

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS

The London Area Regional Group 1989

The London Area Pottery Research Group has continued to maintain the extraordinary momentum of its inaugural year of 1988. In view of the growing interest shown in the regular biannual meetings among pottery researchers all over the South-East and the subsequent expansion of the mailing list, discussions are now in progress to establish the Group on a more formal footing. A small organising committee consisting of a chairperson, secretary and treasurer will be introduced during 1990.

The first meeting of 1989 was hosted by the Department of Greater London Archaeology at the Museum of London on 6 May on the subject of *Early and Middle Saxon pottery from London and the surrounding counties*. Topics included surveys of recently excavated assemblages from the London region and comparative material from the Midlands. This was also the first opportunity for many to learn about the work of the Anglo-Saxon kiln products from Ipswich, Suffolk. Other papers covered the archive of Anglo-Saxon pottery stamps and imports from northern France and the Rhineland. As usual a vast range of material was available for inspection. Resumés of the day are available from the session organisers (D.G.L.A. Finds Section).

The meetings on *Post-Roman pottery from Kent* due to be hosted by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the University of Kent, Canterbury, on 11 November 1989 had to be postponed until 24 February 1990. The second meeting of the year will be hosted by the British Museum, Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, on the subject of *Function and ceramic exotica* during the Autumn of 1990. A summary of these events will be published in *Medieval Ceramics* 14 (1990).

David R. M. Gaimster
Group Organiser LAPRG, December 1989.

West Midlands Pottery Research Group 1989

The group met on two occasions early in 1989 at West Bromwich Manor House and at the City Museum, Stoke-on-Trent. At the end of the West Bromwich meeting a proposal policy document towards ceramic studies was discussed for the region. A working party was established to circulate a questionnaire to all members. A disappointing response resulted and a low turn out at Stoke on Trent deferred discussion. In December a joint meeting between WMPRG and SEMPER is to take place at Warwick University, Coventry and the case will be raised again. It is intended that the Group will have adopted a formal statement by mid 1990.

It is hoped to hold meetings during 1990 in Hereford, Gloucester and Sandwell.

Mike Stokes
Secretary WMPRG, December 1989.

The North-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group

In April of 1989 Robina McNeil of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit kindly arranged a venue for the group in Manchester. The meeting looked at the work of the GMAU and was able to examine pottery from various of its recent

excavations. Although there is a considerable amount of historical evidence for occupation in this area, very little medieval pottery has come to light. This is despite the fact that other classes of find, including some 'high status' metal objects, have been recovered. A much greater range of forms and fabrics from the late 16th century onwards were present. These appear to have been primarily produced in the North-West with few imports from Staffordshire.

The main event of the year was the weekend conference held at Chester in November. This was organised jointly with the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Liverpool and the Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group. A wide range of topics were discussed and extensive displays of pottery were available for examination. The conference papers are currently being prepared for publication.

As well as the Group's activities members have also been circulated with details of the Post Graduate Pottery Seminars organised by Peter Davey at the University of Liverpool and the Merseyside Pottery Forum held at the Museum in William Brown Street, Liverpool. The Seminars have considered several of the major classes of post-medieval ceramics and tried to establish a common terminology and a dated regional sequence for the wares. In addition, broader methodological issues have been explored. The Pottery Forum is organised by the Decorative Arts Dept and has held meetings covering a wide range of topics relating to more recent factory and craft wares.

David Higgins,
Secretary NWRMPRG, February 1990.

The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group

A very well attended and successful meeting was held at Lampeter in January 1989. In November, the Group organised with the NWRMPRG and the Dept. of Continuing Education, University of Liverpool, a weekend conference in Chester. The theme 'Medieval and Later Pottery from Excavations' was intended as a sequel to the Chester medieval pottery conference, held in 1975. A publication based on the proceedings is in preparation, edited by P. J. Davey and J. A. Rutter, and the format will be similar to the monograph produced as a result of the earlier meeting.

John Lewis retired as Editor of *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* towards the end of 1988. His invaluable contribution to Welsh ceramic research continues however, and he remains a member of the WMPRG Committee. Mark Redknap, newly appointed to the National Museum of Wales, took up the mantle of Editor and produced the good looking and wide ranging Bulletin no. 10. This publication remains astounding value at the subscription price of £5 (p & p incl.) *per annum*!! Before he too retired as Secretary of the WMPRG, Peter Webster initiated a sensible and new arrangement of pre-production subscriptions, which gives the Group some additional flexibility in publications. Subscribers are regarded as members of the Group and will be circulated with details of meetings — subscriptions are due at the beginning of the financial year. Applications should be directed to: Steve Sell, Treasurer WMPRG, Gwent Archaeological Trust, 6 Prospect Place, Swansea, Gwent.

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