

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS

The London Area Pottery Research Group

The group met in June 1991 at the British Museum for a day-school on the subject of Medieval Ceramics in South-East England. The meeting was organised to coincide with the regional discussion of the Survey of Medieval Ceramic Studies, and provided an opportunity for speakers to present surveys on the current state of research in various geographical areas. These concentrated on those areas which have not been covered in recent group meetings, including Sussex, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. A paper on the different techniques of scientific analysis, and their application to ceramic research was also given. As a result of this day-school, it is hoped to hold meetings during 1992 in Sussex and Berkshire, and to hold a joint meeting with SEMPER in Cambridge.

Beverley Nenck,
Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities
British Museum, London WC1B 3DG

The South Midlands Medieval and Later Pottery Research Group

Two meetings of this group have taken place during the last year, both attended by 25–30 people. The first, hosted by Buckinghamshire, was held at Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury. This meeting, originally planned for February but put back until March 18th because of heavy snow, marked the tenth anniversary of the group, and which was celebrated by a splendid buffet lunch with wine. In addition to the varied talks on kiln sites at Latimer and Brill, members had the opportunity to view the reserve collection of Brill pottery at the Museum. The second meeting, hosted by Bedfordshire, was held in October, with the theme of ceramic building materials. This covered roof tiles, floor tiles, and tile manufacture in Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire, with a viewing session. Both meetings included a discussion with Maureen Mellor of the Survey of Medieval Ceramic Studies in England. The subject of the next meeting, to be held in March at Northampton, will be Middle Saxon pottery.

Barbara Hurman
Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit

West Midlands Pottery Research Group

The West Midlands Group has met twice in 1991. The first meeting, in March, was to at Hereford, when Alan Vince discussed medieval ceramics from the city and Derek Hurst described the kilns in north-west Herefordshire. In April the group met again, at a particularly well-attended meeting at Dudley Castle, to hear papers on recent work in Warwickshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester and Staffordshire. Both meetings also included discussions in response to the Survey of Medieval Ceramic Studies.

Unfortunately Stephanie Ratkai has had to stand down as meetings organiser, and her place will be taken by Debbie Ford, City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW.

The next meeting will be held at Worcester in the spring; the subject will be Pottery and Economics in the Medieval Midlands.

Victoria Buteaux

The South-West Region Pottery Research Group

There was limited activity during 1991. The annual Bickley Experimental Kiln Project was held in July, organised by David Dawson (Somerset County Museums Service) and Ollie Kent (potter), when a Barnstaple-type kiln was fired. Members of the Group supported the survey by Maureen Mellor and Clive Orton of medieval pottery research in England, and contributed to the recent Festschrift presented to Ken Barton.

M. W. Ponsford, Group Convenor

The North-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group

1991 was a quiet year for the North-Western group, although an important meeting was held in May. This was called to discuss the state of ceramic research in the region as part of the national survey carried out by Maureen Mellor. This brought together both amateur and professional workers from Cumbria, Lancashire, Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and Staffordshire, and proved a useful forum for debate. The meeting also provided the opportunity to hear about recent work in the region. Rob Philpott from the Liverpool Museum talked about excavations at Roby, Prescott and West Derby, which have produced important new pottery groups from an area where medieval pottery is particularly elusive. Janet Rutter from the Grosvenor Museum described the Chester reference collection, and brought along part of it for examination.

Those wishing to join the group should contact me at the Department of Archaeology, 12 Abercromby Square, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

David Higgins
Secretary and Treasurer, NWMPRG

Yorkshire and Humberside Medieval Regional Pottery Group

Our only meeting in 1991 was in response to the Survey of Medieval Pottery Studies with the project co-ordinator Maureen Mellor. This took place on a Sunday in February, and in spite of a late change in the date, the meeting was well attended by fifteen people with ceramic interests in the area. At the time of the meeting, though, there was only one person who was nominally employed full-time to work on medieval ceramics.

A direct result of the meeting was that we recognised a need to communicate more with each other. Another very useful result was the agreement to establish some method of acquiring, recording and storing in one place all the basic ceramic information that is available in many different sources. We hope that this project will be well underway in 1992.

From March the new Regional Group Secretary will be Gareth Watkins, who can be contacted at Humberside Archaeological Unit, County Hall, Beverley, Humberside HU17 9BA.

Sarah Jennings (Secretary)
York Archaeological Trust

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The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group

There were no meetings of WMPRG in 1991, but members of the Group continued to support C. Papazian's survey of Medieval Pottery in Wales, which was commissioned by the Board of Celtic Studies.

The twelfth volume of Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales, covering 1990-1, was prepared for publication (scheduled to

appear in February 1992). The 130-page Bulletin of the WMPRG is available to members of the Group, whose 1992 subscription (for the calendar year starting in January) remains at £5.00. For further details, please contact me at Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd, Ferryside Warehouse, Bath Road, Swansea SA1 1RD.

S. Sell, Treasurer WMPRG