

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS 2000–2001

North-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group

The North-West Region Group of the MPRG has held two meetings this year. The transition between the 16th and 17th centuries was discussed, examining in particular Cistercian-type wares and early blackwares. Assemblages of pottery from across the region and also from Staffordshire were gathered together for comparison. The meeting was successful and it was resolved that the group should capitalise on the discussions of the day and seek a way of putting a regional project together based on these assemblages.

A second meeting was planned to be held at the Potteries Museum in Stoke-on-Trent in March, but due to the uncertainties that the Curatorial Archaeology section were facing it was decided to postpone this meeting. A very successful day was hosted by Liverpool Museum on 6th October 2001 when the Buckley potteries were the subject of the day.

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The Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group

No meetings were held in 2000–2001, but papers on recent work will appear in *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, available from Steve Sell, WMPRG, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Ferrybridge Warehouse, Bath Lane, Swansea, SA1 1RD.

Contact:

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The East Midlands Pottery Research Group

The East Midlands Group remains inactive. Jane Young is the contact for anyone who is interested in organising events.

Contact:

Jane Young
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The West Midlands Pottery Research Group

The group has not met this year. The local contact is:

Stephanie Rátkai
7 Pinehurst Drive
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Birmingham B38 8TH

The South-West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group

The South-West Region Group held their regular meeting at the Bickley experimental kiln fortnight in August. The group is trying to regenerate itself by working out a future strategy for the area. There is little disagreement that the publication of the Barnstaple kilns is a priority, but other options were reviewed at a meeting held at Taunton Castle in February 2001. The local contact is:

Mike Ponsford
12 Seymour Road
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The London Area Medieval Pottery Research Group

The London Area Group met in October 2000 at the Museum of London to discuss the theme of Mediterranean and Near-Eastern imports. The day included half a dozen papers, with a ceramic handling session of vessels from the MoL Reserve Collection and a display of a particularly fine group of imports from a Pre-Construct Archaeology site at Limehouse. The day was well attended and I would like to thank all the participants and especially the speakers. Any ideas for another one-day event would be particularly welcome.

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The South Central Medieval Pottery Research Group

The group has not met in the past year. The local contact is:

Lorraine Mephram
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
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Salisbury SP4 6EP

The South East Midlands Pottery Research Group

Two meetings have been held by SEMPER at Aylesbury, the first in March 2000, on the theme of Shelly wares and the second in November 2001. Our attempts to hold an Anglo-Saxon pottery day at West Stow in September 2000 were squashed by the petrol crisis. The date for the meeting was postponed to March 2001 and yet again another crisis intervened — this time, foot and mouth. We decided to leave things until June, but it looks as though the crisis will extend into the summer months. Somebody has got it in for us!

However, an autumn meeting finally took place on Saturday 24th November 2001, at Aylesbury Museum. The theme encompassed a regional round-up and discussion of regional Ceramic Type Series, both as reference collections and computerised databases.

If the long-awaited Anglo-Saxon meeting gets off the ground — and we are determined that it will! — further details will be sent to all on the mailing list.

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The Scottish Medieval Pottery Research Group

Following the recent MPRG conference in Edinburgh the Scottish Regional Group has decided to reform. All the members plus Sarah Jennings are currently involved in writing a new review of medieval pottery imported into Scotland between 1050 and 1750 for publication sometime in 2002. A meeting of the group was held on 20th September 2001 at the offices of Historic Scotland.

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