

# Editorial

It is with great honour we dedicate Volume 36 to Anna Brindle-Slowikowski, a highly respected and active member of MPRG, whose untimely death in 2011 robbed us of both an esteemed colleague and good friend. It was Anna's husband, Philip Brindle, who initially expressed a desire to see a volume dedicated to her memory, an ambition keenly shared by many within MPRG, both on council and amongst the general membership. There were numerous offers for papers from MPRG members and those from the broader archaeological community reflecting her widespread interests and we hope that this volume reflects at least some of these.

The Foreword, written by Anna's friend and colleague at Albion Archaeology, Evelyn Baker, reviews Anna's significant achievements in the study of pottery, but also her love of sharing her archaeological knowledge, not only with colleagues but also with the broader community and particularly with children. The first paper presents an overview of Anna's extensive work on the pottery of Wharram Percy which unfortunately, due to her illness, she was unable to finish, but that was brought to fruition by Ailsa Mainman. Anna would undoubtedly be very pleased to see it published. This is followed by papers on a diverse range of subjects including Anglo-Saxon pottery from south-east England, Saxon pottery stamp dies, a re-examination of the medieval pottery industry at Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire and cartographic evidence for ceramic production in the north Midlands. The paper on la Grava, a site for which Anna produced an extensive and important contribution on the ceramics, reassesses the middle Saxon pottery and the implications this has for site dating.

The final paper, 'Medieval Pottery Regional Research Groups', summarises the achievements of the regional groups in past and more recent years, highlighting their efficacy, not only in disseminating and advancing local knowledge but in providing a convivial 'support group'. This is particularly important in the increasingly challenging times facing pottery specialists and archaeology in general. One only has to look at the production of the Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms by members of the South Central group to see what can be achieved. The South East Midlands Research Group, which Anna ran for many years, was particularly active and there are touching recollections from both Barbara Hurman and Helen Walker, also heavily involved in the group.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed towards Medieval Ceramics 36; firstly, the authors, but also those who kindly offered other papers. A huge debt of gratitude is also owed to the editorial team and in particular Lucy Whittingham whose support and diligence was integral to the completion of the volume. Thanks are also due to Maria Geals for designing the journal cover, Jackie Harbron and Stefanie Rauch for the French and German abstract translations, to Short Run Press Ltd and to Michael Dawson (Albion Archaeology) for the photograph of Anna. Lastly, we are most grateful to Philip Brindle for his contribution towards the cost of publication.

*Chris Jarrett and Berni Sudds*

