

PREFACE

*"North Kent marshes including Upchurch...
...A thorough study of the industry is long
overdue." V.G. Swan (1978, 16).*

The single paragraph in *"Pottery in Roman Britain"* provided the original justification for this work. The Upchurch marshes lie in Northern Kent and have been a centre of curiosity for those interested in Romano-British pottery for over two centuries. In more recent times, the marshland bordering the estuary of the river Thames has also yielded pottery production sites. In 1982, whilst undertaking an undergraduate research project, I realised that the state of knowledge concerning these industries was derived from a series of notes on amateur excavations and a handful of general pottery works: each of which relied on its predecessors for guidance. The origins of the popular image of Upchurch or Thameside pottery can be traced directly to nineteenth century antiquarianism. This image is not substantially incorrect, but thus far the evidence supporting it has remained largely unexamined. This study is based on a postgraduate thesis submitted for the degree of PhD at the London University Institute of Archaeology in 1986.

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I would like to dedicate the work to the memory of my father, Sidney Monaghan (1934-1982).

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