Miss Barclay suggested that if there was any delay with the DOE some alternative method of publication should be sought, possibly the publishing unit now set up in the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology at Sheffield University. The Secretary assured the meeting that the Committee would make every effort to publish the Guidelines as soon as possible, but as the document was prepared as a result of working parties set up by the DOE the Group were honour bound to await the DOE's decision.

The Secretary outlined the proposed scheme for abstracting the national bibliography, which would be co-ordinated by Mr Davey and carried out through the regional groups; each group would have one co-ordinator. Specimen sheets had been circulated at the conference together with a detailed explanation on how to fill in the forms. The Secretary asked that any comments on the forms would be most welcome and these should be forwarded to Mr Davey. Mr Evans suggested that the proposed scheme was too ambitious and would take too long to complete. An alternative more basic level of abstraction could be followed along the lines of the bibliography already carried out by the Welsh MPRG. The Secretary replied that the eventual scheme was arrived at after a number of trials by members of the North west MPRG using a wide range of the published literature. No one scheme would suit everybody's requirements and it was felt by the Committee that the present level of abstraction was a happy medium. If experience showed that certain levels of information could not be satisfactorily extracted then the form would be amended and those doing the extraction work notified.

The Group had been involved in the joint DOE/Southampton University project of petrological examination of medieval pottery. Mr Hurst outlined the proposed programme, which would fall into three stages. Phase one would look at the Scarborough kiln material and try to distinguish the Scarborough, Nottingham and Lincoln type fabrics. Phase two would look at specific pieces which have been visually identified as belonging to one of these groups and phase three would examine the