

EDITORIAL

This is a special volume because it contains the first Gerald Dunning memorial lecture given by John Hurst at the Oxford conference of the M.P.R.G. in April 1982. It is particularly fitting that the first lecture in the series should be on Dunning himself, revealing much about the founding-father of medieval pottery studies. John Hurst's paper, however, takes his lecture at Oxford rather further, and we are very grateful to him for illustrating and discussing Dunning's contribution to the development of medieval archaeology generally. All of us who had the pleasure of meeting Gerald Dunning will be indebted to John Hurst for a stimulating paper of singular importance in the history of our subject.

This volume also contains a number of other important papers, and a long symposium on the dating of Scarborough Ware. These papers maintain our interest in approaching broad issues which are relevant not only to those interested in medieval pottery studies, but in the archaeology of the period as a whole. We are hopeful that pottery researchers will be persuaded to offer similar contributions for future volumes. Dunning offered us many problems, and as the Hull proceedings illustrate (Peter Davey and Richard Hodges (eds.), Ceramics and Trade, Dept. of Prehistory and Archaeology, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, 1983), there remains much to be resolved.

In preparing this volume we would like to acknowledge Helen Patterson, who assisted with the editing, Gillian Stroud, who has type-set the volume, and, as usual, we are grateful to Robin Storey of the Sheffield University Print Unit for his patience and sound advice.

Peter Davey

Richard Hodges