



Newsletter

No. 55 – Winter 06/07

<http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk/>

MPRG Reg. Charity No. 1018513

Secretary's Notes

Council met on the 7th September 2006 at the British Museum. It was reported that in terms of finances, the group is still doing well. Membership is also healthy, but there has been a slight decline in the numbers of new people joining the group. There are some members who have yet to pay for this year's membership, and they will be contacted again soon with a request for payment. Council is pleased to announce that it has gained another member. Dries Tys has volunteered to act as the group's Northern European representative.

Three council positions will become vacant from summer 2007. These positions are Vice President, Treasurer and Ordinary Member. The Vice President (term of three years) acts as chair for the editorial committee and deputises for the President as required. The Treasurer (term of five years) deals

with all the group's financial matters and prepares annual accounts. Ordinary Members have no formal duties, but contribute where they can. The term for this post is three years. Members are urged to consider taking on one of these roles. Enquires about each of these positions can be directed to the secretary or the current office holder. If you wish to nominate someone, then please send your name and the name and contact details of your nominee to the Secretary by the 1st April 2007. Details of nominees will then be posted on the website and in the newsletter at least two months before the AGM.

Any comments or issues to be raised at the next council meeting should be directed to me for inclusion on the agenda.

Anne Boyle, Secretary

Ceramic Production Centres in Europe, Krakow 23rd September 2006

Pietro Riavez (Italy) 13th Century Pottery in Italy: Production Centres and Mediterranean exports

Marta Caroscio (Italy) – Crossing cultures - the Spanish production centres of Andalusia and Valencia and their effect on the first tin-glazed pottery production in Tuscany

Irene Trombetta (Italy)- Slip-ware production in Tuscany from Renaissance up to the 18th century.

Maciek Trzeciecki (Poland) – the present state and future perspectives of medieval pottery research in Poland.

Derek Hall (Secretary, CPCE Scotland) – Summary and lead discussion; Connection and Innovation

Why is the concept of a European database so important? What can it tell us about connections and links across Europe in the past? How can we make sure that it is of relevance to the European community in the 21st Century

Summary of proceedings

Following four excellent presentations by Pietro Riavez, Marta Caroscio, Irene Trombetta (all of Italy) and Maciej Trzeciecki (Poland) I gave a short round up of the current state of play with the project and our aims and ambitions. There then followed a very useful discussion of European funding opportunities which was aided immensely by the presence of Professor Andre Buko (Poland) and Professor Sauro Gelichi (Italy). It was felt that the main reasons for our



Rynek Główny, Main Market Square, Krakow

failure with e-content plus was the fact that the bid was seen as being led by a 'rich' country (the UK) and the inherent difficulties in trying to get funding for a three year project. It was suggested that we should consider applying for a 1 year project in the first instance involving maybe three countries that could be led by a country that would not be regarded as being 'rich', i.e. someone from the likes of Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia. This could then be repeated on a yearly basis, this is apparently the way that several people have got European funding.

A way forward?

The call is about to go out for Culture 2007 <http://www.culture2007.info/> and I would like to suggest that we try for funding from this source. I would be grateful for any views on the concept of applying for 1 years grant aid for a few countries at a time whilst pointing out that this would mean that the project would take a long time to complete if we were only to apply for European funds.

Derek Hall, CPCE, Perth, Scotland

Scottish Regional Group Report



Pottery on display at Melrose Abbey, Scottish Borders

Scottish White Gritty ware production site in Fife?

Recent assessment of material from an evaluation at Coaltown of Wemyss in Fife by AOC Archaeology Ltd has identified the presence of fragments of at least one kiln prop. Recommendations for further excavation in advance of development have been made to the local authority archaeologist.

Scottish Redware sourcing

This years Historic Scotland funded sourcing project has involved George Haggarty and Derek Hall visiting museums at Historic Scotland properties in care to assess for the presence of material that they might wish to sample. They have concentrated initially on looking for assemblages of tile from the major monastic houses of Melrose, Glenluce, Dryburgh and Jedburgh.

Perth High Street pottery

Work is continuing on the preparation of a final report on the important assemblage of pottery from the excavations at 75 High Street, Perth

(1975-77). George Haggarty and Derek Hall are organising the laying out of the whole assemblage in Perth museum to double check fabric identifications and the site phasing.

A gazetteer and summary of French pottery in Scotland c1150- 1650

George Haggarty's seminal study of French imported pottery in Scotland was launched recently at this years Tayside and Fife Archaeological Conference in Perth, it is currently available on CD in the back of Volume 12 of the TAFAC journal (price £12.50 inc p and p from SUAT Ltd in Perth).

Scottish Group contact Derek Hall (dhall@suat.co.uk)

ADVANCE NOTICE

SPMA Annual Conference
14th to 17th September 2007
Exeter and Taunton

West Country Households 1550–1700

The MPRG is pleased to be associated with next year's meeting of the SPMA. The purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers studying the early modern house from a variety of different perspectives. Specialists in the study of vernacular architecture, national and regional furniture, probate inventories will combine with archaeologists working on different aspects of material culture to offer a truly in depth view of domestic life. Formal papers will be combined with visits to houses and viewings of important collections of metalware and ceramics.

The MPRG are organising a conference session to coincide with the viewing of the Ken Barton Collection of Everyday

Pottery at Taunton Museum. Our session will focus on the place of pottery in the 16th and 17th century household. We will consider how pottery was used, the range of forms present and the ways in which ceramics complemented vessels of other materials. MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES!

Any would-be speakers for the MPRG session should contact Duncan Brown, Southampton City Museums, Tower House, Town Quay Road, Southampton, SO14 2NY. Telephone +44 (0)2380 915728.

General enquiries should be directed to John Allan, Exeter Archaeology, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3LS. Telephone +44 (0)1392 665522

A DECADE OF DISCOVERY

- a conference to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Over the last ten years, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (www.finds.org.uk) has systematically recorded 235,000 archaeological objects found by members of the public. They range from hand-axes made by early hominids half a million years ago to lead seals from the hitherto little-known nineteenth-century Russian flax trade.

Papers to be presented at this conference by major British archaeologists show that metal-detecting and field-walking can locate different kinds of objects. Prehistoric hoards, cart and horse-harness fittings, workshop tools and lost brooches can conjure up a subtly different view of the world. Speakers

will include Mark Blackburn, Richard Bradley, Duncan Garrow, Fraser Hunter, Jude Plouviez, Tim Schadla-Hall, Gabor Thomas, Martin Welch and staff from the Scheme.

The conference will take place in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, The British Museum, London on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th April 2007, 10am-5pm, and will cost £10 per day or £15 for both days. It is planned that the proceedings will be published in 2008. If you would like to book a place please contact Claire Costin on 0207 323 8618 or email ccostin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.

Next Issue

If anyone has an article, announcement or report for the next copy of the newsletter please can you submit it to the assistant secretary by Friday 23rd March 2007 for inclusion in the April issue. All items will be gratefully accepted.

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