

Regional Group Reports 2006–08

South Central Medieval Pottery Research Group

The group has been dormant for many years, but in October 2008 it was revived by Ben Jervis, who organised a meeting in Southampton on the subject of 15th- to 17th-century pottery in southern England, a period in which our understanding of ceramics in the region is somewhat patchy. Several speakers described work on assemblages from Southampton, Wiltshire, Dorset and the Surrey–Hampshire border, and there was the chance to view pottery from Southampton.

The meeting was well attended, and the intention is to try and organise at least one meeting per year; the next is likely to be on the subject of early medieval pottery.

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South East Midlands Pottery Research Group (SEMPER)

SEMPER is a thriving regional group, working closely with the East Anglian group, and frequently holding meetings jointly with neighbouring groups. Our aim has always been to hold two meetings a year, but recently, sparse attendances have meant that these will now drop to a single annual meeting, usually in the autumn. Meetings held over the period 2006–08 were as follows:

May 2006

Visit to Ceramic Galleries, Victoria and Albert Museum

This was a particularly successful meeting, hosted by Terry Bloxham, Dept of Ceramics and Glass at the V&A. I, for one, looked at the exhibits with envy!

October 2006

Production sites and other matters Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury

There was no one theme for this meeting although we did discuss a number of recently excavated production sites and their technologies. In addition, ceramic roof furniture, and the role of ceramics in the Portable

Antiquities Scheme were discussed. The Bucks County Museum is one of our regular meeting places; our thanks to Barbara Hurman for arranging this.

June 2007

Look East! Pottery from the eastern counties CAM ARC offices, Cambridge

This was a chance for us to visit the new offices of the Cambs archaeology team, CAM ARC, now Oxford East. We discussed recent finds from East Anglia and Paul Spoerry laid out a large collection of Cambs pottery for us to examine, spanning the whole medieval period.

October 2007

Early Medieval Pottery from the SEMPER region and beyond

Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury

In addition to early medieval pottery from Essex, Bucks and Beds, we also heard an updated summary of tripod pitchers from southern England, and looked at a fascinating group of alchemical pottery from Oxford. A departure from the usual ceramic subjects was a discussion of old archaeology books and their influence on us!

October 2008

Medieval pottery from Essex

Essex Field Unit offices, Braintree

Hosted by Helen Walker, this meeting looked at pottery made and/or found in Essex, although pottery from other counties was also discussed. This was Alan Vince's last SEMPER meeting – he was always a stalwart supporter of the group and a regular attendee at meetings. His incisive contributions and sociable personality will be greatly missed.

If anyone in the region (or outside!) has any ideas for themes for meetings, or perhaps would like to host a meeting, or would like to be put on the mailing list, please contact:

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Scottish Group of Medieval Ceramicists

Derek Hall reports on several projects.

Group meeting 2006

The Scottish Group met on 25th July 2006 and discussed Conference reports SPMA, Livorno Italy and MPRG, Chester, ICPS sampling in Scotland, the Scottish redware sourcing project, a putative Scottish lead sourcing project and continuing damage at the Colstoun production site. There then followed a viewing of pottery currently being worked on by members of the group.

Pottery training day

In June 2007 George Haggarty and Derek Hall presented a training day on Scottish Medieval Ceramics at the National Museums Scotland Customs House, Leith. This was attended by 12 people from Scottish units and museums.

New Carron Road, Stenhousemuir

In 2007 SUAT Ltd undertook further excavations at Stenhousemuir adjacent to previous excavations of the late medieval pottery production site. This was in advance of a new housing scheme by Kier Homes Ltd, it is intended to publish these excavations in Medieval Ceramics Volume 30.

The dating of London Sandy Shelly wares

In October 2007 National Museums Scotland hosted a day seminar to discuss the recent new C14 dates for carbonised shellyware pottery from London and Perth. This was attended by George Haggarty, Derek Hall, Dr Anne Crone, Dr Gordon Cook, Dr Alan Vince, Lyn Blackmore and Ian Betts and was chaired by Dr Hugo Blake.

Caen, Normandy

In December 2007 Derek Hall gave a presentation on behalf of the National Museums Scotland at the 25th anniversary conference based on George Haggarty's work on French pottery imported into Scotland.

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