

# A 'Belgic' and An Early Romano-British Burial From Toddington

JOSHUA POLLARD

The purpose of this note is to record a number of previously unpublished 'Belgic' and early Roman vessels in Luton Museum, recovered during the last century from sandpits at Fancott and from land adjacent to the 'Old Park', Toddington. The material under discussion was acquired by Luton Museum from the J. Steele Elliott and J.H. Blundell bequests in 1940 and 1949 respectively, though ultimately derives from the collection of Major Cooper-Cooper who was actively involved in the archaeology of the area between 1870 and 1898.

## Fancott

TL 019 281

Four vessels, three of which have previously been incorrectly described as Saxon (Morris 1962;72), appear to have derived from a single cremation burial of early-mid first-century AD date. Little is known of their specific context beyond their discovery in 1858 in a sandpit near Luton Road, Fancott. However, the possibility of further cremation burials, or an adjacent settlement, is raised by a number of contemporary sherds, mostly from large grog-tempered jars, held in Luton Museum (30-33/75/38), and the discovery of bronze-working debris, animal bone and pottery in nearby claypits (Simco 1984; 120).

Only the large jar is recorded as containing a cremation, though the complete condition of the remaining vessels implies they also derive from a funerary context; the squat jars and beaker probably acting as accessory vessels, their small capacity making them unlikely to have contained separate interments. 77/49 has no specific provenance other than "Toddington", though its close similarity in form to the other squat jar makes its inclusion in this group likely, if currently unproven.

323/40 Large coarse-ware jar with regular comb 'decoration'. Coil built, grog tempered fabric grey to buff in colour, probably the result of uneven firing. Largely complete, but heavily restored. Inner profile conjectured.

75/49 Fine ware beaker with a band of horizontal

grooving around shoulder. Possibly finished on a wheel. Fine grog-tempered fabric; buff in colour with dark grey patches. Complete and undamaged.

70/49 Small squat jar. Wheel thrown or finished on a wheel. Grey to dark grey fabric containing fine organic temper with some grog and fine sand.

77/49 Small squat jar. Wheel thrown or finished on a wheel. Buff fabric with grog and sparse fine sand temper. Restored — 60% complete.

## Old Park

[TL 02 29]

Two, possibly three, previously unrecorded vessels of late first-second-century date may mark the site of a further cremation burial, adjacent to Old Park Farm and the site of a substantial Roman building on Sheepwalk Hill (Simco 1984; 120). The small flask and jar, both in a coarse grey fabric, were recovered during drainage work in 1868. A heavily restored single-handled flagon (325/40) possibly belongs to this group — the occurrence of identical vessels from cremation burials at Kempston, Wootton (Kennett 1970) and specifically the Grange, Welwyn (Rook 1973) is suggestive.

73/49 Flask. Wheel-thrown, with false cordons defining a band of faint vertical grooves. Grey to yellow-grey fabric; sand-tempered with some small flint and grog inclusions. Part of neck and rim missing.

324/40 Shallow jar. Faintly incised chevron decoration between cordon and rim. Wheel-thrown or finished on a wheel. Grey fabric with sand and grog temper. Restored — 50% complete. Inner profile conjectured.

325/40 Single-handled flagon with multiple annulated neck and flared rim. Wheel-thrown. Buff to orange-buff fabric with very fine sand temper. Heavily restored — 40% complete. Inner profile conjectured.

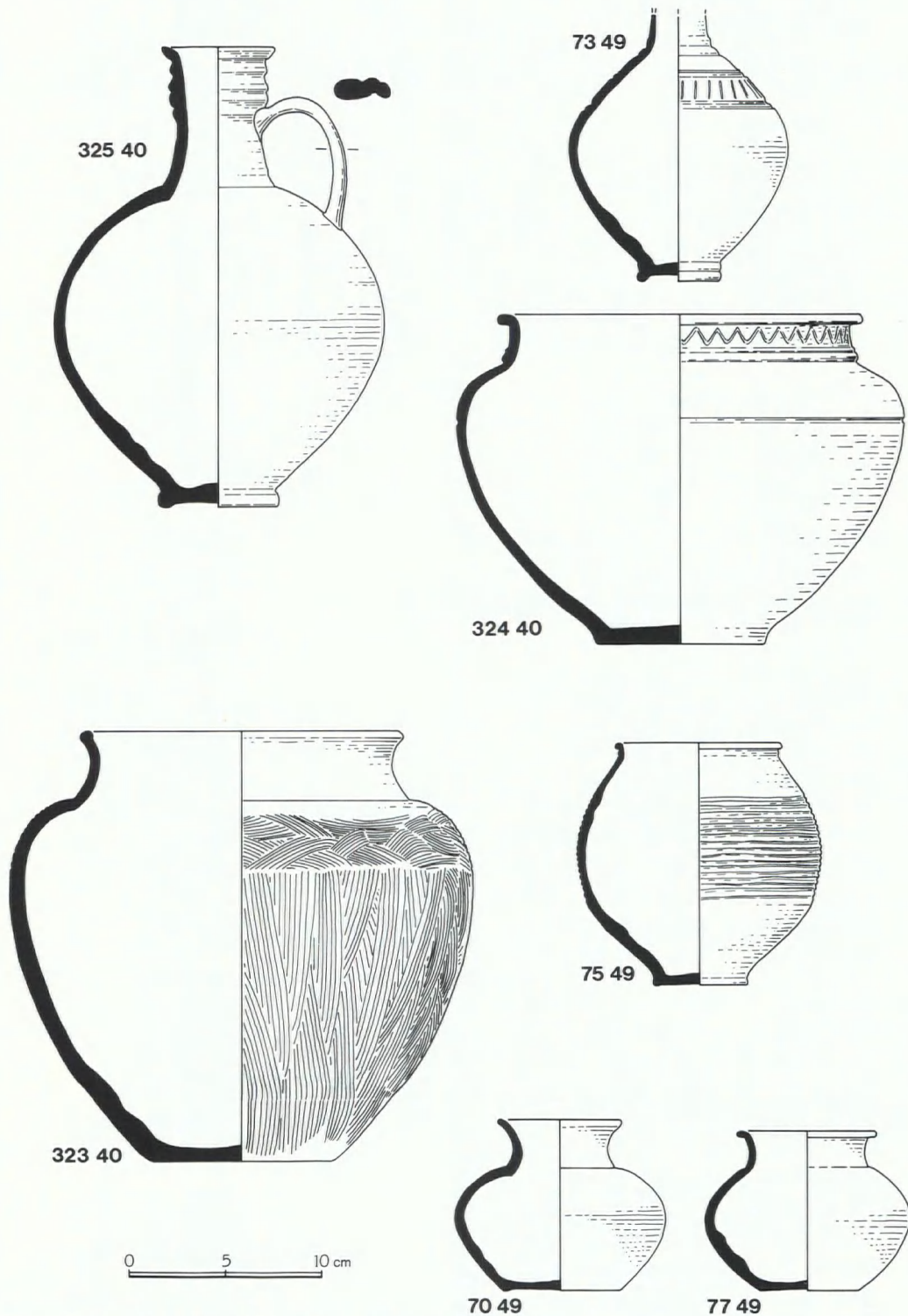


Fig 1 Pottery from Old Park (top) and Fancott (bottom)

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