

recognize familiar names. At this time the use of the English language was expanding, as is shown not just by the great quantity of literature produced for aristocratic and clerical readers, but also by the distribution by the rebels of 1381 of rallying letters, and by the circulation among lower-class Lollard groups of illicit scriptures and books of edification.⁶

The Gormand stone is a further example of writing for public display, like the inscriptions found on church wall paintings or in stained glass, that were intended to be generally understood. It is surely significant that this example should come from a market village with inhabitants and passers-by who made their living in non-agricultural occupations, and who were therefore likely to have developed some degree of literacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Dr W. J. Blair, M. W. Farr, Professor P. D. A. Harvey, A.E.B. and Dr D. M. Owen, W. A. Seaby and Dr R. N. Swanson for advice about the lettering on the stone; to Stephanie Ratkai for examining pottery from its associated contexts; and to Nigel Dodds for producing the illustration.

NICHOLAS PALMER and CHRISTOPHER DYER

NOTES

¹ An interim report on the excavations is published in N. Palmer, *Burton Dassett Excavations* (Warwickshire Museum, 1987). For Burton Dassett see C. J. Bond, 'Deserted medieval villages in Warwickshire and Worcestershire', 157-60 in T. R. Slater and P. J. Jarvis (eds), *Field and Forest — An historical geography of Warwickshire and Worcestershire* (Norwich, 1982); N. W. Alcock, *Warwickshire Grazier and London Skinner 1532-1555* (British Academy, London, 1981), 27-37.

² Public Record Office, E 164/15; Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Record Office, Stratford-upon-Avon, DR98/154; L. Drucker (ed.), *Warwickshire Feet of Fines* (Dugdale Soc., xviii, 1943), 13.

³ N. Orme, *English Schools in the Middle Ages* (London, 1973); id., *Education in the West of England* (Exeter, 1976); H. M. Jewell, 'The bringing up of children in good learning and manners'; a Survey of Secular Educational Provision in the North of England, c. 1350-1530', *Northern Hist.*, 18 (1982), 1-25; J. A. H. Moran, *The Growth of English Schooling, 1340-1548* (Princeton, N.J., 1985).

⁴ E.g. P.R.O., SC 2 207/58 shows a serf of Oxhill (Warw.) paying 6s. 8d. for licence to tonsure his son in 1277: T. H. Aston, G. D. Duncan and T. A. R. Evans, 'The Medieval Alumni of the University of Cambridge', *Past and Present*, 86 (1980), 9-86.

⁵ Moran, op. cit. in note 2, 179-81; M. B. Parkes, 'The Literacy of the Laity', 555-77 in D. Daiches and A. Thorlby (eds), *The Mediaeval World* (London, 1973).

⁶ M. Aston, 'Lollardy and Literacy', *History*, LXII (1977), 347-71.

A PIECE OF 'SCARBOROUGH WARE' REASSESSED (Fig. 5)

In 1961 Mr J. G. Rutter published the medieval pottery in Scarborough Museum.¹ The pottery of the 13th and 14th centuries is divided into two sections: Section 1 lists the glazed wares, which are subdivided into 27 types. Type 7 has thirteen examples of which No. 7/3 (fig. 2, No. 7/3) is the subject of this note.

This vessel, which has striking visual characteristics, was inspected by the writer in 1987. It is reported to have been 'found on the Castle Road pottery site before 1854 and therefore there can be little doubt that it is the product of the kilns. [It] displays features that are alien to the other tubular-spouted jugs, and indeed are unknown in connection with other local types of medieval pitchers. The ware and glaze are unusual and the angular form of the vessel with its peculiar rim is unique. In contrast with the other local jugs, both exterior and interior are glazed, and the finger-impressions, which are normally found at both ends of the handle and around the basal angle are confined to a single impression situated at the base of the handle'.²

Footnotes to this report describe the details of the vessel. This is in some details at variance with the writer's observation, which is: dark red fabric. Covered all over (inside and outside) with white slip. Glazed all over with a copper wash in the glaze. The colour range is bright green, pale green and amber. Flared rim with inturned flange at the front. Round-sectioned tubular spout with (curving) strut connecting rim to spout. Round-sectioned

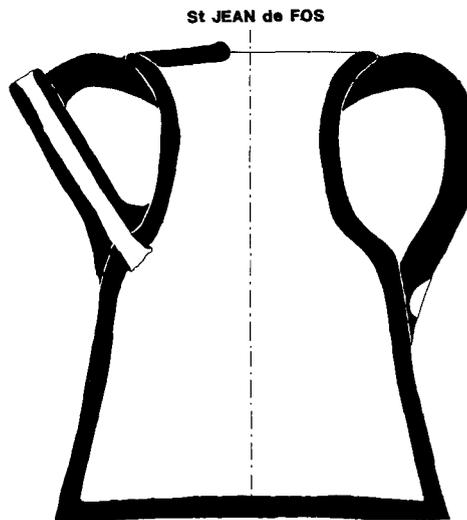
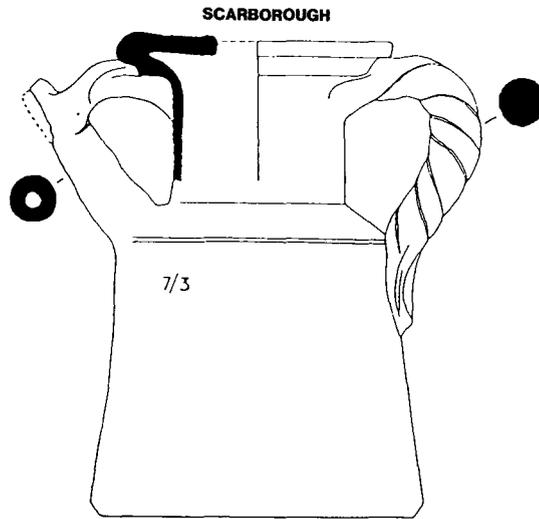


FIG. 5

Pichets de barque. Scale approx. 1:4

handle with twisted groove. Fastened onto the rim and at the lower end with a single central indent.

Rutter's comments strongly mark a deep suspicion about the origins of the vessel, borne out today by the fact that although it is a complete piece (with some slight damage) it is not displayed. The writer recognized these variations and looked for parallels. Spain and N. Italy were considered; parallels in part could be found in both countries. It was during this search that the book *Les potiers de terre de Saint-Jean-de-Fos* was published,³ in which is described and illustrated a vessel of similar profile to the Scarborough jug⁴ (Fig. 5).⁵ This vessel is described thus: 'Pichet de barque. Extérieur: glaçure vert sur engobe blanc. Intérieur glaçure incolore

sur terre sans engobe. La partie du col, du côté du bec tubulaire, est fermée par une plaque de terre. Certains "pichets de barque" reçoivent une couche de glaçure jaune à l'extérieur.'

Potters were operating in Saint-Jean-de-Fos in 1435, although no potter was named there until 1526. After that they were registered every 20 years. Up to 1615 approximately ten potters were working and from that date to 1740 there was a steady increase to 70 — peaking at 75 in 1830 and declining to termination in 1920.

Amongst the descriptions of form the 'pichet de barque' is picked out as 'Une pièce particulière qui dérive de l'orjol — d'autres recipients à liquide ont été fabriqués, mais de manière occasionnelle'. This statement certifies the origins of the form. The illustrations accompanying the publication show twisted handles exactly paralleling the Scarborough piece.

The dating of this piece is attributed in the article to the early 19th century although the author points out that the style of the vessels have a 'caractère archaisante', so the vessel was new or almost new when it was found in Scarborough. How it arrived there is another matter. The two principle markets are Beziers and Montpellier. In the early 19th century Montpellier was a spa town. Neither are ports.

In conclusion, the vessel published as an English medieval Scarborough ware piece is shown to be southern French in origin, one of a large quantity of similar vessels produced in St Jean-de-Fos, Provence in the early 19th century and deposited on the unwitting museum curator at the time of the great discoveries of kiln material in Scarborough in the 1850s.

KENNETH J. BARTON

NOTES

¹ J. G. Rutter, *Medieval Pottery in the Scarborough Museum — 13th and 14th Centuries* (Scarborough and District Archaeological Society, Res. Rep. 3, 1961).

² *Ibid.*, 14.

³ Jean-Louis Vayssettes, *Les potiers de terre de Saint-Jean-de-Fos* (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1987), fig. 164.

⁴ Description, 164; colour plate, opp. 192.

⁵ The illustrations are photocopies of the originals and are about a quarter of the pots' actual size.

THE STORVÅGAN PROJECT 1985–86: PRELIMINARY REPORT (Pl. VI, B)

The earliest known urban settlement on the Arctic coast of Norway was Vágar in Lofoten. From written sources this settlement is known to have functioned as an economic, ecclesiastical and administrative centre of N. Norway, but the sources are silent after the end of the 14th century. Small-scale excavations in 1985–86 produced surprisingly rich material that shows no decline during the late medieval period. The finds seem to have the potential to give a quite new understanding of this rather special urban society.

The purpose of this report is to make known archaeological material that we think will be important for the understanding of many aspects of medieval society, both for the Arctic areas of Scandinavia and for the trade network of N. Europe as a whole. The economic basis of medieval Vágar (modern Norwegian: Vågan) was the rich cod fisheries of the Lofoten Islands. At least from the 12th century, local fishermen produced stockfish that was shipped to Bergen for export to the European market. Until the end of the 14th century, Vágar had the status of a small town.

The project that was established for this task was based on co-operation between the University of Tromsø (the Institute of Social Science), the Polish Academy of Science (the Institute of The History of Material Culture, PAN, Warszawa) and Lofotmuseet in Storvågan.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES

In Storvågan, immediately W. of the present town of Kabelvåg, we find a c. 20,000 m² area of settlement deposits on the flat base of a rocky headland. The two bays are shallow and