

industry of the Malvern region: the study of a ware and its distribution', in D. P. S. Peacock (ed), *Pottery and Early Commerce*, 257–305.

Vince, A. G. 1980, 'A Monmouth-type floor tile from Llanthony Priory, Gwent', in D. H. Evans 'Excavations at Llanthony Priory, Gwent', *Monmouthshire Antiq* IV, 20–21.

Vince A. G. 1985, 'Part 2: The ceramic finds', in R. Shoesmith *Hereford City Excavations Vol.3: The Finds*, CBA Res Rep 56, 34–83.

Stephen Clarke, Reg and Philomena Jackson
Monmouth Archaeological Society

EARLY PANTILES FROM LONDON

Until recently it was generally supposed that pantiles were first introduced to London after the Great Fire of 1666 (Vince 1984, 71–3). However, there is now firm archaeological evidence from three sites in London for their use on a limited scale prior to 1666.

At *Billingsgate Fish Market Car Park*, the earliest excavated pantiles are dated to c. 1630/50–1666 (Betts 1991). They were found in the vicinity of St. Botolph's church and what appear to be commercial buildings bordering St. Botolph's Lane, all of which were destroyed in the Great Fire. There is no indication which building was roofed in pantile.

At *90–94 Old Broad Street*, twenty-one fragments of pantile were found in the main fill and backfill of the post-medieval City ditch. The ditch infill contained a large pottery assemblage dated to c. 1620–early 1640s. Documentary sources indicate that the ditch had been infilled by c. 1642–47, if not earlier. The date of the pantiles is uncertain, but it would seem unlikely that they are earlier than the associated pottery.

A small quantity of pantiles were also uncovered during excavations at the *Royal Mint* site (also known as St. Mary Graces). They were found in contexts associated with the earliest phase of a victualling yard for the Tudor navy, which dates from c. 1565 to the mid-17th century (Crowley 1990, 3).

The early pantiles used in London were probably imported into the City from Holland. This importation began during the 17th-century, and such tiles were still being used in London in the Georgian period (Clifton-Taylor 1987, 279). When pantiles were first manufactured in England is still uncertain. As early as 1636 William Westby was granted a patent for the 'makeing of Pantiles of Flanders Tyles', although according to Clifton-Taylor (*ibid*, 275) there is no conclusive evidence that Westby actually began manufacture. It is generally believed that the first English pantiles may have been those produced by a company at Tilbury from 1701.

After the Great Fire pantiles were used in London in great quantities until the introduction of cheaper slate roofing in the 1760s (Cruikshank and Wyld 1975, 176). During the later 18th century ceramic roofing tiles were gradually superseded by slate roofing and many formerly tiled roofs were resurfaced in slate.

Discussion

Recent work in London has shown that at least a few buildings prior to the Great Fire of 1666 had pantile roofs. However, the amount of pantile which has been recovered is extremely small compared to peg tile, which seems to have been the normal form of roof covering. The evidence from Old Broad Street suggests that pantiles were first being used in the City by the second quarter of the 17th century. Unfortunately, very little has been published on pantile dating elsewhere, and so it is difficult to know whether pantiles were first introduced to other areas of

Britain during the same period. The author would be grateful for any comments on this point.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Betts, I. M. 1991, 'Billingsgate Fish Market Car Park, Lower Thames Street (BIG82): Building Material', Unpublished Archive Report, Museum of London.

Betts, I. M. 1992, '90–94 Old Broad Street, Boston House (BRO90): Building Materials', Unpublished Archive Report, Museum of London.

Clifton-Taylor, A. 1987, *The Pattern of English Building*. London.

Crowley, N. 1990, 'Royal Mint Excavation (MIN84 and MIN86): Building Material Report', Unpublished Archive Report, Museum of London.

Cruikshank, D. and Wyld, P. 1975, *London: The Art of Georgian Building*, The Architectural Press. London.

Vince, A. G. 1984, 'Ceramic Building Materials' in A. Thompson, F. Grew and J. Schofield 'Excavations at Aldgate, City of London 1974' *Post-Medieval Archaeol* 18, 1–49, 69–77.

Ian Betts

Museum of London Archaeology Service

CONFERENCE SUMMARIES

'Pottery from 5th – 10th century in North-West Europe' ('La Céramique du Ve au Xe Siècle dans l'Europe du Nord-Ouest')

The second International Colloquium of the Groupe de Recherches et d'Études sur la Céramique (G.R.E.C.) dans le Nord/Pas-de-Calais was held at Outreau near Boulogne from the 10th–12th April 1992. The first conference in 1988 at Lille had looked at the state of knowledge of medieval and post-medieval pottery research in north France.

While the Colloquium concentrated on pottery of the 5th to 10th centuries, it began with extremely useful and informative surveys of the Roman to early medieval *continuum*, with a paper on late Roman pottery in Belgian Gaul by Marie Tuffreau-Libre, and two contributions of the evolution and distribution of pottery, one on the 4th–6th century in the north of Gaul by Didier Bayard, and the other on the regional and interregional distributions in the 4th and 5th century by Paul van Ossel.

This was followed by a session covering pottery from England. Lyn Blackmore reviewed 5th- to 10th-century local and imported pottery found in London and its hinterland, plotting the evolution of the settlement and parallel changes of pottery use. Alan Vince described the forms, functions, and manufacturing techniques of late 9th- and 10th-century wheelthrown pottery in England, and proposed the testing of several of John Hurst's models for their origins. Ailsa Mainman described the continental pottery from 8th- to 10th-century sites in York, and how the fluctuating proportions of the different wares reflect the changing rôle of York as an international and regional centre.

The following day began with a session on Belgium and the Netherlands. Yann Hollevoet described the pottery found in Merovingian settlements such as Roksem and Kerkhove in the region around the *Castellum* of Oudenbourg (côte flamande, Belgium), which have produced quartz-tempered hand-made pottery, some wheel-turned Rhenish wares, and grey burnished biconical pottery from the Pas-de-Calais/Belgium. Of interest is the occurrence on a few sites of chaff-tempered hand-made wares

similar to mid-Saxon wares from England. This was followed by Arno Verhoeven on the development of pottery up to the end of the 10th century in the central Netherlands, in the region to the south-west of Eindhoven and Gennep. Professor van Es and Wim Verwers looked at the supply to the Netherlands of Carolingian pottery from Mayen and the Vorgebirge area to Dorestad and other centres, such as Deventer and Domburg (some 500 sites are now known), and estimated that no more than 100 small boats transporting goods would have been sufficient to satisfy annual demand (Dorestad, being one of the larger clients, probably required between 0.6 to 3.0 cargoes of 24m³ capacity per year), based on quantities of pottery actually found and estimates of supposed quantities of pottery reaching consumer sites. Wim Dijkman reviewed the sequences of pottery from the Derlon Hotel excavations in Maastricht, which produced evidence for local production of pottery imitating Eifelkeramik and Argonne ware in late Classical tradition, dated to the 5th century, and from St Servaas, excavated between 1985-89. Dirk Callebaut then reviewed Carolingian imports into the Escaut valley.

Madeleine Chatelet reviewed hand-made and wheel-turned pottery from the 6th to 9th century in the Black Forest regions of Alsace and the Pays de Bade, while Muriel Georges-Leroy and Michel Lenoble looked chronologically at the Champagne area, largely through the results of motorway work since 1988 (Phase 1, 7th-8th century, Phase 2, 8th-10th century, Phase 3, 10th-12th century). Nicole Meyer-Rodrigues described the spectacular tin-foil decorated pottery of Tating-type from Saint-Denis (some 63 sherds), and pointed out the similarity of the decoration to that on glass from Birka, supporting the view expressed elsewhere that the decoration was not necessarily applied by the potters, but possibly by other craftsmen. Annie Lefevre provided a wider overview of the Carolingian pottery from Saint-Denis, from wheel-thrown spouted jars to candlesticks and mortars. Michel Petit went on to describe pottery from the 6th to 10th century from the south of Ile-de-France, with the continuity of late Classical typology evident.

The final day started with a presentation by Didier Bayard and Guy Fucher on pottery from settlements in the Aisne valley and the 6th-century development of regional products. Nathalie Roy described the excavation of a pottery workshop discovered in 1985 in the forest of La Londe (Seine Maritime) and dated to the early or mid 8th-century, of direct relevance to the study of imports to Hamwic and Quentovic. This was followed by a collaborative paper by Anne-Marie Flambard, Francois Fichet de Clairfontaine, Patrick Couanon, D. Dufournier, Claude Lorren and Christian Pilet on the development of pottery in Brittany and Basse-Normandie from the 5th to 11th century, after which Margaret Worthington described the local and imported wares from Quentovic. Frans Verhaeghe closed the conference with a synthesis of the state of the subject covering the 5th-10th centuries in North France and Flanders. This looked at 1) the methodology affecting comparison of work on spatial distribution, function and chronology between regions, 2) the need to reconcile definition of groups and the relationship between funerary pottery and everyday pottery, 3) the need for assessments of the mechanisms of exchange and contact to take account of socio-economic/socio-cultural factors, as for example, the development of urbanism.

The organisers are to be congratulated on a stimulating and rewarding conference, in which all learnt something new, and new friends were made (although, sadly, illness prevented a number of people from speaking or attending). The opportunity to review pottery of late Classical to Carolingian date, and the ceramic trends *in extenso* has helped to redress the former emphasis on Rhenish industries, and the highlighting of recent advances in our understanding of pottery in north France and Flanders during this period has strengthened the demand for continued research into regional pottery traditions. The need for

such *colloquia* is demonstrated by the continued use in some areas of terminology which confuses rather than clarifies, and the heavy reliance on chronologies established for specific areas of the Middle Rhineland.

The Proceedings are to be published by the G.R.E.C. in 1993-1994.

Mark Redknap

Trade and Discovery: The Scientific Study of Artefacts from Post-Medieval Europe and Beyond. London, November 1992

This conference, held at the British Museum from 12th-14th November 1992, formed an excellent counterpart to the feast of information on Saxon and medieval archaeology presented at the Medieval Europe 1992 Conference in York*. Thankfully much smaller than York (a fluctuating attendance of c. 60-80 people at any one time), but equally international, this was a joint venture between the British Museum, Departments of Scientific Research and Medieval and Later Antiquities and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology. The conference was partly designed to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Columbus, and was well-attended by speakers and guests from Canada, America and the West Indies. The scope, however, was much broader than this, including papers on all aspects of research into artefacts, some as late as the 19th century, from Europe as well as the Americas, and delegates from France and the Netherlands were also present. Several papers represented the work of more than one researcher, and it was interesting in this respect to see how widely dispersed these were (for pottery: Quebec-Caen; Florida-New York-Venezuela). The conference was very well-organised, with pre-printed abstracts and a number of displays and poster sessions in the reception area. The catering was also excellent. The programme was divided into a number of themes, mainly by material. Most papers concerned with pottery were presented on the first day. They are summarised here by area, starting with the West Indies and ending in Europe (some of the poster sessions also covered ceramic research, but are not detailed here).

For the Americas, two papers (one by Kathleen Deagan and Jose Cruxent, the other by J. Emlen Myers, Kathleen Deagan, Jose Cruxent and Jacqueline Olin) presented aspects of the excavation of, and post-excavation research into, the settlement established by Columbus in 1493 at La Isabela, in the Dominican Republic. The first European settlement in the Americas, this ended c. 1500. A study of the ceramics, based on NAA (1500 samples) shows that all the tin-glazed wares are from the Seville-Triana production centre. Most common are Columbia Plain and Isabela Polychrome. The bulk of the pottery comprises local earthenwares of Hispano-Moresque form. Together with the discovery of an updraught kiln in the Andalucian tradition, this suggests that the original European settlers included some potters who experimented with different ways of using the new raw materials.

For Canada, research carried out into the Normandy stonewares used by Basque, Breton and Norman fishermen and merchants in the 18th century, was presented by Jean-Pierre Chrestien (Quebec) and Daniel Dufournier (Caen).

Michael Eddy considered the pottery of the Canary Islands, while John Hurst was to have spoken on the post-medieval pottery of Seville imported into north-west Europe. Unfortunately he was unable to do so, but his slides were shown on his behalf by David Gaimster.

As an example of research into English ceramics, Ian Freestone (BM Research Laboratory) summarised the analyses carried out by himself and Mavis Bimson on English porcelains, notably those from the recently excavated kilns at Limehouse

COMPENDIARIO

(1745–1748), which show that although glass was an important component of the paste, this was part of a local tradition and not necessarily due to the influence of French potters.

As examples of research into European pottery, David Gaimster and Duncan Hook (BM Research Laboratory) discussed the provenancing of English and continental stovetiles using NAA, and summarised the aims of an ongoing research programme; Mike Hughes (BM Research Laboratory) summarised the range of research projects currently being carried out on pottery produced in/imported into Britain and

samples from the countries of origin, and the potential of this work to help understand contemporary trends in different production centres, in England and/or abroad.

It is hoped that the Proceedings of this conference will be published by the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology.

*To be reviewed in *Medieval Ceramics* 17.

Lyn Blackmore