

the highest-rate tax-payers. The end of redware production in Delft was due to heavy competition from quality redwares imported from West-Brabant, Oosterhout and Bergen op Zoom, and the poor home market for cooking pots. People preferred eating from a Delftware plate rather than a communal pot.

Mrs. Roodenburg's work is a perfect inter-disciplinary study of industrial history and ceramic research.

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Michiel Bartels

**L. Blackmore and A. Vince, *Medieval Pottery from South-East England found in the Bryggen Excavations 1955-68***, The Bryggen Papers Supplementary Series, No. 5, 1994. 320 pp. ISBN 82 00 21670 5. University of Bergen, Scandinavian University Press.

The report on the imported wares from south-east England found in the excavations at Bryggen, Bergen, accounts for well over 50% of this particular volume (pp. 1-159, 4 pls., 2 diags., 30 figs.); the remaining papers are reports on French medieval ceramics, dog bones, and the 'cellar' buildings and privies at Bryggen.

It is the intention of this review to concentrate on the study of the London area pottery, but first I wish to comment briefly on the Bryggen Papers as the means of publishing the results of the excavations carried out at Bryggen, Bergen, between 1955 and 1968. These papers are not as well known or well publicised as they ought to be. As a subscriber to the Supplementary Series (signed up many years ago!), I am sent the volumes as they are published, but otherwise I have seen very little advertising their existence. They are available, however, from Oxbow Books, Oxford.

Given the duration and size of the excavations at Bryggen and the incredible amount of information and material they have yielded, it was decided to publish the results in a series of scholarly papers - a Main Series and a Supplementary Series. The Main Series carries the longer excavation reports, the many building details, and particular aspects of the material culture to which an entire volume has been devoted. The Supplementary Series covers shorter studies on central subjects, preliminary results and to some extent also, studies on related themes. This approach is not wholly consistent. For example, Volume 4 of the Main Series is a study of the footwear from the Gullskoen area of Bryggen, while Lüdtkke's report on Pingsdorf Ware appears in the Supplementary Series, where it is titled 'The Bryggen

Pottery 1'. This might indicate that the London-type wares should have appeared in a single volume as 'The Bryggen Pottery 2', which they have not.

In dealing with the south-east English material, Blackmore and Vince set out their paper under four main headings: the background to the study, the analysis of the material, the Bryggen pottery in the wider context and the conclusions drawn from the study.

In their introduction, the complexities of the site stratigraphy are dealt with clearly and succinctly, providing a very useful account of the Bryggen excavations in the context of the development of urban archaeology in Norway, including the recording systems used and the site chronology which was developed. The complexities of the background can best be understood if one remembers that the excavation began in 1955 when recording systems were in a relatively early stage of development. The site chronology is further complicated by its dependence on dating both by a mixture of dendrochronology and radiocarbon dating, and by relating fire layers to historically documented fires.

In general terms, the study of the pottery from Bryggen is an important exercise for a number of reasons. Firstly, we are dealing solely with imported pottery - there being no indigenous contemporaneous ceramic production. Secondly, there is the possibility of a reliable chronology; and thirdly, as Lüdtkke (1989) states in his study of the Pingsdorf ware, 'captured in the fire layers is the complete household inventory at the moment of catastrophe'.

Important though this report on the London-area pottery is, it must be seen in the context of the medieval ceramics from the site as a whole. The Bryggen excavations yielded between 150,000 and 160,000 sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 11th to the 20th centuries. The quantitative distribution of the various wares is highlighted by the number of storage trays (45 x 100cm) they take up. Of some 865 trays, identified English pottery takes up 241 trays, almost equal to the total amount of German pottery, which fills 243 trays. The largest group of English pottery is Grimston ware - 115 trays, Scarborough ware fills 48 trays and Humber-type wares, 22 trays. Shelly-Sandy ware and London-type wares occupy only 16 and 12 trays respectively. Why, then, as quantitatively they account for such a small percentage of the English wares present, were the London-area wares published first? It was decided to do this as the pottery from a number of sites in the City of London had recently been examined in detail and a ceramic sequence formed which it was hoped would help refine the Bryggen chronology. Blackmore and Vince maintain that their study of the London-area pottery confirms the chronology of the fire levels originally proposed for the site and the pottery has been remarkably useful for elucidating the early development of the site. It has also been valuable for testing the absolute dating of the sequence of development. This is surely good news for future studies of the other classes of ware and for those of us dealing with the same wares on our own sites.

Lifting the study above a mere descriptive process of London-type ware occurring in Bryggen, Part 3 of the report examines the pottery in the wider context of Bergen and Norway generally and intelligently examines its role as an indicator of trade.

So far, with the publication of this report and the earlier work on the Pingsdorf ware, the site is living up to expectations, although the evidence is not as clear-cut as might have been hoped. There is a long way to go, however, as what has been published to date accounts for a mere 6% of the total amount of pottery yielded. I eagerly await publication of the remaining pottery, but meantime congratulate Blackmore and Vince for this excellent report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Charles Murray

**Mark Leah, Grimston, Norfolk. *The Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery Industry: Excavations 1962-92***. 1994, *East Anglian Archaeology*, 64, 133 pp., 7 plates, 77 figures. ISBN 0 905594 11 8. Price £27.50.

Vast exports of Grimston wares out of King's Lynn to Bergen and Trondheim and elsewhere in Scandinavia give Grimston a North-West European significance. This volume is particularly welcome because it brings together for the first time all the unpublished excavated material from the parish of Grimston. Excavations were carried out from the 1960s to the 1990s. Only one excavation, carried out in 1964 had previously been published (Clarke 1970), despite the frequent references to Grimston ware in site reports.

The major report in the volume is by Mark Leah, Andrew Rogerson and Phil Andrews, on Vong Lane, Pott Row (Chapters 4-6). These were the largest excavations in Norfolk since North Elmham Park. The report includes the publication of two kilns. Parts of the associated settlement were also discovered, with evidence of Saxo-Norman to late medieval domestic occupation.

The discovery of a pottery industry in Grimston parish was largely the result of fieldwork by J O H Nicholls. Keith Wade has written up Mr. Nicholls' small-scale excavations undertaken in the 1960s (Chapter 2). Wade's account of his own excavations at Pott Row, site 1016 (Chapter 3) reveals buildings, a well and a kiln, of the late period of the Grimston industry.

Sarah Jennings' and Andrew Rogerson's survey of the distribution of Grimston ware in East Anglia and beyond is of great value, as are their comments on the distribution of the wares. As the authors point out in their postscript, it is an interim statement and they invite further information about new find spots.

Alan Davison's analysis of the documents reveals that surprisingly little information on the industry has so far come to light. Apart from the name of the settlement (Pott Row), and the name 'Tyle Kiln Close', there is no evidence whatever of the pottery industry.

This is a high quality publication with excellent illustrations of the wares. The bright cover is very attractive with a photo of my favourite type of Grimston ware vessel - the face from a face jug. The illustrated summary of the development of vessel types between the 11th and 16th centuries (Fig 63) is very useful.

This volume is not a corpus of Grimston wares and anyone who expects that will be disappointed. A full corpus of the whole production range is indeed highly desirable, but, as Andrew Rogerson points out in his introduction, further excavation is needed in Grimston to reveal more of the Saxo-Norman industry and the decorated phase of the High Medieval period. Once these gaps are filled, a definitive account of the history and the product range of the Grimston pottery industry can be published. There is much potential here for further research.

The book is to be warmly recommended, being the most

comprehensive account of the Grimston pottery industry to date. The authors are to be congratulated on the way the reports by different contributors are drawn together into a coherent whole by Andrew Rogerson's introduction and Mark Leah's conclusions, with an assessment of the significance of the industry so far discovered.

Bill Milligan

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**A.J. Mainman, Pottery from 46-54 Fishergate. *The Archaeology of York The Pottery 16/6***. 125 pp. including 36 figures and 2 plates, 1993. York Archaeological Trust, ISBN 1 872414 31 1. Price £20.00.

Excavations at Fishergate by the York Archaeological Trust in 1985-86 revealed the best evidence yet for the settlement identified as Anglian, or pre-Viking, York. The finds included the first stratified group of Anglian pottery excavated in the city. Understandably, therefore, the bulk of this latest fascicule in the *Archaeology of York* series comprises a description and discussion of the 7th to 9th century material. It is not a substantial group, numbering 2,534 sherds, of which 1,817 seem to be residual (mainly Roman) or later intrusive types. Nevertheless, the range of Anglian wares represented, which includes local as well as imported English and Continental types, is significant in giving an insight into the status and function of the settlement.

There are a few preliminaries to be dealt with first however, including a useful account, by R.L. Kemp, of the structural evidence from the site. It is vital that pottery reports should be linked in with the stratigraphic evidence, and it is good to see this addressed in such a concise and lucid fashion here. The next section introduces finds of Anglian pottery from elsewhere in York, setting the scene for the discussion to come. The catalogue follows a brief section on methodology, from which arises one small criticism. Quantities throughout the report have been based only on sherd count, although it is stated that weights were recorded and may be found in the archive. This is obviously a policy that has been followed throughout all the ceramic publications in this fascicule series, and it is easy to see why, in the interests of consistency, this has not changed. However, it is this reviewer's opinion that at least two quantitative methods, usually sherd weight as well as count, need to be presented, in order to balance any form of statistical enquiry. Actual quantities are presented throughout in tabular form, while relative amounts, given as percentages, are quoted in the text. It appears that Roman wares account for 85% of the total sherd number for the earliest Anglian phase, 3a. We are told that these sherds are small and abraded, but the presentation of weight would have made this clearer (if for instance the percentage of the Roman sherd weight for the same phase was shown to be considerably smaller).

This is a minor point, for as has already been stated, the Anglian assemblage is not large and the statistics presented will accrue greater meaning when other stratified groups are excavated. The importance of this work lies less with the amount of material and more with its character. In her