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Notes on Historical Archaeology

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NOTES ON HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

edited by

Iain C. Walker

Publications of Interest

W. Fishley Holland, *Fifty Years a Potter* (*Pottery Quarterly*, Pendley Manor, Tring, Hertfordshire, England, 1958) 8½ x 5½ inches, vii + 105 pp, 11 plates. Available from Fishley Holland, The Pottery, Clevedon, Somerset, England. Send Pounds: 1.25 (2/5/0), or approximately \$3.00 U.S. including postage and exchange rates.

This is not a new publication, but it deserves to be more widely known than it is. Mr. Holland, who died in 1969 at the age of 80, was the fifth generation of a well-known North Devon potting family, his great-great-great-grandfather being George Fishley born 1771 and founder of the Fremington Pottery. Mr. Holland's son and grandson are continuing his business at Clevedon, producing beautiful hand-crafted pottery.

Mr. Holland's North Devon traditions go back to the 17th century-famous coarse earthenwares found in Middle Atlantic colonial sites; when he was a boy the last maker of the clay ovens such as that discovered at Jamestown was still working at the family's Fremington Pottery.

The book is a modestly-written account of Mr. Holland's obviously supremely satisfying career as a potter, first at Fremington and later elsewhere in southwest England. He built two potteries of his own—literally from the ground up, for he even built the kilns.

This book describes the accumulated knowledge and inherited lore of peasant potting, the observations of a lifetime of empirical work, the terminology of a dying craft. It is a delight to read, excellently produced, contains fine photographs, and is very reasonably priced.

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Readers who are also members of the Society for Historical Archaeology will recall that in the 1968 and 1969 issues of *Historical Archaeology* Mr. Foley commented on the term "industrial archaeology" used in Britain to describe the recording and study of obsolete and obsolescent industries, of the production methods used, and of the material remains. In my view those remarks reflect the author's lack of knowledge of this widespread and rapidly-expanding field.

Those who wish a much more informed and informative survey of the field should read "Industrial Archaeology: Retrospect and Prospect" by R. A. Buchanan, Director of the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology at

Bath University of Technology in England, published in *Antiquity*, XLIV (1970), 281-7. This article is a survey of industrial archaeology and in particular a comprehensive review of material published in the field. Those more interested in recording the industrial past than in philosophizing on nomenclature will find this article a useful description of what the field is and a first-rate quarry of published source material.

Conferences

A conference which should be of particular interest to historical archaeologists in the Northeast who are working on the Dutch period in New York State will be held at the Boymans van Beunigen Museum in Rotterdam on 24-26 March 1972. There will be an exhibition of post-medieval coarse wares, visits to delftware collections, and lectures on recent excavations. Visits will also be made to the open-air museum at Arnhem and the museum at Schokland to see material recovered from wrecks in the former Zuider Zee (IJssel Meer). The town of Bergen op Zoom will be visited to see the products of local kilns. Accommodations will be in a hostel in Rotterdam. There will also be an optional extra two-day excursion to Friesland to see the Chinese collections in Leeuwarden and material from the Yacht Harbour excavations. For further information contact K. J. Barton, F.S.A., F.M.A., Southsea Castle, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Hampshire, England.

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While it will be too late by the time this appears in print for any readers who may be in Britain in November to attend the conference on Mediterranean post-medieval trade and the ceramic and glass material associated with it to be held in Southampton, 12-14 November, some may wish to contact those working in this field. Some of these exotic materials, and for that matter examples of the local Southampton and Portsmouth wares which will also be covered at this conference, may possibly have reached colonial North America—clay pipes by makers in this area of England have been identified on colonial sites. For further information write K. J. Barton.