

XII.—A SAMIAN BOWL IN THE POSSESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

BY THE REV. C. E. WHITING, M.A., D.D.

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During the excavations by the rev. R. E. Hooppell and Mr. John Proud at Binchester, recorded in Dr. Hooppell's *Vinovia*, some fragments of a samian bowl were discovered, and presented, with the other finds, to the University of Durham. As the pieces formed the greater portion of the bowl, the late canon Cruickshank sent them to the British Museum, where they were put together. The gaps were filled in with a red cement, on which the pattern was closely reproduced. In 1928 Mr. J. C. McIntyre of Bishop Auckland, while working on the site of the camp, found the missing portions of this bowl, near the well, amongst the trees by the river; a rather remarkable find after fifty years.

The bowl is of the shape known as *Dragendorff* 37, more or less hemispherical, with a plain band below the lip (a half-round moulding). The footstand is relatively flat.¹ The first examples of this shape are as early as the time of Nero, but in the second century it was perhaps the most common form. At Lezoux, which was one of the places where it was manufactured, it began to be superseded towards the end of the second century by ware with appliqué relief.²

The specimen here described is 6 inches high, 10 inches in diameter at the top, and has an outer circumference of

¹ Oswald and Pryce, p. 95.

² Oswald and Pryce, pp. 95-96.

30½ inches. It is of thick, rather coarse, ware with a bright red glaze. The plain zone between the decorated surface and the lip is rather deep, a sign of later date. With the later specimens, too, the ware becomes coarser, the lip thickens, and the plain zone at the top gets deeper. During the time of the Antonines, also, the decoration shows an increasing use of figure subjects enclosed in large medallions.

This specimen bears the stamp **PATERNII**. This Paternus lived at Lezoux, in south Gaul, and his decorations are mostly of the Antonine period, though there is an early 37 **PATERNI M.** of the Trajan-Hadrian type in Shrewsbury museum. He is to be distinguished from another **PATERNUS** of Rheinzabern. Déchelette assigns the work of Paternus of Lezoux to the time of the Antonines; Oswald and Pryce to the period Hadrian-Antonine. With a few exceptions, Lezoux did not begin to export its pottery to these islands until the end of the first century, or early in the second. During the years 110-120 most of the work from this manufactory seems to have come to Britain, and this importation reached its height under the Antonines.³ The work of Paternus has been found plentifully at Corbridge; nearly thirty examples having been found there between 1907 and 1913.⁴ It has also been found at Wroxeter⁵ and at Richborough.⁶

Round the top of the decorated surface of the bowl runs the ovolo ornament, or egg and tongue border, constantly found in *Dragendorff* 37. This particular ovolo has a double border, with a clubbed tongue placed close to the right of the ovolo. The tongue is plain, not corded or beaded.⁷ A plain incised line runs along the upper edge of the ovolo band. A cable runs round the bowl below the ovolo. Below this the decoration consists of three

³ Oswald and Pryce, p. 12.

⁴ See Corbridge Reports.

⁵ See 1912 and 1914 Reports.

⁶ See first Report, p. 58.

⁷ Cf. Oswald and Pryce, plate xxx, no. 83 corded, no. 90 not corded.

panels, four times repeated. This panel, or metope, decoration, together with figures enclosed in medallions, was the most frequent type of decoration used at Lezoux at this time. One of these panels is divided in two horizontally. This demi-metope arrangement is a design which is earlier than the Lezoux pottery.⁸ One of the panels contains a medallion, a double ring surrounding the figure of a man on horseback. Oswald and Pryce call the rider Alexander, but with a query, and the figure certainly resembles that of Alexander slaying the lion on the Arretine ware.⁹ The horseman rides towards the right, but the horse and the rider have their faces turned towards the left. The rider flourishes a sword above his head, about to kill a bear below, the bear moving to the right.¹⁰ There is something like this animal on a bowl found at Ilkley,¹¹ and a similar rider, but a different animal, at Brecon.¹² The *ephippium* is not very clear. I am rather doubtful whether it appears at all.

In the corner of the panel, outside the medallion, is a small object which it is difficult to identify. A. W. Woodward calls it "the oval filling ornament," and "an uncertain oval object."¹³ Déchelette says it is employed as a kind of conventional sign to represent stones and rocks under the feet of savage animals.¹⁴ But that can hardly be its purpose here. Oswald and Pryce say, "the rocks upon which animals stand or stride in the Flavian and early examples, are represented merely by meaningless spindle-shaped ornaments."¹⁵ But as the animals

⁸ Oswald and Price, p. 103.

⁹ Oswald and Price, plate xxxv, 16, 17.

¹⁰ Déchelette, no. 807; but the drawing in Déchelette II, p. 125, leaves out the left forepaw.

¹¹ *York. Arch. Jour.* xxviii, 206.

¹² R. E. M. Wheeler, *Roman Fort near Brecon*, 1926, p. 172. See also Déchelette, no. 157, vol. II, p. 33.

¹³ *Roman Fort at Ilkley. Yorks. Arch. Jour.* xxviii, p. 205.

¹⁴ Déchelette II, p. 157, 1109a.

¹⁵ Oswald and Pryce, p. 113.

neither stand nor stride on these particular examples, the use of the ornament in question has degenerated into filling a gap.

A vertical cable surmounted by a rosette of ten points separates the above panel from the next to the right. This second panel is much narrower. It bears a figure of Pan standing on a small pedestal, and playing the syrinx. He holds in his right hand a large club.¹⁶ The pedestal has a mask or face carved upon it. This comes out clearly in one of the newly discovered pieces.

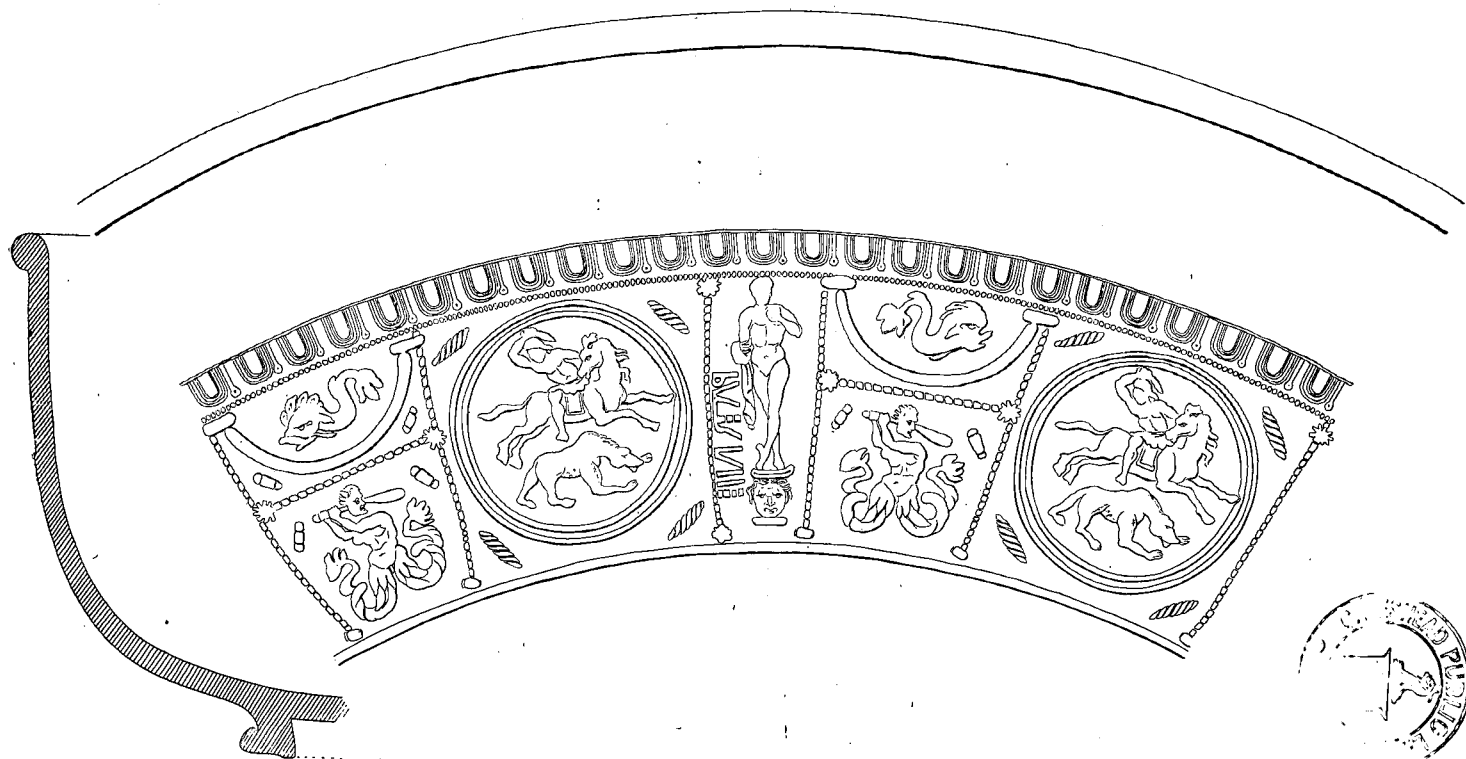
To the left of this second panel in one instance is the potter's name, inscribed perpendicularly as already mentioned.

The next panel is separated from those on its right and left by a cable. It is divided into two registers. In the upper demi-metope is a festoon enclosing a dolphin. The small, spindle-shaped ornament referred to already appears again here, but only in alternate instances of this panel. The two demi-metopes are separated by a cable, and there are rosettes of eight points at the juncture with the upright cables separating the panel from the panels to right and left. In the lower demi-metope is a Triton with two fish tails, holding with both hands a club over his right shoulder. The spindle-shaped ornament is in the ground of the top corners. In other examples the Triton has a row of scales round his breast,¹⁷ but this is hardly visible here, though in one of the newly discovered pieces it seems faintly distinguishable.

A single plain raised line runs round the base of the decoration of the bowl. It is possible, however, that this may have been a cable as at the top, and that the plainness is due to the worn condition of the bowl.

¹⁶ Déchlette II, p. 69.

¹⁷ Déchelette II, p. 8.



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