

**STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY
NEWSLETTER 34**

April 2003

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Remember to use our Web site for information and queries:

WWW.SGRP.ORG

Welcome to the spring newsletter.

Committee News

The committee presently looks like this:

President: Rob Perrin
Hon. Treasurer/Membership: Ted Connell
Hon. Secretary: Alice Lyons
Hon. Editor: Jude Plouviez
Production Manager: Pam Irving
Ordinary Member and Reviews Manager: Vivien Swan
Ordinary Member: Bernard Barr
Ordinary Member: Kayt Brown
Ordinary Member: Maggi Darling
Ordinary Member: Geoff Dannell
Ordinary Member: Jane Evans
Ordinary Member: Laura Griffin
Co-opted Member: Fiona Seeley

The committee met on the 29th March this year and discussed all aspects of the practical running of the group, including accounts, publications, projects, web pages and future conferences. Pam Irving announced the publication and distribution of JRPS Volume 10 *Amphorae in Britain and the western empire*. The committee would like to thank and congratulate the authors and editorial team in achieving the publication of this journal.

This year many of the core members of the committee are coming to the end of their term of office with the President, Secretary, Treasurer and three ordinary members (Kayt Brown, Maggi Darling and Vivien Swan) stepping down. The committee faces a fairly radical shake-up, but this does also provide an opportunity for other SGRP members to play an important role on the running of the group. Please take time to consider if you would like to become a committee member, or know someone who would. Nomination forms can be found towards the end of this Newsletter.

Personally I have very much enjoyed my term as Secretary and would like to thank you all for your support over the last three years.

The Membership

The group presently constitutes 144 people, including three new members to which the group extends a warm welcome:

Mrs I.Thompson
Researching Late Iron Age and Early Roman-British wares
7, Holme Way, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3RE

Mr Bob Pitt
A mature student at Reading University, researching the samian found at Silchester.
25 Wilmington Close, Woodley, Berkshire RG5 4LR
Tel: 0118 969 4256

Mr Andrew Peachey
Hertford Archaeological Trust, The Seed Warehouse, Maidenhead Yard, The Wash,
Hertford SG14 1PX
Tel: 01992 558170

Conference News

- *Debating Late Antiquity in Britain AD300-700 14-15th June 2003*
A conference hosted by the Archaeology Department at the University of York. This conference seeks to bring together researchers of the period AD300-700 in a lively debate. For more details please email James Gerrard (jfg101@york.ac.uk) or visit the conference website: <http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~rc132/>
- *SGRP Annual Conference, 'Form and Function' 4-6th July 2003.*
The Claude Gibb Hall, University of Northumbria is booked for the weekend, although lectures and pottery handling sessions will take place at Wallsend Museum and a trip to South Shields has also been organised. Details of this conference and a booking form can be found at the end of this Newsletter.
- *SGRP Annual Conference, 'Romano-British Pottery and Trade' 2-4th July 2004.*
Accommodation will be at the University of North London with lectures and pottery handling sessions at Eagle Wharf. Contact Fiona Seeley Tel (0171) 5669324, fax (0171) 4903855 or email: fseeley@museumoflondon.org.uk
- *SGRP Annual Conference 2005.* Location to be announced.

S.G.R.P. Website

www.sgrp.org

The Group's website continues to grow. The entire contents of Volumes 1 & 2 of the Journal are now up on the website. The National Research Framework, together with the four Regional Documents, Collated and Edited by Steven Willis are all on the website. The last five issues of the Newsletter are also up. I have recently put up on the Queries/Research Section pictures of a Samian Dr 31 bowl with makers stamp and graffiti. I would welcome suggestions as to the potters name, and suggestions on the graffiti. These would then be added to the webpage for the information of other members. I am working on a new section, called Identification of Pottery. The first thing up will be colour pictures plus drawings of Gaulish Coloured Coated Wares from Robin Symonds book on the subject.

How to search the sgrp.org website. Open the search engine 'Google'. Type into the search box the item you are looking for, e.g. Nene Valley Ware. Click on search and many thousands of hits will be listed. Now scroll down to the bottom of the first page and click on 'Search within results'. A new search box will appear. Type into the search box sgrp.org and click on search. Only those hits that are on the sgrp.org website will appear. Now scroll down to the bottom of the first page and click on Include omitted results. Now the number of hits displayed should be manageable. The Google Search Engine visits the website at least every two weeks and catalogues every word of the contents.

If you would like to add an item to the Queries/Research section, or have any suggestions as to how the website may be developed, please contact Ted Connell 01474 872763, ted.connell@btinternet.com

Sad News

On Sunday 13 April 2003 Jaap van der Werff was struck by a cardiac arrest while playing hockey and efforts to resuscitate him had no effect. His wife has asked the news of his death to be made known in archaeological circles. Members of the Study Group may remember him from Fautores meetings at York and Newcastle, and the meeting on Amphora held at the Museum of London in 1994, which has just been published in JRPS 10.

His loss is a very sad one for Dutch archaeology and for the study of amphorae in the Roman provinces.

Notice Board

- The IFA is launching a consultative process to discuss the future of archaeological training. For further information about the Archaeology Training Forum please contact Bob Hook, Secretary, Archaeology Training Forum, NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2GZ, email: bob.hook@rchme.co.uk or look at www.britarch.ac.uk/training/future.html
- With Journal for Roman Pottery Studies Volume 11 near completion, the contents of future volumes are under consideration. If any member would like to publish their research in a future JRPS please contact Jude Plouviez on (01284) 352448 or email jude.plouviez@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk
- Back Numbers of JRPS for sale:
 - Volume 5 (1992)** Four general papers including: *Legio VI and its Men: African Legionaries in Britain* - Vivien G. Swan, *Roman Pottery from Exeter 1980 -1990* - Neil Holbrook & Paul T. Bidwell, *Pottery from excavations on the site of the Roman Legionary Museum Caerleon 1983-5* - J. David Zienkkiewicz, *Roman Pottery in South - East Wales: An introduction* - Peter Webster, Plus Reviews and the Roman Pottery Bibliography. Price £10 to members
 - Volume 6 (1993)** Nine general papers including: *3rd century samian ware in Britain* - Joanna Bird, *Roman Red and Staffordshire Cream* - Peter Webster, *Pottery function and finewares in the Roman north* - Jeremy Evans, *A new form of céramique à l'éponge* - Mark Wood, Plus the Roman Pottery Bibliography. Price £10 to members
 - Volume 7 (1994)** *A Corpus of Relief-Patterned Tiles in Roman Britain* Ian Betts, Ernest W. Black, & John Gower. Devoted to a comprehensive study of stamped decoration of flue tiles. There is a catalogue of the known patterns and a complete corpus of the known examples of each with their. Price £10 to members
 - Volume 8 (1999)** *Roman Pottery from Excavations at and near to the Roman Small Town of Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire, 1956-58* Describes excavations in the Nene Valley and its pottery: Lower Nene Valley, cream grey, shell-gritted and mortaria . Price £10 to members
 - Volume 9 (2001)** *The Roman Pottery Kilns at Rossington Bridge Excavations 1956-1961* by P C Buckland, K F Hartley and V Rigby. Rossington Bridge lies next to the Roman road between Doncaster and Lincoln. Excavations between 1956-1961 discovered eight pottery kilns, a site of considerable significance. The kilns and material from the waster heaps excavated lie on a site with at least fifteen other unexcavated kilns and ancillary structures lying either side of the Roman road. The bulk of the finds clearly belong to the main period of activity on the site during the mid-2nd century when the mortarium potter Sarrius and his associates were involved in the production of mortaria, 'parisian' fine wares, black-burnished and grey wares intended for the military markets on the Northern frontier. 82p, b/w pls . Price £12 to members

There is a full contents page of each volume of the Group's website. If you would like to order copies please send a cheque payable to the Study Group for Roman Pottery, adding £1.50 p&p for each volume, to Ted Connell, 110 Manor Forstal, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8JQ

- Please remember to keep your contact details up to date, including any new e-mail addresses. The secretaries contact details are at the beginning of this Newsletter.

- The article below has been submitted by Victoria Bryant of the Worcester Archaeological Unit describing an exciting development in ceramic studies.

Worcestershire on-line ceramic fabric and form type-series

www.worcestershireceramics.org

The Worcestershire on-line fabric and form type-series is the first part of ***Pottery in Perspective***, an innovative project to provide information on the pottery used in Worcestershire from prehistory to c AD 1900.

The county fabric series currently contains 250 pottery types dating from the Neolithic to the 19th century and includes types which are of national and international interest. Extensive analysis of ceramic production and consumer sites has resulted in a substantial corpus of illustrated vessel forms. These resources, along with the results of 30 years research and synthesis, are essential to researchers studying material culture in the Worcestershire region, but are not generally easily accessible.

The on-line fabric and form type-series brings this data together into one accessible research resource. For each type of pottery the database contains information on:-

- Fabric
- Manufacture
- Forms
- Source
- Distribution
- Date

In addition there are magnified images of pottery sections to aid identification, together with bibliographical references for each fabric including cross references to other fabric series. The search engine facilitates general and detailed searches.

The database you can see now is just a small part of the whole project and will develop over the next two years. At the moment it only contains information on medieval fabrics but, when complete, it will include:-

- Prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval fabrics (Roman fabrics by June 2003, prehistoric fabrics by December 2003, Post-medieval fabrics by June 2004)
- Overviews of the ceramic history of the county
- A form type-series for each fabric with descriptions, images, dates and bibliographies.
- Information on kiln sites, including text, dates, maps and bibliographies
- Descriptions and images of thin sections
- Photographs of typical sherds as well as sections
- Database of all the pottery assemblages in the county linked to the Historic Environment Record GIS

This digital resource will help researchers address the complex economic and social questions generated by the material, and has regional and national applications. At present this is a specialist database, but it is being developed for use in schools as well as in the wider community.

We are hoping that the project provides a model for the dissemination of resources using the web. The wider adoption of this model for regional or national fabric and form type-series would provide a resource flexible enough to cope with regional traditions but consistent enough to facilitate the study of widely distributed pottery types.

The fabric and form series was developed by the Archaeology Service of Worcestershire County Council. Its development as an on-line resource is being undertaken with the ***Ceramic Research Centre*** (a partnership between Worcester Archaeology Service and University College Worcester). The software was developed by OxfordArchDigital. It is a research resource which will support the Historic Environment Record for Worcestershire. For more information on the HER please visit our web site www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/her-news

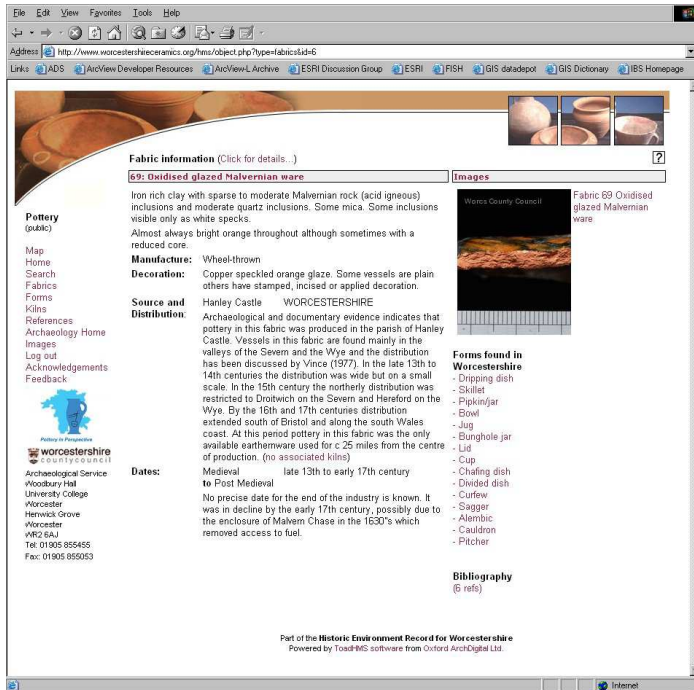


Fig 1 Example of general information in the fabric series

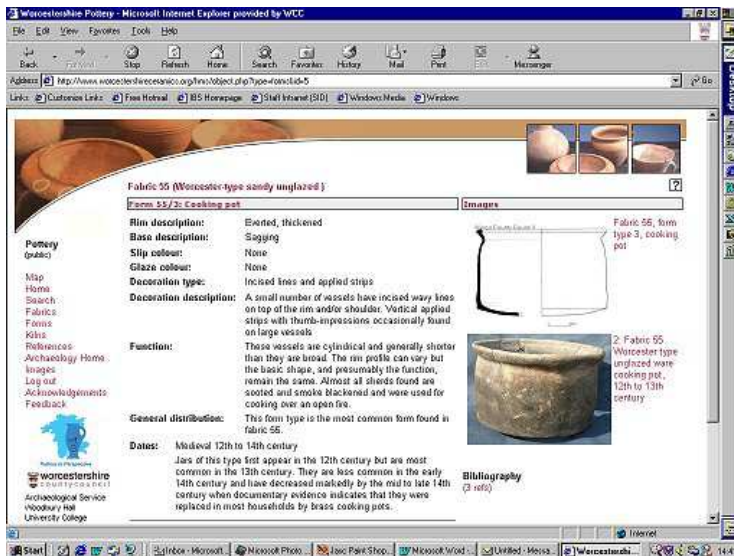


Fig 2 Example of the form series

SGRP COMMITTEE NOMINATION PAPERS

President (Rob Perrin term of office expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Treasurer (Ted Connell, term of office expired)

It is with great regret that I will be resigning as the Group's Treasurer at the A.G.M. in July. My physical and mental state are such that I find myself unable to fully undertake the duties of Treasurer with regard to maintaining the Income & Expenditure Account in a precise and orderly manner. I have however expressed to the Committee my willingness to continue dealing with membership side of the Treasurers work. The new Treasurer would therefore have a much reduced workload. The duties would consist of holding the Group's chequebook and paying cheques occasionally to cover such things as the Newsletter, Conference Expenditure, cost of printing the Journal and finally to balance the books at the end of the year. I, as Membership Secretary would send out all the reminders for subscriptions and pay cheques received into the Group's Account. If you would like to know more detail about the Treasurers job, please telephone me on 01474 872763. Ted Connell

Nomination.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Secretary (Alice Lyons term of office expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Ordinary Member (Maggi Darling term of office expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Ordinary Member (Vivien Swan term of office expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Ordinary Member (Kayt Brown term of office expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Please complete and return, with the nominees permission, to:

Alice Lyons, Hon Secretary SGRP
Norfolk Archaeological Unit
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13-15 Cathedral Street
Norwich
NR1 1LU
Tel: 01603 878219
E-mail: alice.lyons.mus@norfolk.gov.uk

THE STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY ANNUAL WEEKEND CONFERENCE 2003

Segedunum Roman Fort, Museum and Bath-house, Wallsend
Friday 4th July until Sunday 6th July 2003.

The Venue

Since opening in 2000, Segedunum has won 11 awards, including the Heritage in Britain Trophy from the British Archaeology Rewards. The site consists of the fort, a museum with 9-storey high viewing tower, reconstructed bath-house and a section of both excavated and reconstructed Hadrian's Wall. There will be a temporary exhibition entitled 'Time Trek – views of Hadrian's Wall past, present and future' at the time of the conference. The meeting itself will be held in a private conference suite, consisting of a main hall and a separate, lockable room for pottery displays. Wallsend is only a few miles from Newcastle upon Tyne with good road and urban railway links.

Accommodation

Claude Gibb Hall is a recently refurbished hall of residence in the centre of Newcastle. All rooms are single study bedrooms with wash hand-basin and tea/coffee making facilities, with shared bath/shower and toilet facilities within the corridors. Coaches will take delegates from the accommodation to conference and back on Friday evening, Saturday morning and evening, and Sunday morning. Please note you will have to make your own way to/from Wallsend on arrival and departure.

Events

There will be an opportunity for guided tours of the museum and reconstructed buildings at Segedunum, including the bath-house. Based on that at Chesters Roman Fort, this now has two painted rooms. On Saturday afternoon there will be a trip out to Arbeia Roman Fort at South Shields. Here there will be an opportunity to see the new reconstructed buildings; a third-century barrack built using Roman construction techniques and a fourth-century Commanding Officer's house. A number of rooms in each building have been fitted out with replica Roman furniture and fresco wall paintings, including the formal summer dining room and the Commanding Officer's private suite. A barbecue will be held in the Commanding Officer's house during the evening.

Getting there

Newcastle is on the main East Coast rail line, with good links from London (3-4 hours from King's Cross) and Edinburgh (2 hours from Waverley). There are also good road and air links. From Newcastle to Wallsend: (by road) take the A193 and then the A187; (by public transport) take the urban railway, Metro which runs c. every 10 minutes.

Call for papers

Please contact Alex Croom at Arbeia Roman Fort, Baring St, South Shields, NE33 2BB, Tel (0191) 454 4093 if you wish to give a paper. There are 30, 20 and 10 minute slots available.

Costs

The conference fee is £23, including tea and coffee on all days and coaches to and from Newcastle. Bed and breakfast is £28 per night. The total cost, including all accommodation and meals is £109.95.

PROGRAMME

Papers include the pottery from Segedunum, pottery from Arbeia, the Carlisle kiln, early pottery from Colchester, late Roman/Byzantine pottery from Devon, samian pottery contracts, pot drawing reproduction, and Hadham products. More papers would be welcome; as well as longer slots, we have introduced a session for short 10 minute papers for reports on small projects, interesting vessels, updates etc to encourage more people to contribute to the conference.

Friday 4th July

from 12.00 book in at Claude Gibb in Newcastle
make own way to Wallsend
Wallsend: registration and lunch (not included in price; hot meals, snacks and sandwiches available from museum café)

2.00 lectures
3.30 tea
4.00 lectures
5.30 tour of museum
6.30 meal in Industry Gallery (wine included)
7.30 AGM
9.00 coach back to Claude Gibb Hall

Saturday 5th July

8.00 breakfast
8.45 coach to Wallsend
9.15 lectures
11.00 coffee
11.30 lectures
1.00 lunch
2.00 tour of bath-house, Hadrian's Wall, view Wallsend pottery groups
4.00 coach to Arbeia
4.30 tour of Arbeia (the site and reconstructed Barracks)
5.30 viewing pots in school building; also look round museum etc
6.30 Commanding Officer's house and barbecue (wine included)
8.00 retire to local hostelry
9.30 coach back to Newcastle

Sunday 6th July

8.30 breakfast
9.00 coach to Wallsend
9.30 lectures
11.00 coffee
11.30 lectures
12.30 end

BOOKING FORM

THE STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY ANNUAL WEEKEND CONFERENCE 2003

Segedunum Roman Fort, Museum and Bath-house, Wallsend
Friday 4th July until Sunday 6th July 2003.

Name.....

Address.....

		23.00	Tick if Required
Conference fee		23.00	
	Bed and Breakfast		
	Friday 4 th July	28.00	
	Saturday 5 th July	28.00	
Meals*	Friday 4 th July evening meal	14.65	
	Saturday 5 th July lunch	6.30	
	Saturday 5 th July evening meal	10.00	
Total		109.95	

Please make cheques payable to 'Study Group for Roman Pottery' and send with form to: Ted Connell, 110 Manor Forstal, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 9JQ.

Any dietary requirements:

*Please note, if you do not want the Friday evening meal and wish to return to Newcastle before the coach leaves at 9.00, you will need to arrange your own transport (e.g. Metro). This also holds for the Saturday evening. South Shields is c. ½ hour from Newcastle.