

## REVIEW

E. Faure-Boucharlat, J. P. Lascoux, B. Maccari-Poisson and T. Vicard, Etudes Céramologiques (Région Rhône-Alpes), Groupe de Travail en Céramologie Médiévale for Rhône-Alpes, 1985. 115 pp. Price not stated.

This is the proceedings of a conference held in June 1985 which was an attempt to review work in progress and provide a summary of knowledge of production centres from the 6th to the 17th centuries in an area in the east of France centred on Lyon. After an introductory essay on the range of evidence available for the period, the book consists of a series of articles on specific sites in roughly chronological order. These begin with a review of 6th to 8th century pottery, primarily conservative grey wares, from the region and provide an interesting comparison between finds in the necropolis at Lyon and those from a rural site, Hieres-sur-Amby, 60km to the east. There follows a useful summary of Carolingian wares from the region, particularly the long sequence from 6th to 11th century from Rue Tramassac in Lyon. The analysis of production techniques and constructional and decorative details against time is particularly revealing. The third contribution deals exclusively with a large group of over 500 10th and 11th century jugs, from a variety of sites in the region, which have a range of quite complex incised or rouletted decoration on the underneath of the base.

The next paper looks at two hoards of 13th century pottery found in the Castle at Anse (Rhône). This is the most extensive contribution in the volume, and perhaps the most interesting for British readers as it treats the finds to two types of matrix analysis on which a very detailed typology is based. There follows a brief discussion of late 14th century pottery from the region and a description of the kiln and products from a 15th or early 16th century kiln site at Saint Romain de Surieu (Isère). The volume ends with two post-medieval papers, one on three ditch sequences from the Hotel Dieu at Lyon dating from 1493 to 1625, and the other on local green glazed whiteware production in the 17th century. Finally, there is a large pull-out diagram showing all the major ceramic types from the 7th to 17th centuries.

The format is A4 with photocopied typed text and line drawings, all on one side of the page only. This makes the result rather unwieldy, especially as the pages of figures are not numbered. Despite the fact that there are many gaps - e.g. 12th century and most of the 14th, that there is only one kiln group considered and only a restricted range of types for most of the periods which are discussed, the volume is an admirable, cheap and very rapidly produced presentation of the actual research situation in the area.

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