

Regional Group reports 2013–15

There have been very few regional group meetings to report upon since I took over the role of Regional Groups Liaison Officer from Anne Irving. The passing of Anna Slowikowski in 2011 and therefore an absence of SEMPER meetings, which were usually held twice a year, goes some way to explaining the downturn in the number of regional meetings.

Meetings of which I have been notified are as follows:

East Midlands and North-East Group

Two extremely successful meetings were organised at Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery in April 2013 and May 2014, which were attended by professionals, amateurs and students alike. Papers presented covered a broad range of subjects including a Humber Ware production site in Yorkshire, Anglo-Saxon cremation urns from Lincolnshire, 19th-century pottery production in North Shields, Stamford-type ware production in Pontefract – a potter’s perspective, medieval pottery from Conisbrough Castle (Doncaster), a kiln site in Skegby (Nottinghamshire), and Anglo-Scandinavian pottery production in Torksey (Lincolnshire). In both years there was an ample opportunity to handle pottery, including that from the medieval kilns in Doncaster, and the recently discovered Humber Ware and Skegby kilns.

The popularity of the Doncaster meetings gave rise to a very successful MPRG annual conference in Doncaster in June 2015.

Chris Cumberpatch

South-West Group

An impromptu meeting of the South West Regional group was arranged and met at the museum in Wells in March 2015.

The meeting was relatively well attended and included both professional pottery specialists and amateurs. Most of the delegates brought pottery with them, for identification and an opportunity to show

others working in Somerset what was being dug up. Pottery was presented from sites in Wellington (Somerset), the Steart Peninsula and Brent Knoll, Whorle, Winscombe, and from the Chewton Mendip Project. John Allan brought members’ attention to a newly-identified medieval regional ware from the Mendips (‘Exmoor/Quantocks-derived’). The meeting closed with a presentation by John Allan and David Dawson on the late medieval kiln waster assemblage at Hemyock (Devon), and its current progress towards publication. Refreshments were generously provided by the Museum.

Bryn Morris

London and South-Central England Groups

There were no official meetings as such, although MPRG members, consisting mostly of specialists from the main archaeological contractors working in south-east England, met on the 8th November at Pre-Construct Archaeology, Brockley to form a workshop discussing Anglo-Saxon pottery from the counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Greater London (south of the Thames). Discussed were a round-up of the recent archaeological and research work and the themes of, chronology, production and consumption, imports and future general research aims for Anglo-Saxon pottery in the region. The workshop resulted in a paper presented by Ben Jervis at the MPRG Doncaster conference, 6th June 2015 and ultimately a published paper (see this volume).

Chris Jarrett

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Would anyone wishing to organise a meeting, be it an informal gathering, or a more formal conference, please let me know well in advance, so I can ensure it does not clash with any other dates. I can also help with circulation of meeting details.

Gareth Perry

Medieval Ceramics
Office