



Editorial

KATHERINE BARCLAY and MICHAEL HUGHES

The 'proceedings' of the 1993 annual MPRG conference at Southampton on Late Medieval Imported Pottery, are almost completed here. An overview of Spanish wares is followed by exotic, possibly Iberian, imports into Belgium; redwares of the Low Countries follow, before we cross the Channel for imports first into London, and then into South-west England; lastly, a discussion of the range of imports into Norway is complemented by a description of Early Glazed ware from Denmark. The first of a series of technological papers, on jug bases, completes the articles. Shorter notes, conference reports and reviews of books follow.

The achievements of the retiring editors, Lyn Blackmore and Mark Redknap, in raising standards, especially in the appearance of the journal, have been most visible in the integration of the half-tone plates with the text, in the attractive cover style and in the introduction last year of colour plates. A full acknowledgement of the debt the MPRG owes to them should, most importantly, include mention of the high academic standard of the contents of the journal which they have achieved; we will strive to continue this. The Editors and Assistant Editor particularly wish to thank Lyn and Mark for the generous assistance they have given in the transfer of their editorial role. The MPRG is indebted to the British Academy for their further generous grant towards general production costs.

From volume 19, next year, articles submitted to *Medieval Ceramics* will be subject to peer review, by submission of the contributions to referees. With increasing stress being placed in academic circles on publication in refereed journals, it has seemed appropriate to take this step. The time needed for the editorial process will inevitably be longer (see Notes for Contributors), but authors will benefit from citation in a refereed journal of maintained standards and, we hope, of enhanced reputation.

We are pleased by the appearance recently of

the results of Maureen Mellor's survey of the state of medieval pottery research. Prepared on behalf of the MPRG, it is entitled *Medieval Ceramic Studies in England: A Review for English Heritage*. It was distributed too late for review in this volume, but will be considered by Council at their June meeting. Copies may be obtained from Sheila Mason, Rm 209, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AB.

Among the events of the year was the one-day Annual Conference at Nottingham, which considered the publication of kiln sites. This was the occasion on which five officers of the Council retired. The MPRG owes them a considerable debt for their untiring efforts on the Group's behalf: the Editors of the journal and Peter Davey, Varian Denham and Sarah Jennings.

Our thanks are due to four people for their important contributions of translations. These include translating into English two of the main articles: Alejandra Gutierrez and Frans Verhaeghe; providing the French resums: Agn  s Shepherd; and the German resums: Klaus Hammer. We are delighted with the cover design by Graham Reed, and thank him for preparing several other illustrations. The Annual Bibliography was compiled again by Peter Davey together with, for the first time, David Higgins; we are grateful to them and their many contributors for their efforts, and to the CBA for their continued financial support. We also wish to thank Michiel Bartels for contributing information on Dutch publications, which has been incorporated into the Annual Bibliography. It is extremely gratifying to see closer links between European specialists in Medieval ceramics, as shown by such contributions, by publishing papers in two consecutive volumes of this journal dealing with wider European issues, and by the holding of the 1995 MPRG Annual Conference in Cologne.

