



Council met on 29th September. This is certainly a busy period for the group, with plans for next year's annual conference now in place and the Research Framework project nearing completion. Anne Boyle has provided an update of the progress of this project below and everyone is encouraged to comment on the draft copy of the framework document. A final consultation meeting is taking place on 4th December and it would be fantastic to see a good turn out to ensure that the concerns and interests of as many members as possible are reflected in the final document. Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne for her continuing hard work on this project. London will also be the venue for the 2011 annual

conference, a one day event on new discoveries in the field of post-Roman ceramic studies. A call for papers can be found in this newsletter.

We are delighted to announce that the new year will see the publication of two occasional papers, Anna Slowikowski's volume on Late Medieval Reduced Wares from the south Midlands and the volume on sourcing Scottish Redwares by Derek Hall, George Haggarty and Simon Chenery. Medieval Ceramics 31 will also be distributed soon, this volume contains a number of papers on European topics, with some originating from the Sienna conference, as well as contributions on material from the UK. The coming months will hopefully see a number of changes to the group's website, making information more accessible and the site more user friendly. Council are also working on making back issues of Medieval Ceramics available online. The MPRG bibliography is slowly being transferred over to the Archaeology Data Service and it is hoped that this resource will be available early in the new year.

Your attention is drawn to the piece below on training. This is a concern of many members of the group and council is keen to act on this, by investigating the potential of a range of training initiatives. Anyone who would like to be involved in this process is encouraged to contact Duncan Brown.

Finally, contributions for the next newsletter should be sent to the assistant secretary by **Friday 18th March 2011**. If you are still receiving a postal copy of the newsletter but would rather receive it by email, please contact the membership secretary. Receiving the newsletter by email saves the group a considerable amount of money in postage costs.

Ben Jervis Assistant Secretary

Research Framework

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the project over the last year. Information collected via questionnaires and consultation meetings has been added to a Revised Research Agenda. This document is now available as a PDF at: <http://mprg.wikispaces.com/> and a new draft will be circulated in early 2011.

Unfortunately some areas are under-represented, so comments for these are particularly welcome:

Berkshire
Cleveland
Hertfordshire
Huntingdonshire
Isle of Man
Isle of Wight
Nottinghamshire

A final consultation meeting to discuss the Revised Research Agenda and Strategy will be held LAARC, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED on **Saturday 4th December 2010**, 11am to 3pm. All are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided. The day is free but please contact Anne to reserve a place

Anne Boyle (anne.boyle@apsarchaeology.co.uk or tel: 01529 461618).

Anne Boyle

Training

In the past the MPRG has organised and/or promoted several training events aimed at a variety of audiences. These include the professional courses funded by English Heritage and more general, localised meetings for interested individuals or voluntary groups. At the first meeting of the new Council we discussed how best to pursue our training aims and it is clear that we are all in agreement that the Group must continue to support training programmes of all kinds.

One way of achieving this is to appoint a Training Officer as a new post to Council, who would have the task of developing and managing a training plan, in line with our stated aims as a Registered Charity and with reference to our Research Framework. It is hoped that the Training Officer would liaise with the MPRG's Regional Groups to produce the training plan. The Regional Groups might thereafter organise and host some training events, especially those of a more general nature, with the Training Officer co-ordinating things. We might also work with other organisations such as the CBA, the IfA and the Society of Museum Archaeologists, to develop together training courses that reflect their own requirements.

In writing this I am hoping that members will feed back to Council their views on what they think of creating a new Council post and what sort of training we can provide, along with ideas for specific types of courses.

I would also like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining Council and taking up the role of Training Officer. The development of a training plan is the first task and represents a good opportunity to work with a variety of people. Rest assured that whoever takes up this post will have lots of support from other Council members and hopefully the regional groups.

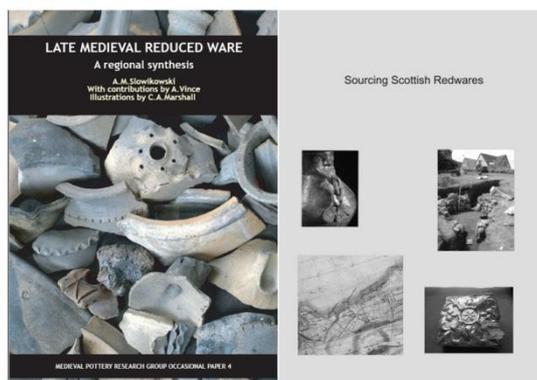
Anyone who wants to share their ideas, or who is interested in becoming Training Officer can contact me at Duncan.brown2@english-heritage.org.uk

Duncan Brown President

New Occasional Papers

The new year will see the publication of two eagerly anticipated volumes; Late Medieval Reduced Wares: A Regional Synthesis by Anna Slowikowski and Sourcing Scottish Redwares by Derek Hall, George Haggarty and Simon Chenery.

The regional synthesis of Late Medieval Reduced ware was funded by English Heritage, and draws together research on pottery from six production sites in the south-east Midlands. Detailed characterisation of the pottery, supported by petrological and chemical analyses, has shown that it is possible to distinguish the products from each site, both by fabric and form. Varying manufacturing techniques were identified from the evidence on the pottery and a chronological sequence suggested for the sites studied, based on archaeomagnetic dating, documentary evidence and the characteristics of the pottery. Publication is planned for March 2011.



Sourcing Scottish Redwares examines the exploitation of many of Scotland's extensive iron rich clay sources were exploited for the production of pottery, tiles and later bricks, from the 13th century onwards. In a bid to see if it was possible to get to grip with these industries, in 2003 a geochemical pilot programme was commenced, using inductively coupled plasma-mass spectroscopy (ICP-MS). The work was carried out on small groups of post-medieval iron rich pottery from a range of known Scottish production sites over a wide geographical area utilising the British Geological Survey's national geochemical database of stream sediments, and a rigid statistical approach (Chenery et al 2004, 45-54). The results strongly suggested that the Scottish redware industries, especially on a regional basis, were far more complicated than had previously been believed.

In a bid to take this work forward a draft Scottish redware vessel typology and research strategy was created which

included medieval, post medieval, and industrial pottery as well as floor and roof tiles. Some 613 samples have now been analysed using (ICP-MS), including 4 groups of 12th century or earlier Border redwares. For comparison we included sherds from 4 Dutch kiln sites, 6 sherds from continental stove tiles found in Scotland and some redwares from the Chester Area. This Historic Scotland supported project will be published as an MPRG occasional paper early in 2011.

Derek Hall and Anna Slowikowski
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Unusual Slipware Vessel from Berwick

This fragment of slipware comes from a site in Berwick-upon-Tweed. The total assemblage was very small and most sherds, including this one, were unstratified. Also in the group were sherds of Werra slipware, Low Countries redware and German stoneware – probably Raeren. I have tentatively identified this illustrated piece as a North Holland Cavalier Dish. The rim is of typical hammerhead form, the slip trailing is quite thick and there is one small bit of green staining.



As far as I am aware anthropomorphic slip decoration, apart from Werra dishes from Norwich, and another Dutch example we had from a site in Gateshead, is rarely found on imported vessels in this country. It is also far less common than birds or botanical subjects on the continent. I would be interested to hear from anyone about other examples found in this country, or indeed any alternative identifications.

Jenny Vaughan
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Ceramic Production Centres in Europe

At the most recent European Archaeological Association conference in The Hague the Ceramic Production Centres Round Table was attended by delegates from Scotland, Norway, England, Georgia and Holland. All present agreed that there was still a need for such a project although with the changing impacts of developer funded archaeology in both Continental and Eastern Europe its focus might need to be broadened. With that in mind it was agreed to take a step back and review the aims and objectives and concentrate on completing a database for the UK so that the project would have something that could be shown to potential funding bodies as an example of what a final European wide database might look like.

Derek Hall Secretary CPCE
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Early Medieval Pottery Workshops in Europe Conference

This conference, held in Douai (France) brought together a large number of ceramic specialists from across Europe, including France, the UK, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Bulgaria and Romania.

The first day saw a range of topics covered, including a discussion of similarities between pottery kilns and furnaces used in other production processes and the wider economic context of medieval Europe. The bulk of the conference consisted of papers detailing recently excavated kiln sites, or syntheses of the products of a particular region. The large number of kilns excavated in northern France, principally by INRAP (the state archaeological service) was quite striking, both due to the quality of the record and the level of homogeneity present amongst the products, which will no doubt cause us headaches in the future when trying to source the imports in settlements such as *Lundenwic* and *Hamwic*. Whilst a great deal of time was spent covering the traditional blackwares and whitewares, it was particularly interesting to hear discussions of the coarser pottery produced in northern and eastern France, which include a range of shelly wares.

The remainder of the conference took us on a whistlestop tour of Europe, with some familiar faces presenting papers. Amongst these were Duncan Brown and Paul Blinkhorn, who spoke on the cultural implications of pottery in Anglo-Saxon England. Ben Jervis presented the findings of his research into pottery production in late Saxon Chichester, Koen de Groote spoke about the early medieval pottery of Flanders (the increasing quantities of organic-tempered pottery in this area being of particular interest) and Line van Wersch presented the findings of her continuing archaeometric research into the Merovingian pottery of the Meuse Valley area. It was also interesting to hear about research coming out of new areas, not least eastern Europe, with presentations on material from Romania and Bulgaria, as well as papers on Byzantine amphorae production and production in the Aegean being given.

In all the conference demonstrated the vibrancy of medieval pottery studies across Europe and demonstrated the range of approaches taken to the material. Encouragingly the MPRG promotional literature was a focus of much attention during the coffee breaks, so hopefully the group will be able to expand into some new areas as the result of conferences such as this, and the work of the ceramic production centres in Europe project.

Ben Jervis

MPRG Conference 2011

The 2011 conference will be entitled "Pots New? Latest discoveries in the field of post-Roman ceramics". It will take place on 11th June at The Museum of London.

The 2011 one-day conference will focus on recent discoveries and important new work, especially kiln assemblages. Already in the programme are papers on

the important kiln site in Leeds that produced Samuel Malkin type slipwares; the early kiln in Pontefract that produced Stamford type wares; the pottery recovered by AOC Archaeology during their excavations at the Glasgow Delftfield production site.

Please send offers of papers with a short abstract to George Haggarty.

George Haggarty
haggarty@aol.com

Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry

After discussions with George Haggarty & Derek Hall, Rob Ellam, Professor of Isotope Geochemistry & Director of Research at SUERC: The Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre has agreed to offer a very reasonably priced, £25.00 per sample, inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry ICP-MS chemical analysis service to ceramic researchers. In the first place can any member who would like to avail themselves of this service or who require further information contact George.

George Haggarty
haggarty@aol.com

Online Bibliography

After some unanticipated problems work is now underway to return our online bibliography to full working order. ADS have repaired the broken database and created a new interface and website. The website is currently being tested and the working of the search facility is being checked. All being well we hope to see the Bibliography up and running early in the New Year if not before. Andy Sage is currently typing up the backlog of entries from the last data collection so that they can be uploaded to the new site. The next step will then be to investigate ways of collecting data again so that the Bibliography can be updated on a regular basis in the future. Watch this space and the MPRG website for further news.

Julie Edwards

Back Issues of Medieval Ceramics

Do you have back issues of Medieval Ceramics which you no longer want?

A number of issues are now out of print and we would welcome donations of copies which are no longer required, in particular to supply libraries who would like copies but can't get hold of them. In particular we need copies of Medieval Ceramics 12, 25 and 29. If you would like to donate copies, please contact Julie Edwards.

Julie Edwards
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Meetings and Announcements

CONFERENCE OF MEDIEVAL POTTERY IN WALES

'Stoking the kiln', a conference to be held at and in conjunction with the Amgueddfa Cymru/National Museum Wales, 19th-20th March 2011. The conference aims to bring together those who are working on, or have an interest in, medieval and later ceramics in Wales. For more details and the call for papers, please see the National Museum Wales website www.museumwales.ac.uk or contact Sian Iles sian.iles@museumwales.ac.uk.

EARLY MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM

The fifth Early Medieval Archaeology Students Symposium will take place at The University of Glasgow between the 25th-27th May 2011. The conference offers an opportunity for graduate students and early career professionals to present their research in an informal setting. All are welcome to attend, and the conference is keen to attract those working in the commercial sector as well as overseas delegates. For further information visit <http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/news/links/emass/> or email emass2011@gmail.com

NEW E-JOURNAL ON MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

A new digital journal entitled "Medieval Archaeology Debates" (DAM) has been founded. It is intended to provoke debates over methodological issues as well as historical issues. Papers will be peer reviewed through a blind peer review system. Further information can be found at www.arqueologiamedievaldebates.com (email contacto@arqueologiamedievaldebates.com). The journal will contain research articles, reports, debates and reviews. The deadline for submissions for the first issue is 21st December 2010.

FOURTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS: ARCHAOMETRICAL ANALYSIS OR PREHISTORIC AND EARLY MEDIEVAL CERAMICS.

This workshop will be held in Hamburg on Saturday 5th February 2011. For further details contact Britta Ramminger Britta.Ramminger@uni-hamburg.de

PAPERS ON MEDIEVAL POTTERY AT TAG 2011

This year's TAG conference will be held at The University of Bristol from 17th-19th December. As usual papers will cover a broad range of topics, geographical areas and time periods. Of particular interest to MPRG members will be papers on medieval pottery by Duncan Brown, Ben Jervis and Alison Kyle. Further information about the conference can be found at www.bristol.ac.uk/tag2010.

MPRG REGIONAL FRAMEWORK MEETING

The meeting to discuss and finalise the MPRG Regional framework will take place on Saturday 4th December at Mortimer Wheeler House, London. To confirm your place please contact Anne Boyle (anne.boyle@apsarchaeology.co.uk or tel: 01529 461618)

SUBSCRIPTIONS: REMINDER

The treasurer would like to remind members still paying by cheque that the subscription year begins on February 1st. If you have not paid yet for this year please do so soon! If you would like to set up a standing order please contact the treasurer who will send you a form with our bank details.

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