

Editorial

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The advent of desk-top publishing has had a considerable impact on the appearance of archaeological papers and monographs over the last few years. The present editors hope that the new look of *Medieval Ceramics* will extend its role as the flagship of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and encourage researchers to offer contributions to future issues. We would like to acknowledge the considerable achievement of all the past editors in steering the publication through twelve years of existence to become the only regular journal for medieval and later pottery research in Britain and abroad.

To what extent have the contents of last issues reflected the current state of research? If we examine the last twelve volumes (1977–1988), 14% of the papers dealt with single sites (63%, of which were English); 16% covered regional surveys in Britain, including Late Saxon pottery from Oxfordshire, pottery techniques in East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, medieval pottery from South-East England, and pottery from Elgin and East Scotland; 5.3% have comprised surveys of the evidence in historical sources (society and economy of the Middle Ages), documentary evidence for inland movement and for roofing materials; 7% were on British industries: at Canterbury, Carrickfergus, Coventry, Downpatrick, Norton Priory, Scarborough, Stamford, Tyler Hill, and on Hertfordshire greyware and Tudor Green. Discussion of foreign industries comprised 9%, with papers on Italian polychrome and rouletted ware, Forum ware, pottery from Morocco and South Iran, and Saintonge polychrome. A further 21% presented foreign regional reviews on topics ranging from Carolingian pottery in Trans, medieval pottery from Saint Denis and Quentovic (France), medieval pottery from Wissant and Flanders (Belgium), pottery supply to Duisburg (West Germany) and dated pottery from Ribe (Denmark). By contrast, 25% of the papers were devoted to methodology and 3.5% to scientific analysis. Regional group reports and extensive reviews of some thirty-five publications have also featured.

This spread reflects past editorial policy in attracting articles devoted to the theoretical, methodological and analytical aspects of pottery research. The proportion of papers on material from outside Britain is high, and we hope that this trend will continue, possibly to cover those areas poorly represented in *Medieval Ceramics* to date. It is similarly hoped to commission a number of articles to form the core of future issues, and the practice of publishing the annual Gerald Dunning Memorial Lecture will continue.

The number of publications that contain important ceramic groups is growing, but *Medieval Ceramics* remains a key vehicle for information exchange for all researchers of medieval archaeology, having gained acceptance among University and Museum libraries. Sparseness of material for publication has been experienced in the past (for example there are few scientific contributions and surprisingly few articles devoted to the definition of individual industries), and we would like to stress the continuing need for descriptive, interpretive, analytical and synthetic work to ensure that *Medieval Ceramics* presents a well-balanced view of all aspects of the subject.

The editors would like to thank all the contributors to this volume, and welcome offers of reviews and translation for future issues. The French and German summaries at the end of the main papers in this volume were prepared by Pierre Ickowicz and Karen Waugh respectively. The annual bibliography appears this year as a result of the hard work of Katherine Barclay and all those who assisted her in collecting the references, and Peter Davey, who prepared the bibliography typescript. We are grateful to the University of Liverpool for supporting this project and to Susan Parsons for her assistance in typing the text. Special thanks are also due to Anne Jenner for the time spent on designing and preparing the bold new cover to complement the new format of the journal.

Finally we would like to express our gratitude to all those who have sponsored the cost of this publication.