

France, Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom took part in the conference.

Forty-seven papers and nine poster presentations covered multidisciplinary approaches to ceramics, from scientific to typological analysis, experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, radiocarbon dating, and more theoretical archaeological and anthropological aspects.

Pottery technology was one of the main topics, focussing on clay provenance, temper uses, hand-made, wheel and mould techniques, in addition to papers on typological seriation, indirect evidence of textiles, function, statistical processing of ceramics data. Papers were presented on the origins of pottery in East Asia and the Near East, as well as on trade and interaction through ages, and chronology.

The material discussed was dated to every period from the earliest pottery until the recent past, and pottery from a wide range of environmental settings throughout Russia and neighbouring countries, as well as the Near East, the Balkans, the UK, and southern Africa.

After the conference the participants had an opportunity to visit the History of Ceramics Laboratory at the Institute of Archaeology and look over the wide archaeological, ethnographic, and experimental ceramic collections.

The conference was really lively and the long discussions after each paper were extremely interesting and enthusiastic. The general impression was that the focus on experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology and intercultural contacts were more developed than in western European conferences.

Michela Spataro (Hon. Editor)

Recent approaches to Ancient Ceramics in Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Institute of Archaeology, Moscow

A really interesting and well-structured three-day conference (29-31 October 2013) was organised by the History of Ceramics Laboratory at the Institute of Archaeology RAS in Moscow under the direction of Professors Yuri Tsetlin and Peter Gaydukov. About 60 scholars from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan,

CPG Annual Meeting 2013, London

On the 15th of November the Ceramic Petrology Group met for their annual general meeting in the Department of Conservation and Scientific Research at the British Museum. The meeting was organised by Michela Spataro and Roberta Tomber. There were 13 presentations and 35 participants. The programme is

attached but in summary, papers covered the chronological range from Neolithic to post-Medieval, and thematically spanned from methodological papers, including experimentation and ethnography, to case studies of specific wares and regions, and the establishment of petrographic databases. Although most papers included petrographic techniques, they were often used in conjunction with SEM, XRF and XRD and compositional studies. Geographically, the topics included the Middle East, East Africa, the Aegean and Europe.

In particular, the Alan Vince thin-section collection, now housed in the Science Department at the British Museum, was highlighted. His archive of thin sections is available for consultation on request to Michela Spataro (m spataro@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk).

Roberta Tomber (The British Museum)

The programme included the following presentations:

Armineh Marghussian and Robin Coningham. *Evolution of pottery production during late Neolithic period at Ebrahimabad in Qazvin Plain, Iran*

Italo Muntoni. *Pottery making in Neolithic communities of southern Italy: towards a technological and social interaction model*

Andrew Appleby and Mark Cassidy. *Neolithic Orcadian Grooved Ware - potential new insights from experimental archaeology*

Enrica Bonato, Patrick Quinn and Lara Maritan. *Early Iron Age ceramics from eastern Tanzania: a compositional and technological approach*

Ian Whitbread. *Producers and consumers in the Berbati Valley, Greece: materials analysis of survey pottery*

Miguel Ángel Cau Ontiveros. *LRCWMED. A project on Western Mediterranean Late Roman Cooking Wares*
Klaus Bente, Robert Sobott, Christoph Berthold, Barbara Dammers and Mario Kittel. *Characterization of pores in ancient ceramics: a multimethodical approach*

Matthew Blakely. *A personal approach in the use of British rocks and clays to make pottery*

Claudio Capelli. *The evolution of production of glazed wares in Liguria (NW Italy) in late-Medieval and post-Medieval times with reference to Mediterranean trade routes and technology*

Ian Freestone, Zehra Yegingil, Harriet White and Rüçhan Arik. *Technology and composition of decorated wall tiles from Kubad-Abâd, Lake Beyşehir, Turkey*

Esther Allepuz Travé and Patrick Quinn. *Utilitarian cooking wares in Medieval Catalonia (Spain): patterns of production, distribution and trade in rural areas*

Aude Mongiatti. *The Renaissance laboratory from Oberstockstall, Austria: technical ceramics for small-scale metallurgy and chemistry*

Karen Webb. *The Alan Vince thin section archive - what next?*

If you are interested in reading the abstracts of the CPG meeting, please write to michelaspataro@yahoo.co.uk

NEWS

The CPG members would like to deeply thank Caroline R. Cartwright for her hard work and efficiency as she has been working as the Hon. Treasurer since 2003. We would also like to thank Alice Hunt, who has been Hon. Secretary from 2009 to 2013, and Louise Joyner who has been Hon. President since 2011.

As voted at the last CPG AGM meeting, we would like to welcome Ian Whitbread as the new Hon. President, Patrick Quinn as the new Hon. Secretary and Nigel Meeks as the new Production Editor of the OPA.

CONFERENCE DIARY

The Roman Archaeology Conference University of Reading, UK. March 27-30, 2014

At this meeting on the morning of the 30th of March there is a ceramic session organised by R. Tomber on Continuity and Change – the impact of foodways on provincial pottery traditions.

For more information:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/archaeology/Conferences/RAC2014/>

LRCW 5: Fifth International Conference on Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean. Archaeology and Archaeometry

Alexandria, Egypt. April 6-10 2014

The aim of the conference is the presentation of recent research on Late Roman coarse wares, cooking wares and amphorae from the 4th to 7th century AD. Different themes on production centres and workshops of the Mediterranean will be discussed including archaeometry and origin of the ceramics, typology and chronology, archaeology and economic history, and regional contexts (Egypt, Eastern and Western Mediterranean).

For more information:

http://www.cealex.org/lrcw5_1/index_E.php

**International Symposium on Archaeometry (ISA)
Los Angeles, U.S.A. May 19-23, 2014**

ISA focuses on the latest findings of archaeometric research on a broad range of topics from many cultures, periods and places. The symposium will bring together archaeological scientists and archaeologists with museum professionals, focussing on interdisciplinary research.

For more information:

<http://www.archaeometry2014.com/>

**20th Annual Meeting European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
Istanbul, Turkey. September 10-14, 2014**

The meeting offers a scientific programme reflecting the current issues of European archaeology and beyond. The EAA conference will take place at the Taşkışla campus of the Istanbul Technical University and will focus on six themes: 1) Connecting seas - across the borders; 2) Managing archaeological heritage: past and present; 3) Ancient technologies in social context; 4) Environment and subsistence: the geosphere, ecosphere and human interaction; 5) Times of change: collapse and transformative impulses; 6) Retrieving and interpreting the archaeological record.

For more information:

<https://www.eaa2014istanbul.org/site>

THE OLD POTTER'S ALMANACK

The Old Potter's Almanack is the joint letter of the Ceramic Petrology Group and the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group.

The deadline for copy of articles for the next issue of the OPA is 15th April 2014. Copy and other information, news and events should be sent to the Editor Michela Spataro (for details see below).

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