

## POTTERY FROM NICHOLAS LANE, E.C.

BY

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THIS collection of Roman pottery from Nicholas Lane is noteworthy from the fact that, while a large proportion of it belongs to the 1st Century, there is probably nothing later than the middle of the 2nd Century. Some of the pieces, moreover, can be dated to the earliest years of Londinium, viz. immediately after the arrival of Claudius. The fine portion of a Sigillata bowl, Plate 1, (Drag. 37) by the potter of the large rosette is the outstanding piece. It is interesting to note that another City site, the G.P.O. reported on by Mr. Lambert, F.S.A., has produced a number of parallels.

In the following, the pottery fragments are grouped and numbered consecutively, the type to which they conform, as numbered by Hans Dragendorff, being added in brackets. The Plates on which the fragments are illustrated is also given, the numbers of the Plates which are referred to being placed within double circles.

## A. TERRA SIGILLATA. DECORATED. (Plates 1, 2).

1 (Drag. 37). Large portion preserved. Fine mould, thin bowl, brilliant glaze. Transition Style, (one rim fragment loose). Ovolo of potter of large rosette. Two zones alternating with bands of twin leaves like arrow heads. Upper zone:—Band of ornaments like reversed S's between fine zigzag lines. Lower zone:—Scroll with tendrils ending in heart shaped flowers and stars. At end of a third tendril, small bird, facing alternately right and left. Alternate lower lobes are divided into two panels by a horizontal zigzag ending in five petal rosettes. In upper panel—bird right, head turned left (cf. D. 1019). In lower panel, (1):—small dog running right; small rabbit running right

and small rabbit seated left, all three of which occur in pl. VII. fig. 42, mentioned below. The potter of large rosette (possibly Paullus) worked at La Graufesenque in S. Gaul, and is dated, by a Samian hoard from Pompei, to 77-79. A.D. by D. Atkinson in J.R.S., IV. Pt. 1, (1914) pl. VII. Nos. 39-42, and pl. IX. Nos. 47-49.

A. TERRA SIGILLATA. DECORATED (Plate 2).

2 (Drag. 37). Small fragment, burnt dark purple. Ovolo with star tassel smaller than that of pottery with large rosette. Below; a fine line of flattened beads. Decoration; apparently in free style. Hindquarters of Panther right, D. 799. Lez: used by OFFISACRI, ACVRIO and Attianus. Quadruped running left, with short tail and long ears thrown back, as in D. 863. Above, two pairs of leaves in field.

POTTERY:—Lezoux. Date: 1st half of 2nd century.

3 (Drag. 30). Two fragments, brilliant glaze. Rim narrow, with star tassel in ovolo. Base finely moulded. 1st Century ware.

4 (Drag. 30 (?)). Narrow plain rim of thin small bowl. 1st Century.

5 (Drag. 37). Fragment of large thick bowl, lower edge of decoration. Decoration, apparently in free style. Rabbit couchant left, D. 949, used by Biracil and OF L COS VIRIL (is). Hind legs of quadruped right. Pottery, In South Gaul. Date, Domitian-Trajan (81-117 A.D.).

B. TERRA SIGILLATA. PLAIN. (Plate 3).

1. Quarter round fillet plate, brilliant glaze, as May, Silchester Shape 29 and Bushe Fox, Wroxeter, 1913, Drag. 83. Second half of 1st century.

2. Flange, slightly curling over, with ivy-leaf barbotine. May, Silchester Shape 38 and Bushe Fox, Wroxeter, 1913. Drag. 82. Flavian (69-96 A.D.).

3. Side of similar bowl, flange missing. 1st century, probably Flavian.

4. (Drag. 18). Complete section of plate, fine glaze. Late 1st century.

5. (Drag. 27). Six fragments, one with remains of stamp SV (? SVRDI.M of first half of 2nd Century).

6. (Drag. 38). Small well moulded base with stamp MATTI.M. Antonine period (140-180 A.D.).

7. Globular vase—fragment of side, inside glaze partial—? Drag. 67.

C. EGG-SHELL WARE. (Circles unnumbered on right of Plate 4).

Two rims like Drag. 40. One rim curling outwards, cf. Lambert G.P.O. in *Arch.* LXVI, fig. 16, 55 dated 70-100 A.D. Three bases with very shallow foot rings, two showing bulging sides. Three side fragments—globular or cup shaped. One side fragment like Drag. 33. All probably of 1st century.

D. AMPHORAE (Plates 4 and 5).

1. Two humpy handle tops with long arms angularly bent, possibly from same jar neck; cf. Behn *Römische Keramik*, Mainz, type 154, and Hölder *Römische Tongefässe*, pl. 1, 11. Hofheim, type 74 (Claudian). 1st century, probably Claudian.

2. Long handle of bulbous amphora, buff, stamp . . . . PAHSCAG. is fully PORPAHSCAG. POR—fully PORTUS, i.e. a public corn granary, suggesting that the amphora contained grain. PORPAH is a fairly common amphora stamp, sometimes alone, sometimes, as in this case, with additional letters. PORPHAHSCAG is not yet recorded, but PORPAHCF is dated “early years of 2nd century A.D.” (Wroxeter, 1912, fig. 16, 3).

3. Similar, stamp PRIMIGEN, buff. This stamp is undated, but is not likely to be later than early 2nd century. It is the name of a 1st century Samian potter.

4. Long thin handle (unstamped) of similar amphora, core bluish grey with brick red wash. Probably same date.

5. Smaller fragments of two other handles, buff ware.

6. Four amphora rims, two cream coloured, one dirty white, ribbed outside, one pink and much thinner.

7. One fragment of amphora side.

E. MORTARIA (Plates 5 and 6).

1. Two sides, one being a complete section with edge of stamp, and beading well below flange, buff ware, some white grit in rim. No exact parallel in Wroxeter types. Date; probably end of 1st century.

2. Buff rim with half spout and edge of stamp. Beading below bulbous flange; cf. Wroxeter Type 54, dated 80-120 A.D.

3. Small fragment of light buff flange with beading on same level as flange. Stamp  $\overline{P \blacktriangle PR}$ ; cf. Wroxeter Type 58, but with flange more curling over, and Lambert, G.P.O., in *Arch.* LXVI, Mortaria types, fig. 17, No. 10, early 2nd century. Not later than 1st half of 2nd century.

F. BEAKER (Plate 7).

1. Upper part of small, thin ovoid beaker, thin lipped with groove dividing lip from body. Surface of body, except top half inch, rough cast. Clay, chalky white, with dark chocolate slip (so called Castor ware); cf. Wroxeter, 1912. Type 36, and May, Silchester Type 46, which are both slightly earlier. Date; early 2nd century.

G. BOWLS. (unillustrated).

1. Straight-sided bowls with flat reeded rims; cf. Wroxeter types 10 and 63; dated 80-120 A.D. Slaty grey with bituminous wash and girth groove on side.

2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Larger bowls. Similar, but of rough tile-like reddish texture.

H. GREY WARES (Plates 7, 8, 9 and 10).

1. Small mouthed jar with lip bent outwards above a short concave neck separated from shoulder by a cordon. On shoulder marked off from body by a groove is a narrow band, roughly decorated with double zigzag by some blunt instrument. Hard slaty grey with darker wash. For type; cf. Wroxeter type 58 and Lambert, G.P.O., *Arch.* LXVI, fig. 15, Nos. 21, 22, 70-100 A.D.

2. Upper part of grey olla with burnished surface and lattice pattern on dull body. Early concave rim with thickened lip. Probably 1st half of 2nd century.

3. Base of similar but thicker olla, showing lattice work on body.

4. Moulded base of thin olla. Possibly of late 1st century.

5. Three sides of open, flat bowls with flat everted rims. Sides all marked with lattice pattern. All dates from 1st century.

6. Two small fragments of olla sides, ornamented with rows of dots in applied barbotine. So-called Upchurch ware. Late 1st and 2nd century. Wroxeter, 1913, pl. XV, 11, 13, 14.

7. Lower half of bulbous vessel with small, well turned foot, the body above a grooved line being decorated with similar barbotine dots in circles. Probably 80-120 A.D.

8. Narrow necked, well moulded, jar with thickened lip and with slaty grey burnished surface. Groove between neck and shoulder. Not later than 2nd century.

9. Three lids. One with thickened rim, two moulded with raised ridge. Lambert, G.P.O. in *Arch.* LXVI, fig. 16, No. 51. Dated ; 70-100 A.D.

#### I. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Leg or lug of a vessel, mica dusted. Not later than middle of 2nd century; cf. May, Silchester. pl. 114.

2. Small fragment of carinated side of vessel. Brick red clay. Fine soapy pink buff slip; cf. Lambert, G.P.O. in *Arch.* LXVI, fig. 14, Nos. 16 and 17. Dated 70-100 A.D.

#### J. FLAGONS. (unillustrated except for J2 on Plate 4).

1. Flagon with 4 ringed mouthpiece. Rough pipeclay. One side slightly reddened. Late 1st and early 2nd century; cf. Curle, Newstead, fig. 33, Nos. 1-3. (80-110 A.D.). Another similar, but broken.

2. Flagon neck. Diagonal neck, thickened lip slightly undercut and sloping shoulder showing two grooves on shoulder. Clay; pink buff, cream slip.

3. Flagon handle with two grooves. Clay; brick red. Probably 80-120 A.D.

4. Flagon neck with thickened, sloping lip and ribbed neck; cf. Wroxeter, 1912, type 2, which looks somewhat earlier. Date; early 2nd. Century probably.