



Fig. 1 Handle of SABINIANVS Patera ($\frac{3}{4}$)



Fig. 2. Handle of MAXIMINVS Patera ($\frac{1}{4}$)

I.—TWO BRONZE VESSELS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND AND NEW READINGS OF THE NAMES OF OTHER MAKERS

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In 1879 two bronze vessels of Roman date were found when a drain was being cut through the clay subsoil *in a field on Shield green in Ingoe township*, in the parish of Matfen, Northumberland. Only a small portion of the wall of the two saucepans now survives, and it is probable that little more was extant when the find was made nearly a century ago. The details¹ of the discovery were written on the back of a visiting card of Sir Arthur E. Middleton, of Belsay Castle, Northumberland, and the card was tied on to one of the handles presumably when the surviving portions were presented to the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle. In 1968 the Director of that Museum, Mr. Frank Atkinson, kindly transferred these two items to the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne, and at the invitation² of the Keeper, Dr. D. J. Smith, the present writer has written the report and taken this opportunity of publishing new readings of the stamps moulded on some other paterae discovered in Britain.

(1) Plate I; figs. 1, 1; 2, 1. The handle and rim of the

¹ The note on the card reads: *Two bronze vessels of Roman period found whilst cutting a drain in clay in a field on Shield green in Inghoe [now Ingoe] township Northumberland in 1879. Supposed to be measures. Shields Green is a farm on the north side of Ingoe village, seven miles NNE. of Corbridge at grid reference NZ 039749. It lies only three quarters of a mile east of the Devil's Causeway, the Roman road running north-eastwards from a point north of Hadrian's Wall to Berwick-on-Tweed.*

² Grateful acknowledgement is made to Dr. D. J. Smith for providing the two photographs taken by the staff of the Photographic Unit of Newcastle upon Tyne University Library, to Mr. C. M. Daniels for help and Mr. G. S. Learmonth for cleaning one graffito.

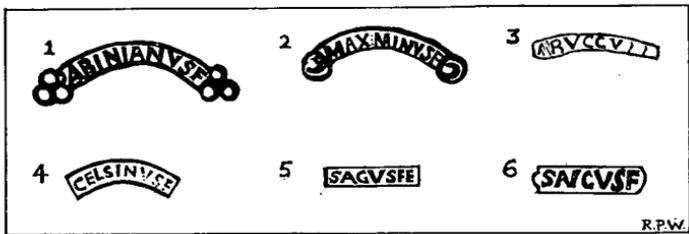


FIG. 1. STAMPS MOULDED ON PATERAE (Scale 1/1)

first vessel³ is $11\frac{11}{16}$ in. (29.6 cm.) long, and below the rim retains a small fragment, up to one inch deep, of the wall. The bowl is $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. (7.1 cm.) in diameter. On its exterior, below the rim, there is a broad band within two narrow ribs. The base, $4\frac{19}{32}$ in. (11.7 cm.) in diameter, has been strengthened by four concentric recessed rings and the inner surface has been tinned.

The handle has a circular expansion with central hole and a ring of cable-moulding near the outer edge. The moulded stamp is curved, and terminates at either end in a trio of small circles. The stem of the handle, at the end opposite to the bowl, is ornamented with a pyramid of ten double circles. The curved moulding, which is well preserved, reads: SABINIANVS F, with the initial S reversed and partly obscured by one of the small circles. As yet the bronze-founder Sabinianus appears to be unmatched.⁴ On the underside of the handle, taken outwards from the bowl, a graffito has been incised, reading: 1 XXV. This seems to indicate '1', '25'.

³ Though most of the bowl is lost, the handle, rim and base of the vessel match the description of type 16 (not illustrated) in Maria P. den Boesterd, *The bronze vessels in the Rijksmuseum G. M. Kam at Nijmegen* (Nijmegen, 1956) except that the stamp is curved and the shaft is decorated with a pyramid of circles. Apart from this same exception it falls within type 142 in H. J. Eggers, *Der römische Import im freien Germanien* (Hamburg, 1951) but this type includes 48 (or perhaps more) examples and the finer points of difference among them are not given.

⁴ This name does not occur among the makers of paterae in *CIL* XII, XIII; in H. Willers, *Neue Untersuchungen über die römische Bronzeindustrie* (Hannover and Leipzig, 1907), A. Radnóti *Die römischen Bronzegefäße von Pannonien*, *Diss. Pann.* ser. 2 no. 6 (1938) or in den Boesterd (see note 3).

(2) Plate I, 2; figs. 1, 2; 2, 2. The handle and rim of the second vessel from Ingoe is $10\frac{7}{8}$ in. (27.6 cm.) long, with bowl $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. (16.5 cm.) in diameter. Below the rim a portion of the wall survives for a depth of $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. (6.0 cm.), and on its internal face, at $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (0.4 cm.) and $1\frac{1}{16}$ in. (4.3 cm.) from the top, there have been incised two of the horizontal rings⁵ which indicate capacity. On its exterior, below the rim, there is a broad band within two narrow ribs. The interior and the exterior down to the lower rib have been tinned. The base, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in. (11.7 cm.) in diameter, has four concentric recessed rings, and is now detached. At the junction of the base and the bowl there is a narrow rib, which can hardly be interpreted as a distinct foot.⁶

The handle has a circular expansion with central hole and a ring of cable-moulding near the outer edge. As it curves inwards it is decorated by a cable-moulding set inside a flat band along the edges. The stem of the handle, at the end opposite to the bowl, is decorated by three crescent-shaped impressions. The curved moulding is flanked by a similar impression at either end and reads MAX[I]MINVS F(ECIT). Between the X and M there are faint traces of an I. This name seems to be unmatched in the books cited in note 4. On the flat underside of the handle, taken outwards from the bowl, a graffito has been incised, reading: I XXII. This seems to indicate '1' '22'. There is no crossbar above the initial stroke, to make it read *T(urma)*. There is a horizontal stroke through the middle of the first x, and a superscript bar above the second I, perhaps a superscript line, in part misplaced, to indicate that these alphabetic signs are to be interpreted as numerals. The numbers 22 and 25 suggest that these vessels formed part of a set. A 'mess unit' may

⁵ See J. Curle *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* LXVI (1931-2) 374 for a discussion of a sequence of six incised rings to indicate the different levels of capacity on a patera from Dowalton Loch (Wigtownshire).

⁶ Although more than half of the bowl is lost, in design and details the vessel matches den Boesterd type 15 (quoted in note 3) except that the stamp is curved and is decorated with three crescents above and one at either end. With the same exception it falls within Eggers' comprehensive type 142, discussed above in note 3.

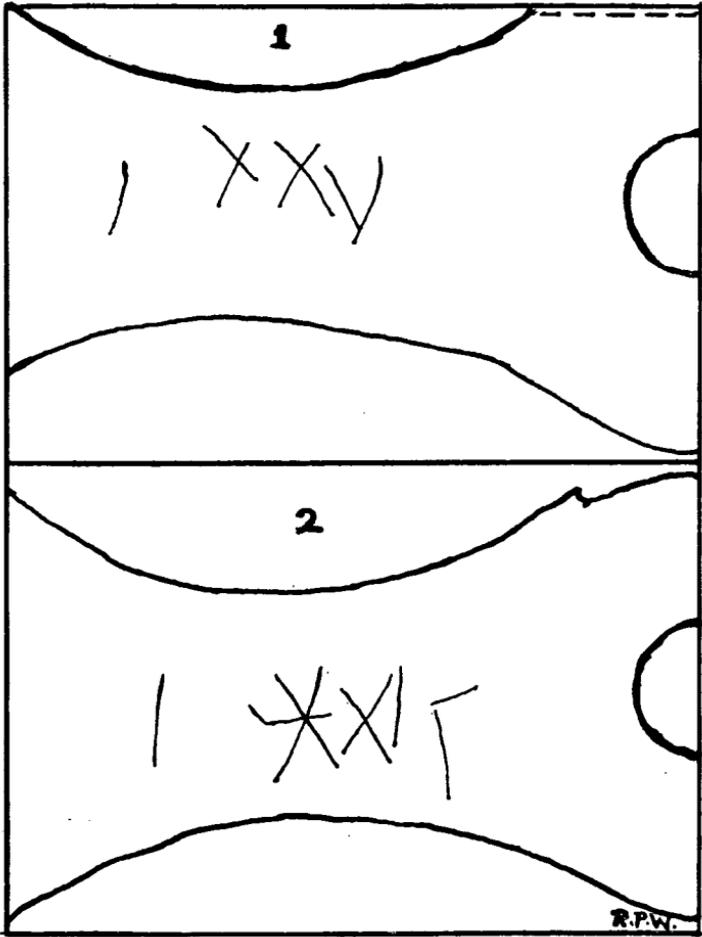


FIG. 2. GRAFFITI ON PATERAE NOS. 1, 2 (Scale 1/1)

have possessed about 25 vessels, and the initial figure I may have indicated the first mess-unit under the command of the relevant centurion or decurion.

In summing up we must admit that there is no evidence to date this find apart from the typology of the vessels. But

the names of the makers are well preserved, and the graffiti indicate a numerical sequence.

NAMES OF OTHER BRONZE FOUNDERS

It may be helpful to put on record a fuller reading of certain other makers' whose products have been found in Britain.

(3) Fig. 1, 3. *Llanberis*, Caernarvonshire. Inspection of this patera,⁸ supported by two plaster casts, has enabled the writer to read ΔBVCCV[S F]. *CIL* VI, IX and X have many examples of the *nomen* Abuccius. The writer has so far been unable to trace a *cognomen* Abuccus, but feels that a Gaul who was not a citizen might have based his name on the Latin *nomen*.

(4) Fig. 1, 4. Somewhere in *East Lothian*, Scotland, but its precise provenance⁹ is unknown. The curved stamp on this handle reads CELSINVSF.

(5) Fig. 1, 5. *Caernarvon* (Segontium). The reading on this handle¹⁰ is SAGVSFE(CIT).

(6) Fig. 1, 6. *London*. The handle found¹¹ in 1872-3 at the junction of Queen Victoria Street and Bucklersbury reads: SANGVS F(ECIT).

⁷ Dr. H. J. Eggers (*Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz* XIII (1966) 67-164) in his survey of bronze vessels found in datable strata in Roman Britain has naturally based the readings in his inventory on the material supplied to him. Most of the new readings published here have resulted from the present writer's work in 1968 on *RIB II*.

⁸ *JRS* XXXIV (1944) 89 item 11, citing the reading . . . VCCVIT by Canon Ellis Davies, published by him as .VCCV . . . in *Arch. Camb.* XCVIII (1945) 130. The vessel is now on loan in the Museum of Welsh Antiquities, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

⁹ The object (FT 38) is in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. The new reading is based on personal inspection, supported by plaster casts. Haverfield *Arch. Jour.* L (1893) 305, item 165, said 'possibly CIPPOI . . .' with foot of final vertical damaged, and repeated this in *Eph. Epigr.* IX 1312b. Bosanquet *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* LXII (1927-8) 252 fig. 5 for this curved stamp read Cl. . . .]F. For a complete version of this legend see *CIL* XIII 10027, 16.

¹⁰ Found at *Segontium* in 1923. Now in the Segontium Museum.

¹¹ Now in Guildhall Museum, London. Guildhall Cat. (1908) 110 no. 92. Collingwood *RCHM London* iii 137, 175 no. 37. To the present writer there seems to be no E after the F.

