

TWO ROMANO-BRITISH BURIALS

by Elizabeth Kelly and Caroline Dudley

At much the same time, the museums at Brighton and Worthing were each presented with items from two Romano-British grave groups from Preston Road, Brighton, and Crabtree Lane, North Lancing respectively.

It was thought worthwhile to publish the two groups together in view of the similarities between them. Both groups appeared to be from fairly rich female burials, in which the grave goods were contained in boxes, one a bronze casket, the other a wooden chest. There are also parallels between the Samian ware, in fabric, style and date, as well as the buff ware flagons, which were possibly locally produced at Wiggonholt.

A GRAVE GROUP FROM CRABTREE LANE, NORTH LANCING

(by Elizabeth Kelly)

This grave group was discovered about 40 years ago in the garden of 92 Crabtree Lane (TQ 1818 0499) when the finder was digging out a fishpond. It was subsequently kept by him until 1975 when it was given to Worthing Museum. No detailed record was made at the time of discovery, but the finder recalled that the objects were lying about three to four feet below the ground and appeared to have been enclosed in the remains of a wooden chest. A small amount of calcined bone contained in the glass vessel was re-buried.

The site is now occupied by a block of flats, but no more finds occurred during re-development in 1975.

The Pottery (Fig. 1)

1. Colour-coated folded beaker, with black slip over buff fabric. New Forest ware, late third to fourth century.
2. Miniature jug with trefoil mouth, and horizontally ridged sides, in a pinky brown fabric. A puzzling item, first thought to be modern and mistakenly added to the grave group by the finder. Subsequent examination by a Roman pottery expert led to a suggestion that there could be connections with late Roman to Merovingian contexts on the Continent. No firm opinions have been formed.
3. Small flask with narrow neck and bulbous body, in gritty ochre coloured fabric, with a small hole bored in body. Probably second century.
4. Dish in buff-coloured sandy fabric, with quartz inclusions. There is evidence that the whole pot has been burnt. The flaring rim has a simple rouletted decoration.
5. Flagon with double ribbed handle, in fine buff fabric. (Possibly made at Wiggonholt).
6. Pottery lamp holder in pinkish fabric, with ribbed handle: a moulded and knife trimmed example.

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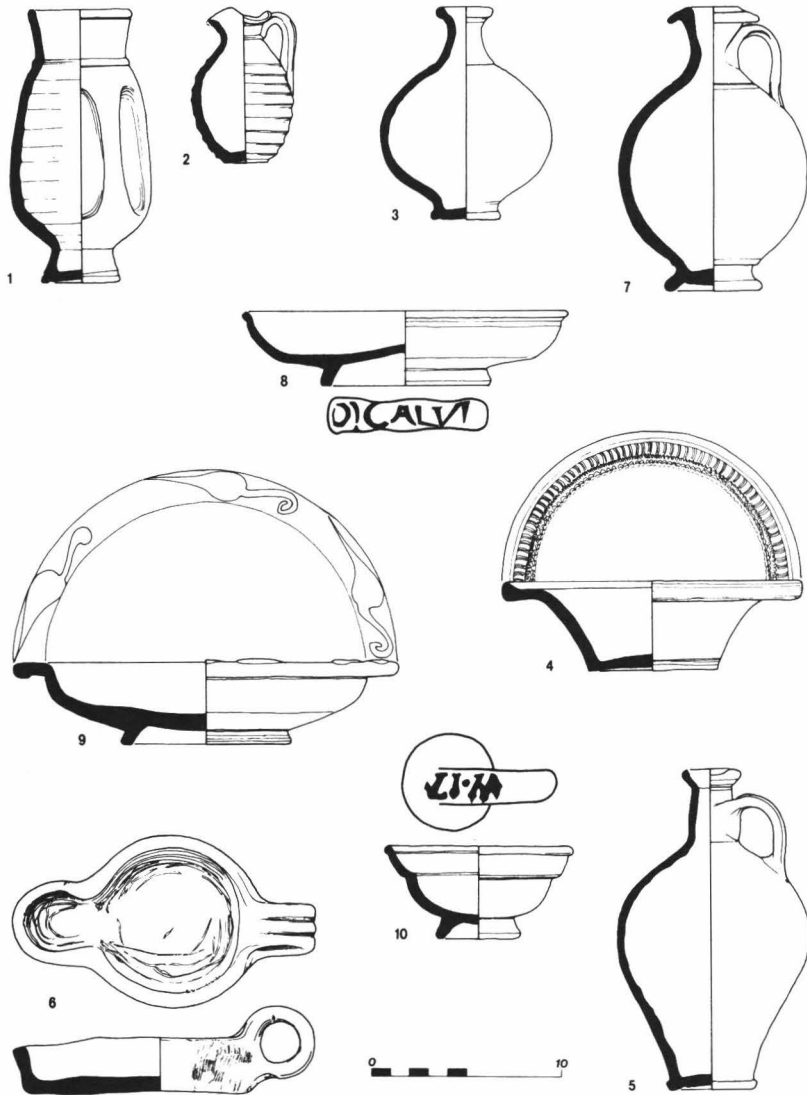


Fig. 1. Crabtree Lane, North Lancing. Pottery (note potters' stamps at enlarged scale).

The Samian

Catherine Johns of the British Museum has briefly examined the four pieces of Samian, and I am grateful to her for the following information:

7. Unusual flagon form, parallel to a jug from Dymchurch, Kent in the British Museum. Central Gaulish fabric, with an Antonine date of the mid second century, and with striking similarities in fabric to the Samian flagon from Preston Road, Brighton.
8. Dish, form Dr 18 with stamp DI CALVI. South Gaulish fabric with a Flavian date of the first century.

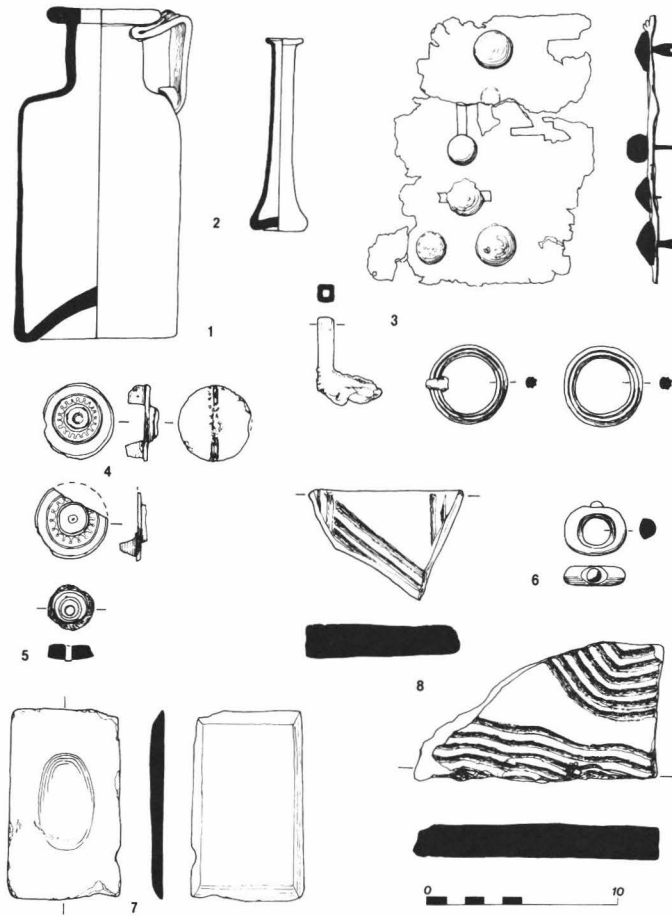


Fig. 2. Crabtree Lane, North Lancing. Glass, metalwork, worked bone and stone objects, and tile.

9. Dish, form Dr 36 with barbotine decoration. Central Gaulish fabric with an Antonine date of mid to late second century.
10. Cup, form Dr 27 with stamp VI M. Central Gaulish fabric, a noticeably late example of this particular form, mid to late second century.

Glass, Metalwork and Other (Fig. 2)

1. Square vessel in deep bluish green glass with angular fluted handle. This vessel contained the cremated bones.
2. Slender phial or unguent bottle, in bluish green glass.
3. Bronze lock plate with locking mechanisms still remaining and traces of iron and wood on reverse. There is also an iron key and two bronze loops, presumably once attached to the wooden chest.
4. Pair of disc brooches of gilt bronze, with fine incised decoration. The one complete example has a central boss of dark blue glass.

5. Bone gaming counter with hole in centre and concentric grooves.
6. Finger ring of a milky white translucent stone, possibly an agate or chalcedony, with an inset of dark blue glass.
7. Rectangular slab of greenstone with bevelled edge, and a concave depression on one face. This was probably used as a palette for mixing cosmetics.
8. Two fragments of combed flue tile.

Accession Number 1975/254

Conclusion

In brief, there have been few Romano-British finds made in the Lancing area, and the only comparable isolated find of importance is the cremation from the 'Marquis of Granby' Inn at Sompting (Ainsworth and Ratcliffe-Densham 1974), a short distance west of Crabtree Lane. It was thought that the grave goods in that burial were also contained in a wooden chest, and the Samian from both groups can be placed within a similar Antonine date range.

The Crabtree Lane coarse pottery can be placed more or less in the late second century, although the inclusion of the colour-coated New Forest beaker (Fig. 1,1) is inconsistent with this, being either third or fourth century. Evidence for a late second-century date continues with the pair of disc brooches (Fig. 2,4). This style, with the central glass boss, must have been a kind of costume jewellery imitation of more expensive examples with insets of semi-precious stones. The small jug with a trefoil mouth (Fig. 1,2) presents the biggest dating problem, assuming it was actually part of the group, as the finder has described. It is certainly a most unusual example, both in style and fabric.

A RE-APPRAISAL OF THE EVIDENCE FOR A ROMAN VILLA IN SPRINGFIELD ROAD, BRIGHTON, FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCOVERIES ON THE SITE

(by Caroline Dudley)

During the severe winter of 1962-63, development was scheduled to take place on the property of the Endeavour Motor Company, Brighton, very close to the site of a known Roman homestead. One of the company's directors, Mr. Jack Whitehead, was a keen amateur archaeologist and took the responsibility of keeping watch on the contractors' excavations. His enthusiasm was rewarded with the discovery of a well-furnished grave and numerous other finds of the Roman period. For many years these items remained in the possession of the Endeavour Garage, but in 1978, when Mr. Whitehead was due to retire, he very kindly advised the company to deposit the finds with Brighton Museum.

Although the excavation was carried out nearly twenty years ago, only two of the objects found have been published, so despite the lapse in time it was decided to report on the new material, and, at the same time, to re-examine the context in which it was found.

Previous excavations on the site

Much of the evidence for a Roman settlement on the site of the Endeavour Garage, a piece of land now bounded by Stanford Avenue to the north, Preston Road (west) and Springfield Road (south), was summarised by H. S. Toms and George Herbert in volume three of the

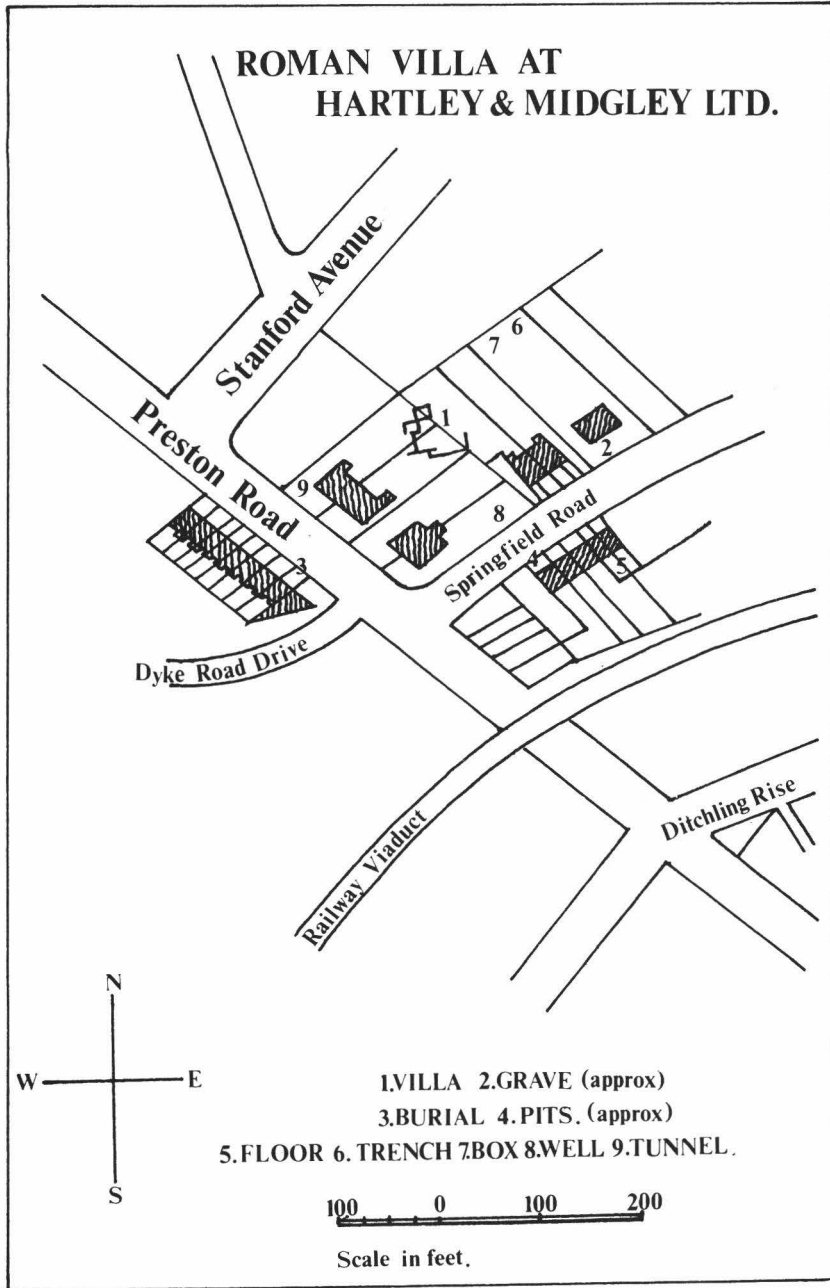


Fig. 3. Springfield Road villa. Site location.

Brighton and Hove Archaeologist (Toms 1926). However, not all the information given is entirely accurate, nor are all of the finds illustrated, so we have considered it useful to recap briefly on the various stages of discovery.

June 1876

Workmen employed by Alderman Ireland and Councillor Savage, owners of the land, were digging flints on the ground scheduled for building the houses now fronting onto Springfield Road where it joins Preston Road. In the course of this work they uncovered seven pits, arranged in an approximate semi-circle east to west. The pits went down six to seven feet into the underlying Coombe Rock, and were filled with unrolled flints, broken chalk and dark earth, covering, at the bottom of the pits, pieces of five or six Roman pots, animal bones, glass, burnt clay and charcoal. Observers remarked on the similarity of the pottery to that from Hardham. Other finds included a coin of the Empress Lucilla, one of Hadrian and another illegible specimen. Part of a wall was also observed at a depth of five to six feet, made of flint and mortar, and two secondary human burials were uncovered at a depth of *c.* 3' in the fill of the pits. These discoveries were reported in the local paper (BH 1876a, BH 1876b) and a fuller account was given at a meeting of the Brighton & Sussex Natural History Society (Wonfor 1876). The material from these pits was ordered to be placed in the Pavilion Museum (the forerunner of Brighton Museum) by the landowners.

August 1877

Workmen employed by the building firm of Gates and Son were digging flints on land adjoining that of Messrs. Savage and Ireland, *c.* 50 yards north of the pits found in 1876, preparatory to building Nos. 90–96 Preston Road, when they came across a line of large flints about twelve feet south of the boundary wall of the building plot. Further investigation revealed the lines of a building about two feet below the surface of the ground. The building covered an area of *c.* 50 square feet, but only the north and west external walls were found—those to the south and east continuing beyond the boundaries of the building plot. These main walls were built of flint and mortar, covered with plaster painted in bands of various 'fresh and bright' colours, yellow, red, purple, crimson and blue. The foundations consisted of a loose layer of large boulder flints, about two feet in depth, apparently for drainage, and the observers noted that these flints were washed free from soil. Beneath the main walls to the north and west, this layer of flints was capped with a layer of very hard 'cement'—presumably acting as a damp course. Toms suggests that the 'cement' was rock chalk, or clunch, (Toms 1926) but it seems unlikely that the Gates', as nineteenth-century builders, would confuse the two materials, and the original reports all describe it as 'cement'. The initial plan of this building was illustrated in the Brighton Herald (BH 1877c) with measurements. The earliest report (BH 1877a) describes the floor of each room as having been laid with mosaic work, and remarks that already hundreds of the tesserae had been collected from the disturbed ground. However, Mr. Gates later managed to preserve some areas of this flooring measuring more than a yard square, and it was noted that the pattern was a geometric one in white and grey mosaics. Smaller quantities of red and black tesserae were also found.

Seven or eight Roman coins were found (unspecified), some iron nails, charcoal, a piece of tile, pieces of pottery 'all of excellent moulding and varying in size' and one unbroken jar of red fabric, between 5" and 6" high. Some of the pottery was plain, other pieces 'marked with cuneiform ornament'. What was meant by this description is not known, but it might refer to a kind of rouletting, or possibly to a potter's mark.

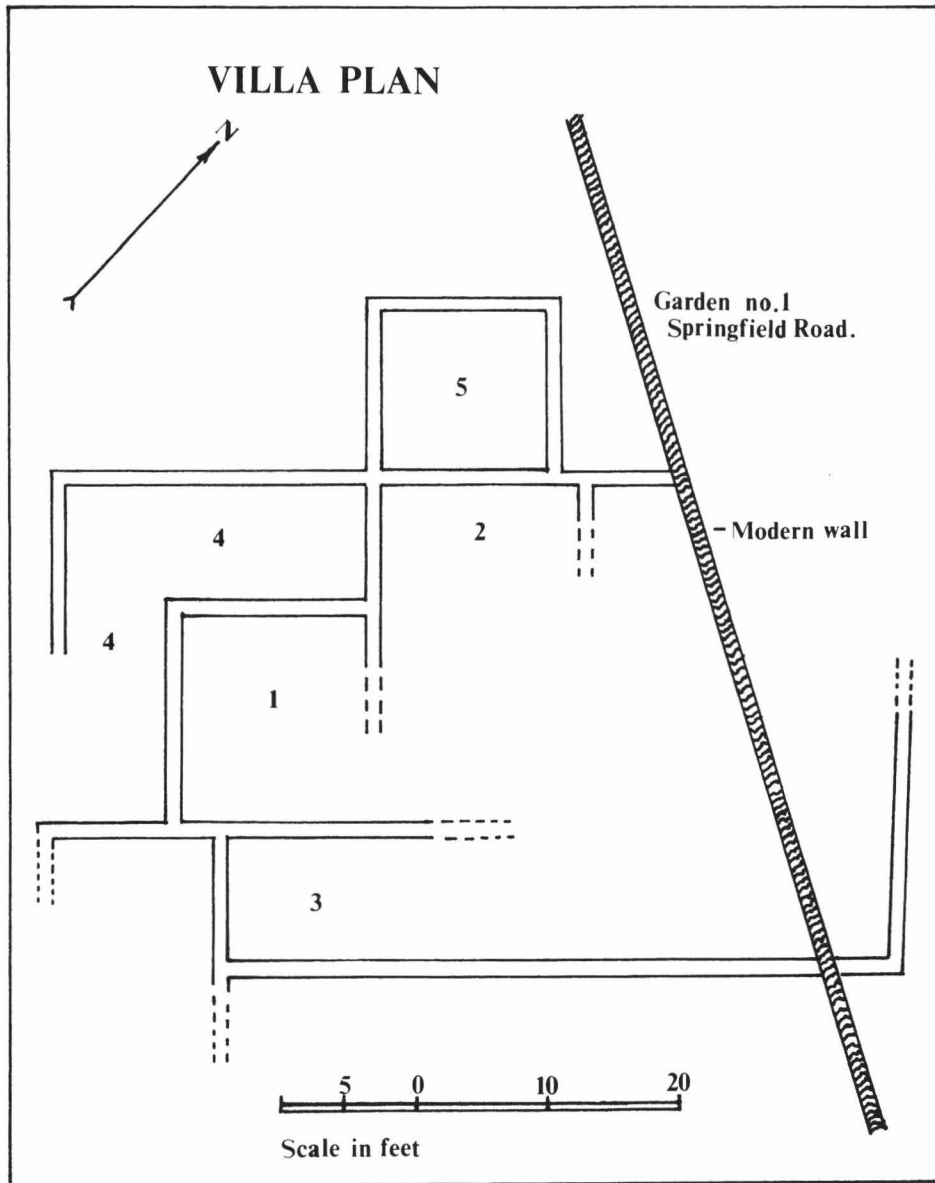


Fig. 4. Springfield Road villa. General plan of site.

In a further article in the Brighton Herald on 25 August 1877 (BH 1877b) additional finds mentioned are a coin of Claudius Gothicus, and more tiles and pottery sherds 'including portions of some composed of a clay of much fineness'. More mosaics came to light, apparently differing from those found earlier, which are now remarked to have been c. 1" square, while the new ones are said to be 'no larger than ordinary dice red, grey and white in colour'. The walls are described as c. 2' thick. Other finds were small pieces of metal, too thin to be armour, but probably 'parts of ornaments'. Two of the pieces were joined by a small pin.

The most complete report on the villa is given by Joseph Stevens, M.R.C.P., in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* (Stevens 1877). He was staying in Brighton for a few weeks while the site was being dug. His observations, with some amplifications, were in line with the newspaper reports (which, incidentally, were probably written by John George Bishop, local historian, editor of the Brighton Herald, and author of *Brighton—a Peep into the Past*). His version disproves Toms' theory that the damp course was clunch; he describes it as a conglomerate 'exceedingly hard, made up of a limy cement incorporating pebbles and sub-angular flints'. According to him the tessellated floor with the smaller mosaics was in Room 1 (Fig. 4), while the rooms to the east contained the larger size tesserae. He could not identify any pattern in any of the floors. He confirms the bright colours of the wall plaster, and compares the pottery to that from kilns in the New Forest, particularly Crockle (Crock Hill) and Islands Thorn. He notes examples of a 'better form of pottery, in bright red, with exterior crimson glaze, which appeared to be a kind of British Samian'. Stevens confirms that the only pot rescued whole was the small red vase, which Mr. Gates himself kept. There is no suggestion at this stage that any of the finds from the villa were given to the museum.

Other finds noted by Stevens include 'cross-lined' slabs, which he thought might be floor tiles or flue-bricks, but there was no sign of a hypocaust or of a fireplace. The signs of burning were rather an indication that the whole building had been burnt down.

The final contemporary contribution on the villa is from F. H. Willett, who was the Local Secretary for the Society of Antiquaries in Sussex (Willett 1877). He describes the tesserae as being made from white rock chalk and dark grey Hastings sandstone, and also notes small cubes of oolite and an 'ochrous-coloured brick'. He states that the floor itself rested on a bed of concrete about 5" thick.

September 1877

While still engaged in building work, a further Roman feature was uncovered by workmen in the last week of September 1877, about 40 yards east of the villa site. It was a grave, 4'6" below the surface of the ground, 2' deep, 5' long, 3' wide and oval. The bottom was paved with large flat stones, some of which were flints. The grave was packed with pots and small finds (Stevens 1877). Stevens reports these as follows: Several jars and vessels, a piece of iridescent glass, a buckle, the hasp of a lock, an iron nail, some Samian ware and a piece of blue glass with a yellow spiral round it 'which the workmen had thrown aside as a broken toy'. A bone pin and a piece of deer antler were found nearby. F. H. Willett reported the same discovery to the Society of Antiquaries some months later (Willett 1877) with a slightly different list, which appears to represent the finds as they were deposited with the Pavilion Museum. Most of these pieces still exist in the Museum's collections, except for the following which cannot be traced:

- One narrow-necked urn of coarse brown 'sun-dried pottery', 9" high (See catalogue of finds, AE 20)
- One small urn, similar
- Bronze lock and staple
- Small glass cup
- One Samian dish with ivy leaf decoration
- One bottle of light fawn-coloured clay.

1878

A beaten clay floor was found in 1878 by Mr. Andrews in the garden of his house, 10

Springfield Road, about 200 ft S.E. of the villa, at a depth of about 3' (Toms 1926). It covered an area of c. 6' – 8' x 10'. There were also a considerable number of tiles found, some 'ochrous' in colour, others of a darker 'grey-violet' shade. Toms suggests these darker tiles may have been discoloured by fire.

1880

Another cremation in an urn was found during building work less than 60 yards S.W. of the villa. The exact spot now lies in the front garden of 115 Preston Road. The urn was not preserved (Toms 1926).

1915 January

The boundary wall which prevented Mr. Gates' men from digging up the eastern limits of the villa belonged to No. 1 Springfield Road, and in January 1915 a small piece of foundation, some oyster shells and a pot sherd were uncovered in the garden in line with the S.E. wall of the villa. The foundation was formed of large flints and rough mortar (Toms 1926).

January 1926

Toms himself supervised a small excavation (three trenches) which confirmed the position of the S.E. corner of the house, and revealed about 16 ft of the N.E. wall. These additional finds were added to the original Gates/Bishop plan (Fig. 4). The final dimensions of the house, without the projecting rooms, were about 64' x 41' (Toms 1926).

Finds from this excavation were mainly pieces of tile, slag and brick, two pieces of iron, about a dozen pot sherds and a limpet shell. They are now in Brighton Museum. However, the main feature of interest was left in situ—an angle-block of very hard chalk (clunch again ?) at the S.E. corner of the foundations. It was 5–6" thick, squared on its two external faces and rough and uneven internally, measuring about 1'6" x 1'5". It probably represented the floor level of the villa, in Toms' opinion. The wall itself appeared to be 18" thick above the foundations.

In the two southerly trenches the composition of the foundations was flint and mortar, as before, but in the northern-most trench the foundations were made of 'large squareish lumps of chalk, some of which resembled bricks.' Clay in the trench suggested broken-down daub and plaster to Toms, and it is possible that at this point the wall was no longer external.

November 1953

Sherds of a small plain beaker in a hard thick light grey sandy fabric were found at the S.E. corner of Stanford Avenue and Preston Road while digging foundations for a block of flats (c. 25 yards north of the main part of the villa). These are now in Brighton Museum.

December/January 1962/1963: Account by Mr. J. Whitehead

The houses and gardens of 90–96 Preston Road and 1–7 Springfield Road, Nos. 90 and 92 Preston Road were acquired by the writer's company in 1934. The houses were altered into showrooms and offices and a workshop was erected in the old gardens. Nothing was reported at the time this work was carried out. During the post-World War II period, 94 and 96 Preston Road were acquired and lightly built workshops were erected on the gardens of these two houses. The writer, who had joined the company in 1935, followed this work with interest, but owing to the fact that the site had to be levelled with masses of hard core and that very little digging was done only a few minute sherds of pottery were found, although it was possible to

verify the line of some of the walls of the villa. The writer made a plan of the finds for his own personal interest, and there the matter rested. In 1955 the company, who are the Ford Distributors for Brighton, changed hands, and its title changed from Hartley and Midgeley Ltd., to Endeavour Motor Co. Ltd. Coincidentally with this change, a major reconstruction programme was planned and the present discoveries were a direct result of this.

The trench

The demolition of Nos. 1, 3 and 5 Springfield Road commenced in the summer of 1962. The site had then to be levelled and a large quantity of earth was moved from the vicinity of the N.W. boundary wall. Parallel with this wall a deep trench was started to provide pits for the workshop. The writer had briefed all concerned on the subject of finds but it is regrettable to say that he had not done this as effectively as he might. The excavating machinery unearthed some pots at the east side of the site, but as these were broken no value was set upon them and they were dumped in Sheepcote Valley along with the spoils from the excavation. It is impossible to say how much was lost, but it is believed that the number was three or four, including a funerary urn.

After this initially bad start things progressed more favourably. The digger first brought up a complete funerary urn, some nine or ten feet from the east end of the trench. This was quickly followed by a bone pin, a square glass bottle (smashed) and some sherds of Samian ware and other pottery together with a glass handle of snake-like design. Intensive search failed to unearth the receptacle from which this latter item had broken.

The box

By this time the trench was nearing completion and the writer noticed that the strata of Coombe Rock, which was clearly visible, had been disturbed at a point some forty feet from the east end of the trench. He felt that it was imperative that this area be investigated with no loss of time, because the wall of the trench was due to be concreted immediately after the weekend. This left only the Sunday free to carry out this project. In view of this the assistance of a colleague, Mr. T. Potter, was sought, and this was readily forthcoming. Mr. Potter, like the writer, had no experience of digging, but was reasonably well versed in the art from a theoretical point of view. On the last Sunday in August, which was a hot dry day, the team consisting of the writer, Mr. Potter, John Potter (Mr. Potter's son) and John Taylor (nephew of the writer) started operations. Both lads were aged 13 and were of the utmost assistance, particularly in the sometimes soul-destroying job of sieving.

John Potter started to dig into the face of the trench at the spot previously chosen and within minutes reported green earth stains. He was immediately supplanted by his father who soon uncovered portions of a bronze plate which was in a vertical position. These were so fragile that it was decided to enlarge the hole laterally on each side with a view to extracting the plate intact. All soil thus removed was being sieved by the boys, who were using a coarse meshed sieve and sieving into a very fine meshed sieve. The bronze plate was eventually freed and removed. As earth on the right hand side of the dig was removed the head of a figurine was revealed and was removed with ease. A minute or two later the base of this figure was found.

Meanwhile the sieving party were finding scraps of bronze, bronze tacks and a little later as more earth was removed, quantities of iron nails.

The hole which had been enlarged laterally to about three feet in width now revealed the necks of pots on the left hand side but these were so firmly imbedded that they appeared

permanently fixed in position. Rather than risk breakage, operations were transferred to the right hand side where a glass flask was uncovered. A puzzling feature was that the flask neck penetrated by an iron spike which ran back into the hole in the direction of the boundary wall.

A second figurine was soon recovered, this time intact, but still the spike seemed to have no end. Time was becoming important and by this time the hot sun pouring into the narrow confines of the trench made working off the side of a ladder uncomfortable in the extreme. By mutual consent it was decided not to stop for food, and indeed none of the party stopped for rest or refreshment until the job was completed about 6 o'clock in the evening—some eight hours of non-stop activity.

At long last it became possible to remove both flask and spike intact and when this was accomplished, to separate the two items. These in fact literally separated as they were removed. A minimum of cleaning revealed that the mystery object was in fact an iron lamp in amazingly good state of preservation.

The necks of more pots had been observed while this particular job had been under way, all of them to the left hand side of the hole. In fact the line of the lamp delineated the demarcation line of the finds on the right hand side. During all of this toil the sieving party were still finding iron nails but human bones were turning up in ever increasing quantities and were more numerous the nearer one dug to the centre of the excavation.

Work again started on the left hand side of the hole. This became more and more exasperating because while in almost full view the pots were locked together so tightly that only brute force would have moved them.

Nevertheless, the 'key' pot eventually was prised loose and the remainder were just lifted out with the greatest of ease. A halt was now called, although two other spots showed signs of disturbance in the Coombe Rock. No building will cover these two spots and digging will take place eventually with plenty of time in hand to investigate thoroughly.

During the days which followed all the finds were carefully cleaned and the two glass flasks were mended. The whole find was placed in a showcase in the writer's office and there the matter rested for a few weeks. He felt that the finds should be photographed and documented in case of possible loss or damage and this he duly carried out.

Further discoveries

In due course the excavation was continued in the direction of the Preston Road with no finds or encouraging signs at all. The deep excavations for the petrol tanks which were dug on the site of 94 and 96 Preston Road yielded nothing. The appalling winter of 1962/63 had now set in and interest flagged a little until January 1963. One afternoon the operator of the mechanical digger was excavating near the western end of the trench, when his bucket broke through a crust of the Coombe rock at a depth of some twelve feet. Like the rest of the contractors he was by now an ardent archaeologist and he proceeded with caution. Removal of the loose earth disclosed a small cave in the North face of the trench. This was just large enough to crawl into. Upon doing so it was observed that the cave opened out into two tunnels like the arms of a letter Y. These branches petered out after a few feet. The whole cave was a complete blank as far as human occupancy was concerned. Almost opposite this find it was observed that a narrow shaft had been dug at sometime into the Rock and was filled with top loam. Although the ground was frozen solid to a great depth digging could not ascertain how deep the hole had been or its real purpose. The shaft was 18" across and perfectly symmetrical.

Owing to lack of time during the first dig some spoil from the excavation had been put into

cartons for future sieving. The writer suddenly remembered these cartons and duly sieved them with a fine mesh sieve. To his delight he found intact a bronze brooch and a piece of silver wire which had been inlaid for decorative purposes.

The contractors were now operating on the actual site of the villa, and this was most unrewarding. Very few signs of the old walls were revealed, probably because of the earlier building operations mentioned above. While digging footings for a ramp an old well was uncovered and had to be bridged with concrete. The well was lined with neatly cut chalk blocks and had an internal diameter of 3 ft 6 in. Some of the loam was dug out but time did not allow real investigation. A photograph was taken of the well but this was not very good because of adverse weather conditions.

Conclusions

None of the features on the site can be proved to have intersected any other so no conclusions can be drawn as to the exact relationship between them. On grounds of date and function, connections are possible.

Burial seems to have been a distinct function of the site over at least a century; the earliest urn pre-dates the two main grave groups by at least 75 years. The pots discarded by the contractors in 1962 may have formed another grave group, or more than one, while we know the urn found in the garden of 115 Preston Road also contained a cremation. The 1877 grave is dated to the late second century by the Samian jug (Ae 67), perhaps even slightly later, and much the same date applies to the 1962 grave group. The potters' marks on the Samian in the 1962 group suggest a date between A.D. 165 and A.D. 200, as does the form of the flagon 250153, which has a rim very similar to that of the Samian jug from Crabtree Lane, but not paralleled among other local flagons. The pipe-clay figurines are probably earlier, but being an imported luxury and ornamental rather than handled daily, it is feasible that they should have survived fifty years or so.

The relationship of the burials to the pits and structures is still not clear, partly because of the difficulty in assigning definite dates to the individual features. The finds from the 1962/63 trench, which were not in any particular relationship to one another, range in date from the first century A.D. to the third, the latest forms being the BBI vessels and the Colchester and Rhenish ware.

Two widely separated dates exist for the villa, taken from the two coins identified from the site; Claudius I, struck A.D. 41 but very worn, and Claudius Gothicus (post-270 A.D. consecration coin, now lost). Other evidence from the site can be used to support either of these dates. For example, the pottery from the villa extension seems to be from the earlier period, i.e. late first century A.D. On the other hand, the 'British Samian' noticed by Stevens while the villa was being dug reminded him of pottery from Crock Hill and Islands Thorn in the New Forest (Stevens 1877). It is described as 'bright red with exterior crimson glaze'. If this really was New Forest red slip ware, it would date from c. 260 A.D. at the earliest. Unfortunately, none of this pottery was saved.

On the evidence of the villa site alone, therefore, one has to accept the possibility of two separate phases of occupation, or continuous occupation over the whole period, assuming that evidence for the intervening years was overlooked at the time of the excavations.

The pits contained at least one coin which agrees with the date of the 1877 and 1962 graves; an issue of Lucilla, struck at some time between A.D. 151 and 180. A coin of Hadrian was also found 'in or near the pits' (Toms 1926 p. 21), issued between A.D. 117 and 138. Neither of these

coins has survived. Pottery evidence from the pits rests on the provenance of vessels *Ae 29* and *Ae 12*. If they did come from the pits, and not from the villa, they suggest that the pits were already in use in the first or early second century. There is no material later than the second century from the pits, although the secondary burials in the fill prove there was some later activity on the site.

Whether or not the pits represent the rubbish pits belonging to the villa, as Toms suggested, is not clear; if one accepts the view that there was continuous occupation of the villa site from the first to the late third century, the connection is not impossible.

Finally, the suggestion has been made that the building may not have been a dwelling house, but a mortuary chapel. There seems to be no way of proving or disproving this; the evidence, such as it is, suggests that the building could well have been a farmhouse. The site seems to have returned the normal sort of occupation debris, while the ground plan, assuming it represents a single phase of building, seems quite unexceptional for a small rural homestead, but would surely be rather surprisingly elaborate as a chapel attached to a very small burial ground. Moreover, the fact remains that there is no hard evidence to prove that the building was in existence at the time of the two most elaborate burials. It may be, of course, that other significant buildings existed nearby and remain undiscovered; traces of at least two others of Roman date were found, represented by the beaten clay floor and the wall found with the pits. It was not possible to establish the date of either, however, nor their connection with the main building. There is ground in the area which has not been explored, and future excavations may well provide the answers to these problems left unsolved.

CATALOGUE OF FINDS SURVIVING

(Numbers in italics are Brighton Museum catalogue numbers).

PITS 1876

Pottery These two pots were assigned by Toms to the villa, but the museum registers suggest instead that they originally came from the pits. This seems likely, as there is no record of the material from the 1877 villa excavation being given to the Museum at the time.

Ae 12 (Toms No. 6). Wide-mouthed bowl, dark grey smoothed fabric. East Sussex Ware. Uneven everted rim, slight cordon below neck, rounded carination above mid point. Derived from local Iron Age types. First-second century A.D. Fig. 5.1.

Ae 29 (Toms No. 7). Poppy head beaker, fine grey sandy fabric, smooth burnished dark grey finish, scorched in places. Barbotine dots in groups, tooled band around girth, slight cordon below neck, incised line defining lower edge of band decoration. First-second century A.D. Fig. 5.2.

GRAVE 1877

Pottery

Ae 19 (Toms No. 1). Cinerary urn, light grey fabric, bead rim. Local wheel-made grey ware, very similar to Hassocks forms. Cf. Hassocks grave groups, *S.A.C. LXVI*, Plate 1, especially for similar association of grey ware, Samian dishes and cups. Fig. 5.3.

Ae 65 (Toms No. 3). Samian dish, Drag. 36, with ivy leaf barbotine decoration round the rim. No potter's stamp. First-second century A.D.

Ae 66 (Toms No. 2). Samian dish, Drag. 35. First-second century A.D. No form 35 or 36 found at Hassocks, but both found at other Sussex sites, e.g. Alfoldean, Bishopstone, High Dole.

Ae 67 (Toms No. 4). Samian jug, handle and most of neck missing. Central Gaulish ware, Lezoux. Fragments of a similar jug were found at High Dole (Telscombe), and a complete but larger example comes from Crabtree Lane, Worthing. The British Museum has a similar jug from Dymchurch, Kent, and Oswald and Pryce illustrate another from York (Oswald and Pryce 1920, Pl LXXXIII No. 2). Late second century A.D. Fig. 5.4.

Ae 20 This pot was omitted by Toms when he identified the pottery from the grave in the museum's collections, but the museum register suggests it may be the one referred to by Willett (1877) as being 'sundried', 9" high, with a narrow neck. It is almost identical to Hassocks No. 72 (Barbican House Museum) which was found with a Hadrianic coin (A.D. 117-138). East Sussex Ware. Fig. 5.5.

Ae 15 (Toms No. 5). Water bottle, fine soft chalky fabric, pale creamy-buff, decorated with vertical bands of fine incised lines running from neck to base. Toms suggests these bottles were made in Worthing; alternatively they may have been made in Wiggonholt. Fig. 5.6.

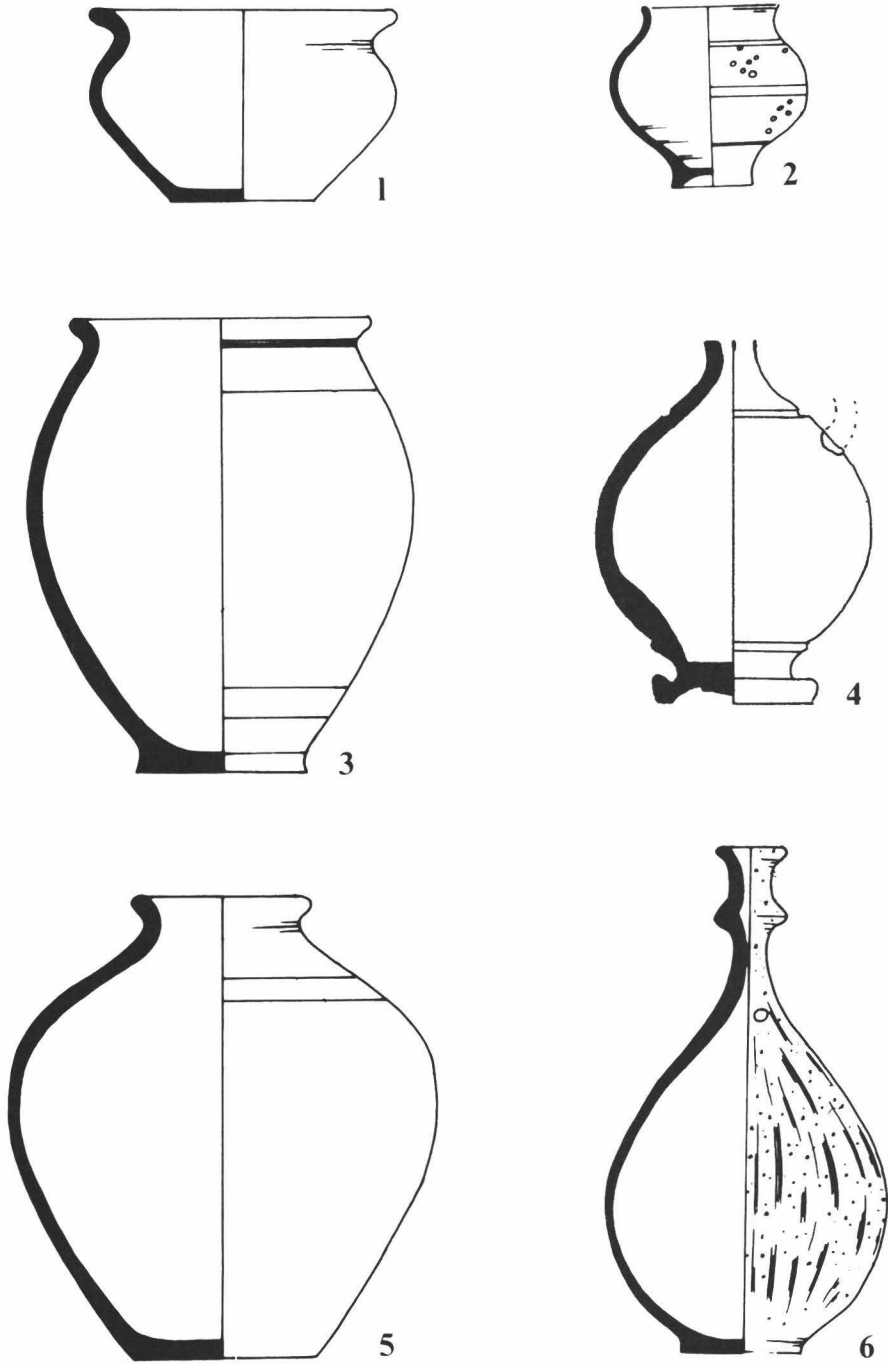


Fig. 5. Springfield Road villa. Pottery from the pits and the 1877 grave (1:4).

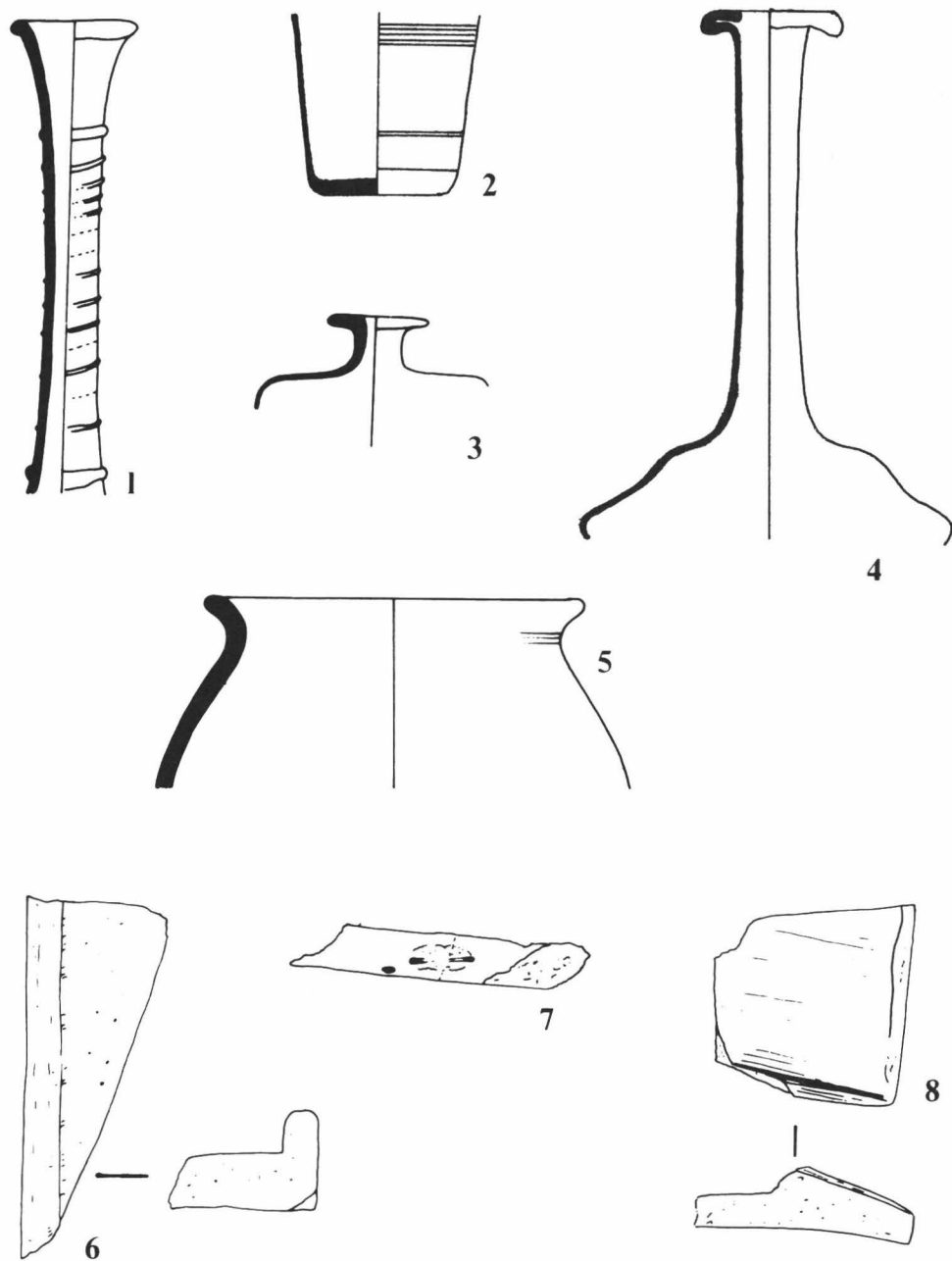


Fig. 6. Springfield Road villa. Glass from the 1877 grave (1:2); pottery and tiles (1:4) from the villa extension.

Glass

Ae 102 Two joining tubular pieces of thick opaque dark blue glass ornamented with bright yellow spiral threads. Apparently the neck of a tall jar or a tubular container. Origin unidentified so far, but possibly first century or even earlier (cf. Barag 1975) in which case its presence is suspicious. Fig. 6.1.

Ae 100 Base and sides of a small circular bottle; thin clear glass. Fig. 6.2.

Ae 101a Neck and part of the shoulder of a small circular bottle; thin olive green glass. Fig. 6.3.

Ae 101b Neck and part of body of a long-necked unguentarium; thin clear pale green glass. Fig. 6.4.

VILLA 1877

No finds have survived.

VILLA EXTENSION 1915/1926

Pottery

R2800/2a. Sherds of a large coarse E. Sx. Ware cooking pot, hand-built, narrow neck, everted rim. Dark grey fabric core with reddish exterior surface and lumpy buff interior. Very abraded, large grit and grog inclusions, sooty patches. Cf. Newhaven report (S.A.C. 114), Fig. 21, no. 1. First century A.D. Fig. 6.5.

R28002b. Base of cooking pot similar to *R2800/2a*, flat.

R2800/2c. Three body sherds of cooking pot, smoother exterior surface than *R2800/2a*.

R2800/2d. Two sherds from the same vessel showing the beginnings of a flared rim; orange/buff gritty fabric, pale grey core.

R1669. Body sherd of fine hard sandy micaceous fabric, buff core, dark grey surfaces with reddish/buff patches. Apparently part of a large vessel.

Tiles

R2800/1a c. Pieces of Roman tile (tegulae): (a) pinky orange exterior, lighter orange core, (b) creamy buff exterior pink core, (c) even pinky orange, dark red grog filler, (d) similar, (e) moulded section of straight tapering tile. Fig. 6.7.

2800/1h 1. Tiles: (h) part of a wedge shaped tile with tapered flange on one edge (narrow end broken off) Fig. 6.8, (j) tile with high flange, rounded moulding, Fig. 6.6 (l) thick brick with one sloping edge.

Miscellaneous

2800/1f. Sub-cylindrical lump of squeezed unbaked dried clay/chalk mixture.

2800/1g. Lump of iron slag.

2800/3. Lump of 'cement' or mortar with small flint pebble and chip inclusions.

2800/5. Lumps of rock chalk from foundation block.

2800/9. Jawbone of sheep.

2800/10. Limpet shell.

2800/6. Piece of olive green glass slag studded with chips of flint with area of dark crust adhering.

TRENCH 1962/63

Pottery

250137 Cinerary urn, local wheel made grey ware. Pale grey fine hard sandy fabric, wide mouth, everted rim, single low cordon immediately below neck, double cordon round girth. Narrow pedestal foot, slightly concave base. Cf. similar examples from West Blatchington, Angmering, Hassocks and Hardham. Late first century A.D. Fig. 7.1.

250138 Part of a E. Sx. Ware urn, dark grey gritty fabric with black inclusion, patchy burnished exterior surface, abraded interior. Smoothly everted rim, two widely separated shallow grooves on shoulder forming shallow corrugation. Chevron design on shoulder. E. Sx Ware. Late first/early second century A.D. Fig. 7.2.

250139 Body sherd of fine sandy dark grey fabric, most of rim missing but enough remains to show burnishing of inner surface of rim down to neck. Groove below rim followed by band of dense black burnishing, above a panel of obtuse angled lattice decoration on an unburnished ground. Dorset BBI. Late second/third century A.D. Fig. 7.3.

250148 Small base sherd of fine sandy grey fabric, well burnished dark grey inside, burnished lighter grey/buff on exterior. Dorset BBI bowl; post-120 A.D.

250145 Rim sherd, everted rim above narrow cordon below neck, burnished dark grey surface, fine grey gritty fabric core with red outer layer. E. Sx. Ware. Late first century A.D. Fig. 7.4.

250147 Rim sherd, bead rim on upright neck, fine hard sandy grey core sandwiched with red, black slip with micaceous finish inside and out. Local wheel-made grey ware. Fig. 7.5.

250141 Base and body sherd, light grey gritty fabric with black and buff sandy inclusions, smooth surface, slightly soot marked. E. Sx. Ware jar. Fig. 7.6.

250140 Two joining body sherds, fine hard sandy fabric, light grey/orange sandwich, orange interior surface, dark grey exterior, gritty micaceous finish. Small globular vessel. Local wheel made grey ware.

250142 Base and body sherds of small plain colour-coated beaker: hard red fabric, black slip, thin walls. Colchester ware, mid second/third century A.D.

250151 Body sherd, fine hard sandy pinky/orange fabric with a few larger red/brown flint inclusions. External surface shows traces of black slip and a band of incised obtuse-angled lattice decoration.

Dorset BBI jar, burnt after breakage; third century A.D.

250184 Base of vessel decorated with rouletting; fine hard white fabric with a purplish-brown colour coat with small orange patches.

Rhenish ware, late second/early third century A.D. Fig. 7.7.

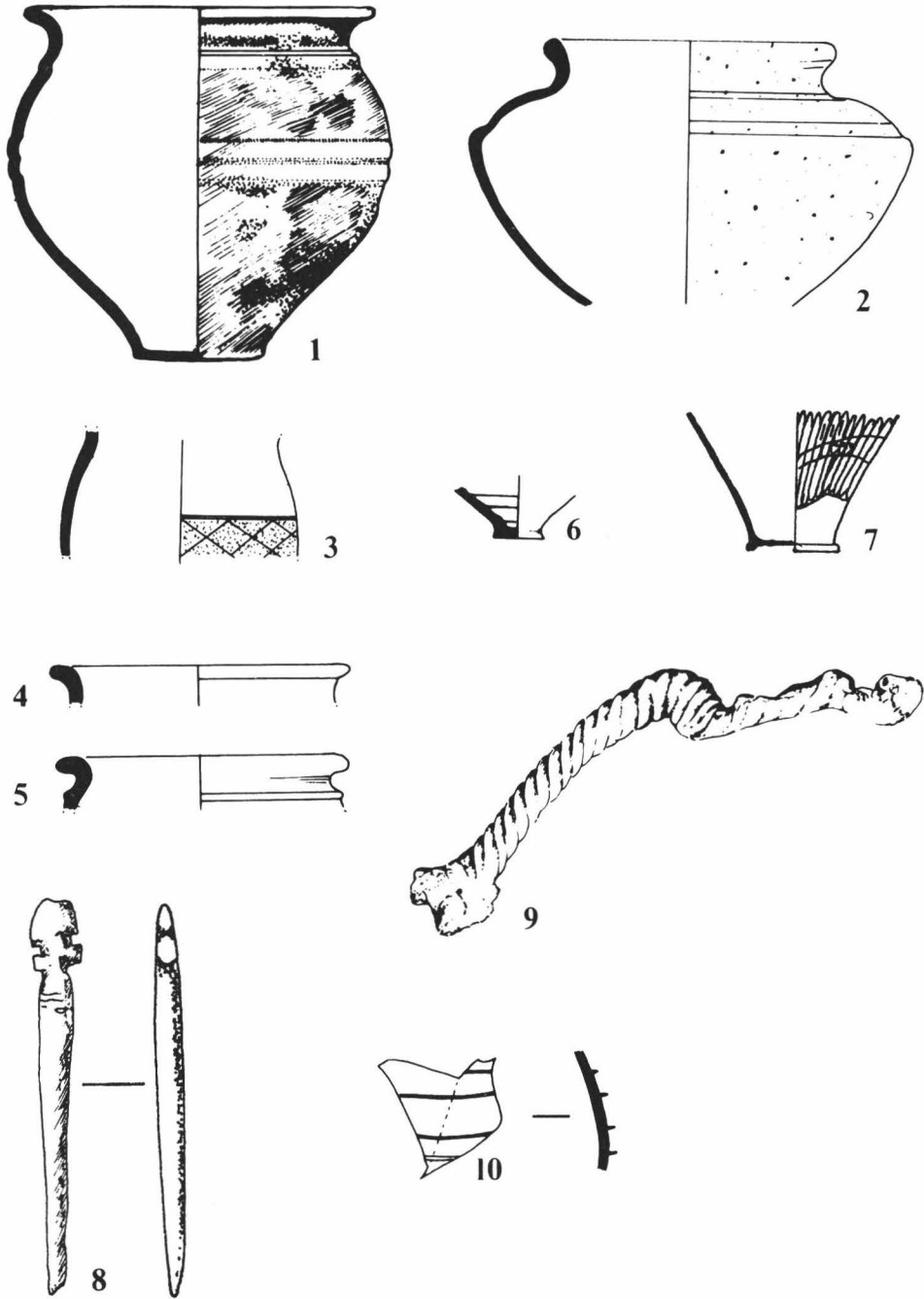


Fig. 7. Springfield Road villa. Finds from the 1962/3 excavations; pottery nos. 1 and 2 (1:4), nos. 3—7 (1:2); glass (1:2); bone pin (1:1).

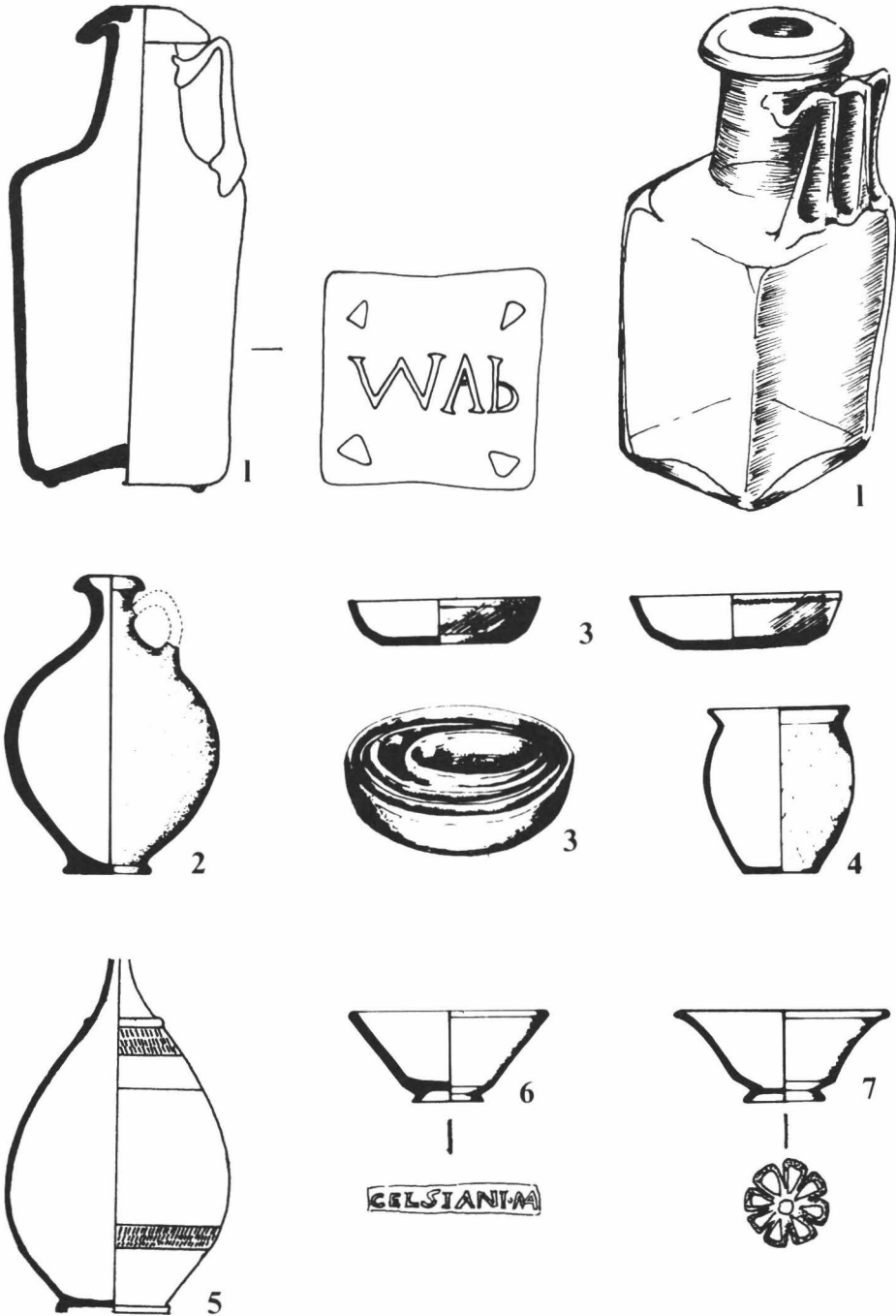


Fig. 8. Springfield Road villa. Finds from the 1962/3 excavations; glass (1:2); pottery (1:4). Potter's stamps at 1:1.

Bone

250173 Bone pin, simple carved head. Fig. 7.8.

Glass

250177 Square moulded glass flask, bluish/green, flat reeded handle, four triangular nibs, one in each corner of the base to stand on. Moulded lettering across the base. Fig. 8.1.

250170 Twisted green glass rod, possibly a stirring rod, partially melted. Fig. 7.9.

250150 Three fragments of glass, two joining, from body of small curved vessel; thin milky white semi-opaque glass with pinched-out decoration of parallel curved ribs slanting across the body. Fig. 7.10.

CONTENTS OF BOX 1962/63

Pottery

250153 Small flagon, pale orange gritty fabric with medium grit and large dark red grog filler. Rod handle, funnel mouth with single flange. Cf. flagon of similar fabric and size but different lip from Slonk Hill. (R1587/2 Brighton Museum). Fig. 8.2.

250179 83 Five wheel-made saucers with a chamfered edge where the base joins the sides, and a horizontal tooled groove inside and outside just below the rim. Very fine hard sandy fabric, dark reddish/brown to black surface, burnished black inside, red grog filler. Fabric cracked and discoloured by heat in antiquity. Micaceous surface. In BB2 style but source unknown. Fig. 8.3.

250155 Small black burnished ware jar with acute-angle lattice, no girth grooves, groove at junction of neck and body. Fine sandy dark grey fabric, burnished below panel of lattice and on base, wheel made. NB2, second century A.D. Possible source: local or Thames estuary, e.g. Kent. Fig. 8.4.

250154 Flagon, soft pinkish/cream fabric with sparse red grog filler, decorated with bands of rouletting at base of neck and round the body. Once coated with a soft pinky/red slip which has almost all rubbed off, except for one large patch and traces caught in the rouletting. The mouth and part of the neck are missing. Fig. 8.5.

250157 Drag. 33. CELSIANUS Potter of Lezoux, Central Gaul, A.D. 165-200. Fig. 8.6.

250156 Drag. 46, eight-petalled rosette centre base (interior) in ring, with further concentric ring at junction of base and side wall. Potters' stamps rare on this form and usually occur only on the latter examples. Current A.D. 100-175. Fig. 8.7.

250158 Drag. 31. SATURNINUS Potter of Lezoux, Central Gaul, A.D. 165-200. Fig. 9.1.

250169 Drag. 36, ivy-leaf barbotine decoration. Second century A.D. Fig. 9.2.

250178 Pair of white pipe-clay portrait-busts, manufactured in quantity in the Allier district of Central Gaul in the later first and second centuries A.D. Some may have been portraits of living people, others may represent goddesses. As imports to Britain they would obviously have no significance as portraits to local people, but may nevertheless have been regarded as ornaments rather than devotional figures. Many similar examples are illustrated in 'Collection de Figurines en Argile' (Tudot 1860). Cf. also a similar head from Chichester (Down 1978, p. 289, fig. 10.47) dated A.D. 80-120. Fig. 9.3 & Plate 1.



Plate 1A. Springfield Road villa. Pipeclay figurines from 1962 grave group. Front view.

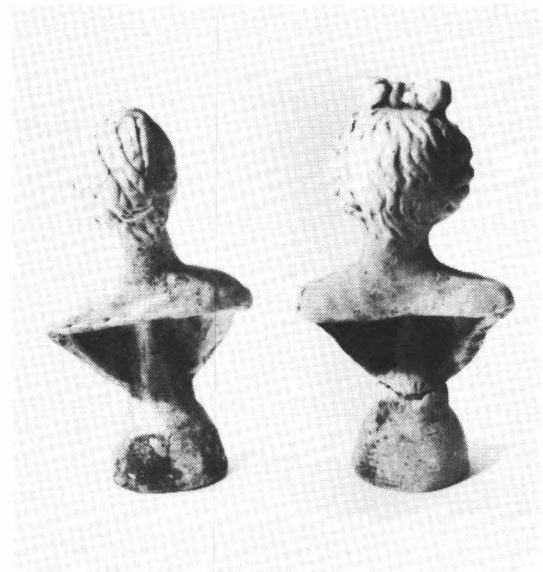


Plate 1B. Springfield Road villa. Pipeclay figurines from 1962 grave group. Rear view.

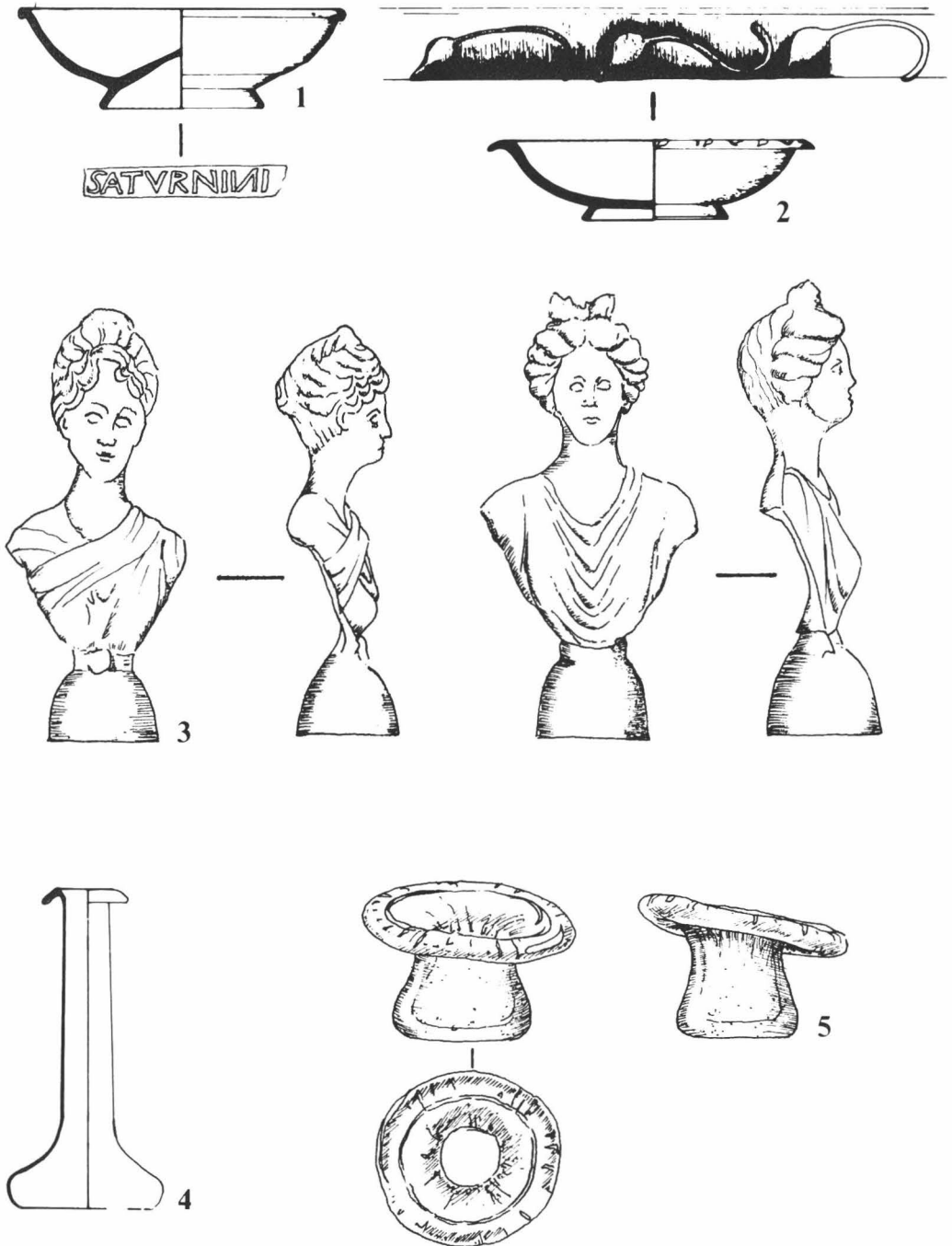


Fig. 9. Springfield Road villa. Finds from the 1961/3 excavations; nos. 1, 2, and 4 (1:4); no. 3 (1:2); no.5 (1:1). Note potter's stamp at 1:1 also.

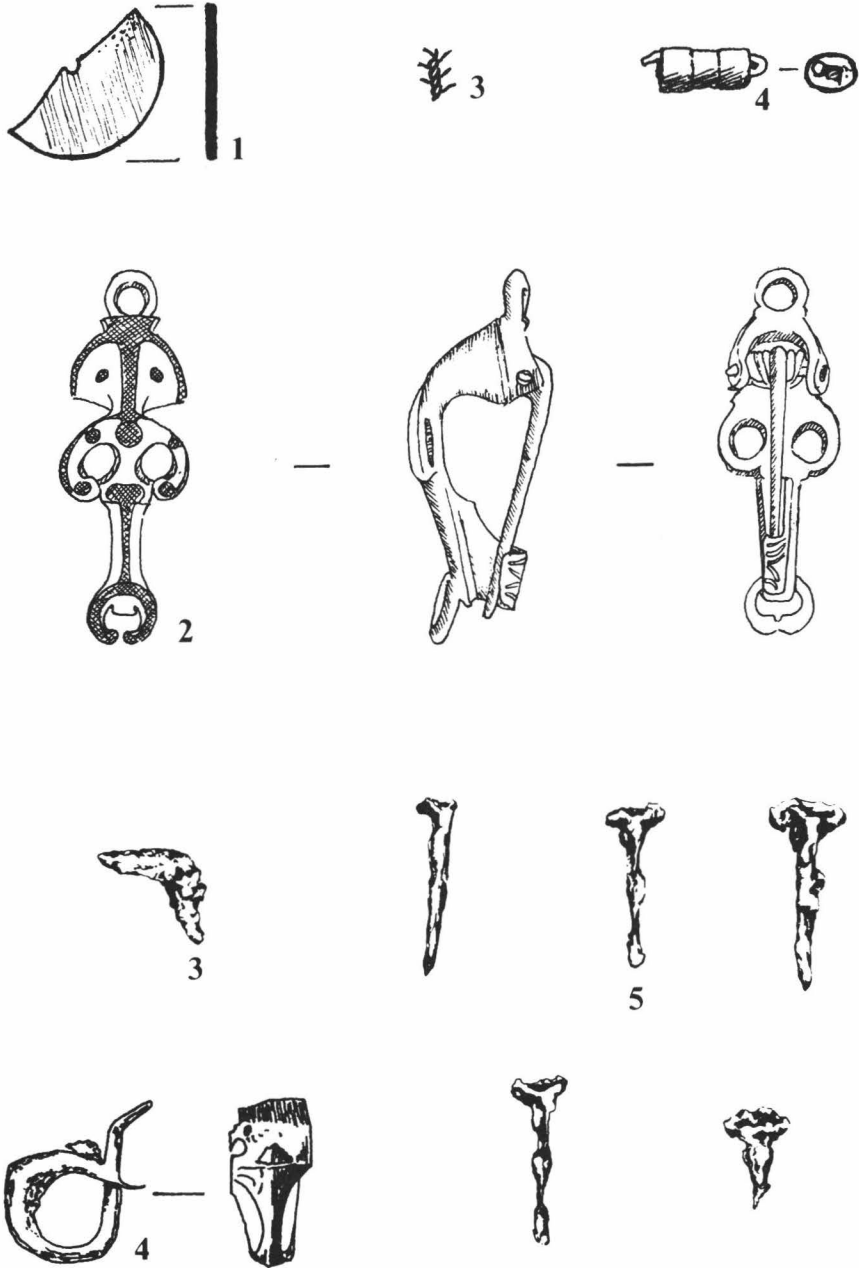


Fig. 10. Springfield Road villa. Finds from the 1962/3 excavations; nos. 1—4 (1:1); nos. 3—5 (1:2).

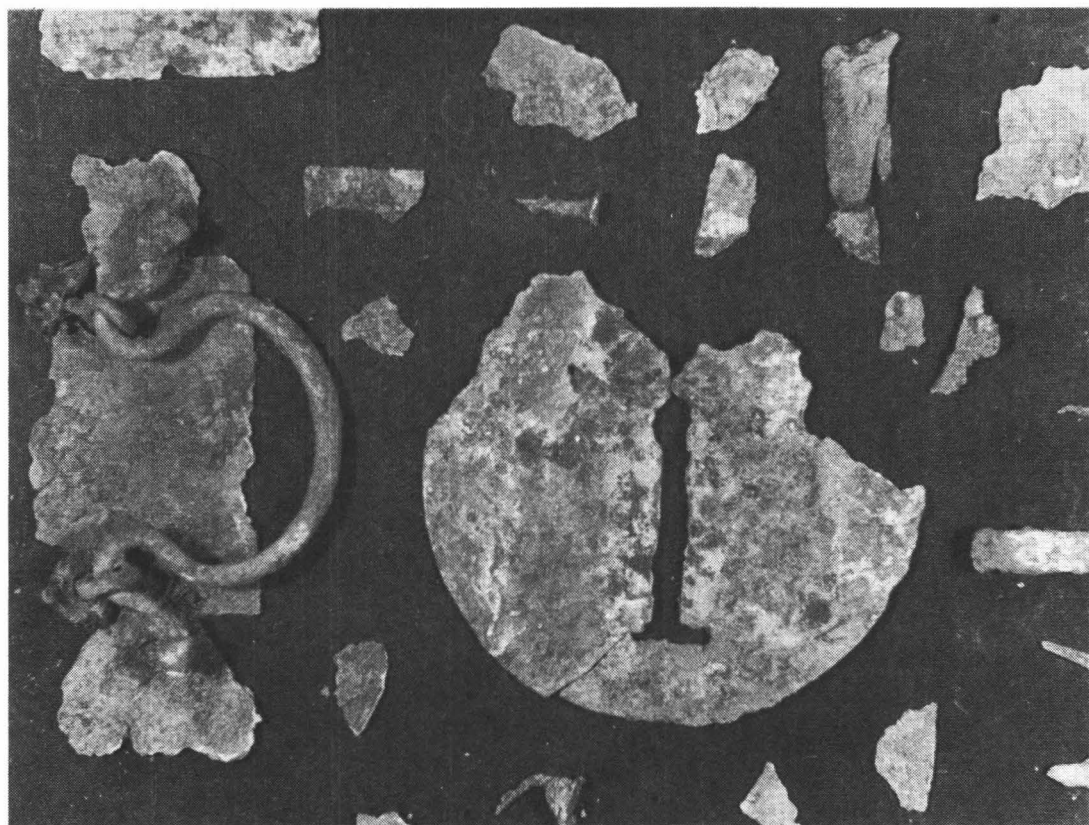


Plate 2. Springfield Road villa. Bronze fittings from the funerary box.

Glass

250159 Long necked flask, clear glass, rolled rim. Fig. 9.4.

250176 Glass 'hat' container, almost certainly used for unguents or cosmetics. Later first/second century A.D. Cf. a similar example from York (Harden 1962, p. 180, fig. 89 (HG2)). For continental examples see Clasinga Isings, *Roman Glass from dated finds*. (Isings 1957) Form 68.

More recent finds include three examples from Tongres and two from Trier, (Vanderhoeven 1962, Goethert-Polaschek 1977). Fig. 9.5.

Wood

250172 Half of a thin wooden disc, perforated in the centre. ?Button. Fig. 10.1.

Bronze

250161 Bronze box fittings, including an external lock plate, and a circular plate with incised concentric ring ornament through which the drop handle was rivetted to the wood of the box. See Plate 2 for an attempt at reconstruction. The fittings were held in place with bronze tacks of triangular section.

250175 Bronze brooch, trumpet form, with traces of enamel inlay. Late first/second century A.D. Fig. 10.2.

250171 Pieces of plaited bronze wire. Cf. Fig. 10.38 p. 304, Chichester Excavations Vol 3 (Down 1978) Period 4: second/early third cent. Fig. 10.3.

250174 Bronze cylinder, perhaps part of fastener or bronze pin head. Cf. numerous bronze pins from Chichester excavations. Fig. 10.4.

Iron

250160 Iron oil-lamp holder suspended from an iron spike. Found embedded in the glass flask (above 250159). Plate 3.

250162 Iron hook, hollow, with fragments of glass embedded in the corrosion; probably belongs to the lamp (above 250160). Fig. 10.3.

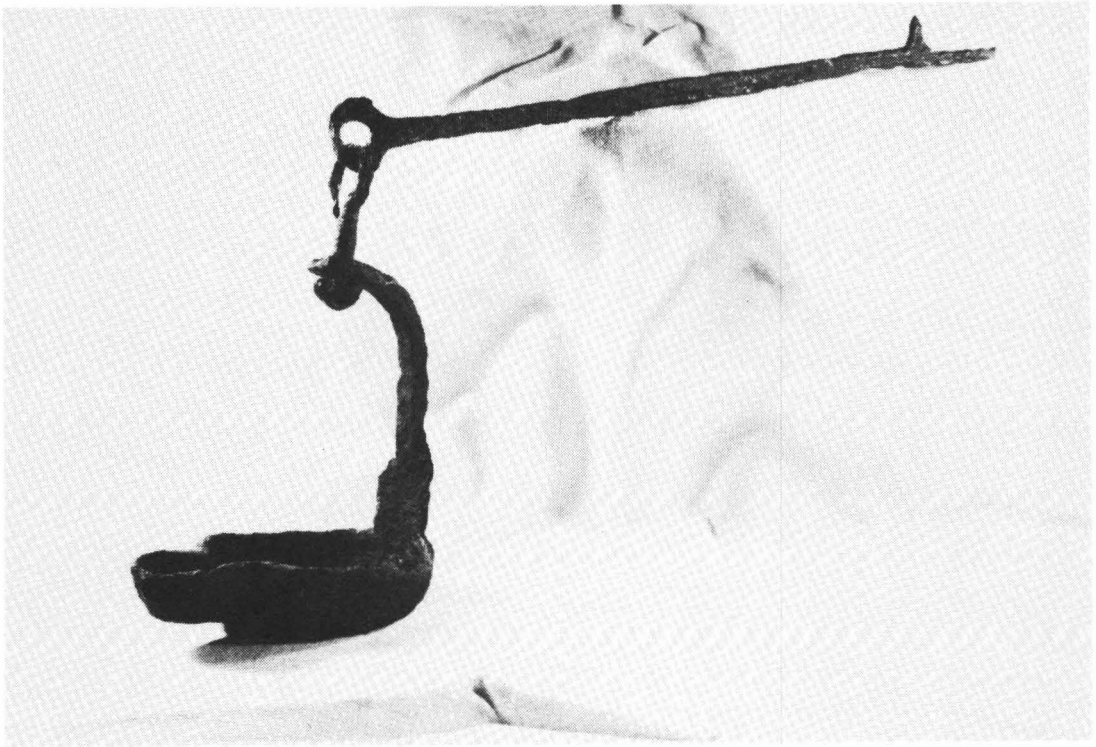


Plate 3. Springfield Road villa. Iron oil-lamp holder from 1962 grave group.

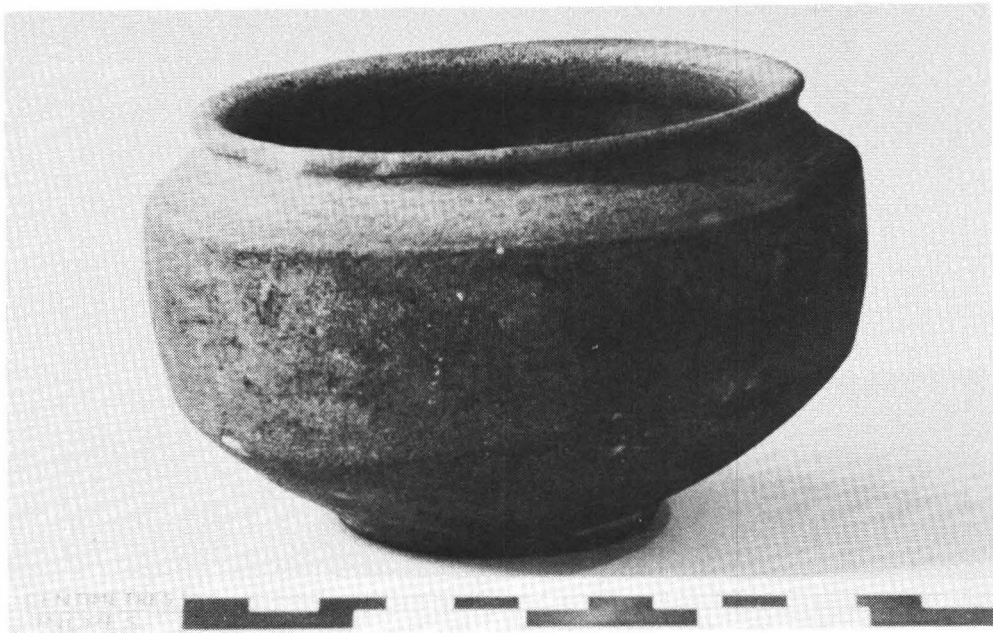


Plate 4. Springfield Road villa. Small pot from the funerary box; now lost.

- 250163 Iron ring handle, probably from the box. Fig. 10.4.
 250164 Small iron hook.
 250165 Iron nails. Fig. 10.5.
 250166 Iron spike with bronze fragment adhering.
 250167 Iron angle (two pieces) still showing traces of attachment to wood.
 250168 Miscellaneous pieces of iron.

One pot from the funerary box has been lost since 1962, but fortunately a photograph of it survives, and is reproduced here by kind permission of the Sussex Archaeological Society Museum (Plate 4).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help: Chris Green, for help with the coarse pottery; Catherine Johns, for advice on the Samian and glass; Jennifer Price, for references on the glass; and Mr. Whitehead, for giving permission to publish his report on the 1962/63 excavation.

Authors: Elizabeth Kelly, Worthing Museum, Chapel Road, Worthing.

Caroline Dudley, Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Church Road, Brighton.

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