

Fig. 4. Roman patera from Biggleswade.

prove on the original reconstruction of a patera with two handles. Another burial with both types is Thornborough, Bucks.,<sup>7</sup> and others are known from Essex, though the objects themselves are lost.<sup>8</sup> One Essex burial, that at Topplesfield, contained a variant type, with a central umbo to the bowl of the patera.<sup>9</sup> Town sites, too, have produced handles, such as the two very fine examples from Verulamium,<sup>10</sup> though neither of these is dateable. Of itself, the Biggleswade patera cannot be dated to within the limits for the type, which are first to second century A.D.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, for permission to publish the Biggleswade patera, and Miss M. D. Cra'ster for assistance at the museum. Mr W. H. Manning

was kind enough to read this note in draft and made a number of helpful suggestions.

#### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup>Eggers *Der Römische Import in Fränk. Germanien* (1951) typ. 154-155; den Boesterd *The Bronze Vessels (Catalogues of the Rijksmuseum G.M.Kam, Nijmegen, V, 1956) nos 68-75*, with refs for continental examples; Nijmegen, no 72 is particularly close to Biggleswade.
- <sup>2</sup>*Hod Hill, I* (1962) 4, A132, fig 5, pl 10.
- <sup>3</sup>*Richborough II* (1928), 31, pl 14.2.
- <sup>4</sup>*P.Camb.Ant.Soc.* 13 (1909) fig 11, pl 17.2.
- <sup>5</sup>*Ant.J.* 41 (1961) 13-31, esp. 23-25, with fig 4, pl 8-9.
- <sup>6</sup>*Pub.Camb.Ant.Soc.* 10 (1845) 12, pl 1.3; *V.C.H.Beds. II* (1908) 11-13 with fig; *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923) 213-4, pl 26.2; *Beds.Mag.* (forthcoming).
- <sup>7</sup>*Rev.Bucks.* 16 (1954-60) 29-32, pl 3-4.
- <sup>8</sup>*V.C.H.Essex III* (1963) for Black Notley, Pleshey, Rivenhall, Bartlow Hills.
- <sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, pl 27.
- <sup>10</sup>Verulamium Museum.

## Two imported Medieval vessels in Bedford Museum

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THE FIGURE right shows two tall vessels<sup>1</sup> in the collections of Bedford Museum. Though without provenience, it would seem on available evidence that they are local finds.

They are both examples of Malines type jugs. As their name suggests they are products of kilns at Malines, or Mechelen, in Belgium, or possibly some other kiln in the Low Countries producing a very similar ware. They are characterised by a tall, thin body, more bulbous at the centre, and decorated with indistinct rilling. Above the body is a broad collar. The ware is hard, black, and seemingly with few grits. A handle goes from the base of the collar to the widest part of the body, and there is a slight kick to the base.

The jug, or beaker, for one of the two Bedford Museum vessels has no lip spout, has been recognised in England also at Kings Lynn and London.<sup>2</sup> Three sites—Colchester, Newcastle and Ford-Wooler in Northumberland—have produced

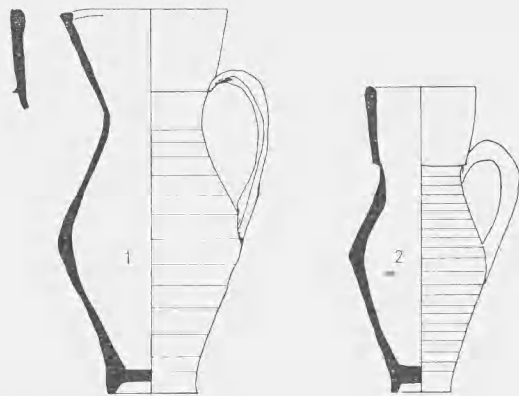


Fig. 5. Two imported pots.

cooking pots of a similar ware.<sup>3</sup> The Kings Lynn find is useful because it suggests a possible route of import, as Kings Lynn was the out-port for the

towns of the river Ouse in Medieval times.<sup>4</sup>

A number of other imported wares have been recognised from Bedford Museum's collections. These are better documented. They include stone-ware jugs originating in Raeren and Frenchen, from more than one site in Bedford. The widening of Bedford Bridge in 1939 produced much pottery including a fragmentary altar vase of south Netherland Maiolica,<sup>5</sup> and the museum collections include other imports including some from Italy. These are all however later than the suspected thirteenth century dating which has been given to the Malines type jugs. They do however confirm the presence of imported Medieval pottery at Bedford and suggest that the two Malines type jugs in Bedford Museum are local finds.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mr F. W. Kuhlicke for study facilities at Bedford Museum, and for permission to publish these two pots. I also wish to thank Mr Hurst for pointing these out to me and for parallels and information.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>They have no number; they are 20.5 cm. and 16.4 cm. high

<sup>2</sup>Information from Mr J. G. Hurst; see Hurst, J. G., Dunning, G. C., and Barton, K. J., 'List of Saxon and Medieval Imports into Britain', cyclostyled, January 1968.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>Carus-Wilson, E. 'The Medieval trade of the ports of the Wash', *Med.Arch.* 6-7, (1962-63), 182-202.

<sup>5</sup>To be published by Mr Hurst.

## Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1966-69

Compiled by DAVID H. KENNETT

THE SUMMARIES below are intended to serve as a guide to current fieldwork and excavations being conducted in Bedfordshire. Important isolated finds and museum acquisitions are also included. The compiler wishes to thank all those who have contributed notes for this section and hopes that future work and finds will be brought to his notice for subsequent issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.

### BEDFORD TO CAMPTON

A possible alignment of a Roman road between Campton, near Shefford, and Bedford, is being investigated by G. J. and M. E. Dring. This is an alternative route to that suggested by the Victories, *Roman Roads in the S.E. Midlands* (1963).

A section of the road, ditched on its west side, and with side-way, was observed during pipe-laying operations at Silver End near Haynes, Bedford (TL/102425). A terrace-way, on the alignment descends the hills to the south of Bedford (TL/094434). The route is well-marked near Cotton End, Bedford, by a low but defined 'agger' which passes through a wide scatter area of Romano-British pottery at TL/073458. (Dring—unpublished). This 'agger' probably marked the boundary between the Hundreds of Wixamtree and Redbournstoke in 1086 A.D. and later became the Parish boundary between the Parishes of Wilstead and Eastcotts and Elstow and Eastcotts.

Immediately south of Bedford a large 'agger',

sectioned at TL/061476 to reveal a well-defined metallated surface, passes the late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and pottery kiln site at TL/058476. The alignment enters Bedford at St. John's Street. Investigation continues.

### BEDFORD: various

D. H. Kennett catalogued St Neots ware found in the 1930s (*Beds.Arch.J.* 3 (1966) 19-21; above p 17-25). Much of the material had no identifiable provenance, but the following sites produced sherds:

#### High Street:

Barclays Bank  
Westminster Bank  
Leonards  
The Silver Grill  
Roses Extension, 1936  
Taylor Brawn Ltd.

#### Silver Street:

Meakers Cellar  
Old Jail site.

#### St Peter's Street:

The Old House  
Royal Insurance Company  
Rogers Porters shop  
Granada cinema.

#### Offa Road

Cauldwell Priory  
St Mary's Street.