

Norman Pottery from Wallingford Market Place.

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EARLY in July, 1935, digging operations on the West side of the Market Place, Wallingford—opposite Lloyd's and Barclay's banks—revealed 75 fragments of pottery, some bones and a few oyster shells. The remains apparently formed a small rubbish heap. They were from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet down from the present surface in a stony soil. The whole of the finds were submitted by Dr. Girling to Reading Museum for examination.

Descriptions of the finds :

FIG. 1.—Rim and part of the side of a cooking-pot. Of dark grey ware, the clay incorporating grains of sand which lie very close together. The shoulder is covered with horizontal bands of rectangular punctuations, probably produced by a roller stamp. Internal diameter of rim 7 inches. Through bad shaping the pot bulges so that an accurate greatest diameter cannot be obtained—possibly this diameter is 9 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Another fragment, of similar paste and with similar punctuations, came from a larger pot and was ironstained. Both fragments seem to have been turned on a slowish wheel.

A few comparable rim sections exist such as those figured in *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* XLVI, p. 266, plate II, and in *Archaeologia* LXXXIII, 1933, p. 108, fig. 5. For similar decoration compare (1) *Antiq. Journ.* XVI, p. 407, fig. 5 number 4 and fig. 3, number 1. (2) Jewitt, "*Ceramic Art*," vol. I, p. 76—a pitcher "temp. Henry III." This method of decoration, as Mr. Dunning points out, is typical of the eastern counties where a certain amount of influence from the Rhineland was felt during the late Saxon period. This influence spread and so rouletting is found at Old Sarum and several other places in the South of England (*Antiq. Journ.* XV, p. 185.)

FIG. 2.—Fragment of greyish ware, incorporating sand which gives it a characteristic surface. Decoration made on the top of rim by finger-tips—such as is characteristic of the 12th century (compare the Old Sarum cooking-pot in *Antiq. Journ.* XV, p. 187 No. 14). Wheel-turned. Inside diameter of rim $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; outside diameter $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIG. 3.—Fragment of greyish ware incorporating minute sand. Paste very hard. Wheel turned. Undecorated rim. Exterior diameter of rim is about 8 inches.

FIG. 4.—Fragment of pinkish-brown ware. Minute, crowded sand in the clay. Grey core. Wheel turned. Finger-tip decoration on top of rim. Inner diameter of rim $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; outer diameter $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIG. 5.—Fragment of ware like fig. 4. Sand very obvious to the touch and yet very small. Wheel turned. Finger-tip decoration on the top of the rim. Inside diameter of rim $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; outside diameter $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Such pots are widely distributed especially along the Thames Valley. Compare (1) the cooking-pot with sagging bottom from Wrecchesham, Surrey, in the Newbury Museum (unpublished); (2) the cooking-pot (apparently not wheel-turned) described in *Trans. Newbury Field Club*, VII, pp. 48-49; (3) the Bristol Museum cooking-pot (number N. 779).*

FIG. 6.—Fragment of a dish. Pink ware; grey core. Paste incorporates sand. Wheel turned. Grooves on top of rim probably made by a stick. On the base as on the rim are grooves with a slight burr. Inside diameter of rim 11 inches; outside diameter 12 inches.

The decoration on the base seems a survival of an Early Iron Age usage—see *Hengistbury Head Excavations 1911-12*, Plate xv, number 6 for a vessel with its base ornamented with long oval impressions. Compare also the dish from Walton Road, Aylesbury, with finger-tip indentations along the top of the rim (*Records of Bucks*, IX, 1907, pp. 282-296).

FIG. 7.—Fragment of greyish-black coarse ware. Fairly hard paste. Some small grit is incorporated. External diameter of rim about 4 inches.

FIG. 8.—Fragment of a rim of black ware, grey in section. Minute grit incorporated. External diameter of rim $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Probably parallel to Mr. Stevens' individual cooking-pots from Old Sarum (*Wilts. Arch. Mag.* XLVI).

FIG. 9.—Grooved fragment of pinkish-brown paste, incorporating minute grit. Whitish interior as if water had been boiled in it. Another fragment was found similar to the one drawn.

FIG. 10.—Sagging base of pinkish-brown ware, incorporating sand. Burnt black on the exterior. A white deposit on inside possibly through boiling water. Diameter 10-11 inches. Several similar portions of sagging bases were among the fragments.

The sagging base occurs over a long period, from early Saxon times until well into the Medieval period. One such, of a cooking-pot, was found at Leicester with coins of the late 12th century

* Through the kindness of Mr. H. C. Brentnall, F.S.A., I have been able to find out the history of this cooking-pot to which reference is frequently made. It was probably found at Marlborough Castle in October, 1915 when the Mitre Society of Marlborough College excavated there. It has a sagging base. Height $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; rim diameter $11\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

(*Antiq. Journ.* VII, p. 322). A cooking-pot, almost globular in shape, was found with a baluster jug at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1906 (Ashmolean Museum).

FIG. 11.—Fragment of dark grey ware with much white grit in it. Surface slightly burnished and scored with criss-cross lines, making an angle of 45° with each other. Comparable Norman scratch-marked ware from Old Sarum is in the Salisbury Museum (see also *Antiq. Journ.* XV, pp. 186–188). But Dr. Tancred Borenius notes (*op. cit.* p. 186, note 2) that scratch-marked cooking-pots come from 12th to 14th century stratified layers at Clarendon Palace.

FIG. 12.—Fragment of pinkish-brown ware. Gritty. Grey core. Pattern of two crude concentric circles with rays between, roughly impressed. There are two of these, one appearing to be restamped. Possibly wheel-turned.

FIG. 13.—Fragment of pinkish-brown ware, incorporating sand. Grey core. Scored with lines at right angles to each other.

FIG. 14.—Skate formed from the tibia either of a horse or of a deer. It was usual to have an iron peg in the heel to hold a strap. Compare the Guildhall (London) Museum specimens in the *Catalogue of the Guildhall Museum* (1908), p. 154 and Plate lxxxvii, nos. 11 and 12. Some examples in the Yorkshire Museum seem to be of Viking-period date.

Fragments not drawn consist mostly of parts of vessels undoubtedly connected with fragments 1–14, nearly all being of brown, pinkish brown, or greyish-black very hard ware, incorporating minute grains of sand. One fragment, by its shape giving no clue to the type of vessel from which it was broken, deserves more mention. It is of coarse ware, containing pounded burnt flint, with a haematite-red exterior. The paste is hard. It is difficult to say whether it was wheel-turned.

There is little doubt that this group of fragments, judging from parallels from other sites, is to be dated in the Norman period (11th and 12th centuries). No glazed ware was found which strengthens the theory of an early date as Mr. E. T. Leeds has recently found a large number of glazed fragments amongst the 12th century debris of an adulterine castle on Faringdon Clump (*Antiq. Journ.* XVI, pp. 165–178).* The texture of the Wallingford sherds, mostly sandy or gritty, agrees very well with that of

* "The absence of glazed wares in this series of Norman sherds from Kidwelly is of interest. Other investigators of twelfth-century sites have had similar results. At Castle Neroche only one sherd out of 675 was glazed while in a collection from another contemporary site in Somerset, Orchard Castle, there are 3 such fragments. At Lydney Castle there was very little glazed ware. At Caesar Camp, Folkestone, glazed wares were only slightly more common—35 sherds out of a total of some 1500." Fox and Radford on Kidwelly Castle in *Archaeologia* lxxxiii, p. 109.

the examples from Lydney figured in *Antiq. Journ.* XI, Plate xxxiv, 2 B and D. Comparable Norman material from Old Sarum (in pit ii) was dated by a William I coin; that from Kidwelly Castle was sealed by a mortar layer marking the building of the inner ward (but see Mr. Leeds' objection to this in a footnote in *Antiq. Journ.* XVI, p. 174).

I must thank Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc., Curator of Reading Museum, for much help; and Mr. G. R. Stanton, B.A., and Mr. H. C. Brentnall, F.S.A., for information concerning the Bristol Museum cooking-pot.

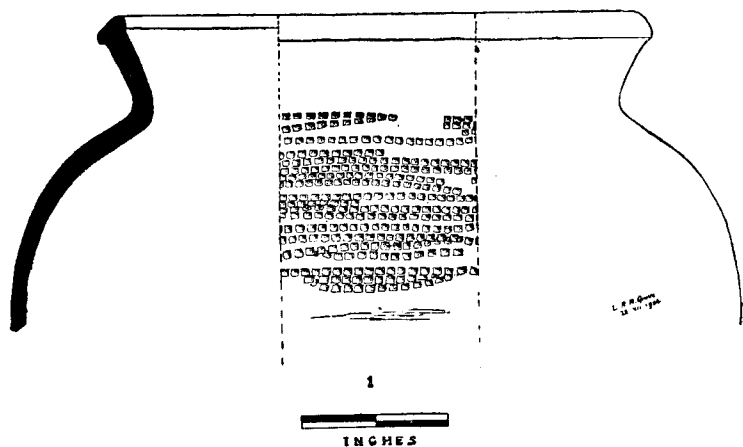


FIG I.

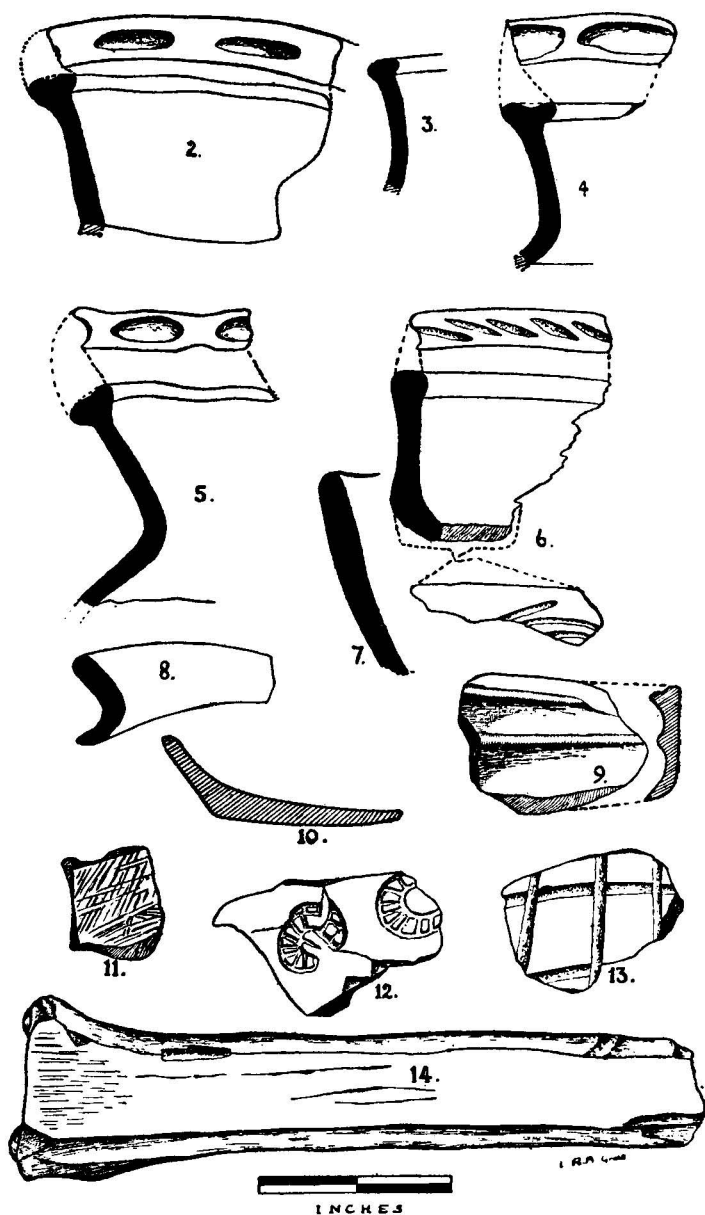


FIG 2.