

## Vessels

### *Copper alloy*

#### *Handles*

Four are represented with the possibility of a fifth represented by **2341**. Alternatively that may have been part of an escutcheon and is discussed below.

The handles are of similar form but are different sizes and represent different vessel forms. **2326** is a small (33mm long and 8mm thick) handle with a swan neck curve. It is oval-sectioned and expands slightly at its top end and greatly at its lower end to form an oval plate which would have been soldered to the vessel. No parallels were found.

**2325** is a handle from a flagon. It too has a swan-neck curve but is D-sectioned. At its upper and lower ends it tapers into an oval- and a leaf-shaped plate respectively. There are remains of solder on the lower plate. It is 95mm long with a maximum width of 13mm. No exact parallels were found.

**2323-4** is a similarly shaped strip with a pointed end. Its identification as a vessel handle is suggested by the presence of ?solder on the appropriate sides of the strip as well as by its shape.

**2322** represents a twisted handle from a pail and has curved ends. A similar one is known from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 82 no. 2137).

#### *Escutcheons*

Two were recovered, one possibly from a bowl and the other from a bucket or kettle. Each consists of a flat-sectioned ring through which the handle would pass; and was soldered to the vessel by a curved thick plate extending below the ring. In the case of **2327** the plate takes the form of a large and long, hollow cast triangular plate with bevelled edges. The ring sits on a triangular base. The discussion of a similar example from South Shields, (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, no. 3.765) noted that it was a common form in the Rhineland. The plate **2328** consists of a lateral 'arms' which are tapered to from a wide shallow triangular plate. On each outer side of the ring are small extensions and **2328** takes an overall form of two facing sitting birds joined at their beaks. There are grooves on the outer surface which may mark a head, beak and body as well as feathers. Both plates are convex. **2327** is 100mm long and 46mm wide at the shoulder. **2328** is 15mm high and 53mm wide.

**2321** may represent a third escutcheon and consists of a 'swallow tail' of a common variant of **2327**. Alternately it could be the handle fragment from a skillet.

#### *Mount*

An ox-head mount **2329** may be a decorative mount from a vessel as it is a common form of bucket escutcheon. It is simply modelled with a deep V-shaped notch for mounting, together with a rectangular slot under the head. It is 35mm long, 40mm high and 25mm across its horns.

#### *Sherds*

Nine sherds from bronze vessels were recovered including three rims, one foot ring, a complete profile, and possibly the base of a bucket, though the identification of the last mentioned is not certain.

**2320** and **2330-31** are everted rim sherds, beaded in the case of **2330** and carefully bevelled in the case of **2320**. They are 5mm, 6mm and 2mm in thickness respectively. The forms of the original vessels are unknown.

**2333** shows a complete profile of a small bowl with an inverted rim and a foot ring. It stands about 19mm high and its base had a diameter of about 51mm. It is relatively thin with a thickness of 1.25 – 2m. No parallel was found by Bliss for the shape.

**2317** and **2316** may represent tiny body sherds from colanders. The strips are broken along the perforations of each side and **2317** has a diagonal line of perforations. They are made of thin sheet metal and measure 19.5 x 8mm and 17 x 7mm.

The mount, **2332**, is suggested to represent a bucket or bowl foot identified by its characteristic pelta shape. However the extension of the plate from the centre of the convex edge is unusual and may question its use as a bucket or bowl foot. It is possible that this is a casting flaw. It is hollow cast with a rectangular section. It is of a comparable size to other objects described as bucket feet and is 39mm long and 10-13mm wide.

### *Iron*

The small find appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) recorded a total of 9 iron vessel fragments. In the database print-out there eight items labelled as vessel in the simple name field. There are five records labelled as rims (**6582-3**, **6585-6** and **6588**) and one as a possible rim (**6587**). One is labelled as a sherd (**6581**) and **6584** is not further identified.

### *Lead alloy*

The small find appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) listed five rims, a small bowl and a bowl with a face worked on it in lead alloy. The database print-out describes **7650**, **8012** and **8023** as vessel rims and **7898** as a vessel. **7890** is probably the bowl with the face. The other pieces cannot be identified.

### *Shale*

Three fragments of shale vessels were recovered. **7262** was a rim fragment with a thickened everted rim with grooves near the outer edge on its inner side, and underneath the rim on the external surface. **7261** was a fragment from a bowl base with a very low and wide footring with a groove along its inner edge. **7260** was tentatively identified as a body fragment.

## **Iron buckets**

The small find appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) recorded a total of 23 iron bucket fittings consisting of handles, escutcheons and a rim. In the database print-out everything labelled as a bucket in the simple name field is clearly a handle (**6723-34**, **6736**, **6746**). The eight escutcheons are probably **6737-42**, **6750** and **6758** but they are not specifically identified as bucket fittings. The one illustrated (**6742**) certainly is a bucket mount. The rim fragment cannot be identified in the database print-out.

## **Stone mortars or bowls**

In the database print-out two stone bowls are identified (**8444**, **8446**) together with one mortar (**8442**) and one possible mortar (**8441**), though the alternative identification as a mould is offered for the latter.

## Table spoons

### *Silver and copper alloy*

The collection of non-ferrous spoons from the excavations (2348-69) contains three complete examples together with a further eight bowls, four complete handles and six parts of handle bowls. One of these, 2354, is only tentatively included in the spoon category. Bliss based her classificatory scheme on that of Böhme (1970). In her classification the spoons are grouped according to the shapes of the bowl, and the handles according to the presence or absence of decorative mouldings.

#### *Type 1 – round-bowled with long, plain, round-sectioned handles.*

There is one complete example (2348). The handle is set in the same plane as the bowl and extends across the back in a ‘V’-shape rat tail. The bowl is 25.5mm in diameter and the spoon is 118mm in length overall. The handle is slender, 2mm in diameter, but widens at the bowl.

#### *Type 2 – pear-shaped bowls with handle attached to the narrower end of the bowl.*

Bliss noted there were four examples of this type. The database records three (2349-51) and places the piece 2355/6 into the uncertain category, though Bliss discusses it as the fourth example here.

One of the spoons is complete (2350) and another (2351) is made of silver. The bowls are pear-shaped/teardrop-shaped although that of 2355/6 appears to be larger and more rounded at its narrower end than the others. The bowls range in section shape from shallow, wide ‘U’-shapes (2350 and 2355/6) to a rounded ‘V’-shape (2349). The bowls are made in thin metal but those of 2349 and 2351 are particularly thick at 1.5mm and 1mm respectively. These last two are also flattened off, rather than rounded, which gives them a rimmed appearance but is not as exaggerated as the ‘rimmed’ spoons described by Strong (1966, 177). The one extant handle, 2350, is round-sectioned and rather irregular in its section. It ends in a point. The handle/bowl junctions vary. Two spoons have a rat tail down the backs of their bowls (2349 and 2351). In the latter case there is a square-shaped notch cut into the handle just before it meets the bowl. Since the surfaces are smooth, this suggests the notch was deliberate. In contrast the linkage of spoon 2355/6 stops at the bowl rim. This example together with the silver one 2349, have short, rectangular-shaped extensions from the bowl rims which are split open, presumably in order to take the handles. The junction of 2344 has a further extension from the apex of the bowl. The junction of the only complete example, 2350, is of the common curved arm and a hook form with deeply moulded grooves in the upper surface of the hooked arm.

The bowls range in length from 50mm (2349) to 39mm (2350, 2351). The complete example is 138mm long.

#### *Type 4 – pear-shaped bowls with the handle attached to the wider end of the bowl*

There are two examples of this type, 2353 which is complete and 2352 represented by a bowl. The bowl of 2353 is almost oval in shape and both bowls are relatively deep. The extant handle is pointed at its end, and is round-sectioned for half of its length and then square-sectioned. The handle is cast with the bowl and the bowl/handle junction consisting of the offset, hooked curved arm form, but is unusually broad and crude with the hook being formed by a square notch. Neither of the bowls has a rat tail. The bowls are 54 and 45mm long and 32mm wide at their widest points. The complete example 2353 is 155mm long

#### *Group uncertain.*

Five bowls (2354-9) were placed here though it should be noted that 2355/6 had been discussed as part of Type 2. They were considered to be too fragmentary to be certain of their shape. One had a rat tail down its back, and may be a type 4 spoon (2357). Another, 2358, has a wide bowl with a wide, flat-sectioned strip handle cast in the same plane as the bowl. Since the form is very different to that of other Roman tableware spoons, this may be a kitchen utensil or a post-Roman example.

*Handle Type A – ornamented.*

Eight handles are decorated (**2360-67**) and two are complete (**2361-2**). The identification of the objects as handles from spoons is only certain in the cases of the complete examples. The remaining objects in most cases show similar decorative motifs to those seen on complete spoons but also on handles of medical instruments, notably the twisted and collared forms (**2367, 2363**). In several cases the identification is made from only 18 to 42mm of the mid-handle. The decoration is of several types and includes: twisting (six examples), ridge and groove mouldings (one example), and twisting with collar mouldings (2 examples). The two complete examples are of a similar design, a tapering round-sectioned rod ending in a point in the case of **2362** and a blunt end in the case of **2361**. The bowl/handle junctions consist of an offset, flat-sectioned curved arm and hook. Remains of the bowl still adhere to **2361**. The handles are decorated differently. **2362** is twisted for the majority of its length but is plain at its end, whereas **2361** has a series of three ridges and lozenges cast in relief on the lower part of the handle with ridges and ‘U/V’ shaped grooves at the junction. The handles are 118 and 85mm long respectively.

*Handle Type B – plain.*

There are two complete examples (**2368-9**). Both have an offset, flat-sectioned curved arm and hook at the bowl/handle junction. A fragment of the bowl still adheres to **2369**. Both taper to their ends which are pointed and both have sub-square sections. They measure 188 and 115mm in length respectively.

## *Bone*

Bliss followed the Greep 1983 typology for all the spoons. In this the Type A spoons are the tableware ones.

*A1 – spoon with round/slightly oval bowls and long pointed stems*

There is one certain example (**457**) and one possible bowl fragment (**466**). The certain example is represented by a bowl with a ‘V’-shaped ridge running across the back. The diameter is about 21mm and the depth 4mm.

*A2 – spoon with oval leaf-shaped bowl and stem which tapers to a point.*

This is a rare form in Britain and the Wroxeter example (**460**) is one of only five listed by Greep (1983, 808).

*A4 – spoon with round flat bowls and carved stem terminals*

Bliss stated there were one certain and possibly two others of this form. The database lists two definite (**461-2**) and two possible (**464-5**) ones, and it seems likely that **461-2** are duplicate entries for a single piece which has a terminal shaped like an axe.

*A5 – perforated round or oval bowls; plain stems tapering to decorated terminal.*

A terminal with two diamond-shaped forms was assigned to this type (**458**) but with caution as it was noted that it was a predominantly northern type.

## **Other implements**

In iron these include a meat hook (**4624**), a flesh hook (**6743**) and four ladles (**6717-20**). The small finds appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) also records a flesh-knife. This is not a normal term and is not used in the database print-out. It is probably an erroneous entry for the flesh-hook. One piece of stone (**8457**) was identified as a pestle.

## Querns

The small finds appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) stated that there were 41 quern fragments. Thirty-four were listed in the database print-out and have catalogue entries here (8463-96). The complete lower stone with iron sleeve is 8463.

## Lighting equipment

Amongst the fired clay artefacts six items were identified as lamps (8560, 8562-6) and one as a lamp holder (8561). In iron there is one tripod candlestick and a candle-holder designed to be fixed into a wall (6705, 6706).

## Other domestic fittings

### *Copper alloy*

The small find appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) assigned 12 copper alloy items to this category with an entry stating '12 examples: suspension chains for lamps'. These are presumably Bliss's category of thicker chains where a group of 12 fragments (2589-2600), including one attached to a penannular ring (2591), were grouped under this heading. The large size and crudity of these links suggested to Bliss that they were used as parts of equipment rather than personal ornament. She divided them into three groups. She noted that the links of Group I could be paralleled by a piece at Richborough where the links also had a penannular ring and carried a pendant (Bushe-Fox 1949, Pl XXXV no. 91). Similar ones were found at Lydney Park where they might have been associated with a scale pan rather than a ceremonial headdress as suggested by the authors (Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, Pl. XXXB). Smaller links of a similar section shape were used for a necklace at Lankhills (Clarke 1979, fig. 87 no. 405). A chain of Group I links was found in a grave at Colchester attached to a knife (Crummy 1983, 113 no. 2950).

Group I consisted of figure-of-eight loops. There are nine examples from at least three chains (2589-97). Eight chain fragments consist of links made from rectangular-sectioned strips formed into a figure-of-eight by bending each end back onto itself in opposite directions. The links vary from 12 to 15mm in length, and in two cases (2590, 2594) the links are more S-shaped but this may be accidental rather than deliberate. The ninth example, 2579, is different from the rest and consists of circular-sectioned wire links. This example may still have its original terminals, links opened at one end into a hook.

2591 has a ring incorporated into its length. The ring is crudely made with soldered overlapping ends, one of which is pared. The chain is of sufficient length to show its construction. It is made up of units of an irregular number of links which have a tight construction. The links are set at right angles to one another and each loop is interlinked through two loops of a link or links in the opposite plane. The links are of a different size and length and the pattern of patination suggests different alloys were used. The other chains of Group I are similarly constructed apart from 2597 which has a looser construction. Here the links are set at right angles to one another and each loop is threaded through one loop of the adjacent link.

Bliss noted that seven of the eight similarly constructed chains (**2589-95**) are from a localised area of the site in the most south-western part of the basilica and Western portico (Grids 13, 14, 37), and it was possible that they represented one chain.

There are two examples of Group II which has pinched elliptical links (**2598-9**). They are made from thick wire of oval- or square-section bent into an open oval ring pinched in the centre to give a figure-of-eight shape. They are much larger than the examples of Group I and measure 22-24mm in length, 10-12mm in width and 2-3mm in thickness. **2599** consists of two links which are interlinked through their loops. The centre of each loop of the figure-of-eight has worn thin. **2598** shows less marked wear.

Group III consists of oval-shaped penannular links. There is one example (**2600**) with five joined links of oval-sectioned wire. Each link is about 9.5mm and 5mm wide.

### *Iron*

The majority of the iron chain fragments are recorded as having figure-of-eight links (**4385-7, 4389, 4394-7**). There are also five oval linked chains (**4383-4, 4391-3**) and a single S-shaped example (**4390**). **4626** was identified as a pulley hook. The small find appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 254) also placed manacles and shackles in this category and stated that there were three example. The database print-out records one example (**6608**) as a definite and one (**6612**) as a possible shackle of Manning Type 7 (Manning 1985, 84). From the illustration the former retains the padlock. **6616** is a possible shackle of uncertain type.