

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS 1996–7

The London Area Pottery Research Group

No regional meetings have been held in London since the April 1996 meeting (reported in Volume 19), but various members of the London area group participated in the British Museum colloquium *Maiolica in the North: The Production of Tin-Glazed Ceramics in North-West Europe 1450-1600*, held in March 1997. The proceedings of the event are to be published in 1998. Several members of the group participated in the SEMPER meeting in Essex in September 1997 (see below). The Department of Scientific Research at the British Museum is to host a conference on *Ceramic Technology and Production* on 20-22 November 1997 (0171 323 8276 for further details). This event is related to the British Museum exhibition *Pottery in the Making: World Ceramic Traditions*, which runs until 31 December 1997 at the Museum of Mankind. A potters-in-residence programme will run for the duration of the exhibition. Pottery demonstrations by some of Britain's leading studio potters will take place on most Saturdays.

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

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South East Midlands Pottery Research Group (SEMPER)

SEMPER tries to hold two meetings, in the spring and autumn, each year, the hosting of which rotates around the membership. Meetings are often held jointly with neighbouring groups.

Due to the expansion of the regional group organiser's family by one, 1996 saw only one meeting, in October, in Huntingdon, organised this time by Paul Spoerry. The theme of the meeting was *Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery in the Towns of the Fenland and Surrounding Region*. The whole region was covered, with excellent talks about the pottery from Cambridge, Ely and Huntingdon, Bury, Peterborough, and, encroaching into our neighbour's region, Stamford and south Lincolnshire. And, of course, there was plenty of pottery to look at! About twenty people attended.

The next meeting was organised by Helen Walker and was held at Cressing Temple in September 1997, on the theme of *Essex Medieval Redwares: Their Characteristics and Distribution*. A tour of Cressing Temple was organised in the afternoon.

You do not have to work or live in the region to be on the SEMPER 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 me.

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The West Midlands Pottery Research Group

This year has been singularly uneventful, for which my apologies are due to all of you who have sent SAEs and wondered why you have heard nothing! The number of people working on ceramics in the region is probably at an all-time low and there have been no major medieval excavations in the region, although 1997/98 sees the start of potentially large scale work in Coventry and Birmingham and further work in Hereford city.

I hope that in the coming year we can organise two meetings. The first of these will be the (long awaited) day on pottery from the Nuneaton kilns, provisionally to be held in Nuneaton.

Please note that my contact address is no longer Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Service.

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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 1996. A meeting of the South-West group was held in Exeter in February 1997, organised by John Allan, on the subject of *Local Devon and Somerset Wares*.

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The North-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group

No meetings were held this year, but a meeting is being planned for late '97 or early '98.

For further details of the group please contact:

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27 Grosvenor Street
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(Tel: 01244 402027).

The South Central Medieval Pottery Research Group

The South Central Group did not meet in 1996, and indeed has not met since 1994. A small core of members remain in contact, and exchange information on an informal basis. If anyone is interested in joining (or reviving!) the group, or has any ideas for future meetings, please contact me.

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The East Midlands Pottery Research Group

No meetings were held in 1996, as there are only two members working in the region.

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The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group

No meetings were held this year. The next volume of *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* is in preparation. Readers are invited to offer papers for publication on ceramics from Wales and the Marches to Mark Redknapp. 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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