

*Acknowledgements*

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D. AUSTIN and M. J. C. WALKER  
*Department of Geography, St David's University College,  
 Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7ED, Wales*

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> G. Beresford, 'Three deserted medieval settlements on Dartmoor: a report on the late E. Marie Minter's excavations', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 23 (1979), 98-158.

<sup>2</sup> D. Austin, 'Dartmoor and the upland village of the southwest of England', 71-80 in D. Hooke (ed.), *The Medieval Village* (Oxford, 1985).

<sup>3</sup> The contrasting views represented in the following paragraph are to be found in the two above-mentioned publications and are not given separate entries.

<sup>4</sup> A. Fleming and N. Ralph, 'Medieval settlement and land use on Holne Moor, Dartmoor: the landscape evidence', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 26 (1982), 101-37.

<sup>5</sup> K. Faegri and J. Iversen, *Textbook of Pollen Analysis* (Oxford, 1975).

<sup>6</sup> P. D. Moore and J. A. Webb, *An Illustrated Guide to Pollen Analysis* (London, 1978).

<sup>7</sup> U. Grohne, 'Die Bedeutung des Phasenkontrast-verfahrens für die Pollenanalyse, durchgeführt am Beispiel der Gramineen pollen von Getreidetypp', *Photographic Forsch.*, 7 (1957), 237-48.

<sup>8</sup> H. J. Beug, *Leitfaden der Pollenbestimmung* (Stuttgart, 1961).

<sup>9</sup> E.g. Beug, op. cit. in note 8.

<sup>10</sup> S. Th. Andersen, 'Identification of wild grass and cereal pollen', *Danmarks Geologiske Undersogelse, Årbog 1978* (1979), 69-92.

<sup>11</sup> I. Vuorela, 'Relative pollen rain around cultivated fields', *Acta Botanica Fennica*, 102 (1973), 1-27.

<sup>12</sup> M. Stuiver, 'A high-precision calibration curve of the AD radiocarbon timescale', *Radiocarbon*, 24 (1982), 1-26.

<sup>13</sup> G. W. Pearson and M. G. L. Baillie, 'High-precision C<sup>14</sup> measurement of Irish oaks to show the natural atmospheric C<sup>14</sup> variations of the AD time period', *Radiocarbon*, 25 (1983), 187-96.

<sup>14</sup> See also D. Austin *et al.*, 'Farms and fields in Okhampton Park, Devon: the problems of studying medieval landscape', *Landscape History*, 2 (1980), 39-57.

<sup>15</sup> Beresford, op. cit. in note 1, 143.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 146.

<sup>17</sup> Austin *et al.*, op. cit. in note 14.

<sup>18</sup> Austin, op. cit. in note 2.

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## SOME EXAMPLES OF MEDIEVAL DOMESTIC PEWTER FLATWARE (Fig. 7; Pl. VIII, B)

Pewterware was probably being made in London by the second half of the 13th century, albeit on a very small scale when compared with the output later in the medieval period. The pewterers' need for the Ordinances of 1348<sup>1</sup> implies significant activity prior to that date. Very few pewter objects of the 13th and 14th centuries survive; the only items certainly from the period are priests' funerary chalices and patens of very inferior quality pewter.<sup>2</sup> There are a few other ecclesiastical pieces such as the Ludlow and Weoley Castle cruets,<sup>3</sup> and a few domestic spoons may be from this period; these are not all certainly of English manufacture, however.

Until recently it was believed that no domestic flatware had survived from the period prior to 1400. This view was supported by the lack of written evidence for domestic pewter ownership at this time even at the highest social levels and the recognized lack of durability of

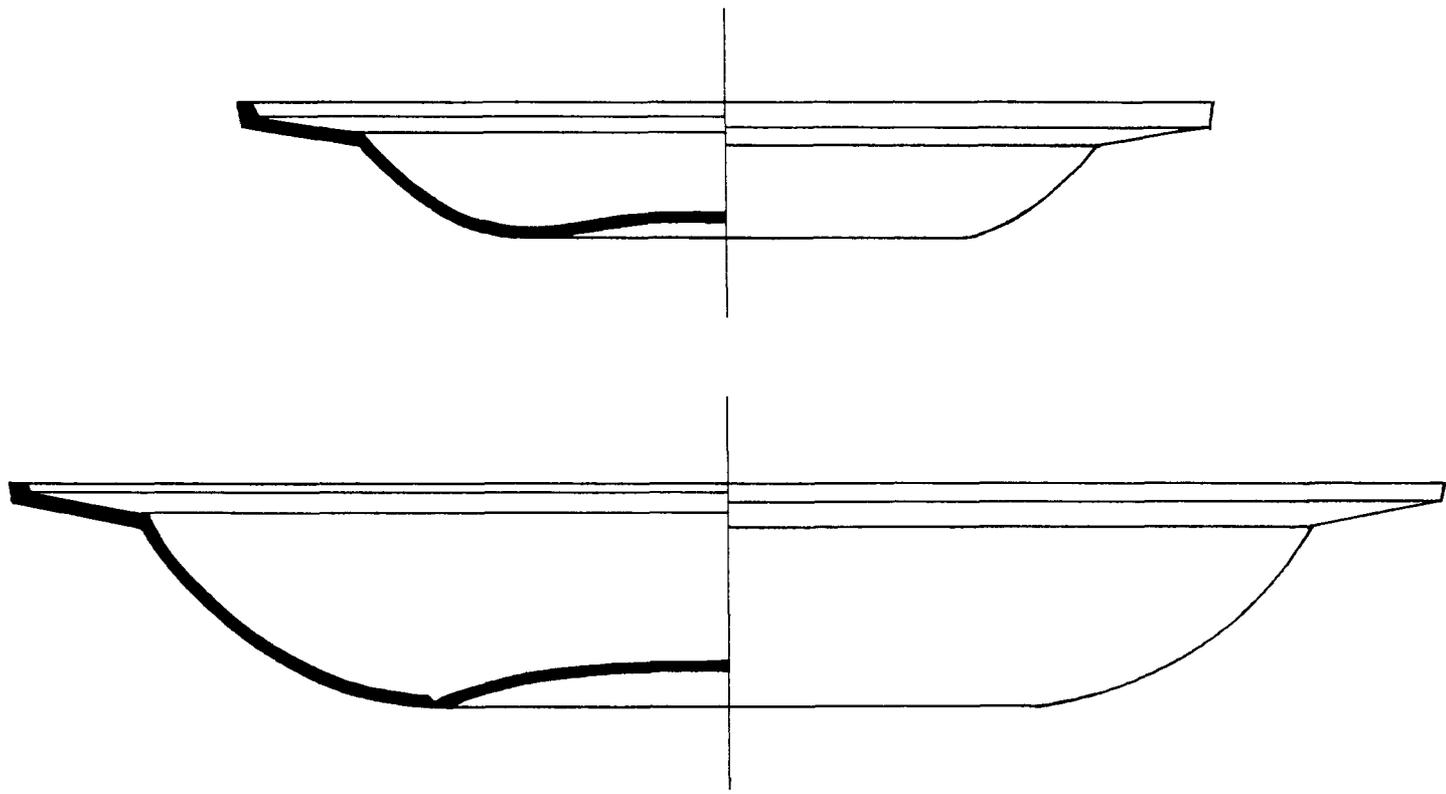


FIG. 7

PEWTER FLATWARE

Above: saucer, from Southampton; below: plate, from Weoley Castle.  
Scale 1:1

pewterware in frequent use. Stylistic classification has been made difficult by the fact that flatware from the medieval period is not clearly enough depicted in manuscripts for detailed stylistic treatment to be applied and that nothing is known of any marking of pewter, so convenient in studies of post-medieval pewter. It has therefore been difficult to recognize early examples from the collections which contain medieval items. Recent studies have changed the picture significantly and it is the purpose of this note to suggest that at least five items of domestic pewter flatware from the late 13th and 14th centuries are extant.

The recovery of pewter from stratified deposits in archaeological excavations has been the best hope for clarifying the situation and the lack of such contextual data on the Weoley Castle material<sup>4</sup> is tantalizing. Recent excavations in Southampton and Leicester have brought to light two examples which have in common a particular angled-bead type of rim reinforcement; this is shared by three examples from the Weoley Castle collection. It is suggested that this rim form was typical of the period from the end of the 13th century and into the 14th century; the recently excavated items have firm dates in this period and the known history of the occupancy of Weoley Castle makes the assignment of the three to this period entirely feasible. All five have been found to be of high-quality copper-hardened pewter with very low lead content, a quality embodied in the 'fine' pewter specification of the 1348 Ordinances.

The five items are now briefly described and illustrated and alloy compositional data, obtained by a XRF analytical procedure described elsewhere,<sup>5</sup> are given.

1. Small saucer (diameter 125 mm) excavated in Southampton, dated by context to *c.* 1290 (Mus. acc. no. 163.206). Michaelis, writing a special note on it in the excavation report,<sup>6</sup> commented on its unique (in his experience) rim form. The other notable feature of its construction is the narrow rim. (Fig. 7, top). Pewter composition: Tin 96.7%, Copper 2.93%, Lead 0.39%.
2. Small saucer (diameter 130 mm) from Weoley Castle (Mus. acc. no. WC 305) in very fragmentary condition. It is almost identical in form to the Southampton saucer. (Not illus.). Pewter composition: Tin 96.4%, Copper 3.74%, Lead 0.05%.
3. Plate (diameter 188 mm) from Weoley Castle (Mus. acc. no. WC 301) with a relatively deep recess and a raised central boss. It has a narrow rim like the saucers with angled-bead reinforcement (Fig. 7, bottom). Pewter composition: Tin 92.6%, Copper 6.51%, Lead 0.66%.
4. Plate (diameter 187 mm) from Weoley Castle (Mus. acc. no. WC 307), very similar to no. 3 above. (Not illus.). Pewter composition: Tin 96.4%, Copper 2.07%, Lead 1.65%.
5. Rim fragment, all that remains of an item found at the Augustinian Friary site in Leicester in a 14th-century context (Find no. A 389.1973/373).<sup>7</sup> It too is narrow and shares the angled-bead reinforcement. The shape of the remainder of the object cannot be known. (Not illus.). Pewter composition: Tin 97.3%, Copper 2.30%, Lead 0.31%.

A remarkable coincidence is the occurrence of struck letter P marks on the Southampton saucer and on the saucer (No. 2, WC 305) from Weoley Castle. The details of the letters (Pl. VIII, B) are similar but not identical. Michaelis speculated on the significance of the mark on the Southampton saucer but came to no conclusion as to whether it was an ownership mark or a pewterer's mark. The appearance of so similar a mark on the saucer from Weoley Castle, 180 km from Southampton, points towards the latter; the minor differences may be explained in terms of the use of two different punches made to a common design but with slight variation in detailed execution. The explanation of the occurrence of the saucers at the two localities probably lies in their having been traded from a common source, in all likelihood in London.

This parallel in marking enables the Weoley Castle saucer (No. 2, WC 305), and with some justification the remaining items from there having the same narrow rim and angled-bead rim reinforcement, to be placed in the same broad date range as the Southampton saucer, on either side of 1300. The Leicester rim is thought to be from the first half of the 14th century. It is suggested therefore that these stylistic features are common to late 13th- and early 14th-century domestic flatware (perhaps *c.* 1275–*c.* 1350).

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R. BROWNSWORD and E. E. H. PITT  
*Department of Applied Physical Sciences,  
 Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic, Priory Street, Coventry*

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> J. Hatcher and T. C. Barker, *A History of British Pewter* (London, 1974).

<sup>2</sup> About ten items of funerary pewter have been analysed by the authors; lead contents in the 'pewter' have ranged from 25% to 75%.

<sup>3</sup> A. H. Oswald, 'Interim Report on excavations at Weoley Castle, 1955-60', *Trans. Birmingham Archaeol. Soc.*, 78 (1962), 61-85 and pls. 8-10.

<sup>4</sup> Many pre-war excavation notes were lost due to enemy action during the 1939-45 war and the post-war excavations have not been published in full.

<sup>5</sup> R. Brownsword and E. E. H. Pitt, 'X-ray fluorescence analysis of English 13th-16th-century pewter flatware', *Archaeometry*, 26 (1984), 237-44.

<sup>6</sup> C. Platt and R. Coleman-Smith, *Excavations in Medieval Southampton, 1953-1969 Vol. 2 The finds* (Leicester, 1975), 250 and fig. 239.

<sup>7</sup> J. E. Mellor and T. Pearce, *The Austin Friars, Leicester* (Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 35, 1981), 130 and fig. 45.1. Unfortunately the illustration is inverted; the reinforcement is on the upper surface of the rim.

## THE 13TH-CENTURY ROOF OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST THOMAS-UPON-THE-EASTBRIDGE CANTERBURY (Fig. 8)

In our article on crown-post and king-strut roofs in SE. England, a third king-strut roof in Canterbury was mentioned, over the chapel of the Hospital of St Thomas-upon-the-Eastbridge.<sup>1</sup> This roof has now been measured and a perspective drawing is published here (Fig. 8).

The roof is in four bays though it is just possible that there may have been a further bay on the east. All the common trusses of the roof have single collars and scissor-braces that lap over each other (for clarity, only one truss is shown in the drawing), while the principal trusses have king-struts with two tiers of collars and the collar-purlin tenoned into them. There are also two pairs of braces up to the soulaces and the collar-purlin as well as pairs of braces coming down from the king-struts on to the collar-purlin.

The second bay from the west has been constructed differently to take a contemporarily constructed spirelet, and there is additional timber-work and bracing (from corbels) below to help to support this. The octagonal plan of the upper part of the spirelet (i.e. the part that projected out above the roof) has been destroyed, perhaps in the 18th century. The opposing posts of the spirelet have scissor-bracing and external tension-bracing. Pegged mortice-and-tenon joints are used on abutting members together with half-lap joints on crossing timbers. The most notable joint, however, for which no parallel has yet been found, is a tenon-joint which has been notched and held tight by a wedge driven in by its side (opposite the notch). This joint, which is used at the bases of all the king-struts, effectively suspends the tie-beam and thereby relieves it of some of its load. The same notched-tenon joint is also used at the base of all the eight posts of the spire.

The transition from notched-lap to tenon-and-mortice jointing is something that was taking place fairly generally in SE. England during the 13th century, so one should perhaps expect to find other examples of this sort of joint. Only one other surviving spire of this