

## REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS 1992–93

### **South Central Regional Group**

The Group did not meet in 1992. Draft copies of the English Heritage Survey Document were circulated, at short notice, to various members, and comments were received in reply. At the 1991 meeting which formed a part of that Survey, there was an obvious interest in further gatherings, and it is hoped that in the coming year the Group will be meeting again to discuss some of the issues previously raised.

Duncan Brown

### **The London Area Pottery Research Group**

The Group did not hold any London-specific meetings during 1992, but there was a useful joint meeting with SEMPER in Cambridge in November where members were able to examine products of the Hedingham kilns in Essex, sherds of which occur rarely in London, as well as Cambridgeshire fabrics which have so far not been recognised in the capital. The group also coordinated responses by members in the South East to the Survey of Medieval Ceramics studies in England. Those interested in joining the Group should contact me at the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

Beverley Nenck

### **The South East Midlands Medieval and Later Pottery Research Group**

Meetings were held in the spring and autumn, both attended by about 40 people. The first, hosted by the Northampton Archaeology Unit, was on Saxon pottery; this was based on the Raunds project, but included material from other sites such as Barrow Hills in Oxfordshire. The afternoon session included an update on the survey carried out by Maureen Mellor, and discussion of the applicability of the new training and proficiency standards, COSQECS and NVQs, to archaeology. The second meeting was hosted by Cambridge University, Department of Archaeology. This comprised a viewing of the collections of Saxon and medieval pottery in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, followed by talks on the Fenland area, the Ely kilns, and recent work by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Unit, notably at the Colne kiln. A wealth of pottery from excavations in Cambridgeshire, as well as from the Bourne kilns in Lincolnshire, was available for examination in the afternoon session. At the Northampton meeting Barbara Hurman retired as secretary of the Group, and any enquiries should now be addressed to me at Bedfordshire Archaeology Service, Bedfordshire County Council Planning Department, County Hall, Bedford.

Anna Slowikowski

### **West Midlands Pottery Research Group**

The Group held a meeting in November 1992 at the County Archaeological Service Office in Worcester. The topic was 'Ceramics and the medieval economy' and the speakers included both archaeologists and historians. In particular the value of pottery vessels was discussed with reference to documentary evidence for the West Midlands. The cost of pottery was placed in context, both in comparison to vessels in other materials, and in relation to incomes and the cost of living throughout the medieval period. This meeting was preceded by the first issue of a newsletter in a new format.

The Group also organised a joint meeting with the Welsh Pottery Research Group on 'Pottery and trade in the South Welsh Marches' at Monmouth in March 1993, kindly hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society. A future meeting for later in 1993 has provisionally been arranged at Stafford on 'Castles and Ceramics'.

Derek Hurst WMPRG

### **The South-West Region Pottery Research Group**

There was little activity during 1992, but the annual Bickley Experimental Kiln Project, organised by David Dawson (Somerset County Museums Service) and Ollie Kent (potter), took place again in the summer. It is hoped to revive the Group during the coming year.

M. W. Ponsford, Group Convenor

### **Yorkshire and Humberside Medieval Regional Pottery Group**

Ours is not one of the more active Regional Groups. Only one formal meeting was held during 1992, when members met in Beverley to view the large collection from the Humberside Unit's 'high status' site at Flixborough. Alan Vince, Jane Young, Ailsa Mainman and Paul Blinkhorn all presented interesting papers on aspects of Middle Saxon pottery, and Group members discussed what form the MAP2-style assessment of the pottery from the site should take.

An attempt was made to gather members together in York in early October to discuss the circulated draft of Maureen Mellor's survey, but the meeting was cancelled because very few members were able to attend at the short notice that was given.

Suggestions for themes and venues for future meetings would be most welcome, and should be sent to the Acting Regional Secretary, Humberside Archaeology Unit, County Hall, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 9BA.

Gareth Watkins

### **Scottish Regional Group**

Due to the size of the country and the low membership in Scotland, the Regional Group has not met formally for some time. However, with new Groups of material coming forward it is hoped to organise an official meeting in the early autumn of 1993, in particular to view pottery from St. Andrews. Members will be notified as soon as a date and venue are arranged.

Charles Murray

### **The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group**

One meeting, hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society, was held in March 1993 in conjunction with the West Midlands Group, on the theme of 'Pottery and trade in the South Welsh Marches'.

The 13th volume of *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* (1992) is due to appear in early summer 1993. This volume is in a new format and is devoted to the final publication of the survey of medieval pottery and roof-tile from Wales. For further details of this and other volumes please contact me at the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd, Ferryside Warehouse, Bath Lane, Swansea SA1 1RD (tel. 0792 655208).

S. Sell, Treasurer WMPRG