

51

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LI

JANUARY 1957 TO DECEMBER 1957

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DEIGHTON BELL

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SAXO-NORMAN POTTERY IN EAST ANGLIA

J. G. HURST, M.A., F.S.A.

(This paper is published with the aid of a grant from the Council for British Archaeology.)

PART III. STAMFORD WARE with a report on recent finds from Stamford by D. P. S. Peacock.

STAMFORD ware was first fully described by Mr G. C. Dunning in 1936 when he published material from Alstoe Mount, in Rutland, and from Stamford Castle.¹ This pottery was thought to be late eleventh and early twelfth century; there was no idea at this time that Stamford ware might be dated to pre-Conquest times. It is a remarkable fact twenty years later that there is still no Stamford ware that can be firmly dated before 1066 from the eastern Midlands, where this pottery was made. All the pre-Conquest pottery comes from sites in East Anglia and the Oxford region to which it was exported.

HISTORY

The first Stamford ware in Cambridge was found by Professor McKenny Hughes at Trinity Hall in 1880, but in those days it was thought to be Tudor. Since then Stamford ware has been found on ten other sites in Cambridge, comprising twenty sherds in all. During all this time there was no reason to suspect that there was any glazed pottery earlier than the twelfth century, until Mr T. C. Lethbridge and Mr C. F. Tebbutt made their important discoveries in stratified deposits in the 1930's. Even then experts doubted the evidence and, since no Stamford ware was found at the two early St Neots sites (St Neots itself and Paxton), it could not be proved that this ware was pre-Conquest.

The first piece of Stamford ware discovered in an excavation in the Cambridge area was found by Mr Lethbridge at Flambards Manor, Meldreth, in a post-Conquest context in 1933. The next two pieces were found at Burwell Castle in 1935 in a level under the castle mound, and so dated before about A.D. 1144, but again there was no certainty of a pre-Conquest date. The fourth excavated sherd came from Southoe Manor, from the latrine pit which contained St Neots pottery. This pit is cut into by a pit which should date before c. 1219, so this sherd could be earlier than the others but need not be pre-Conquest. In 1949 Mr Lethbridge and Mr Tebbutt found twenty-six sherds at Eaton Socon. This is more than any other site in the St Neots region has produced. Though these sherds comprise no more than three vessels, the other sites in this area have produced only one or two minute sherds. All are of

¹ G. C. Dunning, *Ant. J.* vol. XVI (1936), pp. 396-411. To be referred to hereafter as Dunning (1936).

developed Stamford ware (see p. 55) which accords with the mid-twelfth-century documentary date of the site.

In consequence of these discoveries Mr Lethbridge and Mr Tebbutt championed the pre-Conquest date of Stamford ware during the late 1930's, but the archaeological world would not acknowledge the fact of an early date for this glazed pottery and some examples, such as the fine pitcher from the Angel Inn, Oxford, were assigned to the twelfth century. It was not until 1948/9 that Group Capt. Knocker found Stamford ware stratified in levels dating from before A.D. 900 at the Saxon town of Thetford. It was this excavation which proved Mr Lethbridge's intuition correct. In 1952 Mr E. M. Jope excavated from under the castle mound at Oxford, Stamford sherds which must date to the first half of the eleventh century. No other site has, as yet, produced certain pre-Conquest Stamford ware. At Oakham, York and Crowland Abbey the evidence is not quite definite but pre-Conquest dates are likely. The most serious need, that of finding Stamford ware in sealed levels that can be dated to the ninth, tenth and early eleventh centuries still remains. This is most urgent in the area of Stamford itself and other sites in the vicinity. It is most unsatisfactory to have to postulate a starting date of about A.D. 850 on the basis that the ware was well enough established at Stamford to be traded to Thetford before 900.

TYPES

The three-handled spouted pitcher (Fig. 1, 3) is usually thought of as the most characteristic Stamford type. This is because much of the Stamford ware that has been described is from sites in East Anglia or the Oxford region. These pieces were all traded from the area of manufacture in the East Midlands and the spouted pitcher was the article most commonly involved. In the area of its origin, such pitchers, in fact glazed pottery of any kind, forms only a small proportion of the whole. This is brought out well by Mr Dunning's report on Alstoe Mount and Stamford Castle¹ where only 10% of the vessels were glazed. In fact at Alstoe Mount itself only one spouted pitcher was found. It appears from this that the best examples of Stamford ware were made with trade in view while the unglazed pieces were made for use in the area of manufacture. The complete range of Stamford ware includes types of cooking-pots, bowls, and pitchers with shapes very similar to the other two groups, St Neots and Thetford ware. Some of the cooking-pots and bowls are decorated with rouletted patterns and many of the bowls have applied thumbled bands round the rim.

More work is required on Stamford ware in its area of manufacture as here a much better picture can be built up of the different forms than from the atypical traded examples found as far afield as York, Oxford and London. Mr Dunning's original report in 1936 on Alstoe and Stamford still gives the best series so far published of the material. Mr Gathercole is publishing an account of a similar interesting series from under the late eleventh-century bank at Oakham Castle² and Mr Peacock publishes

¹ Dunning (1936).

² Forthcoming in *Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc.*

more material from Stamford in this paper, to correct the impression that only glazed ware was made, which is given by the other Stamford-ware finds in East Anglia. Very few cooking-pots and bowls were exported. Perhaps more work will reveal why the hard and well-made Stamford and Thetford cooking-pots were only distributed in their areas of manufacture, while the much more flimsy St Neots cooking-pots and bowls were freely traded all over eastern England. The large quantities of Stamford ware from Thetford, although all imported from the eastern Midlands, will make a very fine series when published, as all types were present there. In fact for many forms it is only at Thetford that the complete profiles are known.

Stamford ware is a very well made smooth fabric varying in colour from off-white to buff and light grey, often with a pinkish tinge. It is made from Middle Jurassic Upper Estuarine clays which occur in the eastern Midlands between Northamptonshire and the Humber. The pottery contains fossil plant remains which clearly show the source of the clay as Professor Swinnerton has demonstrated.¹ There are three main varieties of fabric at present known and further work may reveal more refinements. First, there is the typical Stamford ware as found in the eastern Midlands, over most of East Anglia and south-westwards to Oxford. The fabric is very similar at all these sites but there is considerable colour variation among sherds of cooking-pots and bowls, as is shown by Stamford, Alstoe and Oakham, the main sites where there is plenty of material. Glaze, which is usually present only on spouted pitchers and bowls, may be pale yellow, pale green or orange; it may appear either as patches or as a uniform thick lustrous glaze, usually on the outside only of pitchers and both sides of bowls. This type of pottery seems to have been made in the kiln found at Stamford in 1875,² and it is likely that it was made either at Stamford or in other parts of south Lincolnshire and north Northamptonshire where the Estuarine clays outcrop.

The second fabric is found mainly on northern sites; it is less well made and much darker in colour and therefore has a darker glaze. There are examples from York, Lincoln and Newark, and Professor Swinnerton suggests that they are still made from the Upper Estuarine clay but not from that in the Stamford area, or at least not from the same layer. It is therefore suggested that there were other Stamford-ware kilns further north in Lincolnshire producing this fabric. It does not entirely replace the typical Stamford ware in the north as there are normal examples both at York and Lincoln. Further work needs to be done on the composition of this fabric, but as it is mainly found outside East Anglia it is beyond the scope of this paper (see p. 59 for note on northern types of grey ware). These two fabrics seem to form the main bulk of Stamford ware and date from about A.D. 850 to 1150. The forms are described below.

The third fabric is a developed form of Stamford ware both in shape and glaze. It is the most easily distinguishable and examples look so similar that it is possible that

¹ *Dark Age Britain*, Essays presented to E. T. Leeds, ed. D. B. Harden. Methuen and Co. Ltd. (London, 1956), p. 230.

² *The Reliquary*, vol. xv (1874-5), p. 207.

most of these were produced from the same kiln or group of kilns. The ware is off-white, and is very fine and well finished, much more so than typical Stamford ware. The surfaces are often brushed and the black particles of fossil plant remains are clearly visible. All these examples are glazed a rich, lustrous, mottled dark and light green. All seem to be from jugs with strap handles which are usually combed. Most are stray finds or from undated sites but at Eaton Socon and Norwich they are found in twelfth-century contexts. It is therefore suggested that these jugs carry on the tradition of Stamford ware from about 1150 into the thirteenth century. The form of these jugs seems to be well developed which also suggests a late date. Though the first Stamford ware has an early date it should be realized that the developed form persists well into the medieval period.

FORMS

Mr Dunning described the main forms of Stamford ware in 1936.¹ The *cooking-pots* are globular, small in diameter (4-6 in.) with everted rims, often hollowed, and sagging bases. In shape they are identical with St Neots and Thetford cooking-pots. Some of them have a band of horizontal rouletting round the shoulder. Other cooking-pots have moulded or more upright rims. These should be typologically later than the simple everted ones, but in the other two groups it is not yet possible to distinguish between early and late examples. In the twelfth century, as in the St Neots area, the cooking-pots become large and have the medieval baggy shape. Rims are usually fairly simple and either upright or everted; some of them are decorated with rouletting or incised waves. All the *bowls* seem to be deep. There are no examples known at present of shallow dishes which are so common in the St Neots area. The rims are heavily flanged either inside or outside, or are hammer-headed. Many are rouletted round the top and others have applied thumbed strips along the top of the rim and sometimes vertical thumbed strips down the sides as well. Only these bowls with thumbed strips seem to be glazed. They vary a great deal in diameter from about 16 in. to about 6 in. There are also small *conical cups* with simple rims and sagging bases,² and there are *spouted bowls* or skillets, usually with O-spouts attached to the rim.³

The *spouted pitcher* is the finest vessel in the Stamford series but in the area of manufacture they are no more common than jugs normally are on medieval sites. The large numbers found in the north, south-west, and in East Anglia are due to the fact that this was the major article of Stamford ware to be traded. On these sites the local St Neots- or Thetford-ware cooking-pots and bowls were used while Stamford-ware glazed pitchers were used for table ware. The Stamford pitcher, like the Thetford pitcher, usually has three small strap handles from rim to shoulder and a small, usually O, spout attached to the rim. The neck is upright, often with a cordon,

¹ Dunning (1936), pp. 402-11.

² Dunning (1936), fig. 4, 27.

³ *Soc. Ant. Res. Rep.* no. 15 (1948), p. 225, fig. 61, 3 (Jewry Wall site, Leicester). To be referred to below as *Jewry Wall Report*.

and the rim is usually flat topped and expanded. The ware is very fine and thin and most pitchers have knife trimming near the sagging base. Most of the pitchers are glazed outside only. In the twelfth century there is a type of *jar* similar in shape to the pitcher but without handles or spout. These were first described by Mr Dunning at Leicester.¹

A special type is the *ring vase* (Fig. 1, 12), examples of which are known from Glaston and Thurgarton and from Thetford in Thetford ware. They consist of a hollow ring with projecting cups. There has been a great deal of discussion concerning their use as drinking cups, lamps, incense burners or flower vases but I do not think that it is possible to decide their real use in the present state of our knowledge. In addition to the above types there is also a series of much finer vessels more ornately decorated. It is thought that most of these were made to be traded. There are strap handles with twisted applied strips, and more complicated ornament (see p. 53). From Stamford itself there are thick glazed sherds with applied strips which seem to have come from a *storage vessel*. At Thetford there was a *crucible* with patches of glaze. There is another crucible from York.²

The only forms of *developed Stamford ware* as yet known are the *conical cup*, of which there is only one from Eaton Socon, and the *jug*. This type is best recognized from the mottled dark lustrous green glaze and the decoration of intermittent combing on the handles and body of the jugs. Only two complete examples are known, very different in shape, one being late twelfth century and the other well into the thirteenth. There is a considerable range of rim form and the type seems to last roughly from 1140 to 1250, but more work needs to be done on this type and the whole question of the changeover from the spouted pitcher, with three small strap handles, to the jug, with one or more large strap handles, which seems to have occurred in the twelfth century, needs further study.

ORIGINS

Mr Dunning has fully described the Continental background for Stamford ware in his paper on *Trade relations between England and the Continent*.³ It will suffice here to say that glazed pottery was being produced in Holland from the middle of the ninth century. It therefore seems reasonable to suppose that Stamford ware was made by potters coming over from this area, as were Thetford and St Neots wares. It is a little disturbing to find that Stamford ware is found at Thetford well before 900, and possibly as early as 870, since this must mean an establishment of the industry in the eastern Midlands by about 850, at the same time as the apparent start on the Continent. The dating of 850 is, however, rather vague, both here and in Holland, for the start of glazed pottery, and it may be that earlier sites will be found over there. There is also no reason why there should be a delay in the bringing of this technique to England for, if the production of glazed pottery was just starting in Holland at the

¹ *Jewry Wall Report*, fig. 59, 5, 6, this paper fig. 3, 10.

² D. M. Waterman in *Archaeologia*, forthcoming.

³ *Dark-Age Britain*, pp. 227-31.

same time as the potters were bringing the technique of Saxo-Norman pottery over here, it is possible that one group brought the new technique of glazing to make their product more attractive than that of their rivals making St Neots or Thetford wares. The long tradition of wheel-thrown pottery in the Rhineland makes it likely that glaze was developed there first, and the well-known contacts with this region give every reason to believe that the knowledge of the glazing process in England came from there. There is no need to invoke a third source such as Byzantium.

LIST OF STAMFORD-WARE SITES

All the pottery listed is in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology unless otherwise stated.

Bedfordshire

HOUGHTON REGIS (1952). L. J. Blow. Sherds found during the excavation of a settlement site dating mainly to the early twelfth century. Dunstable Museum.

Cambridgeshire

BURWELL CASTLE (1935). T. C. Lethbridge, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxvi (1936), pp. 121-33. In the soil under the chalk rubble of the castle which was built by Stephen to block Geoffrey de Mandeville between 1142-4 and never finished. A sherd with a spot of glaze and another, a small strap handle from a typical Stamford pitcher, with a greenish-yellow glaze. Unfortunately both these sherds were lost in the Second World War.

CAMBRIDGE, *Christ's College Library* (1895). *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. ix (1899), p. 337, and *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xi (1906), p. 408, Professor T. McK. Hughes. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xliii (1950), pl. 1. Spout and part of the neck of a typical spouted pitcher. Off-white ware with a pinkish tinge. Yellow glaze. Fig. 1, 1.

Eden Yard (1905). Not published. Three sherds of white ware with splashes of pale yellow, yellow and orange glaze, some of it apparently intended to form a criss-cross decoration.

King's Lane (1907). *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xii (1908), pp. 133-9, Professor T. McK. Hughes. The rim and small strap handle of a typical spouted Stamford pitcher in white ware with lustrous yellow-green glaze, Fig. 1, 2.

Magdalene, Benson Court (1956). C.M.A.E. 56.334. Mr L. Barfield collected two sherds. One of light grey ware with pale green glaze inside and out; the other pinkish with pale orange glaze from near the base of a pitcher showing typical traces of knife trimming.

Mortlock's Bank (now Barclays Bank), *Bene't Street*. The rim, part of the side and small strap handle of a spouted pitcher in off-white ware with orange glaze. The profile is not complete but the sherd goes almost to the base and the typical knife trimming is present. Fig. 1, 3.

Trinity Hall (1880), *Rep. C.A.S.* vol. xl (1881), p. xxi, Hughes and Jenkinson. Rim of a large bowl with hollowed squared rim with applied thumbled band. The side of the vessel is very thin and has vertical applied thumbled bands. The ware is white with pinkish surfaces and a yellow-green glaze. Fig. 1, 4.

Unprovenanced. Rim and top of strap handle of spouted pitcher. Off-white ware with buff surfaces and greenish-yellow glaze.

Unprovenanced. A sherd like those from Eden's Yard with patchy pale green and orange glaze.

CAXTON MOATS. The rim of a spouted pitcher, off-white ware with pinkish surfaces and a yellow-green glaze. Fig. 1, 11.

FLAMBARDS, MELDRETH (1934). T. C. Lethbridge, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxvi (1936), p. 129 and Fig. 1, 6. On documentary evidence this site is almost certainly post-Conquest. A sherd of off-white ware covered with a fine yellowish-green glaze. It was an inturned rim of a small globular cup with horizontal girth grooves. This sherd was unfortunately lost during the Second World War.

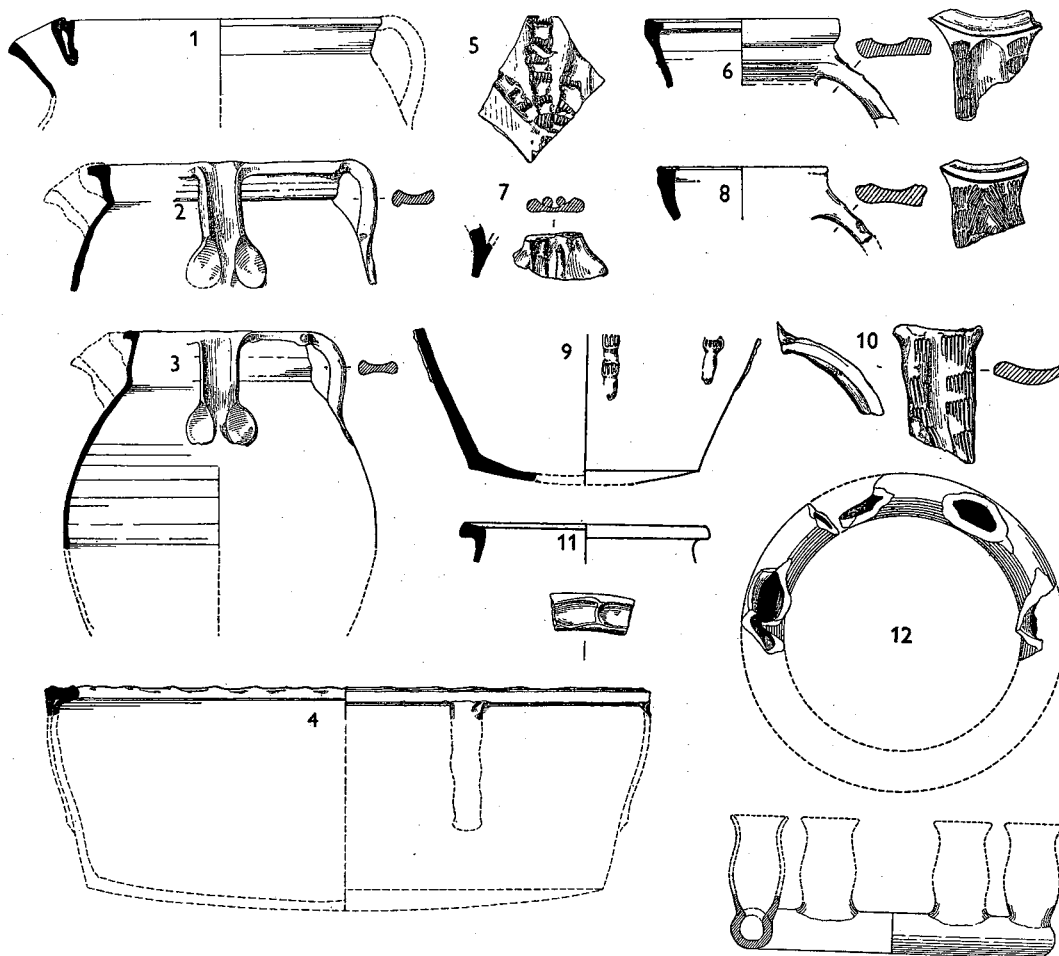


Fig. 1. 1-4 and 11, Stamford ware from Cambridge; 5-10, developed Stamford ware from Cambridge; 12, ring vase from Glaston, Rutland. $\frac{1}{8}$.

Derbyshire

DUFFIELD CASTLE (1886). *Derb. Arch. J.* vol. ix (1887), pp. 118-78. Only one pot from the excavation can now be identified as dating to the period of the motte and bailey castle built by Henry de Ferrers in the late eleventh century. Fragments of the rim, small strap handle, body and base of a spouted pitcher. Fine buff ware with yellow buff surfaces. Thin light green glaze in streaks on the body sherds and also in patches above the base angle. The rim is thickened, squared outside, and has a small internal beading. The neck is short and vertical and the body is barrel-shaped with wide corrugations. The base is sagging, with knife trimming. As restored the pot is 10 in. high and $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. bulge diameter. Derby Museum.

PEVERIL CASTLE. Ministry of Works Collection. Sherd from shoulder of Stamford spouted pitcher with base of strap handle. Upright rim with a marked cordon at the base of the shoulder.

Essex

PAILLE DITCHES. Mr Lethbridge informs me that Stamford ware was found here but I cannot find the whereabouts of this material.

Hertfordshire

ASHWELL, *Westbury Farm* (1957). Mrs D. G. Hurst. Excavation of this moated site, for the Ministry of Works, produced sherds of St Neots and Stamford wares and Thetford storage vessels.

Huntingdonshire

GODMANCHESTER. See pp. 31-4 of this volume.

HUNTINGDON (1947). Collected by E. M. Jope. Glazed strap handle and two body sherds from the motte.

SOUTHOE MANOR (1937). T. C. Lethbridge and C. F. Tebbutt, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii (1938), pp. 158-63. Typical small strap handle from a Stamford pitcher, with a yellow glaze. See *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xliii (1949), pl. 1, 3 in colour, originally published in *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii (1938), p. 160, fig. 1, 7 upside down.

WARBOYS. Mr Lethbridge informs me that glazed pottery was found here in the 1930's but I cannot find any trace of this material.

WEALD (1941). E. Newton, *Trans. Camb. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* vol. vi (1943), pp. 168-75. Sherds from the occupation under the twelfth-century chapel of this deserted village, including two typical strap handles of Stamford pitchers with yellow, green and pale green glaze respectively. A third sherd was off-white with pink surfaces and a yellow glaze.

Leicestershire

BESCABY (1957). Sherds were collected by J. G. Hurst after the bulldozing of part of the deserted village site.

LEICESTER, *South Bond Street*. Stamford-ware jug, *Jewry Wall Report*, p. 229, Fig. 61, 2 (see p. 49).

West Bridge Street. Part of a typical Stamford pitcher, *Jewry Wall Report*, p. 229, Fig. 61, 1.

Jewry Wall Site. There is a full range of typical Stamford forms including cooking-pots, flanged bowls and spouted pitchers. There are also examples of the unusual type of jar and a large strap handle of a twelfth-century Stamford jug, *Jewry Wall Report*, pp. 222-8. Only a selection of the material was published by Mr Dunning. A further sherd is published on p. 54. It is hoped to re-examine the material and publish further examples when it has been possible for the Leicester Museum to unbox this pottery which is at present all packed away.

Lincolnshire

FLEET (1913). Smith and Marples, Spalding Museum. Strap handle of fine whitish ware, buff surface, smooth patchy light green glaze with darker spots, thick and lustrous near lower end. Two sherds with thick lustrous green glaze outside. Rim of pitcher whitish ware, yellow buff in, grey out. Sagging base, fine white ware, light grey surface. Knife trimmed.

LINCOLN (in Lincoln City Museum), *Cottesford Place* (1957). Rim of a typical spouted pitcher with hollowed rim, cf. Dunning (1936), fig. 6, 16. Off-white ware with pale yellow outer glaze.

Flaxengate. It is expected that the material from this site, which includes a new group of Saxo-Norman pottery, will soon be published by the Lincoln Museum.

Technical College (1957). Body sherd of a pitcher of more bulbous form than the normal type, with a constricted neck. Three horizontal grooves. Off-white ware with bluish outer surface, pale yellow glaze outside which appears greenish owing to the blue underneath.

NORMANTON (1911). *Ant. J.* vol. XVI (1936), p. 410. Complete globular cooking-pot found during ironstone mining, published by Mr Dunning. Grantham Museum.

RISEHOLME (1954-5). F. H. Thompson. Sherds were found during the excavations of a house site on this deserted village by the Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee.

SNARFORD (1957). A single rim was found by J. G. Hurst after bulldozing of part of this deserted village site. It is hoped that excavation in September 1957 will produce further material.

STAMFORD, *St Leonard's Priory*. A complete spouted pitcher with thin green glaze in the Peterborough Museum (12.5.22). Published by G. C. Dunning in *Ant. J.* vol. XVI (1936), p. 410 and fig. 6, 16.

STAMFORD *Castle* (1933). When a mound, which Mr Abbott believes to be pre-Conquest, forming part of the later Stamford Castle, was destroyed in 1933 to make way for a car park, large quantities of pottery were recovered, but the circumstances did not allow any excavation so all the pottery is unstratified. It consists of about half-and-half Stamford ware and late twelfth- and early thirteenth-century shelly wares which carry on from the St Neots tradition. There are fragments of several jugs of a type common in the eastern Midlands in the first half of the thirteenth century. These jugs are of a friable shelly ware with the shell burnt out leaving a corky surface. They have a decoration of applied strips and pellets with criss-cross stamps on them. The jugs are glazed and the applied strips and pellets are yellow. One of the jugs of this type is illustrated in Rackham, *Medieval English Pottery*, pl. 68, and the type is discussed by Mr G. C. Dunning in the *Jewry Wall Report*, p. 244. These jugs presumably develop out of the rouletted St Neots jugs.¹ Recent excavations at Oakham Castle have shown the same series of pottery with Stamford ware stratified beneath this developed St Neots ware. This confirms the suggested end date for Stamford ware of 1150, with Stamford ware before this and the developed St Neots ware succeeding it in this area after about 1150. Only the Stamford ware will be discussed here, therefore, as the rest of the material lies outside the scope of this article; Mr Dunning published part of it, that collected by Mr H. F. Traylen² in 1936. The rest of the material, which is the property of Mr Wyman Abbott, is published by his kind permission (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2, 1. Rounded everted rim of cooking-pot, grey ware with buff surfaces.

Fig. 2, 2. Similar rim of cooking-pot with a thickened shoulder, grey ware with pinkish surfaces blackened outside.

Fig. 2, 3. Rim of a small cooking-pot with thin everted rim, light grey ware with blackened outside.

¹ *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLIX (1956), pp. 54-6.

² *Ant. J.* vol. XVI (1936), p. 410 and figs. 5-6.

Fig. 2, 4-10 shows rims of similar cooking-pots of various sizes, no. 6 being the largest with a diameter of $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 4 is in off-white ware blackened on top. Many Stamford-ware vessels are blackened on top. This often goes right through the rim of the pot and must be caused by the method of firing. No. 5 is grey with buff outer and pink inner surface. No. 6 is grey with off-white surfaces. There are patches of yellow-green glaze on the neck. Cooking-pots are not usually glazed and these patches may have come from some other glazed vessel which was being fired at the same time. No. 7 is grey with off-white surfaces, the top of the rim is blackened. No. 8 is light grey with off-white surfaces. No. 9 is light grey much blackened. No. 10 is light grey with buff surfaces.

Fig. 2, 11-19 shows cooking-pots with more developed rims. They are all fairly small, none having a diameter larger than 6 in. No. 11 is grey with buff blackened surfaces. No. 12 is light grey blackened outside. No. 13 is grey with off-white surfaces slightly blackened on the top of the rim outside. No. 14 is light grey with buff surfaces. The ware is gritty which is most unusual. No. 15 is light grey with buff surfaces blackened on top of the rim. No. 16 is grey with buff surfaces, blackened on top. No. 17 is pinkish buff with a blackened rim. No. 18 is grey with off-white surfaces blackened outside. No. 19 is grey with orange surfaces.

It will be seen that Stamford cooking-pots have a greater variation of rim form and ware than the other two groups. It must also be stressed that the ware is not nearly so fine as that of the glazed pitchers. In the Wyman Abbott collection there are forty-three other similar rims including three rouletted ones. Two have diamond notch rouletting on the shoulder, as Dunning, fig. 5, 2 and 4,¹ and the other has rouletting on the rim as Dunning, fig. 5, 3. None of these were large enough to be worth drawing.

Fig. 2, 20 is the rim of a small vessel. This may be either a small bowl as Dunning, fig. 4, 27, or a lid as it has been drawn; it is very hard to be certain. It is of light grey ware with buff surfaces.

Fig. 2, 21-4 shows a group of much more angular vessels which are either cooking-pots or storage jars. There are five others besides those drawn. They are made of a much finer ware than the previous vessels and have a much smoother surface almost as fine as the glaze pitchers. Nos. 21 and 23 are off-white. No. 22 is grey with buff surfaces, no. 24 is orange pink.

Fig. 2, 25-6 shows two other small vessels. No. 25 is off-white with a blackened top and no. 26 is light grey with pinkish surfaces. It is of fine quality ware and has spots of glaze on it.

Fig. 2, 27-37 shows a series of typical Stamford jars or bowls. Nos. 27-32 are in a much finer quality ware than the others. While it is difficult to be dogmatic from rim fragments alone, it is likely that these were jars or storage vessels. Complete vessels with this rim form have been found at Thetford where Group Capt. Knocker calls them *crocks*. No. 27 is off-white with pinkish outer surface, nos. 28 and 32 are grey with pinkish surfaces, nos. 29 and 30 are off-white with the flange blackened through during firing. No. 31 is off-white with buff surfaces, no. 33 is a rough grey ware with brownish surfaces, no. 34 is light grey with patches of green glaze. No. 35 is grey fired black through the top. No. 36 is off-white with pinkish surfaces, blackened through the top of the flange. No. 37 is off-white.

There are sixteen similar jars or bowls with flat everted flanged rims and ten smaller ones as Fig. 2, 24-37. One bowl is of grey ware with a green glaze.

Fig. 2, 38 is a small globular vessel of off-white ware blackened through the top during firing.

Fig. 2, 39-42 shows decorated bowls. Nos. 39 and 40 have thumb applied strips on the rim and down the side of the bowl (see also Fig. 1, 4), no. 41 has diamond notch rouletting on the rim and no. 42 has rectangular notch rouletting. No. 39 is light grey with buff surfaces and pale green glaze inside and out. No. 40 is pinkish red with a crackled orange glaze. No. 41 is off-white, blackened outside.

¹ All further references to Dunning refer to his 1936 report, except where otherwise stated.

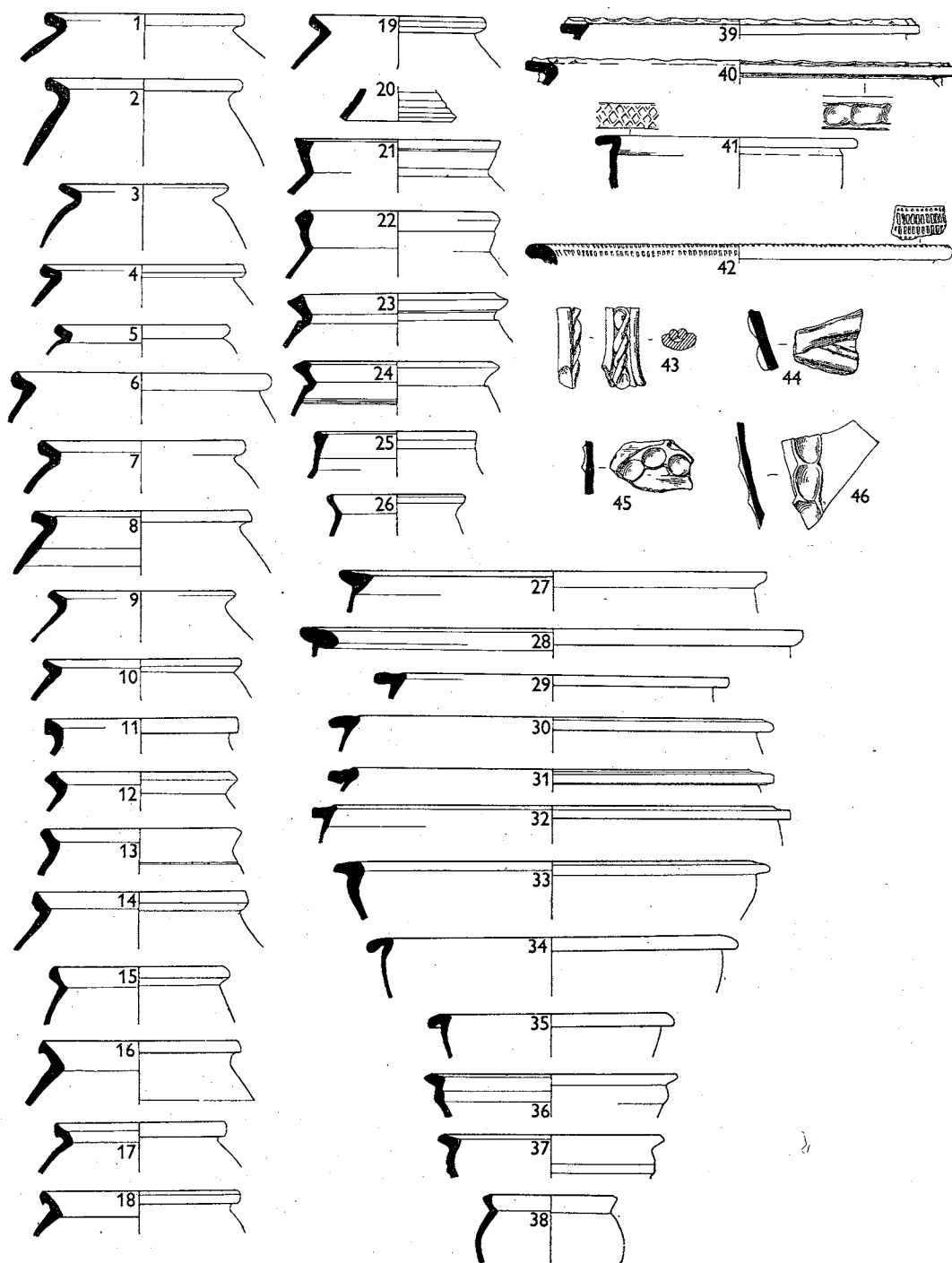


Fig. 2. Stamford ware from Stamford Castle, Wyman Abbott collection. $\frac{1}{8}$.

There are two similar rims with thumbled bands on the rim, one rim with rectangular notch rouletting and three body sherds with vertical applied thumbled band, one of which is figured, light grey with pinkish buff surfaces. Fig. 2, 46.

In the Wyman Abbott collection there are thirty-one sagging bases and only two flat ones.

Not figured are three spouts of the usual type spouted pitcher as Fig. 1, 1-3. One is grey with a green glaze and the other two are off-white with orange glaze. There is a strap handle with pale yellow glaze and twenty-six miscellaneous glazed sherds. There are also five more decorated sherds which are described on p. 54. About 15% of the pottery was glazed but this is not necessarily significant as hardly any of the Traylen collection was glazed and the discrepancy is due to the different pottery collected by the two individuals.

STAMFORD. There is in the Leicester Museum a complete Stamford pitcher from the Crowther Beynon collection which was found at Stamford. Unfortunately this was not available for drawing before this went to press.

ERMINE STREET, near Stamford. Mr C. Green found the rim of a Stamford flanged bowl, with rouletted decoration, when he cut a trench for the Ministry of Works in 1956.

SAXO-NORMAN POTTERY FROM STAMFORD SCHOOL

D. P. S. PEACOCK

IN late 1956 work commenced on building new science laboratories for Stamford School. The site chosen was a piece of waste ground on the south side of St Paul's Street. It is shown on the 6 in. O.S. sheet as being just south of the site of Brazenose College (map reference TF/034073).

The footing trenches of the new building were carefully examined for traces of walls. None could be seen, though the trenches were dug to the natural limestone, in places a depth of 10 ft. A few shallow trenches or pits about 10 ft. across were observed in section. These could have been robber trenches, but the pottery found in them suggested that some at least were comparatively early and bore no relation to the fourteenth-century college.

One hundred and thirty-five sherds were found in the footing trenches and elsewhere. Brazenose College flourished in the fourteenth century but comparatively little of the pottery can be placed later than the end of the twelfth century, and practically none later than the thirteenth. This is not altogether surprising as the upper levels of the trenches were removed with a mechanical excavator and only the lower levels dug out by hand.

All the pottery described below was rescued from this site with the exception of one sherd, Fig. 3, 16. This was rescued by Mr G. D. Sinker, M.A., from building operations in the front garden of St Peter's House, St Paul's Street. It is now in his possession. St Peter's House, now one of the school boarding-houses, is on the site of the churches of Holy Trinity and St Stephen. The pottery from the laboratory site is to be deposited in the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

	Colour of ware	Colour of glaze	Number of pots represented	Glaze on outside	Glaze on both sides
1	Pink buff	—	9	—	—
2	Off-white	—	18	—	—
3	Off-white grey	Cream, light brown or pink surface (not glazed)	22	13	9
4	Grey	—	1	—	—
5	Pink	Yellow	2	2	—
6	Off-white	Yellow	5	5	—
7	Off-white	Yellow-brown	7	6	—
8	Off-white	Pale green	31	23	8
9	Developed Stamford	Green	3	2	1
St Neots Ware					
10	Brown, shelly	—	6	—	—
11	Purple brown, shelly	—	1	—	—

The table shows the number of pots represented in the various wares and the colour of glaze on each. It is not arranged in chronological order as at present it is impossible to do this accurately. Tiny chance spots of yellow or brown glaze occur fairly frequently on the unglazed pink ware. A few sherds of off-white ware display similar spots, but on other sherds the spots are pale green or absent entirely. One sherd in a fine off-white ware is unusual in that it has a yellow-brown glaze on its inner surface. Pots glazed on both sides are unusual. They are comparatively common however in a fine off-white ware glazed pale green with brown spots.

Several of the sherds included under 8 (see table) have bluish smoke clouds on the outer surface. Rims are in some cases blackened right through which suggests that the pots were stacked upside down in the kiln.

Fig. 3, 1. Rim of cooking-pot with sharply everted rim. Pink ware with patch of thick brown glaze. This is similar to the cooking-pots from Stamford Castle (Fig. 2, 1-7) and Dunning, fig. 3, 1-7.

Fig. 3, 2-5 shows cooking-pots with unusual upright thickened rims which are unlike any of the other material from Stamford. No. 2 is in fine light grey ware with pinkish surfaces. No. 3 is in off-white ware. No. 4 is also off-white and has a chance spot of yellow glaze. No. 5 is off-white, the upper part having a thick pale green glaze with bright yellow patches. The glaze on top of the rim is badly mutilated by contact with other pots in the kiln during firing.

Fig. 3, 6 is a large cooking-pot with a thickened rim hollowed on top. Off-white ware rim unglazed but body has pale green glaze with yellow-brown spots.

Fig. 3, 7 and 8 shows two small bowls, no. 7 is grey with cream surfaces. No. 8 is off-white with a light brown outer surface, chance spot of yellow-brown glaze.

Fig. 3, 9 is a jug of fine off-white ware with a pale green glaze and yellow-brown spots. The lower portions show contact with fire and part is unglazed. This form is unusual as most Stamford-ware vessels of this type are spouted pitchers with small strap handles as Fig. 1, 1. Jugs with large strap handles are usually found only in developed Stamford ware. There are, however, three complete jugs at present known and the handle of a fourth jug from the Jewry Wall, Leicester. Besides the Stamford jug there is another from Thetford in a late pit while the third is from South Bond Street, Leicester (*Jewry Wall Report*, p. 229, fig. 61, 2).

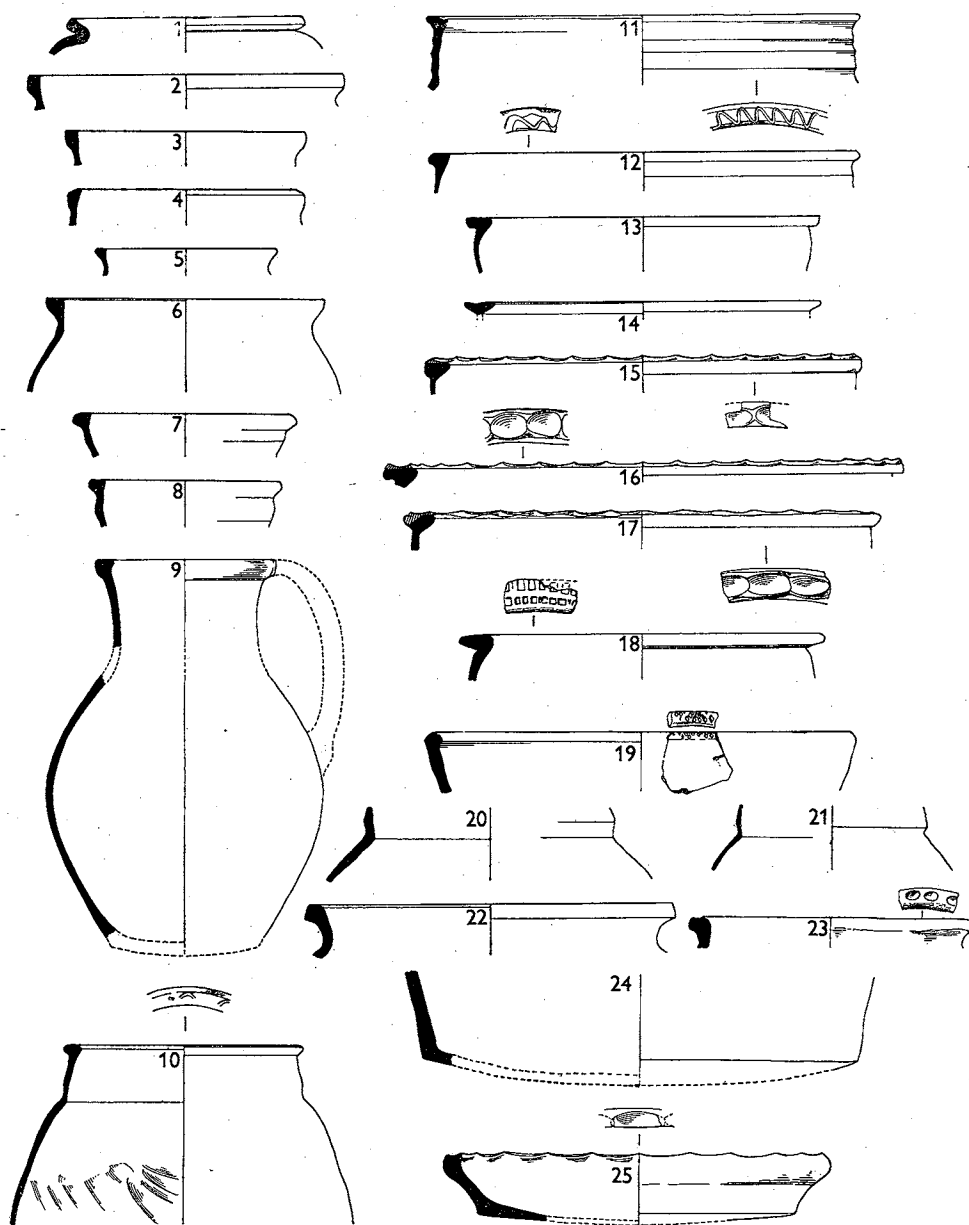


Fig. 3. 1-21, Stamford ware; 22-5, St Neots ware from Stamford School. $\frac{1}{8}$.

Fig. 3, 10 is a storage jar of off-white ware with cream surfaces and chance spots of pale green glaze. There are traces of an incised wave decoration on the expanded rim and there is tooling on the inside of the jar. There is also some slight knife trimming on the outside and part of the surface is blackened by fire. There are no jars of this type from Stamford Castle but there are parallels from Leicester (G. C. Dunning, *Jewry Wall Report*, p. 229, fig. 59, 5-6), and from Northampton Castle, in St Neots ware.

Fig. 3, 11 is from a storage vessel of the same type but much larger; it has the same incised wave decoration on the rim. Light grey ware with buff surfaces.

It is hard to say whether Fig. 3, 12, also with incised wave decoration, is another large storage vessel or whether it is a large bowl. Off-white ware with patches of colourless or very pale yellow glaze on the inside of the rim.

Fig. 3, 13 is a bowl with a flat-topped flanged rim. Fine pale pink ware with chance spots of deep yellow glaze.

Fig. 3, 14 is a bowl with expanded rim, fine deep pink ware with chance spots of yellow glaze.

Fig. 3, 15-17 shows various types of bowl with applied thumbed bands along the top of the rim. Compare those from Stamford Castle, Fig. 2, 39 and 40, and Dunning, fig. 6, 15. No. 15 is off-white ware with a grey core and patches of pale green glaze. No. 16 is off-white with a pale green glaze. No. 17 is grey with buff surfaces and patches of pale green glaze.

Fig. 3, 18 is a medium-sized bowl of grey ware with rectangular notch rouletting on top of the flanged rim. Compare Fig. 2, 42 and Dunning, fig. 5, 12.

Fig. 3, 19 is a large bowl with an internal beading and diamond notch rouletting. Off-white ware with cream surfaces. Compare Dunning, fig. 3, 11. This might have been a bowl also.

Fig. 3, 20 and 21 show the necks of two glazed pitchers or jars. The complete form cannot be ascertained until more complete examples are found. The closest parallel is the vessel from the *Technical College* Lincoln but again only the neck of this survives. No. 20 is off-white with a pale green glaze outside and no. 21 is pink with yellow-brown glaze outside.

Besides the Stamford ware there were also some sherds of St Neots ware. Fig. 3, 22-5 shows two cooking-pot rims, a sagging base and a shallow bowl. No. 22 is a large cooking-pot which may be compared with cooking-pots from Cambridge which are thought to date to the twelfth century (*Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLIX (1956), fig. 4). The cooking-pot with a row of small impressions round the rim (Fig. 3, 23) and the bowl with thumbing round the rim (Fig. 3, 25) may also be of a similar date. Cf. *Berks. Arch. J.* vol. L (1947), p. 57, fig. 4, 7, and *Sussex Arch. Coll.* vol. LXXVI (1936), p. 166, fig. 5, 4.

TOYNTON ALL SAINTS. Mrs E. H. Rudkin (1956) Sherds of Stamford found unstratified during work on the late Medieval kilns.

WILLOUGHTON. Mrs E. H. Rudkin. Sherd of Stamford ware from the village. I did not know about these two sites in 1956 when I drew the distribution map, Fig. 6, 6. Mrs Rudkin has now kindly drawn my attention to them and they fill in some of the blank spaces in Lincolnshire.

London

There is quite a large quantity of Stamford ware from London including some definite imports of similar ware from Holland (to be published by Mr Dunning).

Norfolk

NORWICH in the Norwich Castle Museum (N.C.M.), *Barn Road* (1953). J. G. Hurst, *Norf. Arch.* vol. XXXI (1955), pp. 56-9. More sherds were found in the 1954 and 1955 excavations.

Cotman Gallery (1950). N.C.M. 221.950, *Site A*, 6 ft. 6 in. down. Sherd white-ware with light green glaze. *Site D*, 14-15 ft., white sherd with yellow glaze.

Crome Gallery (1950). N.C.M. 221.950, *Site C*, 8 ft., pinkish sherd with bright orange glaze.

Grammar School Science Block (1956). N.C.M. 48.956. From the surface pinkish sherd with orange glaze. *Pit XII*, off-white sherd with orange glaze. *Pit XVII*, another glazed sherd.

Post Office Davey Place (1957). 12 ft. Three off-white sherds with pale yellow glaze, another sherd with strip decoration and orange-yellow glaze.

THETFORD, *St Mary's* (1948-50). Large numbers of Stamford sherds were found during excavation of the Saxon town by Group Capt. Knocker for the Ministry of Works. Unusual finds

include a jug (see p. 49) and a glazed crucible. It is also the only site in East Anglia, outside the main Stamford area, that has produced large quantities of unglazed Stamford cooking-pots and bowls. All the other exports are of fine quality glazed pitchers or bowls. It is of interest to note that most of the glazed sherds were yellow (about 450 yellow, 100 orange and 50 green) while at Stamford (see p. 49) the largest proportion are green glazed.

Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTON, *Castle Hill* (1955). Sherds from *Pits I and III* pale green glaze.

Horsemarket. Sherd with yellow glaze.

TOWCESTER (1954). J. Alexander. Sherds from the Ministry of Works excavation of the Roman defences.

WYTHEMAIL (1954). Sherds found by Mrs D. G. Hurst (Duckett) on this deserted village site excavated by the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group on behalf of the Ministry of Works.

Nottinghamshire

LENTON. Sherds found during excavation of this medieval site by Professor Swinnerton. *Trans. Thoroton Soc.* vol. LX (1956), pp. 1-7.

NEWARK Castle (1954-5). M. W. Barley and F. Waters. *Trans. Thoroton. Soc.* vol. LX (1956), pp. 20-33. Sherds from an occupation layer under the eastern rampart which was built c. 1133. Nine sherds of grey ware with yellow glaze inside and out from a bowl with thumbled applied strips as Fig. 1, 4. Professor Swinnerton has compared this ware with sherds from Hungate York (*Dark Age Britain*, p. 230).

NOTTINGHAM, *Bridlesmith Gate* (1957). There was no Stamford ware from Nottingham sites until the Peverel Archaeological Group started their important section across the defences of the Saxon town. The ditch produced a fine series of Stamford sherds, including unglazed cooking-pots and bowls dating to the eleventh century. Unfortunately the ditch was kept cleaned so there was no early pottery in it.

STOKE BARDOLPH (1952 onwards). Excavations by the Peverel Archaeological Group of this manor site have produced several sherds.

THURGARTON (1953-4). *Trans. Thoroton Soc.* vol. LVIII (1954), pp. 28-30. Sherds were found by Mr H. Hodges sealed under a twelfth-century chapel. These include part of a ring vase. Further sherds were found by Mr P. Gathercole in 1954.

Oxfordshire

DEDDINGTON Castle. E. M. Jope. Sherds with pale green and orange glaze from the eleventh-century occupation under the castle.

OXFORD, *Angel Inn*. *Oxon.* vol. v (1940), p. 48, fig. 8, 3 and pl. XI, A, B. Fine small complete spouted pitcher with pale yellow glaze. The only other complete examples have been from St Leonard's Priory Stamford, and Thetford. British Museum.

Castle and Nuffield College. *Oxon.* vols. XVII-XVIII (1952/3), p. 96 and p. 104, pl. 8, B. Six sherds sealed under the castle mound built c. 1070.

SWERFORD (1956). Small body sherd obtained by Mr E. M. Jope from the top of the motte.

NOTLEY ABBEY (1938). W. Pantin. Mr Jope has shown me a small strap handle from this excavation which was at the time thought to be late medieval but which now appears to fall into this group. It is, however, different from the usual type and appears closer to the northern examples than those from Stamford itself.

Rutland

ALSTOE MOUNT (1935). G. C. Dunning. *Ant. J.* vol. XVI (1936), pp. 396-411. This important excavation of a motte and bailey castle produced the first basic series of Stamford-ware types which was published by Mr Dunning in 1936 together with material from Stamford Castle. Oakham School Museum.

GREAT CASTERTON (1956). Sherds found in pits cut into the Roman deposits.

GLASTON (1946). Oakham School Museum. An associated group of metal and pottery comprising two spurs, a padlock key, a buckle, part of a small sickle and a Stamford-ware handled skillet, a ring vase and a large flanged bowl. The spurs have points of type 2 and terminals of type Ai or Ci (*London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, fig. 28, p. 95). These are of Saxo-Norman date but cannot be dated closely. The barrel padlock key is unfortunately type C (*London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, fig. 45, 4) which dates to the late-twelfth and thirteenth century. The group does not therefore seem to be of one date.

The handled skillet has been published by Mr G. C. Dunning in *Jewry Wall Report*, fig. 61, 3, p. 229.

The ring vase consists of two fragments of buff sandy ware with thick crackled yellow glaze overall on the ring. There survive places of attachment of four vases and there were originally six in all, equally spaced round the ring. The vases have been restored (Fig. 1, 12) after complete examples in Thetford ware from Thetford where ten ring vases were found. Ring vases have a long life, being known in the eastern Mediterranean and in Roman times. They have been called flower vases (W. J. Kaye, *The Antiquary*, vol. L (1914), pp. 172, 223-6, 290-4 and *London in Roman Times* (London Museum, 1930), pl. 58), incense burners, lamps and, most recently, by Waldemar Haberey, drinking or posset cups (*Fest. des Romisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums in Mainz* (1952), pp. 79-82). It is difficult to choose which was the correct use and it is suggested that as the many ring vases differ greatly in shape the various interpretations may be correct for some vessels. There is no evidence of sooting on the Glaston or Thetford examples.

OAKHAM Castle (1953). P. W. Gathercole, forthcoming in *Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc.* Large quantities of cooking-pots, bowls and glaze were found under the bailey bank which was erected at the end of the eleventh century. Mr J. Barber has found further sherds in 1956-7 during the excavation of the buildings at the west end of the twelfth-century Hall.

Suffolk

IPSWICH. There is only one sherd here, from *King Street*, found in 1931.

York

Stamford-ware sherds have been found in many recent excavations in York including *Hungate* (1952), *Davygate* (1956), *Hart's Store* (1956), *King's Square* (1957), and *Petergate* (1957). Mr I. M. Stead is publishing recent finds of Saxo-Norman material in a forthcoming volume of the *Y.A.J.* A pit was found at *St Mary's Abbey* by G. F. Willmot containing Stamford ware and a coin dating to the time of the Norman conquest. Mr D. M. Waterman is publishing other Saxo-Norman finds from York in a forthcoming volume of *Archaeologia*.

DECORATED STAMFORD SHERDS OF UNUSUAL TYPE

Derbyshire

PEVERIL CASTLE. Strap handle of fine quality whitish ware with overall thin shiny pale yellow glaze, double plaited strip along the central groove. Fig. 4, 2.

Leicestershire

LEICESTER, *Jewry Wall*. Unstratified. Sherd of fine white ware, overall thick shiny good quality light green glaze. Decoration of incised wavy and straight lines overlaid by vertical applied strips with loops on each side. Fig. 4, 1.

Lincolnshire

CROWLAND ABBEY. A discussion of Stamford ware must include a mention of the famous bowl from Crowland Abbey which was found by Mr Wyman Abbott in a level which, from circumstantial evidence, dates before the founding of the abbey in 1070. Unfortunately the bowl was mislaid during the Second World War, when out of Mr Abbott's possession on loan. There is a photograph of it, from which Pl. V is reproduced. A copy of this in the possession of Mr Abbott bears a note by E. T. Leeds, stating that it had a greenish-yellow glaze inside and out which was thin at the lip, and that the paste was grey-white in colour, fine and even throughout. Mr Lethbridge has kindly supplied some further details from memory. He says that the bowl was about 5 in. high and 6 in. in diameter. In shape it was not unlike half a coconut with an absolutely plain rim, perhaps slightly turned inwards. The body was covered all over with rather large cruciform stamps. If any reader should know of its whereabouts, or recognize it from this description, the author would be glad of information which might lead to its recovery.

FLEET (1913). F. H. Thompson, *Lincs. Archit. Arch. Soc.* vol. VI (1955), p. 11. Sherd of whitish crystalline ware. Light green lustrous even glaze on both sides. Remains of two stamps, one with a fishbone design and the other circular similar to the Crowland Abbey bowl. This sherd is clearly a close parallel. There is said to be a similar bowl from London in the British Museum, but I have not been able to trace this.

STAMFORD CASTLE (1933). Wyman Abbott Collection. Small strap handle from a spouted pitcher with applied plaited strip down the centre. Light grey ware with buff surfaces. Pale green glaze, Fig. 2, 43.

Two thick body sherds and sagging base from a large vessel with decoration of overlapping applied bands. Grey ware with off-white surfaces. Light green crackled glaze inside and out. These are the only examples with such thick sides and with plain undecorated applied bands. They seem to come from a large storage vessel, one is figured in Fig. 2, 44.

Body sherd of a large vessel with applied thumbled band in an arc pattern. Badly worn with grey core and cream surfaces. Pale green crackled glaze. Fig. 2, 45.

Norfolk

NORWICH, *Davy Place* (1957). A grey-ware sherd with yellow glaze over diamond notch rouletting. The only other glazed rouletted sherd is the developed Stamford jug from Norwich Castle (see p. 56). It is surprising that more Stamford ware is not rouletted, as in Holland it appears on many of the glazed vessels (G. C. Dunning, *Dark Age Britain*, p. 227).

DEVELOPED STAMFORD WARE

Cambridgeshire

CAMBRIDGE, *Eden Yard* (1905). Off-white sherd with a mottled dark and light green glaze. Sherd from the side of a jug in off-white ware with three converging applied bands with intermittent combing. The whole covered by a thick lustrous mottled green glaze. Fig. 1, 5.

Examination School (1910). A small white sherd with mottled dark and light green glaze and vertical combed lines. Also the base of a large strap handle in white ware with a bright darkish green glaze and plaited applied strips. Fig. 1, 7, cf. Fig. 4, 4.

King's Lane East (1907). Two strap handles, one grey white the other off-white ware with a mottled green glaze and intermittent combing on the two side ridges, as Fig. 1, 6. Another small fragment in whiter ware.

Marks and Spencer (1934). The neck and strap handle of a jug in pinkish ware with dark green glaze and intermittent combed decoration on the two side ridges and obliquely down the centre in two rows, Fig. 1, 8. Another similar jug with reeding round the neck as Fig. 4, 8.

St John's New Court. The sagging base of a large thick-sided jug in white paste with mottled dark and light green glaze. Reaching almost down to the base a series of vertical applied bands with intermittent combing, Fig. 1, 9.

CAMBRIDGE, *unprovenanced*. A white-ware strap handle with pale green glaze and intermittent combing down the side ridges, Fig. 1, 10.

The neck and strap handle of a white-ware jug with buff outer surfaces. Patches of green glaze and intermittent combing, Fig. 1, 6.

Huntingdonshire

EATON SOCON (1949). T. C. Lethbridge, C. F. Tebbutt, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLV (1952), pp. 48-60. Twenty-six sherds were found in trench E. 6 below the mortar layer, there were five sherds of pinkish ware with a fuzzy mottled bright green glaze. Twenty sherds of a thick white-ware jug with a glossy bright green glaze and a pattern of combed lines. These sherds are from a jug similar to that from St John's, Cambridge (Fig. 1, 9). Also a similar sherd but part of the sagging base of a small cup.

Lincolnshire

LINCOLN, *Flaxengate*. Material to be published by the Lincoln Museum.

STAMFORD, *Castle* (1933). Wyman Abbott Collection. Strap handle from a jug with plain side-ridges and plaited applied strips in the centre. These are much more loosely twisted than the plaited handles from the earlier spouted pitchers, Fig. 4, 2. Grey ware with buff surfaces, thick mottled dark and light green glaze, Fig. 4, 4.

Strap handle from a jug with intermittent combing on the side ridges and wavy combing down the centre. This was done with a comb with teeth of equal length so the centre teeth hardly made any impression because of the concave shape of the central groove of the handle. Grey ware with buff surfaces, mottled dark and light green glaze, but the difference in colour is not so great as usual, Fig. 4, 3.

There is also part of a plain strap handle, part of a typical combed handle, a rim fragment of a jug, a body sherd with vertical applied combed strips as Fig. 1, 9 and base fragments from possibly the same jug.

STAMFORD. Exact provenance unknown but 'found near Stamford', Lincoln City Museum 1026.10. Jug of fine smooth buff ware with lustrous bright green mottled glaze overall on neck, body and handle. Sagging base supported by three ledge feet. Rilled and grooved neck. Applied vertical ribs on the body. Base of strap handle with intermittent combing, Fig. 4, 8. Tripod feet are unknown in East Anglia in Saxo-Norman times. This is clearly a trait coming up from the Oxford region where precursors of the late twelfth-century tripod pitchers were being made in the second quarter of the twelfth century (*Oxon.* vols. XVII/XVIII (1952/3), p. 95 and fig. 34, 41, and *Ant. J.* vol. XX (1940), p. 103).

STAMFORD, *Broad Street* (1950). A. P. Baggs. From a pit found during roadworks. Jug of fine off-white ware with buff outer surface and bright green mottled glaze overall. Apparently three large strap handles combed down the sides with criss-cross combing down the centre. A perforation set eccentric to the top of the handle. Vertical applied ribs with intermittent combing, Fig. 4, 9.

STAMFORD SCHOOL, *Science Laboratory* (1956). D. P. S. Peacock. Three sherds with about ninety-five of normal Stamford type. One sherd is a sagging base glazed both inside and out.

Holy Trinity (1956). Front garden of St Peter's House. G. D. Sinker. Cylindrical sherd, 2 in. long, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter pierced by a hole $\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter. Hole too small for it to be a spout. Very good green glaze on off-white fabric. It was presumably part of a strut for a tubular spout.

Holy Trinity (1957). Site of garages just off East Street. D. P. S. Peacock. Strap handle with intermittent combing down the side ridges and an applied strip down the centre thumbled then intermittently combed. Off-white ware with buff surfaces, mottled dark and light green glaze, Fig. 4, 5.

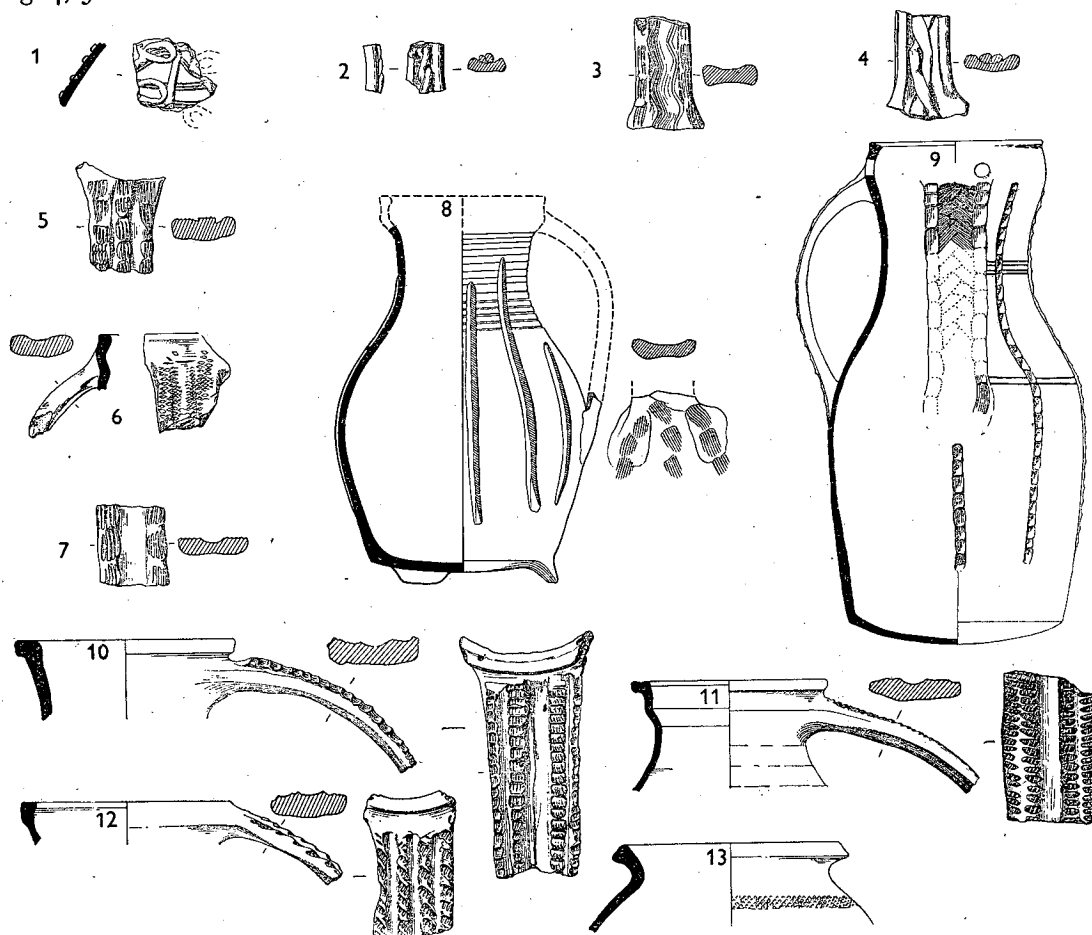


Fig. 4. Decorated Stamford ware from 1, Leicester; 2, Peveril Castle. Developed Stamford ware from 3-5, Stamford; 6-7, Norwich; 8-9, Stamford. Developed Stamford type jugs from 10-12, Cambridge. 13, Thetford cooking pot from St Neots. $\frac{1}{8}$.

Norfolk

NORWICH CASTLE, *Crome Gallery*. Unstratified (1950). N.C.M. 221.950. Strap handle with intermittent combing down the two side ridges. Off-white ware with buff surfaces. Patchy mottled dark and light green glaze, Fig. 4, 7.

Cotman Gallery. Unstratified (1950). N.C.M. 222.950. Strap handle and part of rim with diamond notch rouletting down the ridges and centre of the handle. Buff ware with thick mottled dark and light green glaze, Fig. 4, 6.

Cotman Gallery. Site D, 14-15 ft., sherd of jug, white ware with mottled dark and light green glaze. Site E, 15 ft., base of narrow jug, white ware with yellow cream glaze mottled dark green.

Oxfordshire

OXFORD, *Clarendon Hotel* (1956). E. M. Jope. Tubular spout held by a twisted strut to the neck, fine off-white ware with mottled green glaze. Found on a thirteenth-century floor, but not really sealed.

Rutland

OAKHAM (1953). P. W. Gathercole. A single sherd was found during the excavation of the castle ditch.

DEVELOPED STAMFORD-TYPE JUGS FROM CAMBRIDGE

There are, in the Cambridge Museum, fragments of five jugs in a hard sandy grey ware similar to Thetford ware. They are exactly similar in form and decoration to the developed Stamford-ware jugs, only the ware and the lack of glaze are different. They have the same strap handles with the intermittent combing. They appear to be local copies of Stamford ware dating to the end of the twelfth century or the thirteenth century. I have not been able to find any of these jugs outside Cambridge.

CAMBRIDGE, *King's Ditch, Hunnybun* (1891). *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. VIII (1895), pl. v, 29. Rim and part of the handle of a jug, angular flat-topped rim, strap handle with four rows of intermittent combing. Hard sandy grey ware with some large grits, Fig. 4, 10. Another handle with two rows only of widely spaced combing. *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLIII (1949), Fig. 1, 2.

King's Lane West (1907). Similar rim and handle to that from Hunnybun. Rim and part of the handle of another jug, flanged rim, rounded outside and hollowed on top, four rows of intermittent combing, further spaced, and more irregular than the Hunnybun example. Sandy grey ware very well fired, Fig. 4, 11. Part of this handle was published in *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLIII (1949), fig. 1, 1.

SAXON ROAD, from the River Cam. Rim and part of the handle of a jug, upright thickened rim, strap handle with four rows of intermittent combing, but these are on four parallel vertical ridges instead of on the two side ridges as the Hunnybun and King's Lane examples, Fig. 4, 12.

GENERAL SUMMARY

A series of distribution maps (Figs. 5-6) shows the variations in the distribution of the three main groups of Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia and also some subsidiary distributions.

Ipswich ware

Fig. 5, 1 shows the distribution of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware. This is found mostly on coastal sites from Essex to the West Coast of Norfolk but also inland at Norwich and Thetford. Ten of these are small settlement sites but three, Ipswich, Norwich and Thetford, show the beginnings of what were later to be great trading centres. Archaeology provides the main evidence on which we can now suggest that these centres were established in the eighth century, or perhaps even earlier. The historical record gives no inkling of these important events. As was previously stated, Ipswich

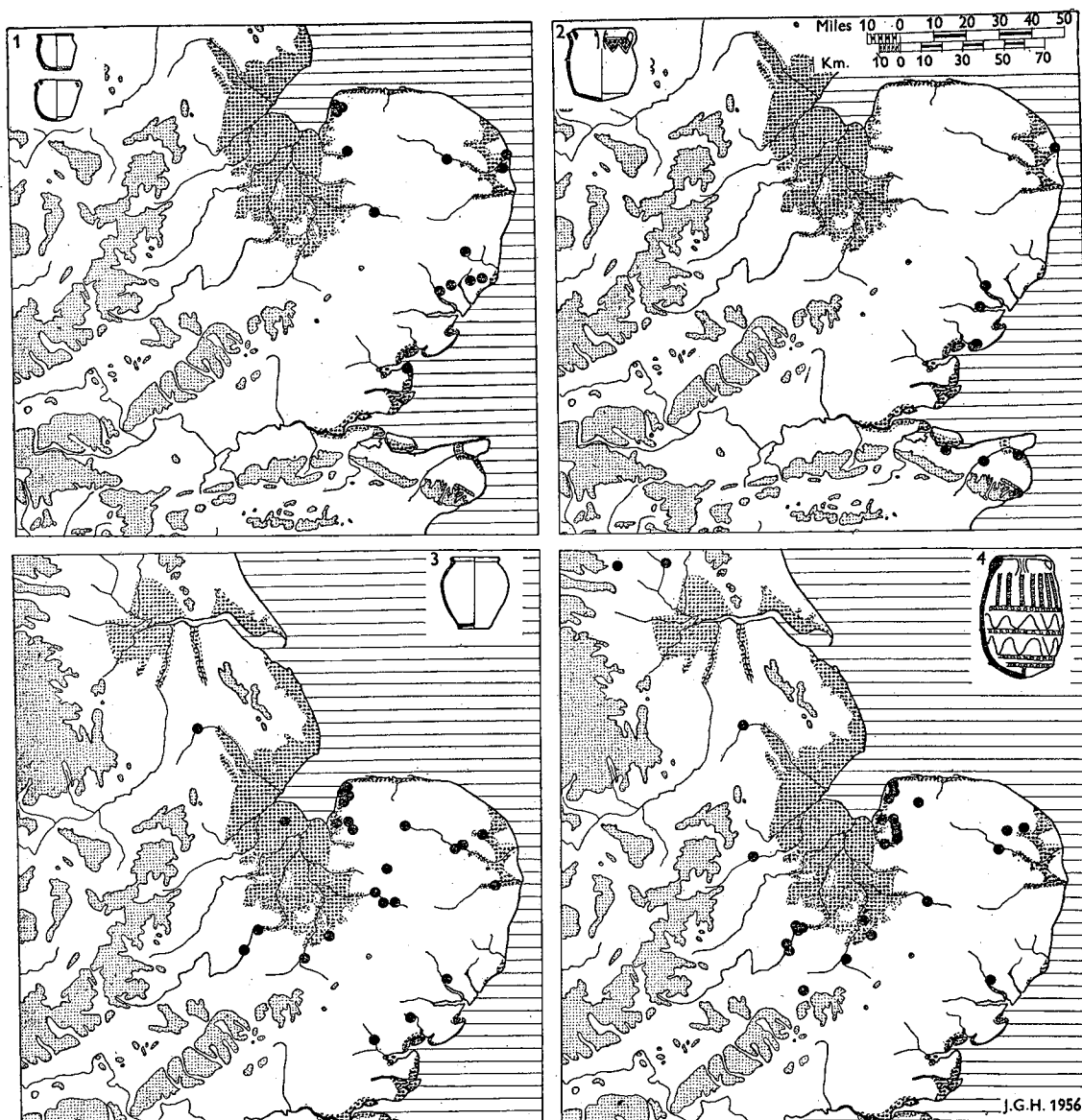


Fig. 5. Distribution maps of Middle Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery. 1, Ipswich ware; 2, stamped lugged pitchers; 3, Thetford cooking pots; 4, Thetford storage vessels.

ware consists of pagan Saxon shapes with the added knowledge of throwing on a slow wheel, knife trimming, sagging base and baking in kilns. These traits were all known in the Rhineland at this time where the art of throwing on a wheel and baking in kilns was not lost after the fall of the Roman Empire. It must be assumed that Ipswich ware was made, or was first introduced, by actual Rhenish potters who came to settle in Britain. It is significant that this earliest distribution should be along the coast nearest to the Rhineland and already there were some sites along the eastern

coast of the Wash, in the area which was to become of great importance 200 years later. It is not clear at present whether the absence of sites along the middle of the Norfolk coast is due to lack of field-work or whether the pottery never reached the area.

Middle Saxon lugged pitchers

Fig. 5, 2 shows the distribution of Middle Saxon lugged pitchers which are contemporary with Ipswich ware but have a more southerly distribution since half the examples are from Kent. As yet none has been found in north-west Norfolk.¹ Recent excavations in Ipswich in 1957 have shown that some of these stamped vessels are storage jars not pitchers. This type is of great importance as it has not only pagan Saxon (stamps) and Rhenish (sagging bases, spouts) features but also the peaked lug, which is typical of Frisia. This is an important link with the elusive Frisian merchants who appear so much in the historical evidence but only in such a small way archaeologically. It is clear that the markets opened up by the Frisian merchants led to an increasing exchange of goods across the North Sea and that it is in this context that the advent of the Rhenish potters must be placed. The first of many puzzles, however, is the fact that while Frisian contacts with Kent are clear, only these lugged pitchers remain as evidence. The other types of wheel-thrown Middle Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery do not seem to appear there. A stamped sherd of this type has now been recognized amongst the finds from the Tempest Anderson Hall, York. This will be published by Mr I. M. Stead in the *Yorks. Arch. J.*

Thetford ware

Fig. 5, 3 and 4 and Fig. 6, 8 show the distribution of Thetford ware. Fig. 5, 3 shows the main area of Thetford ware cooking-pots in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex with outliers in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. With but few exceptions Thetford ware is confined to the area east of the Wash. The sherds from St Neots, Cambridge and Godmanchester are only single examples and Thetford cooking-pots and bowls do not seem to have been exported in any large numbers to the St Neots or Stamford areas. Fig. 6, 8 shows the distribution of Thetford spouted pitchers. These are found in the main Thetford area with a considerable group of nineteen vessels exported to the Cambridge region. They do not seem to have been exported much further into the St Neots area, which is surprising in view of the fact that there do not seem to have been any St Neots spouted pitchers. Fig. 5, 4 shows that Thetford storage vessels were exported mainly to large towns as far away as York, Lincoln and Stamford.

Lincoln and York groups

A note of caution must be inserted here. This applies especially to the Thetford find-spot on Fig. 5, 3 at Lincoln. This paper is mainly concerned with East Anglia, but it must be recorded that recent work has shown that besides the three main groups of

¹ Mr R. R. Clarke has drawn my attention to a sherd from the shoulder of a stamped pitcher from Sedgeford, site 31, Hut 1. See *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. L (1956), p. 35.

Saxo-Norman pottery, Thetford, St Neots and Stamford, there are two other groups, one centred on Lincoln and the other on York. Both these groups are in hard grey sandy ware and the Lincoln fabric cannot easily be distinguished from Thetford ware. More work requires to be done on this ware and at present little of the material can be put into the pre-Conquest period. The kilns at Torksey, Lincolnshire, were producing pottery of mainly twelfth-century type, and none of the material at Lincoln looks very early. The York group was first isolated by Miss K. M. Richardson at Hungate. It is characterized by an orange-red ware with a harsh pimply surface. Recent excavations at the South Corner Tower,¹ Davygate, Hart's Store, Petergate, and King's Square, York, have produced more of this material but it is too early to draw any firm conclusions. Much of this material may be tenth or eleventh century. No kiln sites are yet known. In view of this it may be premature to say that the northern storage vessels were exported from Thetford, for the cooking-pot and bowl forms in these areas are reasonably uniform with those of the Thetford area, so there is no reason why the storage vessels should not also have been made in northern areas.

St Neots ware

Fig. 6, 5 and 7 shows the distribution of St Neots ware. This is concentrated down the clay vale from the southern edge of the Fens to Oxford. The large number of find-spots is perhaps due rather to a concentration of field-work than to a relatively greater population in the area. The almost complete absence of any Saxo-Norman finds from the Fens, as can be seen from the map, shows the almost complete desertion of these marsh areas during the late Saxon period. Only one site in the Fens, Fleet, has produced Saxo-Norman pottery. It is especially notable however that the St Neots finds come right up to the Fenland margins. The St Neots cooking-pots and bowls are found in fair quantities not only over the whole Thetford area but also to the Stamford area and as far north as York. It is not yet clear whether the area of manufacture was confined to the Huntingdon, Bedford and Cambridge areas or whether the large number of sites further west implies local manufacture there. The soapy feel of St Neots ware and the fact that the shell grit has not been burnt out, suggests this pottery was only lightly fired and could therefore have been made locally in each village in clamp kilns rather than industrially in certain fixed centres. No kiln has in fact been found for St Neots ware. It is possible that St Neots ware was made by itinerant potters travelling not only in the St Neots area but also through the Stamford and Thetford areas. The export of the friable St Neots pots, or the knowledge of how to make them is one of the most inexplicable features of this group of pottery. Why should this friable pottery be exported for domestic use when the very fine, and presumably more efficient, Thetford and Stamford ware cooking-pots were not? This might be expected in the country but it is hard to explain its presence in towns like Thetford, Norwich and Ipswich where kilns were producing a much harder Thetford ware. The presence of St Neots ware at Stamford itself is even more remarkable. Trade in the area of the Danelaw must have been continually growing,

¹ To be published in *York. Arch. J.* where I. M. Stead will define *York ware*.

and another possibility for the presence of St Neots ware in so many places is that St Neots traders travelled widely in the Stamford and Thetford areas. If they settled there for business purposes they might prefer to use the vessels they had been accustomed to, for traditions die hard.

There do not seem to have been any spouted pitchers in St Neots ware. In the main St Neots areas Stamford-ware pitchers were used, and in the eastern part round Cambridge both Thetford and Stamford-ware ones. In the twelfth century, however, jug types were developed but only, it appears, in the St Neots (Fig. 6, 7) and Stamford areas. The shape was copied in local wares both at Leicester and Oxford.

Stamford ware

The distribution of Stamford ware is shown in Fig. 6, 6. This is centred in the eastern Midlands and along the western edge of the Fens. The exported examples are nearly always glazed pitchers and bowls and it is only in the main area that the unglazed cooking-pots and bowls are present to form the whole assemblage. The main exception is Thetford where there were not only large quantities of unglazed Stamford ware cooking-pots and bowls but also a much larger proportion of St Neots ware than is usual in the rest of the Thetford area. It is suggested that this shows that contacts between Thetford and other large trading centres such as Stamford and Cambridge were so strong that much pottery was brought in. This was apparently a one-way traffic, however, for as has already been said, Thetford cooking-pots and bowls do not seem to have been exported into the St Neots and Stamford areas. It is possible that Norfolk was producing a large amount of grain, or some other commodity, which was exported in large quantities and pottery was one of the objects traded in return. Wherever one part of the trade medium is perishable it is very difficult to establish the correct facts archaeologically. The question of the different sources for Stamford ware along the lower estuarine clay exposures is dealt with elsewhere, as are the twelfth-century developments of jugs which are paralleled in the St Neots area.

Types

The shapes of the ninth to eleventh century cooking-pots, bowls and spouted pitchers seem to be similar in all five areas from Essex to York and it is only in the twelfth century that more individual types seem to have developed. All this, together with the uniform traits of throwing on a fast wheel, sagging bases, knife trimming and production in kilns, points not only to a common Rhenish origin, but also to continuing contact during the 300 years from 850 to 1150 that the tradition lasted. The static quality of the pottery over such a long period suggests that pottery-making was a monopoly and it is possible that the knowledge was handed from father to son in several potter families. They seem to have kept their monopoly until the eleventh century, when medieval types of pot first appear, but Saxo-Norman forms continued for another 100 years until about 1150. Certainly at Thetford, the main stratified site, there were few significant changes in form or shape between 850 and the eleventh century when medieval influences begin to break up the old traditions.

Dating

The question of date is still confused. Saxo-Norman pottery is clearly the product of the increasing trade contacts between Britain and the Continent which seem to start soon after A.D. 650 with the settling of Rhenish potters in East Anglia only.



Fig. 6. Distribution maps of Saxo-Norman pottery. 5, St Neots ware cooking pots and bowls; 6, Stamford ware pitchers, cooking pots and bowls; 7, St Neots jugs; 8, Thetford pitchers.

About 200 years later there seems to have been a fresh surge and different Rhenish potter groups seem to have established the five areas of Saxo-Norman pottery round York, Lincoln, Stamford, St Neots and Thetford. It appears that all groups were established about the same time though the earliest dating entirely depends so far on Thetford,

for if Stamford and St Neots wares are being exported to Thetford before 900, which seems pretty certain from the evidence, all three must have been in operation by about 850. So there seems no reason why the other groups should not date from about the same period. The historical references for early trade contacts, which are lacking in East Anglia, are abundant for York in the ninth century. Now that a Middle Saxon Settlement has been found at Red Castle, Thetford (see p. 64), it has become clear that the St Mary's site is largely an industrial suburb which grew up in the middle of the ninth century presumably as a result of the great increase in trading activities which made the Rhenish potters come over here. One fact that is not clear is whether these potters came over purely in the interest of opening up new markets and industries or whether worsening conditions on the Continent caused the move. The five areas referred to above cover the region of the Danelaw, the political unity of which seems to have encouraged freedom of trade though it is unlikely that the Danes brought in the potters themselves. The expansion down the clay vale to Oxford and the presence of Saxo-Norman types of pottery at Chester would then occur at the time of the tenth century reconquest of the Danelaw and the ensuing increase in trade in all directions, as Mr Dunning has suggested.

The end date of the Saxo-Norman pottery is almost as hard to define as the start. Medieval pottery appears side by side with it at least by the middle of the eleventh century and for the next hundred years the two traditions continue side by side with the Saxo-Norman wares persisting in medieval shapes and forms, especially the large baggy cooking-pots and jugs. Saxo-Norman pottery appears to die out in about the middle of the twelfth century, but the developed Stamford-ware jugs continue into the thirteenth century, while most of the Northamptonshire twelfth- and thirteenth-century medieval pottery is in soft shelly ware very similar to St Neots, from which the sherds are almost indistinguishable as are some Roman calcite gritted wares such as those from the Horningsea kilns. A great deal has been learnt during the last five years about Saxo-Norman pottery and it is to be hoped that the next five will produce even more advances. The recognition of two new groups at Lincoln and York opens up a whole new field of research. Many of the gaps require to be filled in and the need is for more controlled excavation, on dated pre-Conquest sites, though these are few and hard to find. It is unsatisfactory to have to depend, as at present, on a single site for the starting date.

ERRATA AND ADDENDA

St Neots ware

In 1952, when Part I of this paper was prepared, it was not possible to examine the material from the Northampton Museum. I have now been able to do this through the kindness of Mr A. Warhurst. This has brought to light three more St Neots jugs. One was found on the site of Northampton *Post Office* in 1914, another at *Hyde Farm*, Waddington, in 1951, the third was found at *24 Ashbury Road*, Yardley Hastings, in a pit. Mr L. J. Blow (to whom I owe an apology for publishing his name wrongly

in Part I, p. 57), has shown me two other St Neots jugs from his site at Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire. From Stamford there are St Neots jugs both from the Castle site, in the Wyman Abbott collection, and from the group collected by Mr A. P. Baggs in 1950 (see p. 55). It has not been possible to publish the rest of this group as Mr Baggs is at present on National Service.

Between 1954 and 1956 M. W. Barley and F. Waters found St Neots sherds at Newark Castle, Nottinghamshire, in an occupational level under the eastern rampart dating to c. 1135 and also in a layer for the construction of a stone foundation built shortly after (*Trans. Thoroton Soc.* vol. LX (1956), pp. 20-33).

It was unfortunately not possible to see the page proofs of Part I of this paper so several errors slipped past. P. 57, under Dene Holes, read Houghton Conquest not Hangaton. P. 57, Fig. 3, the caption should read War Ditches 9 and 20 not 9 and 19. P. 61, under Fig. 6, the unprovenanced bowl B 1 should have been on p. 58 at the head of the Cambridge sites.

Thetford ware

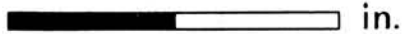
In Part II of this article it was stated that no examples of Thetford ware cooking-pots were known to the west of Cambridge, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. L (1956), p. 46. Mr C. F. Tebbutt has since shown me a sherd from his collection which was found in a ditch in the town of St Neots. It is the rim of a typical Thetford cooking-pot with a thickened everted rim sloping outside. There is a band of small diamond notch rouletting round the shoulder. Typical hard grey sandy ware, Fig. 4, 13. Mr Tebbutt has very kindly given this sherd to the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (57.26).

Mr M. Green has also found a Thetford cooking-pot at Godmanchester which is described elsewhere in this volume (pp. 31-4). It therefore appears that there are a few exports of Thetford ware cooking-pots into the St Neots area but they are very few compared with the exports of St Neots cooking-pots into the Thetford or Stamford areas.

Ipswich ware

In 1957 a sherd of typical Ipswich ware was found inside Burgh Castle, Suffolk. Mr R. R. Clarke reports further sherds from Winterton Ness, Norfolk and Lound, Suffolk. In 1958 Ipswich ware sherds were recognized from two more inland sites, Brandon and West Stow, Suffolk.

In May and August 1957 Group Capt. G. M. Knocker dug again at Thetford to try and find the original Middle Saxon nucleus. This was discovered not near the ford of the Icknield Way, by the Nuns Bridge, but under the Red Castle earthwork to the west of the town where a succession was found comprising pagan Saxon sherds and Middle Saxon Ipswich ware stratified under a Saxo-Norman earthwork of the twelfth century. The results of this important find have still to be assessed as this goes to press but it is of the greatest importance to find that there was settlement at Thetford before the ninth century, though it is not yet possible to say if this was simply a village or already a trading centre by this date. A quick examination of the



The Crowland Abbey bowl; see p. 55.

Ipswich ware seems to show a series of developed rims quite different from the usual simple upright forms, which may show a development from Ipswich to Thetford ware at Thetford itself. A most important find was a *sceatta* dating to the first half of the eighth century.

In August 1957 S. E. West dug some trial trenches on the property of the Co-operative Society at Ipswich between *Carr Street* and *Cox Lane* very near to where the kilns were found in 1928 and 1935. Unfortunately no kilns or other structures were discovered but a good series of pits were found containing Ipswich ware. One of these included a sherd of imported Badorf ware dating to the eighth or early ninth century. This together with the *sceatta* from Thetford provides very satisfactory confirmatory evidence for the dating of Ipswich ware to the period 650-850.

On p. 40 of Part II of this paper the figure references in paragraphs 4 and 5 should read, Fig. 5, 9; Fig. 5, 3; Fig. 5, 1 & 4 and Fig. 5, 1 & 4.

On p. 42 of Part II of this paper, reference 1 should read Goss Street excavations not Cross Street.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have to thank Mr G. C. Dunning for drawing to my attention several examples of Stamford ware that I had missed and more especially for his kindness in drawing for me the ring vase from Glaston, Fig. 1, 12, the Stamford jug in the Lincoln Museum, Fig. 4, 8, and the sherds from Leicester and Peveril Castle, Fig. 4, 1 and 2. I should like to thank Mr A. P. Baggs for permission to publish his drawing of the important jug from Broad Street, Stamford, Fig. 4, 9. It is regretted that he was prevented from describing the rest of the finds owing to his being called up for National Service. Fig 1, 1-11, Fig. 2, 39-46, Fig. 3, 9, 17-19 and 23-5 and Fig. 4, 3-7 and 10-13 were drawn by Miss E. Meikle. Fig. 3, 1-8 and 10-16 were drawn by D. P. S. Peacock and Fig. 2, 1-38 by the author.

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