

coded. The 248 entries are in alphabetical order, sub-divided by Region, Departement and Commune. General papers are placed at the end (MPRG put these at the beginning). A list of regional correspondents completes the bibliography.

The production of this publication emphasises something of the differences between French and British archaeology. MPRG decided to issue a bibliography in 1977. It took until 1980 to get together an agreed system and preliminary publication and until 1984 for the first annual bibliography to appear. The French have accomplished all this in two years. MPRG has limited financial and human resources. Once the government-supported Société d'Archéologie Médiévale had been persuaded that post-Roman pottery was a research area vital to the future of medieval studies, money and assistance were injected. The working group which produces the bibliography does so under the aegis of the Society. Would MPRG be better off both financially and academically, as a sub-committee of the Society for Medieval Archaeology?

All this apart, the French have done an excellent job with their first bibliography and Daniel Dufournier is to be congratulated. Copies of the next number can be obtained from him at a cost of 20FF at: Société d'Archéologie Médiévale, (bulletin d'information bibliographique), Centre de Recherches Archéologiques Médiévales, Université de Caen, 14032 CAEN CEDEX, France.

P. J. Davey

REVIEW

Hartwig Lüdtké, Die mittelalterliche Keramik von Schleswig. Ausgrabungen Schild 1971-1975, in Ausgrabungen und Studien in Schleswig. Berichte und Studien 4, 1985, Neumünster. 163 pp, 41 plates, 56 tables (price not stated)

This volume forms the fourth in the series on the excavations at Schleswig, and deals with some 55,000 sherds from the 'Schild' site on the north side of the town square.

Four questions are asked of the material in the initial chapter. What could be learnt of (i) functional differences between structures, (ii) manufacturing methods, (iii) the source of non-local wares, and (iv) the value of the material as a chronological indicator, with particular reference to the relationship between Haithabu and Schleswig? Processing was completed in 1980, and the results presented as a thesis to the University of Hamburg in 1982.

The excavation technique was that used at Haithabu modified for urban sites: that of excavating 5m squares by 15cm spits. The five metres of sequential sampling provided a degree of relative ordering, and Lüdtké, recognising the limitations and problems has provided a thoughtful and sensible evaluation of the data. Cross-matched sherds from different spit levels is interpreted as redeposition within a depth of 60-75cm., and

so broad ceramic phasing by century is applied, using dendrochronological dates and coin associations to support the identification of 1100 AD, 1200 AD and 1280 AD horizons across the site.

Pottery classification is based on technical parameters such as wheel turned, hand made, glazed, unglazed, sintered and unsintered. These are then subdivided by similar inclusions, firing temperatures, and visual appearance, but no serious attempt is made to identify fabric inclusions beyond size range, a regrettably common omission in both Roman and medieval pottery reports from Germany. The attempts to standardise terminology and pottery descriptions are discussed: many of the ideas have been previously reviewed (Erdmann, Kühn, Lüttke, Ring and Wessel, *Rahmenterminologie zur mittelalterlichen Keramik in Norddeutschland*, Medieval Ceramics 9, 102). Where grain sizes are given, the size classification differs from that generally used in Britain: very fine <0.1mm, not <0.2mm; fine 0.2 - 0.63mm, not 0.1 - 0.25mm; coarse >2.0mm, not >1.0mm. Considerable emphasis is given to the colour plate at the back of surface appearance for the major Ware groups, and the text also contains black and white photographs of fabric texture and technical details such as blade trimming and 'wire-cut' marks, complementing the growing number of such technically useful illustrations such as the late Roman and early medieval pottery from Runde Berg bei Urach (Kaschau 1976).

The report contains extremely full statistical evaluation of the evidence, with 56 tables summarising the site assemblage by sherd number and minimum vessel count, and 26 characteristics of technological, typological or functional nature, developing the type of analysis by Steuer at Elisenhof. Using a Commodore with BASIC, Lüttke brings out the broad trends of the site with over 50 tables, creating a foundation for a regional sequence and chronology for Schleswig. The major wares are described: 'Oostseeware' (instead of the term 'Spätslavische Keramik'), lead glazed red earthenware ('Glasierte Rote Irdenware'), unglazed red earthenware, and the imports - Pingsdorf (subdivided into white, yellow and dark), Paffrath, Andenne, Rouen, English (identified as Tyler Hill and Grimston), and olive 'Faststeinzeug'. All these groups are correlated to different existing terminology.

Four functional types and their size ranges are discussed ('Kanne', 'Schüssel', 'Lampe' and 'Topf'), and Lüttke identifies the first appearance of jug and dish in Schleswig around 1200 AD, accompanied by disappearance of the ceramic lamp. A method is described of estimating the minimum vessel count in use in each house, and an increase in the average household from 3 in 11th to 14 in 14th suggested. As we are not presented with data on the nature of deposits and dumps on the site, it will be interesting to see how this calculation fares in future excavations.

Finally, inter-regional contacts are examined, and the distinction between a 'North Sea Sphere' and 'Baltic Sphere' made, with 11-12th century Schleswig sitting between the two, playing a mediatory rôle. The west European coastal connection of the 13th and 14th century is represented by the red glazed wares. Lüttke in conclusion examines the chronological overlap between Haithabu and Schleswig in the 11th century, supported by coin finds at both sites.

This report presents the ceramic evidence from the Schild site in a lucid and organised way, and in the end is only let down by the excavation methodology and concentration on subjective rather than scientific fabric definitions. Unfortunately the pottery has been reproduced at 1/3, without catalogue descriptions or details of provenance. These quibbles should not detract from the value of the report as an important synthetic statement on the medieval ceramics from Schleswig. The book will form a valuable introduction to students of north German ceramics, and I for one look forward to the next report.

Mark Redknapp

REVIEW

Catherine M. Brooks, Medieval and Later Pottery from Aldwark and other Sites, The Archaeology of York, volume 16/3, 1987, (pp 115-232). Price £8.75

Despite its prominent position in the public conception of British archaeology, the city of York has to date a disappointingly poor record in the field of medieval pottery studies. This, the third contribution to volume 16 of York's peculiar fascicule series, is the most detailed account of the city's medieval pottery yet to appear in print; it contains an extensive account of the medieval ceramics from YAT's site at 1-5 Aldwark (excavated 1976-77) and the editors have used to opportunity to include brief accounts of the pottery from some nearby (and some not so nearby) sites.

It is most unfortunate, therefore, that the material which was the subject of the study is not of the first rank. As Brooks herself puts it (p.234), the two main problems were the 'lack of dating evidence, apart from one radiocarbon-dated feature from the 11th century, and the large quantities of residual pottery in each phase'. One might add a third problem, for the archaeology of the site consisted of a series of ill-divined structures whose boundaries only just intruded into the area excavated, with spreads of garden-type deposits to the rear, the whole overlying extensive Roman occupation deposits. Brooks is well aware of the degree of disturbance which is caused by such a combination, and the intimidating amount of residual material on this site has obviously led to much heart-searching; her solution has been to include two sets of tables and figures throughout - one quantifying the material as found and the other showing what the picture would have looked like if the pots had behaved themselves and stayed in context.

Brooks is, therefore, to be commended for her rescuing of some valid statistical patterns from the material, but more serious than the problem of residuality is the first of her problems - the lack of dating evidence. No coins, no archaeomagnetism, no dendro, no documentary evidence and, judging by the lack of references, no datable small finds. One can but sympathise, for all that is left is the stratigraphy of the site and the ever-increasing circular arguments from external parallels.

Some might question the method of quantification employed, for it is rare to find a pottery report nowadays which is based on a sherd count - although Orton has told us that this method is as (in)accurate as any other. Others might draw attention to the lack of consideration of