

## REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS 1995–6

### **The London Area Pottery Research Group**

A joint meeting of the London, SEMPER and East Anglian groups was held at Bedford Museum in May 1995. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the document 'Minimum Standards for the Processing and Publication of Medieval Pottery', which has been commissioned by the Council, and which is in preparation. The meeting also provided an opportunity for members to report on recent work in each area, and included a tour of the galleries of the museum.

The London Area group held a meeting in April 1996 at the British Museum on the subject of 'French Imports in south-east England'. The morning consisted of a series of talks covering French pottery and floor tiles found in London, Essex, Kent and Sussex, and the afternoon was spent handling material, including recent discoveries brought by members, and kiln samples and tiles in the collections of the British Museum.

For further details of the group, or suggestions for future meetings, please contact:

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Dept Medieval and Later Antiquities  
British Museum  
London WC1B 3DG

### **The South Midlands Pottery Research Group**

A meeting was held in November 1995, admirably hosted by Maureen Mellor at Oxford. The theme of the day was *Renaissance Europe and its Impact on the South-east Midlands*. It was a packed day because the reconvened AGM, inquorate in Norwich, was held in the morning. We therefore had more people attending than normal, and from further afield. I am sure everyone felt it was an extremely worthwhile day. The talks in the morning ranged across the counties of the region and gave a survey of the impact (or not!) of the Renaissance upon the local consumption of pottery, concentrating on imports. In the afternoon there was the opportunity to view the splendid collections of the Ashmolean Museum, both local and imported wares.

The spring 1996 meeting was held at the new Aylesbury Museum, on 1st April (!). The theme of this meeting was *Local Transitional and Early Post-medieval Wares*. It complemented the previous meeting by looking at local wares in use at the same time, though not perhaps by the same people, as the Renaissance imports discussed in Oxford. A selection of local wares was on display, brought in by members, as well as pottery from the museum reserve collection. We all took the opportunity to look round the new museum.

The autumn 1996 meeting will be held in Cambridgeshire, and will examine recent work in the area. For further details of this meeting, please contact Paul Spoerry, Cambs. C.C. Archaeological Field Unit, Fulbourne Community

Centre, Haggis Gap, Cambridge CB1 5HD.

I am happy to be able to say that SEMPER is one of the more active regional groups in the country, with over 60 members, although attendance at meetings is usually between 10 and 20. We try to hold two meetings a year, the hosting of which rotates around the membership. Meetings are often held jointly with neighbouring groups. You do not have to live or work in the region to be on the mailing list and there are no subscriptions to pay, although occasionally we have to charge for the hire of a room. If anyone would like to go on the mailing list, please contact:

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Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service  
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St Mary's Street  
Bedford MK42 0AS  
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### **The West Midlands Pottery Research Group**

There has been a hiatus in the group's activities this year. However there was one meeting, held at Cirencester Museum in May 1995, on the subject of *Medieval Pottery of the Cotswold Region*. The speakers were Jane Timby, Maureen Mellor and Kathy Underwood-Keevil, and there was ample opportunity to handle pottery from the area. An informative and enjoyable day was had by all those attending.

Unfortunately there has been a marked decrease in the number of people working full-time on pottery and associated studies in the region, and attendance at group meetings has been low. However, having had an extended break, the group (revivified!) will meet again in autumn 1996, when the long awaited day on Chilvers Coton/Nuneaton products will occur.

For further details of the group, please contact:

Stephanie Ratkai  
Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Service  
Tolladine Road  
Worcester WR4 9NB  
(Tel 01905 611086)

### **The South-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group**

The annual Bickley Experimental Kiln Project, organised by David Dawson and Ollie Kent, took place during the summer of 1995. For further details of the group, please contact:

Mike Ponsford  
12 Seymour Road  
Bishopstone  
Bristol BS7 9HR

**The South Central Medieval Pottery Research Group**

The South Central Group did not meet in 1995, although members are still in contact and continue to exchange information on an informal basis. It is hoped to arrange a meeting in either autumn 1996 or spring 1997. For further details of the group, please contact:

Lorraine Mepham  
Wessex Archaeology  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
Salisbury SP4 6EB

**The East Midlands Pottery Research Group**

No meetings were held in 1995, and unfortunately there are now only two members working in the region.

Jane Young  
City Of Lincoln Archaeology Unit  
Charlotte House  
The Lawn  
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**The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group**

The Welsh group held no meetings in 1995, but *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 14 (1993-94) was published in May 1996 (price £7.50). There has been a change in the composition of the committee, and the new secretary of the group is Stephen Clarke of the Monmouth Archaeological Society. Copies of the journal and back numbers, and enquiries about subscriptions, should be addressed to: Steve Sell, WMPRG, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Ferryside Warehouse, Bath Lane, Swansea SA1 1RD (Tel 01792 655208).

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