





R. N., Photo.

Upper portion of Antefix showing the *vexillum* attached to the Standard of the Twentieth Legion. 1:1. p. 117.



Records of Archæological Finds.

BY PROFESSOR EMERITUS R. NEWSTEAD, F.R.S.

(Pls. i—ix. Figs. 1—43).



MY former contributions, under the above heading, were published in this *Journal* (N.S. xxvii, xxxiii) in the years 1928 and 1939, respectively. But additional descriptions of Roman and other finds may also be consulted in my earlier contributions in N.S. vi, viii, for the years 1899 and 1901. It was in the latter issue that I recorded the rescue, from the smelting-pot, of the first-found section of Roman lead-piping bearing the names of the Consuls and Agricola, and datable to A.D. 79. Afterwards I had the thrilling experience of personally digging out the missing sections of the piping, bearing the duplicate inscription of that unique relic. I venture to recall this incident as it was the occasion that spurred me on to wider fields of archæological research.

Practically all the material treasures which have been secured from casual excavations, and those also from our deliberate explorations recorded elsewhere in this *Journal*, and in the *Liverpool Annals*, have been added to the collection of antiquities at the Grosvenor Museum, where they can be consulted by students interested in Chester's historical background; chiefly, however, in its relation to the Roman occupation of Deva—a period which can be determined only by archæological research.

In this issue I have arranged my notes under three sub-headings: I, Roman period, pp. 53—153; II, Saxon period, 154—157; III, Mediæval and later periods, 158—172.

Of Roman material there are many examples of outstanding interest, as they include many objects which are new or noteworthy finds for Chester. From a chronological standpoint, for instance, there are three examples of Samian ware that are datable to pre-Flavian times. The first is a section of a decorated bowl (form 29) found in the make-up of the seating-bank to the amphitheatre (p. 101), and is datable to the Claudian period, A.D. 41—54. The second find is a "foot print" stamp of the Arretine potter L. RASINVS PISANVS who flourished about the year A.D. 50 (p. 142). The third is a stamp of AQVITANVS, whose period of activity at the La Graufesenque potteries, in Southern Gaul, is stated to be between the years A.D. 14 and 68 (p. 142). In the light of our knowledge, at the present time, these and other early isolated finds may be considered as survivals.

I have also recorded the presence of a fair amount of Roman pottery in association with mediæval burials (p. 162) in the "Nuns' Garden," by the military barracks. But whether such finds may be taken as an indication that the civil population, in Roman times, also occupied this extramural site by the S-W portion of the fortress is not clear. Further search with the spade may be called for; but I venture to suggest that this small sanctuary of the Holy Nuns of St. Mary be left undefiled.

Other Roman relics that seem worthy of a brief note in this foreword are: the fine bronze figurine of a domestic fowl (p. 136, fig. 3) evidently depicting a race of game-cocks; the perfect example of a small cup (p. 134, fig. 28) with strap-handles obviously of Flavian origin (A.D. 69—96); and the gold finger-ring (p. 136, fig. 1) with its bezel engraved with a honey-bee.

The hoard of Saxon coins kindly presented by the Rev. F. A. Potts (p. 154, fig. 36) is of much interest as out of a total of forty-three silver coins ("pennies") seven of the moneyers whose names appear on the reverses had their mints at Chester.

Of the mediæval and later periods descriptions are given of some noteworthy finds (pp. 158—172). Of the earlier period there are the 13th century cooking pot from Foregate Street, and the " parrot-bill " Jug from near Sandbach. The papal bullæ of Pope Innocent and Pope John XXIII are also of special interest.

Objects of a later period are the 17th and 18th century wine-bottles and their stamps; a peculiar signet ring for which no parallel has been traced; and a Chester hall-mark on an old pewter gill that seems to be an early example of the official stamp (p. 171).

Personally I beg to acknowledge my indebtedness to all those Contractors who, during the last sixty years, have carried out constructional work within the City boundaries, for their commendable action in allowing me to inspect their excavations. Thereby one has been able to gather some important information regarding the stratification of the earlier deposits; and to rescue many archæological treasures of chronological importance for our collections at the Grosvenor Museum. In examining all such casual excavations, however, one must not, in any way, hinder the progress of the work in hand. If such excavations are available during the dinner-hours, or at other periods, those are the times to examine the freshly cut sections and to plot-in any constructional remains that may have been laid bare. Ample rewards to the workmen for small material finds are essential. Even so there may be a leakage of " good things " as there is a ready sale for " antiques " in this City!

For financial aid towards the publication of the issue of this *Journal* we are greatly indebted to the following:—The City Council for the sum of £30; Mr. David L. Miln for £10, and to Mr. W. F. Irvine for £5.

For much valued information regarding many of our treasures, during past years we are indebted to Mr. Harold Mattingly of the British Museum, and to Dr. Felix Oswald for their exemplary promptitude and exhaustive research in solving many problems. Specific acknowledgement to these

authorities, and also to others who have helped in any way is given in the text.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to my colleague, Professor J. P. Droop who, for many years, laboured incessantly with me in exploring the structural remains of the barrack-blocks, the amphitheatre, and the theatre-like building in the Princess Street Clearance Area. Furthermore for his valued help in revising the proofs of this paper.

N.B.—All the more important sites on which the Roman discoveries were made, and recorded herein, have been plotted in on sections of the Ordnance Survey Maps. When this publication has been issued they will be filed at the Grosvenor Museum for future reference; together with other records that have been omitted from this publication.

SECTION I.—ROMAN PERIOD.

THE ROMAN FORTRESS WALL AT THE KALEYARDS.

(Plate i, 1, 2; Fig. 1).

IN preparing an area for a Parking Ground at the Kaleyards, formerly the site of the old Hop-Pole Hotel Paddock, in 1928, two important archæological discoveries were brought to light:—

- (1) The structural remains of an Edwardian Drum-tower, and
- (2) Sections of the lower courses of the Roman fortress wall.

The first of these was discovered by the City Engineer, Mr. Charles Greenwood, during the process of levelling the ground. The second by deliberate excavations as there were obvious indications that the footings of the tower had been stepped over some massive blocks of masonry that resembled the work of the Roman legions stationed at Chester.

The first shaft was sunk at the S.E. angle formed by the junction of the tower and, presumably, the blocks of Roman masonry, slightly in advance of "A" in the photograph (Plate i, fig. 2). Fortunately the massive rubble footings of the tower (omitted from the text figure) and also a fine section of the Roman fortress wall were discovered.

The Roman Wall. A length of 4ft. 6in. was cleared. It consisted of eight courses of masonry and was standing to a height of 8ft. (Text fig. 1), but the courses above the chamfered plinth had been thrust forward, by earth pressure, so that the upper course overhung the plinth to a distance of 17in. Moreover, the two courses above the plinth had also been badly crushed and their faces badly "spalled" away (see pl. i, fig. 1). The crushing seems to have been due, in part, by the removal of one of the chamfered plinth stones to make way for the footings of the tower. The footings of the Roman wall consisted of

broken rock 15in. thick, set in puddled clay. These footings rested on virgin boulder clay, 11in. thick, overlaying the upper stratum of soft sandstone rock. Two of the larger ashlar-faced stones measured 4ft. 6ins. and 4ft. 3in. in length respectively: one of them is shown in the photograph (pl. i, fig. 1). Here we have an almost

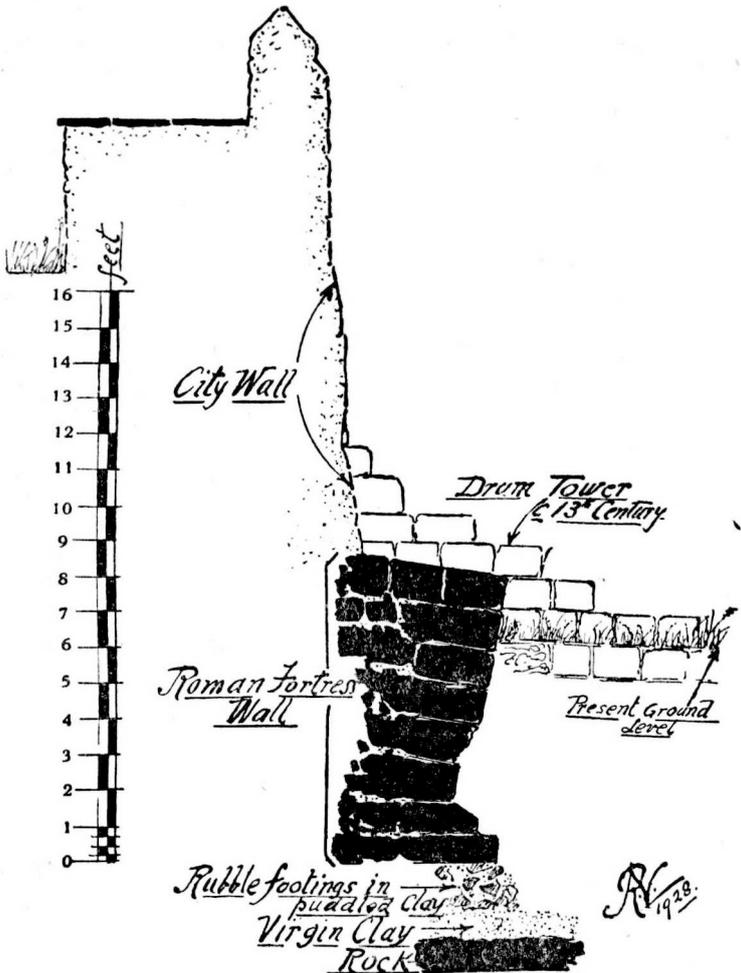


Fig. 1.

exact parallel to the section of the Roman fortress wall preserved under the old Telephone Exchange in St. John Street, that lies a few paces north of the S.E. angle of the fortress (*cf C.A.J.*, xvi, 5—29, pls. i—viii).

The soil in advance of the Roman wall down to the level of the plinth, had evidently been frequently disturbed as evidenced by the mixed nature of the finds that came from it. One piece of a large Samian dish (Form 31) occurred near the surface, and many bits of Roman roof-tiles were found together with pieces of Early English pottery, wine bottles and clay tobacco pipes, etc. One small Roman coin (3 Æ) belonging to the Constantine Period, but of uncertain attribution, came from the stratum opposite the plinth; but was so badly corroded that it fell to pieces during the process of cleaning. Another find that seems worthy of record was a fragment of local sandstone worked on two faces: one of them covered with a thick layer of pinkish mortar; the other with a curious, but very faintly indicated carving, representing, apparently, a nude figure seated left on a chair or couch.

In the second shaft cut in the centre of the Edwardian tower, close up to the facing of the City Wall, all that remained of the Roman fortress wall at that point, consisted of the plinth and chamfered plinth. There was no definite trace of footings to the City Wall, but just a jumble of rock rubble mixed with dark-coloured earth.

The Edwardian Tower. At the time of its discovery, Councillor P. H. Lawson kindly gave the following information regarding the period of its construction:—

“As to the date of the tower I have searched for parallels, and find that it agrees best with the Edwardian drum towers of the walls of Conway, built between 1285 and 1295 A.D. Whereas the City wall on the south side of the tower has been built up from the level of the existing upper courses of the Roman work, the portion within the area of the tower itself rested upon the rubble base, at a much higher level, shewing that this portion of the existing City wall was built subsequently to the demolition of the tower. The

tower is clearly indicated on Braun's map of Chester, published in 1581, but does not appear in later maps shewing the defences of Chester."

We are extremely indebted to the City authorities for permission to explore the relics on this site; and furthermore for so generously supplying the necessary unskilled labour for carrying out further excavations adjoining the Drum Tower: to the City Engineer, Mr. Charles Greenwood for the initiation and furtherance of the project: and to the late Alderman Wall, Chairman of the Improvement Committee, who agreed to the laying bare of the tower and to the preservation of the upper courses of ashlar *in situ* as they now are (1946).

My apologies are due for the late appearance of this record, but it was excluded together with several other finds from my former "Records" owing to want of space and funds.

THE S.E. ANGLE OF THE ROMAN FORTRESS.

(Plate ix, fig. 2)

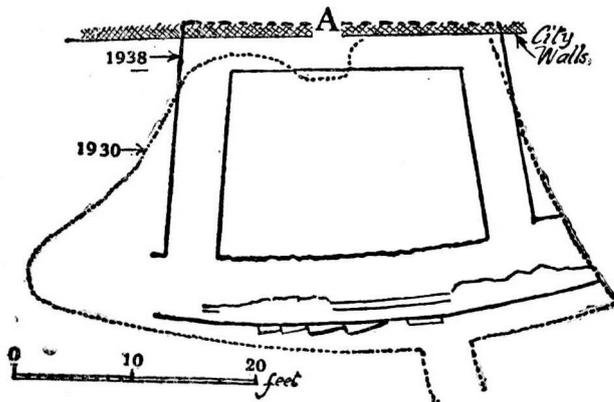


Fig. 2.

In March, 1938, the City Engineer, Mr. Charles Greenwood, gave permission to tunnel under the City Walls in

order if possible to fix the north-western angle of the internal tower of the S.E. angle of the Roman fortress. Our excavations proved successful. Furthermore, our work proved conclusively, that there was no trace of an inner wall or revetment to the earthen rampart extending westwards from the back wall of the tower *at that point*.

The results of our discoveries in 1938 are added to the plan (fig. 2) published in the *C.A.J.* in 1932 (vol xxix, pl. xvii). From this it may be gathered that the external dimensions of the tower from the outer ashlar courses to the N.W. angle gave a total length of approximately 20ft.; and the thickness of the back wall was 4ft.; the latter being of the same dimensions as the bilateral walls.

In cutting through the earthen rampart to clear the N.W. angle one found that the stratification resembled that which was discovered in the interior of the tower, consisting of streaks and patches of vari-coloured earth: red clay, grey loam, blackish earth (? turf), with here and there traces of flat pieces of timber; the last named lying horizontally across the structure.

No datable objects were discovered during our deliberate operations in 1938. But during 1937 somewhat extensive repairs were being carried out by the City authority on the northern face of the City Walls, immediately *over* the structural remains of the north wall of the Roman tower. In removing the loose rubble from the core of what may be termed the mediæval structure two objects of much interest were dislodged:—

- (1) The upper portion of a Saxon cross of Bunter sandstone (pl. vii, fig. 1, p. 157); and
- (2) The lower portion of a draped figure mounted on a rectangular pedestal (pl. ix).

Furthermore in sinking a cut for the foundations of the new facing of ashlar work two relics of the Roman occupation were unearthed:—

- (a) A ballista ball of Bunter sandstone weighing, when dry, 2lbs. 7ozs.; and

- (b) A large fragment of a Samian Bowl (Form 37), the decoration consisting, chiefly, of a bear to the right (Déch. 809=Osw. 1595), and a wild boar (Déch. 828=Osw. 1642); obviously from the Lezoux Province and datable to the Trajan—Hadrian period=A.D. 98—138.

The area of the City Walls where all four relics were found is marked A on the plan of the S.E. angle of the Roman fortress (fig. 2, p. 56).

The relic carved in local sandstone (Bunter beds) and illustrated on Plate ix is a rather puzzling piece of sculpture. Here we have the lower portion of a draped figure standing on a pedestal; the latter bearing a striking resemblance to a small Roman altar, with classical mouldings at the top and base; and on the front face is a large, raised, diamond-shaped *motif* extending between the mouldings. That portion of the drapery which terminates just above the knees has a strongly serrated flounce, which may represent the folds of the overmantle or *palla* of a Roman dress. The rest of the drapery extends to the feet, above which it ends in heavy folds. As stated above, it was found, together with the Saxon cross, in the loose rubble core of the City Walls. I venture to vote that it is of Roman origin; but it is difficult to decide whether the dress represents that which was worn by man or woman; nor can I assign it to any precise age of the Roman period.

It may be of interest to add that a very large ballista ball of local sandstone was found in Newgate Street in 1938, about fifty paces North of the New Gate (Pepper Gate); that is within short range of the Roman S.E. angle tower. It weighed 11lbs. 8ozs. and had a maximum diameter of 7.2in. One wonders if this missile formed part of the ammunition used by the Roman soldiers who manned the defensive tower? This makes the second example found nearby.

**FRODSHAM STREET
SITE OF LORD RAGLAN HOTEL.**

(Fig. 3, Nos. 1—7).

THIS site proved rich in small material finds; but the major portion of them was retained by the contractor, including a bronze finger-ring, two coins, and a fair amount of pottery. Among the last named was a potter's stamp on a Samian bowl (form uncertain) stamped CELS M. = Celsianus of Lezoux; and a rim fragment of a hammer-head type of *mortarium* of 3rd—4th century origin.

When overhauling the collection of Roman pottery I noted several examples that were new or noteworthy finds for Chester; these were kindly presented to me, and were subsequently added to the collections in the Grosvenor Museum. A description of the pieces follows:—

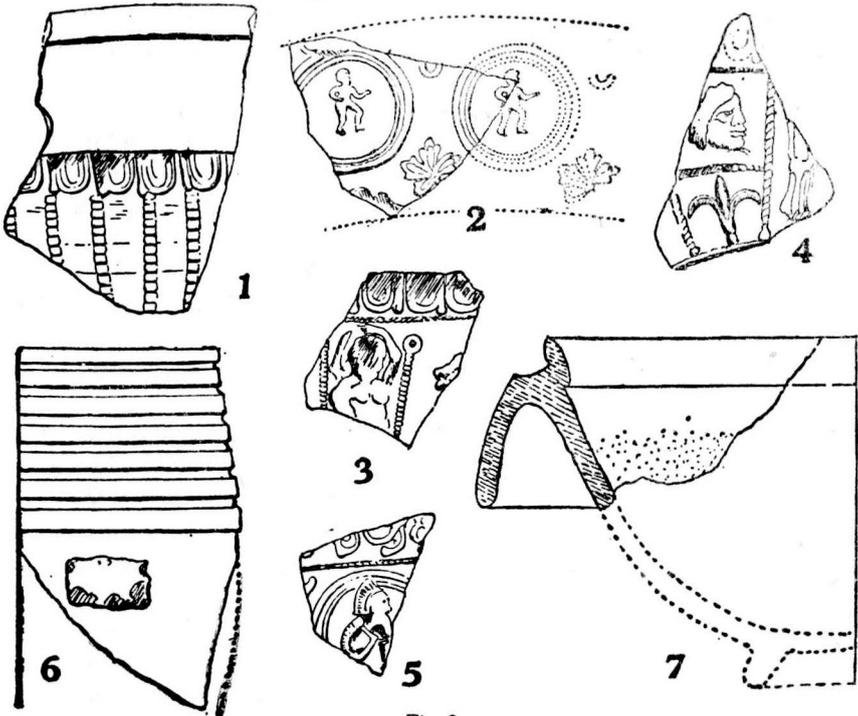


Fig 3.

SAMIAN WARE.

(Text figs. 1—7).

No. 1. Fragment of form 37. The decoration below the large ovolo consists of rectangular bead-rows, arranged vertically, each row leading from the tongue of the ovolo border. Walters' (B.M. *Cat. M.*190) describes a complete example from "Merseburg, near Leipzig, Saxony. Probably Rheinzabern fabric." May (*Colchester*, pl. xxxi, A) (*Silchester*, pl. xxix, 136) also records similar examples from those sites. (See also Oswald and Pryce *Terra Sigillata*, pl. xxix, fig. 10).

No. 2. Form 37. Fragment from lower portion of bowl with portions of two rather widely separated medallions, formed by concentric rings; in the centre of each a small figure of a *putto* (Oswald, 414). In the space between the medallions a large rosette, and above it portions of an incomplete tendril or the like. Probably Trèves ware. Period: late second century.

Dr. Oswald informs me (May 17th, 1946) that "the little *putto* (O.414) only recorded from Trèves is certainly Trèves ware, and the rosette is probably Fölzer's type 842, and belongs to Class I of the Trèves potters, Antonine in date."

No. 3. Form 37. Large blurred ovolo with the tongue attached to the right side. Part of panel divided by a moniliform *motif*, enclosing upper portion of figure of Apollo. Probably a variant of Oswald's 91, 91A, 91B. Period: second century.

No. 4. Form 37. Panel decoration divided by cable-lines; upper panel with large mask (not in Oswald's *Index*); lower panel with trifoliate *motif*. Period: probably Antonine.

No. 5. Form 37. Part of medallion enclosing warrior holding shield in right hand. Not traceable in Oswald's *Index*. Period: probably Antonine.

No. 6. Barrel-shaped mug of fine red clay. A large fragment from the upper portion of a vessel of this form, showing the position of the attachment of the upper end of

the handle. For a complete example *cf* *Bonner Jahrbücher*, Heft 114—115 (1906), fig. 8, p. 370.

Grimes (*Holt*, 157, No. 18) describes a similar type of vessel, but his example has a well-formed neck, to which the handle is attached.

No. 7. Mortarium of Samian Ware. A variant of Dragendorff's form 43, near Ludowici's R.S.Md., as figured by Oswald and Pryce (*Terra Sigillata*) No. 7, pl. lxxiii. Dated second half of second century. This form of Rheinzabern ware seems to be extremely rare in Chester.

PEPPER STREET, NORTH (1941-42).

(Figs. 4, 5).

A rectangular shaft or "sump" was excavated on the north side of Pepper Street measuring 16ft. 6in. by 10ft. 6in. and 8ft. 3in. to 8ft. 6in. deep. The distance from its north-east angle to the kerb in Pepper Street was 57ft. 6in.; and its south-east corner or angle 103ft. from the south-east corner of St. Michael's Church.

When the excavations began it was hoped that a section of the southern wall of the Roman fortress would be intersected, as the conjectural line of the fortress seems to run in this direction. But no such luck. Instead we found a square sided pit of solid masonry measuring 5ft. 7in. by 5ft. 7in. (inside) occupying a central position in the cut, and whose sandstone flagged floor rested upon good Chester sandstone rock; the ground outside the thickish walls had also been disturbed in laying the foundations, and all trace of Roman structural remains—if any existed on this spot—had been destroyed. At the north and south ends of the cut for a foot or so above the rock, the stratum consisted of grey clay silt, irregularly interstratified with thinnish darker patches, possibly decomposed turf. In this formation was a 3Æ Roman coin with radiate crown (Victorinus?), A.D. 260—290; and a fragmentary roofing tile, but no other relics of Roman times.

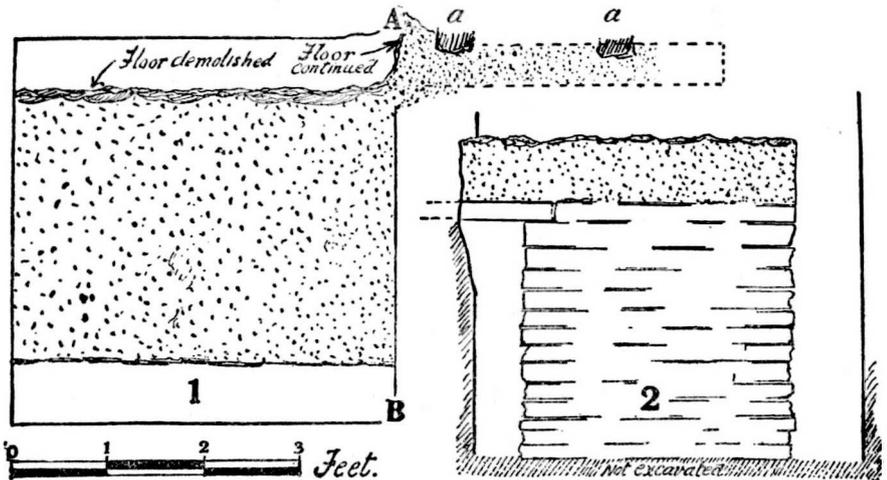


Fig. 4. Pepper Street N. Structural remains (floor) of Roman building : No. 1, plan. No. 2, Section A—B. aa—approximate position of pilæ.

On August 24th, 1942, I was asked to date a small chip of mortar which had been broken from a great mass of concrete found in excavating a small shaft four feet square in the site of the Grosvenor Garage. I did not await the arrival of the relic, but proceeded immediately to inspect the excavations, and found that a section of the structural remains of a Roman building had been exposed, 3ft. 6in. below the surface, and that it occupied the major portion of the shaft. Its surface was very uneven and showed evident signs of having been damaged long ago, but at what period it was impossible to determine as the overlying earth had been carted away, and the sides of the shaft above the structure showed no signs of stratification. Some attempt was made to clear the southern face of the structure, but the space was so narrow (8 inches) and "rubbly" that only a shallow layer could be removed. To avoid the destruction of the structure it was suggested that another shaft be sunk immediately in advance (S.) of the first, but the Contractor did not approve and gave instructions for the whole block to be removed with an electric drill;

by this means 3ft. 4in. of the structure was drilled out to the depth required, but even so the base of the foundations was not reached.

The site of this discovery lies 176ft. northwards from the frontage to Pepper Street, and its eastern extremity taken in alignment with the existing buildings intersected the street at a point 103ft. from the south-east corner of St. Michael's Church.

The floor of the structure was composed of hard brick and mortar concrete (*opus signinum*) of an average thickness of 8in., but the surface was very uneven and had evidently been mutilated. The southern face was flush with the outer face of the wall on which it rested, but the northern face was jagged and broken away, presumably when the building was demolished. The wall that supported the floor was 2ft. 10in. thick, composed entirely of regular courses of tiles set on thin beds of very finely pounded brick mortar varying in thickness from 0.7—0.4in. The majority of the tiles varied in thickness from 3—2.2in., and in their completeness evidently belonged to the Holt type, measuring 11.5 by 10.7in. Portions of two official stamps were found on these tiles (see below). Some pieces of box-tiles and one small tile 8in. square were used in the make up of the core. As the majority of the tiles on both sides of the wall had jagged edges it may be taken as a fair inference that, for the most part, broken examples only were used in its construction. By a lucky chance the north-east corner of the shaft fell in and revealed a slight extension of the floor northwards and of two pilæ supporting it. The latter were composed of broken tiles with jagged edges—a most unusual feature. Fortunately an electric lamp with "flex" was available and by slightly enlarging the cavity one was able to see that the floor was laid down on large tiles which supported the spaces between the pilæ. Shells of *Helix aspersa* were found in this small cavity beneath the floor.

LEGIONARY STAMPS.

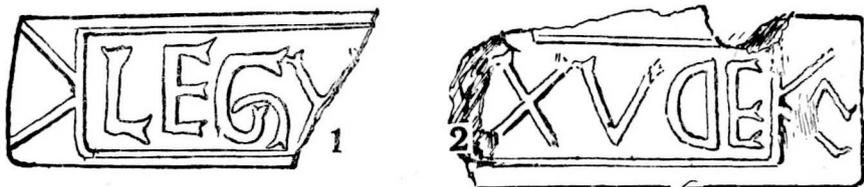


Fig. 5.

No. 1. LEGX[XVVDE] Holt type No. 12.

No. 2. [LEGX]XVDE Holt type No. 13.

The use of the DE at the end of the legend = *De(vensis)*, or *De(vae)*, can be matched on legionary stamps on sites in Moesia (cf. Haverfield, *E.E.* ix, 1274).

Both examples were used in the make-up of the outer wall of the building (fig. 4, No. 2).

CROOK STREET (East Side).

EXCAVATIONS on the east side of Crook Street were carried out in 1939, for an extension to Quellyn Roberts' Bonded Warehouse. The excavated area measured 62ft. (N—S) by 32ft. (E—W). The western boundary of the cut was set back from the existing street front to a distance of 12ft. and the superstratum of mixed deposits, 9ft. 10in. thick, above the natural rock was taken away.

The only structural remains of the Roman period that were revealed on this relatively large area was a small patch of tile-mortar flooring (*Opus signinum*) measuring 10ft. 4in. (E—W) by 2ft. (N—S). Its upper surface was fairly level, but it varied in thickness from 14.5in. in the centre to a maximum of 7in. at each extremity. It rested on a stratum of dirty sand with its upper surface 3ft. 10in. above the natural rock. Its position, as indicated by the *Ordnance Survey*, lies *c.* 120ft. northwards from the Water-gate Street frontage.

The Roman pottery was scantily represented and of little chronological value. But nine coins were rescued dating from A.D. 193—c. 343, of which details are here appended:

1. *Septimius Severus* (A.D. 193—211).
Denarius plated.
2. *Julia Domna* (A.D. 193—217).
Denarius plated.
- 3, 4. *Tetricus I* (A.D. 268—273).
Two of 3Æ. Both in poor condition.
5. *Claudius II Gothicus* (A.D. 268—270).
3Æ. In poor condition.
- 6, 7. *Radiate Crowns* (A.D. 260—c. 297).
- 8, 9. Constantine Family of uncertain attribution.

NEWGATE STREET, NEAR THE NEW GATE, MAY, 1931.

(Fig. 6, Nos. 1, 2).

MUCH Roman pottery and a coin of Antoninus Pius etc., were found in making the cut for an electric cable. Coarse ware pottery was represented by twenty-nine vessels consisting, chiefly, of late first and second century forms. The Samian ware (*Terra sigillata*) consisted of the following: Form 37, eight vessels; form 18/31, fourteen examples; the small cup form 27, three examples; and form 33, one example bearing the potter's stamp ERICIM; Oswald (p. 115) attributes the potter Ericus to the period Domitian—Trajan. Stamps of this potter have also occurred elsewhere in Chester: on form 33 in Watergate Street, 1933; and on 18/31 in Nicholas Street, 1939.

Bits of roof-tiles were common, and there were several fragments of wall-plaster colour-washed with red.

One vessel of Samian ware and a lamp in coarse ware clay seem worthy of record, and are herein described and illustrated:—

No. 1. Lamp of Walters' form 92 or 93 (B.M. *Cat. Rom. Lamps*, pl. xliii). Spout missing. Handle plain and relatively large, rim somewhat shallow with bilateral straps extending from it to the margin of the vessel. Buff-red clay coated with pale orange-red slip.

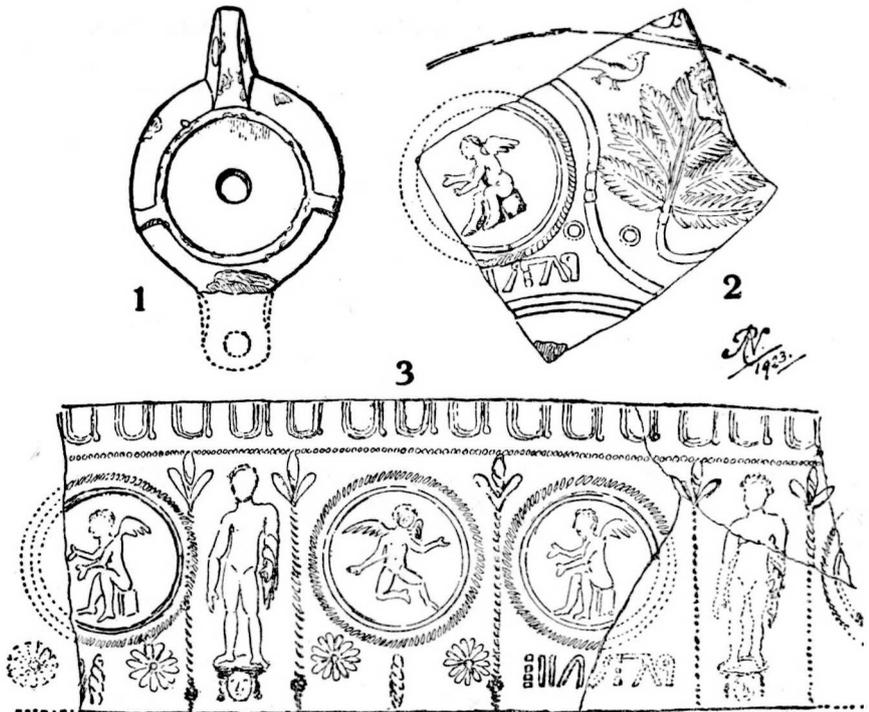


Fig. 6. Nos. 1 and 2, Newgate Street. No. 3, Hunter Street (1931).

This is probably of Holt manufacture and resembles Grimes' form No. 3 (*Holt*, 175, No 3, fig. 75). Roman lamps, however, seem to have been rarely found at the Holt Kilns, and they are also scantily represented at Chester.

No. 2. Bowl of form 37. The decoration of this fragment consists of a portion of a large scroll, tied in the centre with an astragalus, the lower cavity filled with a medallion enclosing a figure of Eros (Déch. 261. Oswald, 444A) and a small ring; and at the base of the medallion part of the stamp of the potter Paternus. The upper cavity (right) a peacock (Déch. 1027. Oswald, 2365) a large leaf, and a small ring. Déchelette (*T. I*, p. 289) gives an excellent figure of this remarkable stamp from a mould found at Lezoux. For other Chester-found examples of this form of Paternus' stamp see *Liverpool Annals*, xviii, 116, pl. xli, No. 3, and in this *Record* p. 67.

Period: Second century (Trajan—Antonine).

HUNTER STREET, 1939.

(Fig. 6, No. 3).

TOWARDS the close of October, 1939, a fine section of Samian bowl, form 30, was found in Hunter Street at a depth of about 4ft. 6in. below the surface. It consists of two fragments conjoined, and is of special interest as it bears a portion of the characteristic stamp of that prolific potter *Paternus*, whose period of activity, at Lezoux, is given as Trajan—Antonine.

Text fig. 6. No. 3. The ovolo border with the individual *motifs* rather widely separated and the "tongue" attached to the right. A fine bead-row separates the ovolo from the main panel or metope decorations, the latter divided by strong cable lines, enclosing large medallions and figure subjects:

- (1) Large medallion enclosing Eros (Déch. 261. Osw. 444), with large rosette and a central spindle-shaped *motif*.
- (2) Mercury on mask (Osw. 538).
- (3) Large medallion enclosing Eros (Déch. 264. Osw. 440), with two large, bilateral, rosettes and a central spindle-shaped *motif*.
- (4) Large medallion enclosing Eros as in " (1)," and below a portion of the potters stamp, retrograde.
- (5) Mercury as in " (2)."

For the missing portion of the potters stamp see No. 2 in the text figure. This curiously ligatured or monogram stamp PATERN FĒ when extended reads *Paternus fecit*.



THE CATHEDRAL.

(Fig. 7, No. 1).

ON October 3rd, 1924, some fragments of Roman pottery were obtained from a labourer engaged in excavating through the floor of the Crypt in the Cathedral. Three vessels were represented: A grey olla of an early type with an oblique rim; a small Samian dish of form 18 of late first century origin; and two fragments of a decorated Samian bowl of form 29. Details and an illustration of the last named follow:—

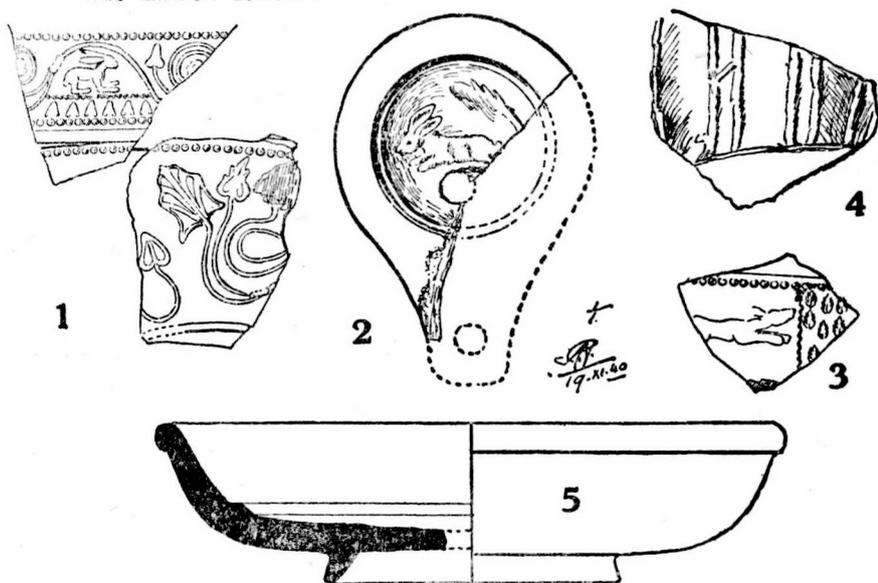


Fig. 7.

Fig. 7, No. 1. Dragendorff's form 29. Both friezes divided by bead-rows; the upper with a continuous winding scroll, one tendril ending with a central rosette, the other with a bud. The lower cavity is filled with a hare (Osw. 2049) resting on a wavy line and below it a row of arrowheads. The lower frieze, shows portions of a large winding scroll, one tendril ending with a large leaf as in Walters' (B.M. *Catalogue*) No. 27. Astragalus bindings are used in both friezes.

For the *motif* of the sitting hare Oswald (*Index*, p. 130) gives La Graufesenque as the source of manufacture, and the period as Claudius—Vespasian. Furthermore, three potters used this *motif* of whom *Medillus* seems to be the best known.

THE DEANERY FIELD.

(Fig. 7, No. 2).

AN interesting fragment of a Roman oil lamp was found in the Deanery Field, 1928, when filling in the excavated material. It was put aside with other casual finds and unfortunately, omitted from the report for that year¹. The fragment (fig. 7, No. 2) evidently belongs to Walters² pyriform types without handle (No. 81), approximating to his first century examples, notably Nos. 694, 700 and 713. Clay, pale ochreous buff, the exterior with traces of pale brown glaze sparsely dusted with golden mica. Inner surface of discus bearing the impress of a rather finely woven textile and mica dusted. Decoration of discus: a rabbit running to the left, and above it a badly blurred palm branch or frond.

The clay in this example is precisely similar to that used in the manufacture of the small cups from the Flavian deposit in the Princess Street Area³ and although the glaze is paler and less metallic it is obviously of a similar nature. Bushe-Fox (*Wroxeter*, 1914, 62, 63) gives an account of similar ware from Haltern and Hofheim. May (*Silchester*, 112, type 51) also records a similar ware.

¹ *Liverpool Annals*, xviii, pt. II, 1928.

² *Cat. Lamps*, B.M., p. 95.

³ *C.A.J.*, xxxiv, 22, fig. 2, nos. 4, 5.

CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL.

SAMIAN vessels of the following forms were secured from the cuts for the A.R.P. shelters in the school-yard, 9th November, 1939 :—

Form 37. Five examples (see below).

Form 45. Lion spouted *mortarium*. The lion spout is of a very primitive type consisting of a few finger-prints surrounding the spout. Poor glaze. Probably a late form of this type of vessel.

A few details of the decorated bowls (form 37) seem worthy of note as the *motifs* in some cases appear to be of Trajanic origin :—

1. Warrior with battle-axe and shield, like Oswald's 1087A, but *much* smaller. Ovolo with trifid tongue. Looks like Domitianic period.

2. Tongue of ovolo with large rosette, with a wavy line *above* and *below*, an unusual character. Upper half of nude figure (facing front) with both arms extended. In the field "three-bladed" acanthus leaves. *cf.* Price and Birley, *J.R.S.*, 1935, pl. xiv, No. 23. Trajanic.

3. Panel decoration. Panther (Osw. 1544), but with out indications of hair (Part of stag or deer in advance).
Period: Domitianic.

QUEEN STREET.

(Fig. 7, Nos. 3, 4).

THE Roman finds herein dealt with were discovered in the yard of the Cold Storage Company, Queen Street, in 1926. This area lies 530ft. due east from the Roman fortress wall. Formerly it was the site of an extensive tannery (see *Ordnance Survey*, 1875). Here the ground had been much disturbed by former excavations for a series of tan-pits, in fact the area was completely intersected by these structures. The sides of these old pits were still lined with slabs of oak, now blackened and distorted by age and earth pressure; and some pits contained quantities of oak bark. The site lies rather low, and water seeped into the cuts at a depth

of about five feet. A labourer who was employed to do the excavations, informed me that he worked formerly as a tanner in this yard and that "the pits were closed down about thirty years ago."

Here and there between the pits one could trace the Roman occupation level, but failed to find any very definite stratification. In spite of the great disturbances during recent years the site yielded a quantity of Roman pottery, much of it attributable to the late first and early second centuries.

The principal finds are recorded :—

SAMIAN WARE (Decorated).

No. 3. Form 29. Fragment from the upper frieze showing part of panel decoration divided by wavy-line: Dog (O. & P., v, 5) as used by the potter *Mommo*. The other panel enclosing pinnate leaves (O. & P., type 40). La Graufesenque provenance, and datable to the second half of the first century.

Of the other forms of decorated ware the following were represented: Form 37, seventeen small fragments were found, six of them with decoration of the transitional period. Form 30, two rim and side fragments; one with ovolo border near O. & P. 67. Form 78, one fragment showing wreath of leaves below a row of beads.

SAMIAN WARE (Plain).

Form 18/31, twenty-one; the late form of 31 preponderating. Form 33, one fragment. Form 27, eight pieces. Form 15/17 one fragment.

COARSE WARE.

No. 4. Fragment of a green-glazed bowl of Holt ware (*cf.* Grimes, *Holt*, 175, fig. 76). The clay in this example is of a hard grey texture, and the exterior of the vessel is decorated with pairs of vertical ribs and coated with dark green glaze.

Period: Late first to early second century.

Other forms of coarse ware pottery consisted of fragments of five cooking pots in hard fumed grey ware; one of them typical of the kind in use during the late first to early second century; also eight variants of the bowls with flanged and reeded rims (*cf.* p. 87, fig. 10. 1.). All such forms are frequently met with in late first—second century deposits in Chester.

“Egg-shell” ware was represented by the basal portion of a small cup, decorated externally with fine horizontal and closely set hair-lines. Found elsewhere in Chester in deposits of late first century.

Other material finds from this site included a small counter of fine hard slate, and a spindle whorl made from a sherd of fumed grey pottery.

JUNCTION OF CANAL AND RAYMOND STREET

(Fig. 7, No. 5).

At the junction of the streets named above, and at a depth of about four feet below the street level, broken *roof-tiles* were found together with two fragments of Samian Ware, attributable to the second century; also a large portion of a coarse ware dish (fig. 7, No. 5) of fine orange-red ware, in imitation of the Samian form 15/17, with a quarter round fillet at the junction of the side with the base. Although this form is not represented in the Holt collection, its general technique closely resembles the ware manufactured at that place.

BROOK STREET.

(Site of Gaumont Palace).

MANY fragments of Roman pottery came into my possession from this site. They were all casual finds by workmen, but they may throw some light on the periods of the occupation of the site. The Samian forms represented were: Form 18 (small early type) many; and the later transitional form of the same kind of dish (18/31) two examples. The

small cup (Form 27) three, one with part of stamp, but quite illegible. There was also a side fragment of Dragen-dorff's form 38, belonging to a type similar to Oswald and Pryce's No. 1 (pl. lxxii). The period covered by these sherds dates from the late first to the second half of the second century.

GROSVENOR PARK.

(A.R.P. Shelters, 1939).

The A.R.P. shelters were constructed on the eastern portion of the Grosvenor Park. Among the Roman pottery found in the excavations two examples are worthy of record:—

1. A fairly large section of a decorated Samian Bowl (form 37) with a dull orange glaze and panel decoration, divided by wavy-lines and with a wavy-line under the ovolo border and also below the panels. First panel divided; the upper portion with a dolphin (Osw. 2393) within a festoon; the lower with a panther or lion (not traceable in Oswald's figures). Second panel with a large conventional tree. The third with a Satyr (Osw. 592). The fourth with the dolphin and panther repeated.

2. Form 33, bearing the potter's stamp . . . IGA.FEC=
Biga fecit.

Period: Domitian—Hadrian, *i.e.* late first-early second century. This stamp is also recorded (p. 96) from the Ring O' Bells, Foregate Street.

SOUTERS LANE.

The Roman vessels recorded below were found in the cut for a new sewer east of the Newgate at the junction of Souters Lane, November, 1937.

POTTERS' STAMPS ON SAMIAN WARE.

1. $\widehat{\text{PEC}}\widehat{\text{VLI}}\widehat{\text{AR}}\cdot\text{F}$. *Peculiaris fecit*, of Lezoux. On 27 (large) with excellent glaze.

Period: Domitian—Antonine.

2. DAGOMARVS. *Dagmarus*. On 18 (small) fine glaze.

Period: Flavian *i.e.* late first century.

In addition to the above there were two fragments of form 37—one Flavian, the other Antonine; and one sherd of Walters' form 82.

I could not trace any definite stratification as the deposit appeared to have been previously disturbed.

THOMAS STREET.

Thomas Street lies about 500 feet almost due east from the north-east angle of the fortress. In this street the Roman occupation layer was reached at an average depth of 2ft. 6ins. It consisted, for the most part, of blackish soil heavily charged with charcoal; and along the southern half of the street the deposit was heavily charged with *disintegrated iron*. The subsoil which was reached, in a few places, consisted of greyish clay-loam, and the worm-borings in this were heavily stained with iron from the overlying deposit. The Roman pottery found on this site came chiefly from the southern half of the street.

SAMIAN WARE.

Five vessels were represented: Two of form 18/31, and three of form 37. Of the latter one fragment had a portion of the upper frieze divided by blurred bead-rows. To the left part of a lion; and on the right a conventional plant ornamented as in Walters M.148; with bilaterals as in M.536 (*cf. B.M. Cat. Rom. Pottery*).

COARSE POTTERY.

Mortaria. Three examples were found:—

1. Bushe-Fox type 14. Of late first century origin.
2. Bushe-Fox type 58. In use during the late first and first half of the second century. Two examples.

Among the other coarse ware vessels were the bases of three cooking pots, a beaker and the rim of a large store jar.

This is the only site on which I have found marked traces of the manufacture of iron, in some form or other, that seems to have been carried out during the Roman occupation at Chester.

FOREGATE STREET.

(Site of Marks and Spencer's Shop).

(Pl. iv, No. 1. Fig. 8, Nos. 1—6).

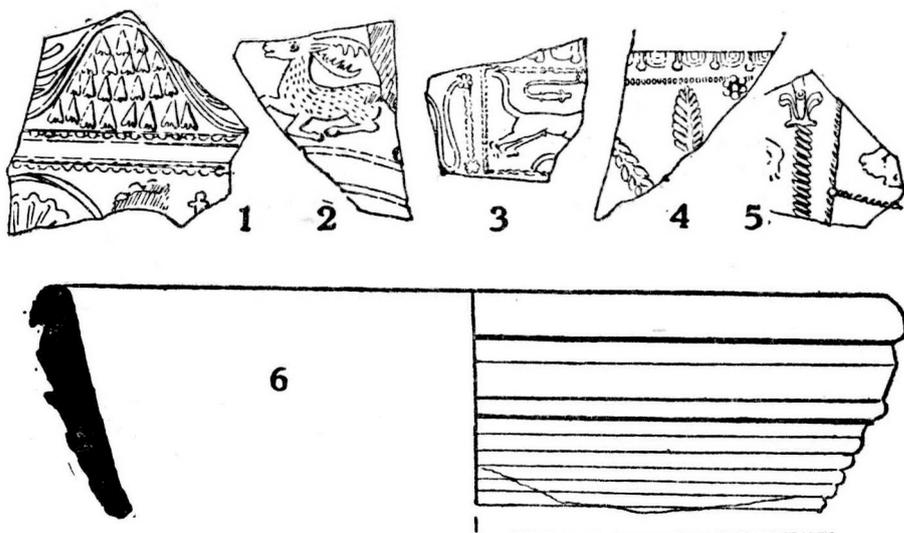


Fig. 8—Foregate Street (Mark's and Spencer's). Roman pottery.

The contractor's excavations on this site yielded a fair amount of Roman pottery, dating from the late first to the closing years of the second century; the more important examples are described in this record. No structural remains of Roman buildings were observed.

The excavations carried out in 1931 extended along a narrow strip on the E. side of the then existing building. Those in 1937, extended southwards to a distance from the street frontage of about 160 feet.

SAMIAN WARE.

(Fig. 9, Nos. 1—5).

No. 1. Dragendorff's form 29. Upper frieze with part of winding scroll, the lower cavity filled with arrow heads. Lower frieze with part of intersecting arc enclosing leaf with crenellated edge.

Period: late Flavian.

No. 2. Form 29. Part of lower frieze with stag couchant (Déch. 862. Oswald 1746) in which the indications of hair are strongly indicated; and the left (lower) antler has more "points" than are usually shown in existing illustrations.

Period: Flavian.

No. 3. Bowl form 37. Portions of panel decoration divided by blurred wavy lines: (1) Part of tendril tied to vertical bead-row with large rosette; (2) part of dog or lion to right, above it a tendril ending with astragalus. This form of decoration seems to resemble that of the La Graufesenque potter Crestio, whose period of activity is given by Oswald (*Stamps*, 96, ii) as Domitian—Trajan. For a Chester found stamp of this potter see page 84 of this issue.

No. 4. Drag. 37 (large). Ovolo with the tongue ending in a large rosette (blurred); bead-row below tied at the angle of a panel with a rosette of seven pellets. A large pinnate leaf (Déch. 1175, Paternus), and part of wheat-ear or the like.

Period: Probably Antonine.

No. 5. Form 37. Decoration in arcades and panels. The arch in this fragment is supported by a large cabled column, capped with conventional leaves (Acanthus?). The panel with the lower portion of a draped figure of a female.

Period: Probably late second century.

(Plate iv, No. 1).

Bowl form 30. Decoration in panels divided by what were apparently wavy lines, but these are so imperfect and blurred that where there is any trace of the design left it

bears a faint resemblance to cable-lines. The angles are tied with small rosettes. The large ovolo border has a tridentate tongue. The decoration within the panels consist chiefly of figure subjects given in sequence, left to right:—

(1) Full panel with warrior to left (Oswald 992). La Graufesenque. Domitian. (2) Divided: Upper panel with bird to right (Osw. 2232A). Lower panel with Seilenos holding a bunch of grapes (Osw. 597), over tuft of grass. La Graufesenque. Domitianic. (3) Hercules (Osw. 752B). Germanus style. Tendrils in upper angles. (4) Divided: Upper panel with bird to left. Lower with Seilenos as in (2). (5) Warrior (Déch. 149, Osw 209). La Graufesenque. Domitian. (6) Divided: Upper with Pan; middle, damaged; lower with tufts of grass. (7) Diana and hind (Osw. 104). Style of Germanus. Tendril in upper corner. (8) Divided: Upper with Eros (Déch. 253), nude man (Osw. 646); middle panel damaged; lower panel with tufts of grass. (9) Full panel with warrior as in (1).

The figure subjects in this fine example are in relatively high relief; and slightly over half the vessel is represented. Its height (5.5in.) is less than the diameter of the rim (6.2in.); and there are shallow flutings above and below the main decoration. These characteristics together with the details of the main decoration all point to its production during the late first century A.D.

Found during "casual" excavations at the back of Marks and Spencer's premises about 160 feet south of the frontage in Foregate Street, in 1931.

This vessel has admitted complete restoration, and is the finest example of its kind now preserved in the Grosvenor Museum.

POTTERS' STAMPS ON SAMIAN WARE.

CARANT F. *Carantus* of Ittenweiler. On form 18/31. Dated by Oswald (*Stamps*) as Trajan—Hadrian.

OF PASSE: *Passenus* or *Passienus*. On large form of 18. Underneath the centre of the base a large V is incised.

Period: Nero—Vespasian.

IAN. This may prove to be a stamp of the Potter *Ianus* of South Gaul, but this needs confirmation. On a small Cup of form 27 with a grooved foot-ring; and the glaze is rather heavily burnt.

Period: Probably late first century.

COARSE POTTERY.

No. 6. Upper portion of a large hemispherical bowl; evidently a variant of the Holt forms described by Grimes (*Holt*, 172, Nos. 227 a—f). Clay reddish-buff. Side of vessel strongly beaded; but the first bead below the rim is sharply angular. Diameter of rim *c.* 8.5 inches.

This is an interesting example of Holt ware and seems worthy of record, although similar forms have been found elsewhere in Chester.

FOREGATE STREET.

(Site of Littlewood's new premises, 1938).

(Pl. iv; Fig. 9, Nos. 1—3).

The eastern boundary to this site is formed by the passage to Commercial Court. The area herein dealt with covers a relatively narrow strip of land (E. to W.) but extends northwards from the frontage to the street to a distance of about 192 feet. Cuts for the foundations of the external walls were made on all four sides of the area; and a large square shaft, at the northern end of the site, was excavated for a heating apparatus. The last named yielded a fair amount of Roman pottery in a stratum six to eight feet below the existing surface; unfortunately soon after the Roman level was laid bare one side of the cut fell in, resulting in a great mix up of pottery of many periods. Elsewhere Roman material was scantily represented owing to disturbance in mediæval and later periods. No structural remains were seen, and fragments of Roman roof-tiles were very scarce.

Four shafts were sunk in a line with the kerb of the street; they varied in dimension, but averaged, in plan, 4ft. x 3ft. 6ins., and were carried down to the surface of the soft rock at an average depth of 7ft. 6ins. below the level of the street, The Roman stratum had an average

thickness of 14ins., and rested, for the most part, on the surface of the solid virgin sand or rock; it was heavily charged with pottery, the four shafts yielding a total of 202 fragments. The sherds were datable from Flavian times (*OF VIRILI*) to the late third or fourth century.

Samian Ware from the Main Site.

(Plate iv., Nos. 2, 2a).

Bowl form 78.—Panel decoration divided by wavy lines terminating in large (blurred) rosettes. Bead-row above, but this for the most part had been cut away by the shallow groove above it. Small panel with Eros (*Déch* 253), or nude man (*Osw.* 646). Large panel with hunting scene: Diana with small pug-nosed dog (*Osw.* 110), a conventional tree, the three branches terminating with large deeply divided leaves (*Déch.* 1136), in the style of Germanus. Deer over tufts of grass (*Déch.* 859, *Osw.* 1738, *Claudius—Domitian*). Each of the two panels are repeated three times.

About three-fourths of this delightful vessel is represented, and it has admitted of complete restoration.

Glaze good and typical of La Graufesenque provenance.

Period: Flavian and probably Domitian, A.D. 81-96.

From the cut on the west side of the area about 66ft. N. from the kerb in Foregate Street.

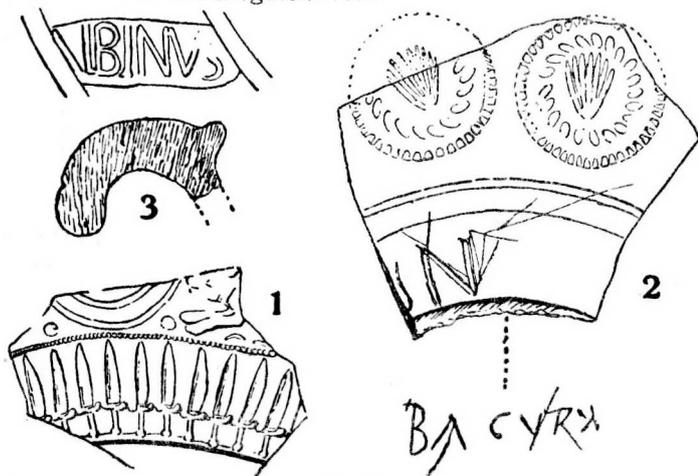


Fig. 9.

Roman Pottery from the shafts in the street.

No. 1.—Bowl form 37. Good dark glaze. Decoration in two zones, divided by bead-row; upper zone with portion of large scroll, the lower cavity (right) with fore part of large dog, probably Oswald's 2000. Lower zone with a series of sword-life *motifs* very faintly impressed. Curle (*Fort of Newstead*, 210, fig. 4) gives a precisely similar form of decoration which he describes as "a row of long pointed leaves with stems". Period probably early second century.

No. 2.—Form 37.—This fragment is from a very thick-walled vessel. The glaze is poor, mat-like and of a rather pale orange colour. The clay soft and cuts easily. The decoration consists of two medallions each formed of two concentric wreaths, the inner wreath of somewhat ovate *motifs*, the outer one of a "cog-wheel" pattern. In the centre a relatively large palmate shell of seven or eight rays. The design is badly impressed and difficult to follow in all its details. There is a graffito inside the base and part of another graffito between the foot-ring and the decoration.

Dr. Felix Oswald, to whom a tracing of my drawing was submitted has very kindly supplied the following information regarding the decoration of this vessel: "I think this is Trèves ware by MAIIAVS. He uses not only the circle of wedges but also the shell, both together on Fölzer XVIII 20. The shell is Fölzer's type 708 of Trèves, and the circles of wedges, his type 825".

In his *Index of Potters' Stamps* (p. 178), Dr. Oswald dates the period of "MAIIAVS" activities as "Late Antonine into Third Century".

This is an exceptional find for Chester. The approximate period of activity of the pottery at Trèves (Trier) is given by Dr. Oswald (*l.c.* p. xix) as A.D. 110-240. Our example is obviously a late product of that site.

Potters' Stamps on Samian Ware.

ANAIL—*Anaillus* of Lezoux. Form doubtful but probably a small 27.

Period: Trajan—Hadrian.

BELLINICCI. *Belliniccus* of Lezoux.

Period : Trajan—Antonine.

CALVI (Retrograde). *Calvus* of Graufesenque. On 27; good glaze; no groove on foot-ring.

Period : Mainly Vespaian.

ELV . . . LI.—This is uncertain but probably *Elvillus* of Lezoux.

On 33. On a fragment from the base of the vessel, used apparently as a counter in a game of chance or skill.

OF - VIRILI—*Virilis* of La Graufesenque. On form 18 with excellent glaze.

Period : Flavian.

Coarse Ware Pottery.

Three types of mortaria occurred among numerous fragments of other forms of coarse ware vessels in the cuts for the stanchions. Of Collingwood's types there were seven of his form No. 13, and one of No. 14. This, for Chester, is an unusual proportion of hammer-head examples, and characteristic of the third and fourth century periods.

Of the earlier forms of mortaria that bearing the stamp of the potter *Albinus* (fig. 9, No. 3) seems worthy of record. It belongs to Bushe-Fox's form 34, but differs slightly in having the rim grooved and the internal bead is much more pronounced. The stamp, however, is identical with that recorded from Wroxeter (1912). The clay of our example is drab coloured and has a pinkish core.

Period : Late first-early second century. For parallels see *Wroxeter*, 1912.

Lamp-Holder of Lead.

The lamp-holder of lead found on this site is of the usual form; but the spout-end had been melted away and the strap-handle broken off near its junction with the side.

(Site of Hop Pole Hotel).

Pl. v., fig. 10).

The old Hop Pole Hotel was demolished in 1923-1924 to make way for Stead and Simpson's new buildings. The site in question lies on the north side of Foregate Street, and the centre of its frontage *circa* 140 feet from the East Gate

The position of this once famous hotel is clearly indicated on the Ordnance Sheet of 1875¹, from which one gathers that the northern boundary of the premises was fixed at a point of about 90ft. from the street frontage. Rock was reached in the front area of the site at about 8ft. below the surface; elsewhere the excavations revealed boulder clay only. The drainage system was carried eastwards (chiefly by tunnelling) into Frodsham Street. Unfortunately one had few opportunities of inspecting the site during the excavations, but by giving ample rewards for the small material finds, one was able to secure a somewhat extensive collection of pottery from this relatively small area lying, as it does, in close proximity to the outer defences on the east side of the fortress.

So far as one could judge no trace of the structural remains of Roman buildings were discovered on this site, but a small piece of a mosaic floor was found that was composed of five rows of white and one of black tesserae, set in fine "pink mortar", the colour being due to a free admixture of very finely pounded brick or tile.

The only other form of building material that one was able to secure was a small tile such as were used extensively here and elsewhere, in forming herring-bone pavements: size $4\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ ins.

No coins were handed to me from this site; but there is nearly always a leakage of such finds from casual excavations. In my experience pieces of money find a ready sale at the nearest pot-house!

The chronological evidence afforded by the pottery found on this site points to an intensive occupation during the latter half of the first and throughout the second century; but late third and fourth century material was very scantily represented. This evidence confirms the data obtained from other sites in Chester, especially along the line of Foregate Street.

¹ *C.A.J.*, OS. xxx, 11, 18.

The amount of Samian Ware recovered from this small area is certainly remarkable; all the more so because of the preponderance of early forms, and also the variety of forms represented. A brief record is given of this ware, and the more important examples of the decorated vessels are figured and described

Decorated Samian Ware (Summary).

- Dragendorff—Form 29—Eleven different vessels represented, including a large proportion of one vessel (pl. v., No. 1).
 „ Form 37—Fourteen vessels represented of which the majority belong to the early period of the occupation.
 „ Form 30—Two vessels represented.
 Déchelette—Form 67—Two vessels represented.

Plain Samian Ware.

- Dragendorff—Form 18—Five examples, all good early forms.
 „ Form 18/31—Thirteen—mostly large late forms.
 „ Form 27—Thirty-five sherds, many vessels represented.
 „ Form 33—Seven fragments.
 „ Form 35—One fragment.
 „ Form 38—Four pieces = Oswald & Pryce. Nos. 6 & 7.
 Walters—Form 81—Rim and side-fragment.
 Curle—Form 11—Twelve pieces, all belonging to a single large vessel, of quite typical form.
 Ink pot—One small fragment. A vessel rarely represented at Chester.

Decorated Samian Ware (Illustrated).

(Plate v., Nos. 1—13).

No. 1 Dragendorff's form 29.—Many fragments conjoined representing more than half the original bowl. Decoration in the style of the potter *Calvus* (Knorr *T.S.* 1919, pl. 17). Upper frieze with continuous winding scroll, the tendrils

with moniliform bindings ending in heart-shaped leaves; the lower spaces filled alternately with horizontal rows of arrow heads; a bead-row above and below. Middle frieze of godroons, with wavy-line below. Lower frieze of festoons, the tassels with a spiral twist: (1) enclosing bird to r. (Déch. 1009. Osw. 2247); (2) spiral ending in rosette; (3) the same reversed; (4) bird to left (Osw. 2250); 5 and 6 as in 2 and 3.

The glaze and general technique of this vessel are excellent. Period: Knorr A.D. 60—85.

No. 2.—Form 29.—Fragment from upper portion of vessel. Upper frieze with a winding scroll, the tendrils ending in a large rosette on tridentate leaves. Arrangement of bead-rows and godroons as in No. 1.

No. 3.—Form 29.—Fragment of lower frieze. In this example the decoration consists of part of a panel divided by a wavy-line enclosing a dog running over a row of arrow-heads, and above it part of the potter's stamp M CRE [STIO] upside down. Déchelette (*L. Vases*. Tome I., p. 268) gives an excellent illustration of this strong stamp, so that there can be no doubts as to the identity of our example. Very few stamps of this potter have been recorded. Oswald (*Stamps*, p. 96) gives La Graufesenque as the provenance, and the period as Domitian—Trajan = A.D. 81—117.

No. 4.—Form 29.—Fragment of upper portion of vessel. Decoration of upper frieze showing part of winding scroll, the tendril terminating with a pair of large serrated leaves, the spaces below filled with pinnate leaves; the arrangements of bead-rows and godroons as in Nos. 1 and 2.

No. 5. Form 29.—Portion of large scroll, the tendrils ending in large leaves resembling those on the bowl by *Patricius*, figured by Atkinson (*Pompeii* No. 34).

No. 6.—Form 37.—Part of panel decoration divided by wavy lines. The cruciform ornaments with bilateral tendrils ending in heart-shaped leaves, and the pair of central motifs with pomegranates on tripartite stems.

Period: Probably Domitian. A.D. 81—96.

No. 7.—Form 37.—Ovolo with tridentate tongue. Portions of three panels divided by wavy lines tied at the angles by large rosettes; in the full panel part of semi-nude figure; upper panel with rabbit to r. (Osw. 2079); lower panel with three oblique bilateral rows of wavy lines enclosing a triangular space filled with pinnate leaves. Flavian period.

No. 8.—Form 37.—Fragment with conventional tree (near Déch. 1136), with bird at top.

No. 9.—Form 37.—Fragment with portion of a large scroll, the space below with part of a medallion enclosing portion of Eros (? Déch. 246) and rabbit seated (Osw. 2050). Flavian period.

No. 10.—Form 37.—Medallion enclosing eagle with wings displayed (Déch. 982, Osw. 2181). Tendril ending with heart-shaped leaf. La Graufesenque. Flavian Period.

No. 11.—Form 37.—Part of panel decoration, divided by blurred wavy-lines. Part of wild boar to left, and tuft of conventional leaves below.

No. 12.—Form 37.—Panel decoration divided by wavy lines, tied at the angles with a large rosette. Ovolo border with the tongue ending in a relatively large rosette. First panel (left) with stag couchant (Déch. 362, Osw. 1746) over tufts of grass; second filled with arrow-heads; third with draped figure to left; fourth with stag couchant to right (Déch. 845, Osw. 1700), and tufts of grass below. Lower zone with wreath of tripartite leaves. La Graufesenque and Banassac. Flavian period.

No. 13.—Form 37.—Fragment showing part of compound stalk-scroll. Probably Flavian.

Potters' Stamps on Samian Ware.

OF CALVI: *Calvus*.—On Drag.—Form 18. Brilliant glaze. Period: A.D. 80—110.

. . .] TRICI part of *Patrici* on Drag.—Form 27. Cf. Hayter's list Nos. 93—95. Period: A.D. 60-85.

Portions of five additional stamps were found—all on form 18; all either too fragmentary (four) or illegible (one).

Coarse Ware (not illustrated).

This site was rich in Roman pottery belonging to many different types; the majority belonging to the early period of the Roman occupation, and few that can be attributed to the third or fourth centuries.

Cooking Pots.—Fragments of these vessels were very common, and the majority may be attributed to the late first and second centuries.

Flagons. The forms represented were Bushe-Fox's No. 3 (two examples) and his No. 4 (one example); one near Curle's No. 5, etc.

Fluted Beaker.—One in thin, hard red clay, and mica dusted. Near Bushe-Fox's type No. 54 (*Wroxeter*, 1913, 50). Dated A.D. 80-120.

Cup in imitation of Dragendorff form 27.—In very hard dark grey ware—possibly an example of so-called *Terra nigra ware*. It is quite an exceptional kind of ware for Chester.

Period: Probably Domitian.

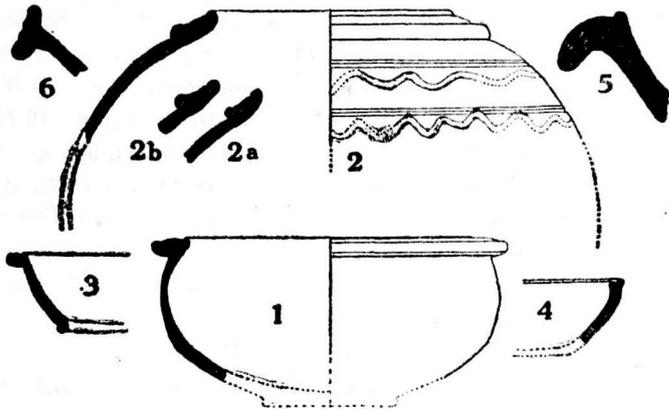
Coarse Ware (illustrated).

Fig. 10.

No. 1—*Bowl.*—Very hard, slaty-grey, with a distinctly metallic lustre on the upper surface of the rim. This is a slight variant of the carinated bowls with flat reeded or grooved rims so frequently met with here and elsewhere

on early Roman sites. Bushe-Fox (*Wroxeter*, 1912, p. 70) states that these vessels "are common at the close of the first century and last into the reign of Hadrian". Many pieces of the more typical form also occurred on this site.

No. 2.—*Urn or Stone Jar*.—Hard, smooth, pale brick red ware, remarkably free from grit or sand. Rim almost flat with both edges strongly beaded. There are two pairs of girth grooves and between them and below them respectively, a rough wavy line. The rim sections of two similar examples are also shown (figs. 2a and 2b), but both examples are coated with a thin cream slip. For other Chester examples see *Annals of Archæology and Anthropology*, xi., 73, pl. ix., figs. 3 and 4).

One rim fragment of a type similar to those from Chester, was found at the Roman Fort of Newstead. Curle (p. 245) states that "this came from the ditch of the early fort, and should therefore belong to the first century. This is confirmed by the occurrence of a few pieces of similar urns at Hofheim."

No. 3.—*Dish* of hard pinkish ware, the inner surface mica coated. Sides slightly curved; rim flat with a triple bead of which the central one is obliquely notched. This example is typical of the Holt form 152, of which one example is recorded by Grimes.

No. 4.—*Dish*.—Variant of Holt form 149. Brick-red ware.

No. 5.—*Mortarium*. Brick-red ware with a thin coat of pinkish wash. Near Bushe-Fox's form 58 (*Wroxeter*, 1912), and dated to the close of the first and first half of the second century.

No. 6.—*Mortarium* in hard white clay, near Bushe-Fox's form 186 (*loc.*, p. 80). Dated "about the end of the third or the fourth century.

(Site of the "Old Queen's Head Hotel").

(Figs. 11, 12).

The Old Queen's Head Hotel in Foregate Street, N., was demolished in 1938, to make way for an entirely new build-

ing under the same sign. One half of the building was removed at first and this revealed a fine half-timbered gable (facing east) with wattle and daub between the timbers. It looked like 15th century work, and had formed one of the party walls or divisions in the upper rooms of the Inn. The whole of the east half of the site was excavated to a depth of about 8ft. an extension to the cellar already existing on the west side of the site. The western side of the Inn forms the east boundary to Claremont Walk which leads into Foregate Street. The Roman stratum gave an average thickness of 2ft. 9ins.; the primary layer being about 7ft. 5ins. below the flagged footway in the street.

No structural remains of the Roman period were discovered on this site; but many small material finds were recovered, including Samian ware, and a dozen Roman coins dating from Vespasian A.D. 71 to Constantine I., A.D. c. 308, etc.

The site also proved rich in sherds of Mediæval and Early English pottery, including the major portion of a rare coarse-ware pot that can be dated to the 13th or 14th century (see p. 158).

We are greatly indebted to the Contractors for their kindness in allowing me to watch the excavations at all times; and I tender my thanks to Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer, F.S.A., for his material aid on many occasions..

An account of the principal Roman finds follows:—

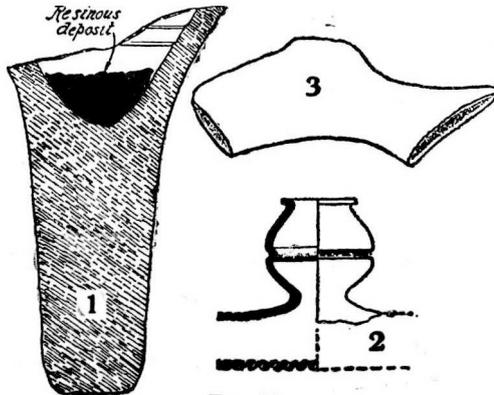


Fig. 11.

Amphora with a Resinous Deposit.

(Fig. 11, No. 1).

A thick deposit of a resinous substance was found filling the conical cavity at the bottom of an amphora of the tall cylindrical type. It weighed 9 drams,¹ and had a maximum thickness of 25mm. The substance was firmly attached to the wall of the vessel at three points—the base of the cone-like cavity, and at two points near the top of the deposit; elsewhere the external surface was covered with a film-like deposit of earthy matter which had evidently filtered in from the glacial clay in which it was embedded; but it bears an exact impression of the surface of the internal wall of the amphora. It is distinctly pitch-like in substance and colour, and fractures in a similar way; furthermore it burns freely in a clear flame, scintillates, and becomes plastic on cooling. There is no trace of the substance on the internal wall of the vessel *above* the level of the mass. That it was in a more or less liquid condition during its formation, seems clear, and hence a perfect cast of the interior of the vessel.

Professor T. P. Hilditch, of the Department of Industrial Chemistry, The University of Liverpool, very kindly made an analysis of the material and I have pleasure in appending his report on its constituent elements:—“Adherent, obviously mineral matter was removed as far as possible, and the remainder yielded successively to the solvents mentioned with the following materials:—

1. A dark transparent viscous resin, soluble in petrol, amounting to about 70% of the whole lump.
2. A dark brown, solid brittle resin, soluble in acetone, forming about 22% of the whole.
3. Mineral matter soluble in hot water (about 3% of the whole), and consisting mainly of sodium salts, apparently of mineral acids.

¹ Originally it weighed a few drams more, as some fragments were chipped off in mistake for an earthy deposit; but the largest chip was preserved for analysis.

We can only give negative evidence as to the nature of the resins. They are not aromatic or turpentine-like in character. No. 2 has no definite odour on heating, but No. 1 gives a faint smell reminiscent of fresh wood or of 'pyroligneous acid'. It does not respond to tests for furfural.

All this means is that the evidence, such as it is, is not in anyway inconsistent with the resins being the remains of by-products of alcohol which have become polymerised on long exposure, or of the further products of fermentation of alcohol (vinegar) which would no doubt have gone on at the same time.

There is no proof in this that the original contents of the vessel were alcoholic, but the substance examined was nearly all organic (*ie*, carbonaceous) in character, and the type of resin might very well have been produced from alcohol or vinegar on long standing and exposure."

The foot of the amphora with the lower portion of the interior of the vessel is all that was found, and it evidently belongs to one or other of the tall cylindrical types (Collingwood's Nos. 91, 92) which have been very sparingly met with at Chester. As our example came from the lowest level of the Roman occupation layer and in association with Dragendorff's form 18 or 18/31, it may be dated to the last quarter of the first or to the early years of the second century.

The clay of the vessel is slightly micaceous, and of a pinkish-buff colour.

Ring Cups.

(Fig. 11, No. 2).

Two cups of this class of coarse ware, with portions of the tubular ring to which they were attached were found together on this site. They are made of a buff-yellow clay, and thinly coated with dusky cream slip, but much of it is worn away or discoloured. The body of the cup is somewhat spheroid in shape with a deep horizontal construction in the centre—an unusual feature—and the rim

is squat and angular in section. In form and technique both cups are precisely similar, and of most excellent workmanship. Although they do not admit of close dating they appear to belong to the late first or early second century.

In its complete form there were probably three cups, each connected with the tubular ring, as in the example now preserved in the Grosvenor Museum. In his classical record of the pottery found at Holt (*Holt*, 1930) Grimes makes no reference to vessels of this form. But W. J. Kaine (*Antiquary*, x., 1914) gives an excellent account with ample illustrations, of the so-called triple vases found in London, Chingford, Colchester, York and elsewhere.

Implement of Stags Horn.

(Fig. 11, No. 3).

The implement here illustrated seems to have been used as a mallet or hammer and was probably fitted to a twisted wand or haft. It has been formed from the proximal portion of the antler of a Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), evidently belonging to a lordly old stag, as the maximum diameter of the rounded portion of the implement measures 1.9 ins. Its surface has been completely smoothed down and it presents the appearance of having been extensively used as an implement.

SAMIAN WARE.

The following forms were represented:—

Decorated.

Dragendorff 29. Four vessels of this form were represented. Flavian period.

Dragendorff 30. One example. Probably late first century.

Dragendorff 37. Nineteen vessels represented. Three of Flavian origin; five of the late first and early second century; and eleven of the Antonine period. Four of the more interesting fragments are illustrated.

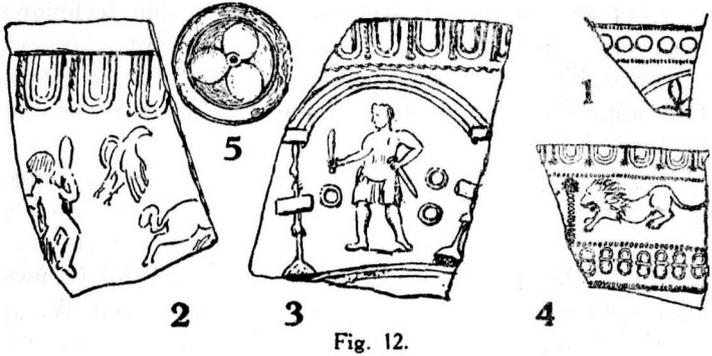


Fig. 12.

No. 1. Dragendorff 37. Fragment from the upper portion of the vessel with a horizontal row of plain rings, bordered above and below, with very fine bead-rows, in the place of the usual ovolo border. This form of decoration seems to be of Trajanic origin. (Cf. Pryce & Birley, *Jour. Rom. Studies*, xxv, 62, pl. xiv. No. 7).

No. 2. Form 37. The large ovolo border in this example is of a somewhat unusual type and strikingly characteristic, the rest of the decoration is of the free style with figures of man and animals. The eagle, with wings partly displayed may be that figured by Oswald (2166 of Rheinzabern), but this is somewhat uncertain as this and all the *motifs* are badly blurred and imperfect.

Period probably Antonine.

No. 3. Form 37. The ovolo border with the spaces between the *motifs* rather widely separated; a wavy line below the ovolo. The main decoration consists of a large arcade enclosing warrior with drawn sword in right hand, a scabbard in his left (not in Oswald's figures); with three plain rings in the field. Period probably Trajan—Hadrian.

No. 4. Form 37. Panel decoration divided by bead-rows. Tongue of ovolo ending in a rosette. Panel enclosing lion (Déch. 754, Osw. 1422). Narrow wreath below composed of the "double-D monograms" as used by the potter *Doecus*, whose period of activity at Lezoux is given as Hadrian-Antonine (cf. Bushe-Foxe, *Wroxeter*, 1912, p.44).

Plain.

Dragendorff 27. A rather large cup bearing the potter's stamp $\widehat{\text{PECVLIAR}}$. *Peculiaris* of Lezoux. Oswald (*Stamps*, p. 237) fixes the period of this potter's activity as Domitian—Antonine. His stamps have also been recorded from other sites in Chester.

Dragendorff 31. One example (large form) Antonine—probably late second century.

Dragendorff 33. Base of one small cup stamped $\widehat{\text{PECVLIAR}}$. F as above.

Dragendorff 38. Two examples. Antonine.

Dragendorff 45. One large side-fragment in cut glass technique. This form is very sparingly met with in Chester. Period probably late second century.

Dragendorff 79. One fragment (Cf. Osw. & Pryce, pl. lviii). Also extremely rare in Chester. Second half of second century.

Curle 15. Side fragment, base missing. This is the only typical example of this form so far recorded from Chester. Period: Second century.

COARSE WARE POTTERY.

A fair amount of Roman coarse ware pottery came from this site. There was a preponderance of late first and second century forms, as found elsewhere in Chester; but only one example of the hammer-head forms of mortaria (Collingwood's type, 13) which may be attributed to the third or fourth century. Of the earlier pieces of note there was one fragment of egg-shell ware, that belongs to the early period of the Roman occupation of Chester, as other examples have been found in well stratified deposits of the Flavian period.

Harness mounting or stud of silvered bronze.

(Fig. 12, No. 5).

This object is circular in form with a central concave depression and beaded rim. The surface of the central area is silver plated, and is decorated with a trifoliated design

of fine incised lines. In the centre is a small hole for the insertion of a pin to attach the ornament to a strap or the like.

Curle (*Fort of Newstead*, p. 299, pl. lxxiv) gives excellent illustrations of several metal discs of this kind, and his No. 10 is decorated with leaves of a similar form to those in our example; but they radiate from a large concentric ring over the broad convex border.

Period: Late first-early second century.

ROMAN COINS.

Twelve Roman coins were found on this relatively small area. All of these were very kindly authenticated by Mr. Harold Mattingly of the British Museum to whom we are extremely indebted. A list of these coins follows:—

- Vespasian.* A.D. 69—79.
1. 2Æ. Badly burnt and corroded.
Trajan. A.D. 98—117.
 2. Sestertius.
Marcus Aurelius. A.D. 161—180.
 3. Sestertius. *Rev.* Obliterated.
Faustina II. d. A.D. 175.
 4. Denarius.
L. Verus. A.D. 161—169.
 5. *Rev.* Victory. Shield inscribed $\begin{array}{c} \text{VIC} \\ \text{PAX} \end{array}$
Septimius Severus. A.D. 193—211.
 6. Denarius.
Tetricus I. c. A.D. 270—273.
 - 7—9. All 3Æ.
Claudius II. c. A.D. 270.
 10. 3Æ.
Radiate Crowns.
 11. One example.
Constantine I. A.D. 308.
 12. 3Æ. Mint mark PLN=London.

(Site of the " Ring O' Bells Hotel ").

The collection of Roman pottery herein described and illustrated, was presented to the Grosvenor Museum by Mr. E. F. Basnett of Chester, who assured me that he had secured all the material from the excavations which were carried out on the site of the Ring O' Bells, during the months of August and September, 1940, for an extension to the beer-cellar to that hotel.

The amount of pottery secured on this very limited area is noteworthy, in particular because a fair number of fragments of Roman roofing tiles were found in association with the pottery; elsewhere in Foregate Street building material of this kind has been, hitherto, rarely discovered.

The chronological evidence afforded by the datable material emphasises the fact that there was an intensive occupation of the site in Roman times during the late first and the second centuries, but only one example of a "hammer-head" type of mortaria that could be attributed to the late third or fourth century.

DECORATED SAMIAN (Not illustrated).

Bowl form 37. This form of Dragendorff's series was represented by about fifteen separate bowls. The decoration of these was typical of the late first (Flavian) and second century. Three examples are worthy of note:—

- (a) Decoration in two zones; divided centrally by a chevron-wreath. Lower zone with a rabbit or hare (Osw. 2105) La Graufesenque ware. Period: Latter half of first century.
- (b) Part of large scroll of rather widely separated chevrons, enclosing stag (Déch. 865, Osw. 1748) and Diana driving a biga (Hermet, 229, Osw. 111); the space below filled with blurred pinnate leaves. La Graufesenque ware. Period: First century.
- (c) Part of a large medallion and panel; the latter with Diana seated on rock (Déch. 68, Osw. 111). This fragment was heavily burnt. Lezoux ware. Period: Second century.

POTTERS' STAMPS ON SAMIAN WARE.

1. BACCAT^US. *Baccatus*. On form 27. Lezoux ware. This potter's stamp is recorded by Oswald (*Stamps*, p.37) from Cirencester (*bis*), Leicester and Boulogne, and is therefore rare and a new find for Chester. Period: Second century (Hadrian—Antonine).

2. BIGA III. *Biga fecit*, of South Gaul. On form 27 and there is no groove to the foot-ring. The last three letters appear as vertical strokes. In another stamp by the same potter (. . .]IGA . FEC) on form 33, found in Queen's Park, Chester, April, 1939, the last three letters are plainly impressed. Period: Domitian—Hadrian.

3. LENTIS[CVS] and [LEN]TISCVS. *Lentiscus* of Lezoux. Both examples on typical forms of 18, and both stamps within a large circle. This somewhat rare stamp is new for Chester.

4. LVPPA . F. *Luppa fecit*. On form 33 with the central area of the base of the vessel slightly concave. Period: Early second century (Trajan—Hadrian).

5. VITAL. *Vitalis* of La Graufesenque. On a small cup form 27, with foot-ring distinctly grooved. *Vitalis* was a most prolific potter and his period of activity is given by Oswald (*Stamps*, p. 340) as Claudius—Domitian, A.D. 41—96. Our example may safely be dated to the last quarter of the first century.

PLAIN FORMS OF SAMIAN WARE (Not illustrated).

In order that the student of classical archæology may realise the importance of the intensive occupation of the civil population of this extra mural site, a brief reference to the plain forms of Samian ware is given:—

Of the shallow dish, form 18, there were many examples, all of them datable to the late first century; and the larger forms of 18/31 were common. The small dish with a quarter-round fillet so characteristic of the Flavian period was represented by a single fragment. Of forms 36 and 38 four examples; and the rarer vessels were represented by

single examples of Walters' form 82, and Curle's flanged dish without decoration. The two last named are dated: the first late first century, the other early second century. Both forms are rarely met with in Chester.

COARSE WARE POTTERY.

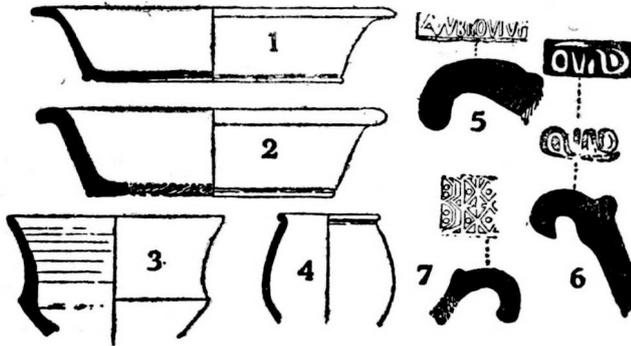


Fig. 13.

No. 1. *Shallow dish* with strongly outcurved side and rim. Foot-ring rudimentary, *i.e.* defined by a pair of shallow grooves. Interior tooled in smooth horizontal zones. Rim grooved. Clay red coated with pale orange slip. Similar to examples found elsewhere in Chester, in Flavian deposits (*cf.* *C.A.J.*, xxxiii, pl. xxvii, No. 43).

No. 2. *Pie-dish*. This vessel seems to be a slight variant of Collingwood's form 44; but it differs (*a*) in having a very shallow foot-ring; (*b*) without decoration at the side, and (*c*) the clay is hard and the surface of a slate-like texture and colour, closely resembling the coarse ware pottery during the closing years of the first and the early years of the second century.

No. 3. *Cup with keeled side*, resembling the Holt forms Nos. 180—182, showing Celtic affinities. Very hard buff-grey clay, with a reddish core. Period: Late Flavian.

No. 4. *Small beaker* of Collingwood's form No. 77, but not rough-cast on the exterior. Period doubtful but probably latter half of the second century.

MORTARIA.

No. 5. Rim of a rather heavy flattish type, and near Bushe-Fox's form 18. It is stamped transversely in raised letters, near the spout, but what the correct reading of it may be is not at all clear. Being a problem-piece I ventured to send a tracing of the drawing (here reproduced) to Mr. Eric Birley who writes, "No parallels noted; the rim-section reminds one of some early (imported) mortaria of the Flavian period. The reading approaches the ridiculous: $\overline{\text{MVBIIOVIVI}}$ (if one reads it forward, as

drawn) or perhaps rather $\overline{\text{AMABIIONN}}$ retrograde (turning the drawing upside down)—in this case, the second I might be an L . . . : one thinks of *Amabil(is)* as a possible name, followed by another word; whether in fact it is possible for it to have been a single name (as the spacing rather indicates), namely *Amabilonn(. . .)* I'm not sure."

No. 6. This example has a heavy falcate rim, and is stamped transversely near the spout. It is probably a variant of Bushe-Fox's No. 46. Buff-pink clay with a grey core, and coated with white slip of which little is left. As the reading of the stamp seems doubtful two illustrations of it are given. Mr. Birley informs me that he has "only noted one parallel (an exact one), namely a stamp from Wilderspool now in the Warrington Museum (Inventory No. 405, 13). What the correct reading is, I do not know; QIAD is one possibility, but I don't feel enough confidence in that reading to plump for it. The rim-section suggests a date c. 100—125, but one should see the fabric too."

No. 7. The cipher on the rim of this mortarium seems to be without parallel.

Buff-pink ware coated with cream coloured slip. Probably of second century origin.

Many other forms of coarse ware pottery were also represented in this collection including fragments of early forms of cooking pots with rustic decoration; several examples of carinated bowls (see p. 46); ring-necked flagons (see p. 117); "rough-cast" beakers, pot-lids, etc.

GLASS.

Portions of three glass vessels were found on this site:—

1. A reeded handle of blue glass belonging to a square sided bottle.

2. A plain rectangular handle of blue glass.

3. The neck of an amber coloured glass vessel, 5.2ins. long, with a diameter of 0.8ins. This object probably belonged to a jug of the form illustrated in the *British Museum Guide to Roman Britain*, p.104, fig. 123 (f).

THE ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE.

(Figs. 14—17).

During the year 1934 four small sites lying within the conjectural lines of the Roman Amphitheatre were explored: two by deliberate exploration under the auspices of the Chester Archaeological Society; and two casual "digs" by the city authorities. The sites in question are indicated on the plan (Fig. 14) and are numbered 7 to 10, inclusive.

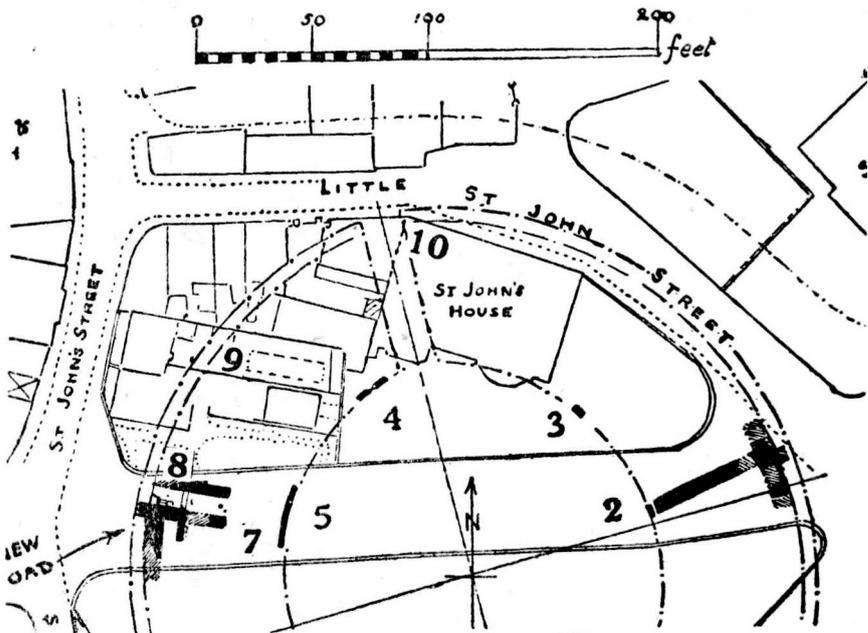


Fig. 14.



Site No. 7

Site No. 7. During the month of May, 1934, an electric cable was laid down (temporarily) right across the site of the Amphitheatre, and in line with the north face of the boundary wall to the Ursuline Convent. At the western portion of the site it passed through the make-up of the seating bank, that lies between the outer and the arena walls of the amphitheatre. The cut for the cable was carried down to a depth of about 1ft. 8ins., and to an average width of 1ft. 5ins. It was from the lower portions of this cut that the Roman finds were discovered; and they were lying together in a relatively *small patch*, about 15ft. west from the line of the arena wall. The finds consisted of pottery, meat-bones, a coin of Vespasian and some fine charcoal. The material had all the appearance of having been dumped there during the construction of the amphitheatre. The chronological evidence of these finds amply confirms the dating of the structure as put forward in the first report (*C.A.J.*, xxix, 5—40). A description of the finds from this site follows:—

SAMIAN WARE.

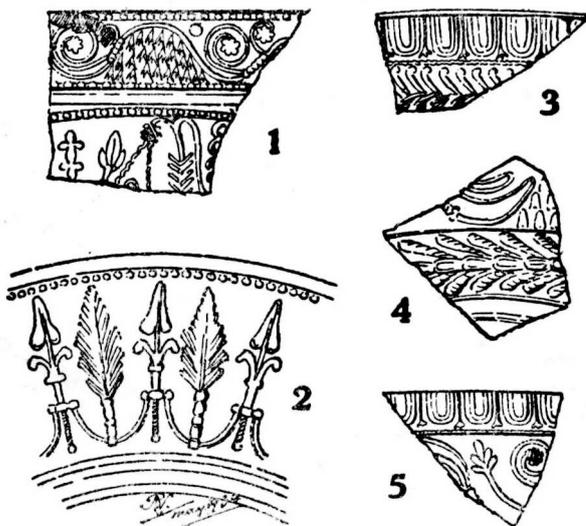


Fig. 15.

No. 1. Form 29. Upper frieze with continuous scroll, the tendrils with moniliform bindings, ending with large rosettes. The lower cavity of the scroll filled with arrowheads. There is little of the decoration of the lower frieze left; but the position of the wavy lines suggest that they may have formed part of a cruciform ornament.

Oswald and Pryce (*Terra Sig.* pl. v, 8) gives an illustration of the upper frieze on a bowl of form 29 by the potter *Canillus* which is very similar to our example; and attribute this potter's period of activity as Tiberius—Domitian.

No. 2. Form 29. Portion of the lower frieze, bordered above with a bead-row, and below with a series of grooves. The main decoration consists of two forms of large vertical *motifs*, arranged alternately, and all arising from a continuous plain-bordered festoon: one *motif* terminates with a large and somewhat "cordate" bud or leaf; the other *motif* consists of a large and finely pinnate leaf, its stalk composed of a modified form of an astragalus, and it is attached to the centre of the festoon.

As I failed to trace any parallel for this apparently unique form of decoration I ventured to appeal to Dr. Felix Oswald for help. His magnanimous reply follows:—

"I think your 29 is in the style of AMANDVS, though I cannot find an exact replica. But I enclose a sketch of a somewhat similar 30 from Bonn which Axé attributes to this potter; and it comes nearer to your piece than work by SENICIO to whom his work is allied. It is certainly early Claudian."

As this, apparently unique, find of the fictile art was found in close association with Flavian material and a bronze coin of Vespasian, one may justly claim its presence as another Claudian survival. See Dr. Davies Pryce (*Antiquaries Journal*, xviii, 41) on "The Roman Occupation of Chester," who regards such isolated finds as survivals.

Nos. 3—5. All three fragments bear characteristic designs that are typical of those in use during the Flavian period. They are here illustrated as they were found in close association with Nos. 1 and 2.

Fragments of three examples of the small cup (form 27) were also found together with the decorated pieces. In one of these cups (represented by six fragments conjoined) the lip is distinctly rounded, there is a groove on the interior immediately below it, and the foot-ring is also grooved. In possessing these characteristics it closely resembles Oswald and Pryce's No. 14 (*Terra Sig.* pl. xlix) by the potter *Memoris* of the Nero—Vespasian period.

Of the coarse ware pottery there were 31 fragments, belonging for the most part to cooking pots, in both red and fumed grey clay; but two rims only were represented and these were clearly of Flavian origin.

The coin evidence.

The coin of Vespasian (A.D. 69—79) found with the pottery was in a very bad state of preservation having been burnt and also badly corroded. The only details on the *obverse* were . . .] N AVG PM TR [. . . Bust to right. Mr. Harold Mattingly to whom the coin was submitted for determination, writes: "I think it is certain that your coin is a sestertius of Vespasian . . . probably early—71." We are greatly indebted to Mr. Mattingly for the determination of this coin.

Site No. 8

Site No. 8. Two A.R.P. shelters were constructed on this site. Unfortunately one of these intersected and destroyed the greater portion of the structural remains of the outer wall of the amphitheatre on the northern side of the western entrance to the building. Details of the extent of the damage together with a plan were forwarded to the Ministry of Works, by the Chester Archæological Society.

The objects described below were secured from the workmen engaged in making the A.R.P. shelters on this site September 11th and 12th, 1939.

1. COIN OF VESPASIAN.

Obv. IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG COS . . .

Bust laureate r.

Rev. Eagle on globe. S in field. C may have been cut off. Æ2. In fair condition when lost.

2. Side-fragment of vessel of eggshell ware, closely rouletted. Period about the last quarter of the first century.

Site No. 9.

(Fig. 16).

During the month of May, 1934, Messrs. John Mansley & Son, contractors, were instructed to relay a footpath in the garden of No. 19, St. John Street, that crossed the conjectural line of the outer wall of the amphitheatre. Alderman P. H. Lawson who was interested in the work suggested that deliberate excavations should be carried out within the narrow limits of the footpath. The tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Milburn, who were keenly interested, readily granted permission for the work to be carried out; and the Archæological Society agreed to defray the costs of the extra labour. Although the area explored was necessarily of a strictly limited nature, the results confirm with a remarkable degree of exactitude the conjectural lines of the unexplored portions of the structure as set out in the original plan in 1932 (*C.A.J.* xxix, pl. xvi).

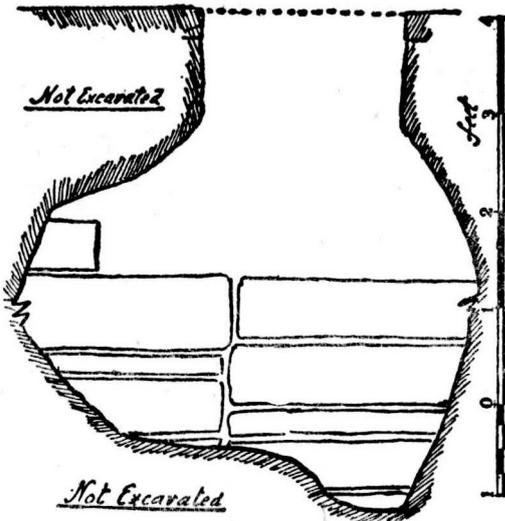


Fig. 16. Site 9. Section of outer wall.

The upper course of the outer wall of the amphitheatre was reached at a depth of 2ft. 10in. below the brick-paved footpath (Section, Fig. 16), and it was laid bare to a depth of 2ft. 6ins. But owing to the cramped conditions of our excavations, search for the footings were abandoned.

The blocks of roughly dressed masonry which we laid bare, were all set in puddled clay as found elsewhere in the courses immediately above the footings.

Fragments of Roman roof-tiles and a wine jar were found in the packing against the face of the wall; but no datable material in association with them.

Site No. 10.

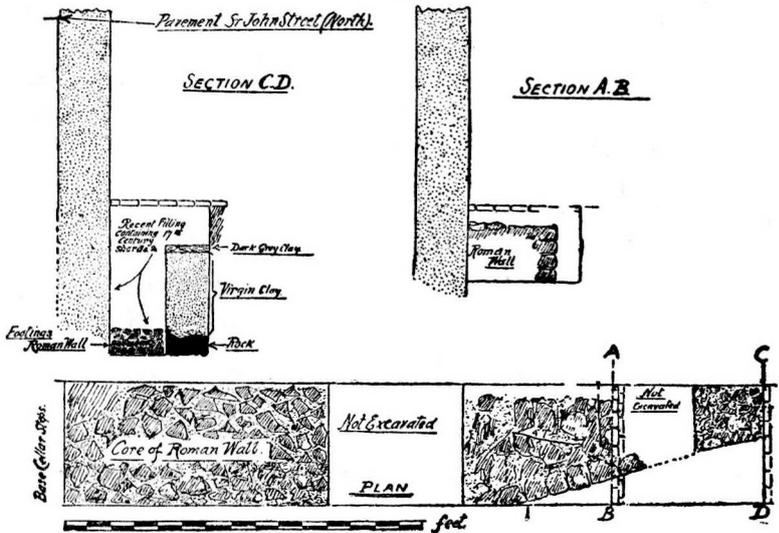


Fig 17. Section of the Outer Wall

Excavations in the cellar of St. John's House were carried out in the summer of 1934, at the request of the Chester Archæological Society, with the view of ascertaining the northern limits of the outer wall of the amphitheatre, which from our conjectural plan (C.A.J., xxix, pl. xvi) extended into Little St. John Street to a distance of approximately fifteen feet. Four exploration shafts were

cut : the first through the quarter landing of the steps; the others through the tiled floor along the inner face of the outer north wall of the House (Fig. 17). The results of our first cut had no direct bearing on the subject of our investigation. In the second cut which extended from the foot of the stairs to a distance of eleven feet the rubble core of the Roman wall was laid bare. In the third cut a section of the inner face of the wall was discovered and four courses of the ashlar work were cleared (Section A—B) ; but owing to the absence of available space the footings were not cleared. Our final cut was at a distance of 29ft. (E) from the foot of the cellar steps ; and, unfortunately at this point the wall had been robbed of all the ashlar work ; all that was left were the rubble footings set in puddled clay (Section C—D). But in this section it was interesting to note that the Roman builders had cut a chase in the sandstone rock to a maximum depth of 12ins. This method of levelling the surface of the rock for the reception of the foundations of their buildings is characteristic of the Roman work as found elsewhere in Chester.

Assuming that the maximum thickness of the outer wall of the amphitheatre is 9ft. thick at section C—D as found elsewhere ; then the outer face of the structure will project into the street to a distance of about 5ft. at a point 33ft. 8in. from the N.W. angle of St. John's House. So that our conjectural lines as set out in our original plan do not seem to be very wide of the actual line of the external face of the building at that point.

My colleague Professor J. P. Droop who undertook the surveying of the structures of the amphitheatre and also those at the S.E. angle of the fortress (*C.A.J.*, xxix, 1939) informs me that the level of the chamfered plinth of the latter is 7ft. 6in. above the base of the footings at section C—D in St. John's House.

Mr. Charles Greenwood, the City Engineer was supplied with details of the position of the structural remains, and he also sent a member of his staff to plot in the actual position of our finds.

BROOK STREET.

(Fig. 18, Nos. 5, 6).

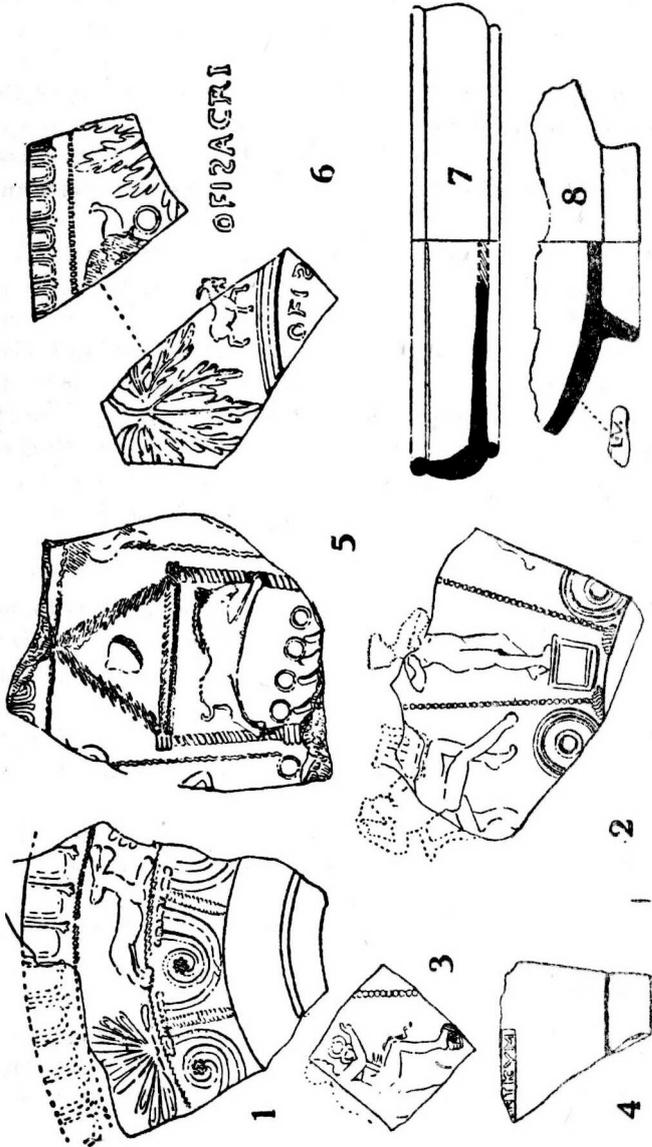


Fig. 18. Nos. 1—4. Grosvenor Road. Nos. 5, 6. Brook Street. Nos. 7, 8. Watergate Street.

The Roman pottery herein described and illustrated, was collected by the late Mr. F. Coveney, about the year 1891, during excavations on the site of the Ormond Hotel. The fragments were subsequently presented to me and are now preserved in the Grosvenor Museum.

No. 5. Bowl form 37. Wavy line below the ovolo border. Large panel divided by wavy lines, enclosing façade of portico, with a triangular pediment, supported by spiral columns. (Cf Déch. ii, Nos. 1098, 1099). There is a blurred mark in the centre of the pediment, and below it a large wild boar (Déch. 828, Osw. 1642) over a series of four rings and traces of a large wreath. Province of Lezoux. Period given by Oswald (*Figure types*) for the boar motif as Hadrian—Antonine. The use of wavy lines probably points to the early years of the second century (Hadrianic).

No. 6. Bowl form 37. The tongue of the ovolo border ending with a small rosette, and below it a very fine bead-row. The main portion of the decoration shows portions of a winding scroll with large leaves. In the upper space is a bird over a large ring; in the lower space a small goat (Déch. 889, Osw. 1836). Below the line of demarcation a portion of the potter's stamp OFI S[ACRI].

Sacer's stamp is characterised, in part, by the reversed S.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Felix Oswald for determining this very characteristic stamp. This is the second record for Chester of this potter's stamp whose period of activity is given by Oswald (*Stamps*) as Trajan—Antonine.

GROSVENOR ROAD.

(Fig. 18, Nos. 1—4).

Much pottery was found in a narrow cut for a water-main near the Grosvenor Museum in 1933. The Samian forms represented were: Drag. 37 (seven), 18 (three), 31 (three), 27 (four), and the base of a small 35 bearing the last two letters of the stamp . . . RI. The whole series of fragments cover the period late first to c. the closing years of the second century A.D. Three of the figured types are described below; also an unidentified stamp on a bowl form 47 (No. 4).

No. 1. Form 37. Glaze good, but the motifs are badly blurred. Ovolo with three-pronged tongue. Decoration in two narrow zones divided by wavy lines. Upper zone with stag (Déch. 859, Oswald 1738) between conventional plants, near Déch. 1151. Lower zone with continuous festoons, enclosing tendril ending in a rosette, tied with an astragalus, and divided by a cable column.

Period: Late first century.

No. 2. Form 37. Part of panel decoration divided by bead-rows, and ending with detached catkins or the like. (1) Apollo seated (Déch. 52, Osw. 83); below large concentric circles; (2) Venus (Déch. 185, Osw. 331) on large pedestal; (3) Concentric circles as in (1) Hadrian—Antonine.

No. 3. Form 37. Good glaze but technique poor. Part of panel decoration with figure of Mercury holding caduceus in left hand; left raised and resting on pedestal or the like (Déch. 288, Osw. 518), but the impression is imperfect and the figure definitely taller. The technique of this fragment closely resembles that of the preceding and the two fragments may belong to the same vessel. Lezoux ware. Period: Hadrian—Antonine.

COARSE WARE.



Fig 18A.

Shallow flanged bowl of finely elutriated orange-red clay, of a brighter tint inside than on the exterior. A very shallow variant of the Samian form 38, and with a much taller foot-ring. The fine orange-red clay closely resembles that often met with in coarse ware vessels of Holt manufacture, chiefly however, in late first-early second century examples. This vessel, though unstratified, may be attributed to about the middle of the second century.

Find-spot: In the garden to the Chester Savings Bank, Grosvenor Road, next door (W.) to the Grosvenor Museum, in making an A.R.P. shelter, November, 1939.

WATERGATE STREET.

(Fig. 18, Nos. 7, 8).

A quantity of Roman pottery was found on the site of Stanley Palace during slight alterations to that building in August, 1940. Among the finds were portions of two rare vessels that are well worthy of a place in these "Records." :—

No. 1. A small Samian dish with strongly curved sides, a strongly beaded rim and foot-ring, and a flat base. This remarkable form seems to be a striking variant of Dragen-dorff's type 22 (*cf.* O. & P. *Terra Sig.* pl. 1); but differs in having a strongly curved outer wall. In its general technique it bears the characteristics of late Flavian ware and probably belongs to the closing years of the first century. The glaze is good and resembles that of the Lezoux ware.

No. 2. Base of a cup of pale grey clay coated with dull orange slip and is probably an imitation of the Samian form 24/25. In the centre of the interior is a *planta pedis* stamp bearing the potter's initials L.V. Obviously, therefore, this vessel was made by the same potter as that found in the Deanery Field in 1924 (*cf.* *Liverpool Annals*, xi, 72, pl. viii, 7, 7A). No exact parallel for this stamp has so far been traced.

Period: Flavian? It may be, however, a survival of an even earlier period.

**JUNCTION OF WATERGATE STREET
AND NUNS ROAD.**

(Frontispiece, pl. vi. and Figs. 19, 20).

During the closing days of the year 1932 the footings of the N-W angle of a Roman building were brought to light by Corporation workmen employed in cutting off a portion of the corner of the junction of Nuns Road and Watergate Street (see plan). Owing to the great depth of the super-incumbent earth (*c.* 9ft.), which we were not allowed to disturb, we were unable to explore the structural remains in either directions (E. and W.), or to determine the exact depth of the footings. The last named were composed of

glacial boulders set in very hard mortar. As the extreme angle of the structure projected just beyond the line of the newly formed boundary (see plan) the upper courses had to be removed. This proved no light task. So hard was the mortar that the action of a pneumatic drill made little impression upon it, and it was finally chipped away with sledge-hammers and steel punches. This type of boulder concrete was also used by the Romans elsewhere in the construction of certain buildings in the fortress of Deva, notably in the foundations of the large colonnaded building in Bridge Street (*cf. C.A.J. xxvii, 122*).

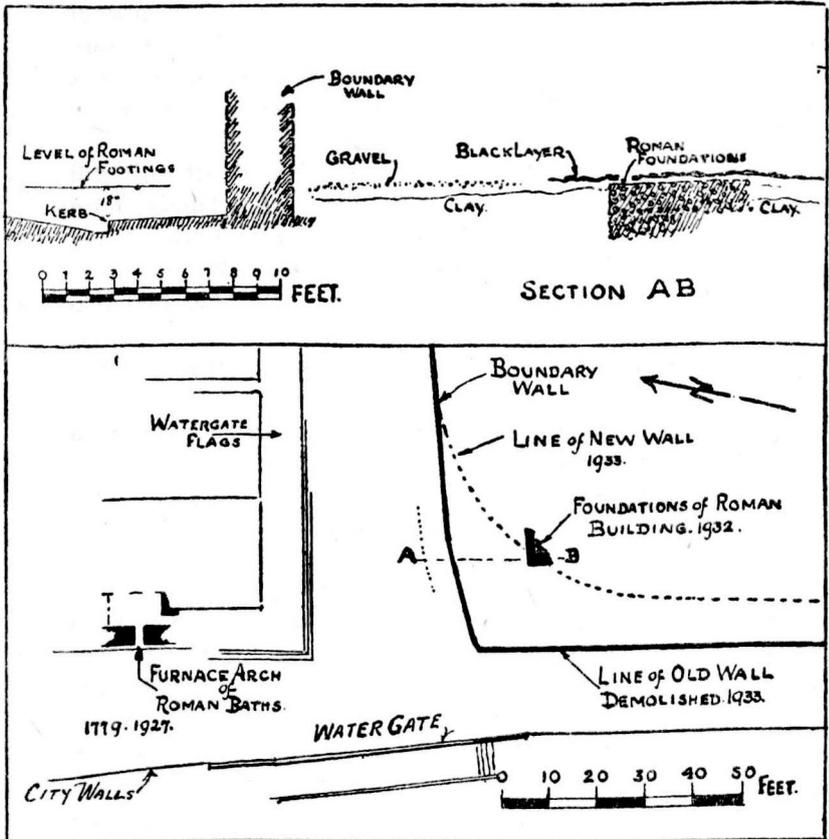


Fig. 19. Plan and section of the Roman structural remains discovered 1932-33.

The eastern arm of the structure measured 7ft. 6in. and the western arm 6ft. The width of the former, 1ft. 6in., and the latter, 3ft. 3in. The inner angle (interior) was filled in with material similar to that forming the footings of the wall, but whether this represented the foundations of the floor was not at all clear.

Period of construction. One datable sherd (Pl. vi, No. 1) was found attached to the inner face of the eastern arm of the structure. It is obviously an early piece, and datable late Flavian period (see p. 113).

Period of destruction or demolition. A black layer, consisting for the most part of charcoal, completely covered the structural remains and also extended beyond them in all directions (see section). This stratum was carefully explored, and from it one managed to secure a few bits of typical late second century cooking pots, and also the upper portion of the jug No. 10, p. 115, which also appears to belong to the same period. This chronological evidence points (presumably) to the demolition of the building at about the closing years of the second century, probably at the time when the Roman barracks in the Deanery Field were demolished (*cf. C.A.J.*, xxxiii, 5—7).

The seam of gravel (see section) lying just over the boulder clay on the north side of the structure contained no pottery that admitted of close dating; but sherds of some early vessels were found immediately below it.

The stratum above the black layer contained a wealth of Roman pottery, dating from the first to the fourth century (see illustrations), broken roof tiles, box-tiles, wall plaster (decorated and plain) and the upper portion of an antefix (Frontispiece). This deposit was so mixed up that it had all the appearance of having been dumped there from other sites long after the black stratum had been laid down.

SAMIAN WARE.

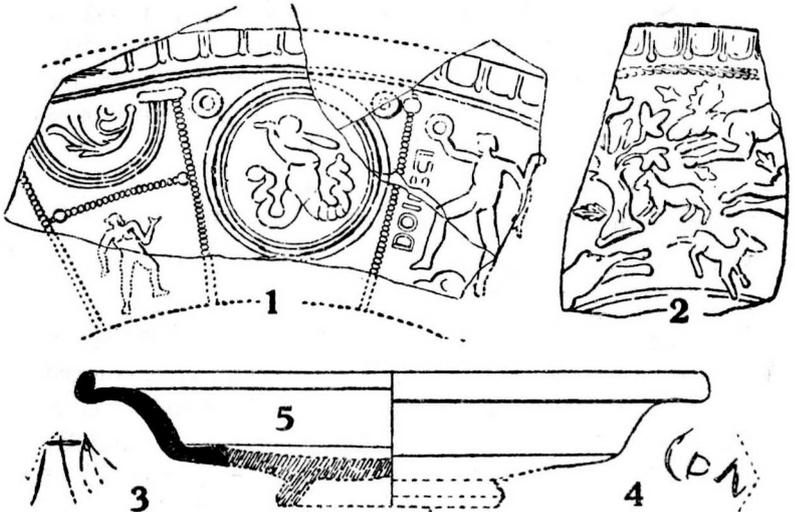


Fig. 20.—Roman pottery, Watergate Street.

No. 1. Form 37. By the potter *Doeccus*. Glaze rather poor, and the *motifs* rather faintly indicated. Decoration in panels, divided by bead-rows: (1) divided: the upper compartment with a plain festoon enclosing acanthus spray (Déch. 1158); lower division with nude figure (Déch. 402, *Doeccus*); (2) large medallion enclosing triton resembling that of Déch. 16, but smaller, and differing in essential details, large rings in the upper angles; (3) satyr (Déch. 354) and stamped in raised letters vertically upwards between the bead-row and the satyr *DOIICCI*, as in *Déchelette*, p. 269, 3).

Period: Hadrian—Antonine.

No. 2. Form 37. Glaze fairly good, but the *motifs* rather indistinct and blurred. Free-style decoration, and the figures overcrowded: (1) Large tree with trifold leaves; (2) Stag, probably Déch. 893; (3) Sheep or goat (Déch. 895, *Butrio, Libertus*); (4) Goat (Déch. 890, *Libertus*). Spaces, in the field, with dentate leaves.

Period: Domitian—Trajan.

No. 3. Graffito scratched on the base of a small form of 18, probably part of the owner's name. The vessel is characteristic of the early forms of this shallow dish, and datable to the last quarter of the first century.

No. 4. Graffito scratched on form 31. Probably of second century origin.

No. 5. Shallow dish probably a slight variant of Curle's form 15 (*Fort of Newstead*, p. 200). The upturned rim, however, is internally oblique. Glaze and general technique are excellent. So far this is the only representative of this form of Samian ware recorded for Chester.

Period probably second century.

POTTERS' STAMPS.

1. IAB. . . On 27. Dull glaze. The reading of this stamp is doubtful, but probably part of IAB[VS FE], the third letter, however, looks more like D than B. Oswald (*Stamps*, p.140) gives *Iabus* as a potter of Lezoux, and the period as Flavian.

The letter N is scratched on the wall of the vessel just outside the foot-ring.

2. ERICIM. On 33. *Ericus*. Oswald (*Stamps*) gives "Lezoux (?)" and the period as Domitian—Trajan.

3. MATERNINI . . . On 33. One letter is missing at the end of the stamp. *Materninus* of Lezoux.

Period: Antonine.

4. . . . ECVI . . . Probably part of *Secundus*; but whether of La Graufesenque or Lezoux is not clear.

5. VITALI.M. On 33. *Vitalis* of Lezoux. Period: Domitian—Antonine.

COARSE WARE.

(Plate vi, Nos. 1—16).

No. 1. Shallow dish with outwardly curved sides, and a well marked foot-ring; the rim with a shallow groove on both upper and lower surfaces. Fine, hard, brick-red clay.

This fragment was *attached* to the hard mortar on the south side of the footings of the wall, from which I had the pleasure of removing it. A precisely similar vessel of this form was discovered in the Infirmary Field¹; and being sparingly dusted with mica gives chronological evidence as to the period of its manufacture, which may be taken as late first or early second century. It is, therefore, an important find, as its presence in the structural remains suggests a fairly close dating for the construction of the building.

The fragments described below are variants of the hemispherical bowl in imitation of Dragendorff's Samian form 37; a type which seems to have been in use at Chester during the late first-early second century—chiefly, however, in the late Flavian period. They all appear to be of Holt manufacture, and may be classed as variants of Grimes' No. 226 (*Holt*, p.172, fig. 74).

No. 2. Space between the shallow beaded rim and the incipient cordon decorated with discs of applied white slip.

No. 3. Rim defined by a relatively broad groove, side coarsely rouletted. Clay pale brick-red, coated with cream slip externally, and with hæmatite internally.

No. 4. Rim similar to that of No. 3, the decoration below it consists of concentric semi-circles struck with a compass. Clay brick-red, coated with buff-cream slip.

No. 5. Fragment of a very thick-walled vessel, with heavy rim and somewhat angular bead below it. Clay hard fumed grey.

No. 6. Fragment of a very thick-walled vessel, decorated with broad horizontal flutings. Rather coarse buff clay, surface weather-pitted from exposure to frost and rain.

No. 7. Cup in imitation of the Samian form 24/25. Fine red clay, coated with orange-red slip.

Period: Late first century. For similar shaped cups see *Liverpool Annals*, xi, pl. viii, figs. 5, 7.

¹ *Liverpool Annals*, vol viii., No. 2, p. 58, pl. viii., 6.

No. 8. Pot-lid or cover. Buff-white clay, with metallic glaze. Upper surface decorated with concentric grooves. The spaces between closely rouletted. Walters figures a "cover" of similar kind (*B.M. Catalogue*, p.424, M 2732).

Period somewhat doubtful, but probably late second or third century.

No. 9. *Beaker* with oblique squat rim, and two grooves below it. Exterior closely rouletted horizontally. Clay pale red, exterior coated with cream slip. An unusual type of decoration.

Period: Late first-early second century—most probably Flavian.

No. 10. Upper portion of jug with a single two-ribbed handle in fine brick-red clay. Found in close association with fragments of late second century cooking pots in the layer of burnt material (chiefly charcoal) which covered the structural remains of the building.

Period: Probably late second century.

No. 11. Small flagon or jug of an unusual form for which no exact parallel has been traced (but *cf.* May, *Colchester*, grave group, pl. xciii, 15). It is made of brick-red clay and coated with buff-cream slip.

No. 12. Potter's stamp on handle of a "wine jar" or Amphora, reading downwards.

No. 13. Urn or stone-jar. Fine pale brick-red clay, rather heavily coated with mica. The outcurved rim has a faintly indicated ledge or off-set on the interior. There is a well marked cordon at the junction of the neck with the shoulder; and another at the shoulder. This form of urn is not recorded from Holt. It bears a very close resemblance to that figured by May (*Colchester*, pl. lx, No. 292); but his description of the decoration of the vessel (p.164) as having "groups of minute studs" are altogether omitted from his drawing. The treatment of mica dusting, seems to have been generally confined to the early periods. Bushe-Fox (*Wroxeter*, 1912, p.70) fixes the period as from A.D. 80 to 130.

No. 14. Olla of fine red clay with a frilled collar. The exterior finely burnished, and with a well marked cordon at the junction of the neck with the shoulder. Grimes (*Holt*, p. 152, No. 73, fig. 64) described a precisely similar vessel, and states that it as an unusual form but does not admit of close dating. May (*Colchester*, pl. lx, No. 293) also figures a similar vessel with a frilled collar; but classifies this and also his No. 292 as Belgic ware. Obviously our Chester-found example is of Holt manufacture, and like the foregoing (No. 13) may be considered as a rare example of the Roman potters' skill in the fictile art.

No. 15 and 16. Several examples of these characteristic vessels were represented in the deposit on this site, of which the carinated variety (No. 16) preponderated. That with the curved wall (No. 15) is an exceptional example and rarely met with in Chester. Such vessels are clearly of Holt manufacture of which Grimes (*Holt*, p.153) figures eleven examples. Examples hitherto found in Chester all came from pre-Antonine deposits; and those with reeded rims and carinated sides generally from late first century deposits.

No. 15. Fine orange-red clay. Rim reeded and oblique. Side curved, with a rather deep girth-groove.

No. 16. Similar ware to No. 15. Side carinated, and with a double girth-groove. Rim oblique and reeded.

No. 17. Fragment from the upper portion of a flanged cup in imitation of Dragendorff's Samian form 38. Dark orange-red clay; the finely tooled surface *mica-coated*. This form of vessel seems to have been in general use during the second century and later; but as our vessel had been mica-dusted it should be assigned to the late first-early second century.

No. 18. Rim-fragment of a large jar, with upper portion curved inwards. Apparently this belongs to a vessel of the class described and figured by Curle (*Fort of Newstead*, p. 245). For other vessels of this unusual form see p. 86 in these *Records*.

MORTARIA (Not illustrated).

The *mortarium* or *pelvis* is a large thick-walled bowl, which was used for tritulating food. Rims of these vessels were well represented. There were two examples typical of the late first century forms; seven that may be attributed to the late first and second centuries; and one only, of the hammer-headed type, datable to the late third or fourth century.

Of Bushe-Fox's types (*Wroxeter*, 1912) there were typical examples of the following:— Nos. 10, 18; slight variants of 22 and 202.

RING-NECKED FLAGONS (Not illustrated).

The upper portions of a few examples were found. One of the most perfect examples resembles Grimes' Holt form 106; and probably datable to the latter half of the second century.

(Frontispiece).

Antefixes were used as terminal ridge-tiles and set, at intervals, along the eaves to the roofs of buildings. In their completeness they were triangular in form and measured about nine inches high. The decoration consisted of several *motifs* all apparently attached to the vertical shaft of the standard.

Our example belongs to the upper portion only of the Holt type No. 6, of which two similar portions are figured and described by Grimes (*Holt*, p.136). Our example, however, is a new find for Chester, and the *motifs* are much more clearly indicated than on those found at Holt.

The missing portion of the standard in our example evidently carried a wild boar being the badge of the twentieth Legion. Above it there follows in sequence: (1) part of the legionary stamp—LEG XX, with a well-marked line over the numerals; (2) a small *vexillum* attached to a triangular framework; (3) a *phalera* or circular shield-like ornament, worn as a decoration to harness, and also an unusual personal ornament; (4) four swords

with the points resting on or attached to the *phalera*, the central pair of short swords are crossed, forming an X-like design, that on the right showing the details of the construction of the hilt very clearly. The outer bilateral pair of swords are much larger, but the hilts are cut off. All the *motifs* are attached to the shaft of the standard, which terminates at the top of the antefix.

LOWER BRIDGE STREET, 1939.

A few fragments of Roman pottery and two Roman coins were found on the site of St. Olave's School, in cuts made for an A.R.P. shelter. The site in question lies about 600 feet south from the conjectural line of the Roman fortress wall. The presence of these material finds may therefore be taken as a fair inference that the civil population also occupied this extra-mural site. But these finds are the only examples recorded from this area that have passed through my hands for a period of sixty years. The chronological evidence afforded by the pottery covers the closing years of the first and early second centuries; that of the coins extends to the middle of the fourth century.

SAMIAN WARE.

1. ALBVCI. *Albucius* of Lezoux, on form 33. His period of activity is given by Oswald as Trajan—Antonine.
2. Small fragments of the decorated bowl, form 37. One with part of a chevron wreath, clearly of Flavian origin and of La Graufesenque provenance.

COINS.

1. *Elagabalus*. A.D. 218—222.
Obv. IMP[ANTONIN]VS PIVS AVG.
 Bust laureate r.
Rev. Obliterated.
 Denarius plated. Probably M. & S., IV, ii,
 No. 63, p. 32.

2. *Constans*. A.D. 337—350.*Obv.* [DN CONST]ANS P F AVG.

Bust diademed and draped r.

Rev. [FEL TEM] REPARATIO.Emperor r. head l. holding spear and dragging captive from hut. Mint mark AQS—
Aquila.

Plated centenionalis.

**THE ROMAN CEMETERY IN THE INFIRMARY
FIELD.**

Fig. 21. Infirmary field.

In the course of excavating the ground for the new operating theatre of the Chester Royal Infirmary, an additional Roman burial was discovered on June 5th, 1930. This extra find brings the total number of interments on this site to forty-one. The earlier discoveries were described in the *Liverpool Annals* (vi, 121—167; viii, 49—60). 49—60).

This burial had been materially disturbed, possibly at the time when the field drains were laid, about the year 1860. Its orientation was clearly North to South; and like a number of other graves found here, it was protected by a series of roofing tiles placed pentwise, like an inverted V.

The floor of the grave had been cut into the virgin boulder clay, 4ft. 8in. below the existing surface of the land; and like other interments in this cemetery it had also been sprinkled with finely pounded tiles. The only objects found apparently undisturbed were a plain bronze finger ring; two iron nails, and some small bits of coarse ware pottery—but none affords any chronological evidence.

Deliberate excavations in a northerly direction were carried out; but did not reveal the presence of any additional burials.

The small material finds from this site included a number of Roman sherds belonging to the late first and second centuries; but they were not associated with the burial. Among the Samian sherds was one piece belonging to a hemispherical bowl (form 37), bearing a rather unusual type of decoration (fig. 21) very like those figured by Walters (*B.M. Cat.*, M.1206 and 1334)—Three motifs being common to each of them, viz.:—the rosettes of seven pellets, the curious anchor-like wreath, and the bead-rows dividing the panels. The narrow median border shown by Walters (M.1334) occurs also in our example. But the distinguishing features of our fragment are the arrow-head motifs in the upper panel, and the maneless wild boars filling the lower panel. I have, so far, failed to trace a parallel for the latter.

Period: Probably Trajanic, *i.e.* late first or early second century.

THE ROMAN CEMETERY AT HANDBRIDGE AND ITS ENVIRONS.

The main road leading from the Old Dee Bridge southwards through Handbridge and onwards by Eaton Road as far as Netherleigh House, *i.e.*, for a distance of slightly over half-a-mile, follows, presumably, the line of Watling Street. Numerous Roman burials have been discovered on both sides of this main thoroughfare, and for that reason I have frequently referred to it as "Chester's Appian Way."

It is not my intention, however, to collate and use the earlier records, they can be consulted in the *C.A.J.*, beginning with Vol. I of the Old Series, in 1857. The purpose of this "*Record*" is to give details of four additional interments discovered in recent years, and brief notes on other Roman finds that have been found, more or less, in association with them.

CREMATION BURIAL ON SOUTH SIDE OF RIVER DEE, HANDBRIDGE.

(Plate II. Fig. 22, Nos. 1, 2).

At midday on the 14th of September, 1929, a workman left a packet of Roman potsherds at my house with the message that he had found the sherds while excavating for a drain at Messrs. Nicholls & Co's. Tobacco Factory. The fragments all belonged to one vessel, the inner walls of which were coated with stiff clay and bits of calcined human bones. On exploring the site shortly afterwards, more fragments were found; and also the remains of another pot, portions of which were still *in situ*. Close by was the upper half of a small red-clay figurine (Plate ii). The objects found were lying at a depth of 3ft. 4in. from the surface, in a deposit of sand and clay with a very free admixture of charcoal. This stratum was resting upon a deposit of clean and finely broken sandstone and "roach," clearly rock tailings and of a similar nature to the deposits found in Edgar's Field (*cf. C.A.J.*, xxvii, 147). The form and technique of both vessels seem characteristic of late second century work.

The exact find-spot was a few feet in advance of the S.W. end of the main block of buildings, 16 feet from the bank on the south side of the River Dee, and 530 feet N.E. of the Bridge and the road leading through Handbridge.

No. 1. This vessel contained the calcined human bones. It is of a somewhat unusual form with a relatively narrow neck and pyriform body. Unfortunately the rim is

missing so that it cannot be very closely dated; but it seems to belong to the mid second century of our era. It is composed of rather soft brick-red clay.

No. 2. All the fragments of this vessel were found *in situ*, by myself; but no calcined bones were with it. It is composed of very brittle fumed grey clay, and seems to have been exposed to the action of fire subsequent to baking in the kiln. The shoulder of the pot is burnished, and below the bulge is a band of fine lattice pattern.

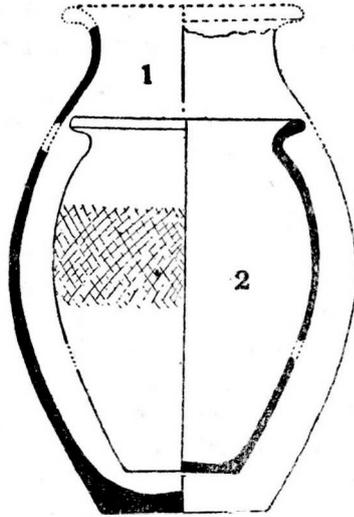


Fig 22.—Cremation burial, Handbridge.

(Plate II).

Upper portion of a figurine of a nude female. Clay fine, pale red, with traces of a creamy-white slip. Arms outstretched, the right hand seems to have held a patera or the like; left arm incomplete. Coiffure broken away. The torso is hollow and seems to have been made on the potters' wheel, the head on the other hand is from a well executed mould. Total height, 4.2in.

CREMATION BURIAL, EBURY PLACE, HANDBRIDGE.

(Plate III, figs. 2, 3).

The lower portion of a large thick-walled urn containing human calcined bones and a bronze coin was found, January 30th, 1935, in making a cut for the main sewer to the new houses then in the course of erection. The position of this find lies immediately N.E. of No. 65, Handbridge, and 135ft. east of the street frontage. This urn was resting in boulder clay at a depth of 3ft. 4in. from the existing surface; the soil above it contained material evidence of English occupation—building material and sherds in blackish soil. This plot of land was in fact occupied by a small block of dilapidated houses known as Bolland's Court, but they were demolished by the late Duke of Westminster. Subsequently the land was brought under cultivation; in the first instance by a man who was keenly interested in antiquities, who often made small exploration cuts and from them secured many Roman sherds and also an almost perfect bronze fibula now preserved in the Grosvenor Museum.

The cinerary Urn (plate III, fig. 2). This was made from finely elutriated buff-cream clay, is rather soft in texture and remarkably free from grit or sand. The foot ring is shallow and rectangular in section. The wall at the sides gives a maximum thickness of 1.8cm.

The missing portion of the urn had, in all probability been cut away, long ago, during building operations.

The Coin was very badly corroded and only the bare outline of the Emperor's head traceable. Mr. Harold Mattingly (British Museum) to whom the coin was submitted writes as follows: "Alas, your coin is beyond us. The head looks early Empire, but we cannot match such a head to right, with its reverse a standing figure. It is presumably second century—Nerva (?), Trajan (?), possibly even later. I cannot find anything to fix it by."

P.S. Since the discovery of this cremation burial vessels of a precisely similar form have been found elsewhere in

Chester, chiefly in the Roman ditch, on the south side of Foregate Street, in association with closely datable pottery of the first—early second century (*cf. C.A.J.*, xxxiii, 93, pl. xxx, fig. 2); so that Mattingly's date of the badly corroded coin as Nerva—Trajan (A.D. 96—117) seems justly confirmed.

Fragments of other Roman vessels were also obtained from the excavations on this site. The most noteworthy being a small cooking pot of fumed grey clay (Plate III, fig. 3). This vessel has a rim of the cavetto type projecting slightly beyond the bulge of the body, and is a close parallel to Collingwood's No. 73 (*Roman Britain*, 235). The neck and shoulder are well polished, and below the latter is a relatively narrow band of obtuse angled lattice pattern faintly indicated. Dimensions: Height 4.6in., rim 3.9in., bulge, 3.8in. It is not very closely datable but is probably of third century origin.

The find-spot was five paces west of the cremation burial. Its presence, hereabouts, in such perfect condition is suggestive that it may have been associated with an inhumation burial, but no skeletal remains were found with it in the very narrow cut from which it came.

CREMATION BURIAL, EAST SIDE OF EATON ROAD.

(Fig. 23, Nos. 1, 2).

THE site of a Roman cremation burial and other archæological relics were disclosed by workmen making a clearing for the road to be known as Eccleston Avenue, on the new Corporation housing estate, in the summer of 1929. This new avenue branches off from the East side of Eaton Road, at a point opposite the entrance gate to Netherfield House. It leads eastwards through land which had long been under cultivation by allotment holders. Hereabouts the sub-soil is of stiff boulder clay, which for the betterment of the crops had been drained extensively, with the result that nearly all our finds had been more or less disturbed in comparatively recent years.

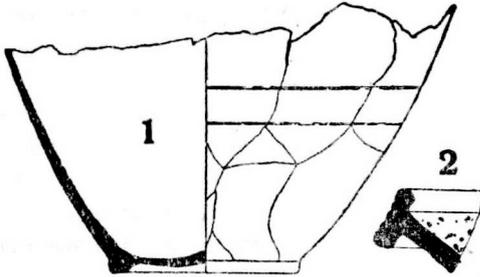


Fig. 23.—Cremation burial, Eccleston Avenue.

No. 1. *Cremation burial.* Position near the centre of the new road and about 25 feet east of Eaton Road. The vessel used as a cinerary urn represents the lower half of a large storage jar, in very soft brick-red clay, with two very faintly indicated grooves, and a well-moulded foot-ring. It was badly fractured and also disintegrated. It was embedded in and also contained a mixture of calcined human bones, charcoal and stiff discoloured clay. The mass of calcined bones, outside the urn, gave a maximum thickness of three and a half inches; and so far as one could ascertain, it extended well beyond the vessel. The surface of the boulder clay, 3ft. 4in. from ground level, on which the calcined bones rested showed, in places, faint traces of fire. It may be taken as a fair inference, therefore, that cremation and burial took place side by side. On the other hand the site may have been used as a general crematorium.

The workmen engaged in making the cut had placed some bits of the urn aside for me; but it was due entirely to the prompt action of our colleague, Mr. W. J. Williams, that the major portion of the vessel was rescued.

In its general technique this cinerary urn or pot can be attributed to the late first or early second century.

Fragments of other vessels were also secured from this site, chiefly from my own explorations; but the only closely datable example was the rim-fragment of a hammer-head type of mortarium (Fig. 23, No. 2) closely resembling

Collingwood's No 13. Usually, however the body of this late form of mortaria is composed of white clay; but in this example it is composed of very hard pale brick-red clay, and the face of the reeded rim is *painted* in two colours—the first two beads of the upper portion chocolate brown; the remainder dusky white and finely reticulated. The whole of the rim shows quite clearly that the brown coating covered the whole surface and that the plain white slip was subsequently applied.

Find-spot about 35 feet east of Eaton Road.

Period late third or fourth century.

The moulded plinth stones. Mr. W. J. Williams (*C.A.J.*, xxviii, 216) has described one of these and illustrated his note on the find with an excellent measured drawing. On deliberately exploring the site an additional section belonging to the shorter arm of that shown in Williams' drawing was discovered. It was resting on a single course of roughly squared blocks of sandstone giving an average thickness of four inches, and it was set in puddled clay.

QUEEN'S PARK ROAD.

(Fig. 24).

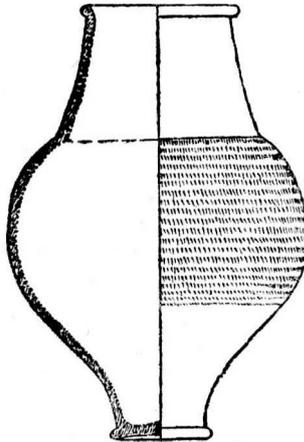


Fig. 24.—Castor Ware, Queen's Park Road.

Castor Ware Beakers. Two Castor ware beakers were discovered in Queen's Park Road, Handbridge, during March, 1939. Both examples were lying in boulder clay just below the rather shallow road-metalling, in cuts made for a pipe-line to supply water to the City Schools on the south side of the road. The first found beaker was lying near the kerb on the north side of the road, at a point c. 220ft. eastwards from the S.W. corner of Bottoms Lane. The second example 18ft. in advance (E) of the first, but on the opposite side of the road. Both examples are precisely similar in form, dimensions and decoration.

Clay pale buff in colour, coated with metallic-black slip, tinged with brown and deep metallic-blue in places. But much of the slip is worn off, more especially so over the broad and very closely rouletted portion of the body of the vessel. Maximum height 9.1in. ; foot 2in. ; rim 3.3in. Both vessels were badly fractured but have admitted reconstruction.

At a meeting of the Council held January 3rd, 1853, Dr. Brushfield (*C.A.J.*, O.S. i, 424) refers to "two curious specimens of sepulchral urns, lately discovered in Queen's Park. One was composed of ordinary red pottery while the other, which was of a much larger size, was of black ware, and indented with a pattern very similar to the Norman chevron ornament. They lay beside a stone coffin found in 1852, a little below the surface of the present road into the Park from Handbridge, and not far from the gate leading into Chivas' Nursery." Fortunately Brushfield's short note on this important find is accompanied with excellent drawings of both vessels. The larger example is still preserved in the Grosvenor Museum; the other is lost. Dr. Brushfield's drawing, however, shows quite clearly that the smaller vessel is of the same form as the examples here described, but much smaller, measuring as he states at the foot of the plate, "3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high." Whether or not our finds were associated with Roman interments it is impossible to say, as I was not

allowed to search the area surrounding the find-spots, but I failed to find any trace of either cremation or inhumation burials on either side of the very narrow cuts.

Our vessels belong to Collingwood's form 85; and Bushe-Fox's form 81 (*Wroxeter*, 1914). Period: rare in the late third century; but Collingwood (*Roman Britain*, 236), says that "most of the dated specimens belong to the fourth century." Furthermore, "that this form of vessel seldom penetrated as far north as Wroxeter and York." One may safely add that Castor ware of any form is extremely rare in Chester, and our recent finds are, at the moment, the only examples represented in the collections at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

QUEEN'S PARK ROAD. North Side, 1939.

(Fig. 25).

Four trenches for A.R.P. shelters were excavated in the south-west corner of the field immediately north-west of Queens Park Road, and only a few paces in the same direction from the find-spot of the two Castor ware beakers. The Roman material finds were found at an average depth of about two feet below the level of the turf, and were resting on the boulder clay. But the finds were very patchy and very widely separated. The chronological evidence of the pottery, covered the period from Flavian times (*A.D.* 69-96) to the closing years of the second century. A few fragments of Roman roof-tiles were found in association with the pottery, but no trace of burials of any form were discoverable. An account of the finds follows.

SAMIAN WARE.

Form 37.—Twenty-two examples. The principal motifs on these were—straight wreaths near Walters 13 (three). Free-style decoration (two). Nude figure of man (Osw. 695) in panel decoration; period probably Antonine. Horseman (Osw. 250A), also of the same period, etc.

Form 22 and 15/17—One of each.

Form 27.—One bearing the potter's stamp MA=MACCUS or MACCIUS of Lezoux. Dated by Oswald (*Stamps*, p. 175) as Flavian.

Form 33.—Three vessels represented. One example bearing the potter's stamp SACRI OF Sacer, a Lezoux potter, whose period of activity is given by Oswald (*l.c.*) as Trajan—Antonine.

COARSE WARE.

Mortaria.—Three examples represented. All of first-early second century.

Pie-Dish.—Collingwood's type 23, but without lattice pattern. Period—latter half of second century.

Flagons.—Three of the "screw-necked" examples. One would prefer to use the term ring-necked (*cf.* Collingwood *Roman Britain*, 228).

BRONZE.

A bronze bell (fig. 25) of typical form was found in association with one small patch of Roman sherds of second century origin. It has a relatively large loop for suspension; and is pierced just below the loop for the suspension of an iron clapper of which slight traces of that metal remained. Diameter of mouth 2 ins. (= 5 cms); height 2 ins.



Fig. 25.

South Side, 1938.

Many sherds of Roman pottery were found on this site in making cuts for the foundations of the new extensions to the County School on the south side of Queens Park

Road in 1938. The period indicated by the fragments extended from late Flavian times to approximately the end of the second century. The only vessel worthy of note was Dragendorff's form 38, a form rather sparingly met with at Chester.

During recent years I have personally explored four small areas in my garden at 67, Handbridge; and although its northern boundary lies but 28ft. south of Ebury Place (p. 123) no traces of interments were discovered. On the other hand fragments of Roman pottery occurred in all the cuts; and a puzzling formation of roughly hewn blocks of sandstone in one of them. I append a description of the latter, also notes on the characteristics of the principal forms of the Roman pottery.

The Roman material occurred at varying depths of from 2ft. 6in. to 3ft. 6in. below the existing surface, and the virgin boulder clay at a slightly lower level. But there was marked evidence that the ground had been disturbed in comparatively recent years; and I have been informed that "shippons" or cow-sheds occupied part of the site until the closing years of the 19th century.

THE PAVED STRUCTURE.

This structure was lying 108ft. east from the street frontage, and 54ft. from the southern boundary to Ebury Place. It was traced eastwards to a length of 16ft., and consisted of a single layer of roughly hewn blocks of sandstone (local Bunter beds), the upper surface of which showed unmistakable signs of having been worn down and rounded off. They were embedded on a rather thin bed of grit one foot above the boulder clay. Water seeped into the cut so rapidly that one was obliged to abandon further search.

The only datable material found in the structural remains was one fragment of a Samian dish, form 31, which is essentially a second century type. There was also part of a frilled vessel, evidently of Roman origin, that may have belonged to an urn with a frilled collar (Cf Grimes, *Holt*, 152, No. 73) but this does not admit of close dating.

This paved way resembles similar structures found elsewhere on the east side of Eaton Road; but it differs in not having a foundation of rough, angular bits of sandstone or "rubble" set in puddled clay or the like.

SAMIAN AND COARSE WARE POTTERY.

(Fig. 26, Nos. 1, 2).

Form 37.—Five vessels represented. Details of two exceptional pieces are herein described and illustrated.

No. 1.—Panel divided by vertical bead-row, enclosing hare (Osw. 2063A). Lezoux ware in the style of the potters *Libertus* and *Butrio*. Probably early second century.

No. 2.—In this example the usual egg and tongue motif is omitted, and in its place a band of concentric circles of which the outer one is beaded. Curle (*Fort of Newstead*, p. 217, 12) attributes this unusual form to the Rheinzabern potter, *Reginus*, whose period of activity is given by Oswald (*Stamps*, p. 261) as Trajan-Antonine.

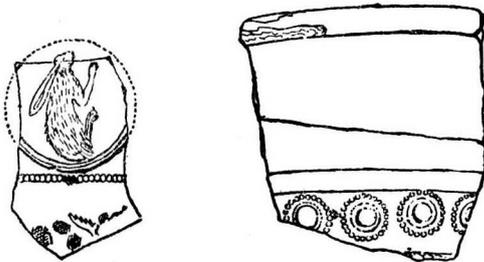


Fig. 26.—Nos. 1, 2, Handbridge.

Plain forms of Samian.—Three examples of form 27. One of form 18, and one of Curle's, form 21.

Coarse Ware.—The rim of a late first century mortarium, and a hammer-headed type of the same class of vessel belonging to the late third or fourth century.

APPLEYARDS LANE, HANDBRIDGE.

(Fig. 27).

Three interesting finds were made on this site in 1930, during the construction of the gas mains and drains to the newly-erected houses on the Chester Corporation Estate. Two of these finds are herein recorded. Both were casual discoveries by workmen employed on the Estate.

Roman Pottery.

A collection of very badly eroded pottery was found lying in a comparatively small area along the site of the gas-main, at a distance of about 180ft. east of Eaton Road. Five vessels are represented all of which seem to belong to the latter half of the second century. These include fragments of two Samian bowls (form 37), both showing portions of a cruciform ornament—one with wavy lines and a double acanthus leaf (Déch 1161), a motif often used by the potter Cinnamus.

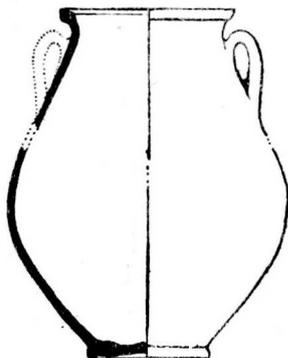


Fig. 27.

One coarse ware vessel (text fig. 27) seems worthy of record as it is of a type rarely met with in Chester, and although it is sadly imperfect sufficient remains to enable one to re-construct it almost completely. It evidently belongs to the class of vessels known as honey pots¹ or two-handled store-jars.

¹ For early types cf. May, *Silchester*, pl. lxiv., Nos. 119, 120; and Grimes, Holt, *Y Cymmrodor*, xli, 152; 69, 72.

In our example the clay is brick red and very badly eroded by the action of the soil. The rim is angular and lozenge-shaped in section. The handle is two-ribbed, and the footing, though shallow, is well turned.

A ROMAN MAGIC SYMBOL?

(Plate iii, fig. 1).

A *pine-cone*, carved in local sandstone was found by a workman in making a cut for a drain to the newly-erected house (No. 16) on the south side of Appleyard's Lane, on October 10th, 1930. The house in question is semi-detached with its front facing the lane and therefore looking out to the north. Bradford Street lies exactly 140ft. to the right (E.); and Eaton Road about 600ft. away to the left (W). The carved stone was lying in discoloured, but apparently undisturbed boulder clay, 2ft. 11in. below the surface and 22ft. 9in. in advance of the front door to the house. Careful search of the site was made shortly after the discovery of the relic but nothing else of Roman origin was discoverable.

The dimensions of the pine-cone are:—Total height, 17½ins.; base, 9½in. x 7in.

The cone proper rests on a rectangular base, is crudely carved, and slightly asymmetrical. The characteristic overlapping scales peculiar to the pine-cone are but faintly indicated by shallow punch-marks.

The Museum at Chesters (*Cilurnum*) possesses two similar examples (*Cat.*, pp. 75, 299, 343); but both are larger and of finer workmanship. They are described as finials or capitals. But a note is added that the pine-cone was an emblem of vigour and strength and perhaps renewed life.

This seems to be the only example of its kind so far discovered in Chester and it may have been associated with a Roman burial.

For details concerning the mysteries shadowed by this strange symbol consult the following :—

- 1.—B.M. *Guide to Greek and Roman Life* (1920), 56, fig. 46.
- 2.—Cumont. *Mysteries de Mithra*, 261, 406, fig. 330.
- 3.—Frazer. *The Golden Bough*, 352, 353.
- 4.—Watkin's *Roman Lancashire*.

ON A COLLECTION OF ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

Formed by the late Mr. Frank H. Williams.

(Figs. 28, 29).

A small but somewhat remarkable collection of Roman antiquities herein described was formed by our late colleague, Mr. Frank H. Williams, at whose demise the relics were passed on to his relative, Mr. C. R. Harding, from whom the whole series was purchased by the Chester Corporation for the sum of £10, and handed over to the Grosvenor Museum on Friday, March 24th, 1939.

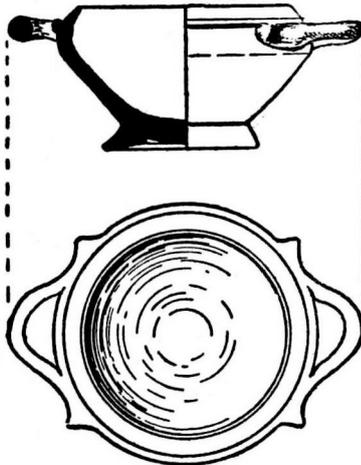


Fig. 28.—Roman cup. Frank William's collection.

A small deep cup in imitation of the Samian form, Dragendorff, 42, with strap-handles; differing, however, from typical examples in having an oblique inwardly pro-

jecting rim arising from a prominent and well-formed bead, to which the strap-handles are, in part, attached. The ware is made of very finely elutriated clay of a pale buff colour, the surface very smooth and slightly burnished on the exterior. This vessel is quite perfect, and a very fine example of the potter's skill. It evidently belongs to that finer class of pottery made at Holt¹; the distinctive features of this ware being a hard light buff colour, and, apart from its colour, resembling the thin-walled "egg-shell" ware. Pottery of this kind has hitherto been found at Chester² in late Flavian-early second century deposits; and this example may be attributed to the same period.

Site: "N. side of Pierpoint Lane, Bridge Street, N., Aug., 1897."

No. 1.—*Gold finger-ring* with a relatively thick hoop, expanding into a small flattened oval bezel bearing a deeply incised and crudely formed insect (bee?) with expanded triangular wings; the legs are also expanded and asymmetrical, there being four on the left side, and three—the correct number—on the right.

Period.—Although this ring does not admit of very close dating it belongs to the series of forms attributable to the first century A.D. In his "*London in Roman Times*, p. 98, fig. 30, Nos. 2-4, Wheeler gives three examples of first century forms, and they are close parallels to our example.

The data accompanying this relic reads as follows:—
"Ring of pure gold with device engraved as a seal. Weight, full 131 grains. Found in excavating on site of house said to have been a residence of Matthew Henry, situated in the north side of Pierpoint Lane, Bridge Street West, Chester. Found August, 1897. Bought off the finder" The corner of the strip of paper recording the amount paid has been torn off. The cursive writing is clearly that of the late Mr. Frank H. Williams.

¹ W. F. Grimes, *Holt*, p. 164.

² *C.A.J.*, xxvii, p. 87, nos. 31a, b, c.
Liverpool Annals, viii, 7.

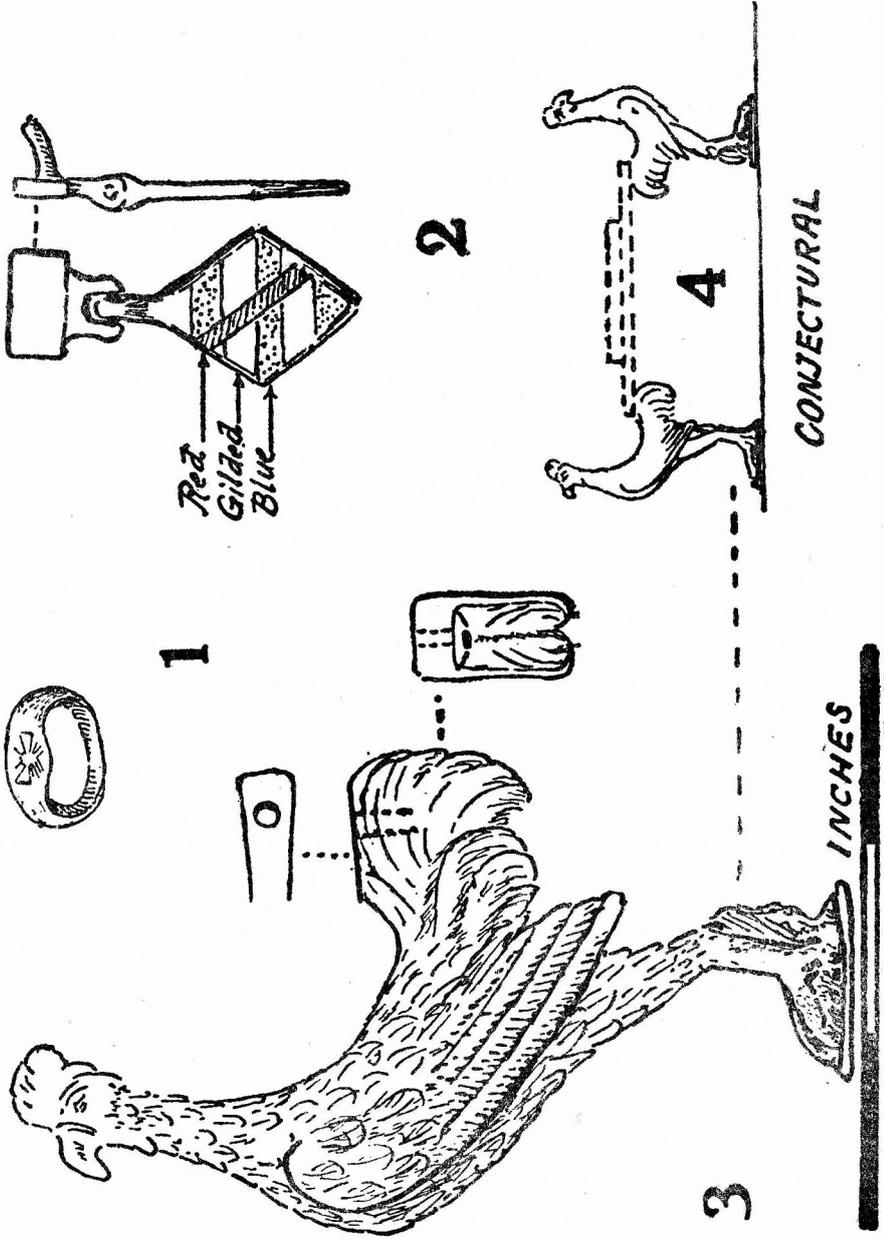


Fig. 29

No. 2.—*Pendant of enamelled bronze.*—This diamond shaped pendant is decorated in alternate transverse bands of blue and gold, with a red band passing obliquely through them. It is hinged to a plain rectangular plate with a stout pin for attachment to harness or the like.

Found in Chester—No other data.

Nos. 3 and 4. *Figurine of domestic fowl.* This fine figurine of bronze or brass is cast in the solid and weighs very slightly under 8oz. The structural details of the feathers, more especially the wing primaries, appear to have been retouched with a sharp instrument. It was intended for use, presumably, as a support or foot to a candelabrum or the like, the point of attachment to the missing portion of the relic being the horizontally truncate tail which is pierced vertically for the reception of a stout pin rivet. The bore-hole has a diameter, at the top, of 4mm, but narrows at the lower opening.

The domestic fowl was a favourite *motif* in classical times; and the cock was regarded as a bird of sanctity in Gaul. The shaft of the Roman bronze lampstand illustrated in the British Museum *Guide to Greek and Roman Life*, 111, fig. 115, is decorated in relief with a panther, a cock, and a bearded serpent.

Found in Chester during sewerage operations—No other data.

ROMAN COINS.

Those marked with an * were submitted to Mr. Harold Mattingly, December, 1940.

VESPASIAN. A.D. 69—79.

1. *Obv.* CÆSAR VESPASIANVS AVG. Reading outwards.
Bust laureate left.
- Rev.* CERES AVGVST.
Denarius. "Believed to have been found in Chester" F. H. W's record attached to the coin.

2. *Obv.* IMP CAES VESP AVG P M TRP COS III
CENS.

Bust radiate left.

- Rev.* FELICITAS PVBLICA. In field S.C.
2Æ. A.D. 72. "Bo^t in Chester" F. H.
Williams.

DOMITIAN. A.D. 81—96.

3. *Obv.* IMP CAES DOMIT AVG . . . TRP VI.
Bust laureate r.

- Rev.* IMP . . . COS XIII CEN[S] . . .
Victory seated left, holding palm branch and
wreath.

Denarius (Broken). A.D. 87?

This piece was enclosed with the *denarius* of
Faustina Senr. bearing the record by
Williams—"Parkgate Road, Chester."

HADRIAN. A.D. 117—138.

- *4. *Obv.* I]MP CÆSAR TRAIANVS HADRI[ANVS]
AVG.

Bust laureate right.

- Rev.* PONT MAX TR POT COS III.
In field S.C. In exergue BRITANNI[A].
Britannia seated l.

No record with this coin.

As *c.* A.D. 119—120. Badly corroded. Type
of Britain subdued.

ANTONINUS PIUS. A.D. 138—161.

5. *Obv.* . . . ANTONINVS AVG PIUS . . .
Bust laureate r.

- Rev.* Emperor seated. Legend obliterated.
1Æ.

"Found in excavating on site of the old
Brewers Arms and the adjoining shop on
the west, Foregate Street, Chester (North
side of) 1897." F. H. Williams.

FAUSTINA SENR. *Obit* A.D. 141.

6. *Obv.* DIVA AVG [FAVS]TINA.
 Bust right.
Rev. AETERNITAS. Eternitas standing l., right
 hand raised and sceptre in left.
Denarius "Parkgate Road, Chester." F. H.
 Williams.
 No. 3. The broken *denarius* of Domitian
 was enclosed with this coin.

JULIA DOMNA. A.D. 193—217.

7. *Obv.* IVLIA AVGUSTA. Bust right.
Rev. FELICITAS.
Denarius. From excavations at east side of
 lower part of St. Werburgh Street, Chester,
 1896." F. H. Williams.

CARACALLA. A.D. 198—217.

- *8. *Obv.* ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT'.
 Bust laureate right.
Rev. PM TR PXV COS III P P.
 Fortuna seated holding cornucopia.
Denarius Plated. A.D. 212. "Bought in
 Chester and stated to have been found
 here." F. H. W.

JULIA MAESA *Obit* A.D. 223.

9. *Obv.* JVLIA MAESA AVG. Bust right.
Rev. PVD[ICIT]IA. Pudicitia seated left holding
 transverse sceptre in left hand.
Denarius: Plated. "From excavations at
 East side of lower part of St. Werburgh
 Street, Chester, 1896." F. H. Williams.

CARAUSIUS. A.D. 287—293.

- *10. *Obv.* IMP CARAVSIVS [P F AVG?].
 Bust radiate r
Rev. PAX [AVG?].
 3Æ. Barbarous imitation "or at least irregular
 issue" (H. Mattingly).

**ON A COLLECTION OF ROMAN ANTIQUITIES
Formed by the late Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A.**

(Figs. 30—33).

This collection was purchased by me from Mrs. Frank Simpson in December, 1942. Records were attached to some of the objects, but many were without data. It may be taken as a fair inference, however, that they are all of local origin. New or noteworthy examples only are dealt with in this account of Simpson's collection.¹

TILE STAMPS.

(Fig. 30, Nos. 1—7).



Fig. 30.

¹ Presented to the Grosvenor Museum, 11th January, 1943.

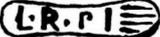
- No. 1. LEG XX/. Within a plain rectangular border. The lettering rather widely spaced. Masonic Hall, Hunter Street, 1909.
- No. 2. LEG XX/X/. Within ansate border and five serrations. The smaller inverted V is clearly defined, the larger V which presumably enclosed it has the right limb and apex broken off. Masonic Hall, Hunter Street, June 12th, 1909.
- No. 3. /XXV:X:V. Within ansate border. This is rather puzzling but seems to be a variant of the *Antoniniana* stamp—LEG]XXVVANT. No data given.
- No. 4. /XXVV (*Retro*). The lettering in this example is highly raised and clumsily executed; and the stamp is deeply impressed on one side. There is no indication of a border surrounding the inscription. This seems to be another variant of the *Antoniniana* stamp. There is a prominent dot to the first V and the outer limit of the second V is crossed, so that, presumably, /XXVVANT is intended.
- No. 5. LEG/XX/. Within a very distinctive ansate border, with *strong points radiating* from the angles of the inner border. Masonic Lodge, Hunter Street, June 12, 1909.
- No. 6. /XXĀNT/. Cf *Walls of Chester*, 3, No. 3.
- No. 7. /ĀNTO with ansate termination. Ibid. No. 2. For additional notes on these stamps by Mr. R. P. Wright see *J.R.S.*, xxxv, 91. We are indebted to Miss M. V. Taylor for the loan of this block.

POTTERS' STAMPS ON SAMIAN WARE.

1. AETERNI M. (*Retro*). *Aeternus* of Lezoux. Trajan-Antonine. On 18/31, high kick. No data.
2. DOMITIANVS F. *Domitianvs* of Heiligenberg and Kräherwald. Trajan-Hadrian. On 33. Love Lane, Foregate Street, Jan., 1890.

3. DRAVCI M. *Drucus* of Montans. Domitian-Trajan. On 18; flat base. No data.
4. PAVLI. Paullus of Lezoux & Lubié. Hadrian-Antonine. On 27, small. No data.
5. SECVN-DI. Probably *Secundus* of Les Allieux, and Pont-des-Rêmes. On 33. No data.
6. SECV/. Probably *Secundus* of Lezoux. On 18/31, high kick. No data.
7. /SEAERI M. Probably *Severus* of Lezoux. Trajan-Antonine. On 18/31. Forest House, Foregate Street, 1904.

NOTEWORTHY STAMPS.

8.  O]F AQIII/. On 27 (large) with grooved foot-ring. The first three letters seem to be cut off at their bases, and the last two mere short strokes. Dr. Oswald informs me that this is "almost certainly a small impression of AQVIT, and a stamp of *Aquitanus*, no doubt Claudian". (Oswald, *Stamps*, 20, places this potter at La Graufesenque.
9.  *Ioenalis* of Vichy, on 27 (large), foot-ring with two hair-like grooves. Period Trajan-Hadrian. City Road, E, 1909.
10.  In *planta pedis*, within a large concentric ring. Form doubtful, but resembles that of form 35. Dark glaze with a finely matted surface. Foot-ring very slightly chamfered. Under-side of cup, above the foot, finely fluted. "Chester", but no other data. Dr. Oswald identified this interesting stamp as that of "the late Arretine potter L.RASINVS PISANUS Walters (*Cat.*, pl. ix) considers him to have flourished about A.D. 50". Furthermore "that this stamp occurs in the Arretine collection of the American Academy at Rome and is described by Howard Comfort in its *Memoirs*, vii (1929), 208; it is present

there with its fuller stamps : L.R.PIS, L.RASIN. P. and L.RASINI. PISANI." For additional reference to this potter cf. *J.R.S.*, xxxiii, 17—26.

11.  On form 18/31. The first four letters seem perfectly clear, the rest mere scribbling. Assuming that the first letter may be MA ligatured, even so one fails to construe. "Chester", but no other data given.

DECORATED SAMIAN WARE.

(Fig. 31, Nos. 1—3).

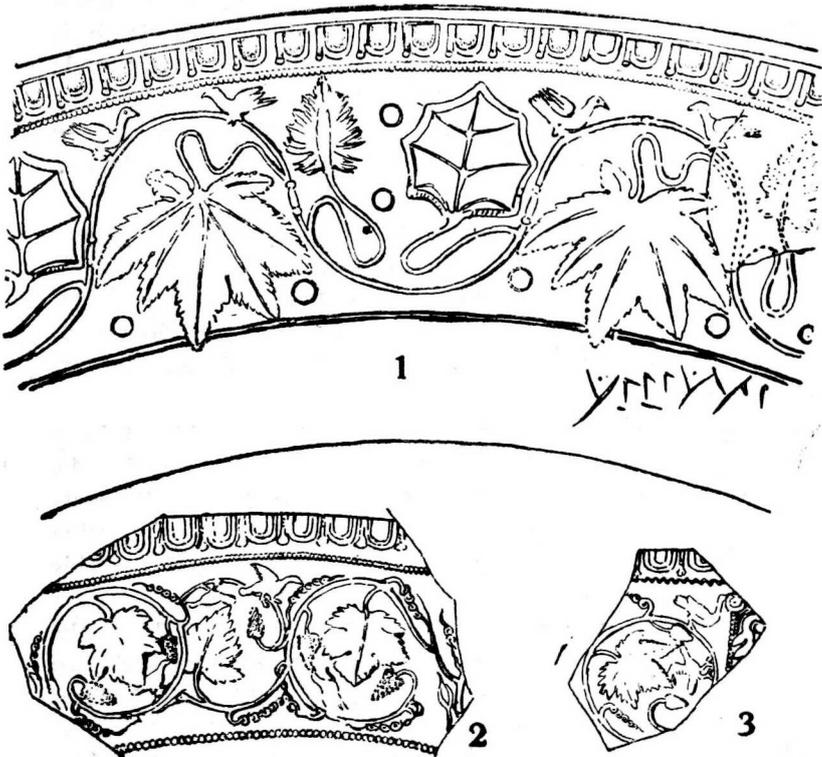


Fig. 31. Nos. 1—3. Samian ware. Frank Simpson's collection.

The collection consisted of three forms of decorated vessels: Form 29, one undated fragment; form 37, twelve examples; form 30, one undated; and one of the large mortaria class of bowls near Oswalds' No. 19. Three examples of form 37 are of exceptional interest and worthy of a place in our records of archæological finds in Chester.

No. 1. Form 37, bearing the cursive signature of the potter ATTIANVS of Lezoux, seven fragments conjoined representing about half of the original bowl. The individual motifs of the ovolo border are relatively widely separated; the tongue is very faintly corded and attached to the left side of the U-shaped element; but the inner U is barely traceable. There are three grooves above and a bead-row below the ovolo. The main decoration consists of a broad continuous scroll; the lower compartments each with a large vine leaf, and a bilateral ring, above the branch two birds confronted; the upper spaces each with two leaves—one octagonal the other pinnate and between them two rings. Below the cordon which encloses the design is the cursive signature of the potter upside down and retrograde.

Oswald (*J.R.S.*, pl. vi, No. 9) gives an identical signature of this potter and places his work in the Hadrianic period, A.D. 117—138. The bright orange-red glaze has flaked away rather badly over the decorated portions of the vessel, elsewhere it is brilliant and intact. "Forest House, Chester, 1904."

Forest House occupied a site on the east side of Love Street and was destroyed in part to make way for the Co-operative Stores, whose frontage reaches to Foregate Street. Dr. Oswald, to whom the rubbings of the decoration of this bowl were sent, has very kindly given some valuable details regarding the decoration. He says:—"Your *Attianus* bowl is especially interesting as it combines the three kinds of leaves with his stamp; the big vine-leaf is on 37 ATT retro. of Wroxeter, showing that this stamp belongs to ATTIANVS and not to ATTIVS as I thought. The octagonal leaf on ATTIANVS retro. at Besançon (Vaissier).

The smaller vine-leaf is on bowls in his style at Saalburg and Zugmantel. I find his work is often similar in details to that of Sacer."

No. 2. Form 37. Tongue of the ovolo border faintly corded with a broadly pyriform terminal. A bead-row above and also below the main decoration; the latter consisting of three circular vine branches, with leaves, tendrils and bunches of grapes. A small bird is placed within each circular branch, and one with raised wings on the exterior of the central branch. Brilliant orange-red glaze. "Foregate Street, 1904."

No. 3. Form 37. A small fragment with a circular vine-branch enclosing vine leaf, bunches of grapes, and a bird with wings displayed; but a wavy-line is used below the ovolo instead of a bead-row, and there is also a vertical *motif* terminating with a large ring under the wavy-line to which a much larger bird is pointing. No data to this fragment.

Bushe-Fox (*Wroxeter*, 1912, p. 38) gives details of a circular vine-branch decoration of a precisely similar kind to that of the two preceding vessels. He dates his example "about 90—110."

Since the above was written, Dr. Oswald has given some interesting details regarding this form of decoration; and furthermore has provided me with tracings of drawings by Knorr (*Cannstatt*, 1905, v, 9, and 1921, vi, 3). Also of the examples found at Alchester and Carlisle. In his letter of January 26th, 1943, he adds:—"With regard to your vine-scrolls I enclose tracings of my drawings of bowls I believe to be by ARCANVS being associated with figure-stamps occurring on bowls stamped ARCANVS".

"Your type B (No. 3) is a different variety, the bird above the vine-leaf having upraised wings, but I think it is also probably by Arcanus. As to the Wroxeter specimen (the vine-leaf is a little different) it seems to me more probably by IOENALIS who uses the cog-wheel demi-medallions. These Trajan potters seem to me to have been rather closely associated, and it is sometimes difficult to

ascribe a bowl definitely to a particular potter, and the general style has to be considered as well as the minor motifs."

ROMAN FIBULÆ.

(Figs. 32, 33).



Fig. 32



Fig. 33

The two fibulæ here roughly figured were presented to me by Miss Simpson at the beginning of April, 1943. They formed part of her late father's collection. Both examples have now been given to the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

Fig. 32. A fine example of the dolphin type, belonging to Collingwood's Class II (*cf. Arch Rom. Brit.*, 247, figs. 11—17. Bronze, part gilded and enamelled. *Bow with a thin bilateral flange.* The upper surface decorated with traces of blue, white and green enamel; arms with the edge of the terminals milled. Pin hinged. Catch plate solid. A distinctive form, and in a very good state of preservation.

The record attached to the brooch reads as follows: "This fibula was found by the foreman Evans whilst excavating for the foundations of the Masonic Hall, Hunter Street, June 12th, 1909: along with 20th Legion tiles I bought it same day. F.S."

Fig. 33. Disc-brooch of enamelled bronze. The decoration consists of a central low convex stud of bronze, and six equidistant submarginal studs of the same kind. In the

centre is a broad concentric band of blue enamel, followed by a slightly broader one of red. This is in rather poor condition and the pin is missing.

The record attached to the brooch reads as follows:—
 "This Roman brooch was found by Evans of Overleigh Rd., Handbridge, Chester, when excavations were being made for the foundations of the Masonic Hall, Hunter St., Chester. Evans was foreman and I purchased it same day, June 12th, 1909. F.S."

LEGIONARY STAMPS.

Two official stamps of the Twentieth Legion have been discovered in Chester during recent years and seem worthy of a special note in these "Records".

The first example is well-known, and although incomplete at the beginning, is clearly the Holt type No. 1, and has hitherto been found at Chester in second century deposits. Found on the south side of Eastgate Street.

The second example is of the Holt type No. 14, and is extremely rare with us at Chester. It reads:—LEG XX[VV]/S VB LOGO[PR].

Professor Haverfield (*Cat*, 88) says that the expansion of the second line is conjectural. "L.O.G. (or GO) seem to be the initials of an official, whose post is indicated by *o. pr.* (or *pr*). [*Eph* iv, 694a, vii, 1125; W.119, 320]. Found in a mixed deposit near Pemberton's Parlour at the foot of the City Walls.

ROMAN IMPERIAL COINS.

(Fig. 34).

DOMITIAN. A.D. 81—96.

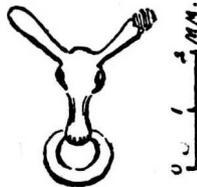


Fig. 34

1. *Obv.* IMP CAES DOMITIAN AVG GERM COS
XI.

Bust laureate right.

Rev. SALVTI AVGVSTI. In field SC.

Temple; in the upper panels five knobs; in each of the lower panels a single *bucranium*. New *motifs* on doors of temple.

As. 86 A.D., in fine condition.

Found in allotment No. 3, Cliveden Road, Saltney, Chester, 1944, on the site of the Roman Settlement. (Cf. *Liverpool Annals*, xxii, 3—18, 1 pls. i—vii).

Mr. Harold Mattingly who has kindly examined this coin states that "it is a normal issue of Domitian, but the *bucrania* as door-handles (fig. 34) are an unusual feature".

TRAJAN. A.D. 98—117.

2. *Obv.* IMP CAES NERVA TRAIAN AVG GERM.
Bust laureate right.

Rev. PM TR P COS II PP.

Figure seated left holding cornucopiæ

Denarius. A.D. 98—99.

Dee Lane, at a depth of 4ft.

3. *Obv.* Legend obliterated. Bust right.

Rev. Victory left.

2Æ. c. A.D. 98—102. Burnt and badly corroded. Det. Mattingly.

Lache Estate, Saltney, 1934.

4. *Obv.* Bust radiate right.

Rev. Spes left.

2Æ. c. A.D. 107. Burnt, legends obliterated. Det. Mattingly.

City Road, 1934.

HADRIAN. A.D. 117—138.

5. Sestertius. In poor condition. c. A.D. 126—128.
Det. Mattingly. By River Dee, Saltney, 1937.

6. *Obv.* . . . HADRIANVS AVG . . .
Bust laureate right.
Rev. Fortuna seated left.
Denarius. In poor condition. *c.* A.D. 118—
120.
Eastgate Street, 1933.
- ANTONINUS PIUS. A.D. 138—161.
7. *Obv.* ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS III.
Rev. SALVS AVG.
Salus feeding serpent.
1Æ. A.D. 140—143. Canal Street, 1937.
8. *Obv.* ANTONINVS[AV]G PIVS P P.
Bust laureate right.
Rev. COS II II.
Clasped hands, caduceus and ears of corn.
Denarius: COS IV, A.D. 145.
M. and S., 43, No. 136, give Mint of Rome,
A.D. 145—161.
“Frodsham.” *C. W. Rogers, test.*
9. *Obv.* ANTON[INVS]AVG PIVS P P COS IIII.
Bust laureate right.
Rev. Mars with lance right. Burnt, poor condition.
Det. Mattingly. Flookersbrook, Hoole, 1936.
10. *Obv.* ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P.
Bust laureate right.
Rev. COS IIII. In field PAX AVG
S C
Pax left holding rudder in right hand, cornu-
copiæ in left.
Sestertius (*M. and S.*, 126, No. 777).
Newgate Street, 1931.
- SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS. A.D. 193—211.
11. *Obv.* SEVERVS PIVS AVG.
Bust laureate right.
Rev. FVNDA TOR PACIS.
Pax left holding olive branch.
Denarius. *c.* A.D. 202.
Shavington Avenue, Hoole, 1936.

- 12, 13 Two denarii as above.
Newgate Street and Saltney, respectively.
14. *Rev.* MARTI PA[CIFERO]. Probably barbarous denarius. Det. Mattingly. Hunter Street, 1936.

ELAGABALLUS. A.D. 218—222.

15. *Obv.* IMP CAE M AVR AVG P TR P.
Bust draped and laureate right.
- Rev.* FIDES [PV]BLICA.
Denarius. North side of Chester Castle, 1939.

RADIATE CROWNS. A.D. 260—267.

16. *Obv.* Radiate crown right.
- Rev.* Illegible.
Minim. c. A.D. 273. Det. Mattingly.
Roman Amphitheatre, 1934.

VICTORINUS. A.D. 265—267.

17. *Obv.* [VICTO]RINVS [P F AVG].
Bust radiate, right.
- Rev.* [INVICTVS].
3Æ. Corroded. c. A.D. 268—270. Det. Mattingly. Foregate Street, 1914.
18. *Obv.* VICTORINVS . . .
Bust radiate, right.
- Rev.* [SAL]VS AVG.
Salus standing right feeding serpent.
3Æ. Worn. Deanery Field, 1934.
19. *Obv.* Similar.
- Rev.* [PROVIDEN]TIAE AVG.
3Æ. Corroded. Chester.

LICINIUS. A.D. 307—324.

20. *Obv.* IMP LICINI[VS P F] AVG.
Bust laureate right.
- Rev.* SOL[I INV]ICTO COMITI. C/S.
... RP
- Sol right hand raised, left holding globe.
3Æ. Chester.

CONSTANTINE I. A.D. 307—337.

21. *Obv.* CONSTA[N]TINVS AVG.
Bust laureate right.
- Rev.* PROVIDENTIAE AVG.
Gate-way to camp, surmounted by two globes,
with 8-rayed star between them.
3Æ. Found in surface soil, Lache Lane,
August, 1946.

DECENTIUS. A.D. 350—353.

22. *Obv.* D N DECENTIVS NOB CAES.
Head bare, bust cuirassed.
- Rev.* SALVS D D NN AVG ET CAES.
3Æ. Foot of City Wall, Deanery Field, 1936.

VALENTINIAN I. A.D. 364—375.

23. *Obv.* [D N] VALEN[TINI]ANVS P F AVG.
Bust diademed and draped right.
- Rev.* SECVRITAS REPVBLICAE.
R
Victory with wreath and palm S/F Siscia.
... SISP
3Æ. Old Grave Yard, Bedward Row, 1934.
24. As above.
Meadows, Earl's Eye, 1934; Kilmorey Park, 1936.

ASHTON, NEAR CHESTER.

(Fig. 35).

On February 10th, 1945, my friend Mr. G. B. Leach was again rewarded for his long and diligent search for antiquities at Ashton,¹ by discovering a piece of figured Samian ware that adds another important and interesting record to our knowledge of the Roman occupation of that site. His earlier finds belonging to this period are described by him in this *Journal*.² This note deals with his latest find:—

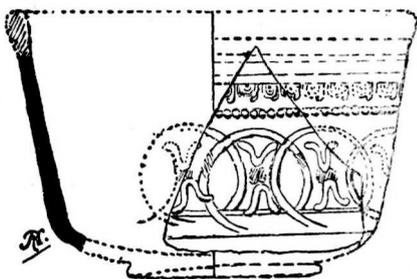


Fig. 35

Samian cup, Knorr, form 78. The decoration consists of the following: An ovolo border forms the upper portion of the design, this being of a relative small form, with the tongue projecting and curving under the U-shaped portion of the *motif*. Below it is a relatively heavy bead-row. The principal decoration consists of a series of intersecting circles, and in the centre of each a pair of *motifs*, in reversed order, resembling crudely shaped chevrons. The *motifs* tying the bases of these together are badly blurred, but there are faint indications in one example of the rays of a large rosette. Two faint grooves intersect the lower portions of the circles.

¹ Mediaeval pottery and kiln, *Liverpool Annals*, xxi., 5—26; pl. i—vi.

² Finds of Pre-historic and Roman periods. *C.A.J.*, xxxv., 53—59, with plan of area.

The decoration of these vessels with intersecting circles is unusual. Hitherto this form of decoration was known as employed by the Lezoux potters who made bowls of Dragendorff's form 29. Déchelette³ (text i, p. 180, fig. 106) illustrates an example from Lezoux in which the upper frieze is decorated with intersecting circles only. In Walters⁴ (M. 1,015, fig. 167) the circles are interspersed with large rosettes. May⁵ describes an example from Colchester in which both friezes are decorated with circles arranged in similar form; in the lower frieze, however, the circles have a vertical wavy line down the centre, and in the space above are anchor-shaped *motifs*.

Find Spot. The garden of Smithy House on the north side of the small brook, and about 20 yards north of the mediæval potters' kiln.

Period. Flavian (A.D. 69—96).

³ *Les Vases ornés de la Gaule romaine*. 1907.

⁴ B.M. *Cat.*, 1908.

⁵ *Cat. Roman Pottery, Colchester*, 1930, p. 48, pl. xiv., No. 67.