



## Editorial

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We are pleased to announce another major departure for the journal: articles in this volume have been the subject of peer review. The underlying purpose is seen by some to be to achieve standards considered appropriate for the burgeoning needs of research assessment (but see Hodges in this volume, and see also the Editorial in *Antiquity* 70 (267) 1996, 1–8). Given the potential for subversion, on balance, although we have found the editing process to be inevitably prolonged, the involvement in it of others with wider or different experience will, we believe, have benefits for editors, authors and readers.

Papers on shell-tempered ware from Frisia and Pingsdorf-type ware appear early in the volume. Because relatively few papers on kilns have been published in the journal in recent years, we draw attention to the study of the kiln products from a site in Berkshire. This is followed by a survey of the medieval pottery of St Albans, and study of tiles from three sites in Scotland. The second in a series of technological papers, on experimental evidence for splashed glazes, is followed by a paper aiming to encourage the wider use of statistical methods of pottery analysis, and a thought-provoking note on DNA and fingerprints on pottery. Among the reviews this year is an article on the important survey

of English medieval pottery studies (M Mellor, *Medieval Ceramic Studies in England: A Review for English Heritage*, 1994). Some of the proposals that form part of the Survey's principal recommendations are beginning to materialise. Courses in basic ceramic petrology are being taught, handbooks are being produced, and the National Bibliography is being prepared for public access.

The 1995 MPRG Annual Conference was a three-day event held in Cologne, and we anticipate that papers resulting from the Conference will appear in volume 20 of *Medieval Ceramics*. The 'Gerald Dunning' lecture given at Cologne appears here, however.

We offer our thanks to Stéphane Rault for providing the French résumés, to Klaus Hammer for most of those in German, and to the referees for commenting on the papers offered to the journal. Graham Reed has again enhanced the exterior look of the journal by drawing the cover design. Michiel Bartels has again contributed a bibliography of current Dutch publications, and the Annual Bibliography was compiled jointly by Peter Davey and David Higgins: we sincerely thank them and their contributors for their efforts and thank the CBA for their continued financial support.

