

## XVI.—MEDIEVAL AND OTHER POTTERY FROM HARTLEPOOL, COUNTY DURHAM

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Abbreviations used in this paper:

### *Books and Journals*

*Ant. J.*—Antiquaries Journal.

*Rackham*—B. Rackham, *Mediaeval English Pottery* (1948).

### *Reports and papers, with author of relevant section*

*Bothwell*—PSAS lxxxvi (1951-2), pp. 140-170. S. H. Cruden.

*Finchale*—AA4 xxxix (1961), pp. 229-278. M. G. Jarrett and  
B. J. N. Edwards.

*Kirkcudbright*—PSAS xci (1957-8), pp. 117-138.

*Nottingham*—Trans. Thoroton Soc. xxxvi (1932), pp. 79ff.

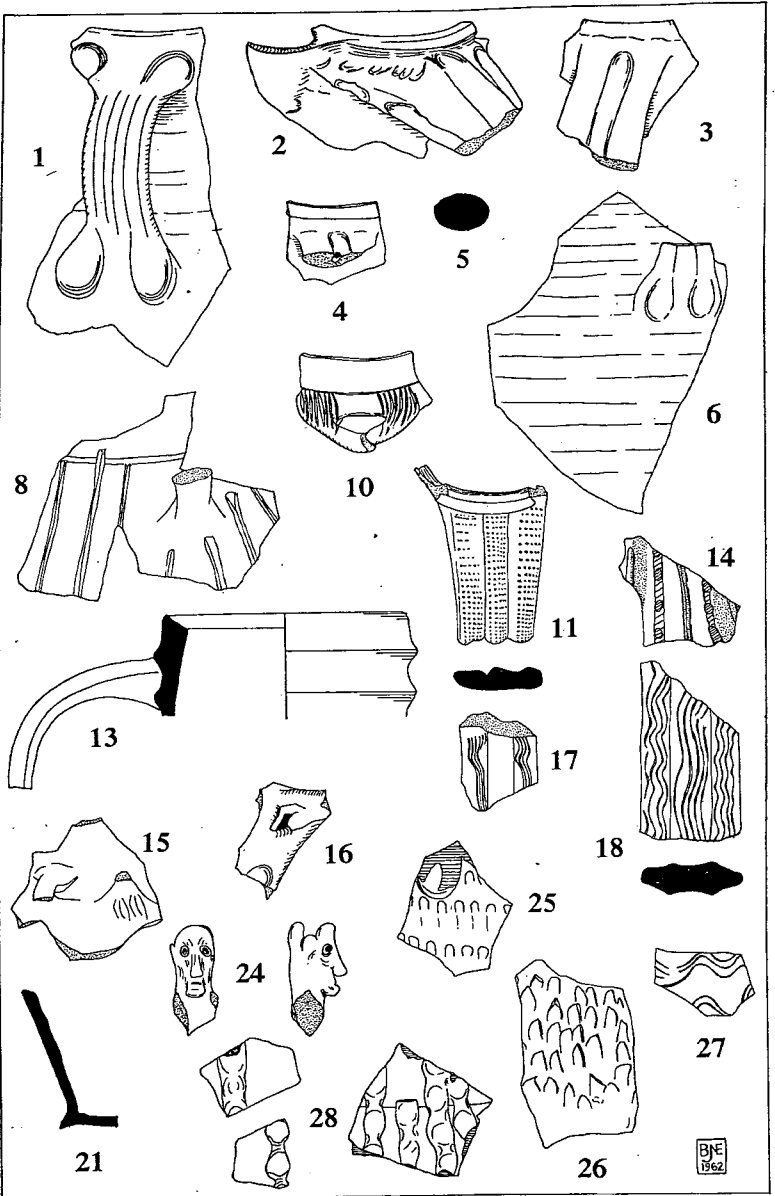
*SAN*—To be published.

*Scarborough*—Scarborough and District Arch. Soc. Research  
Report 3 (1961). J. G. Rutter.

*Staxton*—T. C. M. Brewster, *Two medieval habitation sites in  
the Vale of Pickering* (Scarborough 1952).

*SMP*—PSAS lxxxix (1955-6), pp. 67-82. S. H. Cruden.

The authors wish to acknowledge the kindness of Miss W. Sivewright, J.P., in making available her notes and photographs relating to medieval pottery in various museums. Mr. G. C. Dunning and Mr. J. G. Hurst have provided information on a number of points. This report was compiled while one of us (B.J.N.E.) was holding a Sir James Knott Research Fellowship at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne. We are indebted to Miss G. Williams for the photographs.



POTTERY FROM HARTLEPOOL (†).

BNE  
1962

The pottery here catalogued was found by Miss Sivewright at Hartlepool in 1936 during excavation of a sewer trench. It was exhibited to the Society at its August meeting in that year.<sup>1</sup> In 1960 Miss Sivewright generously lent the collection to the Society, so that the most important sherds might be on display in a museum and that the whole collection might be available for study.

The collection includes a range of pottery from the thirteenth century to the eighteenth. For the most part the vessels represented are jugs, usually of a high standard of craftsmanship. Some were certainly made in Nottingham, and others may be paralleled at York and Scarborough, and probably came from kilns in that area. On the other hand some vessels are of types in use further north than Hartlepool.

It should be noted that the pottery was not found during an archaeological excavation, and no record of stratification was made. In consequence this collection can contribute nothing to the dating of medieval pottery. Dates have been suggested for a number of sherds, but, as we have pointed out elsewhere,<sup>2</sup> these are not necessarily correct.

An asterisk indicates that a sherd or vessel is illustrated.

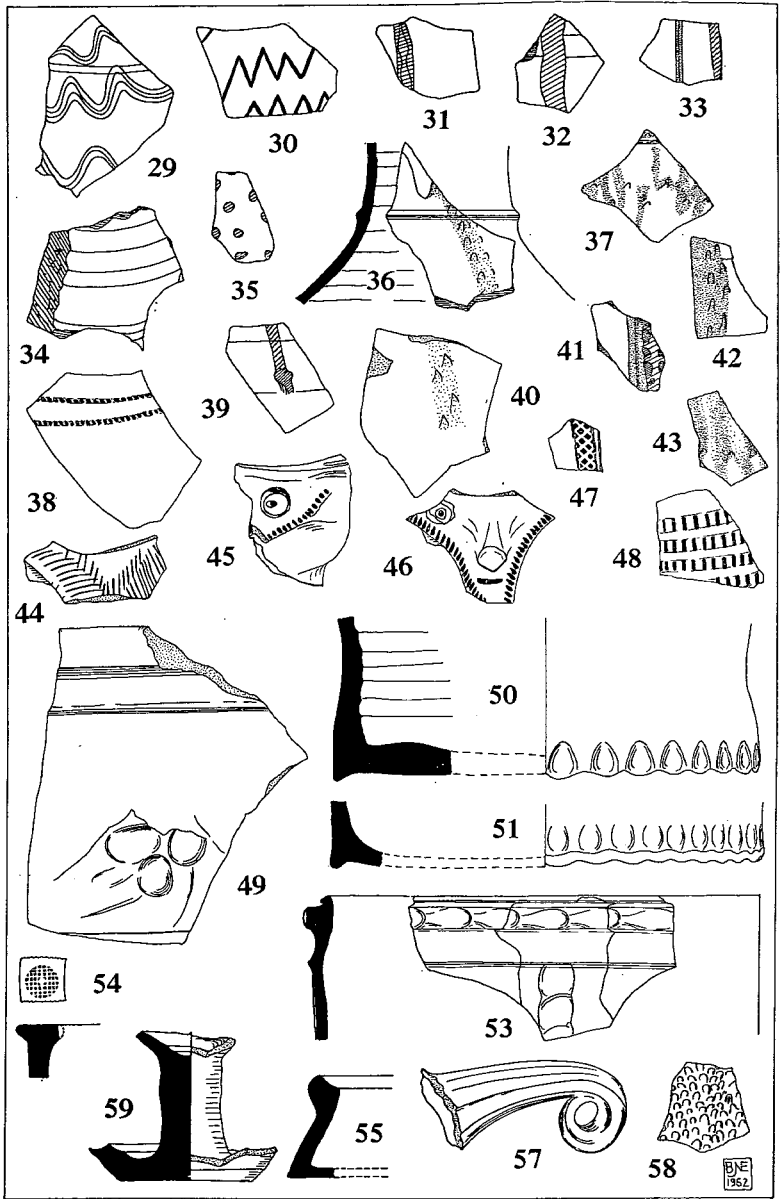
\* 1. Jug in light grey fabric with fine grit. The handle is oval, decorated with five shallow longitudinal grooves, and attached at top and bottom with finger mouldings. The thick and lustrous light olive green external glaze is carried over the lip of the vessel. Aper. diam. 4".

\* 2. Neck of three-handled jug with bridge spout, in grey fabric fired to buff on outer surfaces where not protected by the thick but patchy dark olive green glaze. The surviving strap handle is 2" wide, with two longitudinal grooves. A crude cordon, decorated with finger-pinching on the upper surface, connects the three handles and the spout. Cf. SAN 70, 73, 74, all from Newcastle. Aper. diam. 4½".

\* 3. Neck and strap handle of jug in biscuit coloured

<sup>1</sup> PSAN vii (1935-6), pp. 225-6.

<sup>2</sup> AA4 xxxix (1961), pp. 230-1.



POTTERY FROM HARTLEPOOL (4).

sandy fabric with patchy external olive green to yellow glaze. The handle,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, has a fingered depression down the centre. Aper. diam. 4".

\* 4. Neck and strap handle of jug in pink slightly gritty fabric with grey core; patchy olive green to orange external glaze. Longitudinal groove down centre of handle, which is  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " wide. Thirteenth century? Aper. diam.  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ".

\* 5. Jug in pink sandy fabric with patches of external olive green or clear glaze. Aper. diam.  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ".

\* 6. Part of body of heavily rilled ovoid jug, with lower junction of strap handle, in grey slightly gritty fabric with buff inner surface, and pale grey outer surface below the pale olive green glaze. The handle was fixed with two cordon mouldings. The lower portion of the vessel shows traces of soot, probably from use for cooking.

7. Fragment of rim and pinched spout of jug in hard pink fabric with yellow green external glaze finishing in a straight line  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " below the rim.

\* 8. Three body sherds of jug in hard grey fabric with fine grit, orange inner surface, external bronze-green glaze. Rod handle. Body ornamented with keeled vertical strips. Similar decoration appears on two vessels in the University Museum of Archæology and Ethnology, Cambridge, assigned to the thirteenth or early fourteenth century; one of these (from Horningsea, Cambs.) is published as *Rackham* 33.

9. Rim of jug in orange-pink fabric with patchy external dark green glaze. Decorated with side handles formed of two crossed arms, with incised lines at junction with neck. Similar decoration occurs on a jug from Lindisfarne and the Hartlepool vessel may, like that, have been a narrow jug with elaborate ornament.

\* 10. (Plate XXVI) Rim of jug, similar to number 9, but in buff fabric.

\* 11. Portion of neck and strap handle ( $1\frac{7}{8}$ " wide) of large jug in grey fabric with fine grit, fired to buff where not protected by the light olive green external glaze. Cordon moulding round neck above handle. The handle has two

longitudinal grooves, and the three ridges are decorated with groups of depressions. Fabric, glaze and decoration invite comparison with *Finchale* 36, possibly a local product, assigned to the late thirteenth century. Aper. diam. 4".

12. Portion of neck and strap handle of jug in grey fabric with fine grit, fired to pink on outer surfaces where not protected by the patchy olive green to brown glaze. Strap handle,  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " wide, attached at top and bottom with three finger mouldings. At least two grooves round shoulder. Aper. diam.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

\* 13. Neck and strap handle with central groove of large jug or jar in orange-buff sandy fabric with orange surface. Clear glaze on upper surface of handle. Cordon mouldings above handle and on a level with its upper junction. Aper. diam. 5"; width of handle  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

\* 14. Sherd from neck of narrow jug in buff fabric with black grit. Decorated externally with vertical rows of orange-brown pellets and dark green ridges, and covered overall with a clear glaze. Splashes of glaze on interior. Fragments of similar vessels have been found at the Castle, Newcastle upon Tyne, and at York (*Rackham* 70; cf. SAN 104). Probably manufactured in the York area in the late thirteenth or fourteenth century.

\* 15. Sherd from neck of jug in grey gritty fabric with light olive green external glaze. Two small subsidiary handles—cf. *Kirkcudbright* 9, which is of a different form.

\* 16. Bridge spout in pale grey gritty fabric with buff inner surface and external olive green glaze. The spout was attached to the neck by three finger mouldings.

\* 17. Strap handle,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, with central groove, in grey sandy fabric with apple green glaze, combed wavy lines on either side of the groove. Sixteenth century.

\* 18. Strap handle,  $2\frac{1}{8}$ " wide, with central groove, in pink slightly gritty fabric with thick external fawnish green glaze. Decorated with groups of combed wavy lines down central groove and at either side.

19. Rod handle, 1" diam., in grey slightly gritty fabric

fired to pink where not protected by the sparse pale green glaze. Grooves down outer surface.

20. Rod handle, 1" diam., in grey slightly gritty fabric fired to pink where not protected by the thick but patchy mottled olive green glaze. Deep longitudinal grooves, springing from finger mouldings at lower end.

\* 21. Pinched basal angle of jug in light grey gritty fabric, fired to pink on inner surface. Thick olive green glaze covers a lightly incised decoration. There is a parallel in the Yorkshire Museum, York. Late thirteenth or fourteenth century. Diam.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ "

22. Part of tubular spout in grey fabric with external streaky olive green glaze of good quality. For jugs with tubular spouts, cf. *Finchale*, p. 242. Thirteenth/fourteenth century?

23. Thick, slightly convex base of tall narrow jug in coarse grey gritty fabric, fired to pink on unglazed surfaces. The sage green glaze covers the whole of the base, and has trickled from it, and from small galena spots, down the side walls of the vessel. Diam. 3".

\* 24. (Plate XXVI) Head moulded in the round in pinkish-buff fabric with thick but patchy lustrous green glaze. The eyes are formed from applied pellets with a central depression; the mouth is a simple split. The rest of the head was made in one piece, with a deep central cleft, and with the ears pinched out. The cleft may be intended to represent the mitre of a bishop, but occurs also on the figure of a knight on a jug fragment from Cambridge.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. G. C. Dunning has shown that the Cambridge jug was the product of a Nottingham kiln operating c. 1300,<sup>4</sup> and that these jugs normally bore a representation of a scene with knights hunting. In view of this it seems likely that the head from Hartlepool is that of a knight rather than a bishop.

The form of the vessel from which this head came is clearly indicated by the jugs from Cambridge and Notting-

<sup>3</sup> Rackham 12 A; cf. *Proc. Cambridge Ant. Soc.* xii (1907), p. 139.

<sup>4</sup> Peverel Archaeological Group, Annual Report 1955, pp. 18-26.

ham; they are ovoid with cylindrical heads and tubular spouts. The rod handles are decorated with spiral (Nottingham) or longitudinal (Cambridge) grooves. Applied eyes occur at Nottingham and Hartlepool, incised at Cambridge.

Mr. Dunning has drawn our attention to several vessels from the eastern part of the country, from Stonar (Kent) to Whitby (Yorks., N.R.). A spout in the Castle Museum, Norwich (accession number 151.933) may well be from a jug of the same type. *Scarborough* 8, from Hatterboard, is the nearest published example.

\* 25. Body sherd with finger-moulded handle end, in off-white sandy fabric with thick external bright green glaze. Decorated externally with applied scales in horizontal rows.

\* 26. Body sherd in grey sandy fabric with buff inner surface, external green glaze. Decorated with applied scales.

\* 27. Body sherd in grey gritty fabric with light green external glaze. Decorated with combed wavy lines. This decoration can be paralleled from a number of northern and Scottish sites, including the kiln at Colstoun (East Lothian).

\* 28. Three body sherds in pinkish sandy fabrics, decorated with lines of applied "pie-crust". External glazes vary from olive green to mottled light green and brown. One is a waster, and presumably indicates local manufacture.

\* 29. Body sherd in smooth dark grey fabric with fine grit, external sage green glaze. Decorated with combed wavy lines and horizontal grooves.

\* 30. Body sherd in grey fabric with very fine grit, external brownish green glaze. Decorated with incised zig-zag lines.

\* 31. Body sherd in smooth dark grey fabric with fine grit; there is a thin white layer below the light olive green glaze. Applied vertical strip, pinched at intervals, in dark brown. Cf. *Kirkcudbright* 18. Late thirteenth century.

\* 32. Body sherd in pink gritty fabric with buff inner surface. Yellow external glaze, darker applied strip.

\* 33. Body sherd in light grey fabric with buff inner surface, external light olive green glaze of good quality. Two





Number 10



Number 24



Number 24



Number 46

*Photos. Department of Archaeology,  
University College, Cardiff.*



applied vertical strips are respectively dark green and dark brown.

\* 34. Body sherd in biscuit coloured fabric with external bright green glaze. Applied vertical strip coloured dark brown or black.

\* 35. Body sherd in off-white fabric with fawn glaze. Decorated with applied pellets which appear rather darker.

\* 36. Body sherd in hard orange sandy fabric, external clear glaze applied over a vertical line of green scale ornament; cordon moulding round base of neck. Cf. numbers 37 and 40, and SMP 9 (Jedburgh, Roxb.).

\* 37. Body sherd in orange-pink sandy fabric, external clear glaze applied over sparse scale ornament and dark green streaks. Cf. number 36.

\* 38. Body sherd in light grey sandy fabric with buff inner surface and sparse and patchy external olive brown glaze. Rouletted ornament on shoulder.

\* 39. Body sherd in pinkish buff fabric with external yellowish green glaze applied over a dark brown pellet from which the colour has run. Cf. SAN 44, *Rackham* 76 (Nottingham) and an unpublished vessel in the Yorkshire Museum, York.

\* 40. Body sherd in grey gritty fabric with clean internal glaze over a vertical strip of scale ornament. Cf. number 36.

\* 41. Body sherd in buff fabric with clear external glaze; decorated with double row of applied brown pellets and green strip.

\* 42. Body sherd in reddish orange fabric with clear glaze over double vertical row of applied scales.

\* 43. Body sherd in pinkish buff sandy fabric with clear external glaze over horizontal rows of applied scales and vertical green stripes.

\* 44. Body sherd in hard orange fabric with sparse and fine grit, green external glaze. Incised lines represent a beard at the lower end of a face-mark handle.

\* 45-46. (Plate XXVI) Two similar face masks in buff pink fabric with grey core, external dark green glaze.

Applied nose; eyes, mouth and beard incised. Both masks formed side handles of jugs, the beard reaching down to the shoulder of the vessel, as in number 44. Number 45 is from a jug with a bridge spout but the type is also used with a simple pinched spout. Similar vessels occur at various sites in Britain, and were also exported to Norway.<sup>5</sup> The nearest example to Hartlepool is *Scarborough 5/1*, from the Scarborough kilns. Late thirteenth/fourteenth century.

\* 47. Body sherd in hard off-white fabric. Applied brown strip with stamped or rouletted lozenge pattern. Clear external glaze giving yellow and brown appearance. Mr. G. C. Dunning informs us that this sherd is an import from Normandy, probably from the Rouen area.

\* 48. Body sherd in dark grey gritty fabric with a light grey layer below the external olive green glaze. Decorated with prominent rilling, with rouletted vertical notches on the ridges.

\* 49. Large storage jar in coarse pink fabric, well fired, but with many air pockets, olive green internal glaze carried on to the heavy rim; below this is a cordon moulding. The strap handle was attached at the lower end with a thumb moulding.

\* 50. Basal angle with pronounced thumbing, of large vessel in hard grey fabric with pink outer surface. There are a few specks of dark olive green glaze, the result of galena dusting, on the base. Diam. 9". Thirteenth century, probably before c. 1250.

\* 51. Basal angle of large vessel in grey fabric with fine micaceous grit, fired to orange-pink on outer surface. Patches of olive green or clear glaze on the base. Diam. 9". Thirteenth century, probably before c. 1250.

52. Small sherd of 'Cistercian' ware in red fabric with white slip decoration over purple-brown manganese glaze, clear glaze overall, late fifteenth/sixteenth century.

\* 53. Rim of large bowl in reddish pink gritty fabric. Decorated with fingering round rim and applied vertical

<sup>5</sup> *Fra Bryggens fortid* (Bergen 1956), p. 10.

finger-pressed strips at intervals. The surviving example is at the centre of a vertical strip of treacly brown glaze. Aper. diam. 18". Thirteenth century?

\* 54. Rim of dish in pinkish brown micaceous fabric with olive green internal glaze covering also the flat upper surface of the rim. This surface is stamped with a series of chequered circles. Cf. *Bothwell* 43, assigned to fourteenth or fifteenth century.

\* 55. Shallow lid-seated dish in coarse grey gritty fabric with dirty pink surfaces. The thick side walls and rim contrast with the thin base, and indicate that the vessel was intended for cooking—for which it was certainly used. Diam. aper. 9"; base 10½"; ht. 2". Cf. *Staxton* fig. 14 number 16.

56. Fragments of three plates in hard red fabric with white slip decoration and clear glaze on upper surface. For distribution of slipware in the north-east cf. *Finchale* 120. Seventeenth century.

\* 57. Skillet handle in grey fabric, fired to buff-pink where not protected by patches of green or clear glaze. The tail of the handle is curled right under and carefully moulded into the upper part. The underside of the handle is much blackened by soot.

\* 58. Sherd in grey slightly gritty fabric with buff inner surface, light olive green external glaze. Decorated on outer surface with applied scales. From an aquamanile in the form of a ram, cf. *Scarborough* 27/1, from the Scarborough kilns. There is a similar vessel at York.

\* 59. Base of lamp in reddish pink fabric with fine micaceous grit. Fawn glaze, streaked with brown. For the form, cf. *Nottingham* plate II number 7. Probably seventeenth century or later. The type persisted for a long period, since three examples at Nottingham are in a medieval green-glazed fabric.

