

Anotations on Anglo-Saxon Pottery

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My attempted synthesis of Anglo-Saxon pottery (Hurst 1976) bringing up to date the earlier version in Med. Arch., 2, 1959 was written in 1972, and although it was possible to make some minor alterations to update it in 1973, a lot has happened in the three or four years it has taken my account to appear in print. I am therefore taking this opportunity of correcting some of the errors which have been drawn to my attention. (I would be grateful if I could be informed of any others). In addition some important reports have now been published, although the results were summarized from verbal information kindly given to me by the excavators before their publication. Finally, some of the most recent and important new finds are recorded below, though in many cases it is still too early to assess their implications. The most notable of these is the discovery that red-painted pottery was made at Stamford (Hurst 1976, 323; Kilmurry and Mahany 1977; Hodges 1977b). Other recent finds tend to amplify and confirm trends previously suggested.

1. Hurst 1976, 289, fig. 7, 1). The caption to this was not printed, but hopefully this was not necessary since, taken with the text on pages 288 and 290, the figure should be self-explanatory. There is one error on map D where Michelmersh, Hampshire, should have a diamond symbol as a kiln site. This is now the second Saxo-Norman kiln which has so far been found south of the Thames (see 16, below). The position of the Langhale kiln, south of Norwich, Norfolk, should also have been marked. On map F the Bouxwiller kiln, north-west of Strasbourg, in Alsace, should have been indicated.
2. Hurst 1976, 292, 293, fig. 7, 3, 1). The doubts expressed about the association of the Mitcham faceted, carinated pedestal bowl by Morris in (Bidder and Morris 1959) have now been refuted by Welch (1975), and the date of the vessel reaffirmed by Myres (1975) to about 400 A.D.
3. Hurst 1976, 292-294. Miss V. Evison has criticised the division of Early Saxon pottery into Domestic and Funerary, suggesting that plain and decorated would have been better (Evison 1977). This is a valid criticism but as earlier work has been on the former lines it is difficult to change this at the moment without a lot of new work. It is hoped that the increasing quantities of domestic pottery now being found on large settlement site excavations will enable a better picture to be given of the types and proportions of plain and decorated pottery, as well as their relationship to the funerary examples.
4. Hurst 1976, 297, fig. 7, 5, 4). Dr. J.N.L. Myres has brought to my attention the fact that urn 2003 was misprinted as Sandon, Yorkshire; this should be Sancton.
5. Hurst 1976, 299. Miss V. Evison further criticises the lack of a separate section on Early Saxon imports and their dismissal in a single sentence at the end of the Funerary section. This is even more valid and is a serious gap, however, I have not undertaken any original work on the subject and as there is no available synthesis, I felt it was premature to make a statement. We await the imminent publication of Miss Evison's important work on this important material.

6. Hurst 1976, 301. Further examination of the Sutton Hoo bottle in 1976, including taking it apart to examine the inside and the fabric, suggests that this is not a variation of Ipswich ware but a Frankish import. This was agreed at a meeting in 1976 between Dr. R.L.S. Bruce-Mitford, Miss V. Evison and myself. The vessel was thrown on a fast wheel and not on a slow wheel as was previously believed. This is clear from the regular wheelmarks inside the bottle. The friable brown fabric with a black surface is typical of Frankish imports and is quite unlike Ipswich ware. Although the bottle is difficult to parallel on the Continent, there is little doubt in view of these two factors that it is an import and is very unlikely to be local.
7. Hurst 1976, 301. Although I still agree with Mr. C. Green's assessment that the Ipswich-type ware found in Mound 2 at Sutton Hoo in 1938 was in the sand filling of the pit around the ship-burial, it should be recorded that Dr. Bruce-Mitford doubts this. He regards the sherds as unstratified and not therefore good evidence for a pre-650 date for the start of Ipswich ware.
8. Hurst 1976, 304. Further work by Professor R. Cramp at Jarrow and Wearmouth has produced important new examples of northern Middle Saxon fabrics, but it is premature to comment on the significance of these until the material has been studied in more detail. Otherwise there is still a marked lack of Middle Saxon pottery in Northumbria. One remarkable find has been the excavation of a mid-eighth century Grubenhäus at Wharram Percy, Yorkshire containing some two-hundred and fifty sherds of Middle Saxon pottery comprising some six different fabrics. The most common of these is the micaceous Whitby-type ware. This find together with the numerous other sherds scattered over the village suggests that Middle Saxon pottery was as plentiful on rural sites in Yorkshire as in East Anglia. On the other hand, Middle Saxon sherds from the city of York are still rare, and this dichotomy between an almost aceramic town and the abundant rural pottery finds raises many problems. Although pottery is found in most levels at Jarrow and Wearmouth, it is by no means prolific, though it is not clear how much this is due to there being not very much pottery in these particular buildings, the kitchen area, it should be noted, has not yet been located.
9. Hurst 1976, 331. Dr. M. Fulford and Mrs. J. Bird have now shown by thin-section analysis that the alleged Mayen ware cooking-pot from Whitby, Yorkshire does not resemble medieval Mayen sherds, and there is nothing to indicate an origin in a volcanic area (Fulford and Bird 1975, 174-5). Mr. R.A. Hodges has identified the vessel as an example of the Hamwih class 14, and suggests a French origin (Hodges 1977a). This, in fact, provides a more northern instance of French imports, already known some way up the east coast, as described in my 1976 paper (312). It also emphasizes that even in the North Sea area the French contact is as strong as that with the Rhineland.
10. Hurst 1976, 315. Thetford-type ware: fig. 7. 14, no.6., is actually from Ber Street, Norwich, not Pottergate.
11. Hurst 1976, 320. In 1976 Mr. A. Rogerson excavated for the Norfolk Unit a Thetford-type kiln at Bircham, Norfolk, located a few miles north-east of Grimston. The pottery consisted mainly of cooking-pots with sagging bases and rouletted decoration; straight-sided bowls were also present. This kiln seems to have been isolated, unlike those at Grimston.

12. Hurst 1976, 323. Stamford ware: the two main developments have been a classification of the forms published by Ms. K. Kilmurry (1977), and the discovery of a new kiln of possible tenth century date under the eastern part of the castle. This produced mainly rough, sandy wares, but also a number of red-painted sherds of Beauvais style, the first evidence for the manufacture of red-painted wares in Britain. A large vessel partly restored has strap handles with applied thumbed strips and bands of five fingered red-paint. This, in addition to the fabric which is visually very similar to the northern French Beauvais wares, means that it is going to be very difficult to distinguish the two without scientific analysis, and we shall be no longer able to assume that all red-painted sherds are imports. The harder fired Pingsdorf-type sherds with their pimply surfaces are still distinguishable, but many allegedly French imports may have to be reconsidered. Likewise the wide range of coarse Stamford ware types now classified from Stamford seem to provide the source for many of the imported wares at Northampton, previously thought to be Continental in origin. The presence of glaze on the Stamford red-painted wares together with the similar occasional presence of glaze on some of the Beauvais red-painted wares suggests much closer links between the two centres than had previously been considered.
13. Hurst 1976, 328, no. 162. York-type ware: an interim report on the Lloyd's Bank, Pavement, York, excavations has now been published (Addyman 1974, esp. 224; fig. 11. 220) with a diagram showing that the York-type wares were earlier than the Thetford and Torksey-type wares. This alters my statement that York-type ware was late (Hurst 1976, 329).
14. Hurst 1976, 332, no. 176. Mr. J. Williams has now published a report on the Horsemarket Kiln and its pottery (Williams 1974).
15. Hurst 1976, 336. Portchester-type ware has now been fully published in Professor Cunliffe's second monograph on his excavations (Cunliffe 1976, 128-194). The floruit of Portchester-type ware is now put in the first half of the eleventh century with a possible start in the tenth, and a decline by about 1100. It is now placed in one of the best sequences yet established for Anglo-Saxon England, including one where the hand-made wares are also fully set out.
16. Hurst 1976, 338. Recent work by the Exeter Unit has demonstrated that the Bedford Garage kiln, originally dated to the fourteenth century (Fox and Dunning 1957), is really Saxo-Norman. Excavations of early stratified levels shows sherds of this distinctive fabric in eleventh and twelfth century contexts. This gives a fifth group of wheel-thrown Saxo-Norman wares south of the Thames-Bristol Channel line. The oxidized smooth fabric together with the small cooking-pot shapes, having a tendency towards upright necks and flanged rims in several examples, suggests closer links with Mercia and the varieties of Chester-type ware rather than any of the other coarser fabrics which characterize the Wessex wheel-thrown wares of this period. These latter tend already to have medieval squat shapes and are largely reduced. The presence of northern French imports in Exeter may provide a clue to the origins as well as a possible link point on the way to Mercia, which it has been suggested had French connections (Hurst 1976, 342).

17. Hurst 1976, 340, fig. 7. 30,3. The Cricklade bowl has now unfortunately been shown to be a clever fake of recent date (Raleigh Radford, Jope and Hurst 1977). The dating of the added walling to about 1000 A.D., was based on constructional parallels and historical grounds, and remains unaffected by the date of the introduced pottery.

Acknowledgements

Unfortunately due to their complexity and length it was not possible to record all the acknowledgements for the drawings except for the two which were taken direct from other publications. All the rest were redrawn to an uniform pattern by Mr. S. Moorhouse to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude for all the work he put into this. I must also thank Miss P. Clarke for her help in checking the text, and particularly the captions. It is a pity that the drawing symbols were also cut out of the acknowledgements, Mr. Moorhouse drew the vessels so that the sections were hatched obliquely for hand-made pots, stippled for vessels made on a slow-wheel and filled in solid black for those wheel-thrown wares.

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