

⁴*Beds. Arch. J.* 2 (1964) 22 and 32 (not illustrated).

⁵Northampton Museum, D85/1954-55.

⁶Northampton Museum, D76/1954-55; Northampton Museum also have an unlooped palstave from Everdon with a plain face (no. D77/1954-55) but there is no evidence of association between these two.

⁷Northampton Museum, ZL 7 (154).

⁸*Bedford Modern School Museum Guide* (1925) pl 5.

⁹*Ant. J.* 34 (1954) 232 and pl 26.b.

¹⁰B.M. 1937, 11-11, 1-9.

¹¹*P.S.A.* 1 (1850) 74; *V.C.H. Beds.* II (1908) 9.

¹²Wymington is nearer to being a Nene rather than an Ouse parish; there is a large Ouse valley hoard from New Bradwells, Bucks., (*Rec. Bucks.* 9 (1909) 431-440 with pl opp. 431; and *J. Northampton Mus.* forthcoming).

¹³respectively Evans and George; see notes 14 and 15.

¹⁴Evans *Ancient Bronze Implements* (1872) 113 and 466.

¹⁵*V.C.H. Northants.* I (1902) 143.

¹⁶*V.C.H. Beds.* I (1904) 169.

¹⁷*loc. cit.* in note 8.

¹⁸Luton Museum 71/59 (originals).

Postscript on the Iron Age finds from Felmersham Bridge

F. W. KUHLCHE

THE BRONZE FISH-HEAD SPOUT and handle with bovine escutcheons found in the gravel near Felmersham Bridge in January 1942 were accompanied by a much damaged bronze bowl with a riveted base and fragments from the vessels of the fish-head spout and the bovine-headed handle. With these were a large quantity of pottery, mainly of a thick coarse buff ware. These are all now in Bedford Museum.¹

During January 1969, a lorry driver (name unknown) delivering a Roman sarcophagus from Eaton Socon to Bedford Museum observed the Felmersham collection and volunteered the information that he was present at the time the finds were made. He stated there were 'lots of other things', including a bronze bowl, diameter 3 ft., with drop handles.² He did not know whither they went. A few days later he sent to the museum a small bundle containing sherds of pottery and a small shale ring, which it is the intention of this note to publish.

1 Fragment of a small shale ring, diameter 5.25 cm., oval in cross-section, 1.2 cm. by 0.8 cm.

It is difficult to suggest an exact use for this object. It does not seem large enough for a bracelet for it is less than half the diameter of the shale bracelet from the woman's grave at Stanfordsbury.³ The object does, however, make an interesting addition to the known corpus of shale objects in Belgic contexts. Rich Belgic princes who could afford costly imports of wine and bronzes from the Roman world also imported shale vessels and trinkets, originating in the shale industry of the Kimmeridge outcrop, Dorset. Apart from the Stanfordsbury bracelet, Bedfordshire finds include the two tall vases from a burial at Old Warden,⁴ while two fragmentary vases and what could be either a rim fragment from a third vase or perhaps a bracelet were found in a rich grave at Harpenden, Herts.⁵ There is a tazza from Barnwell,

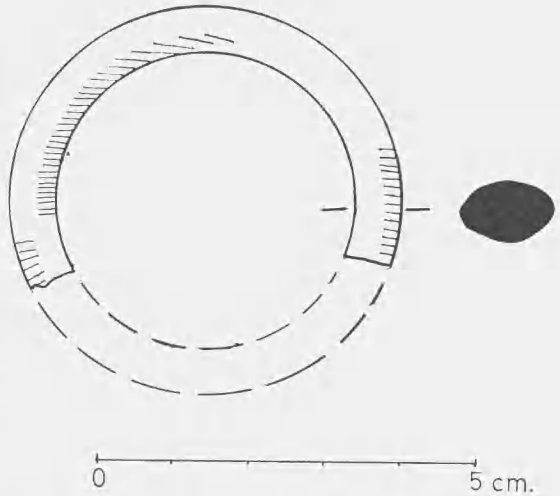


Fig 2. Shale ring from Felmersham.

near Cambridge,⁶ and two graves at Great Chesterford, Essex, had tazza-like vessels without the foot-stand.⁷

- 2 Large wheel-made vessel of grey ware with sandy inclusions giving rough surface. The vessel, which is about two-thirds extant has a well-formed out-turned rim, and a slight but distinct collar at the base of the neck. The only decoration is two deep grooves well up on the shoulder. The base is flat with a distinct foot-ring. Height 22.5 cm. Rim diameter 8.8 cm.
- 3 Rim sherd of bowl of dark grey, smooth surfaced ware, with an almost black, burnished external surface with regular horizontal striations. Rim diameter 13.6 cm.
- 4 Large rim sherd of dark pink-brown ware with fading steely grey almost metallic finish. Grooving on the body of vessel from which this came. Rim diameter 24.0 cm.
- 5 Base and body sherd of flat based vessel of black, corky ware with brown surfaces. Groove

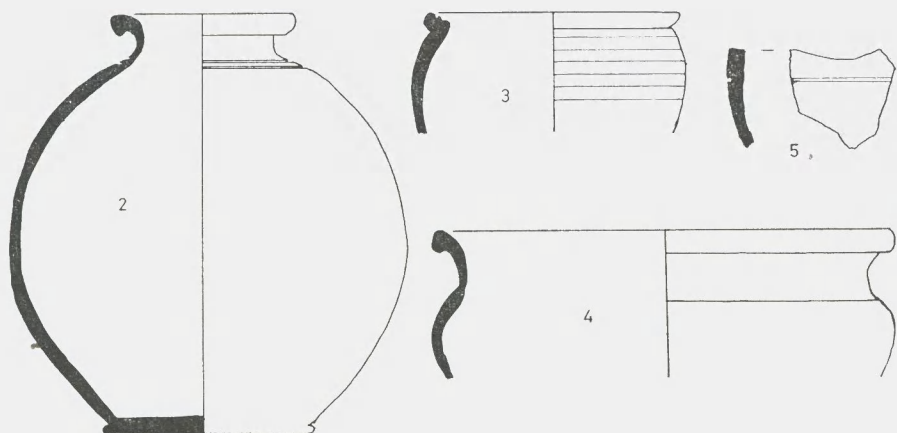


Fig 3. Iron Age pottery from Felmersham.

on body sherd.

6 Body sherds of fine white ware with light grey metallic surface.

The 'new' pottery from Felmersham makes an important, if small, addition to our knowledge of the site. The complete vessel (2) is comparable in ware to vessels found by Mr G. Dring at Mile Road, Bedford, and comparisons for the others may be found in the pottery originally published from Felmersham. Our (3) for example compares with Watson's 9.

NOTES

¹W. J. Watson 'Belgic Bronzes and Pottery found at Felmersham-on-Ouse, Bedfordshire', *Ant.J.* 29 (1949) 37-61.

²This sounds very much like a cauldron from the size, though these are nearer 10-20 in. diameter; Stanfordsbury 1 had a cauldron 3 ft. diameter (ed).

³*Camb.Ant.Soc.* 1, 10 (1945) 19, pl 1.6.

⁴*Later Prehistoric Antiquities of the British Isles* (1953) 71 pl 23.3; Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923) 96-98, pl 15.3.

⁵*Ant.J.* 8 (1928) 520-522; 29 (1949) 196-7, fig 1 a-c.

⁶Fox, *Pattern and Purpose* (1958) 63, pl 45a.

⁷*Arch.J.* 14 (1857) 85-87, with vignette.

A Roman patera from Biggleswade

DAVID H. KENNETT

AMONGST THE recent purchases of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, is a patera from Biggleswade. It was found by Mr J. Harrington, a scrap metal dealer, on a builder's dump on a new housing estate between the railway and the Old North Road, near Stratton Park (approx. N.G.R. TL/196436). The exact find spot, and the associations, if any, are unknown.

The patera is bronze with no trace of gilding. The low bowl has a thickened rounded rim. The inside of the base is flat and there are concentric circles cast underneath. The handle is separately made and stuck to the bowl on the outside below the rim. The reeded sectioned handle terminates in a ram's head. The diameter of the bowl is 20.7 cm., and the height 6.85 cm. The overall length of the handle is 13.8 cm., of the reeded part 7.3 cm., which has a diameter of 2.2 cm. (Cambridge Museum 65.81.)

The patera belongs to an early and widespread

type of vessel, common both inside and outside the Roman Empire.¹ In Britain, at least 25 examples are known, though some are represented by their handles only. These include some of the earliest examples in Britain, such as that from the Claudian fort of Hod Hill² and the handle from a pit at Richborough associated with Claudian coins.³ The handle with a dog's head termination in the Santon hoard⁴ was probably buried in the face of the Boudican uprising of A.D. 60.

The latest examples include two deposited in the group of bronzes found at Welshpool in 1959, for which a date of c. A.D. 150 has been suggested, but these were old when buried and could have been made some time earlier.⁵

Locally the type is common in rich Roman cremation graves where it is often associated with a trefoil-lipped jug as in the Shefford burial.⁶ These bronzes, for long reconstructed as one, have recently been disentangled from the waisted reconstruction of Sir Cyril Fox, who attempted to im-