

## 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 This volume is particularly welcome because it brings together for the first time all the unpublished excavated material from the parish of Grimston.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