

EDITORIAL

Volume 8 of Medieval Ceramics marks the completion of a two-year changeover period in the editing of the bulletin. The current editors wish to express their thanks to Peter Davey and Richard Hodges for the considerable task they undertook in setting up the bulletin and producing it for so many years. We hope that we will be successful in taking up the challenge offered to us by Peter Davey in the editorial last year to continue and improve Medieval Ceramics, and we thank him for the good wishes expressed.

We wish to continue previous editorial policy and produce a wide-ranging journal of international interest, with particular emphasis on general aspects of ceramic studies such as methodology, regional syntheses, historical perspectives, experimental work and wider theoretical issues. It is hoped that Medieval Ceramics will continue to reflect the activities of MPRG members who work in different fields, whether in universities, archaeological units or museums, as freelance researchers, or within local archaeological groups. We have welcomed many new Continental members to the Group in the last few years, and hope that we will receive articles from them dealing with the many areas where their researches and those of British members overlap. The ever-rising cost of publishing archaeological material will mean that many aspects of pottery study closest to the researcher's heart will not find a place in excavation reports. This alone should ensure the future of Medieval Ceramics as the bulletin offers a rare opportunity for researchers to publish articles dealing with the theoretical, methodological and analytical aspects of pottery study.

Medieval Ceramics can only be what the Group members make it, and we would urge readers to contribute papers of the kind they would like to read. In particular, it would be useful if Medieval Ceramics could provide more of a forum for debate, if published papers could be answered by articles or notes in future issues. In 'A future for medieval pottery studies?' in Medieval Ceramics 7, Peter Davey has put forward some challenging statements to pottery researchers, and we would like to see these being taken up. We thank those members who have contributed articles, reports and reviews in the past, and we look forward to receiving new material on many and varied topics in the future.

The editors are pleased to be able to include this year the 1983-4 Bibliography. This will now appear annually, and we are sure that it will be a useful addition to the bulletin. Any help that can be given to the compilers of the Bibliography will be greatly appreciated.

For this issue we would like to thank Susan Parsons for the typing, David Patrick and Helen Humphreys for help with the artwork, Stephen Galloway and Genevieve Gonzales for translating the summaries. S. Gelichi's paper was kindly translated by R. A. Hodges.

Catherine Brooks and Ailsa Mainman
York Archaeological Trust