

Report on the imported pottery from St Stephens Lane
(IAS 3104)

Virtually all of the imported pottery excavated from St Stephens Lane belongs to the 9th century or later, as is suggested by the phases of the contexts. Most of the pottery was identifiable to a specific source. All of the pottery has been re-bagged and labelled according to its type.

Black wares are relatively common, at least 21 vessels are represented in the assemblage. Most of these have flanged rims which seems to correlate with a relatively late date (ie. late 8th/early 9th century date). A body sherd from a Merovingian vessel (Black ware no. 65) also occurred. This sherd is decorated with repeated chevrons and comes from a large, globular vessel.

The almost complete vessel is a superb example of a Frisian *Kügeltopf* (the fabric is Grey Gritted).

Possible Tating ware sherds (vessel no. 11) occur (in contexts 1800, 2139 and 2865), however none of these sherds display tinfoil decoration.

There are at least 13 Badorf ware vessels represented

in the assemblage, and all but three of these are in classic Badorf fabrics, belonging to the late 8th/early 9th century. It is quite possible that they might all be 9th century. However there are three vessels represented that are either 7th century or early 8th century date. These are vessels 123, 129 and 131.

Fragments of at least 14 Pingsdorf ware vessels were recovered. Most of these are from contexts of early medieval date.

A lot of glazed ware was included in the assemblage. Much of it appears to be Stamford ware, but there is some Andenne as well. This was sorted into individual vessels where possible, re-bagged and boxed but not described.

Contexts to note

0844 0849 supposedly EMS?, if this is on the basis of imports but no Ipswich ware, then the phase should be MS at the earliest, probably ELS on the basis of the imports.

0988 MS?? contains glazed Stamford ware, and whereas it could possibly be mid-9th century, its more likely to be later.

2269 MS?? is definitely not MS. The presence of Pingsdorf ware, Stamford ware and La Londe pottery suggests a late Saxon or early medieval date.

The following contexts contained pottery, but they were not included on the list of contexts given, so the phases are unknown;

0044, 0292, 0314, 0315, 0485, 0498, 0544, 0645, 0845, 0878, 0950, 1199, 1239, 1292, 1479, 1989, 2116, 2254, 2257, 2385, 2396, 2478, 2524, 2540, 2546, 2912, 2949, 3053, 3081, 3368, 3391, 3473, 3520, 3544, 3654, 4026, 4395, 4666, 4935.

Some contexts contained more pottery than was on the list. Some had been wrongly bagged, so that added to the confusion.

Where sherds from different contexts adjoin this has been noted in the catalogue.

Report on the imported pottery from Greyfriars Road
(IAS 5203)

The imported pottery from this excavation was particularly interesting. It is the largest collection of unambiguously 7th century imported pottery I have come across. I say unambiguously because we do not have to rely on Black wares, which can be 7th century, but could just as easily be early 9th century. Most of the early imports are Bornheim-Waldorf type (these have been listed in the Badorf ware catalogue). However, there is also a lovely Walberberg rim sherd (from 0273 and 0341 0342), and a fragment of Mayen ware (from 0857).

Because of the clear dating of these wares, some of the MS contexts can be considered to belong to the second half of the 7th century. These contexts are:

0075 0170, 0273, 0328 0581, 0352, 0398, 0588, 0598, and 0595.

Early Badorf ware (also called Coarse Badorf) and Bornheim-Waldorf ware are represented by at least 16 vessels, and the most common context to contain these types was were EMS. Classic 8th/9th century Badorf ware was much less frequent; only 5 vessels are

represented. None of the classic Badorf ware sherds are found in EMS contexts.

One clearly identifiable Tating-type ware sherd was recovered from context 0045 - an early medieval context. The other possible Tating sherds are undecorated and may simply be very fine Black ware sherds, although the fabric is not the usual Black ware type. The fact that three EMS contexts produced these sherds suggests either that the sherds are not Tating, or that the contexts are later than the first half of the 7th century.

Pingsdorf ware is common. There are at least 22 vessels represented here. Most of them are from early medieval contexts, but four ELS contexts produced Pingsdorf pottery.

Five red-painted vessels are represented (vessels 17, 43-46), most of these sherds are also from early medieval contexts.

Black wares are very common; at least 27 vessels are represented in the assemblage. The rim sherd in the EMS context 0595 is from a small vessel, and is beaded and everted rather than the more common (later?) flanged rims. Two fragments of readily identifiable

Merovingian vessels were noted (Black ware vessels nos. 42 and 43). One is from a biconical vessel and is decorated with chevron stamping, the other is from a large pitcher decorated with rilling and triangular roller-stamping. Both sherds are from early medieval contexts.

York ware (identification not yet confirmed) was found in 0008 and 0705. To my knowledge, York ware has not been found in East Anglia before.

Catherine Coutts
Earsham, 16-1-91