



Notes from the President

This newsletter carries a call for papers for next year's conference, the 'Ceramics of Drink', which will be held in Leicester in collaboration with the Centre for Historical Archaeology (CHA) on 2nd-3rd June. We have not abandoned the pattern of a one-day conference alternating with a three-day but we thought the subject and collaboration with CHA may attract more papers and people than could be accommodated in one day. The AGM will be held on Saturday 3rd June and there will be a day rate for those who wish to attend for one day. We hope to be holding the 2018 three-day conference on the Continent and a visit to Gothenburg, Sweden is being discussed for 2019 for a conference centred on the amazing ceramic collections from that city. So lots of things to look forward to, more information will be in the next Newsletter.

If you have a project for which you need assistance to visit far-flung collections see the reminder in this newsletter and consider applying for the John Hurst Travel Fund.

November saw the first of our new training sessions, a report is on page 2, thank you to David Dawson, Gareth Perry and Alice Forward for organising and to everyone who took part. We hope to have a rolling programme around the country to fulfil MPRG's commitment to training set out in the Research Framework and Strategy. Please contact Alice with ideas for future venues.

Finally, we have made some progress on the website, Mike Heyworth of the CBA kindly uploaded a large amount of information to bring the site up to date and arrangements have been made so that we can update the site ourselves. The next step is a re-design and we are looking for help to achieve that, see Alice's request in the last newsletter.

Best wishes for Christmas and 2017

Julie Edwards

MPRG and CHA Joint Conference 2017 Call for Papers

Ceramics of Drink 2-3 June 2017, University of Leicester

Next year the Medieval Pottery Research Group will hold its annual meeting in collaboration with the Centre for Historical Archaeology.

'Ceramics of drink' form a significant part of archaeological assemblages in Europe and beyond throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Ceramic containers were a preferred way of producing, storing, transforming, and consuming liquid beverages. They are associated with a wide range of human activity from large-scale transnational trade, to ceremonial consumption, to intimate daily rituals within the home. They materialized drinking and social practices, with some undergoing significant transformations, and others staying the same.

This conference aims to explore the important social and economic roles that ceramics of drink filled and how they can be effectively studied by specialist and non-specialist researchers.

Possible themes include:

- What do the ceramics of drink reveal about flows of liquids on multiple scales?
- How do drinking ceramics reveal and shape traditions of consumption?
- What is the relationship between container and contained?
- How conservative or innovative is the material culture of drink?
- How do ceramics fit into the non-ceramic repertoire of the material culture of drink?

The committee invites 20-minute papers addressing any aspect of the ceramics of drink in medieval and post-medieval worlds. MPRG and the Centre for Historical Archaeology have a global remit, therefore papers addressing research both in and outside Britain are warmly welcomed.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 150 words to Lorraine Mephram, MPRG Meetings Secretary, by 1st March 2017 (L.mephram@wessexarch.co.uk).

Lorraine Mephram

Re-discovering archives

The Jewel Tower, part of the Westminster World Heritage Site and in the care of English Heritage, formed part of the early Westminster Palace complex. Constructed in approximately 1365, the Jewel Tower was originally known as the 'Kings Privy Wardrobe'. Repairs post-World War II resulted in excavations of the surrounding moat and an extensive archaeological archive was recovered. Whilst research at the time focused largely on the exposed medieval remains of the palace, the 17th-century finds were largely unexplored. The significance and scale of the collection recently came to light during a collections rationalisation project. Since summer 2015, the curator (Charlotte Newman) and volunteers with the help of Chris Jarrett and Lucy Whittingham have catalogued the collection for the first time. Some of the most exciting discoveries included a significant range and proportion of imports and unusual industrial forms.



Charlotte Newman, Archaeology Collections Curator,
London and East
(charlotte.newman@english-heritage.org.uk)

MPRG Council Posts

Our Treasurer, Imogen Wood and Co-Editor, Bernie Suds as well as Council member Bryn Morris are retiring at the 2017 AGM. We are therefore looking for people to replace them. In addition, there is also a second vacancy for an Ordinary Member of Council. If you would like to become more involved in the running of the Group and are interested in standing for election to any of these positions nominations should be proposed, seconded, and submitted in writing to the Secretary, Andrew Sage by the 1st March 2017.

Julie Edwards

John Hurst Travel Fund

A reminder that applications to the John Hurst Travel Fund are due on 23 March 2017. Each year we are able to grant up to £200. You can find the application form and further details on our website.

Alice Forward

All you ever wanted for Christmas... MPRG Occasional Papers

Our occasional papers are the perfect gift for all your loved ones. We have four volumes focusing on a number of regional ceramics: Harlow Redwares, Late-medieval Reduced Wares, Scottish Redwares and our most recent publications, Ipswich Ware. Further details on these volumes can be found on our website and at the bottom of this newsletter.

Alice Forward

Pottery training session review: Bristol 26th & 27th November 2016

A group of 13 people met at Bristol Museum for a weekend of pottery training. The Saturday began with David Dawson providing an introduction to pottery production, detailing the processes required in order to create and fire ceramics. The first practical session was led by Kate Iles (Archaeology Curator), who guided the attendees through the complexities of the Bristol Pottery Type Series. John Allan took the baton and introduced medieval and post-medieval imports. The afternoon was an introduction to recording ceramics led by Lorraine Mephram, and the opportunity was taken to hand out copies of *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and to use them.



Day 2 began with Gareth Perry and an introduction to the application of scientific techniques to ceramics. This was a whistle-stop tour on the application of different approaches to ceramics including petrological and chemical analyses. The second part of the session was a microscope practical where the group was introduced to identifying mineral inclusions in thin section. Duncan Brown rounded off the weekend with a guide to report writing and publishing. The session looked at different types of published material from assessment to analysis.

The weekend training was fast-paced and detailed – and thanks to the attendees for their comments and recommendations for future training. We are planning on organising two further weekends for 2017 based on a very similar outline to the one taken in Bristol but with changes as recommended. Thanks to Kate Iles who organized and hosted the event at Bristol Museum. Thanks also to those delivering the training. And finally, thank you to all the attendees who made the two days successful. We look forward to suggestions for the 2017 training.

Alice Forward



Heritage Practice Training Event

Organic Residue Analysis and Pottery Production Sites

About the Course

This course is aimed at archaeological professionals, who deal with pottery production sites and organic residue as part of their role. This includes local authority archaeology advisors, consultants, contractors, project managers, museum curators, conservators and pottery and technology specialists and researchers.

The course aims to improve knowledge and promote good practice in the investigation, recording and sampling of sites where pottery production has taken place; and the recovery, analysis, and archiving of organic residues recovered from such archaeological contexts in order to better understand sites of archaeological significance.

At the end of the course you will:

- Know how to anticipate and locate pottery production sites and the types of evidence that may be found.
- Understand the available methods and strategies for examining, recording and sampling features and finds.
- Have explored the different techniques for establishing the date of pottery production, and for characterising the technology, scale and organisation of the site.
- Understand the principles and potential applications of organic residue analysis.
- Have identified good practice for organic residues recovery, analysis, reporting and archiving.



Medieval London-type ware kiln at the Woolwich Teardrop site. © John Cotter and Oxford Archaeology

Bristol— 09 February 2017

London—01 March 2017

York— 23 March 2017

For more information and to book your **free** place please visit our online booking webpage:

<http://heritagepractice.eventbrite.com/>

MPRG Publications

Details of MPRG publications can be found on the MPRG website <http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk/publi.htm>

Occasional Paper 1: A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic forms (UK £27.75 excl. P&P)

Occasional Paper 2: Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (UK £4.50 excl. P&P)

Occasional Paper 3: *The Harlow Pottery Industries*, by Helen Walker and Wally Davey (UK £16; Europe £18; USA £21: All include P&P)

Occasional Paper 4: *'Genius in a Cracked Pot' - Late Medieval Reduced Wares: A Regional Synthesis*, by Anna Slowikowski (UK £12; Europe £14: All include P&P)

Occasional Paper 5: *Sourcing Scottish Redwares*, by Derek Hall, George Haggarty and Simon Chenerey (UK £22.50; Europe: £24: All include P&P)

Occasional Paper 7: *The Ipswich Ware Project. Ceramics, Trade and Society in Middle Saxon England*, by Paul Blinkhorn et al. (UK £16; Europe £20: All include P&P)

A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology Online Digital Version

<http://romanpotterystudy.org/new/wpcontent/uploads/2016/06/Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology.pdf>

Back issues of Medieval Ceramics up to volume 32 and still in stock are available at £1; out of print volumes are free to download from: www.medievalceramics.wordpress.com. Currently volumes 1-25 are available and more will be added soon. For further information please contact Sian Iles.

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