EMAC one-day Field Trip Sunday 13 September 2009

Wedgwood and the Staffordshire potteries

Staffordshire in the east Midlands was a major centre of pottery production immediately before and during the Industrial Revolution. For many generations, numerous small-scale potteries, often on the scale of cottage industries, produced every-day ceramics mostly for the local market. The mid-18th century saw the rise of one of these factories in particular, driven by Josiah Wedgwood and his ingenious mind. In a quest to improve production processes and to really understand the technology involved he almost single-handedly developed pottery making from a craft to a science.

Our one-day trip will start at 8:30 at the BM and include two key sites. First, we will visit the new and award-winning Wedgwood Museum at Barlaston near Stoke-on-Trent, documenting the Science and Art of his monumental inventions and innovations, and the subsequent development of Wedgwood, from 1759 to 2009. After lunch in the cafeteria / restaurant in the Wedgwood grounds (***not included in price; allow c £10 per head, or bring your own lunch***) we continue to the Gladstone Pottery Museum nearby, the only surviving Victorian pottery factory showing traditional production methods, including the huge 'bottle kilns' so characteristic for the local ceramic production. **We aim to be back at the BM around 8pm**.

Costs: £40 per person, ***incl. coach trip and entrance fees***. Please book before 1 September 2009 by email to th.rehren@ucl.ac.uk (payment in cash during EMAC registration please). Limited places available; early booking recommended.

The new **Wedgwood Museum**, winner of the prestigious 2009 Art Prize

Sketch of the **Gladstone Pottery Museum**