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EDITORIAL

This double volume of the Merseyside Archaeological Society's Journal is devoted entirely to the report on the two seasons of excavation on the site of the Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts, South Castle Street, Liverpool, in 1976 and 1977.

These excavations provided the impetus which led to the establishment of the Merseyside Archaeological Society, so it is doubly appropriate that the Society's Journal should publish the results.

One of the most significant discoveries of the excavation was large quantities of post-medieval pottery, which comprise the first closely-dated sequences from the region. This forms the basis of a regional dated typology of post-medieval pottery, which is important not only for the North West, but also for areas such as Ireland and the Isle of Man which were in receipt of pottery either produced in the Liverpool area or exported through the Mersey and Dee estuaries.

The South Castle Street excavation report is the fruit of a great deal of dedicated work by the directors of the original two seasons' work, as well as by numerous others who have gradually brought it to publication stage. The delay in the production of the final report highlights the difficulties faced by archaeologists, professional or amateur, who undertake major excavation and writing-up on a 'spare-time' basis.

The next volume of the Journal will contain articles on excavations at Speke Hall, and a series of papers and notes intended as a compendium of archaeological work in Prescot during the last few years.