



Reviews

Hemmy Clevis and Jan Thijssen (eds.) *Assembled Articles* 1 Symposium on medieval and post-medieval ceramics, Nijmegen 2 and 3 September 1993. 205 pp including plates and figures; 297 × 204 mm. Order: SPA, Lijnbaan 103, 8011 AP Zwolle, NL, price £7.00 (p&p) for UK: TSB-bank 771713-23325860.

This is the first joint effort by 14 contributors to the 1993 Nijmegen Symposium to make sense of medieval and post-medieval ceramic studies and terminology in the Netherlands and Flanders. One of the aims was to make an inventory and comparison of closed groups of finds studied to date. Many individual researchers and town archeological services use their own system of research, documentation and publication of such assemblages. This means that the little that has been published is 'inter-site-comparable' only in basic terms.

Arnold Carmiggelt examines published cess-pits in the Lowlands, using a minimum vessel count, dating and the provenance of the complexes as comparative measures. This is the first integrated attempt to prove that there are regional-chronological differences in the appearance of certain wares. In doing so, he points out that studying ceramics alone is not enough when researching the socio-economics of material culture; non-ceramic categories are just as important. The only way in which a successful result can be achieved is by investigating probate inventories and historical background as well.

Alexandra van Dongen and **Mieke Smit** each approach ceramic terminology from the perspective of historical sources such as cookery books, works on table manners and industrial archives on pottery production. Many dialects in the Dutch language use their own words for certain utensils, linked to date, class, or occupation. The context of the object in the source is important, as is the nature of the documentary source. Van Dongen ends with a glossary of ceramic terms in Dutch and English. Smit quotes historical sources to show that nomenclature in the past was as inconsistent as it is now.

Peter Bitter gives an overview of the terminology of applied features on both domestic wares and imports. The names given to these features can be seen from cross-sections. That this forms only the beginning of a concordance can be seen by comparing it with van Dongen's article. Unfortunately the German and English glossaries, which were handed out at the conference, are missing from the article. A more comprehensive concordance can be found in *Leitfaden zur Keramikbeschreibung* (Bauer *et al.*, 1987). Technical methods, terminology of applied features and the naming of vessel forms are discussed at length by Bauer, showing that the Nijmegen conference addressed only the tip of the iceberg.

Hans van Gangelen reviews ten years of using the 'Groningen-model' on cesspit contents. This model for

research and publication has already been used in Groningen (three times), Delft (once) and Maaseik (B) (once). The advantage of the model is the 'all-in-one-view' presentation of form, function, ware, minimum vessel count and percentages. The disadvantage is that the forms are not specified or coded so that steps towards a typology are hard to make. For ceramics of the post-medieval period the system is too inexact. Questions which remain unanswered are whether the porcelain is Oriental or European, and whether the industrially-produced wares are Staffordshire or Maastricht. Van Gangelen concludes that the Groningen model needs to be adapted to meet the many needs of pottery studies.

Volume 2 of *Assembled Articles* will be the result of the next Dutch-Flemish ceramic symposium in Antwerp held in late January 1995.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bauer I., Kerkhoff-Hader B., Stephan H-G (et al.) 1987, 'Leitfaden zur Keramikbeschreibung (Mittelalter-Neuzeit). Terminologie-Typologie-Technologie' *Katalog der Prähistorischen Staatssammlung (München) Beiheft 2.*

Michiel Bartels

J. Hurtrelle, Potiers du Pays de Montreuil et de Desvres. Les Plats Décorés. Nord-Ouest Archéologie No.4. 1991. ISSN 0990 9559. 144 pp., 69 black-white plates and figures, 8 pp. colour plates. Price 150 francs.

The tide appears to be turning in the study of slip-decorated wares, once heavily reliant on personal knowledge and limited publications. Fuller interim reports on kiln sites, studies of industries and comprehensive regional surveys are appearing in print, and French wares are no exception, where there have been English and French studies of Beauvais and Saintonge slipwares. These wares became more complex with the addition of polychrome glazes in the late 16th century. Slip-decorated wares appear in the 17th century, and are often local in style, sharing characteristics with middle European traditions (for example, dishes with geometric or floral decoration, or animals, sometimes within a geometric border).

In the course of the 19th century, the museums of the North of France expanded their collections to include slipwares — in particular the museums of Saint-Omer, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Saint-Pol-sur-Ternoise, Abbeville, Amiens and Berck-sur-Mer. Sorrus lies only 5 km from Montreuil-sur-Mer (Pas-de-Calais), and is the best known village of the Ponthieu-Boulonnais region producing post-medieval artisan wares. An early advance in knowledge concerning most French slipwares was the publication by Charles Wignier (1887, *Poteries Vernisées de l'Ancien Ponthieu*).

Interestingly, the first study by Wignier included an early