

as Supplementary Material (see the Contents list at the beginning) is a mistake. They are a vital aspect of the volume.

It is too easy to criticise someone else's work. The plain fact is that Coleman-Smith and Pearson have given us a work which will become a standard reference book for years to come, because they have treated a single pottery industry from as near to the beginning as they could get to the end. It has a wider import than Donyatt alone and some of the contributions, Rackham's in particular, are of considerable interest. Even at today's inflated book prices, this one at £40 is a good buy.

Michael R. McCarthy

REVIEW

W. Janssen, Die Importkeramik von Haithabu. Neumünster, Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1987 (= Die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu, 9), 202 pp, 32 plates, 30 figs, 29 plans and tables. ISBN 3 529 01409 5. Price: DM 105.-

There is hardly any need to emphasise the importance of Haithabu for our knowledge and understanding of proto-urban development in (northern) Europe from the 8th/9th to the 12th century. The archaeological investigations carried out since 1900 and the resulting wealth of publications dealing directly or indirectly with the site itself, the buildings, the harbour, the defenses and other features, have already done this more than adequately. Series such as Die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu and the Berichte über die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu (directed by K. Schietzel) provide us regularly with basic and new information about the site and also about the numerous finds. Amongst the latter, the pottery has already been discussed repeatedly, W. Hübener's 1959 book (Die Keramik von Haithabu) being of particular value. Hübener paid much attention to the imports, particularly those from the Rhineland, and his well known Bachbettstratigraphie (the sequence deposited in the brook which cuts through Haithabu) has been instrumental in the chronological discussion of the Rhenish wares. Over the past thirty years, however, our views of this subject have changed considerably, notably through many new discoveries (both within the Rhineland itself and in adjacent areas such as Dutch Limburg, Hesse, the Trier and Mayen areas, the Main region, Lower Saxony and others). Furthermore, fairly extensive new excavations as well as extensive and detailed fieldwalking operations have been carried out on the site since the early sixties. Finally, methodological and interpretative approaches have changed equally, particularly where ceramic objects as indicators for trade and contacts are concerned.

As the author explains in his introduction (pp 7-10), these points provide the rationale for the present volume which deals with the ceramic imports known at Haithabu. Considering his long association with the Rheinisches Landesmuseum and his extensive knowledge of Rhenish and other wares, he is of course most qualified to deal with this subject, the scope of which largely transcends Haithabu itself. Therefore, it hardly comes as a surprise to see that we are confronted with a publication of high scientific quality and major international importance.

After a small chapter on the present state of research concerning the study of the imports found in Haithabu, of the Rhenish pottery production and of the distribution of these wares (pp 11-14), W. Janssen presents his class-

ification of the groups (pp 15-28). This is based on two classes of criteria: the fabric (including the decoration) and the form, and the author emphasises that he kept to a traditional approach because of practical circumstances; nor did he use the North German 'Rahmenterminologie' (pp 16-17). Fourteen major types are identified, the first six (Badorf, Walderberg, Mayen, Hunneschans, Reliefbandamphorae, Tating and Pingsdorf) being placed in the Carolingian period, types 7-8 and 11-14 (blue-grey wares, thickwalled grau wares, greenglazed wares, Andenne, red earthenwares and proto-stonewares) belonging in the post-Carolingian phases. Each type is described in detail, the illustrations (including a few colour-plates showing the fabric-type) being of great use to understand the types and variants. The next chapter (pp 29-40) can in fact be seen as the systematic presentation of the actual finds from Haithabu, shown on plates 8-29.

The chronology is discussed in chapter 5 (pp 41-51), which in fact simply lists the main literature and other data for the region of origin of the major types. Nevertheless, the general picture allows the author to suggest that Haithabu may have been settled from a few decades before 800 onwards (on the strength of the Tating wares). The later wares indicate that (part of) the site was still in use in the 12th or even the 13th century, so the historically known destruction which took place in 1066 does not represent the end of the settlement. The presence of imports after 1066 is also taken as an indication that it still had extensive trade or other contacts, even though these were less important than in earlier times. This means also that Haithabu still existed when Schleswig emerged. Finally, the relation between the Carolingian and post-Carolingian phases is discussed in terms of the changing general nature of the wares, with an emphasis on the fact that in the later phase the large containers seem to be absent.

Chapters 6 and 7 (pp 52-63 and 64-65) deal with the horizontal distribution of the finds within the area circumscribed by the semi-circular rampart, taking into account the information provided by the fieldwalking operations as well as that from the excavated areas. This allows the author to consider some aspects of the changing settlement pattern. The Carolingian wares seem to hug the coastline (and harbour area) very closely, while the later wares may reflect an extension of the settlement. The author does, however, warn the reader that this kind of simple explanation probably is incorrect: things may indeed have been far more complex. The vertical (stratigraphical) distribution of the wares is discussed in chapter 8 (pp 66-69).

Chapter 9 (pp 70-75) consists of a quantitative analysis of the relevant finds. Apparently, the sherd count does not satisfy the author, although he does not state his reasons in any detail. At any rate, he decided to turn to sherd weight (p 70), although it has been demonstrated repeatedly that this method does not have a high degree of statistical robustness. In fact, the results of the exercise reflect some of the weaknesses inherent to this kind of approach and the author is at some pains to check and explain them (pp 72-73). Still, the results suggest that the Carolingian wares and the post-Carolingian ones had approximately the same importance, at least when one takes into account the lapses of time (expressed in number of generations) involved. Simultaneously, these tables provide the author with the necessary information to assess the relative importance of the imports in Haithabu and to interpret these wares in terms of trade, contacts and significance (cf. infra). They allow him also to stress the fairly limited value of fieldwalking operations in terms of understanding the potter.

An extensive chapter (10, pp 76-127) concerns the production centres in the Rhineland and in the adjacent areas (the Meuse valley with Andenne and Huy, Dutch Limburg, the Aachen region, the Düsseldorf area, Xanten and even Arnhem). It also includes important paragraphs on the nature, origins, chronology and significance of the so-called 'Hunnenschans'-ware, on the Zelzate costrel and its significance in terms of chronology and in terms of the discussion of the transition from Badorf-type to Pingsdorf-type wares, and on the problem of medieval horizontal and vertical kilns. The chapter transcends largely the scope of the present volume as not only are the Carolingian and early medieval kiln sites included, but also most of the later ones. No less than 66 sites are listed and, for each of them, the author provides the basic relevant information or at least the main relevant bibliography. In view of the fact that much of this information is not readily accessible, we can only be grateful for this paragraph which gives the volume an additional international dimension. No one involved in ceramic research in medieval to early post-medieval north-western Europe can afford to neglect this contribution, even more so because some of the information has hitherto not been published. The author's intimate acquaintance with the reserves of the Rheinisches Landesmuseum as well as his extensive knowledge of the subject are of a great help here and vouch for the quality and trustworthiness of the data.

The final chapter (11, pp 128-136) concerns the significance of the Rhenish products and of the imports in Haithabu in terms of trade, contacts and economic relevance in general. The small percentage of imports (7% as opposed to 93% of local wares and products from the Baltic Sea area), the emphasis on the Rhineland as a major source of imports (in terms of weight, 90% of them consist of Badorf wares (18%), Reliefbandamphorae (38%), and Pingsdorf wares (34%)), the nature of these wares and the (presumed) nature of the contacts between Haithabu and western Europe induce the author to conclude that this pottery was of little importance as a trade item in its own right. Its presence in Haithabu is to be explained rather as the corollary of other (trade) contacts, e.g. seamen simply taking in some goods when they needed them. Simultaneously, the meaning of 'travelling' pottery in terms of packing material is stressed indirectly.

While, on the whole, the present reviewer concurs with W. Janssen's conclusion, this point deserves some comments. Over the past decade or so, the value of pottery as an indicator for trade and/or other contacts has been downgraded continuously. Furthermore, the importance of pottery as a trade item in its own right is also being questioned. This trend is explained partly by the excesses of earlier interpretations and partly by the results of more recent research into the mechanisms of distribution, deposition, etc. We are now slowly reaching the point where imported material will be considered of very limited value indeed. In fact, recent experiences show that some scholars tend even to feel that pottery did not travel all that much or all that regularly and that most, if not all, indications in that direction rest on erroneous identifications and/or a lack of adequate knowledge of the local products. The present reviewer feels this trend to be at least as dangerous as the older one which over-emphasised the imports and/or the exchange of ceramics: In the case of Haithabu, for instance, one notes the predilection for tablewares and the absence of other functional groups (as opposed to the situation in other areas, e.g. in the Netherlands). If one considers that some of these tablewares were doubtlessly somewhat more expensive than the run-of-the-mill cooking-wares (especially the local ones) and that they had a different social significance and life-trajectory, the

sheer numbers and percentages may not be all that important. Similarly, one should also consider the patterns in terms of social as well as of spatial distribution. Even very small numbers of quality or luxury goods should not be discarded in terms of trade, when and if they occur regularly on a fair number of sites in a particular area and/or period. In other words, the discussion should not be limited to the notion of bulk trade, which it is all too often at present. Granted, the problem is a very complex one which it will never be easy to solve in particular circumstances. Nevertheless, the present reviewer feels it to be high time to pay more attention to these questions which involve far more than slightly simplistic monocausal approach of the pottery. This leads also to the problem of the possible social significance of imports, a subject which is largely absent from the present volume. It would, however, be totally unfair to take the author to task for that as the present state of research in Haithabu and in the Rhineland does not yet allow for valid conclusions on that score.

We have to evaluate the volume on the basis of its aims and of its scholarly basis. The aims were to present a coherent picture of the imports and of their significance in terms of exchange and economics. On both counts, the author has succeeded completely. Moreover, he has made the material available for further work. This is already a major achievement. But above and beyond that, W. Janssen provides us with most valuable - and in some cases first-hand - factual information concerning the Rhenish and other production centres, as well as a few other topics of interest to our understanding of Carolingian pottery (including the technical information concerning the kilns themselves). In other words, this is a most valuable and extremely useful book of major importance and high quality. It is also very well produced, which explains the unfortunately rather steep price. The latter point is all the more painful as there can hardly be any doubt that no student of north western European pottery of the 8th-12th century can afford to neglect it.

F. Verhaeghe
(Research Associate, NFSR, Belgium)

REVIEW

Vorschläge zur systematische Beschreibung von Keramik (Suggestions for the systematic recording of Pottery), Führer des Rheinischen Landesmuseums Bonn Nr. 124, 1986. 71 pp, 6 figs.

I. Bauer, W. Endres, B. Kerkhoff-Hader, R. Koch, and H.-G. Stephan, Leitfaden zur Keramikbeschreibung (Mittelalter-Neuzeit). Terminologie - Typologie - Technologie, Kataloge des Prähistorischen Staatssammlung Beiheft 2, Munich, 1986. 197 pp 93 figs., 37 plates, 2 tables.

Short of spending a day or two in a sherd reference collection, ceramic glossaries are becoming an increasingly necessary tool in the identification, standardized, description and publication of pottery from excavations. As a response to this need the Schleswig-Holstein working party in 1984 published the final draft of its Rahmenterminologie ('Basic terminology') for medieval pottery in northern Germany (Erdmann *et al.* 1984). The above publications are the results of simultaneous and complementary glossary work by the Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn and South German 'Hafner Symposium' pottery groups. The methodological starting-points of these working parties are slightly different and are important to discuss in the context of comparable initiatives in the Low Countries and Britain.