

Chapter 9 : The Pottery

Part 4: The head pots and similar

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(file name : Ch9DHeadpot)

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Digital Chapter 9 : The Pottery

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Fort

Stamped boss without features surviving

- 1 Mid-grey fabric, some black inclusions, slightly mottled surfaces. Stamped hollow boss, rosette design. Possibly from head pot. HS77, 313, HH.

Possible North African style head pots (no features)

2. Two joining body sherds in slightly gritty orange fabric with red and quartz inclusions. Indented and with vertical burnishing. No other features. Slightly different colour than (53) above. DV76, 31.

Fort Ditches

North African style head pots

- 3 Type series no. 690. Complete orange example. Discussed in Braithwaite 1984, 119, Swan 1992, 15-20, and Swan and Monaghan 1993, 28-9. HS76, 14, IG.
- 4 Type series no. 692. Discussed in Swan 1992, 15-20; cf Swan and Monaghan 1993, fig. 2, no. 13. Missing. HS 913, TS.

North African style head pots (hair only)

- 5 Body sherd in orange fabric with red and white inclusions from near rim or base. Shaped body sherd, with all-over very fine combing in numerous directions. HS78, 431, WH.

Stamped boss with facial features surviving

- 6 Type series no. 694. Rough, pale grey fabric with darker surfaces. Rough burnishing, applied ears with internal dot and face with down-turned mouth. HS 816, RF and 536, SN. (Fig. D9.31A)
- 7 Type series no. 691. Two joining sherds, in a gritty grey fabric with brown margins and darker surfaces. Long-necked everted storage jar type rim, with a wavy line on the neck and slight cordon on shoulder. Roughly burnished zone on shoulder and wide spaced lattice decoration on the body. Applied semi-circle of bosses, slightly hollow, although the bosses have flaked away on three out of the four. The fourth decorated with a stamp of a cross with raised dots on the ends of the arms. Below the bosses is an applied semi-circular ear with a dot on interior. HS 816, RF. (Fig. D9.31B)

- 8 Hard gritty grey fabric with pale grey core, brown margin, red margin towards interior and dark grey surfaces. Exterior roughly burnished. Slight, hollow, brow ridges, slightly bossed eye defined by wide groove and pupil by depression, start of applied nose. HS78, 538, TB. (Fig. D9.32A)
- 9 Gritty grey fabric. Applied ear, defined by incised line and dot on interior. HS77, 175, DE.
- 10 Coarse grey fabric with brown margin and grey surfaces. Applied semi-circular ear and dot. HS77, 195, EZ. (Fig. D9.32B)

Stamped boss without features surviving

- 11 Sandy brown fabric with dark grey surfaces, with hollow stamped bosses. Pattern on stamp unclear, but possibly star-like; not concentric circles. Exterior roughly burnished. HS79, 538, TB.
- 12 Hard, slightly gritty pale orange fabric, with edge of two hollow stamped bosses. HS79, 1217.

Other types of head pots

- 13 Two joining sherds in Crambeck grey ware. Applied rectangular nose, slightly hollow eye defined by incised lines, and a vertical band of lattice between lines running down side of cheek. HS 816, RF. (Fig. D9.32C)
- 14 Fine grey fabric, burnished. Applied nose. HS77, 195, EZ. (Fig. D9.32D)

Face pots

- 15 Type series no. 693. Micaceous, slightly sandy grey fabric with white inclusions and occasional black. A small applied face (originally c. 60mm across) with carefully moulded chin, lips, nose and part of a circular ridge depicting an eye. HS77, 133. (Fig. D9.33A)
- 16 Type series no. 695. Thin-walled body sherd in pale orange fabric with dull brown wash on exterior surface. Bosses for eyes stamped to create an incised outer ring and an up-standing centre edged with fine squares. Triangular nose that has lost its slip, marked by rough grooves where it has been attached. Nose slightly hollow. Interior surface has plentiful fine curved incised lines, similar to finger-nail impressions. HS 710, MQ. (Fig. D9.33B)

Smith pots

- 17 Type series no 379. Hard micaceous grey fabric, with scattered black inclusions up to 1mm. Body sherd with burnished zone, applied hammer and fragment of multiple burnished lines. HS79, 924, VK.
- 18 Hard fine grey fabric, with some white inclusions. Burnished exterior with possible nose and tool? Norton ware. Cf Hayes and Whitley 1950, fig. 11, no. 12,

with a similar nose with only one nostril indicated. HS77, 195, EZ. (Fig. D9.32E)

Possible North African style head pots (no features)

- 19 Body sherd in slightly gritty orange fabric with red and quartz inclusions. Indented and with vertical burnishing. No other features. HS79, 551, XD.

Other possible head pot sherds, but without surviving features

- 20 Four sherds, two joining in orange fabric with fine multi-coloured inclusions and paler interior surface. One sherd, from near the base, has burnished bands. Slightly hollow incomplete boss or triangle above and to one side of a hollow triangle defined by finger grooves. These can be identified as a nose and eye, but may be more random. Suggestion of a body groove on vessel HS80, 1321, AEY.
- 21 Slightly gritty, micaceous grey fabric with orange surfaces, with deep vertical hollow boss. This originally had something (such as a nose) applied over the top, but this has flaked off. The original surface, where it survives, is burnished. HS79, 500, KJ.
- 22 Pink fabric with soft red and quartz inclusions and dark grey surfaces, Exterior surface highly burnished near rim, but otherwise rather rough. Indented and decorated sherds, although details uncertain. Three sherds. HS80, 906, ADK.
- 23 Body sherd with red inclusions and some quartz, black core, white margins and dark grey surfaces. Indents and rough burnishing, details uncertain. HS80, 906, ADK.
- 24 Three non-joining sherds, probably from same vessel. Rough grey fabric with white margins and patchy, mid-grey surfaces. Thick body sherd with indented, shaped features, details unclear, with diagonal rough burnishing. Smaller sherd with applied hollow feature and burnishing, details unclear, and another deeply incised and slightly modelled body sherd. HS77, 195, EZ; HS77, 269, LB, and HS78, 536, SN.
- 25 Small sherd in grey fabric with brown margins and dark grey surfaces. Exterior roughly burnished and slightly modelled. Uncertain. HS77, 195, EZ.

Northern Vicus

North African style head pots

- 26 Thin-walled body sherd in orange fabric with paler core, micaceous and red inclusions. Burnished surface. Applied raised eye incised out-line edged with incised dots, oval incised line for iris and dot for pupil. Very faint incised marks along eyebrow ridge. Multiple horizontal short incisions on interior surface. NNA75, 20. (Fig. D9.34A).

- 27 Thin-walled body sherd in pale orange fabric with red inclusions. Applied lips, which are slightly blackened, and moulded, burnished cheek. KF74, 9. (Fig. D9.34B).
- 28 Thin-walled cream fabric with red and white inclusions. Moulded chin, carefully modelled, hollow lips defined by wide groove and part of nose marked by incised line. NNA75, 13B/C. (Fig. D9.34C).
- 29 Base sherd of orange fabric with red inclusions. Vertical wall leading up from the plain base, with curved zone of hair depicted as rows of parallel short incised lines. An incised line demarks a slight dip in the fabric, which is decorated with spaced diagonal incised lines. Along the front edge of the hair line there is an applied burnished vertical line, either as a very low ear or a curl of hair. TF74, 2. (Fig. D9.34D).

North African style head pots (hair only)

- 30 Type series no. 687. Orange fabric with occasional red and white inclusions. Jar with rounded everted rim with applied three dimensional horse's head facing out from the pot, with inscribed eyes, ears, and a thigh, upstanding mane connecting the head to the rim. On one side are uneven, incised lines, similar to the way hair is depicted on other sherds. KF74, 5. (Fig. D9.34E).
- 31 Thin-walled shoulder sherd in orange fabric with paler core. Where the rim meets the shoulder there are the remains of two holes. The exterior is decorated with a diagonal line of lattice between burnished lines, a more upright burnished line, and the edge of possible incised lines representing a curl of hair. NNA75, 440.
- 32 Fine orange fabric with brown margins and brown exterior surface, slightly micaceous with red inclusions. Alternate thick and thin incised wavy lines. NNA75, 20C.

Other types of head pots

- 33 Orange fabric with scattered red inclusions, and occasional large white inclusions up to 2mm across. Smoothly burnished or slipped exterior surface. Three sherds, one with moulded, slightly hollow eye with ridge round pupil and beginnings of nose and brow, another (non-joining) sherd with raised ?eyebrow, and third sherd with no features. Outside of eye, pupil and eyebrow marked in dark brown paint. TF75, 7, 1o, SF no. 25. (Fig. D9.34F).
- 34 Shoulder sherd in hard grey fabric, burnished. Applied eyebrow with diagonal incised lines. TF75, 8.

Possible North African style head pots (no features)

- 35 Orange fabric with noticeable red inclusions. Body sherd slightly shaped, details unclear, with zone of vertical burnishing. TF74, no context details.

- 36 Body sherd in orange fabric with red and white inclusions, slightly indented and moulded. Dark brown exterior, with vertical burnishing. PB73, 4 (tumble), KQ or KO.

Other possible head pot sherds, but without surviving features

- 37 Micaceous, sandy mid-grey fabric with speckled exterior, grey-brown surface. Applied and indented features, details unclear. Three joining body sherds, probably from near base. NNA75, 4B.
- 38 Type series no. 673. Rim sherd in slightly micaceous orange fabric with occasional red and black inclusions. There is one solid boss and an indented area, possibly delineating area of face. NNA75, 51D.
- 39 Three sherds (two joining) of fine grey fabric with red inclusions with dark orange/brown exterior surface. Sherds shaped and indented, with small patch of burnishing. No features visible TF74, 2B(N).

Southern Vicus

North African style head pots (hair only)

- 40 Fine orange fabric with some red inclusions, sherd with vertical indent and incised wave-like lines. HHI72, 2, south abutment.
- 41 Orange fabric with some red inclusions. Small sherd with incised wavy line. HHI72, H49, 4.
- 42 Body sherd in orange fabric with raised circle, perhaps curl, with deep incised concentric circles or spiral. HHI72, 3, YY45.
- 43 Thin-walled body sherd of pale orange fabric with incised wavy lines. HHI72, 21, SF no. 885.
- 44 Grey fabric with a few black inclusions, with buff surfaces. Slightly soapy feel. Incised curls and lines. HHI71, 1.
- 45 Thick body sherd in sandy orange fabric with close set vertical/diagonal lines. HHI72, 10, H49.
- 46 One very thick body sherd and two scraps of a sandy dark grey fabric with an orange/brown exterior surface, decorated with incised wavy lines. HHI72, 2 H49.
- 47 Fabric as no. 46. Incised wavy lines. HH172, 21, SF no. 1149, south abutment.

Stamped boss with facial features surviving

- 48 Rim and 11 body sherds in sandy brown fabric. Slightly hooked everted rim, one sherd with applied ear and 10 sherds with bosses stamped with roundel with three impressed concentric circles – cf no. 50 below. Road cut, B45.

Stamped boss without features surviving

- 49 Rim and two sherds, two of which join, in fine grey fabric with paler margins and with occasional white inclusions. Everted rim, burnished lines at neck and line of stamped decoration (without bosses) with three impressed concentric circles. Finger prints on inner surface under the stamps. HHI72, 4, H49, SF nos 558, 574.
- 50 Body sherd, burnt. Orange fabric. Two rows of hollow bosses stamped with roundels with three impressed concentric circles and area of burnishing. The bosses are larger than those used on no. 48 above, so probably from same source but not same vessel. HHI72, 11, H49, 500.
- 51 Sandy orange fabric, micaceous, with wide grey core. Body sherd with semi-circular raised rib, possibly an eye-brow, surrounding a hollow boss with stamped of two incised circles. Possibly same source as no. 48. HHI71, T54, SF no. 30.
- 52 Mid-grey fabric with scattered black inclusions. Stamped roundels with 3 concentric circles; the curve of the sherd, and zones of both vertical and horizontal burnishing suggest this comes from a face pot. HHI72, 27.
- 53 Micaceous, slightly rough orange fabric with wide grey core, with slight boss decorated with two concentric incised lines and a central dot, perhaps representing an eye. Similar to the stamped bosses, but too uneven to be a stamp. Also zone of burnishing. HHI72, 21, SF no. 702.
- 54 Two joining body sherds in grey fabric, with buff and then orange margins, orange interior surface and buff exterior surface. Fabric as no. 53, but with buff exterior surfaces. Raised boss decorated with three free-hand concentric circles and central dot. Same vessel as above, but for colour difference. HHI72, 10a, 'B.S. Abut[ment] between limestone revetting'.
- 55 Small body sherd, orange fabric. Hollow boss stamped with roundel of three impressed concentric circles. HHI72, 4a.

Other types of head pots

- 56 Slightly sandy orange fabric with grey core. Slightly hollow eye, with ridge round outside and faint indication of pupil, covered in a fine, self-coloured slip. HHI71, 2A, Q46. (Fig. D9.36A).
- 57 Six sherds, two joining, in a soft gritty grey fabric with the applied features in a different fabric, which is a fine micaceous, non-gritty grey. Everted rim jar, with an applied horizontal ridge (eyebrow?) decorated with incised lines created by comb. Below is a slight ridge, perhaps of eye socket. The applied eye survives as a non-joining sherd, with low ridge defining an eye and an impressed U-shape (stamp?) for the pupil. The triangular nose survives on another sherd. HHI71, 1, topsoil. (Fig. D9.36B).

Other possible head pot sherds, but without surviving features

- 58 Gritty grey fabric with red and then white margins, mid-grey surfaces. Slightly indented, with one incised 'S' shape. HHI72, 4.

Site unknown

North African style head pots

- 59 Several joining sherds in a pale orange fabric. Eyebrow marked by incised lines, dots for eyelashes on upper lid, deeply incised pupil and U-shaped iris. Incised wavy lines for hair. Context details unknown.

Moulded-mask flagons

- 60 Type series no. 689. Fine pink fabric, cream margins, mottled pale orange and cream surfaces. Moulded female face with head-dress that forms the rim. Hair and headdress in orange/brown paint, plus pupils of eyes and lips. TF74 5, SF no. 110. (Fig. D9.36C).
- 61 Micaceous cream fabric, moulded female face with hair and details round eyes picked out in orange/brown paint. Fingerprints on interior. PB73, SF no. 92. (Fig. D9.36D).
- 62 Type series no. 688. Cream fabric, brown paint. HH172, no context details.
- 63 Possible 'handle' from moulded-mask flagon. Some examples of these flagons have a imitation strip handle with multiple grooves applied flat to the neck of the flagon, including examples in Hadham ware (Symonds and Wade 1999, fig. 5.56, 158-61; see also fig. 5.46, nos 67-8 in Colchester red-painted cream-slipped red wares; May 1930, pl. XLI, no. 138). HHI72, 2.



A
Head pot catalogue 6.
Type series no. 694



B
Head pot catalogue 7.
Type series no. 691.

Fig. D9.31. Stamped boss head pots from the outer ditch. Scale 1:2



A
Head pot catalogue 8
Stamped boss
Gritty grey fabric



B
Head pot catalogue 10
Stamped boss
Coarse grey fabric



C
Head pot catalogue 13
Crambeck grey ware



D
Head pot catalogue 14
Grey fabric



E
Head pot catalogue 18
Possible smith pot
Norton ware

Fig. D9.32. Stamped boss and other head pots and possible smith pot from the outer ditch. Scale 1:2



A
Head pot catalogue 15.
Type series no. 693
Sandy grey fabric



B
Head pot catalogue 16
Type Series 695
Pale orange fabric with dull brown
wash

Fig. D9.33. Face pots from the inner ditch. Scale 1:2.



A : Head pot catalogue 26



B : Head pot catalogue 27



C : Head pot catalogue 28



D : Head pot catalogue 29



E : Head pot catalogue 30
Type Series 687



F : Head pot catalogue 33
Orange fabric

Fig. D9.34. North African style (A-E) and other head pots (F) from the northern vicus. Scale 1:2.



A :
Head pot
catalogue 48



B : Head pot catalogue 49



C : Head pot catalogue 50



D : Head catalogue 51

Fig. D9.35. Stamped boss head pots from the southern vicus. Scale 1:2.



A : Head pot catalogue 56
Sandy orange fabric



B : Head pot catalogue 57
Gritty grey ware



C :
Head pot catalogue 60
Type Series 689
Painted pink fabric



D :
Head catalogue 61
Painted cream fabric

Fig. D9.36. Head pots from the southern vicus (A-B)
and moulded mask flagons (C-D)