Notes from the President

MPRG’s AGM held on Saturday 3rd June at the annual conference saw the retirement from Council of Treasurer Imogen Wood, Co-Editor Berni Seddon and ordinary member Bryn Morris. On behalf of the Group I’d like to thank them for the time and effort they have put into running the Group and helping us on the way towards meeting our aims and objectives. Lyn Blackmore was elected Co-Editor, Kelly Green Assistant Editor and two new ordinary members, Rachel Askew and Charlotte Newman are welcomed to Council. Unfortunately, no nominations were received for the post of Treasurer and Council is still seeking someone to take on the office. Anyone who is interested in this role please contact the Secretary. In the meantime Christine Clayborough has generously volunteered to hold the fort as acting Treasurer, Council is very grateful to Christine.

The conference saw presentations by speakers from France, Belgium, Portugal, Lithuania and the UK on the theme of 'Ceramics and Drink' with pottery making demonstrations by John Hudson. Thank you to Lorraine Mepham and Sarah Newstead and Alice Sansom of the Centre for Historical Archaeology, Leicester University for organising an enjoyable and interesting event and also of course the contributors. Next year the MPRG conference will be going to Brussels precise dates will be announced shortly but the conference will take place over the first weekend in June.

Council meets on 13th July if you have any matters that you would like to draw to Council’s attention please contact me or Secretary Andy Sage.

Julie Edwards

MPRG and CHA Joint Conference 2017

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

Our 2017 conference was held in Leicester in collaboration with the Centre for Historical Archaeology. The two-day event was a great success. A review will follow in the summer newsletter.

Alice Forward

IN MEMORIAM: Jan Thijssen

With sadness we report the death of Jan Thijssen. Jan passed away on 2 December 2016 at the age of 73 from the consequences of cancer. For many decades, Jan was a prominent Dutch archaeologist. He is best known for his impressive achievements as head of the archaeological services of the City of Nijmegen. Further, Jan was appreciated for his extensive knowledge as a Roman and (post)medieval pottery specialist. Energetic, intelligent, critical and stubborn, he used all his efforts to improve archaeology as a science and explaining the importance of archaeology in a very approachable manner to the public.

As a person, Jan was a loving father and grandfather and a loyal friend. He will be missed in many ways.

Yvonne de Rue

Decorated floor tile production at Boarstall, Buckinghamshire, UK

An article to be published in the Records of Buckinghamshire 56 in May 2017, draws attention to evidence gathered largely from fieldwalking, which has shown that Boarstall (a neighbouring village to Brill), was not only a pottery-making village, but was also producing decorated floor tiles. A previous article that recorded pottery manufacture in the village had noted a few tile wasters at one location but three further sites have now been identified.

All seven of the designs that could be distinguished on the Boarstall tiles had been recorded in the 1930s by Christopher Hohler (1940; 1942) and are of his ‘stabbed Wessex’ series. Although such tiles have only been identified at a few locations in Buckinghamshire, they have been found on many ecclesiastical sites in Oxford (where they are commonly given LoydHaberly’s design numbers (1937)). The Brill-Boarstall industry has long been recognised as a major supplier of household ceramics to the city and it would not have not been a big step to also manufacture tiles for distribution here so it is possible that Boarstall was a significant supplier. A fuller
Buckinghamshire is of interest in that apart from Boarstall, where production probably took place in the late thirteenth to early fourteenth century, there is also within the county the well-known fourteenth-century industry at Penn in the Chilterns and fifteenth-century tile production at Little Brickhill (Farley and Hurman 2015). In addition, decorated tiles, as yet undated, were also being made at another Chiltern site, Cadmore End not far from Fingest. It is incidentally satisfying that the distribution of ceramics recovered in Boarstall, supported by other evidence, has confirmed the surprising accuracy of a well-known plan of the village dated 1444-6 which depicts several houses, but sadly no kilns!

Bibliography

Mystery Object
Do you recognise this? This is part of a ceramic object discovered at Iona Abbey, Argyll. It appears to be a foot from an object but what that is has eluded the great and the good of Scottish medieval ceramics. If you have any idea please contact Ewan Campbell Ewan.Campbell@glasgow.ac.uk.

Northern Ceramic Society bursary for Summer School 2017
The NCS still has a bursary available for their Summer School - 'Digging for the Truth - ceramic research above and below ground' - being held August 15-17, 2017. The bursary covers lectures, accommodation and meals, but not travel., it is open to anyone (NCS members and non-members) who feels they would benefit from the opportunity to attend. Applications, stating why a bursary would be of particular benefit to you and your ceramic interests, should be sent to the seminar organiser. See http://www.northernceramicsociety.org/ for more details (ignore the 30th April deadline).

Julie Edwards
Society for Clay Pipe Research (23-24 September) and L’Académie Internationale de la Pipe joint conference. (25-28 September) 2017 Stoke-on-Trent & Stone, Staffordshire, UK

The annual SCPR and the AIP conferences will be joint, consecutive conferences and is the first time the two groups have come together since the AIP last met in the UK in 2008. Members and non-members of both societies are welcome to attend each of the conferences.

The 33rd annual SCPR conference will be held this year on Saturday, 23rd September, 2017 at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (£17.50 and includes lunch, tea and coffee). Papers will concentrate on pipes from the Staffordshire area followed by more general papers with wider themes in the afternoon. In the evening there will be a three course Conference Dinner (optional, £25 per person). On Sunday there will be a full day tour to the Ironbridge area, starting with a tour and pipe making demonstration at Broseley Pipeworks, followed by a two-course lunch and entry to Blists Hill Victoria town (£30 per person). The total cost for all parts of the SCPR conference is £72.50 per person. If you would like to present a short paper, or if you have pipes that you would like to bring along for us to see, then please contact us at the Society email address below.

The AIP Conference starts on Monday 25th, at Stone, Staffordshire (a short distance from Stoke-on-Trent) for a full day of lectures and a pipe auction. The fee for the day (£28 per person) includes lunch, tea and coffee. On Tuesday 26th will be a half-day of lectures (£10 per person) followed by a visit to the Gladstone Pottery (£22 per person). In the evening will be the Gala dinner, held at the Stone House Hotel and will include some local musical entertainment (£35 per person). Wednesday 27th is another half-day of lectures (£10 per person) followed by a trip to Wedgwood and includes a cream tea (£29 per person). In the evening, there will be a free supper and the viewing of a private pipe collection in Stone. The meeting ends on Thursday 28th with the post conference tour and a visit to Lichfield and Calke Abbey, and a rare opportunity to view a collection of Ottoman pipes (£24 per person). The total cost for all parts of the AIP conference is £158 per person. A separate programme of events for partners not attending the AIP meeting will be organised.

A booking form with further information for both conferences is available on the Society website (http://scpr.co), Facebook page or from SCPR@talktalk.net. Booking forms and meal choices need to be returned by the 1st September, 2017.

Chris Jarrett

European Association for Archaeology 2017 conference, Maastricht

Derek Hall and Koen de Groote have organised a ceramic session for this year’s EAA conference in Maastricht. Called ‘What has happened in ceramic studies since Bruges 1997’ it aims to review the current state of ceramic studies across Europe. More information can be found on the conference website www.eaa2017maastricht.nl/scientific-program

Derek Hall

www.medievalpottery.org.uk
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 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 Blinkhornet al. (UK £16; Europe £20: All include P&P)

Pottery Standards Online Digital Version

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.

MPRG Contacts

President Julie Edwards
c/o CWAC Archaeology, Grosvenor Museum, Chester, CH1 2DD
e-mail: julie.edwards@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Telephone: 01244972122

Assistant Treasurer Sian Iles
Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP
e-mail: sian.iles@museumwales.ac.uk

Treasurer Imogen Wood
e-mail: mprgtreasurer@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary Alice Forward
e-mail: jeepsteralice@googlemail.com

Secretary Andrew Sage
e-mail: andrew.sage@dunelm.org.uk

General Medieval Pottery Research Group, c/o MoLA,
Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road,
London N1 7E

Find us on Facebook – search for Medieval Pottery Research Group or visit
https://www.facebook.com/groups/201431073234224/