

proposed in an attempt to identify regional market areas between the 7th and 9th centuries (which will require testing).

Worthington provides a useful summary of the sandy, shell-tempered and imported wares from Quentovic, and the most recent distribution map of findspots indicating the extent of the early medieval settlement: the site promises much information of the nature of pottery supply to this area of North France. The review of Carolingian pottery from Saint-Denis is of great value, as is Meyer-Rodrigues' description of the impressive collection of 47 tin-foil decorated Tating-type sherds from Saint-Denis. The proceedings conclude with a paper by Demolon and Verhaeghe which distinguishes four principal phases (4th–5th century, 6th–7th century, 8th–first half 9th century, second half 9th–10th century) and examines the methodology, chronological and typological development of the ceramic groups from northern France and Belgian Flanders between the 5th and 10th centuries, and their general interpretation. They argue for a reconsideration of the relationship between funerary and domestic vessels, and for further consideration of socio-economic or socio-cultural considerations such as the development of urbanism in discussions of the mechanisms of ceramic exchange. The proceedings are succinctly summarised by Lebecq who points to the increase in data from excavation and consequent change in interpretive perspective, and notes the degree to which recent archaeological finds mirror the evidence in the historical record.

The papers raise many issues, and while many of the conclusions will doubtless need revision in years to come, as more information on wares, distributions, chronology, and the socio-economic context of ceramic groups is published, their value as up-to-date surveys makes the book not simply a well-produced volume of conference proceedings, but a useful work of reference for the 1990s. The lack of standardised presentation for pottery illustrations (some without any indication of scale) is a common headache for editors, but is offset here by the high quality of printing and reproduction, and the speed with which the proceedings have appeared.

The volume is a must for student, historian and archaeologist alike interested in the 5th–10th centuries, as it encapsulates important review papers at different levels of detail, helping to fill a gap in the literature which has been lamented for so long. Let us hope that the full publication of these important investigations will occur within the millennium.

Mark Redknapp

Elsa Hähnel (ed) *Siegburger Steinzeug*. Bestandskatalog Bd.2. Führer und Schriften des Rheinischen Freilichtmuseums und Landesmuseums für Volkskunde in Kommern, No. 38, Cologne 1992. 336 pp including plates and figures; 265 × 197 mm. ISBN 3-7927-1139-7.

Of all the Rhenish stoneware production centres of the medieval and later period, perhaps the most prolific was Siegburg, situated on the River Sieg, a tributary of the Rhine. Finds from as wide a distribution area as Britain, Scandinavia and eastern Europe testify to the intensity of production and the emphasis of the Siegburg workshops on regional and international export from the 13th to early 17th centuries. In Germany and the neighbouring Low Countries, moreover, Siegburg stonewares regularly make up 50% of the ceramics found on individual consumer sites of the late Middle Ages. Between 1961 and 1966 Bernhard Beckmann excavated the last remaining complete waster heap in the Siegburg Aulgasse. Its immense size (over

60 m in length, 23 m in width and 5 m in height) demonstrates the intensity and longevity of pottery manufacturing in one family workshop over four centuries. Siegburg was the first Rhenish stoneware centre to introduce the practice of applying relief-moulded decoration to the surface of the wares. This technique, which appeared in the first half of the 15th century, became increasingly sophisticated and culminated during the Renaissance in the application of heraldic, mythological, biblical and allegorical designs derived from the engravings of the Little Masters (*Kleinmeister*) of Nuremberg. It is these highly decorated wares which can often help to date assemblages on archaeological sites.

Surprisingly, production centres in the Rhineland itself have a poor record of archaeological investigation, recording and publication. Beckmann's monograph on Periods I to IV at Siegburg (Beckmann 1975) represents an honourable exception, although the later phases of the second half of the 16th to early 17th century production (Period V) remain unpublished to date. More recently, we have been grateful to receive the report on the excavation of the Knütgen family workshop at no. 8, Aulgasse, which presents a varied selection of products made on one site during the second half of the 16th century (Korte-Börger, 1991). Here the workshop was torched by Spanish troops in 1588, providing archaeologists with a firm dating horizon for Siegburg products of this date.

During the mid-1980s Elsa Hähnel, in association with the Rheinisches Freilichtmuseum in Kommern, embarked on the cataloguing of a substantial collection of fragments collected from the Siegburg waster heaps and now stored at the Museum. It is ironic that a museum of folk history, rather than the appropriate archaeological authorities in the Rhineland, has undertaken to produce a full catalogue of Siegburg stoneware covering the entire span of production in the town. We are thus the more indebted to Dr Hähnel for embarking on this vital project, which has resulted in the most systematic and comprehensive publication of products from any of the Rhenish production centres. The project was envisaged in three parts, of which this volume is the second to be published.

The first volume, published in 1987, provides a thorough resumé of the topographical and geological situation of the workshops and that of the entire Rhenish potting region. Apart from the catalogue itself, the volume also contained an immensely useful review of previous research at Siegburg and an extensive bibliography. The catalogue comprises 952 entries on the wares (each accompanied by a photograph) ranging from the 12th century to the 1630s, when production ceased due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War. The dating assigned to the wares relies completely on Beckmann's relative chronological scheme of 1975 (Periods I–V). Volume 2 continues in the same vein, with a further 1,517 catalogue entries, this time more brief and with only selected photographs. The bonus is a number of thorough, well-illustrated essays on the chemistry of Siegburg stoneware (by Hähnel), thin-sectioning (Riederer), porosity analysis (Hähnel), the Siegburg *Bartmann* jug (Hähnel and Halm) and a paper on the iconography of Renaissance relief medallions (Walther), which proves a much-needed update on the now (sadly) unavailable publication by Lipperheide (1961).

Like volume 1, volume 2 of *Siegburger Steinzeug* is beautifully produced with high quality paper and photographs. The value of the latter lies in their comprehensiveness; they illustrate the fullest range of wares manufactured at one of the major stoneware centres in the Rhineland. In terms of quality of publication and academic scope, the Kommern volumes represent a worthy substitute for the now out-of-print catalogue of the Siegburg stonewares held by the German Ceramic Museum (Hetjens Museum) in Düsseldorf (Klinge 1972), and no serious student of medieval and later imported ceramics should be without their own copies. In publishing a complete catalogue of the Museums collections, there will inevitably be some

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duplication of forms and decorative types, but this reviewer has experienced no difficulty in searching for comparative material, and it is gratifying that so many variations of well-known vessel-types are illustrated. Volume 2 contains an admirable quota of scientific discussion, without which no worthwhile study of archaeological ceramics should be published these days. Volume 3 promises to reveal more about the chemistry of the Siegburg clays and will include the results of Neutron Activation Analysis conducted by the British Museum Research Laboratory.

The only reservation this reviewer has about the two volumes published concerns the repetition of Beckmann's somewhat loose chronology for the Siegburg waster material. Invariably, production sites produce little dating evidence, and it must be realised that this material does not derive from scientific excavation but from individual donations of casual finds to the Museum. Nonetheless, some attempt might have been made to tie the individual fragments in with finds from well-dated contexts on consumer sites — sufficient of these exist now, particularly in London, the Low Countries and in the Lower Rhineland — but this task is left to the reader and user of the catalogue. One should not complain, however. It is due to the dedication of Dr Hähnel and her colleagues that we now have

the most comprehensive overview of Siegburg stoneware production, which will shortly become the bible of pottery researchers across Europe who need to identify one of the most common and hitherto poorly understood of all medieval and early post-medieval export wares.

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