

what looks very like an 18th- or 19th-century watch key handle ('*Kopf einer Schmucknadel*': Abb.34 no. 6, p. 47).

This volume forms an important contribution to the archaeology of the urban Rhineland, and a key work for future scholars. The volume is well produced and illustrated, with numerous black/white prints and figures, and four pages of colour. Changes in the treatment and funding of archaeology in Duisburg may affect the continuing quality of excavation, post-excavation, research and curation of this remarkable collection of deposits (Krause 1994). This important volume makes an excellent start in disseminating the results of the research, and one hopes that future policy will be to ensure that the results of all the excavations will be published in full.

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Ellen Karine Hougen Kaupang Funnene Bind IIIb: Bosetningsomradets Keramik, Norske Oldfunn XIV. Institutt for Arkeologi, Kunsthistorie og Numismatikk Oldsaksamlingen, Oslo, 1993. 116pp, A4; 25 plates/illustrations. ISBN 82-7181-1009-6. Price NOK125 (approx £14).

The Viking trading centre of Kaupang lies in Vestfold, to the south-west of Tonsberg, southern Norway. The site, which comprises a settlement with related burial mounds and flat cemeteries, is so far unique in Norway; it was excavated mainly between 1950 and 1969, although the cemeteries had been sporadically explored before this; the latter have now been published (Blindheim *et al.*, 1981; 1995). The pottery assemblage from the settlement comprises one of the largest Viking Age collections in Scandinavia, second only to Birka.

The present report is the first aspect of the settlement area to reach final publication; it follows a detailed interim on the pottery (Hougen 1969; analysis of the material was interrupted as the author took on other duties, and was completed during a sabbatical in 1991). The assemblage comprises c.2000 sherds recovered from an area of c.1400 m², which (as we learn in chapter 6, pp. 58, 61) represents only 1/40 of the site but includes six houses set in a row along the shore; large areas were devoid of finds.

The volume has six chapters, supplemented by an appendix on the thin section results and a catalogue of the sherds giving details of quantification, sherd size and find-spot. Chapters 1–5 are in Norwegian, but each has an English summary which covers the salient points discussed. Chapter 6 (summary and conclusions), is entirely in Eng-

lish; the translations are of an admirable standard and maintain the personal style of the author.

Chapter 1 sets the scene, opening with a brief introduction to the research aims and limitations of the study. The questions asked of the pottery are closely linked

'With which regions was Kaupang in direct contact, and for which periods is such contact traceable? Can we demonstrate changes or fluctuations in the contact with the rest of Europe during the period of habitation, and can such changes have affected the rise, development and decline of the period of function of the market centre? From where did the pottery come to Kaupang, and why...?' (pp. 7, 14).

The bulk of chapter 1 provides an introduction to the comparative material and literature. Pottery of the Viking period is rare in Norway; only three other sites have definite imports (Tating-type ware), while most native handmade pottery was produced on a domestic scale in the county of Rogaland. The main assemblages are Birka, Ribe, and Hedeby. Also discussed are the Baltic area, the North Sea area and the Rhineland (Badorf-type wares); England is considered beyond the scope of the study, but wares of the Viking period (Stamford, Thetford, St Neots) are mentioned in passing. The chapter concludes with an explanation of the terminology used in classifying the Kaupang material. It is good to find that the groupings are mainly based on technology, form and provenance (as at Dorset), rather than on the 'ABC' system (based on firing and fabric colour) devised by Selling (1955) for her study of the Birka material, and which still dominates Scandinavian pottery studies.

Wheelthrown wares (Group I) are presented in Chapter 2.1. Groups IA–C are Badorf-type wares: group IA, rouletted wares; IB, relief-band wares; IC, undecorated wares. Group ID is Tating-type wares, while Group IE includes a diverse range of wares with some listed as 'Badorf-type?', 'Badorf-like', 'Walberberg ware?' and 'tinfoil-decorated ware?'. The description of the rim forms and other attributes is detailed, as is the quantification (by sherd count) for each group: these are listed by numbered sub-groups of rims, spouts, etc. Fourteen sherds were submitted for thin section analysis at Bonn; two more were analysed by Richard Hodges as part of the Hamwic study. The discussion of the different industries is taken further in section 2.2, which also considers chronology and vessel function, with short essays on Badorf-type and Tating-type wares; here, as in chapter 1.4 there is much of interest which is omitted from the English text.

Chapter 3 discusses handmade wares in the same way, with a debate on local manufacture versus importation. It is concluded that three groups are represented, Slavonic/Baltic, North Sea and 'Jutish'; two sherds were examined in thin section. The pottery illustrations are grouped at the end of the text; here the juxtaposition of a 1:1 photograph of each sherd with a line-drawn profile, although in the tradition of earlier Scandinavian pottery reports, will come as a surprise to English readers. Most of the photographs appear over-exposed (rather pale), but they nonetheless convey important surface details; the open sections appear to be archive sketches — they would have been better blacked in or redrawn.

Chapter 4 considers the frequency and distribution of different wares but is disappointing, for reasons largely beyond the author's control. The excavation plan (Fig. 1) shows that the site was dug on a somewhat daunting grid square system, while the catalogue shows that, although most sherds are recorded as being related to houses or features in/near them, the finds mainly derive from two strata: the black earth and the horizon under it. A few are

described as being from shingle deposits (harbour area). The author does her best with the data, but cannot correlate the different wares with buildings or building phases due to the present lack of stratigraphic information. It is difficult in this circumstance to make anything more than general observations on the spatial distribution of the material, but the foreign reader might have been helped by some simple distribution maps like those used for Bergen (Lütke 1990; Blackmore and Vince 1993). A few tantalising observations are however made on the other finds from the houses which suggest that only one was living accommodation; one contained numerous crucible fragments, while another may have been used for weaving. The same problems are again faced in Chapter 5, which considers the dating potential of the assemblage and other evidence. For the settlement this includes eight C¹⁴ dates (most rather earlier than the material culture), twenty-nine coins (date-range 720–750 to 890) and diagnostic metalwork. Like the finds from the cemeteries, these suggest activity over a long period.

Chapter 6 is important as it not only considers the ceramic research questions but also relates the artefactual evidence to the historical evolution of the site. The market centre and cemeteries are dated from the late 8th century, continuing in use until the mid 10th century. The author suggests that the site may have been in use as a port as early as c.700, but only one sherd is considered to be this early; the bulk of the assemblage is dated from the late 8th to late 9th century, with only five 'Baltic' sherds of 10th-century date. It is estimated that the c.2000 sherds represent 114 vessels (compared to Birka, where some 25,000 sherds were found in the excavated area of settlement, this number is proportionally low).

Considering the reasons for the presence of imported wheelthrown wares at Kaupang, the author stands by her initial conclusion (Hougen 1969) that these were not traded goods, but arrived as possessions, probably for wine consumption on board ship or in the port. The main justifications for this are: the wide range of types represented 'arbitrarily' and lack of clearly defined groups which could be deemed imported in bulk; the lack of evidence for redistribution in the hinterland; and the general agreement among other specialists that this was the case. The same argument is applied to the handmade wares (which comprise c. 65% of the pottery from Kaupang). In England, at Birka or at Hedeby, these wares have been, or would be, considered regional imports used by natives of the port. In Norway, however, it is argued that there was little demand for pottery at this time, as cooking vessels and tablewares were available in other materials (stone, iron, wood, antler and imported metalwork and glass), although no details of such finds at Kaupang are given in this volume. It is felt, therefore, that most pottery was the property of visiting merchants and sailors accustomed to using pottery in their homeland: the Rhenish wares probably came in with Frisian, Saxon or Frankish traders, while the *Eitöpfe* (egg-shaped pots) were probably acquired by merchants stopping at ports in northern Holland, north Germany or southern Jutland. Some of the Baltic wares may have reached Kaupang via Birka. Most of the 'Jutish' wares are considered to be from north-west Germany and contemporary with the earlier wares; the 10th-century wares are too few in number to permit any conclusions to be drawn. An important point which is omitted from the discussion is that the site was probably occupied on a seasonal basis, at least for part of its lifespan; this was the case in Ribe, and must account for the need for foreign merchants to equip themselves fully for each visit.

The creation of a market centre at Kaupang, perhaps by

royal authority, is seen as a part of the development of international trade in the 8th and 9th centuries. While dismissing the pottery as traded in its own right, the author is quite clear (p. 59) that it is evidence of **direct** contact with the areas in which it was produced. The reasons for the selection of the site and its ultimate demise are briefly explored, and it is suggested that trading declined in the late 9th century as a result of Viking raids, which affected mercantile connections with Europe.

This volume is one of very few Norwegian pottery-specific studies available. It is tempting to compare the treatment of the material with a site in Britain of similar date, such as Fishergate or Coppergate in York (Mainman 1990; 1993) and to view it unfavourably. As far as the pottery itself is concerned, the scientific analyses could have been taken further. The quantification might have included weights and estimated vessel equivalents, and would have been enhanced by graphic presentation of statistical data or of the distribution of finds, as was done for Trondheim (Reed 1990). There are some discrepancies between the totals quoted in the text and those given in the Appendix, and others between references in the text and in the bibliography; together with a cross-reference on p. 57 to p. 137, which does not exist, these suggest a lack of editorial scrutiny prior to, or during publication, although textual errors are few. Ideally, site and finds should have been studied in tandem to produce a unified synthesis of the results, but the pottery was studied *in vacuo*, and those seeking information on the site itself must look elsewhere. A closer correlation of the settlement and cemetery pottery would also have been useful. While the reasons for this lack are understood, it is to be regretted that there are no location maps showing the relationship of the site to the fjord and to the cemeteries, or the location of the other sites referred to in the text.

Taken in its context and on its own merits, this is nonetheless an important landmark in Scandinavian ceramic research for the late Iron Age and Viking periods, and undoubtedly a bridge between past and future methods of analysis and publication. The study contains much valuable information; it has answered some questions of the material, but has raised others. It is to be hoped that the author will have the opportunity, in the settlement excavation report, or in a subsequent synthesis which might include the cemetery finds, to expand on Chapters 4 and 5 and the interpretation of the material. Meanwhile, the author and Oldsaksamlingen are to be applauded for making the data available for wider debate now, rather than waiting indefinitely for the full body of information to come together.

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C. M. Gerrard, A. Gutiérrez & A. Vince, (eds.). *Spanish Medieval Ceramics in Spain and the British Isles*. 405 pp, 205 figures. Tempus Reparatum, BAR International Series 610, 1995. ISBN 0 86054 796 6. Price £42.00

The *raison d'être* for this compendium on Iberian pottery is set out in the introductory summary (p vi) which is worth repeating here:

'This volume comprises a series of 32 commissioned and edited papers written between 1990 and 1994 on the theme of early thirteenth to late sixteenth century Spanish medieval ceramics. The papers, assembled by 34 different authors, are arranged in three parts. Part 1 provides the historical background to the period and aims to set the detailed discussion of ceramics which follows into a more general cultural and economic context. In Part 2 there are 11 articles from contributors working in Spain, covering a wide selection of regions but focusing especially on the latest work in the Valencia region, perhaps the most important source of production for exports to northern Europe. Finally, the papers in Part 3 review the current state of knowledge about Spanish ceramics found in North-West Europe and especially in the British Isles and Ireland, beginning with an overview of material found to date and followed by summaries of archaeological information from the major medieval ports (Southampton, London, Bristol) and the analysis of distributions from the English counties, Wales and Scotland. Especially important British material such as the Armada ceramics, Spanish tiles and the British Museum collections are considered separately as well as the latest results from neutron activation analyses. The volume ends with a proposed research agenda for future work.

Overall, the intention is to provide a series of overviews by workers collaborating in this field. We believe that most recent work in Spain and the British Isles on later medieval pottery is included here. Although not intended to be comprehensive (latest work from other countries such as France, Italy and the Americas is not covered for example), it is hoped that this volume, with its many illustrations and glossary, will act as a useful gazetteer and sourcebook for those archaeologists and art historians interested in late medieval Spanish ceramics discovered in northern Europe as well as for those with wider interests in Spanish culture in the Middle Ages.'

The aspirations of the editors (and their contributors) have, in the main, been satisfied and they are to be congratulated that for the most part, the volume reads as an

integrated study rather than the rag, tag and bobtail approach exhibited by so many conference proceedings where a series of disparate papers appears whose only perceived link is a "common theme".

The production of the volume is generally up to the usual, adequate BAR standard, but several of the illustrations, especially those in the Exeter and Southampton contributions, suffer from lack of printed detail. I can only assume that the authors did not see proofs of their figures. Figure 24.3 is particularly bad. The albarello, No. 27, is actually covered externally overall with a lustre chequer pattern which hardly shows at all. Similarly the lustre detail of No. 26 has not reproduced, nor have the green sections of Nos. 36 and 37. The decoration of the *Cuerda Seca* bowl, No. 39, is completely unintelligible. These specific criticisms apart, the illustrations are generally clear and conform to a standard pattern — a tribute to one of the editors (AG) who '... re-drew and re-scaled many of the drawings over many evenings and weekends...' (p 10).

The volume begins with an editorial introduction by CMG (pp 1–10), giving a brief history of the study of Spanish pottery and a preview of the book's contents. The résumés of the Spanish language papers are very useful and augment the individual article summaries.

Part 1, *The Historical Background* consists of seven articles (in English) starting with a short general history of the Iberian Peninsula by the late Derek Lomax, which, to this reviewer anyway, sheds light on the complex political and cultural background to the study. This is followed by two papers by Wendy Childs detailing her work on the documentary evidence for Anglo-Iberian trade. The first of these deals with the trade in general whilst the second examines the more pottery-specific documentation, mainly customs accounts. She rightly draws attention to the confusing terminology used in such records and the care needed in interpreting them. This theme is continued in an important paper by Alejandra Gutiérrez on *Questions of terminology in the study of Spanish medieval ceramics*. She compares terms used in contemporary English and Spanish documentation and, by using the modern Spanish equivalents, attempts to define the form and use of the specific vessels listed in the various accounts. The article is illustrated with typical Spanish forms with their recommended English and Spanish terminology.

Tom James follows this with a selection of references from local Southampton documentary material, including Petty Customs Books, Brokage Books and Probate Inventories which complement Childs' preceding papers. The historical section ends with an article by Thomas Tolley on *Anglo-Spanish contacts in the visual arts* (which has little to do with ceramics) and a brief note by Ian Friel on the shipping of the period illustrated by ships shown on town seals. Oddly he misses the Southampton seal (Davies 1883, 245).

Part 2 contains eleven papers in Spanish, with introductory English summaries, on the principal ceramic production areas of Spain, here divided into The North — 2 papers; Aragon; Catalonia; Valencia — 4 papers; Murcia and Andalusia — 2 papers. These either synthesise recent work in the area or concentrate on specific aspects of it. For the student of ceramic technology several of the contributions contain kiln details, and François Amigues paper, *La cerámica valenciana: sus técnicas de fabricación* includes reconstructions of a recently excavated medieval kiln and workshop at Paterna and details of various glaze formulae in use in the late medieval and post-medieval periods. A useful Spanish/English (and English/Spanish) dictionary of pottery terms is included at the end of the volume to assist those whose Spanish is not sufficient to follow the discussions in detail without aid.