

MEDIEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 1990

1988 – 89		1989 – 90		1988 – 89		1989 – 90	
£	INCOME	£	£		EXPENDITURE	£	£
62.68	Bank interest & other income	157.74		—	Bank charges	3.86	
3223.50	Conference	4363.50		3266.35	Conference	4127.53	
147.00	Sales	638.00		355.35	General (including Newsletter)	349.24	
60.00	Sponsorship	40.00		1388.07	Publication: production	1888.06	
71.00	Subscriptions: arrears	805.00		—	Sales: packing & postage	190.02	
1346.00	Subscriptions: current	2034.50		5009.77			6558.71
—	Subscriptions: advance	288.00					
<u>4910.18</u>			<u>8326.74</u>	<u>(99.59)</u>	Surplus (Deficit) for year		<u>1768.03</u>

ACCUMULATED FUND AS AT 31 JANUARY 1990	£
Balance as at 31 January 1989	1400.43
Surplus for the year 1989 – 90	<u>1768.03</u>
Balance as at 31 January 1990	<u>3168.46</u>
Represented by cash at Bank 31 January 1990	3168.46

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The statement of account has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. This means that income and expenditure are shown on a cash as opposed to an accruals basis.

AM Dornier
Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

I have audited the statement of account of the Medieval Pottery Research Group for the year ended 31 January 1990 in accordance with approved auditing standards. In my opinion it gives a true and fair view of receipts and payments for the year and the balance of the accumulated fund as at 31 January 1990.

GR Hague BA MSc IPFA
23 February 1990

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS

The London Area Pottery Research Group

The group has maintained its enthusiasm for the biannual meetings, held alternately within and outside London, and has continued to expand numerically and geographically.

The fourth meeting of the group, hosted by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the University of Kent at Canterbury on February 24th 1990, was on the subject of *Post-Roman Pottery from Kent*. Topics included the Early to Late Saxon pottery sequence from Canterbury, the 12th-century Pound Lane kiln from Canterbury, and post-medieval imports. A broad range of material was available for inspection during the handling sessions.

The second meeting of 1990 took place at the British Museum on December 1st, on the theme of *Exotica et Enigmatica: unusual forms and fabrics from Britain and abroad*. The impressive range of topics included watering pots and watering cans, continental basin handles, Hispano-Moresque lustrewares, Islamic imports, Bouffouix ware, ceramic figurines, roof finials, pottery horns, Saintonge sgraffito ware, and ceramic waffle-makers. The meeting provided an opportunity for an introductory tour of the new Post-Medieval Ceramic and Glass Study Centre in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities. The establishment of the Study Centre will enable researchers to examine the reserve collections of post-medieval English and Continental ceramics.

Beverley Nenck
Group Organiser, LAPRG (c/o British Museum).

The South Midlands Medieval and Later Pottery Research Group

SEMPER held a meeting at Lincoln in October 1990, with the theme of 'Late Saxon Greyware in the East Midlands'. Concentrating on wheel-thrown sandy wares, it followed previous meetings on 'Stamford-type wares' and 'wheel-thrown sandy wares'. The programme covered the Late Saxon stratigraphic sequence in Lincoln and its absolute date, Lincoln Gritty ware, Torksey-type ware from Lincoln, York and the Torksey kilns, Late Saxon Greywares from Nottingham, and the East Midlands Anglo-Saxon Pottery Project.

Barbara Hurman,
Convener, SEMPER, MKAU, 16 Erica Road, Stacey Bushes,
Milton Keynes MK12 6PA.

West Midlands Pottery Research Group

Since the last report the Group has met at a number of venues. At the very end of 1989, the Group held a joint meeting with SEMPER at Warwick University at which four survey papers were presented, covering recent work in the region. Since then, group meetings have been held at Sandwell Park Farm on the subject of medieval floor tiles in the West Midlands; at Worcester on the problems of the transition from Saxon to Norman traditions and more recently on the Survey of Medieval Ceramic Studies. The most recent meeting took place at Hereford examining recent work in the area and looked again at the Survey. A Survey of all recent work is planned for Dudley in April. Newsletter 14 appeared (at long last) in February.

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS

At the November meeting in Worcester some changes to the Group's organisation were agreed. In future, all enquiries about either the Newsletter or Membership should be addressed to Derek Hurst & Victoria Buteux at the Worcester C. C. Archaeology Unit, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester WR4 9LS and details of meetings or suggestions for future events go to Stephanie Ratkai at the Alcester Archaeology Office, 52 Stratford Road, Alcester, B49 5AS. Mike Stokes remains the Group Co-ordinator, c/o Rowleys House Museum, Barker Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1QH.

Mike Stokes

The South-West Regional Group

There has been little activity in the south-west in a formal sense this year. It is worth reporting that the Barnstaple unit has been wound up but there remains a good deal of post-excavation to do.

There was one formal meeting, a one-day conference on early post-medieval slipwares on 17th September in Taunton under the auspices of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology in conjunction with MPRG. This also broached the subject of the medieval/post-medieval conjunction.

Experimental firings continue at Bickley, Cleeve, Avon where the Barnstaple-type kiln was fired twice more and produced passable slipware. This was the project's tenth anniversary and more experiments are planned for 1991.

An important find was the mass of Late Saxon material excavated by the Wessex Unit at the small Somerset town of Milborne Port. This appears to be the largest collection, including that from Cheddar Palaces, so far found in the county.

M. W. Ponsford
(Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery).

The North-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group

The group's AGM was held at Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury, in November. At the meeting there was some good and bad news about the regional fabric reference collection. Roger White had to report that this has been increased from 22 to 37 types while Peter Davey had to report that the set housed at the University of Liverpool had unfortunately been lost. This was the result of an unannounced room clearance of some of the Field Archaeology Unit's premises by workmen. However, the University has made funds available to re-constitute the Unit's fabric reference collection and this will include a spare regional set which is to be provided by the Group. The development of the fabric reference collection is seen as an important element of the Group's activities since it provides a regional synthesis of common and kiln types.

At the Shrewsbury meeting a summary of the recent excavations and pottery recovered from the town by the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was presented. There was also a brief introduction to the important post-medieval potteries of the Ironbridge Gorge area, and a chance to look at the display and reserve collections of the Museum. The group also visited the Old House in Dogpole to see the Peele collection of slipwares. Michael Peele, a solicitor from an old Shrewsbury family, assembled an important collection of pottery, particularly slipwares, prior to his death in 1983. Many of the pieces were collected in the county, and some at least are likely to be local products. He also collected large quantities of sherds from kiln and other domestic sites around the county. It is an important collection of regional, if not national, importance and deserves wider recognition and use.

In January 1991, a meeting was held in Lancashire. The morning session was held at the Regimental Museum in

Preston. We were able to examine all the pottery from the reserve collection of the Museum as well as a number of other groups which had been brought along. The material included both domestic and kiln waste and provided an excellent opportunity to view the development of pottery in Lancashire from the medieval period right through to the 19th century. In the afternoon Ruth Hurst Vose kindly opened her house up to display finds from the Denton glassworks excavation on the outskirts of Manchester. The site was operating during the first half of the 17th century and has produced an interesting range of pottery and pipes as well as the glass and glassmaking crucibles. Ruth showed slides and a video of the excavations which are currently being prepared for publication in *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.

Peter Davey and Janet Rutter are continuing to prepare the papers from the Chester Conference for publication. A new mailing list for the Group is being prepared. It is also hoped to provide a slightly longer newsletter with details of the previous meeting for members who were unable to attend. Anyone wishing to join the group and/or receive details of the meetings for 1991 should send a cheque for £3.00, made payable to NWRMPRG, to me at Dept of Archaeology, 12 Abercromby Square, PO Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3BX.

David Higgins,
Secretary, NWRMPRG

Yorkshire and Humberside Medieval Regional Pottery Group

This Group has had an active year after being very quiet for sometime. A meeting was held in York in April 1990 primarily to see if there was sufficient interest in getting the Group going again, but also to discuss Splash Glazed wares. There was a good attendance and evident enthusiasm for future meetings, so two further days were arranged in 1990.

Anna Slowikowski arranged a day in early August at Wharram Percy giving us a last chance to visit the excavations, which were in their final year, and an opportunity to look at some of the pottery. Our timing was very good, enabling us to see the group of Middle Saxon pottery and fragments of clay moulds that had recently been excavated.

The other meeting, held in September, was organised by John Hudson, a clay potter working at Mirfield. This was both a practical day on clay and how to use it, as well as on clay and what it does. Attempting to decorate replica medieval jugs gave an immediate insight into the skills of the medieval potter. As numbers had to be limited for this event, we hope to hold a similar day next year.

During 1991 future meetings should include the pottery from Flixborough and kilns from the region.

Sarah Jennings
Secretary, Y&HMRPG, 1 Pavement, York YO1 2NA,

The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group

Despite heavy snow, a meeting at the National Museum of Wales in December 1990 was well attended. The theme of the meeting was 'Reviews of current medieval pottery research in Wales', and included lectures by Janet Rutter on the North-West, Dr Paul Courtney on Powys, Cathy O'Mahoney on the South-West, and Cliona Papazian on the South-East. Pottery from excavations at Monmouth, Haverfordwest Priory and other sites was displayed.

The Group published *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* No. 11 (1989). The 96-page Bulletin of the WMPRG is still available for £5.00 from S. Sell, Treasurer WMPRG, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd., Ferryside Warehouse, Bath Road, Swansea SA1 1RD.

