

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS

South-West Regional Group 1989

The group has always met as informally as possible but this has led to very infrequent meetings of late. The last two meetings have been in Taunton and Exeter Museums but the group has not met formally in the last year. The major event of the year has been the publication of Excavations at the Donyatt Potteries by Richard Coleman-Smith and Terry Pearson (Phillimore, price £40). The authors kindly lectured to audiences in Bristol and Taunton in December, which served as a launch for this impressive volume.

It is worth reporting that major accounts of much of the West Country's urban pottery have now appeared but there remains a large gap in our knowledge of rural wares. Sites to the north and south of Bristol show clearly the differences in the range of wares between town and country which must be related to the marketing of the material.

More recently, Vince Russett, who was working as a research assistant at Bristol, has found a great deal of documentary evidence for the potters of the Frome area in the 17th-18th centuries. There were also medieval kilns here and it is hoped to follow this up with fieldwork soon. The wares are well-known in Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wales and possibly Ireland.

Experimental work continues at Cleeve, Avon, conducted by David Dawson, County Museums Officer for Somerset, and Oliver Kent of Bristol Polytechnic. This year a replica of Barnstaple kiln, excavated in February 1988, was fired that August with acceptable results. These are usually published by the Experimental Pottery Kiln Research Group.

The contact address for further information is Mike Ponsford, Curator in Field Archaeology, City of Bristol Museums and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1RL.

Central Southern Regional Group 1988

The Group had not met since our trip to Chichester in 1982, but the reformation within the national group has encouraged further activity. A meeting was held in Winchester, in August, with the purpose of establishing some sort of structure for the organisation of the group and for further meetings. There was some discussion about the area we should cover, and also about the periods which medieval ceramics represent.

The consensus seems to be that the Group should cover what is traditionally regarded as Wessex; namely Hampshire, the Channel Islands and, if necessary, parts of Surrey. The chronological debate proved inconclusive, but in practise we will probably confine ourselves to the period between the arrival of the Saxons and the Industrial Revolution.

Future meetings will concentrate on moving about the area, viewing local assemblages and seeing what our members are up to. Ceramicists from the Southampton Unit volunteered to act as the unofficial secretariat for the Group, and they are responsible for organising future meetings.

A second meeting was held in October, hosted by Salisbury Museum, where Paul Spoerry of the Dorset Institute of Higher Education gave an erudite discourse on the Laverstock kiln material. He has been doing Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy on this and other medieval pottery in the south, and he presented some of his results. Salisbury Museum kindly made the Laverstock pottery available for examination.

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London Area Regional Group 1988

A regional group of the MPRG was set up during 1988 for the Greater London area and bordering counties. The fundamental purpose of the group is to provide a forum for the examination and discussion of native and imported wares occurring in the region during the medieval to post-medieval periods. Regular study days will be based on a wide range of themes and examine current work on the local industries.

The inaugural meeting of the group was held on 4 June 1988 at the Passmore Edwards North Woolwich Old Station Museum on the subject of slipped medieval and later pottery from the London area. The lecture programme covered reviews of the medieval London-type ware tradition and the post-medieval slipware industries of Essex. Reference material from the Passmore Edwards, Museum of London and British Museum collections was made available at the handling sessions.

The second meeting on the Surrey Whiteware industries was hosted by the Surrey Archaeological Unit at Kingston-upon-Thames on 5 November 1988. Locally excavated material and comparative finds from outside the core production area were available for study during the handling sessions. These were supplemented by lectures on the recently published London sequence, local fieldwork, stove-tile manufacture, neutron-activation analysis and on products from the main production centres of Cheam and Kingston.

Study days are planned at regular six-monthly intervals, and resumé sheets covering previous meetings will be available to those attending.

The next meeting on 'Saxon Pottery - c.550-850' will be held at the Museum of London on 6 May 1989.

The contact address for further information is: David Gaimster (Group Organiser), Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

West Midlands Regional Group 1987-88

During 1987 the group met formally on six occasions with a total of 300 attendances. Meetings were both thematic and site specific as follows:

January	Birmingham	Moated sites and ceramics
March	Droitwich	Pottery from Droitwich and Worcester
June	Coventry	Ceramic building materials
September	Stafford	Pottery from recent work in Stafford or the county

October	Warwick University	'An Idiot's Guide to Stamford Ware' and 'The Moorhouse Roadshow'
November	Leicester	Pottery from recent excavations.

Due to the proximity of some of the meetings and the nature of others, two newsletters only were produced whilst some late papers are to be included in a single edition to summarise 1988. Since 1984 (the inception of the group), eleven newsletters, totalling approximately 200 pages and over 100 articles and reports, have been produced due to the efficiency of various organisers of the meetings. The costs are met by small meeting fees which leave no surplus, though this year it should be added that a subsidy of £125 has been made to maintain a nil balance.

1988 has been an extremely busy year for excavation in the West Midlands as well as being a problematic one due to changes in funding a staffing arrangement, such as the MSC/ET changeover. As a result, no meetings have taken place, but informal contacts have been maintained. At the time of writing it is hoped to run an 'end of year' meeting in Coventry to lay out the products of two years' intensive activity spanning four important sites and dating from the late 11th/early 12th century to the present. Early in 1989 meetings are scheduled for Worcester and Lichfield but no firm details are yet available.

Group membership (i.e. those on the informal mailing list) stands currently at 117, including institutions, national and university libraries etc.; of the 117, approximately 50 are 'sleeping partners', leaving a hard-core of approximately 60-70 active workers - not surprisingly most of whom are in full-time archaeology and live within a 40-50 mile radius of the central West Midlands. The group does, however, benefit greatly from the advice and experience of such as John Hurst and Steve Moorhouse, to whom we offer a deserved vote of thanks.

Excavations currently in progress which may be of interest to members include the 'Shires' sites in Leicester, which are producing valuable sequences; Bayley Lane in Coventry, which has a sequence beginning in a 12th century defence system and ending in 1938 with the filling of sandbags prior to the blitz! (taking in a superb and unbroken ceramic sequence, also including nearly 100 15th century stone moulds for small metalwork). Worcester's Deansway project is very similar and will be open to view for some time yet. Other projects at Sandwell and Dudley are well into the post-excavation stages and will, alongside the major sites above and a number of others in progress, enhance our medieval and later sequences of 'central' pottery an immeasurable amount. Notices of publication of these sites will be given at intervals in the WMPRG Newsletter.

The contact address for further information is: Mike Stokes,
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North-West Regional Group 1988

During 1988 the North-West group has held meetings at various places in the region on a number of different themes. In February Stephen Moorhouse addressed a meeting at Liverpool. This considered the value of ceramics on site other than as dating evidence. Themes included recording strategies, distribution of sherds as excavated, forms as indicators of function, characteristics of use, potting techniques and how to recognise them. The

day set pottery in context and considered its value in interpreting and reconstructing activities on a site.

In May a meeting was held in Lancaster. In the morning current work in the area was reviewed and there was a discussion and handling of local ceramic groups. In the afternoon there was a visit to a kiln site on Docker Moor. Large quantities of kiln wasters were evident in rabbit scrapes around a substantial earthwork feature. This consists of a large oval depression with banks around it and it seems likely to represent the remains of the kiln itself.

In October a meeting was held in Penrith. The morning session was again devoted to a discussion of some very interesting current work in the area and an examination of local ceramic groups. There appear to be very few ceramic finds from Penrith itself but hopefully planned developments in the town will add to this body of material. In the afternoon the Wetheriggs pottery was visited. The pottery includes a listed nineteenth century kiln and displays about the site. It is still a working pottery where traditional techniques are used and it provided a stimulating opportunity for an exchange of information between potters and archaeologists.

In addition to these meetings members of the group have been invited to the Postgraduate Ceramics Seminars held at the University of Liverpool. These deal primarily with post-medieval wares but include useful discussions about recording systems and analytical techniques. The object of these informal meetings is to discuss particular wares and theoretical problems and to produce a series of written notes summarising the discussions.

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Scottish Regional Group

The Scottish Group has not met for a number of years. This has been due to several factors, but primarily the small number of members in Scotland (currently 10) and their geographic spread. However, serious attempts are going to be made by the Regional Group and members in Scotland can expect to hear from the organiser in the near future.

The contact address for further information is: J. C. Murray, Aberdeen Archaeological Unit, Art Gallery and Museums Department, Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB9 1PQ.

Lower Rhineland Regional Group 1988

Following initiatives made at the symposia 'Medieval and later pottery from the Rhineland and its markets' (Koblenz 1987) and 'Keramik vom Niederrhein' (Dusseldorf, Neuss and Duisburg 1988), the first research group for the post-Roman pottery of the Rhineland has been established. The aim of this group is to promote and co-ordinate research into the definition, chronology and attribution of wares from production centres and consumer sites both within and outside the core area. Collaboration with pottery specialists in adjacent European countries, Scandinavia and the British Isles will be actively promoted. Conferences are planned every two years within the core regions of the West German Rhineland and the Low Countries in order to review current work and establish research priorities. The Niederrheinisches Museum, Duisburg, has taken on an administrative role on behalf of the group for the time being. For details of future developments contact U.K. representatives David Gaimster (British Museum) or Mark Redknap (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff).

MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY RESEARCH IN FLANDERS, 1987-1988

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At present, an official 'regional group' of the MPRG exists neither in Flanders nor in Belgium. Similarly, such groups do not exist in the Netherlands or in (northern) France (although in the latter case, the Groupe de Recherches et d'Etudes sur la céramique dans le Nord-Pas-de-Calais (GREC), created in 1987, professes to a definite interest in the subject).

Nevertheless, it is felt to be a good idea to include in Medieval Ceramics some of the main information concerning medieval and later pottery research in the area generally indicated as the Low Countries, i.e. Northern France (more specifically the Départements Nord and Pas-de-Calais), Flanders, Wallonia and the Netherlands. In view of the importance of pottery production in these regions (including the fact that some of the products also travelled to the British Isles), this is justifiable. The present contribution, therefore, aims at providing a rapid survey of the more recent work and developments in the field as well as of the bibliography for the years 1987 and 1988. For practical reasons, this survey is limited mainly to Flanders, although references to research in the adjacent areas (northern France, western Hainaut and the southwestern part of the Netherlands) have been included because of their direct interest to the work in Flanders. It is hoped that in the future similar reports can be published for Wallonia, northern France and the Netherlands.

Generalities

Medieval and later archaeology are definitely picking up in Flanders, the number of excavations, rescue operations and observations in urban and (to a lesser extent) in rural contexts is growing continuously. This work yields a very large amount of finds. Unfortunately, most of these do not get the attention they deserve in terms of research, study and publication. There is a very important backlog in terms of excavation reports and, in most cases, the pottery included in these reports is often looked at exclusively as a chronological indicator (see in this respect Verhaeghe 1988b). On the other hand, the problem of closely dated and sealed contexts is generally neglected, which explains why no Flemish context has yet been included in the Corpus van middeleeuws aardewerk uit gesloten vondstcomplexen in Nederland en Vlaanderen (D. Hallewas, T. Hoekstra, H.L. Janssen, F. Verhaeghe and K. Vlierman (eds.)).

Still, quite a number of reports and preliminary notes have been published over the past two years. They have not been included in this contribution as it would grow far too lengthy. Most of them can, however, be found in the many regional and local periodicals, amongst which Stadsarcheologie (Ghent), the Tijdschrift van de Mechelse Vereniging voor Archeologie, the Bulletin van de Antwerpse Vereniging voor Bodem-en Grottonderzoek (Antwerp), De Duinen (Duinen Abbey and West Flanders), the series Stad Brugge, Stedelijke Musea. Jaarboek (e.g. De Witte 1987), Westvlaamse Archaeologica (for the Province of West Flanders) and VOBOV-Info

(for the Province of East Flanders) deserve particular attention. Information in the form of shorter notes can be found in chronicles such as Archaeologia Mediaevalis (published on the occasion of the annual conference of Belgian medieval archaeology) and Archaeologie-Archéologie (published every six months). Major periodicals such as Archaeologia Belgica and - for northern France - the Revue du Nord also provide information of relevance on a regular basis.

Meetings

Although medieval and later pottery crops up regularly at meetings such as Archaeologia Mediaevalis, there are no recurrent gatherings devoted exclusively to the subject. One should, however, mention the Colloquium Dunensis, which took place on 3-4 April 1987 at the Duinen Abbey (Koksijde), where a small number of Belgian, Dutch and northern French specialists discussed the topic of highly decorated pottery in the Low Countries. Equally important was the meeting organised by the GREC Nord-Pas-de-Calais in Lille (26-27 March 1988), where northern French medieval and later finds were discussed, as well as their presence and significance in Flanders (Verhaeghe 1988d; Raveschot 1988; Hillewaert 1988a), the western Hainaut (Veche 1988b) and elsewhere (Verhaeghe 1988d). The proceedings are now being published (Blicq *et al.* (eds.) 1988). The 1985 international meeting on ceramic building materials, held at Saint-Omer (France), may also be mentioned here as the publication of the proceedings (Deroux (ed.) 1986) has influenced recent research on a few of the topics discussed at the time.

Exhibitions

No exhibitions have been devoted exclusively to medieval and later pottery from archaeological contexts, but quite a few other ones did include such items. Thus the Comines exhibition on archaeological work in the western part of the Hainaut Province from 1983 to 1988 (Archéologie Hainaut occidentale 1988), the 1988 one on ten years of urban archaeology in Bruges (De Witte 1988), and the 1987 one on finds from the River Dijle in Mechelen (Dijlevondsten, 1987). Quite a few smaller exhibitions of local interest could also be mentioned here, but this would lead us too far. An exhibition on material culture in medieval to early post-medieval times in Sint-Niklaas (Lesenne 1988) equally paid attention to the subject, particularly where topics such as the table (De Smet 1988b) and personal hygiene (*ibid.* 1988a) were concerned. The latter theme came back in an exhibition on Sint-Kathelijne-Waver (near Mechelen) (Heimelijk (on)gemak 1988), which paid particular attention to chamber pots, while an exhibition on the historical and archaeological data for pollution in Antwerp (Maclot and Pottier 1988) included a few industrial ceramics, chamber pots and ceramic sewer elements. In the Netherlands, one may also mention the 1987 Bergen op Zoom one (Groeneweg 1987), because it included interesting ceramic finds from deserted sites in the Dutch Province of Zeeland (Groeneweg 1987b), this kind of material being closely related to that from Flanders and adjoining Brabant. Equally of interest was the exhibition which presented the results of excavations in the rue au Beurre in Brussels, with a fair selection of pottery from the 15th and (early) 16th century (Bonenfant 1988; Borremans and Fourny 1988; Buyle and Fourny 1988). Finally, there was a small exhibition in Lille (France) (25 January to 13 February 1988), which presented part of the results of the excavations in the tanners' quarter, including wasters of 17th

century pipeclay figurines (devotional objects) and a series of 16th and 17th century redwares of local origin.

General studies and syntheses

Very little has been published on general methodology and interpretation; one paper concerns the general problems which characterise Flemish pottery research (Verhaeghe 1988b), while another one includes considerations on pottery as a tool for the study of material culture (Verhaeghe 1988e). A general survey of post-medieval pottery research in Flanders equally considers some of these points (Verhaeghe 1988g, with a bibliography up to 1984).

Apart from the latter one, a few more local surveys have been prepared, among them those concerning Tournai in western Hainaut, where the late and post-medieval wares were shown to belong to the same general family as the other Low Countries products, though some of the typically local features could be identified; simultaneously, it was demonstrated that the Tournai potters succeeded in resisting effectively the competition offered by other wares such as those from Lille or from elsewhere in Flanders and northern France (Veche 1988a; 1988b). The 8th to 18th century pottery finds from Bruges were the subject of two surveys, one concerning the local/regional wares and early imports (Verhaeghe 1988f), the other concerning the late medieval French, English and Rhenish imports (including the stonewares) (Hillewaert 1988b; part of this theme also in Hillewaert 1988a, which concerns most of the Bruges region). The importance of Bruges as an international urban market is illustrated by the pottery, but the sequence still shows many gaps, particularly for the early phases. The same holds true for Kortrijk, where a number of earlier and more recent contributions have been brought together (Despriet 1987).

The subject of competition and other mechanisms influencing late medieval and later pottery production and distribution has already received some attention (Verhaeghe 1987a) and, following general surveys for larger areas of Europe (*cf.* Chapelot 1987), work on this theme continues through the analysis of particular groups of pottery (see below; e.g. Verhaeghe 1988h; 1988c; 1988g).

Though the systematic and thematic study of specific pottery categories still leaves much to be desired, a series of contributions have tackled at least some of the major groups:

Highly decorated pottery (so-called Aardenburg ware): Verhaeghe 1988c; 1988h (with an extensive survey of the decoration types, finds, distribution and bibliography). These wares, produced in most Flemish urban centres, appear around 1200 and are influenced by French (mainly Norman and/or Parisian wares); a number of regional features have now been identified. From 1225/50 onwards, they seem to trigger local competition in the Brabant towns (Antwerp, Mechelen, Breda and possibly also others) as well as in Denmark. They are not, however, able to compete successfully with their French and English counterparts. The group mainly includes jugs, which can be identified as a middle category of quality items, not as high luxury objects. Sometime during the early 14th century, the breakthrough of the Rhenish stonewares as a new quality product leads to its decline as a group.

Common objects (ordinary pitchers etc.) became decorated with sketchily executed ornaments. Highly decorated special objects (salts, lavabos, basins, dishes, plates, ewers, chafing dishes, finials etc.) continue to be produced throughout the 14th and 15th century, mainly because they get no competition from the stonewares (which do not include such items) and because they provide the Flemish potters with a limited possibility to compete with imported majolicas and with metal objects.

Finials: following an earlier paper (Verhaeghe 1986), a series of new finds have now been identified and published. It is growing clear that these 13th to 15th century items (made by potters as a sideline of the highly decorated wares) also show identifiable regional features (Verhaeghe 1987b; 1988a; Verhaeghe and Hillewaert 1986; Laleman 1988; Laleman and Raveschot 1988).

Imports: B. Hillewaert (1988a; 1988b) studies systematically the foreign imports in the Bruges area and along the Flemish coast. This work is part of a larger research programme which concerns the market of medieval and later ceramic imports in coastal Flanders.

Other types of imports include the earlier 8th-10th century wares from northern France (Verhaeghe 1988d; Raveschot 1988), while a peculiar lid with anthropomorphic decoration found in Damme (near Bruges) was discussed by S. Vandenberghe (1988) and identified as a Saintonge product. The Iberian majolicas received a fair amount of attention. A. Mars (1987) prepared a thesis on these wares in the Low Countries and this triggered a number of detailed papers on Flemish finds (Damme and Bruges) (Mars and Termote 1987; De Witte and Mars 1987).

As to the Rhenish and other stonewares (and apart from the work on the Bruges finds; Hillewaert 1988b), two publications are bound to be of interest to future work in Flanders: H.L. Janssen's (1988) systematic and critical discussion of the early Siegburg stonewares in the Netherlands and D. Dufournier's and A.-M. Flambar's paper (1987) on the appearance of stonewares in Western Europe.

Flemish majolicas: T. Oost, town archaeologist of Antwerp, continued his work on the known (biscuit-fired) wasters of Antwerp majolicas and on the detection of (some of) the kiln sites, which will eventually lead to a major contribution. Cl. Dumortier (1988) used the documentary evidence to identify some of the workshops.

Brickwares: these wares are characterised by their brick-like fabric and are fairly well represented in the Flemish coastal area. These 13th to 15th century items include lids, spit-supports, candlesticks, troughs, garden and flower boxes, often decorated by means either of chip-carving techniques or of thumbing. E. Cools (1988) drew up a provisional inventory, identified the main questions and proposed a research strategy.

Post-medieval slipdecorated wares: work on the Flemish material is lagging behind, but renewed interest in northern France has led to a series of useful papers which detail the regional characteristics of the 16th to 18th century slipwares (Dilly and Hurtrelle s.d. (1987); 1988a; 1988b; Hurtrelle and

Jacques 1988). Equally of interest is H.-G. Stephan's study (1987) as it also pays attention to the western (Dutch, Flemish and French) slipdecorated wares and sets them in a broader framework.

Recent decorated wares: two richly illustrated works (Peremans and Cuvelier 1987; De Baere, Swimberghe and Vandenberghe 1987) present general surveys of the history and of the wares of the (late) 19th and early 20th century factories which produced high quality slipdecorated items, often (erroneously) designated as 'Torhout' wares. The Maes factory gets most of the attention. The authors use the historical, iconographical and oral evidence as well as the objects themselves, but both volumes hold the middle between detailed studies and general presentations.

Pipes: fairly little work has been done on the subject, but one may mention J. Veeckman's study (1987) of the 17th to early 20th century sequence of pipes discovered in Antwerp.

Kilns

A few new kiln finds are to be mentioned. At Ichtegem (near Torhout, 13th and 14th century), the rediscovery of a rural kiln site (Verhaeghe 1985) is of interest, notably because of its location near the Wijnendale Castle instead of near an urban centre; only a few wasters have been studied so far (Cools and Pyck 1987), but more extensive fieldwork is planned for 1989. In Oudenaarde (south of Ghent), D. Callebaut discovered 14th century kiln remains and wasters in 1988; the material is presently being studied. In Antwerp, T. Oost discovered a series of 15th century wasters (mainly grey and redwares) but also whitish wares, produced locally with imported clay); historical evidence confirms the presence of potters on the site (Oost and Ackermans 1987).

Work on the Bruges Potterierei wasters and kilns has ground almost to a halt due to lack of finances. It was, however, possible to include some of the relevant data in the surveys of the Bruges material (Verhaeghe 1988f) and of the highly decorated wares (*ibid.* 1988h). The results of archaeomagnetic work on the kiln remains confirm an end date around 1300 (Hus 1988).

The Lille colloquium (see above) provided the opportunity to reassess the few greyware wasters found in 1930 in Comines (France), about 500 metres across the French-Belgian border. They indicate a local production of the period 1250-1350, the wares being closely comparable to the Flemish ones (Verhaeghe and Bourgeois 1988).

Equally of interest is the discovery and study (including an analysis of the historical evidence) of the 19th century bottle-kilns of the Boch Frères factory at Tournai, which produced both faïence and porcelain (Debast and Nys 1987). The authors pay much attention to the technical features and kiln furniture.

Finally, one should mention the papers by G. Groeneweg (1987a; 1987d; 1988b) on users' contexts, wasters and historical evidence for the 15th to 17th production centre of Bergen op Zoom; though typical Brabant products, the wares show definite affinities with the Flemish ceramics of the period

and some of them were probably exported to England. Other papers concern the evidence for pollution caused by centuries of local pottery production (Groeneweg 1988a) and the Bergen op Zoom starling-pots (*ibid.* 1987c).

Exported material: Only limited work has been done on this subject, but an evaluation of the Flemish/Dutch 14th to 15th century imports in York and Yorkshire demonstrated that these imports remain limited largely to the coastal area; furthermore, highly decorated wares are largely absent, while skillets and tripod cooking pots are predominant. The pattern is different from what has been observed for Scotland (Verhaeghe 1987c).

Miscellaneous contexts

As stated earlier, many contexts have yielded material, but most of them are as yet unpublished or have only been published partially. A few contexts, however, got more attention and were studied more extensively. Thus, for instance, the finds from the St Elisabeth Hospital (14th century to post-medieval times, with a good sequence of Antwerp majolicas) (Oost 1988) and four 17th to 18th century contexts in the Nationalestraat (Bungeneers 1988) at Antwerp; a series of older finds in Nieuwpoort (Dewilde 1988); a context of the first half of the 16th century from the Duinen Abbey (Termote 1988). Finally, we should also mention the finds from the rue au Beurre in Brussels (Borremans and Fourny 1988; Buyle and Fourny 1988).

Ceramic building materials

The Saint-Omer colloquium (see above; Deroeux (ed.) 1986) led to a renewed interest in this subject. Bricks and the early brick production were studied by J. A. Dupont (1986) and M. de Waha (1986) (for the western part of the Province of Hainaut) and J. Termote (1986) (Duinen Abbey), while the bricks, tiles and roofing tiles at 's-Hertogenbosch were presented by H. L. Janssen (1986). D. Deroeux and D. Dufournier (1986) considered the decorated tiles from the western part of Artesia.

Afterwards, the results of earlier fieldwork on the presumed site of the brick kilns of the Duinen Abbey were published (Termote and Van Couillie 1988); they showed that the abbey was still involved in brick production in post-medieval times. We should also mention the discovery of a 17th century brick kiln within the town of Tongeren (Van de Konijnenburg 1987).

The work on the northern French tiles and on those found in the Duinen Abbey also progressed, notably with the study of the 13th century tin glazed tiles (Deroeux and Dufournier 1987) and with the publication of several groups of tiles from the Duinen Abbey (Van Nerom-de Bue 1987; 1988).

Conclusions

While medieval and later pottery research in Flanders has obviously progressed over the past two years, progress has also been limited mainly to the presentation of (a small part of) the finds. Furthermore, the emphasis lies clearly on the period from the 13th to the 16th century. Later material is also getting more attention, a positive trend which owes most of its impact to urban archaeology. Our knowledge of the kilns is equally progressing, though systematic research and publication are lagging behind.

The main problems, however, remain the pottery from the 8th to 11th/12th century and the interpretation and use of the pottery in other ways than purely chronological ones.

In the first case, however, a survey is now being prepared for Flanders and northern France (Verhaeghe and Demolon in prep.) and a series of new finds from coastal Flanders may be of great help here. In the second case, it is hoped that the systematic evaluation of specific groups of pottery (e.g. highly decorated wares, brickwares etc.) will eventually help to achieve a breakthrough.

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