

MEDIAEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

Secretary's Report 1986-1987

The year has been another active one for the Group. Pressure of business has meant that four instead of the more normal three Committee meetings have been held, at Wharfedale, Cardiff, Liverpool and Belfast. Apart from regular progress reports from the Treasurer and Editors, a wide range of business has been conducted. By the time this report appears, the Belfast conference will be in progress, while plans for those at Southampton (1988) and Stoke-on-Trent (1989) are well in hand.

The Bibliography is progressing well, under the guidance of Peter Davey. Some regions of the country have now been completed and are on computer, while plans are well advanced for producing the text as both print-out and on disc. The production of the annual bibliography, to appear in Medieval Ceramics, is now being co-ordinated by Katherine Barclay. Katherine succeeds Lauren Adams, to whom our warmest thanks go for carrying out the unenviable task of not only coercing people into producing contributions, but also for re-establishing a network of people who carry out the basic work of extraction, without whom the bibliography would not exist. The Glossary is reaching its final stages. Through pressure of work, John Allan's role in helping to complete the work has been taken over by Terry Pearson. The Guidelines have been reprinted and copies can be obtained from the Treasurer at £ per copy.

Efforts have been made to publicise the work of the Group in a number of ways. A contribution from the Group is being incorporated into the revised priority document on medieval archaeology being prepared by the Society for Medieval Archaeology to be submitted to HBMC. The Society is to hold a day seminar on 15 April 1987 entitled 'Medieval Archaeology: the Past and the Future', at which the Group, along with other specialised groups involved in medieval archaeology, is to give a contribution. The Society for Medieval Archaeology is to start an annual summary in their journal of work carried out by specialist groups who study different aspects of medieval archaeology. The first one appears in Medieval Archaeology, 30 (1986), p. 116, and contains a summary of the Group's aims and activities. Regular contributions from the specialist groups are to appear in the 'Medieval Britain' section in subsequent issues. A travelling exhibition is also proposed which will tour museums and other organisations. The content will explain the value of medieval pottery through text, artwork, photographs and manuscript illustrations. Approaches are being made to HBMC for advice on design and presentation and for financial assistance in its production. The format envisaged includes self-supporting vertical display boards similar to those used for the successful conservation exhibition on display at Fortress House.

In the longer term, a number of new ventures have been discussed in Committee. A series of meetings have been proposed similar to that held at Peterborough in October 1986. Following helpful comments from members who attended, future meetings will be run more as 'workshops' with those attending hopefully contributing to, if not running, parts of the meeting. Their purpose is to discuss problems of analysis and presentation. It is hoped that the meetings, to be held throughout the British Isles, will be linked into the regional group programmes. Comments from members on ideas for meetings would be most welcome; to date venues have been provisionally fixed for Chester, Coventry, Newcastle and Perth, and somewhere in the central Midlands. A programme covering meetings for the next year to eighteen months will be circulated.

The Committee is also discussing the production of a manual on the preparation of pottery for publication, as a logical development from the Guidelines. The Guidelines were never intended to teach people how to write a pottery report, merely to present a number of alternative acceptable methods for each stage of the process. There is now a growing need for a step-by-step guide or manual which is specific enough to introduce consistency between reports produced by different people and organisations, flexible enough to encourage initiative, yet comprehensive enough to cover the wide range of questions now asked of pottery. Following a discussion of a draft text amongst Committee members, a revised text will be circulated to regional Group secretaries for them to co-ordinate comments from members.

The wider arena in which pottery is now studied is to be developed by holding meetings with other specialised groups. The first is a day meeting to be held in October 1987 at Leeds with the Small Finds Research Group, with the theme of the medieval kitchen and its equipment. A further residential weekend conference is planned for Autumn 1988 to be held at Leeds University in association with SFRG, VAC and the Furniture History Society. Further meetings are planned, and any suggestions from members would be welcome.

The study of medieval pottery has seen a dramatic development since the foundation of the Group. Comments from members suggest that the traditional annual conference format has outlived its usefulness, and that a meeting where people could become more involved would be more appropriate. Suggestions from members would be most welcome so that they can be incorporated into the Southampton programme.

Stephen Moorhouse
Honorary Secretary

MEDIEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

YORK CONFERENCE 1986

EXPENDITURE

INCOME

	£	p	£	p
College fees	3,107.54			
Banquet	810.39			
Reception Yorkshire Museum	50.00			
Postages, artwork, printing	141.03			
Refund	36.00			
			4,144.96	
Surplus on conference				795.04
			4,940.00	

	£	p	£	p
Conference fees	4,940.00			
				4,940.00

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1986-87

EXPENDITURE

INCOME

<u>1985-86</u>			<u>1986-87</u>	
£	p		£	p
822.00		8 Medieval Ceramics	1,409.00	
210.00		printing	222.60	
37.54		typing, translations	35.52	
171.73		artwork	333.83	
		distribution	106.42	
		administration		
<u>1,241.27</u>	<u>1,241.27</u>		<u>2,107.37</u>	<u>2,107.37</u>
	130.99	administration		135.56
	28.11	general mailing mid-year		120.00
	1.92	Bibliography		29.07
	4.50	bank charges		17.99
		refund		28.00
	<u>1,406.79</u>			<u>2,437.99</u>
	234.61	surplus on year		
		deficit on year		144.55
	<u>1,641.40</u>			<u>2,293.44</u>

<u>1985-86</u>			<u>1986-87</u>	
£	p		£	p
973.70		Subscriptions	1,126.00	
667.70		Sales	260.00	
		Guidelines	234.00	
		Interest at bank	168.44	
		Debtors	505.00	
<u>1,641.40</u>	<u>1,641.40</u>		<u>2,293.44</u>	<u>2,293.44</u>

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING 31 January 1987

	£	p	£	p
<u>Assets:</u>				
Cash at bank	2,522.43			
Cash in hand	64.18			
Debtors	505.00			
	<u>3,091.58</u>		<u>3,091.58</u>	
 <u>Represented by:</u>				
Accumulated fund	2,441.69			
Conference surplus	795.04			
General account deficit	144.55			
	<u>3,091.58</u>		<u>3,091.58</u>	