

# ROMAN MATERIAL RECOVERED FROM LITTLE CHESTER, DERBY, 1965

By M. BRASSINGTON

Report on the samian pottery  
By B. R. Hartley and B. M. Dickinson

**A** BLOCK of flats for old people was built during the summer and autumn of 1965 on the north side of Old Chester Road at Little Chester (SK 35363755) within the area enclosed by the walls denoted by Stukeley (fig. 1). With the permission of the Town Clerk, Mr. N. S. Fisher, and the Borough Architect's Department access was

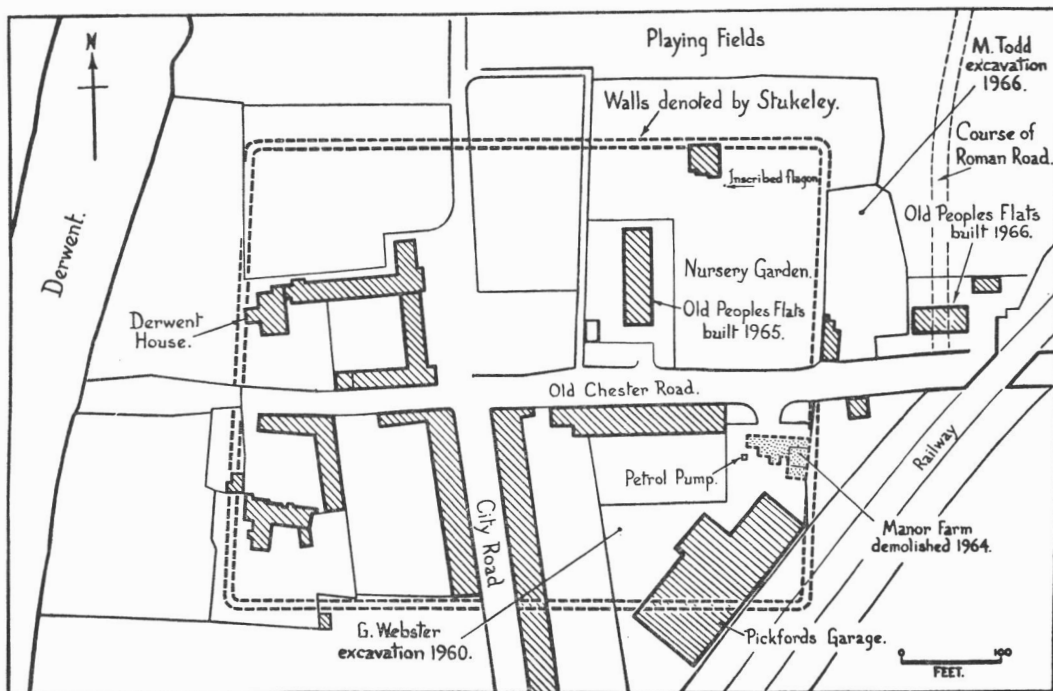


FIG. 1. General plan.

granted to the site while building operations were taking place. The subsequent investigation was severely restricted by piles of building material and rubble and a large spoil heap which covered the north-western quarter of the site.

#### 1926 EXCAVATION

Previous to the excavation directed by Dr. G. Webster in 1960 (*D.A.J.*, LXXXI (1961), 85-110) an extensive excavation had been carried out in 1926 under the supervision of Mr. C. B. Sherwin of the Borough Surveyor's Department. The fields to the north of Little Chester were converted into playing fields and the Roman road running north-east across these fields located and laid bare for a distance of 1300 ft. Some trenching was also carried out on an adjacent site to the west of the building area. Mr. Sherwin did not publish any detailed notes on his findings, but he did draw plans of the excavations with brief annotations. The substantial stone footings shown on fig. 2 were plotted from one of the plans and the dimensions given in his note-book;<sup>1</sup> they are in apparent alignment with Stukeley's wall. A narrow strip of ground close to the building site's western boundary provided the opportunity to check any extension of these footings and to confirm their alignment.

#### 1965 EXCAVATION

The first square A was put down, its position dictated by adjacent dumps of building materials, and its size by the 19th-century brick foundation of an outhouse demolished during site clearance. A double brick foundation wall was therefore present on three sides to a depth of 3 ft. This was a nuisance but being accurately laid the top course was used as the datum point for the excavation. An extension to the south B yielded little of interest with the exception of some fine pieces of samian. The extension northward, C, proved to be most interesting with its series of red clay floors and undressed sandstone footings.

An area to the south was later excavated mechanically for the foundation of an electrical sub-station, completely digging out the site of B (fig. 2).

The trenches for the service pipes were also dug mechanically. Pottery excavated in this manner must be classed as unstratified, but by denoting trench areas alphabetically an attempt was made to keep the material from different areas separate.

#### *Squares C, A and B (fig. 3)*

It is convenient to describe the layers of square C in detail in their historical order, from the earliest Roman structure to the latest.

Four large blocks of undressed sandstone, roughly 1 ft. cubic in shape,

<sup>1</sup> C. B. Sherwin's note-book and plans, Derby Borough Reference Library, BA 913. 12719.

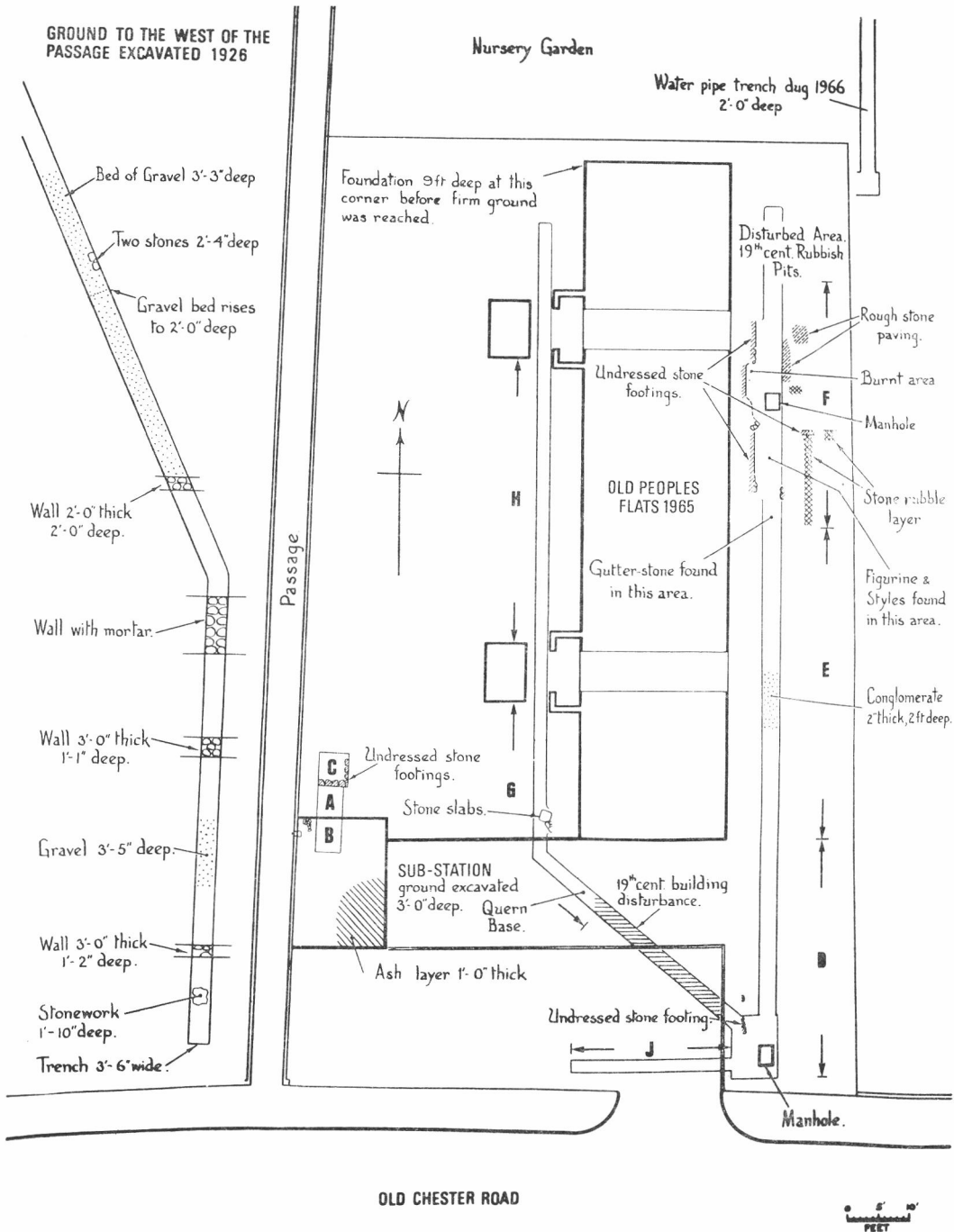


FIG. 2. Site plan.

constituting a footing orientated east and west on the south side of C, were laid on a conglomerate 3 in. thick (C) III (fig. 3), which consisted of 2 in.- $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter pebbles and sand with an iron oxide content consolidating it into a hard compact mass. Underneath was a 4 in. thick charcoal layer (C) II, and below this was another conglomerate layer (C) I, the lowest level, some 4 ft. 6 in. below datum; undisturbed natural was not reached. Overlying the conglomerate (C) III was a 1 in. thick charcoal layer (C) IV. These layers (C) I-(C) IV contained no artifacts. Above, a 4-in. thick band of pebbles (C) V contained a Derbyshire ware base (fig. 6, no. 1) and a samian rim of form 37. Next came a heavy charcoal deposit (C) VI, dense in the north-east corner with lumps of carbonized wood. Despite the burnt nature of this layer all sherds recovered were unburnt (fig. 6, nos. 2-5, and fig. 4, no. 7) dated mid to late 2nd century. Above lay loose pebbles (C) VII, with sand overlying the footing; on top of one of the footing stones was a large amphora body sherd. The sparseness of finds and the tidy nature of the strata suggest that this building was dismantled rather than destroyed.

Over (C) VII a series of charcoal layers began (fig. 3), each with an overlying red clay floor. The clay in every case completely sealed the underlying layer and apart from material embedded in the surface was completely devoid of artifacts. Red clay is not natural to the site and it must have been imported from a nearby source.

Only small fragments of pottery were found in layers (C) VIII and (C) IX. A dense charcoal deposit lying on hard-baked clay in the north-west corner of (C) X indicated a hearth, and a grey ware jar was recovered from the south-west side (fig. 6, no. 7).

A sandstone footing (fig. 3), aligned north and south on the east side of C, rested on a bedding of soil: butting up to these undressed stones was a dirty red clay filling (C) XII which continued across into (A) XII. In the north-west corner the undisturbed carbonized wood and undressed stone surround of a hearth lay on hard-baked clay directly above that of (C) X. Amongst the charcoal was a slightly burnt sherd of samian attributed to PATERNVS (fig. 4, no. 4). Immediately above the carbonized wood was found a sherd of medieval green-glazed pottery (fig. 6, no. 28)<sup>2</sup> and the disturbed layer (C) XV began. The dirty clay filling associated with this hearth (C) XIII, T1, (A) XIII and B contained cooking debris, numerous sherds and the bones of young animals, ox, pig and sheep, all fully grown but not old,<sup>3</sup> so it seems that the occupants ate well. In B a large portion of a samian bowl was found inverted over a stone (fig. 4, no. 1); this contained the tibia of a sheep or goat. Similarly in A a form of 38 (fig. 4, no. 9) also found inverted over a stone contained bones thought to be those of a hare. Above in the eastern half of A another red clay floor had partially survived (A) XIV (fig. 3), and from the disturbed area immediately above came samian, colour-coated and medieval sherds.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. J. G. Hurst thinks a general 14th-century date is likely for this sherd.

<sup>3</sup> Identified by Mr. D. Bramwell.



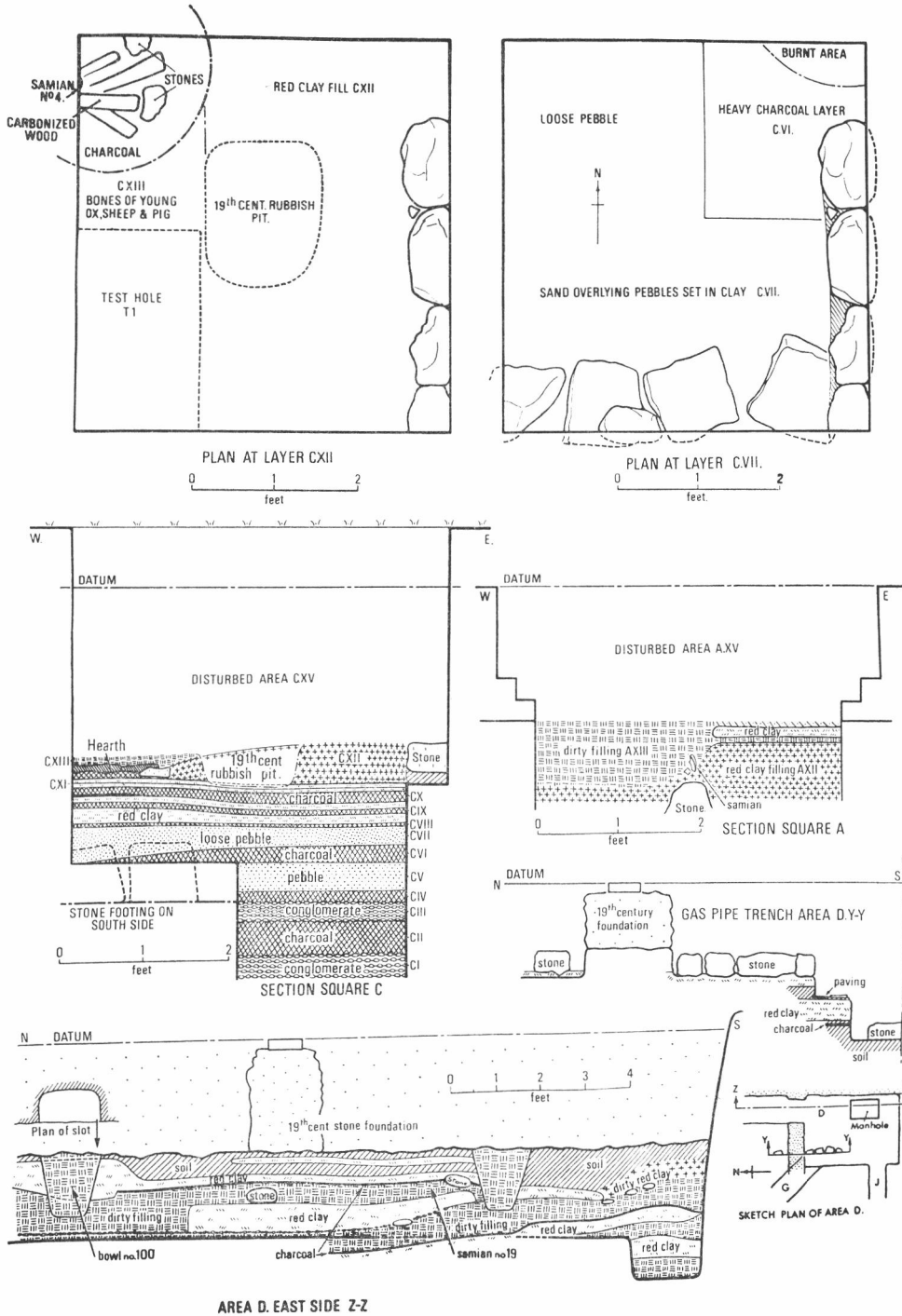


FIG. 3. Plans and sections of squares C and A and of area D.

It seems certain from the material recovered that the period of occupation of the layers (C) V to (C) XIII was in the second half of the 2nd century. The comparatively clean nature of the layers underlying the dirty cooking debris of (C) XIII indicates that for most of the time rubbish was removed, which was obviously not the case in the later period.

*Electrical sub-station* (fig. 2)

An area 20 ft. by 14 ft. was excavated mechanically for the concrete raft foundation of an electrical sub-station. This removed all the upper layers to a depth of some 3 ft. and few sherds were recovered (fig. 7, nos. 43-47).

Covering the south-east quarter of this hole was an extensive layer of wood ash 12 in. thick, at a depth of 4 ft., presumably the remains of a huge wood fire. No artifacts were found in the portion examined. The remaining three-quarters of the area consisted of a red clay filling that contained little material except in the north-east quarter, the site of B, which yielded some pottery (fig. 7, nos. 34-38).

In the north-east corner 3 ft. 3 in. deep, beneath a group of stones that could have been part of a footing, was found an isolated sandstone slab, orientated east-west, 20 in. long, 14 in. wide tapering to 12 in. at its western end and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. A series of four roughly shaped rectangular holes some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. had been cut longitudinally across it; these were clearly intended to take vertical timbers for a framed building or verandah.

*Trenches H and G* (fig. 2)

No structures were detected in trench H to the depth at which the excavator dug and there were only a few coarse pottery sherds, but trench G revealed, at a depth of 3 ft., an extensive red clay layer 7 in. thick overlying a gritty sandy filling 6 in. thick with a pebble layer below. Resting on the red clay was a group of stones, the largest a sandstone slab roughly 20 in. square and 3 in. thick. From this area came the interesting Pan Mask samian sherd (fig. 5, no. 17). To the south, near a cottage cellar, the excavator unearthed a quern base (fig. 12, no. 13).

*Trench D* (fig. 3)

In cutting a trench in area D for a gas pipe, a footing was found below the rubble foundation of a cottage. This footing consisted of four undressed sandstones aligned north and south resting on red clay (fig. 3). Lying against these stones, at a depth of 2 ft. and in such a manner as to suggest association were several sherds, amongst them a large Derbyshire ware base and a portion of an Antonine samian foot-ring fitting an illustrated sherd (fig. 5, no. 11). Below the red clay on which rested the footing was a dirty filling some 4 in. thick overlying another red clay layer 6 in. thick. On top of this clay two pieces of slate and a thin piece of sandstone fitted together to form a paving. A single sandstone

surrounded by soil with an associated thin charcoal layer was uncovered lying below the red clay. No further investigation was undertaken before this area was completely dug out mechanically and a hole excavated 9 ft. 6 in. by 7 ft. and some 5 ft. deep (fig. 2). A considerable amount of pottery was recovered, mostly Antonine in date. The small jar (fig. 9, no. 102) and flagon (fig. 7, no. 48) were found together at a low level. The strata revealed on the eastern side (fig. 3) showed a series of red clay layers with two V-shaped intrusions 9 ft. 6 in. apart suggestive of beam slots; on examination the northerly one proved to be shallow and in the filling a 3rd-century type bowl was found (fig. 9, no. 100). Due to building operations the other V-shaped trench could not be examined, and it was not noticed intruding into the strata of the gas-pipe trench. Antonine samian was recovered from the lower levels and gives a *terminus post quem* for the gas-pipe trench stone footing; it seems certain that here, as in C, a series of structures was raised in the Antonine period.

#### *Trench J* (fig. 2)

The trench J, cut mostly through disturbed ground to the west of D, yielded comparatively few sherds, but amongst them a castor box rim, a broken bronze object (fig. 11, no. 3) and some body sherds of medieval green-glazed pottery.

#### *Trench E* (fig. 2)

In area E adjacent to the first doorway of the flats, at a depth of 2 ft., was found an 8-ft. wide conglomerate of pebble and sand, 2 in. thick, lying on a 3-in. thick red clay layer. Below this was a 1½-in. thick charcoal layer lying on red clay, 2½ in. thick, a thin charcoal layer and then dirty filling.

A stamped mortarium dated *c.* A.D. 100-140 (fig. 8, no. 70) came from this area. Amongst other pottery were some medieval green glaze sherds.

In the spoil heap near area F was found a sandstone gutter-stone (fig. 12, no. 12). The damage done by the jaws of the excavator proved that its alignment must have been east-west. From the dirty filling still clogging the channel came two sherds, one a Derbyshire ware rim and the other a grey ware base; this channel was carefully cut and was unworn, the tooling marks being quite clear. This interesting piece implying a fairly substantial building was later broken up by workmen for hardcore.

#### *Trench F* (fig. 2)

Area F yielded a considerable amount of 4th-century Roman pottery. The Roman layers have surprisingly survived at a depth of 18 in. below the surface. The area is difficult to interpret, but certainly a rough sandstone footing some 2 ft. wide, composed in some places of large and in others of smaller stones, ran north-south some 5 ft. from the east wall of the flats (fig. 2). To the east at the same level a small fragment of a cross

wall some 12 in. wide ran east and west, but though its relationship to the north-south wall could not be established it is likely to have been part of the same building. To the south of this wall, to at least a distance of 15 ft. was a rubble stone layer some 18 in. below the surface; embedded in it, near the wall, was a hammer-head mortarium rim (fig. 8, no. 58), dated *c.* A.D. 300-375. North of the cross wall, at a distance of 8 ft., at a depth of 2 ft. 3 in. lay another stone layer and embedded in its surface were rouletted castor box sherds (fig. 13, nos. 22 & 23) and another hammer-head mortarium rim (fig. 8, no. 59), dated *c.* A.D. 250-350. A little further north was an area roughly paved with flat fine-grained sandstone, approximately half an inch thick. This rested on Roman building rubble containing fragments of roofing tile, flue tile, Antonine samian and red-painted plaster. To the east of this paving, in what appeared to be a recess in the wall running north-south, was a charcoal area indicating a hearth. Associated with it at a depth of 18 in. was found a group of 4th-century grey flanged bowls (fig. 10, nos. 103, 104, 105 and 107), together with a large Derbyshire ware rim (fig. 8, no. 77, first in the row). Nearly all the hammer-head mortaria found on the site came from trench F, and almost half of the Derbyshire ware sherds (fig. 8, nos. 77 and 78).

A water-pipe trench dug to the north of this area in 1966, across the nursery garden, yielded a similar group of pottery at a depth of some 2 ft.

A coin of Valentinian I (A.D. 364-375) was found by Mr. J. Potts on the surface close to the eastern boundary of the flats site in 1966.

#### *Manor Farm* (fig. 1)

During extensions to Pickfords Garage in 1964, Manor Farm across Old Chester Road to the south-east was demolished, and the site is now used as a driveway. The house, thought to be in part Elizabethan, has been described by George Bailey (*D.A.J.*, XII (1890), 170-6). It was built against the Roman wall and some interesting stonework can be seen in the cellar, which has been retained by capping it over with a concrete raft and an inspection cover inserted to allow access.

No archaeological work was carried out on this site. However, during the excavation of a hole for a petrol pump supply tank two interesting pieces of pottery were recovered and these are recorded in this report for convenience; they are a flagon of white fabric with cream slip (fig. 7, no. 54) and a sherd of Central Gaulish samian stamped CINNAMĪ (retro), the mark of the potter CINNAMVS *c.* A.D. 150-190 (fig. 13, no. 16), found by Mr. R. Smith. Other Roman material was found at this time but apparently not retained or recorded.

---

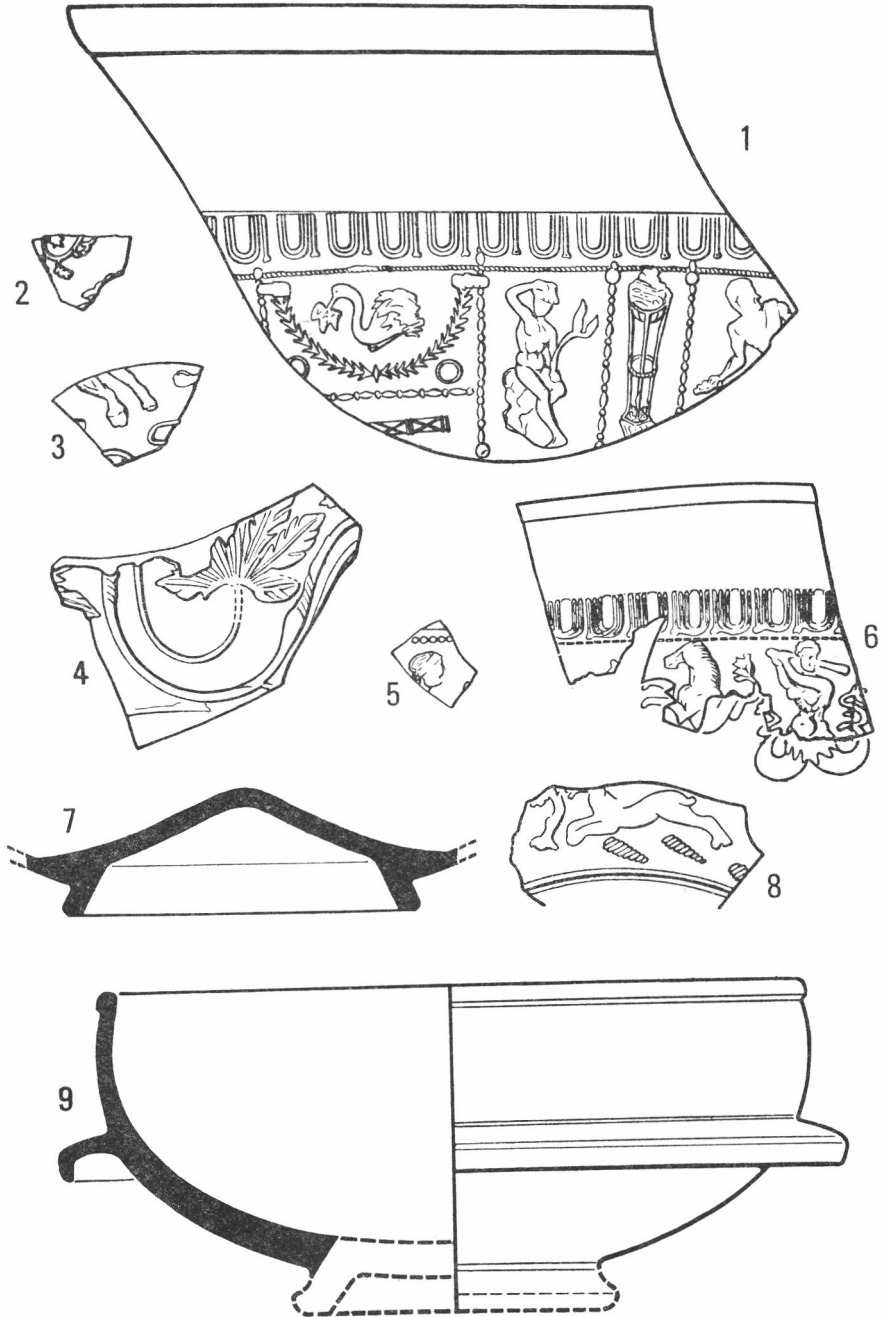
## LITTLE CHESTER SAMIAN 1965

Report by B. R. Hartley and B. M. Dickinson

(Drawn pieces) Figs. 4-5

1-19 are all form 37 and from Central Gaul (except 7 &amp; 9)

1. (B) XIII. All the minor details, including the ovolo, festoon and astragalus borders are common to the work of LAXTVCISSA and PATERNVS. The tripod is only known so far in the latter's work, but it does not definitely settle the attribution. However, the bowl was certainly made in the period *c.* A.D. 150-190.
2. (A) XIII. The small vine-frond of this piece is commonest on Hadrianic bowls, but since similar ones sometimes occur on Antonine pieces (*cf.* no. 17 below), it is not possible to arrive at close dating.
3. (A) XIII. A small fragment, probably from a freestyle bowl of late Hadrianic or early Antonine date.
4. (C) XIII. This is attributable to PATERNVS of Lezoux, who consistently used the striated junction-masks to cover the joints of the festoon stamps forming the winding scroll (*CGP*, pl. 107). The leaf is common in his work. *c.* A.D. 160-190.
5. (B) XIII. Although a very small fragment, this piece is assignable to DOECCVS or CASVRIVS of Lezoux on the strength of the large beads in the border and the use of the figure D. 344=O. 638. *c.* A.D. 160-190.
6. (B) XIII. The ovolo and the rectangular beads of the border below it suggest that this is by BVTRIO of Lezoux, who sometimes used freestyle aquatic scenes in the manner of LIBERTVS. The triton (D. 16=O. 19) occurs on his bowls, but the sea-horse (D. 33=O. 33) has not so far been recorded on them, though it was much used by PATERNVS whose repertoire was largely derived from the LIBERTVS-BVTRIO firm.  
Fabric, glaze and the treatment of the rim all suggest a Hadrianic or early Antonine date, and are entirely consistent with manufacture by BVTRIO *c.* A.D. 125-145.
7. (C) VI. Form 31, Central Gaulish. This is the standard mid-to-late Antonine form.
8. (B). A freestyle bowl including a stag, tree and striated spindles used as fillers. Probably by PATERNVS or an associate. *c.* A.D. 160-190.
9. (A) XIII. Form 38, Central Gaulish. This is a standard piece not closely datable within the Antonine period.
10. (F). A small sherd with large double medallions in series. Two rather blurred impressions of a potter's stamp flank a leaf between the medallions. One may be read MERCATOR.M (*ret.*) with certainty, and the style with medallions was used often by MERCATOR (*cf.* *CGP*, pl. 145). The leaf seems to be new to his repertoire. MERCATOR'S work does not occur in Scotland, but is found on Hadrian's Wall, where it presumably belongs to period Ib, and in Pennine forts thought to have been reoccupied *c.* A.D. 160-190.
11. (D) The ovolo of this bowl was used by several more or less closely linked Hadrianic and Antonine potters, including BVTRIO, SECVNDINVS, AVSTRVS, MACCIVS, IANVARIS II, LAXTVCISSA and PATERNVS (probably only in his early work). The rest of the decoration shows this piece to be Antonine and it is all found on bowls of LAXTVCISSA and PATERNVS, though the rather stumpy astragali fit best with PATERNVS *c.* A.D. 150-190.

FIG. 4. Samian pottery, nos. 1-9 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

12. (E) This rim with rivet-holes is not closely datable, as the ovolo cannot be identified, but the fabric suggests the Hadrianic or early Antonine period.
13. (D) Assignable to DOECCVS of Lezoux. It has his ovolo 1 (*CGP*, fig. 44, 1) and his characteristic large beads and one of his leaves (*ibid.*, 11) *c.* A.D. 160-190.
14. (G) The ovolo of this piece was used by a Lezoux potter whose work is rare and has produced no stamp or signature. One of his bowls has been found at Newstead, so he was probably still working in the Antonine period, though his general styles are linked with Hadrianic potters.
15. (D) Freestyle decoration of this kind using the serpent-on-rock (D. 960 bis) as a space-filler is characteristic of the SACER-ATTIANVS Group and of CRICIRO, whose work was related to theirs. Both the bears (D. 820=O. 1627 and D. 808=D. 1588) are found on stamped or signed bowls of ATTIANVS and CRICIRO, and so the piece cannot be firmly assigned to one of them; manufacture *c.* A.D. 135-170 is likely.
16. (D) This is probably by Q. IVLIVS BALBINVS, since the alternating large and small beads in the borders, the seven-petalled rosette and the Cupid with torches (D. 265=O. 450) all occur on his bowls (*CGP*, pl. 124) *c.* A.D. 150-190.
17. (G) A typical example of the panelled style of DOECCVS of Lezoux. His stamp, DOIICVS, impressed in the mould, appears in the decoration.<sup>4</sup> An interesting feature of this bowl is the use of the large Pan-mask (fig. 13, no. 15), a reduced version of Déchelette's Applique Type 109. Perhaps DOECCVS had access to the *applique* mould and made a *poinçon* from it. The reduction in size would be inevitable, since the firing and contraction of *poinçon*, mould and bowl would all be involved. The mask appears frequently on black-coated jars made at Lezoux (*cf. Antiq. Journal*, XXXVII, 40 with pl. xiv) for some examples, to which others from Lezoux and the Little Chester example may be added. (fig. 13, no. 14, found 1926.)
- DOECCVS is another potter whose work is almost absent in Scotland, but common on Hadrian's Wall and in reoccupied Pennine forts. *c.* A.D. 160-190.
18. (DE) This is a fragment from no. 17.
19. (D) Not assignable. *c.* A.D. 150-190.

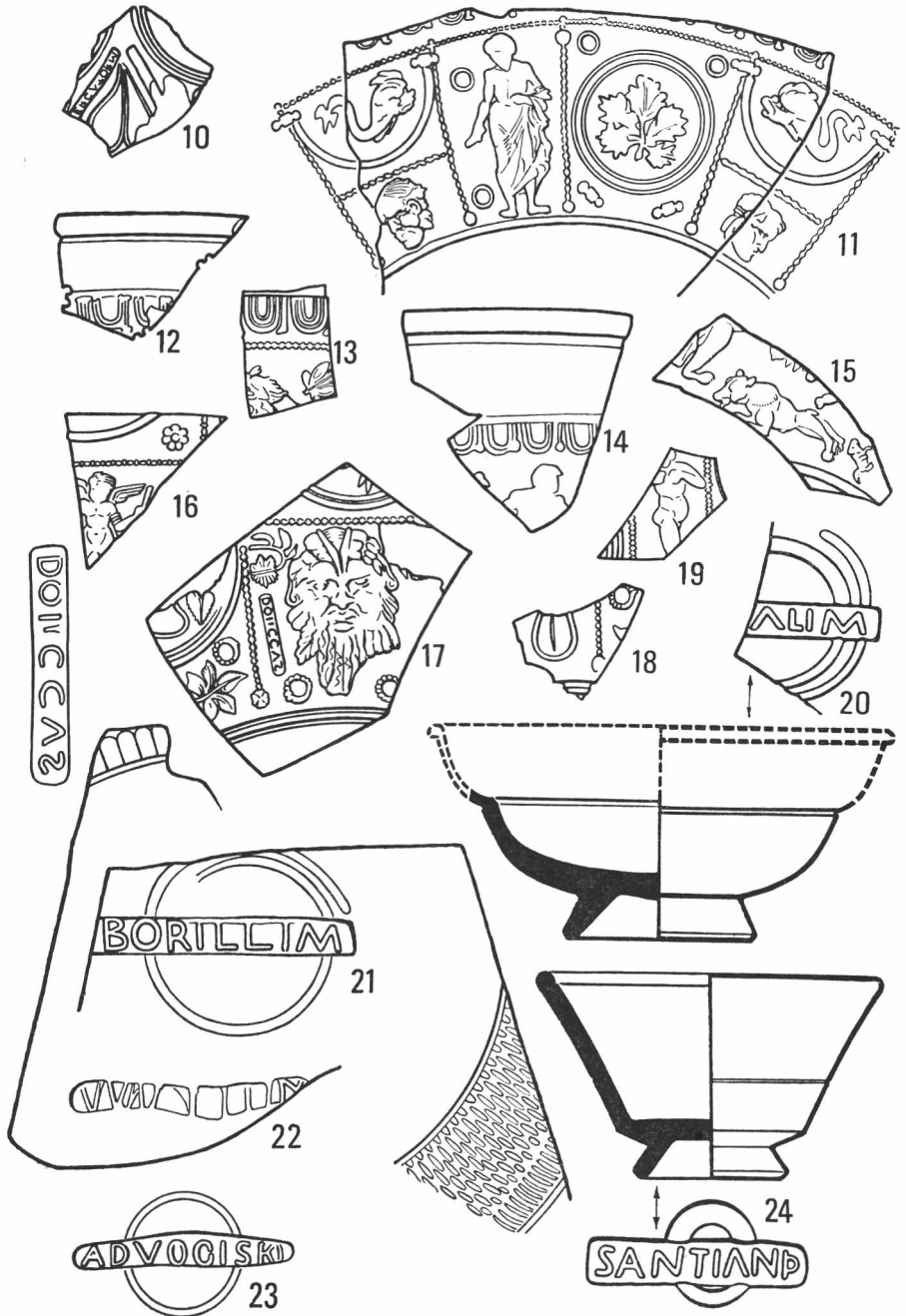
#### *Undrawn pieces*

- a. Form 29, South Gaulish. A piece from the lower wall with only a fragment of decoration, but in the fabric with brilliant glaze that was typical of the period *c.* A.D. 55-75.
- b. (DE) A fragment from the lower wall of an Antonine form 37.
- c. (D) A small fragment of form 37 with boar (D. 834), probably Antonine.
- d. (G) Form 37 rim with one of the commonest ovolos of CASVRIVS. *c.* A.D. 160-190.

#### *Stamps illustrated full-size*

20. (DE) Form 27 stamped [CVC]ALIM. CVCALVS of Lezoux had at least six similar dies giving this reading. They appear, though rarely, in Scotland (Old Kilpatrick and Newstead) and on forms 27 and 79/80, typical respectively of the Hadrianic-Antonine and late Antonine period. Manufacture *c.* A.D. 135-160 seems likely.

<sup>4</sup> A sherd stamped DOIIC[ with matching Pan-mask is in the Rambert Collection from Vichy, sherd no. 25644, Musée des Antiquités Nationales at St. Germain-en-Laye. I am grateful to Dr. Grace Simpson for this reference. M.B.

FIG. 5. Samian pottery, nos. 10-24 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).



21. (DE) Form 18/31R with stamp BORILLIM. No stamps of BORILLVS in the genitive with *manu* are known from dated sites, and the range of forms includes both 27 and 31R. Other dies are represented in Scotland, however, and Plicque excavated a kiln of his at Lezoux with a coin of A.D. 176 "carefully placed under the principal stone" (*Compte-Rendu du Congrès Arch. de France*, 1885, 286). Activity in the period A.D. 150-190 is indicated.
22. (E) Form 31R (burnt) with the stamp of an illiterate potter which has also been recorded from Corbridge (four examples on form 33) and Richborough. It is clearly Antonine and probably late in the period.
23. (DE) Form 33 stamped ADVOCISI·O. This particular die is found on the late Antonine forms 79 and 80 but is not known from dated sites, though others with the same legend have been found in late Antonine contexts on Hadrian's Wall (Ib) and reoccupied Pennine forts.
24. (J) Form 33 with stamp SANTIAND. SANTIANSVS (perhaps to be equated with SANCTIANSVS) worked at Lezoux, and his stamp has been found on a kiln pad there. The forms used are consistently Antonine, and another die is recorded on form 79. He is to be distinguished from another man of the same name who made form 29 in South Gaul. Confusion of the two is responsible for Oswald's over-early dating of the Lezoux potter (*Index of Potters' Stamps*, 280).

#### *Other plain samian*

There are three examples of form 18/31 in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre and of Trajanic or Hadrianic date, and a single piece of form 42, typically Hadrianic, in Lezoux ware. A single South Gaulish piece form 18R or 18/31R, is Flavian or early Trajanic.

For the rest, the plain ware is all from Lezoux and of Hadrianic-Antonine on Antonine date, mainly the latter.

#### *General comments*

The single pre-Flavian or early Flavian South Gaulish sherd may well have belonged to a vessel which survived long in use. More early pieces would be needed to prove pre-Agricolan occupation.

A few of the Central Gaulish decorated pieces are certainly or probably Hadrianic or early Antonine, such as nos. 6, 12, 14 and 15 above. It is noticeable, too, that although the bulk of the 2nd-century ware is likely to be late Antonine, there are several examples of two forms, namely Drag. 27 and the shallow straight-sided variety of form 18/31 (Ludowici's Tq) that are typical of the Hadrianic and early Antonine period. It is here that the Little Chester material differs from that in northern Pennine forts with Antonine reoccupation and from the material assignable to period Ib on Hadrian's Wall. This is in agreement with the other recent finds from the site (*D.A.J.*, LXXXI (1961), 103 f.), and it seems the more likely that the history of the fort differed from most of those further north, where forms 27 and 18/31 are excessively rare. Nevertheless, the samian ware definitely gives an impression of intenser activity on the site in the late Antonine period.

## COARSE POTTERY (figs. 6-10)

*C. V* (Pebble layer)

1. Derbyshire ware small jar base, pimply orange surface with grey core.

*C. VI* (Charcoal layer)

2. Grey ware rim.
3. Indented grey ware body sherd.
4. A dish, lead grey in colour, lattice decoration.
5. A body sherd of a large well-made vessel, orange slip with grey core, furrowed decoration.

*C. VII* (Loose pebble layer)

6. Rim of a black-burnished jar (see 102)

*C. X* (Charcoal layer)

7. Grey ware vessel with girth groove, possibly indented in the lower half, slightly sooty on rim.
8. Small cooking-pot rim, grey in colour.

*C. XII* (Red clay filling)

9. Colour-coated beaker reconstructed from a body fragment. Cream fabric, the groove shows up orange-coloured through the dark brown coating.
10. Jar of orange fabric.
11. Dish, grey in colour, possibly originally black and burnished externally.
12. Dish rim, black-burnished.
13. Body sherd of white fabric with cream slip.

*A. XII* (Red clay filling)

14. Dish, black-burnished.
15. Base, grey fabric.

*A. XIII* (Dirty clay filling)

16. Large grey ware jar, reconstructed from the rim and unconnected body sherds. Narrow combed wavy band around the girth.
17. Colour-coated base, red-brown externally, brown internally.
18. Rim, grey, possibly originally with a black and burnished surface.
19. Body sherd, soft pinkish fabric, dark-coated surface, wavy decoration.
20. Base of a black-burnished cooking-pot.
21. Base of a crudely made vessel, orange coloured fabric.
22. Colour-coated rouletted sherd, light cream fabric, dark brown and fawn coating, thin in section.

*T1* (*C. XIII*, Test hole)

23. Derbyshire ware rim, orange surface with grey core.
24. Rim of a black-burnished dish.
25. Flagon handle, white fabric cream slip.
26. Derbyshire ware lid originally some 18 inches dia., orange fabric. (Mr. S. O. Kay found similar examples.)

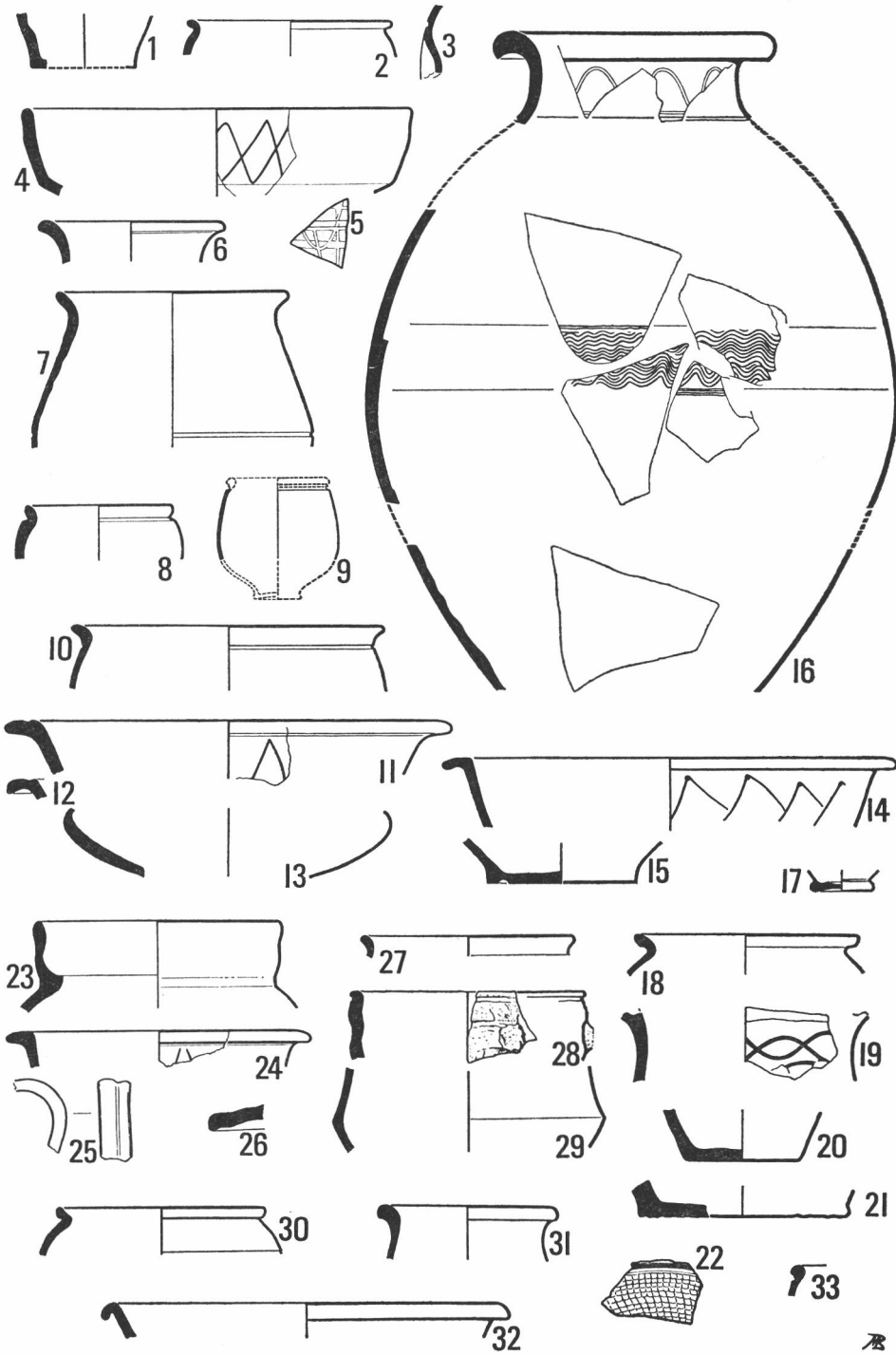


FIG. 6. Coarse pottery, nos. 1-33 (†).

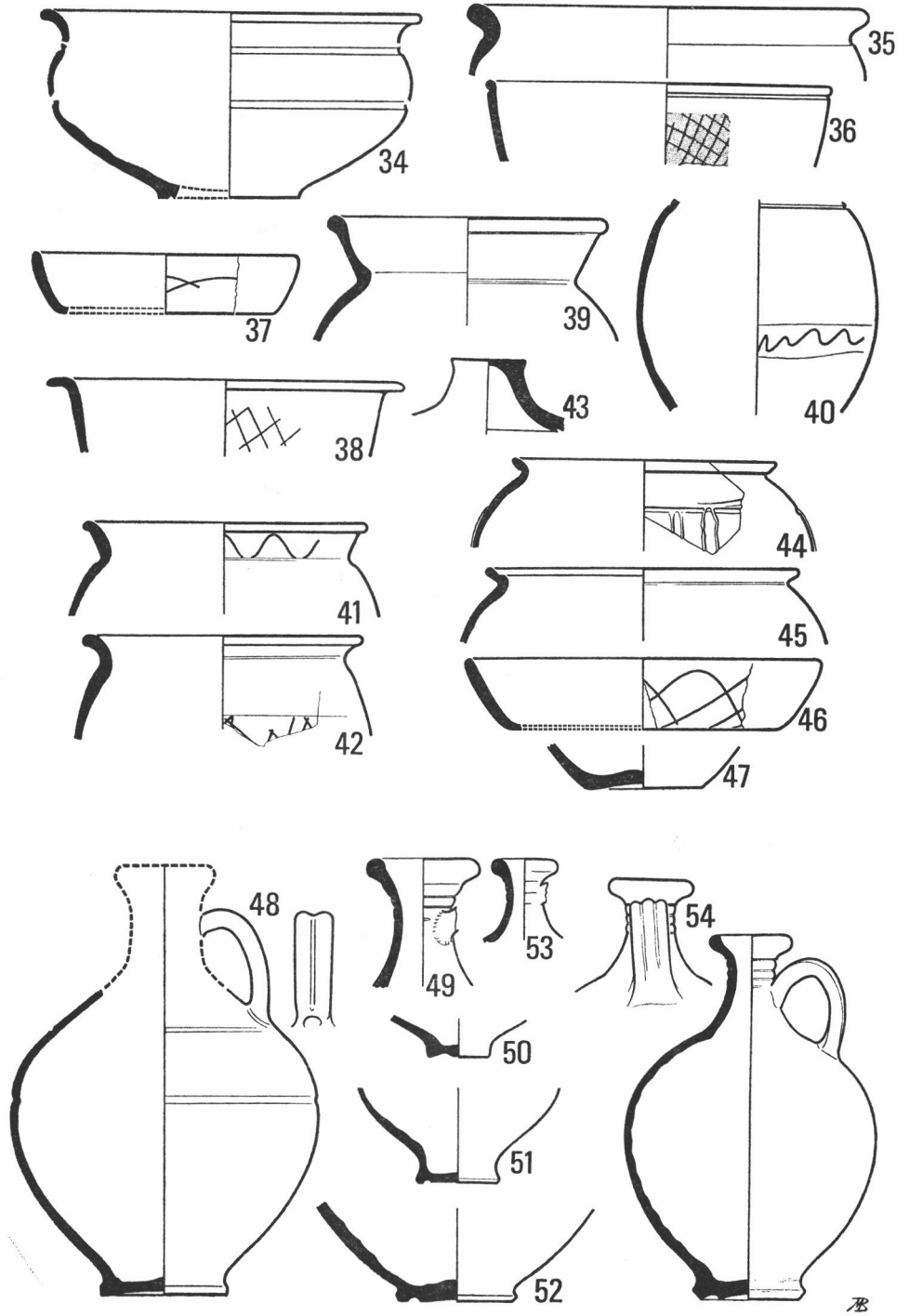


FIG. 7. Coarse pottery, nos. 34-54 (4).

## C. XIII (Hearth)

27. Grey ware rim.  
 28. Medieval sherd, rough orange surface with some green glaze, grey core.  
 Possibly 14th century.  
 29. Body sherd from a carinated vessel, grey fabric.

---

*Pottery not securely stratified, types briefly described but illustrated to enable a balanced assessment to be made of the site material*

## C. XV (Disturbed layer) 30-32

32. Dish, reddish brown colour-coated rim.

## A. XV (Disturbed layer)

33. Dark brown colour-coated cornice rim.

## B. (Red clay filling) 34-38

34. Bowl of orange fabric, reconstructed from unconnected body sherds  
 (see *D.A.J.*, X (1888), pl. VI).

## B. XIII 39-42

39. Derbyshire ware jar.  
 41-42. Cooking-pots, black-burnished.

## B. (Sub-station spoil heap) 43-47

44. Rustic ware type jar, orange coloured smooth sandy textured fabric.  
 47. Probably the base to 44.

*Pottery from trenches D, E, F & G*

48. (D) Flagon, cream fabric, buff slip, roughish surface.  
 49. (D) Flagon neck, white fabric, cream slip.  
 50-52. Flagon bases, cream fabric.  
 53. (F) Flagon neck. White fabric, buff coloured slip.  
 54. Flagon. White fabric, cream slip.  
 (From Pickfords' petrol pump site).

## MORTARIA

I am grateful for the comments of Mrs. K. F. Hartley on the mortaria rims nos. 65, 69 & 70 and for the origins and dates of all the others. All mortaria are to be considered to be made at the Hartshill-Mancetter potteries unless otherwise stated.

55. (F) A hammer head mortarium rim, cream fabric with buff slip, probably  
*c. A.D. 200-300.*  
 56. (F) A hammer head mortarium, cream fabric with buff slip, orange scroll  
 decoration on the rim, black grits. *c. A.D. 300-375.*  
 57. (F) A hammer head mortarium rim (slightly burnt), dirty white fabric with  
 light cream slip, orange parabolic decoration on rim, black and brown  
 grits. *c. A.D. 300-375.*  
 58. (F) A hammer head mortarium rim (slightly burnt), dirty white fabric  
 with cream slip, vertical striped brown decoration on rim, black grits.  
*c. A.D. 300-375.*

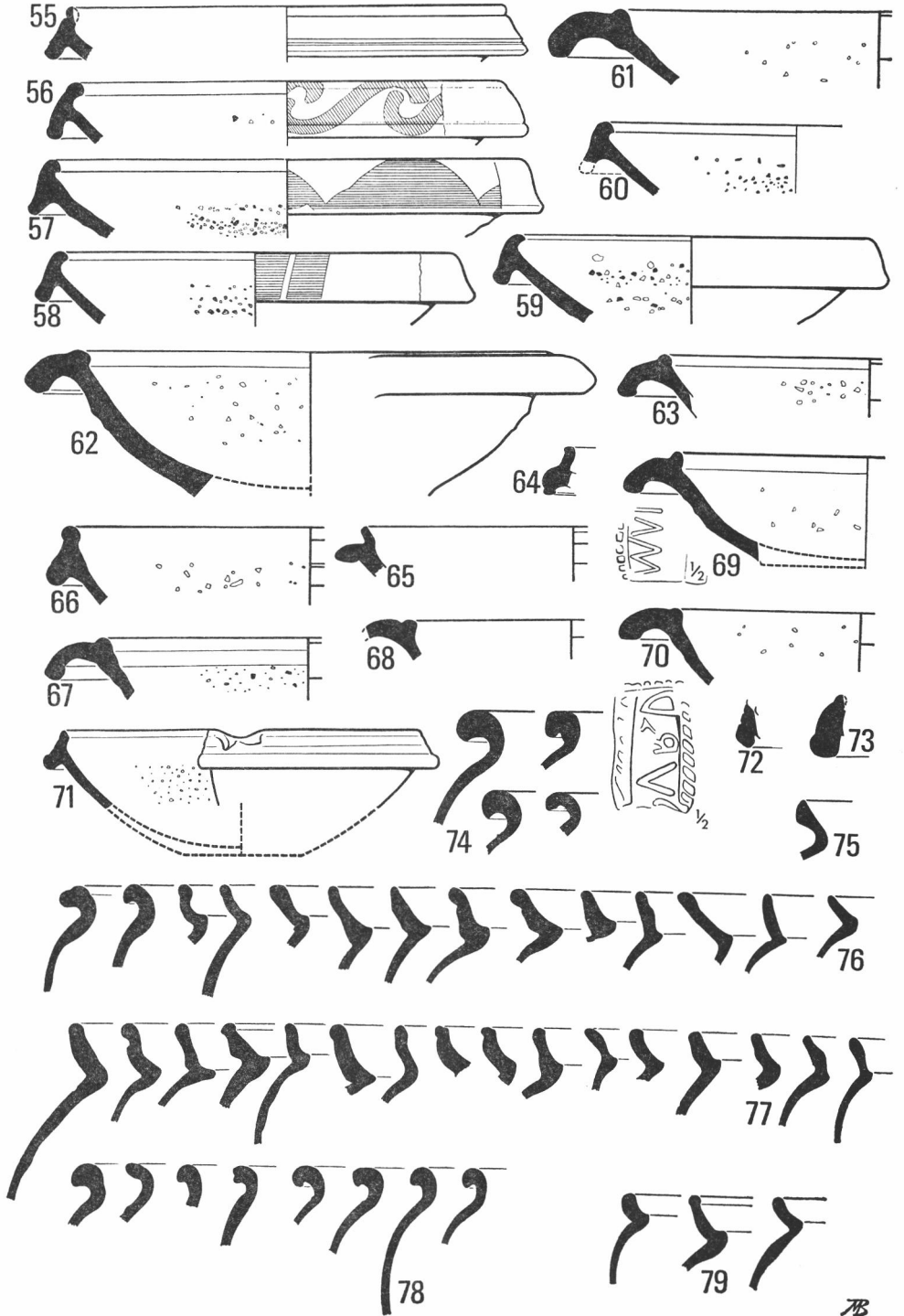


FIG. 8. Coarse pottery, nos. 55-79 (†).

59. (F) A hammer head mortarium, off-white fabric with cream slip, black and dark brown grits. *c.* A.D. 250-350.
60. (F) A hammer head mortarium rim, off-white fabric with cream slip, black grits. *c.* A.D. 300-375.
61. (F) A hooked rim mortarium, off-white fabric with cream slip, dark brown grits. *c.* A.D. 140-185.
62. (G) A hooked rim mortarium (burnt), off-white fabric with buff slip, brown grits. *c.* A.D. 190-230.
63. (G) A hooked rim mortarium, cream fabric with buff slip, brown grits. *c.* A.D. 140-190.
64. (G) A mortarium rim, slightly burnt, orange brown fabric, white grits. Origin unknown, perhaps local, 3rd or 4th century.
65. (J) A mortarium, cream fabric with pinkish core and buff slip, translucent pinkish grit, from potteries in the Thames Valley near Oxford. (Known kilns at Cowley, Headington, Sandford, Dorchester, Boar's Hill. *Oxoniensia*, I, 81-102; VI, 9-21, XVII/XVIII, 224/225 and *Archaeologia*, LXXII, 225-242.) Probably 3rd century, but could be 4th.
66. (D) A hammer head mortarium (slightly burnt), off-white fabric with orange buff slip, brown grits. *c.* A.D. 200-300.
67. (D) A hooked rim mortarium (burnt), cream fabric with buff slip, black grits. *c.* A.D. 130-180.
68. (D) A hooked rim mortarium, grey coloured, very heavily fired or burnt. Probably Hartshill-Mancetter potteries, *c.* A.D. 100-200.
69. (D) A mortarium in fine white fabric with a yellowish slip, worn away on the grinding surface. There is small and largish red-brown trituration grit and the piece has suffered slightly from burning.  
The incomplete stamp probably reads MAI — retrograde. No other stamps from the same die are known and the potter's name must remain in doubt until more complete examples appear.  
The fabric points to origin at Hartshill or Mancetter in Warwickshire, and the form suggests an Antonine date.
70. (E) A mortarium in white fabric with yellowish slip; the trituration grit is mainly red-brown but includes one or two white fragments. Similar grit, finely ground, has been used to temper the clay. The piece has been partially burnt after fracture.  
The incomplete stamp is from a die giving the certain, if surprising, reading DVRDS retrograde. The potter is probably to be classed among the literate or semi-literate mortarium makers. Other stamps from the same die are known from Saltersford, near Grantham; Holditch, Staffs., and Water Newton. The fabric suggests manufacture at the factories of Hartshill or Mancetter in Warwickshire, and the rim forms point to a date *c.* A.D. 110-140.
71. A hammer head mortarium, off-white fabric with buff slip, small brown grits. *c.* A.D. 240-330.
72. (G) A hammer head mortarium rim fragment, off-white fabric with cream slip. *c.* A.D. 240-375.
73. A hammer head mortarium rim fragment, off-white fabric with cream slip. *c.* A.D. 200-300.

*Not illustrated:*

(A) XIV. Red colour-coated mortarium body fragment, from the Thames Valley potteries in vicinity of Oxford — (e.g. Dorchester and Cowley). *c.* A.D. 270-400.

- 74-79. Derbyshire ware with the usual hard fabric and pimply surface; mostly orange in colour but ranging from a light buff, red-brown, blue-grey and in one case olive-green. Some rims are distorted and are undoubtedly "seconds", and a few sooty externally, possibly used as cooking-pots. 76. (DE), 77 & 78. (F) and 79. (G). (See *D.A.J.*, LXI (1940), 30; LXXXII (1962), 21.)
75. (E) Dark grey Derbyshire ware type fabric (Mr. Kay considered this rim an unusual type, possibly medieval).
- 80-87. Cooking-pots, black-burnished.
- 88-101. Bowls and dishes, black-burnished or grey ware.
102. (D) Jar, grey fabric originally black-burnished, lattice decoration with girth groove.
- 103-107. Flanged bowls, smooth lead grey fabric.
- 108-109. Dishes with plain rims, grey fabric.
110. (D) Samian base, burnt grey in colour.
- 111-115. Jar rims, grey fabric.
116. (D) Campanulate bowl, black-burnished.
117. (D) Bowl with scribbled decoration; polished grey fabric, lead grey coloured surface.
- 118-120. (D) Bowls, polished lead grey fabric.
- 121-122. (D) Bowls, orange fabric.
123. (D) Beaker, polished orange fabric.
124. (F) Red colour-coated ware, imitating samian form 38, orange fabric with grey core.
125. (D) Lustrous dark colour-coated beaker with cylindrical foot, samian coloured fabric.
126. (D) Amphora, coarse fabric, light buff in colour.
127. (F) Flask, polished grey ware.
128. (D) Flanged bowl, polished orange fabric.
129. (F) Flanged bowl, polished orange fabric, white painted vertical striped decoration.

## Fig. 13

19. (G) Dish, mica-dusted giving a golden sheen. Black externally extending over the rim to half-way down the inner side becoming buff coloured. Greyish coloured core.
20. (F) Rouletted castor box lid, orange-brown colour coat, whitish fabric.
21. (J) Rouletted castor box, dark brown colour coat cream fabric.
22. (F) Rouletted castor box, dark brown colour coat, whitish fabric.
23. (F) Finely rouletted fragment, black gloss, dense black fabric.
- 24-27. *Colour-coated ware thought by B. R. Hartley to be of possible local manufacture.*
24. (F)-25. (D) Dark olive colour-coated sherds; the decoration shows up orange-coloured through the coating.
26. (D) Brown colour-coated indented beaker.
27. Purple-brown colour-coated beaker.  
(Found 1966 on the site of flats to the east of the walled area (fig. 1)).
28. (F) Samian coloured slip on light orange fabric. Decorated with stamped rosettes. Oxfordshire pottery.



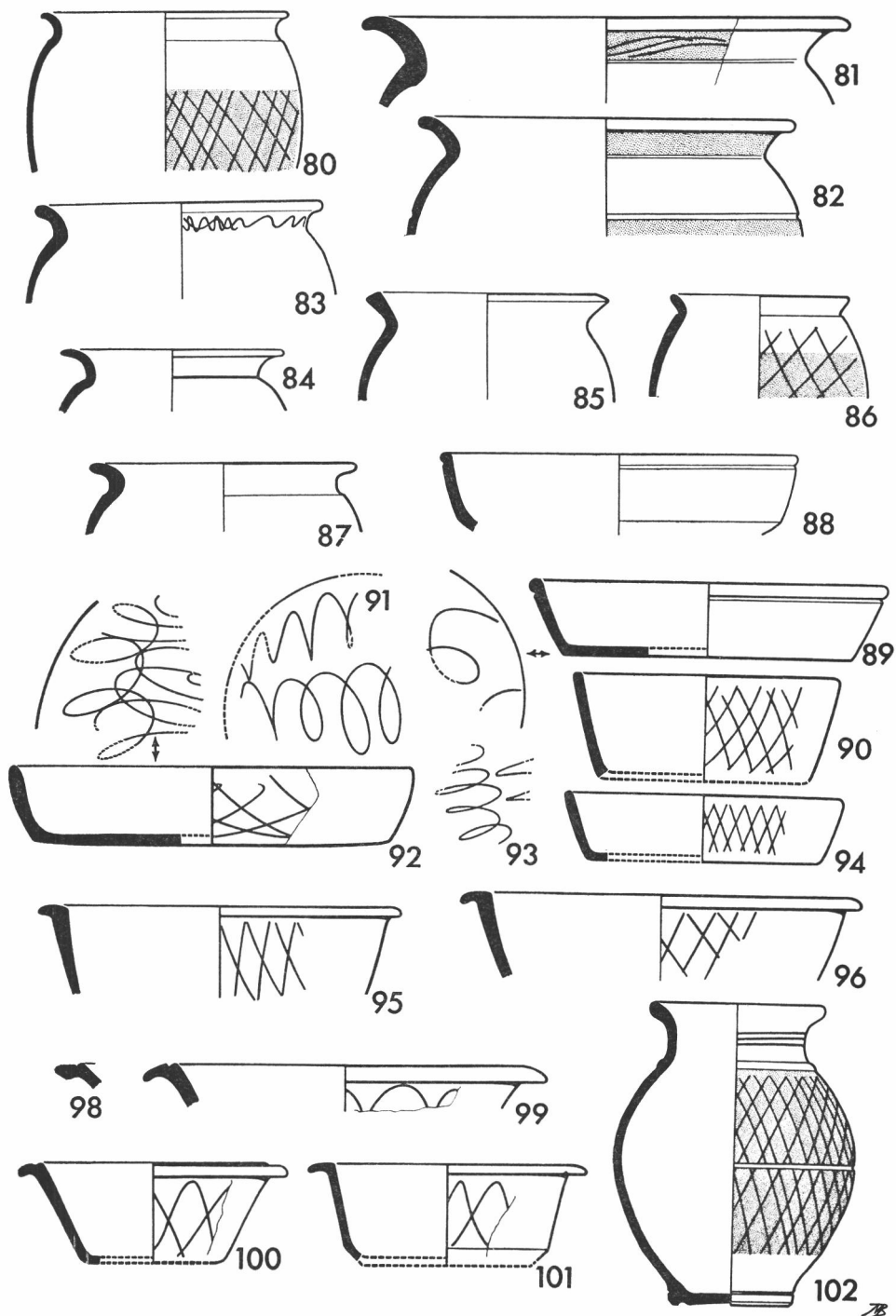
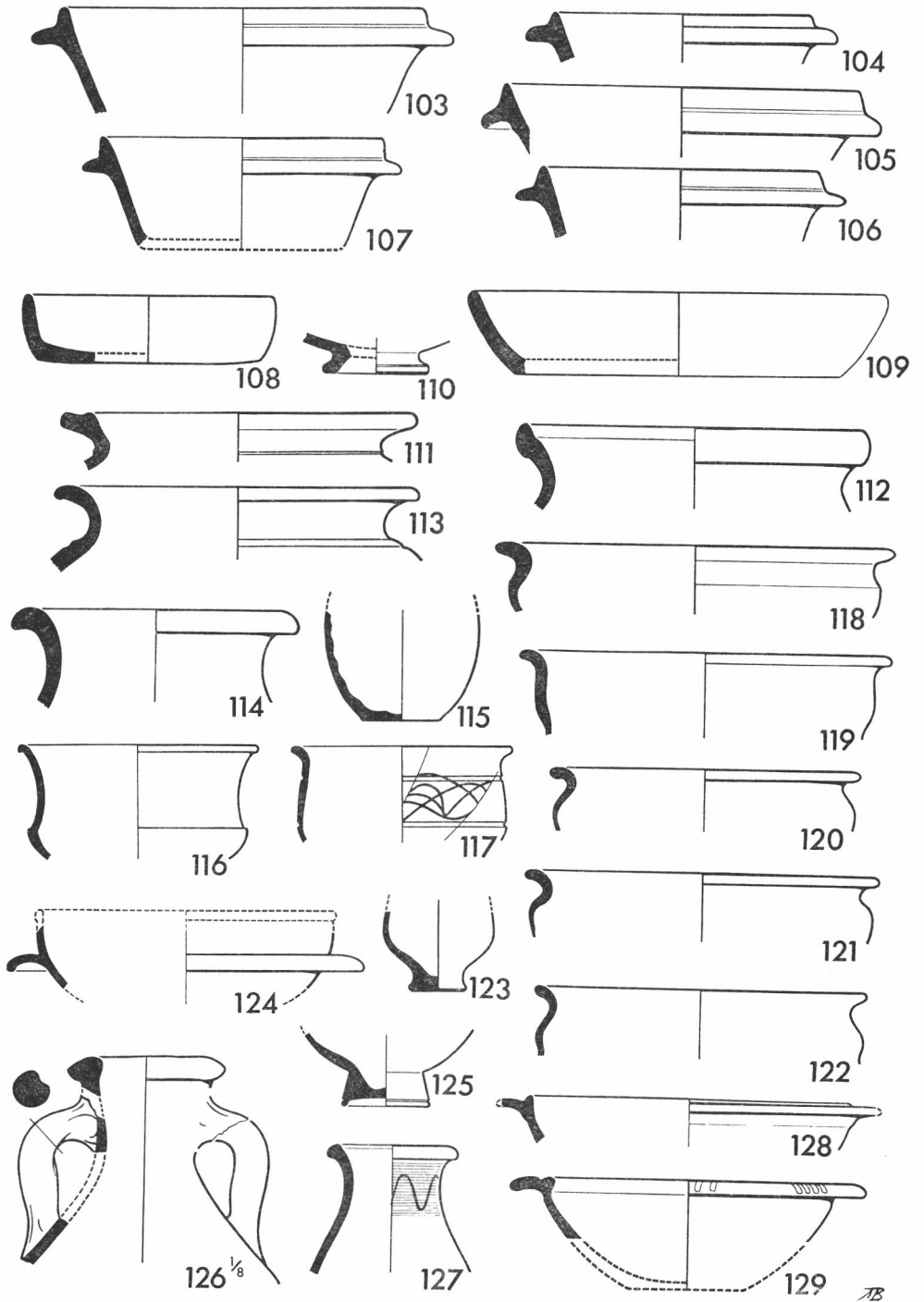


FIG. 9. Coarse pottery, nos. 80-96, 98-102 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

FIG. 10. Coarse pottery, nos. 103-129 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

## PEWTER AND BRONZE OBJECTS (fig. 11)

A cast pewter figurine, in its broken state  $1\frac{7}{8}$  in. wide depicting a semi-naked young woman reclining on the back of a sea-horse, found by a workman in area F (fig. 11, no. 1). A possible restoration of the motif is shown as no. 1a.

A spectrographic analysis shows the presence of tin, lead, zinc, copper, antimony and a trace of iron. Tin predominates but there is a large percentage of lead with much lower proportions of copper and zinc. The figurine is slightly concave and thin in section. It may have formed part of the ornament of a skillet or the decorated flange of a bowl. The figure is well modelled and of good design but the casting somewhat crude. This suggests that it may have been cast in a mould taken from a well made original. The flash, running round the edge, stops at the fractures, indicating breakage after casting, for if it is assumed that a broken original was used for making the mould, the flash would then cross the fractures. Roughly used, a pewter utensil would quickly have pieces knocked off the ornament and eventually the fractures would become rounded, as in the present case.

The motif represents a nereid, one of the fifty daughters of the sea god Nereus and the river goddess Doris. They are sea nymphs, the attendants of Neptune, and symbolise the movement of the waves, frequently depicted in mosaics and sculptured reliefs either riding on or associated with sea monsters. The best known is Amphitrite, consort of Poseidon.

This figurine has been examined by Professor J. M. C. Toynbee, and she is of the opinion that if accepted as ancient it could well be a late Roman casting imitating cheaply in pewter a 2nd-century silver or bronze original. No other examples are known.

Fig. 11

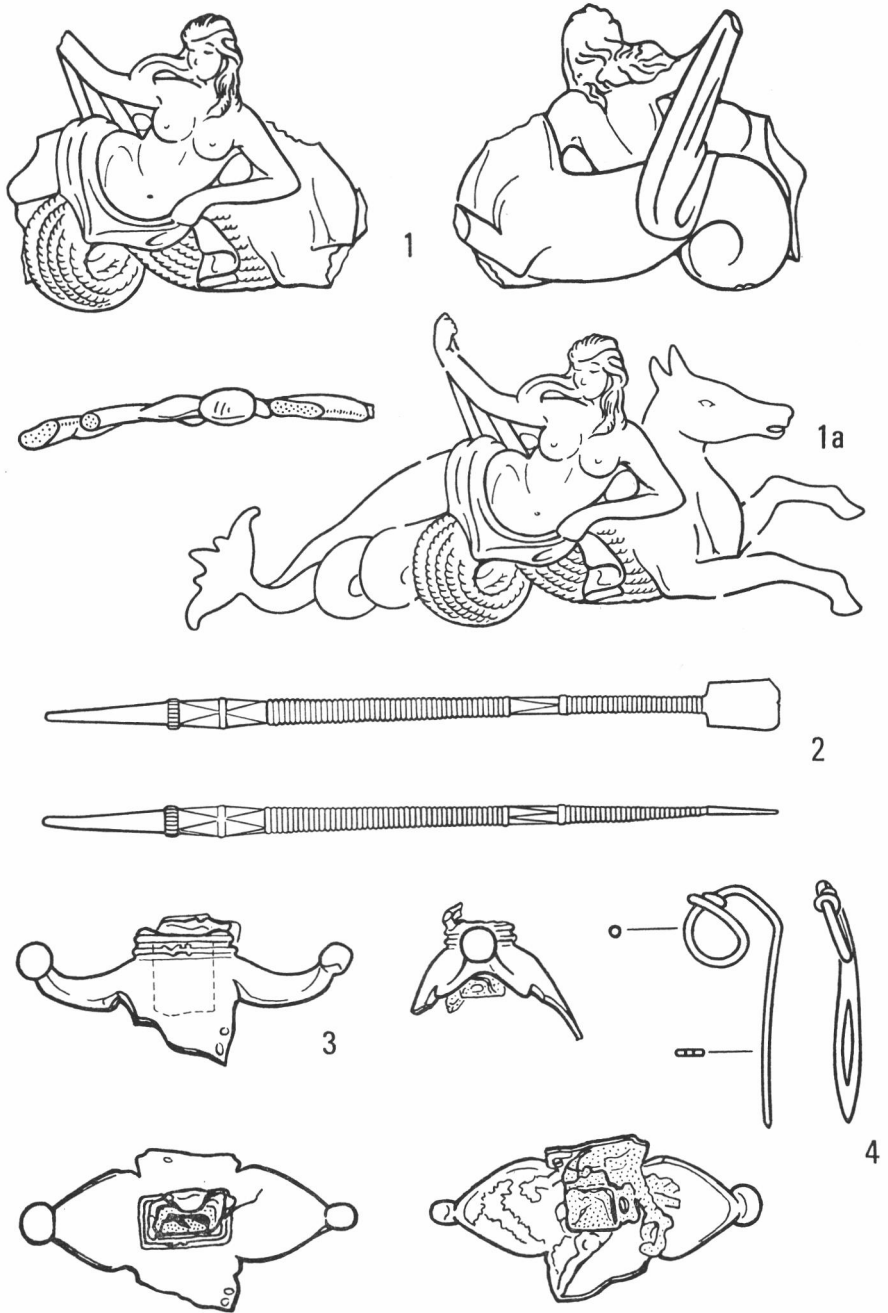
2. (F) Bronze stylus.
3. (J) Broken bronze object with hollow iron box-like fitment. Post-Roman in date.
4. Bronze needle; the pointed end has been carefully looped for some unknown purpose. Found in spoil heap.

*Miscellaneous*

Fig. 12

5. (F) Patterned box flue-tile fragments.
6. Iron nails of Roman type.<sup>5</sup>
7. (E) Iron knife blade with tang.
8. (F) Triangular sectional clay object, light grey in colour.
9. (F) Whetstone, fine grained grey sandstone.
10. Roofing tile fragments.
11. (G) Upper part of tapered bone pin. Type E Jewry Wall, fig. 90, no. 12.
12. Sandstone gully section, overall dimensions 16 in. wide x 9 in. deep, the carefully cut channel 7 in. wide x 4 in. deep. Length of gully 44 in.
13. (G) Gritstone quern base,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter, with remains of iron pin.

<sup>5</sup> The nail marked \* is stratified (F) late Roman.



1-1

FIG. 11. Pewter and bronze objects (1/1).

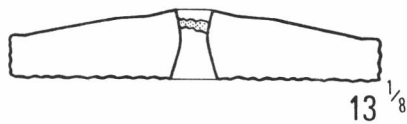
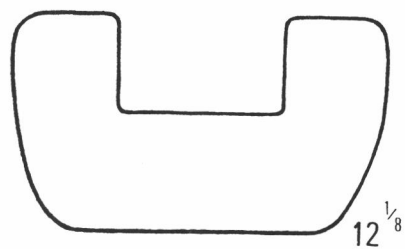
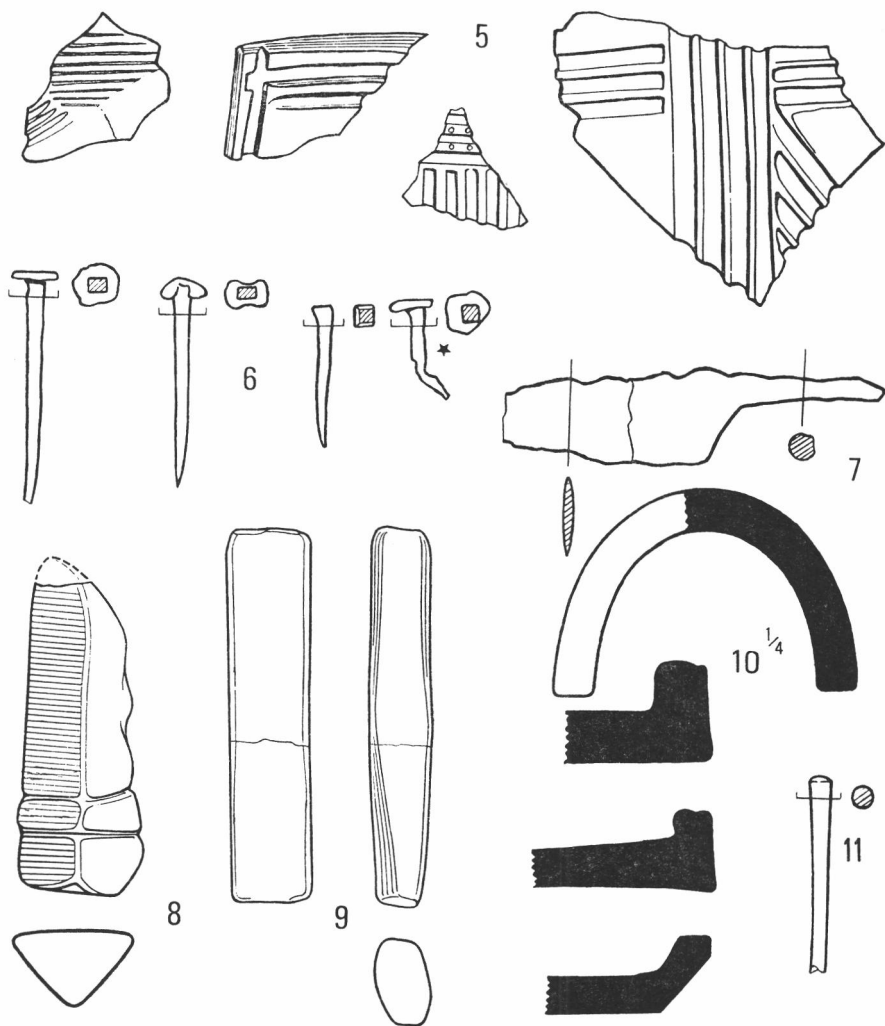


FIG. 12. Miscellaneous finds ( $\frac{1}{2}$ , also  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{8}$ ).

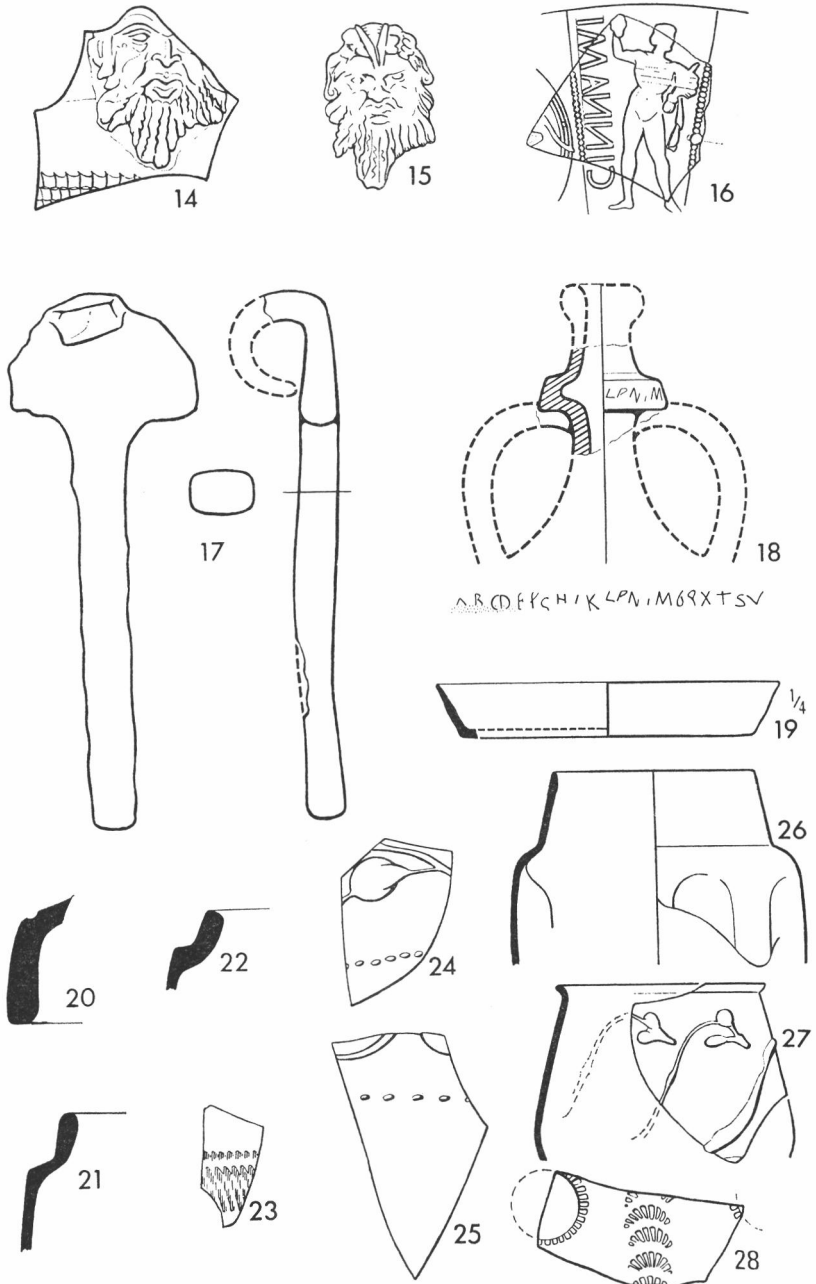


FIG. 13. Nos. 14-16 Samian pottery ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ): no. 17 lynch pin ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ): no. 18 graffito ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ): no. 19 mica dusted ware ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ): nos. 20-28 colour coated ware ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

## Fig. 13

17. (DE) Iron linchpin (examples at Corbridge and Verulamium).

18. *Graffito*

An inscribed flagon neck of burnished orange fabric, found while digging a waterpipe trench in the Nursery Garden, 1966 (fig. 1) D.M. 761-66.

Mr. R. P. Wright has examined this sherd and reads this alphabet as: ABCDEFGHIKLPN·MOQXTSV. The letters R, Y and Z are not included, and as often the latter part of the alphabet is rather chaotic.

## SUMMARY

It is to be regretted that this area did not receive, at a much earlier date, the archaeological examination that it undoubtedly deserved. It is, however, to be hoped that the material that has been recovered will contribute a little to the history of the site.

Dr. Graham Webster in his report on his excavation of the south wall in 1960 (*D.A.J.*, LXXXI (1961), 91), came to the conclusion that the greatest intensity of occupation occurred during the Antonine period, most likely due to regarrisoning after the presumed revolt of c. A.D. 155. Confirmation of this occupation is given by the series of Antonine floors in areas C and D, but with the addition that here they are associated with undressed sandstone footings aligned north-south and east-west which are presumably the foundations for wooden-framed buildings. It will be noted that all the footings are in alignment with Stukeley's wall and Sherwin's plotted foundations. No earlier foundations on a different alignment were found, but the trenches did not penetrate far below the Antonine levels and a mechanical excavator is hardly the tool with which to find them.

The late Roman structure in area F, the floor paving of which was laid on building rubble containing 2nd-century material, was also aligned north-south. The pottery from this area is certainly late 3rd century and early to mid 4th century.

The coins from the general area of Little Chester fall into two main groups, Domitian to Commodus (A.D. 81-191) reaching a peak during the reign of Antoninus Pius (138-161) and Carausius to Constans (A.D. 287-350); the greatest number is of the reign of Constantine.

## HISTORICAL CONCLUSIONS

The earliest occupation appears to have been on the high ground on the other side of the river in the Strutt's Park area; it seems certain that this site was abandoned and a fort founded on the east bank of the Derwent at Little Chester, probably in the time of Agricola.

The Hadrianic and early Antonine occupation may have been centred a little to the east of Stukeley's walled enclosure but certainly on a different alignment. The comparative rarity of early Antonine pottery from the general area of Little Chester suggests that the garrison may have been

removed about A.D. 140, due to the Antonian campaign and the reoccupation of Scotland. Whether Little Chester was destroyed at the time of the putative Pennine revolt of about A.D. 155 is not known. (The burnt areas below the late Antonine layers in C and the thick ash layer in the sub-station area were entirely devoid of occupation material and they may indicate nothing more than industrial activity.)

It is certain that Little Chester was reoccupied in force during the second half of the 2nd century, and buildings on north-south alignments then appeared. Excavations in 1926 as well as recent finds indicate an extensive civil ribbon development along the adjacent roads. The intensive occupation presumably lasted until the closing years of the century when much of the army was removed from Britain to Gaul by the governor, Clodius Albinus, to fight for supremacy against Septimus Severus. The latter was victorious at the battle of Lugdunum (Lyons) in A.D. 197, but whether Little Chester had its garrison replaced during the Severan reorganization is not yet clear. However, coins and pottery definitely attest to 3rd-century occupation of some kind.

The more intensive occupation in the late 3rd and first half of the 4th century may have been civil rather than military, but this too is yet to be proved.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The people assisting in the excavation of areas A, B & C were Mr. A. E. Cook, Mr. K. D. Grice, Mr. and Mrs. K. Mann, Mr. and Mrs. M. Forrest, Mrs. P. Kerridge, Mrs. W. J. Reed and Miss B. Hitchcock, many of them members of the Society. Without the patience and assistance of the Building Department's staff many interesting sherds would not have been recovered.

In producing this report I am indebted to the following individuals: to Mr. K. Mann for his aid in photographing the various finds; to Miss J. M. Brindle for much painstaking work on the typewriter; and to Mr. B. R. Hartley and Mr. J. May who read the manuscript in draft and made many helpful contributions to the text.

All material has been deposited in the Derby Museum.

#### APPENDIX

##### SAMIAN POTTERY FINDS BEFORE 1965

This brief report records some of the figured samian and potters' stamps obtained earlier from two sites to the east of Stukeley's wall at Little Chester. Samian pottery (fig. 14, nos. 1-8) was collected in 1955 by Mr. R. G. Hughes from the workmen digging the drain trenches and foundations for the new vicarage then being built in the old vicarage garden. Most of these sherds were found between the house and Old Chester Road. Some Roman coarse pottery was also found but is not dealt with in this report. What appeared to be flat stone paving was noted by Mr. Hughes in the north-east corner of the building footings.

The potter's stamp SAMOGENI (fig. 14, no. 9), presumably on a type 33, is illustrated in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, 1874*,



p. 119. This was found by the Rev. S. B. Brasher, with a great variety of pottery fragments, while digging in his garden, near the site of the present new building.

The illustrations, nos. 10-13, fig. 14, are taken from *Derbyshire Gatherings* (1866) by Joseph Barlow Robinson. They are referred to as follows:

"On the 19th September, 1861, while some labourers were cutting a drain on the Chester Road, Derby, they turned up, at the great depth of 13 ft., the beautiful specimens illustrated on the opposite page. They were embedded in a soft black mud, lying upon the gravel, which probably once formed the bed of the river."

An undated newspaper cutting pasted in a Llewellyn Jewitt manuscript (MSS. 6329. F. Derby Reference Library) presumably refers to the same find:

"While the workmen were excavating the foundations for the new corn shed of the Midland Railway Co., they found, at the depth of from 12 to 14 ft., many fragments of Roman pottery, some of which are of beautiful design with figures and foliage in relief. The bottom of one jar has the maker's name stamped upon it. A quantity of large bones, in a sound state, were also dug up, supposed to belong to the elk and jaw-bones of the wolf or hyena; these have all been carefully collected, and are now deposited in the museum of Mr. J. B. Robinson, sculptor, New Uttoxeter Rd."<sup>1</sup>

The site of this corn shed has not yet been identified. Combining the two accounts, a site 350 yds. to the east of Stukeley's wall, near the Garden City Hotel, seems indicated;<sup>2</sup> Vivian Street being an extension of Old Chester Road, and New Chester Street bordering the Midland Railway property. The statement that this samian of suggested Hadrianic date was embedded in a soft black mud, lying upon the gravel, which probably once formed the bed of the river, and the great depth of 13 ft. could indicate a defensive ditch.

#### REPORT ON SAMIAN POTTERY

By B. R. Hartley and B. M. Dickinson

1-7 are all form 37.

1. Two joining fragments of a Central Gaulish bowl with rivet holes. This is in the style of Stanfield's X-5 (*CGP*, pl. 67). The festoon occurs on his bowls and moulds at Lezoux, but no signed or stamped examples have appeared there. Both the British evidence from military sites and the associations at Lezoux itself attest activity *c. A.D. 125-145*.
2. The rim of a Central Gaulish bowl with small ovolo suggestive of pre-Antonine date.
3. A small fragment from a Central Gaulish freestyle bowl with part of a stag (probably D. 582=O. 1001).

The fabric suggests Hadrianic or early Antonine manufacture.

<sup>1</sup> An article on this house, Abbeyfield, 50 Uttoxeter New Road, appeared in the *Derby Evening Telegraph*, 18 June 1954.

<sup>2</sup> A coin of Marcus Aurelius (Derby Museum, no. 406-59) was found near the Garden City Hotel, 1959.

4. A fragment from a large Central Gaulish bowl with scroll decoration. Probably late Antonine.
5. Seven joining fragments of a Central Gaulish freestyle bowl by CINNAMVS, with his ovolo 2 and acanthus leaf, used as a filler. The figures are: horseman (D. 156=O. 245); lioness (D. 793=O. 1537) and bear (D. 808=O. 1588) *c. A.D.* 150-180.
6. A fragment from a Central Gaulish bowl with panel decoration. Too little survives to ensure firm attribution, though the ovolo and rosette match the work of Q. IVLIVS BALBINVS and SERVVS I. The large beads in the vertical border are unusual with this ovolo, though the lack of a junction mask is paralleled in the work of SERVVS I (*CGP*, pl. 124). *c. A.D.* 150-190.

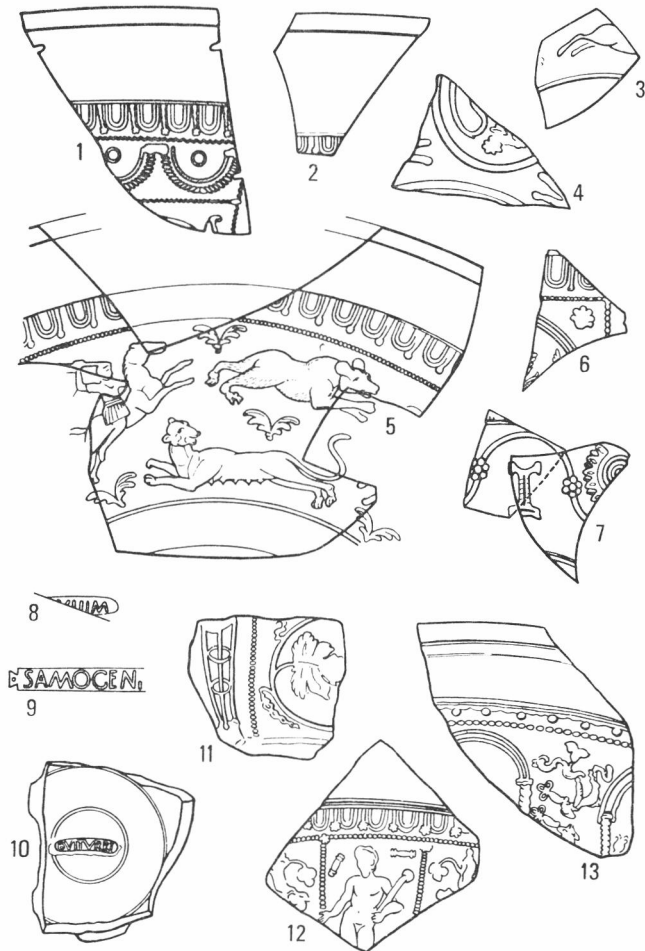


FIG. 14. Samian pottery found before 1965 (1/3).

7. Two overlapping fragments, one burnt. From an East Gaulish bowl by REGINVS of Rheinzabern (Style I), who used all the elements of decoration (see Ludowici-Ricken, *Die Bilderschüsseln der römischen Töpfer von Rheinzabern*, Textband o. 181a; o. 138; 098: Tafelband, Taf 13-18 for the general style). c. A.D. 160-200.
8. Form 31 fragment with stamp ]VLLIM, from a die of MVXTVLLVS of Lezoux. This potter worked throughout much of the Antonine period, and this was probably one of his earlier dies. It occurs at Camelon and in a large pit-group of c. A.D. 150-160 at Alcester.
9. The stamp SAMOGENI (on form 33, to judge by the account in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.* 1874, 119) has only been recorded six times (Oswald, *Stamps*, 279, with recent additions from Verulamium and Alcester). The Verulamium example is on form 27, but one at Moulins Museum is on form 80, so activity c. A.D. 140-180 seems likely
10. Form 33 (probably), with stamp BVTTVRRI. This die has been found once in an Antonine context in Scotland (Camelon) and there are two examples in the Verulamium Second Fire (c. A.D. 150-160). The general date is probably c. A.D. 145-180.
11. Form 37, probably by DRVSVS or another member of the SACER group. c. A.D. 125-145.
12. Form 37 with truncated ovolo. The decoration suggests a Hadrianic date.
13. Form 37, either by DOCILIS or the Large-S Potter c. A.D. 125-145.