



Editorial

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In the editorial to volume 14 we expressed concern at the shrinkage of the archaeological profession as a result of the economic recession, and at the consequently dwindling numbers of practising finds specialists. It is thus with some pleasure that we report that 1992 was a most creative and stimulating year for medieval archaeologists. This was of course largely due to the events staged to mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage of discovery and the simultaneous preparations for the arrival of the Single European Market, but it was extremely heartening to see not only how well-attended these events were, but how well pottery and other finds studies were represented. As a result we have introduced yet another new section to our expanding journal, currently under the heading 'Conference News'. It is hoped that this trial run will develop into a more comprehensive coverage of events we should all like to attend but for various reasons are unable to do so. Another new departure in this issue is the inclusion of a Review Article, which we hope will not be a 'one-off'.

The main contributions this year again cover a wide range of topics which illustrate the spectrum of work carried out by pottery specialists — a synthetic paper on the use of ceramics in metalworking, a conventional study of an important group of continental pottery from a well-dated pit group at Fast Castle, Scotland, a typological study of a kiln group from the pottery production centre of Mill Green, and form-specific statistical analyses based on Siegburg stoneware drinking jugs from well-dated castle sites in the Netherlands.

The *Compendiario* section contains a number of shorter contributions covering both pottery and

building materials, and ranging in date from Anglo-Saxon to the 16th century. Some of these will undoubtedly develop into important studies in due course — the recent excavations at Eynsham and in Bedfordshire, for example clearly offer great scope for post-excavation finds research.

One other development remains to be announced. The MPRG has become a registered charity — a goal which has long been sought. In order to do this, certain amendments had to be made to the Constitution of the Group, and we are therefore including the new Constitution in order that it may be publicly available.

Amongst the other events of the year, the Medieval Europe conference in York formed a particularly appropriate venue for the presentation of a *Festschrift* from the Group to John Hurst. On behalf of the membership, we should like to thank John Hurst for his work as Vice-President of the Group and chair of the Editorial committee, and to welcome Clive Orton to this position.

This volume represents much hard work on the part of the contributors, and by the compilers of the annual bibliography, Katherine Barclay and Peter Davey, to whom we extend our thanks. We are also indebted to Katherine Barclay and Sarah Jennings for all their assistance 'behind the scenes', Ian Riddler and Majella Egan for disk conversion, Christine Bedeschi-Smith and Frederike Hammer for the French and German summaries, and to Graham Reed for the striking cover design.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to the Passmore Edwards Museum and Riksantikvaren, Trondheim for their generous contributions towards the cost of this publication.