



Compendiario

An Assemblage of Notes and News



A DEVELOPED STAMFORD WARE COIN-HOARD POT FROM WAINFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE

In 1990 a coin-hoard consisting of 380 English Short Cross silver pennies and three cut Short Cross halfpennies was discovered at Wainfleet in Lincolnshire (TF 5311 6249). The coins, which are all in excellent condition, indicate a deposition date of c. 1194–1204/5 (Archibald and Cook forthcoming).

The hoard was found with a small, almost complete, pot in Developed Stamford ware (Fig. 1; MLA 1994, 1–3, 1; max height 121 mm). The vessel is wheel-thrown, and the fine, off-white fabric, which is covered with a green copper glaze, is typical of the products of the industry at Stamford, Lincolnshire, between c. 1150 and c. 1250 (Kilmurry 1980: Fabric B; see also Leach 1987, 72). The form is probably a bottle (Kilmurry's Form 18), although it is possible that it may originally have had a handle and therefore be a small jug or costrel (*cf.* Simpson 1982, Fig. 75, No. 41). It has an incised spiral groove around the neck and a sagging base, both typical features of Developed Stamford ware.

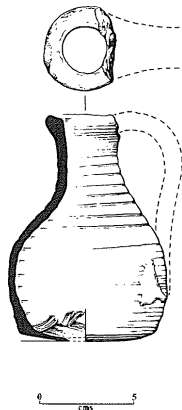


Fig. 1. A Developed Stamford ware pot found at Wainfleet, Lincs (drawn by Lisa Humphrey). Scale 1:4.

The products of the Stamford kilns were distributed widely throughout eastern and south-eastern England, and the bottle form has been found at a number of sites, including Stamford, Lincoln, Norwich, King's Lynn, Castle Acre and Aberdeen (Kilmurry 1980, 290–92). At least one kiln site of this period is known in Stamford (the Stamford School, or Elm Street kiln), which has been dated archaeomagnetically to c. 1200 ± 20 years. The main products are thought to have been green-glazed table wares, including bottles and costrels (*ibid.*, 53; 134).

The bottle form becomes common only in the late 12th and 13th centuries (*ibid.*, 141), but most published examples are represented only by incomplete sherd material. The Wainfleet hoard pot therefore not only supports the existing dating evidence, but is also a valuable addition to the corpus of forms.

Acknowledgements

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A DEVOTIONAL OR AMULETIC CERAMIC PURSE FROM LONDON

Introduction

The subject of this note is a ceramic object in the form of a 15th/16th-century purse (Fig. 1, Pl. 1), recovered in 1980 during excavations at 15–23 Southwark Street, London (site code CB80, context 129, Acc. No. 66). The site lies just to south of London Bridge and just to the east of Borough High Street, which in the medieval period was the main thoroughfare leading from London to the south and south-east. This highway was renowned for the many inns that lined it, the most famous being the Tabard, which was immortalised in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

Since the forthcoming report on the excavations is limited to the Roman aspects of the site, little analysis of the medieval and later phases has been carried out, but the area of excavation incorporated what were probably the back ends of tenement plots fronting onto the high street. Cobbled alleys and brick structures dating to the 16th and 17th centuries overlay most of the medieval remains, while much of the site was disturbed by modern cellars (Beard and Cowan 1988, 375–6; 380–1).

The purse was found in a feature, now believed to have been disturbed, adjacent to a later medieval ragstone and chalk structure aligned with an alleyway from the High Street, and close by a large flint-floored cellar belonging to a 16th-century building. The associated pottery comprises between 30–100 sherds of 15th- and 16th-century date: Coarse Border ware, Tudor Green, Tudor Brown, Guys ware, Cistercian ware, Border ware, Raeren stoneware, and South Netherlands maiolica. A date of c. 1550–1575 seems most likely for the group (R. Stephenson pers comm).

Form, manufacture and decoration

The purse is roughly triangular in shape, with an imitation metal frame formed from a curved clay strip, a ridge around the middle to suggest a fold, and three tassel-like knobs located at each lower corner and at the centre of the lower edge. It is hollow and capable of holding approximately one fluid ounce (c. 30 mls). The width is 112 mm, height 69 mm and depth 37 mm; the maximum dimensions of the neck opening are 11 × 13 mm.