
THE OLD POTTER'S ALMANACK

Volume Twenty, Number Two: December 2015. ISSN 0965-7479

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This December issue of *The Old Potter's Almanack* presents two papers, the first by Lucia Angeli *et al.* is an experimental and archaeological study on pottery smoothers used for early Neolithic Italian ceramic production, and the second a detailed analysis by Irina S. Zhushchikhovskaya and Yuri G. Nikitin on kilns in southern Russia Far East (Primor'e region), which appeared between the 11th/10th century BC and the 4th/5th century AD.

Kamal Badreshany gives us a review of the CPG Annual Meeting which took place at the University of Durham in November.

In August 2015 I was delighted to be invited to join the 25th experimental archaeological expedition which took place in Samara (Russia). The main aim of the expedition was to experiment with different types of prehistoric and protohistoric pottery production, trying to understand and reproduce the different steps of the *chaîne opératoire*, from the clay collection, through forming, decorating, drying and firing the ceramics (see Prof. Tsetlin decorating a pointed vessel in the figure below). The expedition was directed by Prof. N. P. Salugina and Prof. I. N. Vasil'yeva (Samara State Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities).



In addition to the experimental production, archaeological ceramics were studied by binocular microscopy on fresh breaks, in order to investigate the ceramic fabrics. The second main aim of this expedition was to form a reference collection from the experimental results which will be used by scholars to shed light on the ancient Russian pottery

production. The scholar who inspired and started this experimental study was Alexander A. Bobrinski (1930-2010), who founded and was also Head of the History of Ceramics Laboratory, part of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy (Moscow).

The experience was really enjoyable as students, experts, beginners and professors were all working together, helping each other with the practical pottery making and discussing ceramics from early morning until after dinner.

I hope you will enjoy this issue.

Michela Spataro

IN THIS ISSUE

Pottery smoothers from Colle Santo Stefano (Ortucchio, L'Aquila) **Page 2**
Lucia Angeli, Cristina Fabbri, Marcella Parisi and Alice Bertini



Old ceramics firing kilns in southern Russian Far East **Page 16**
Irina S. Zhushchikhovskaya and Yuri G. Nikitin



Conference review: CPG Annual Meeting 2015, Durham **Page 25**
Kamal Badreshany

News, Conference Diary & Information **Page 27**