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## **Severn Valley Ware**

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# Severn Valley Ware: A Preliminary Study<sup>1</sup>

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IT IS now over 30 years since Charles Green published his important discussion of what he termed 'Glevum Ware'.<sup>2</sup> Since then work on the Romano-British coarse pottery from the whole Severn valley has caused it to be generally accepted that Green's 'Glevum Ware', far from being an isolated fabric confined to the Gloucester area, is only one of a group of fabrics appearing throughout the Severn basin and beyond.<sup>3</sup> This group of fabrics derive from a number of production centres, but all show a similar technique of manufacture and share a common family of forms. It is this group of fabrics which has been called Severn Valley Ware and it is the purpose of this article to suggest a basic classification of forms and to describe and discuss the ware more fully.

## *The Fabric*

Minor variations in the fabric of Severn Valley Ware vessels do occur, but these presumably denote slight variations between the products of one kiln and another or even between different firings in the same kiln. In general, however, the fabric is remarkably uniform. The texture 'in the break' is generally fairly fine<sup>4</sup> and the colour in nearly all cases is between buff and orange-buff, although occasionally light buff and light red also occur (as well as a few grey examples, see below).

From the colour it is clear that Severn Valley Ware was usually fired in oxidizing conditions. The presence of mica in the fabric of most vessels implies firing at a temperature below 1,000 degrees centigrade. The grey core which characterizes many of the thicker examples of the fabric implies that oxidizing conditions may not have been maintained throughout firing. The little kiln evidence we have (see below, pp. 37-9) suggests that firing took place in the normal updraught kiln. Where soil conditions have preserved the fabric in something near its original state, it is generally fairly hard.<sup>5</sup> The texture of the fabric suggests that little filler was used, although there may be some variation here as some early examples have a calcitic filler which has a tendency to leach out.<sup>6</sup> In comparatively rare cases Severn Valley Ware in mid-grey also occurs. Sufficient is present to suggest deliberate firing in reducing conditions and to imply a small but definite demand for the ware in other than the usual oxidized colours.

## *Finish*

Some degree of variation is to be found in the quality of finish provided on Severn Valley Ware. Burnishing on at least part of the vessels is general but not universal. The most highly burnished

1. This article is based upon part of a thesis awarded the degree of M.Phil. by the University of London. I should like to acknowledge financial help from the Dept of Education and Science and the University of London Central Research Fund. I should like to thank the many excavators and museum staff who provided help and information and also Prof. S. S. Frere, M. Hassall, the late Prof. D. Strong and Dr G. Webster.

2. *JRS*, 33 (1943), pp. 15-28.

3. For recent (and partial) discussion see *Whitchurch*, 225-4, *Webster 1972*, *Alkington*, 61-2, *Manchester 1972*, 94. For full references see Bibliography, pp. 45-46.

4. i.e. coarser than samian but finer than Black-burnished ware Category 1.

5. i.e. it cannot be scratched by the finger nail (2.5 on Moh's scale of hardness) but can be easily scratched by a steel blade.

6. Examples in this fabric come from the Neronian site at Usk and the approximately contemporary site excavated in 1972 at Kingsholm, Gloucester. It may also be noted that the Alkington kiln produced fabrics with a range of fillers.

surfaces are typical of vessels found at Gloucester in the 2nd century.<sup>7</sup> Decoration is usually simple. Lines of burnishing are frequently used, especially on the larger vessels such as storage jars. Wide mouthed jars are frequently burnished on the rim and internally on that part of the neck which is visible (and accessible) from above. Latticework and 'half-lattice' of diagonal lines in one direction only are quite common, often occurring as a zone of decoration around the shoulder of storage jars and around tankards. Grooves and cordons are also frequent. Many wide-mouthed jars have two deeply incised girth grooves.

### CLASSIFICATION

Severn Valley Ware may be distinguished, not only by fabric, but also by the common family of forms in which it occurs. This classification is an attempt to show the principal forms and indicate their approximate date. It is not intended as an exhaustive catalogue of all the forms in which the ware occurs. In order to distinguish the evidence for dating from that for distribution, the information provided with each type has been divided as follows:

- (i) Entries in section (i) denote site evidence from groups useful for dating purposes (and listed under *Dating Material*, pp. 19-21).
- (ii) Entries in section (ii) denote site evidence of use only in showing the distribution and frequency of the type. Site references are listed in the *Bibliography*, p. 45 ff.
- (iii) Entries in section (iii) denote kiln evidence for a type. They do not, however, imply that the type was made *only* at the kiln mentioned. Full references to the kilns mentioned will be found in the *Bibliography*.

### DATING MATERIAL<sup>8</sup>

The material listed below has been thought useful for dating purposes. In most cases it is sealed homogenous groups, but deposits have been included which are either unsealed but apparently homogenous or sealed but with large amounts of residual material. There is also some material from sites with a narrow date range, where the nature of the deposit is irrelevant for dating purposes; such cases have been noted below. Where there are several groups from one site, these have been distinguished by letters. The date suggested does not always accord with that proposed by the excavator. References will be found under the site name in the *Bibliography*.

Astley I (a)	The 2nd enclosure, pottery nos 6-64. Early 2nd-early 3rd century.
Astley I (b)	Occupation layer sealing Ditches 1 & 2, pottery nos 65-76. 4th century in deposition but with much residual material.
Astley I (c)	Ditch 10, nos 79-119 & 128-31. 3rd and early 4th century.
Astley I (d)	Well, nos 120-7. 4th century.
Bourton-on-the-Water	Period I. 3rd century but with residual material.
Camerton	Slag pit, black earth layer. 2nd and 3rd century.
Cirencester: Dyer Court (a)	Pit. Nos 46-84. Mid/late 1st century.
Cirencester: Dyer Court (b)	Filling of gully, unsealed; nos 95-105. 4th century.
Droitwich	From collapsed hypocaust. Unsealed but uniformly 4th century.
Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a)	Rubbish pit 6. Late 3rd-early 4th century.
Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b)	The remaining material from the villa. Late 3rd-mid/late 4th century.
Forden II & III	The period 3 fort as defined in <i>Forden III</i> . Forden II, 20 & Forden III, FIGS 5 & 6. Mid 2nd-late 3rd century.

7. But not confined to Gloucester as shown, for instance, by vessels from Bredon Hill (now in the British Museum and the private Museum at Overbury).

8. As already stated this section refers *only* to groups listed under section (i) in the catalogue. For other references see *Bibliography*.

- Frocester Court I.  
 Gloucester: 1966-7 (a) The late 3rd-late 4th/early 5th century villa.  
 Gloucester: 1966-7 (b) Horizon 8, early-mid 2nd century.  
 Gloucester: 1966-7 (c) Horizon 10, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (a) Horizon 12, mid 3rd-4th century.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (b) Later bank. FIG. 9, 1-5. 2nd century but possibly with residual material.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (c) Layer 92, FIG. 9, 10-12 & 14-19. Late 1st-early 2nd century.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (d) Layers 90-1. FIG. 9, 20-5. Early-Mid/late 2nd century.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (e) 3rd Street surface. FIG. 9, 27-35. Probably 2nd century.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (f) 5th Street surface. FIG. 11, 1-5. 2nd century.  
 Gloucester: Bon Marché (h) Layers 50, 57, 71, 75. FIG 11, 6-37. 4th century with some residual material.  
 Gloucester: Friars Orchard (a) 7th Street surface. FIG. 14. 4th century but with an admixture of residual, mainly 2nd-century material.  
 Gloucester: Friars Orchard (b) Debris from Fortress oven 3. Nos 1-7. Mid-mid/late 1st century.  
 Hawford Colonia House destruction. Nos 13-22. 4th century.  
 Huntsham Mid-mid/late 2nd century and earlier.  
 Kenchester 1956 & 1956-8 Not all sealed but the suggested period of occupation on the site is mid 3rd-mid 4th century.  
 Kenchester 1963 From below rampart. Kenchester 1956, 1-5, Kenchester 1956-8, 8 & 10. 2nd century.  
 Leigh Sinton Thin sandy level above road I, nos 51-4. 4th century in deposition.  
 Leintwardine 1960 Unsealed but probably mid 2nd-early 3rd century.  
 Leintwardine 1968 (a) Pre-rampart and rampart construction deposits, FIG. 4, 1-4, FIG. 5, 1-19. Mid-late 2nd century.  
 Leintwardine 1968 (b) Period I. Later 1st-mid 2nd century.  
 Leintwardine 1968 (c) Period II. Mid-late 2nd century.  
 Leintwardine 1968 (d) Period III. 3rd century.  
 Manchester 1972 Period IV. 4th century.  
 Milecastle 48 (a) Building D and associated levels. Nos 36-90. 2nd century.  
 Milecastle 48 (b) Early 1st period. Early/mid 2nd century.  
 Milecastle 50TW 1st period, mainly in debris, pl. III, 7-23, 29-33, pl. IV, 1-3, 6-7, 12, 29-32. Mid-late 2nd century.  
 Mynydd Bychan Early/mid 2nd century.  
 Old Kilpatrick Nos 14-33. Probably mid-mid/late 1st century.  
 Pagans Hill (a) Antonine fort. Mid/late 2nd century.  
 Pagans Hill (b) The Well. FIG. 4, 1-16. 2nd half of 3rd and 4th century.  
 Putley 1954 Rubbish deposit in Room 15. FIG. 7, 102 & 106. 2nd half of third and/or 4th century.  
 Slack 3rd and 4th century occupation of the site can be suggested.  
 Sudbrook (a) Late 1st to mid 2nd century.  
 Sudbrook (b) Hut 1 Upper level. Unsealed but probably mid-mid/late 1st century.  
 Sudbrook (c) Hut 2, Upper Level. Unsealed but probably mid/late 1st century.  
 Sutton Walls (a) Hut 2, Lower Deposit. Mid-mid/late 1st century.  
 Sutton Walls (b) Period VI. FIG. 15. Late 2nd-early 3rd century.  
 Period VIa. Late 2nd-late 3rd century but with some residual material.

Sutton Walls (c)	Period VII. Unsealed and with much residual material but useful for the 4th-century material it contains.
Turret 35a	An unsealed deposit but all apparently Period Ia. Early/mid-mid 2nd century.
Turret 39a	Period Ib. Mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 48a	Period Ib. Mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 48b	Period Ib. Mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 49b	Period I. Early/mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 50a	Unstratified but apparently Period I. Early/mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 50b	Period Ib. Mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 52a	Period I. Early/mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 53a	Period I. Early/mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Turret 54a	Period I. Early/mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Whitchurch (a)	Early gritted surface. Nos 151-7. A late 1st to late 2nd group but as it seems fairly certain that Severn Valley Ware did not appear at Whitchurch until the mid 2nd century, examples in this group should be mid-late 2nd century.
Whitchurch (b)	Occupation debris partly overlying (a). Nos 159-68. Dating as (a).
Whitchurch (c)	Levels associated with the cobbled road leading to Building II. Nos 183-93. Late 3rd to early/mid 4th century.
Whitchurch Vagas (a)	Nos 8-10. Perhaps 3rd century.
Whitchurch Vagas (b)	Nos 11-27. Late 2nd-3rd century.
Worcester: Old Palace Lodge	Nos 4-7 from Layer 13 (not layer 16 as published). 2nd-3rd century.
Worcester: Origins (a)	Broad Street Well I, construction pit. Apparently mid 2nd-mid 3rd century.
Worcester: Origins (b)	Broad Street, Well I fill. 4th century. (Note FIG. 28, 17-20 is 1-4 in the text and FIG. 27, 1-16 is 5-20).
Wroxeter 1923-7 (a)	Pre-Forum period. A1-28. Pre- c. A.D. 129.
Wroxeter 1923-7 (b)	1st period of Forum. B1-13. Early/mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Wroxeter 1923-7 (c)	3rd period of Forum, before 2nd fire c. A.D. 275. Mid/late 2nd-mid/late 3rd century.
Wroxeter 1936-7 (a)	Period I, FIG. 9, 13-24. Mid-mid/late 2nd century.
Wroxeter 1936-7 (b)	2nd layer post-Hall. FIG 10, 1-5. Late 2nd century.
Wroxeter 1936-7 (c)	3rd layer post-Hall. Early-early/mid 3rd century.
Wroxeter 1936-7 (d)	Period II, FIG. 11, 1-6. Late 2nd-early 3rd century.
Wroxeter 1936-7 (e)	Period III, FIG. 11, 7-11. ?early-mid 3rd century.
Wroxeter 1936-7 (f)	Period IV. Later 3rd century.
Wroxeter Piscina	Rubbish deposit from the swimming bath within the Baths, at present being prepared for publication. There are a few intrusive 4th-century sherds but the remainder are mid 2nd-early 3rd century with the majority probably mid-late 2nd century. <sup>9</sup>
Usk	Material from the Neronian fortress (c. A.D. 55-67) at present being prepared for publication. <sup>10</sup>

9. I am most grateful to Dr Graham Webster for allowing me to look through this material prior to publication. A recent seminar analysed the samian from this deposit and found it to be uniformly c. A.D. 180 or earlier.

10. I am most grateful to Drs W. H. Manning and K. T. Greene for comments on the Usk excavations and pottery.

## CATALOGUE

*A. Storage Jars*

Decoration varies from one jar to another, but is fairly sparse. Cordons and grooves are often used, sometimes in conjunction with a small band of hatching or lattice on the shoulder. Such decoration can, however, occur at any period and the decoration shown on the type vessels is not intended to have chronological significance.

- 1 A simple type with a long life: mid 1st–4th century
  - (i) Huntsham; Gloucester: Bon Marché (c) & (f); Sudbrook (c); Sutton Walls (b); Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Gloucester; Kenchester; Kingsholm 1972; Witcombe.
  - (iii) Malvern Kiln II.
- 2 Probably late 1st–mid 2nd century
  - (i) Hawford; Wroxeter 1936–7 (c).
  - (ii) Gloucester.
  - (iii) Alkington Kiln.

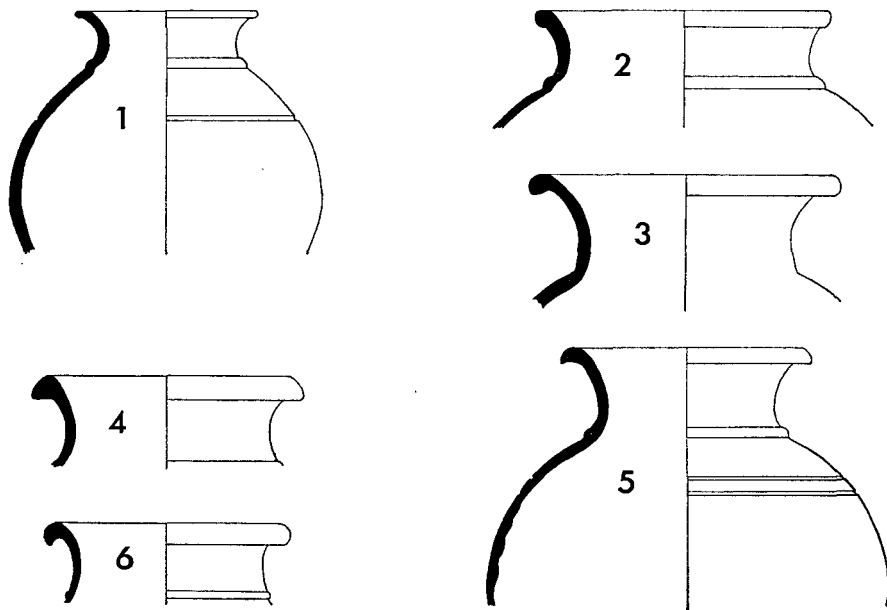


FIG. 1.

- 3 A predominantly mid 1st–2nd century form, possibly lasting into mid 3rd century
  - (i) Hawford; Gloucester 1966–7 (b); Gloucester: Bon Marché (d); Sutton Walls (a) & (b); Usk; Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Gloucester; Gloucester: Bon Marché; Manchester 1972; Whitchurch.
  - (iii) Alkington Kiln; Malvern Kiln II.
- 4 2nd to 4th century
  - (i) Astley I (a) & (c); Gloucester 1966–7 (a); Kenchester 1963; Leintwardine 1968 (c); Sutton Walls (b); Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Astley II; Sutton Walls.
  - (iii) Malvern Kiln II.

- 5 2nd-3rd century  
 (i) Astley I (a) & probably residual in (d); Forden II; Hawford; Wroxeter 1936-7 (c); Wroxeter Piscina.  
 (ii) Astley I; Gloucester; Gloucester: Bon Marché; Leigh Sinton; Manchester 1972.  
 (iii) Malvern Kiln I; Wroxeter Kiln.
- 6 2nd-3rd century  
 (i) Astley I (c); Sutton Walls (b).  
 (ii) Kenchester 1956-7; Gloucester.
- 7 There is little dating evidence for this type but a similar date to no. 6 above may be suggested on typological grounds.  
 (i) Astley I (a); Gloucester 1966-7 (a).  
 (ii) Gloucester; Whitchurch; Worcester: Old Palace Lodge.

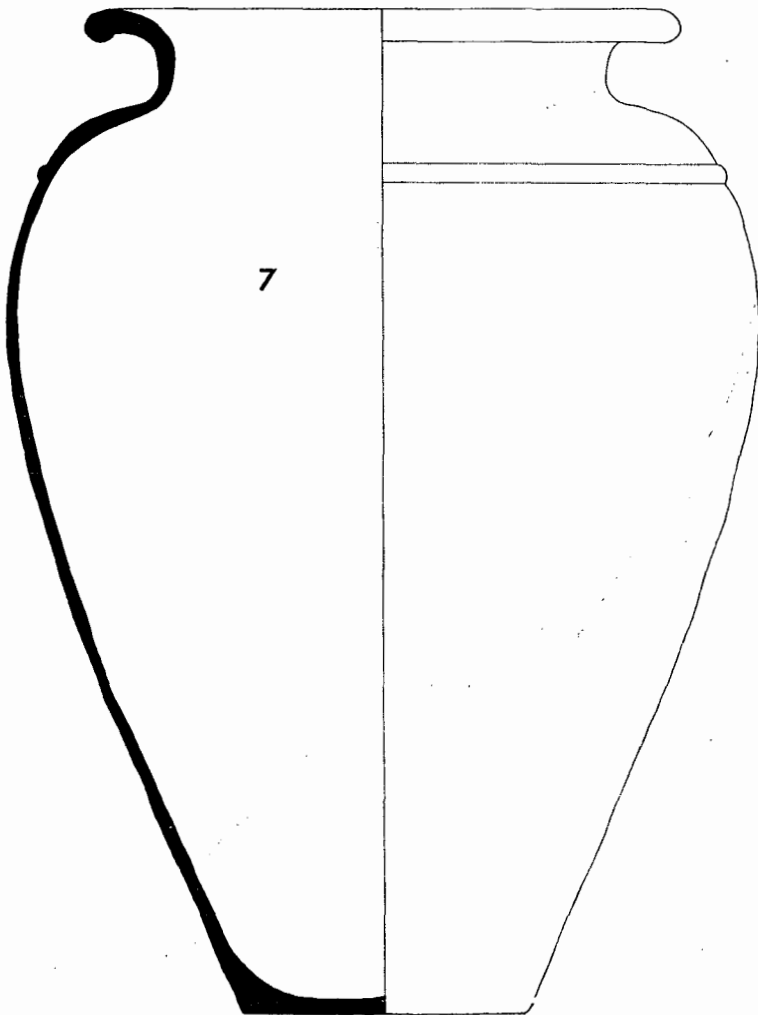


FIG. 2.

## 8 3rd century

(i) Astley I (c); Wroxeter 1936-7 (c); also a vessel in Gloucester City Museum which contained a large coin hoard with a terminal date of c. A.D. 293-6.

(ii) Shrewsbury: Gallows Croft Vessel.

## 9 3rd-4th century

(i) Astley I (b) & (c); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Kenchester 1956-8; Wroxeter 1923-7 (c).

(ii) Droitwich; Kenchester 1963; Nesscliff Hill; Putley 1954; Tiddington.

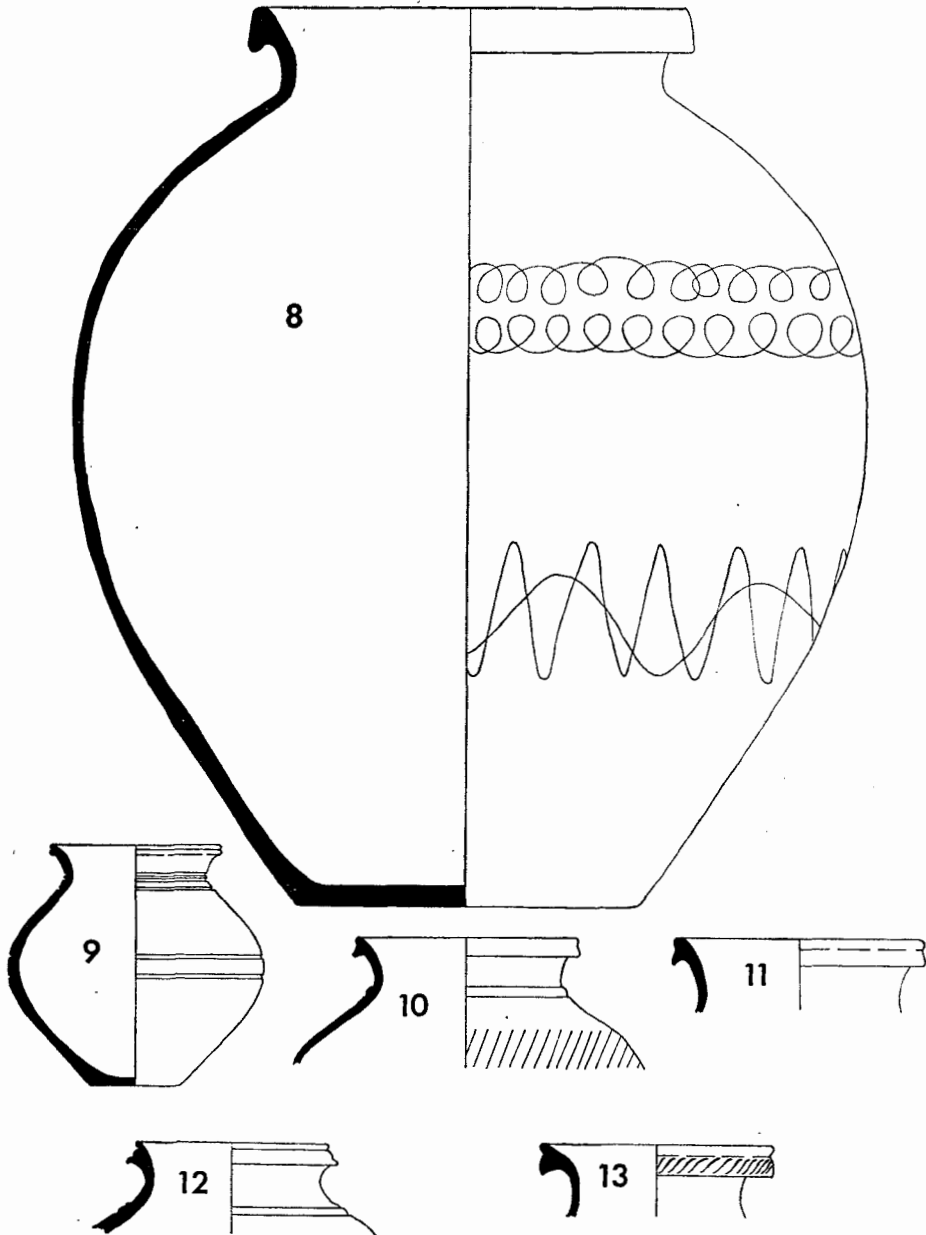


FIG. 3.

- 10 Probably of similar date to no. 9 above
  - (i) Astley I (d); Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Gloucester; Witcombe; Worcester: Market Hall.
  - (iii) Malvern Kilns I & III.
- 11 3rd century; perhaps surviving into 4th century
  - (i) Gloucester 1966-7 (b) & (c); Wroxeter 1936-7 (f).
  - (ii) Stoke Orchard.
  - (iii) Wroxeter Kiln.
- 12 2nd-4th century
  - (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a); Forden II.
  - (ii) Stoke Orchard.
- 13 3rd and 4th centuries
  - (i) Forden II.
  - (ii) Wroxeter Kiln.
- 14 Probably late 2nd and 3rd century
  - (i) Astley I (a); Gloucester 1966-7 (b) & (c); Wroxeter 1923-7 (c).
  - (ii) Witcombe; Worcester: Market Hall.

*B. Bead rim and everted rim jars*

- 15 2nd century onwards perhaps into 4th century
  - (i) Astley I (a); Kenchester 1956; Worcester: Old Palace Lodge.
  - (ii) Worcester: Old Palace Lodge.
  - (iii) Wroxeter Kiln.
- 16 Perhaps 2nd-4th century
  - (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Hawford.
  - (ii) Kenchester 1956-8.
  - (iii) Malvern Kiln II.
- 17 It is not yet possible to date this type
  - (i) Gloucester.
- 18 It is not yet possible to date this type
  - (i) Gloucester.

*C. Wide-mouthed jars*

Grooves at the point of maximum girth are the most common form of decoration on this class of vessel.

- 19 This type is also found with cordoned decoration
 

Probably mid to late 1st century, surviving into 2nd century

  - (i) Gloucester 1966-7 (a) & ?residual in (c).
  - (ii) Gloucester; Stoke Orchard.
- 20 1st-2nd century
  - (i) Leintwardine 1968 (b).
  - (ii) Gloucester; Kenchester 1963; M5; Falfield; Stoke Orchard; Witcombe.
  - (iii) Alkington Kiln.
- 21 Mid-late 2nd century
  - (i) Astley I (a); Leintwardine 1968 (b); Sutton Walls (b); Wroxeter 1936-7 (a); Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Pennocrucium 1956; Sutton Walls; Whitchurch.
  - (iii) Alkington Kiln; Malvern Kiln II.
- 22 The rim of this type varies between a hook and a more solid wedge shape.
 

2nd century lasting into 3rd century

  - (i) Astley I (a); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Hawford; Huntsham; Leintwardine 1968 (c); Sutton Walls (b); Wroxeter Piscina.

- (ii) Bredon Hill (British Museum Collection); Gloucester; Dorn (Birmingham Museum Collection); Tedstone Wafer; Wroxeter III; Wroxeter 1936-7 (Univ. of London, Inst. of Archaeology Collection).
- (iii) Malvern Kiln II.

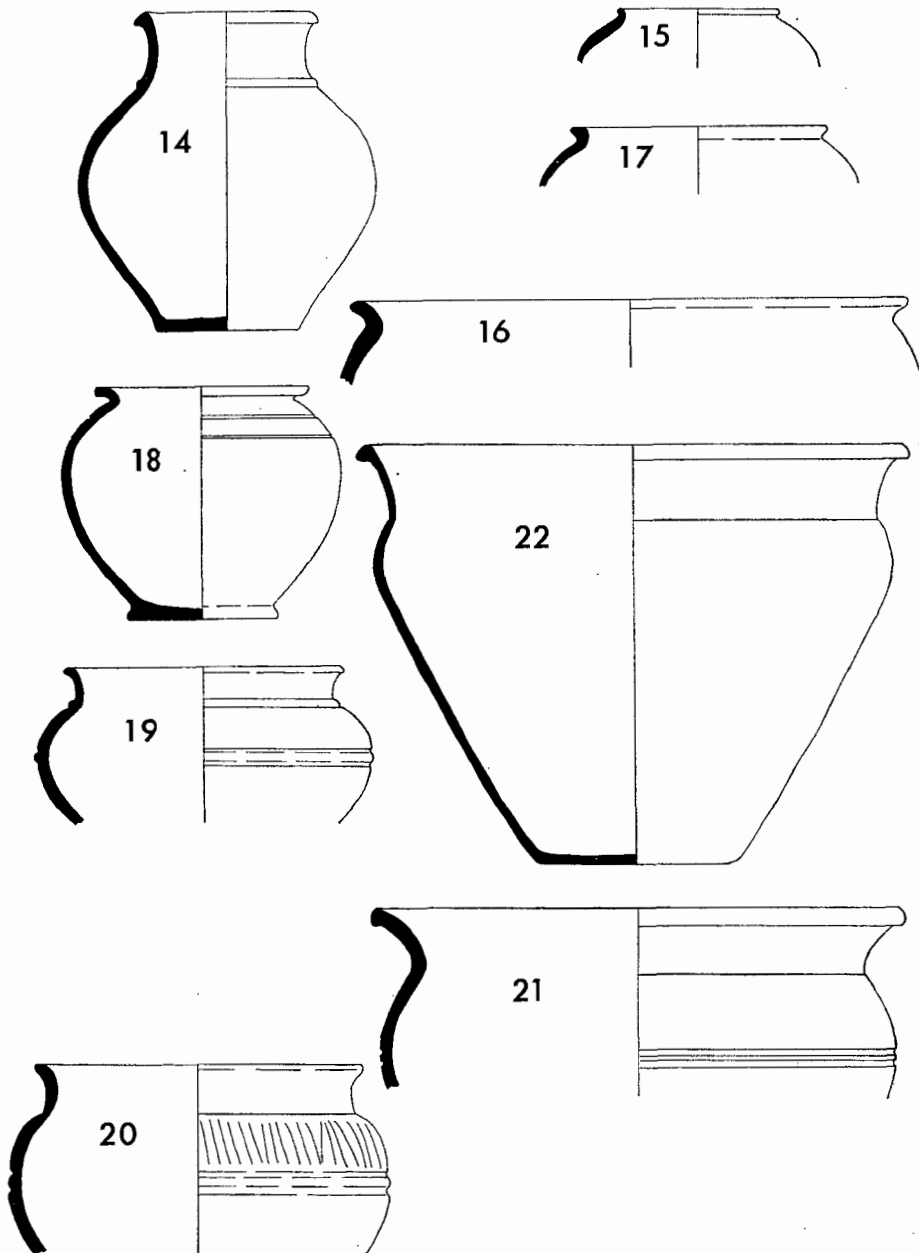


FIG. 4.

- 25 This vessel with a more rounded wall profile seems largely to be confined to the central Severn Valley

Mid 2nd–late 3rd century

(i) Astley I (a), (c) & (d); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Leintwardine 1960; Worcester: Origins (a); Wroxeter Piscina.

(ii) Astley II; Leigh Sinton; Worcester: Market Hall.

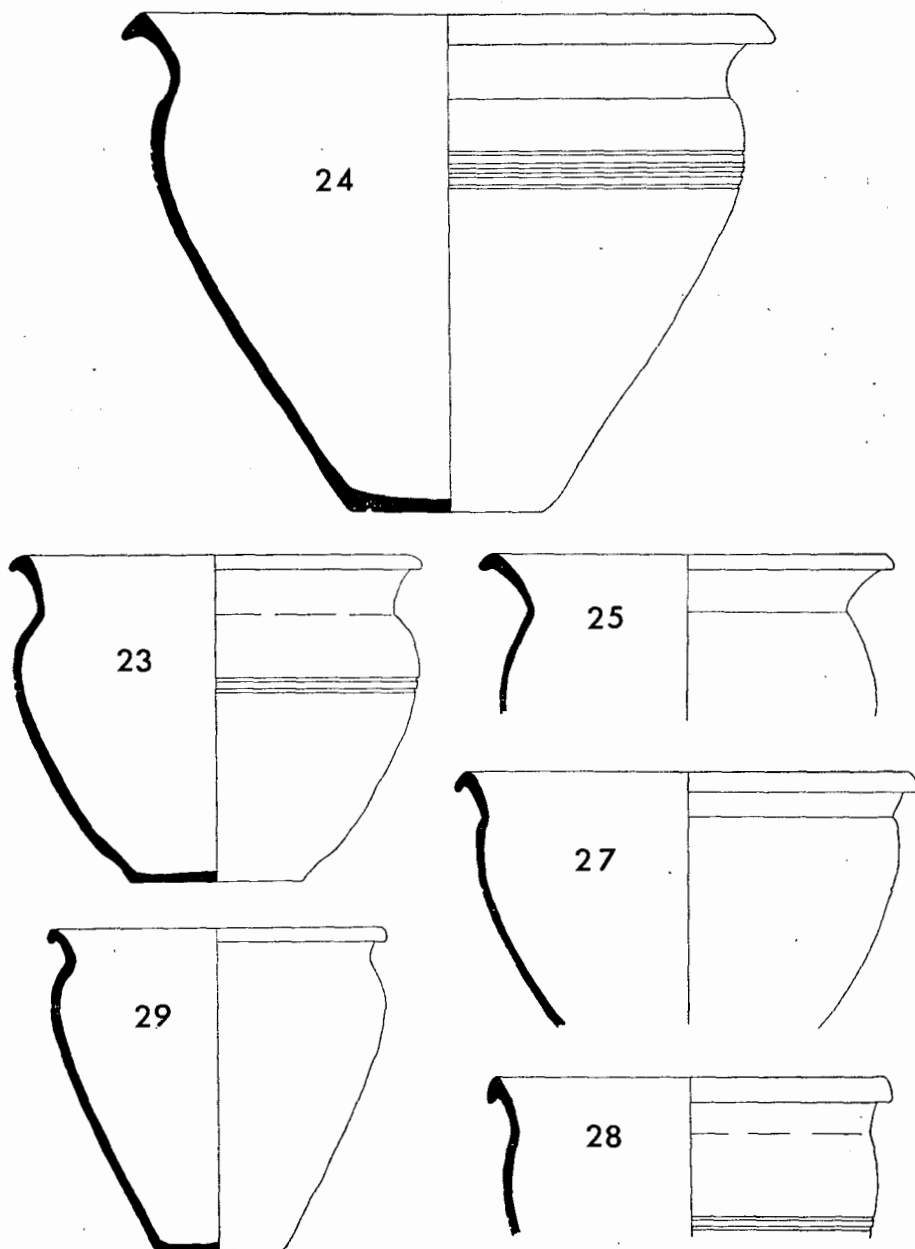


FIG. 5.

- 24 Late 2nd–late 3rd century  
 (i) Astley I (a); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a); Forden II; Manchester 1972; Sutton Walls (b); Turret 39a; Wroxeter 1923–7 (b) & (c); Wroxeter Piscina.  
 (ii) Astley II; Bourton Bridge; Droitwich; Gloucester; Kenchester 1956–8; Kenchester 1963; Stoke Orchard; Worcester: Market Hall; Wroxeter III.  
 (iii) Malvern Kiln II.
- 25 2nd–3rd century  
 (i) Astley I (a); Gloucester: Bon Marché (e) & (f); Whitchurch (c).  
 (ii) Putley 1954; Gloucester: Bon Marché; Witcombe.
- 26 Possibly later 2nd to late 3rd century  
 (i) Wroxeter Piscina.  
 (ii) Bourton-on-the-Water.<sup>11</sup>
- 27 Late 3rd–4th century  
 (i) Astley I (d); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a).  
 (ii) Manchester 1972; Stoke Orchard; Sutton Walls.  
 (iii) Malvern Kiln I.
- 28 Late 3rd–4th century  
 (i) Astley I (c); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a); Whitchurch (c).
- 29 Late 3rd–4th century  
 (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a) & (b); Gloucester: Bon Marché (f) & (h); Kenchester 1956–8; Leintwardine 1968 (d).  
 (ii) Gloucester; Witcombe; Worcester: Market Hall; Worcester: Old Palace Lodge.  
 (iii) Malvern Kiln I; Wroxeter Kiln.
- 30 In the case of this very flared example minor variations of rim form and variations in decoration are common.  
 Late 3rd–4th century  
 (i) Astley I (c) & (d); Leintwardine 1968 (c); Whitchurch (c).  
 (ii) Manchester 1972; Stoke Orchard; Sutton Walls; Whitchurch; Wroxeter III.  
 (iii) Wroxeter Kiln.
- 31 Probably 4th century  
 (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Gloucester: Bon Marché (f); Worcester: Origins (b).  
 (ii) Droitwich; Hucclecote; Sutton Walls.  
 (iii) Malvern Kiln I.
- 32 Early/mid–late 4th century  
 (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Frocester Court I; Kenchester 1956–8.  
 (ii) Chesters Villa; Gloucester; Putley 1954; Stoke Orchard; Witcombe.  
 (iii) Malvern Kilns I & III.
- 33 Probably 4th century  
 (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b)  
 (ii) Bourton Bridge; Gloucester 1966–7.  
 (iii) Malvern Kiln I.
- D. Bowls and wide-mouthed jars with beaded or everted rims*
- 34 2nd–4th century  
 (i) Astley I (a); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Leigh Sinton; Whitchurch (b).  
 (ii) Whitchurch; Wroxeter 1923–7.  
 (iii) Alkington Kiln; Malvern Kiln II.
- 35 Probably 2nd–4th century  
 (i) Astley I (a); Hawford; Wroxeter Piscina; Wroxeter Baths 16.54 (an unpublished 2nd-century group).

11. The Bourton vessel is illustrated by Green (*Gloucester* q.v.).

- (ii) Gloucester; Whitchurch; Worcester: Market Hall; Worcester: Origins.
- (iii) Alkington Kiln; Malvern Kiln II.

36 2nd-3rd century

- (i) Astley I (c) & (d); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a); Hawford; Wroxeter 1936-7 (a).
- (ii) Witcombe.

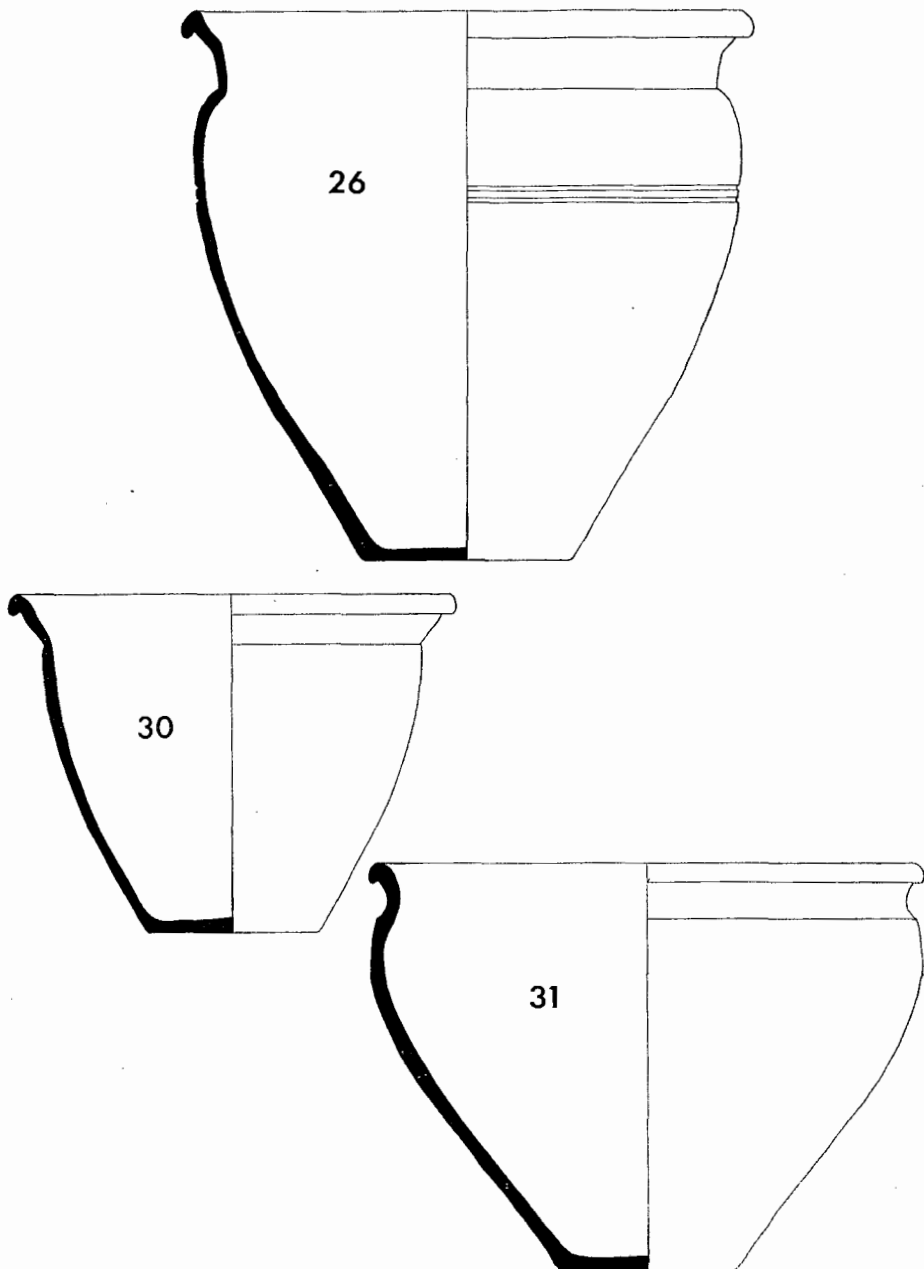


FIG. 6.

- 37 Late 3rd-4th century on the present very limited evidence  
(i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a) & (b).

*E. Tankards*

- 38 Mid-late 1st century  
(i) Gloucester Forum, primary levels; Mynydd Bychan; Sudbrook (c); Usk.

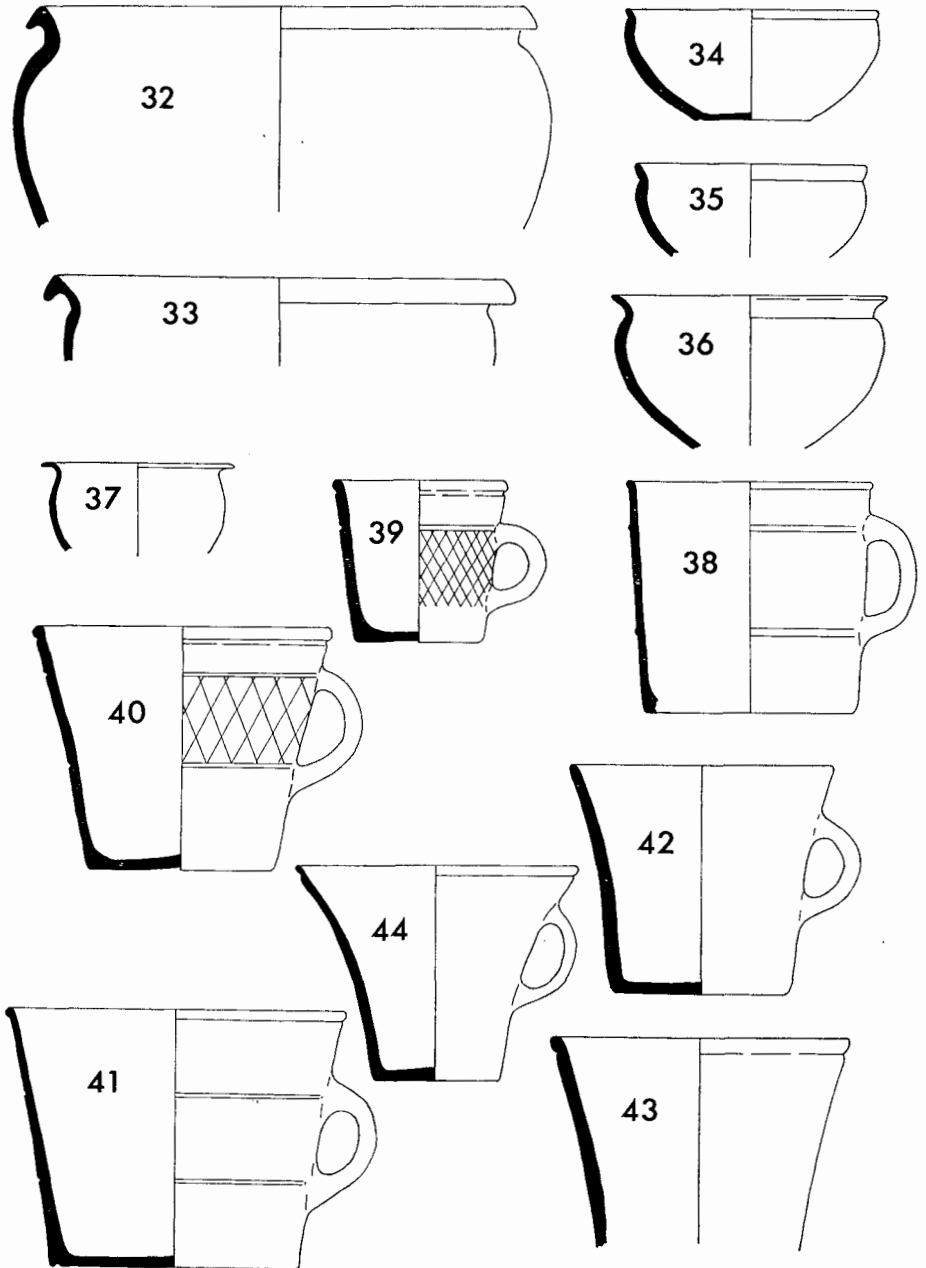


FIG. 7.

- (ii) Gloucester; Stoke Orchard; Sudbrook.
  - (iii) Shepton Mallet Kiln.
- 39 This type occurs both with and without grooves on the body and lattice decoration.  
2nd century
- (i) Forden III; Leintwardine 1960; Milecastle 48; Old Kilpatrick; Sutton Walls (a) & (b); Turret 35a; Turret 48b; Turret 49b; Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Carlisle; Gloucester: Bon Marché; Leigh Sinton; Northwich; Stoke Orchard; Sutton Walls; Whitchurch Vagas; Worcester: Old Palace Lodge.
  - (iii) Alkington Kiln; Perry Barr Kiln; Shepton Mallet Kiln.
- 40 The same variations in decoration occur on this type as on no. 39 above  
2nd-early 3rd century
- (i) Astley I (a); Forden II; Gloucester: Bon Marché (c); Leintwardine 1968 (a); Milecastle 50TW; Sutton Walls (b); Turret 35a.
  - (ii) Sutton Walls; Wroxeter I.
  - (iii) Perry Barr Kiln.
- 41 2nd-3rd century
- (i) Astley I (a).
  - (ii) Sutton Walls.
  - (iii) Cirencester (a deformed vessel in the museum suggesting a nearby kiln, see p. 38).
- 42 This type is without scored decoration, but it is sometimes burnished horizontally near the rim and the base and vertically in between these horizontal bands.  
Probably 2nd and 3rd century
- (i) Gloucester 1966-7 (a); Leintwardine 1968 (a); Putley 1954.
  - (ii) Cirencester: Parsonage Field; Gloucester; Gloucester 1966-7; M 5; Falfield.
  - (iii) Alkington Kiln.
- 43 Lattice decoration occurs only occasionally on this type. Rims are not always beaded.  
Late 2nd-3rd century
- (i) Gloucester 1966-7 (a); Gloucester: Bon Marché (h); Manchester 1972; Turret 48a (in Period Ib and probably residual in II); Leintwardine 1968 (b); Worcester: Origins (a); Wroxeter Piscina.
  - (ii) Bourton Bridge; Gloucester; Gloucester: Bon Marché; M 5; Falfield; Sutton Walls; Worcester: Origins.
  - (iii) Malvern Kiln II.
- 44 4th century
- (i) Astley I (c); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a); Gloucester: Bon Marché (f); Pagans Hill (a) & (b); Sutton Walls (c).
  - (ii) Droitwich; Worcester: Market Hall; Worcester: Origins; Wroxeter Defences.
  - (iii) Malvern Kiln III.

#### *F. Flanged bowls with an internal lip*

Decoration in the form of wavy lines and grooves as on types 45, 47 and 48 may occur on any vessel in this class, although it is most common on 2nd-century forms. Handles as on type 45 may also occur on other types in this class.

- 45 Reeded rims sometimes occur in this type.  
Probably 1st-2nd century
- (i) Gloucester.
  - (ii) Malvern Kiln II.
- 46 2nd-3rd century
- (i) Astley I (a) & (c); Hawford.
- 47 2nd-3rd century
- (i) Gloucester 1966-7 (a) & (b); Sutton Walls (b).

(ii) Gloucester.

48 Probably 2nd-3rd century

(i) Wroxeter Piscina.

(ii) Cirencester: Dyer Court; Gloucester; Gloucester: Bon Marché.

(iii) Malvern Kiln II.

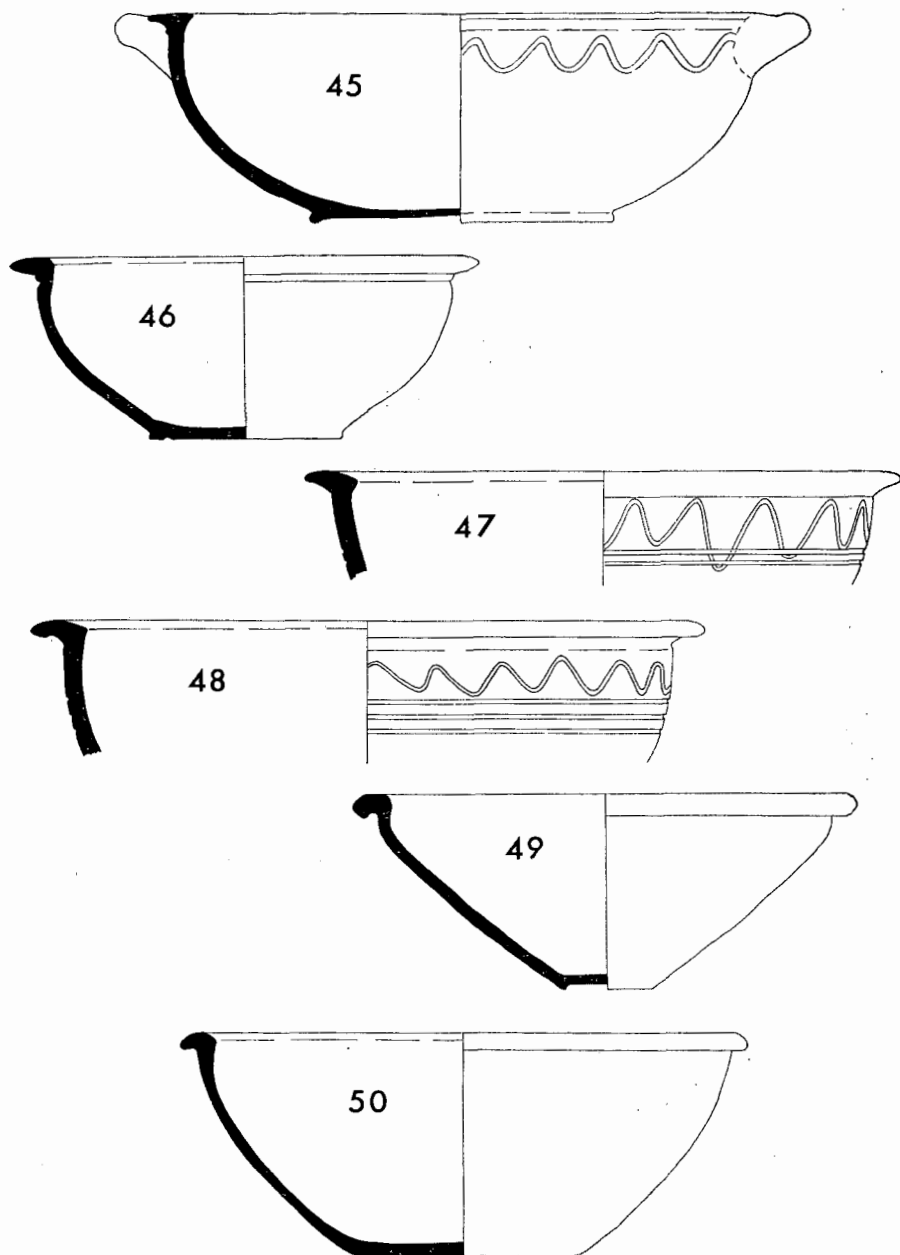


FIG. 8.

- 49 A local variation from the Gloucester area.  
Perhaps 3rd–4th century  
(i) Gloucester: Bon Marché (a).  
(ii) Gloucester; Gloucester: Bon Marché.
- 50 Late 2nd–late 3rd century  
(i) Wroxeter 1923–7 (b); Wroxeter 1936–7 (c); Wroxeter Piscina.  
(ii) Worcester: City Wall.
- 51 Occasionally the rim of this type is divided by a deep groove.  
3rd century  
(i) Astley I (b) & (c).  
(ii) Worcester: Market Hall; Wroxeter.
- 52 Probably 2nd–3rd century  
(i) Astley (a) & (c).  
(ii) Alkington Kiln.
- 53 Late 3rd–4th century  
(i) Astley I (b); Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b)  
(ii) Putley 1954; Gloucester 1966–7.  
(iii) Malvern Kiln III.

*G. Flanged bowls with reeded or grooved rims*

Most vessels of this class would be suitable for conversion into colanders (see no. 58 below).

- 54 This type may be dated by analogy with other flanged reeded and carinated bowls in other fabrics (i.e. with the common Flavian-Trajanic vessel as for instance *Newstead 1911*, FIG. 26, p. 250). The type probably survived into early Hadrianic times.  
(ii) Gloucester; Kenchester 1956.
- 55 2nd century, possibly surviving into 3rd century  
(i) Gloucester: Bon Marché (f); Hawford; Sutton Walls (b).  
(ii) Gloucester; Sutton Walls; Wroxeter.
- 56 3rd century  
(i) Wroxeter 1923–7 (c); Wroxeter Piscina.  
(ii) Whitchurch.  
(iii) Malvern Kiln II.
- 57 3rd century  
(i) Astley I (a).  
(ii) Gloucester; Gloucester 1966–7.  
(iii) Wroxeter Kiln.
- 58 Although the Severn Valley potters could have adapted most of their flanged bowl forms into colanders, this is the only type where this has definitely been done.  
2nd–3rd century  
(i) Astley I (a); Sutton Walls (b), this vessel is not certainly a colander but it is very similar to the others.  
(ii) Wroxeter Defences 1962.  
(iii) There is one colander fragment from Malvern Kiln II, although the exact form is uncertain.  
Gloucester 1966–7 also yielded colander fragments.

*H. Iron 'C' derived bowls*

Decoration on the body of vessels of this class varies considerably. Combinations of grooves and/or lattice decoration are frequent.

- 59 1st–2nd century  
(i) Gloucester Forum (primary levels); Usk.

- (ii) Gloucester; Sutton Walls (FIG. 21, 22 from a mixed collection, but all apparently 2nd century or later); Kingsholm 1972.
- 60 The dating of this type is uncertain although a similar date to no. 59 above seems not unlikely.
- (ii) Sutton Walls; Whitchurch.
- (iii) Malvern Kiln IV.

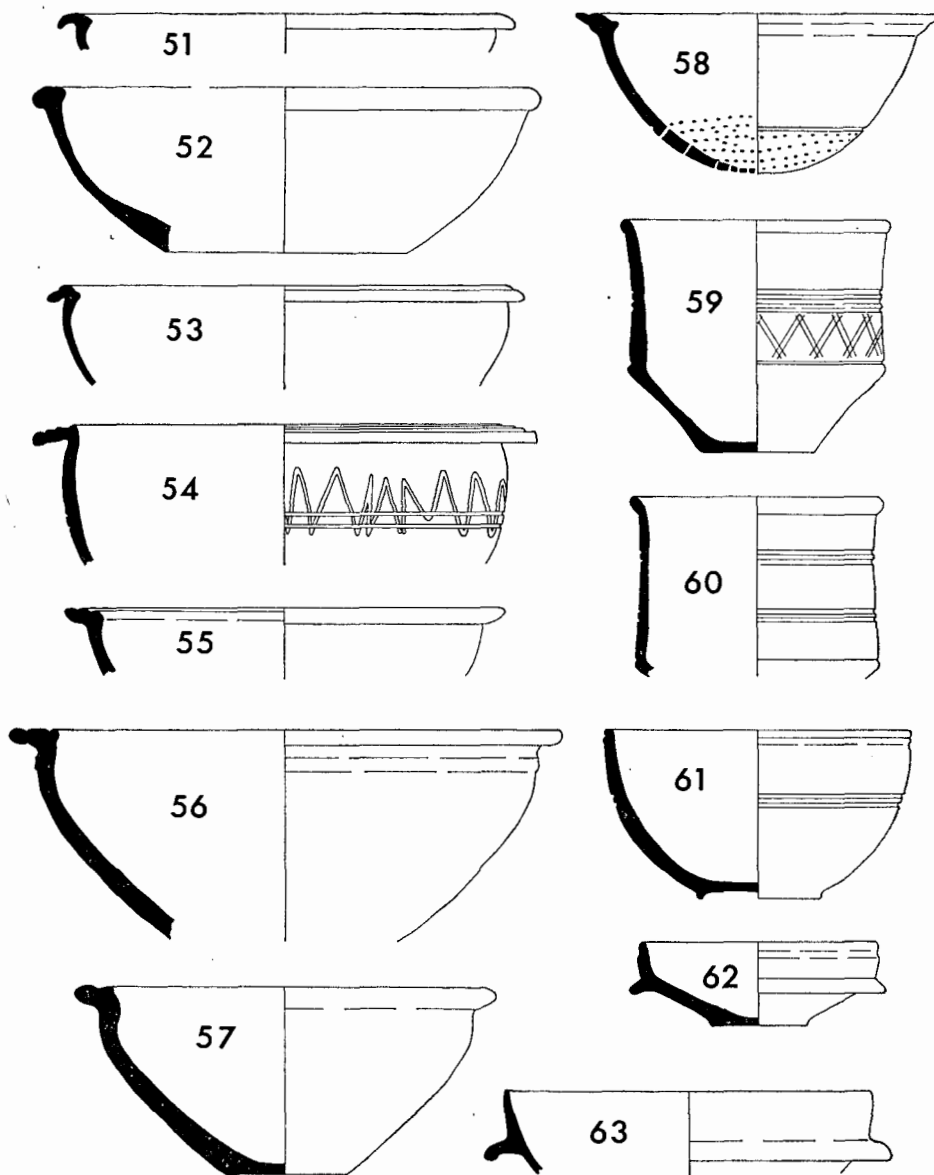


FIG. 9.

*I. Types reminiscent of samian forms*

61 Reminiscent of samian form 37 which was current from the mid/late 1st century until the late 2nd, and in colour coated fabrics later still.

(i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (a); Whitchurch (a).

(ii) Gloucester; Gloucester 1966-7.

Types 62-4 are all reminiscent of samian form 38 and are included to show the range of types rather than a dated sequence. Form 38 was extensively imitated in colour coated fabrics and so a date range from the mid/late 2nd century until the 4th is possible for the examples shown.

62 (i) Wroxeter 1936-7 (c); Gloucester: Bon Marché (g).

(ii) Gloucester; Wroxeter 1923-7.

63 (ii) Putley 1954; Wroxeter (unpublished).

64 (i) Astley I (b).

(ii) Witcombe; Whitchurch.

*J. Segmental bowls*

All vessels in this class have a close resemblance to types in non-Severn Valley fabrics. Tentative dates may be offered by analogy.

65 A common 2nd-century form in other fabrics (cf. Leicester: Jewry Wall, FIG. 22, 1, mid 2nd-early 3rd century).

(i) Gloucester.

66 The shape is reminiscent of the so-called Rhaetian mortarium, a 2nd-century form (cf. Wroxeter I, p. 77, nos 70, 74 & 78).

(i) Astley I (a):

67 Reminiscent of the mortarium, Gillam type 273 (mid-late 3rd century).

(i) Astley I (b).

68 This vessel bears some resemblance to Leicester: Jewry Wall, FIG. 22, 9 and, like it, is probably related to the hammer-head mortarium, a 3rd-4th century form.

(i) Gloucester (a vessel in the city Museum, found acting as a lid over a jar of type 8 which contained a large coin hoard with a terminal date of c. A.D. 293-6).

(ii) Gloucester; Gloucester 1966-7.

*K. Dishes and platters*

69 The form is probably derived from Belgic or Gallo-Belgic antecedents as Camulodunum type 24.

Perhaps 1st-2nd century

(i) Gloucester: Bon Marché (d).

70 Probably derived from vessels as Camulodunum type 16. Similar derivatives in other fabrics survive into the 2nd century.

(i) Gloucester; Stoke Orchard.

71 Probably a remote derivative of Camulodunum type 16 and perhaps 1st-2nd century as no. 70 above.

(i) Gloucester 1966-7 (a).

(ii) Stoke Orchard.

(iii) Alkington Kiln.

72 The only clearly dated context is 4th century but the type may have been current earlier than this.

(i) Huntsham.

(ii) Gloucester; Kenchester 1963.

73 Another possible derivative of Camulodunum type 16. On the analogy of a similar vessel, in a

different fabric, from northern Britain (Gillam type 336) a mid/late-late 1st century date may be tentatively suggested.

(i) Gloucester: Friars Orchard (a); Gloucester 1966-7 (a) & (b) may be residual.

(ii) Gloucester; Stoke Orchard.

74 The dating of this type is uncertain.

(i) Gloucester: Friars Orchard (b).

(ii) Gloucester: Bon Marché.

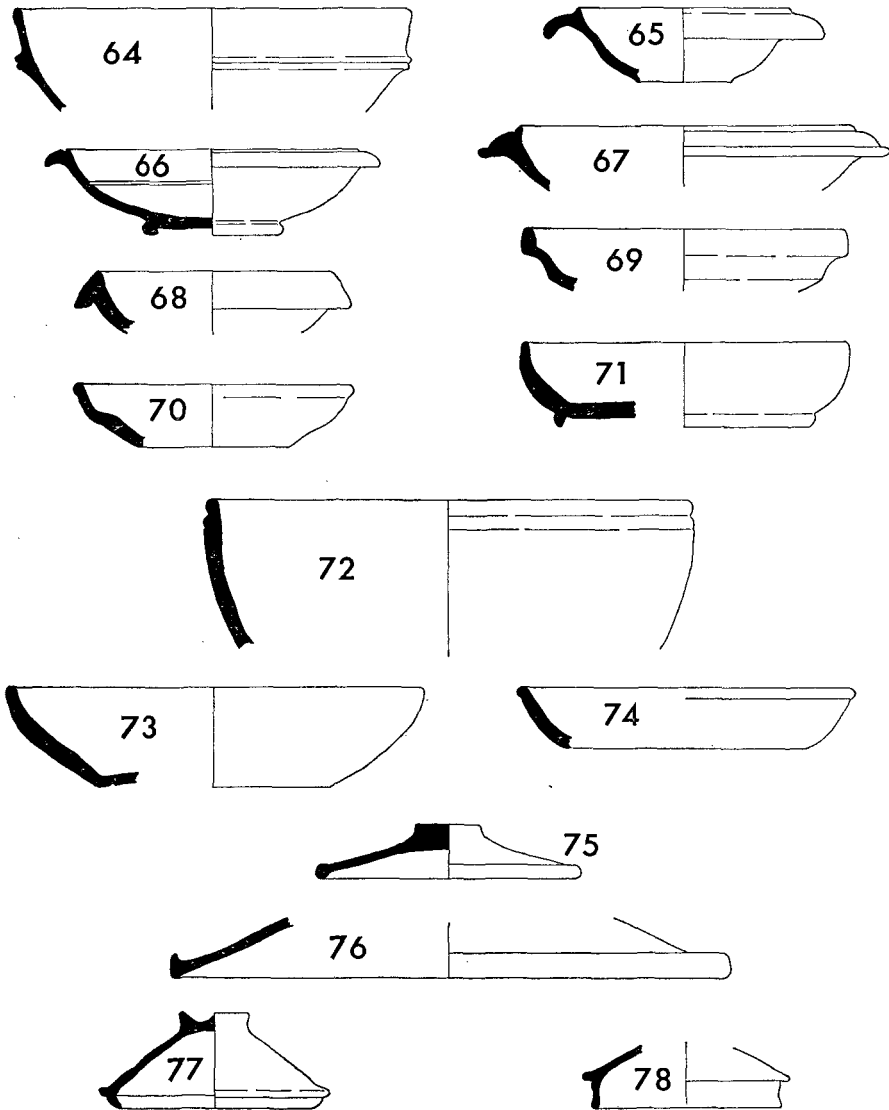


FIG. 10.

*L. Lids*

This class of vessel has been largely neglected by excavators and publishers of coarse pottery. As a result the types below can only be offered as an illustration of the range of lid types, rather than a dated sequence. Many of the shallow bowls may have served as lids on occasion (see no. 68 for instance) and the trimming of sherds to serve as lids was also common practice.

- 75 (i) Gloucester 1966-7 (a).  
 (ii) Gloucester.
- 76 3rd-4th century  
 (i) Droitwich: Bays Meadow (b); Wroxeter Piscina.  
 (ii) Gloucester 1966-7.
- 77 On typological grounds this may be tentatively suggested as being 3rd-4th century.  
 (i) Gloucester.
- 78 4th century  
 (i) Cirencester: Dyer Court; Gloucester 1966-7.

*DISCUSSION*

The export of Severn Valley Ware to the northern military zone has already been discussed elsewhere<sup>12</sup> and it now seems appropriate to discuss certain aspects of the ware as it occurs in its main distribution area, namely the production and distribution of this distinctive class of coarse pottery and the origins and basic chronology of the industry.

*Production and Distribution*

As yet relatively few kilns producing Severn Valley Ware have come to light and the peripheral nature of some of them suggests that many of the main production centres still await discovery. Information on most of the known kilns is in print and a brief summary of kiln information to date will, therefore, suffice:

(a) *Alkington*. This small kiln lay in what is probably a small rural settlement discovered by chance during work in advance of the M5 Motorway. The kiln was of the updraught type with the oven walls resting on stone bases and a cylindrical structure above is very reasonably suggested by the excavator. The kiln had been backfilled with kiln waste after it went out of use. Four principal varieties of fabric were distinguished by the excavator, delineated chiefly by the amount of quartz filler in each. All fall within our definition of Severn Valley Ware. Types represented at the kiln and probably made there include necked jars (our types 20-21), tankards (types 39 and 42), storage jars (types 2 and 3), bowls (of types 34, 35, and 52); also mortar-like bowls not illustrated here and dishes which may be our type 71. The dating of the kiln is problematical. Black-burnished wares found on the site show that occupation continued into the 3rd century although probably not the late century. There is a general absence of types which need be earlier than the early 2nd century and a date for the kiln in the early/mid 2nd century seems probable.

(b) *Malvern*.<sup>13</sup> In all seven kilns producing Romano-British coarse pottery are known from the Malvern area, together with two tile kilns from nearby Leigh Sinton. Of these, four kilns were producing Severn Valley Ware. Kiln I was of 4th-century date and produced coarse black ware as well as Severn Valley Ware; its products included storage jars of our types 5 and 10 and wide-mouthed jars of types 27 and 31-3. Kiln II was of 2nd-century date and entirely given over to the production of Severn Valley Ware; products included storage jars of types 1, 3 and 4, wide-mouthed jars of types 21-2 and 24, bowls of types 34-5 and flanged bowls of types 45, 48 and 56, also

12. See *Webster 1972*.

13. Malvern Kiln I has been published by Peacock (see Bibliography). Information on the other Malvern kilns is derived from Mr P. Waters to whom I am most grateful for providing information and allowing me to see the pottery prior to his own publication of the kilns (*Trans. Worcs. Arch. Soc.* forthcoming). All are identified from wasters rather than structures. I have followed the numbering adopted by Mr Waters.

colanders although no certain colander rim survives. The kiln also yielded a very interesting set of tankards of type 43 in at least five different sizes. Kiln III was of 4th-century date and all fragments so far discovered from it are of Severn Valley Ware (a storage jar of type 10, a wide-mouthed jar of type 32, a tankard of type 44 and a flanged bowl of type 53). Kiln IV is known from potters waste including a Severn Valley Ware bowl of type 60 and is probably 2nd century. The Malvern kilns are concentrated within an area of about two square miles immediately north of the modern town and represent the largest group of Severn Valley Ware kilns so far found. However, with no more than two kilns from any one century, any thoughts of a large pottery producing complex are premature. We may only note that Malvern was a centre of pottery production in the pre-Roman, Roman and post-Roman periods<sup>14</sup> and is in a position well suited to supplying the needs of the middle Severn area.

(c) *Perry Barr*. Among the pottery produced at the kiln at Perry Barr on the outskirts of Birmingham were tankards of type 40. Tankard wasters made up between a quarter and a half of all wasters from the site but were the only vessels in Severn Valley Ware being produced there. This emphasizes the peripheral nature of the kiln in relation to the distribution area for Severn Valley Ware, but may also show that the kiln was being used by more than one potter (as may also be the case at Malvern Kiln I). It is interesting to note that both at Perry Barr and at Shepton Mallet (see below) we see specialization in just one Severn Valley form, the tankard; it may be noted that the tankard is the most widely distributed of all Severn Valley Ware products and that it is the chief type to reach the Hadrian's Wall area.<sup>15</sup> It may well be that the source of the Severn Valley Ware vessels on Hadrian's Wall was just such a specialist producer as we see at Perry Barr.

(d) *Shepton Mallet*.<sup>16</sup> Several kilns were discovered on the outskirts of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, in the mid 19th century. Of these, one at least was producing tankards of types 38-9. Other products of the kilns are not in Severn Valley Ware and a specialist producer of tankards as at Perry Barr is probable. This kiln also is on the very periphery of Severn Valley Ware distribution. The date of production would seem to be the late 1st and early 2nd centuries and the distribution was mainly northwards.

(e) *Wroxeter*. The large number of wasters from the so-called 'Wroxeter Pottery Factory' indicate a kiln or kilns nearby. The fabrics produced included black and burnished wares and a certain amount of red colour-coated ware as well as Severn Valley Ware. The latter included storage jars of types 5, 11 and 13, wide-mouthed jars of types 29-30, jars of type 15 and flanged bowls of type 57. Production was probably in the 3rd-4th century. No doubt the neighbouring town of Wroxeter formed the major market for the products of this centre.

No other centres of Severn Valley Ware production have so far been located<sup>17</sup> although the presence of a distorted tankard of type 41 at Cirencester would suggest a kiln sufficiently close to the town to be marketing 'seconds' there.<sup>18</sup> Nowhere, however, has anything approaching a centre of large-scale production (for example, on the pattern of Hartshill/Mancetter) come to light and it seems likely that the Severn Valley industry was broken up between small local centres mostly producing for a local market. If this is true then we may expect the discovery of further small centres of production; many of these will be close to the main towns of the regions and are, indeed,

14. Discussed by Peacock: *Malvern I* (q.v.).

15. See *Webster 1972*.

16. Cf P. V. Webster, 'The Shepton Mallet Kilns', forthcoming. See also I. Hodder in *Britannia*, 5 (1974), pp. 346-9.

17. Further kilns at Diglis and Bredon Hill have been postulated but are unlikely. Bredon Hill vessels, at first thought to be from a kiln (and so marked in the British Museum Collection) were later found to be from a corn-drying oven. Two kilns are known at Gloucester (see *TBGAS*, 91 (1972), pp. 18ff., and *Ant. J.*, 52 (1972), p. 41) but neither seem to have been producing Severn Valley Ware (despite the fact that this seems to be implied in the report on the Alkington kiln, *Alkington* q.v.). The 'mica-dusted' Severn Valley Ware of Gloucester 1966-7 is unrelated to the fabric under discussion here.

18. Cirencester Museum, Accession no. C.2341. Two other distorted fragments (not in Severn Valley Ware) were noted in the museum collection; one (Acc. no. C.2251. A.150.9) was marked 'Lewis Lane Telephone Exchange', the other was unmarked.

suggested by such local characteristics as the superior finish of many Severn Valley Ware vessels found in the Gloucester area and the unusually bulbous shape of some wide-mouthed jars from the Worcester area (e.g. type 23). The Severn Valley Ware industry would seem to be one of small-scale producers producing similar forms in a similar fabric but from a variety of centres.

The distribution map (FIG. 11) clearly justifies the term 'Severn Valley Ware'. The main market is clearly concentrated in the Severn basin—the catchment area of the river Severn, its estuary and

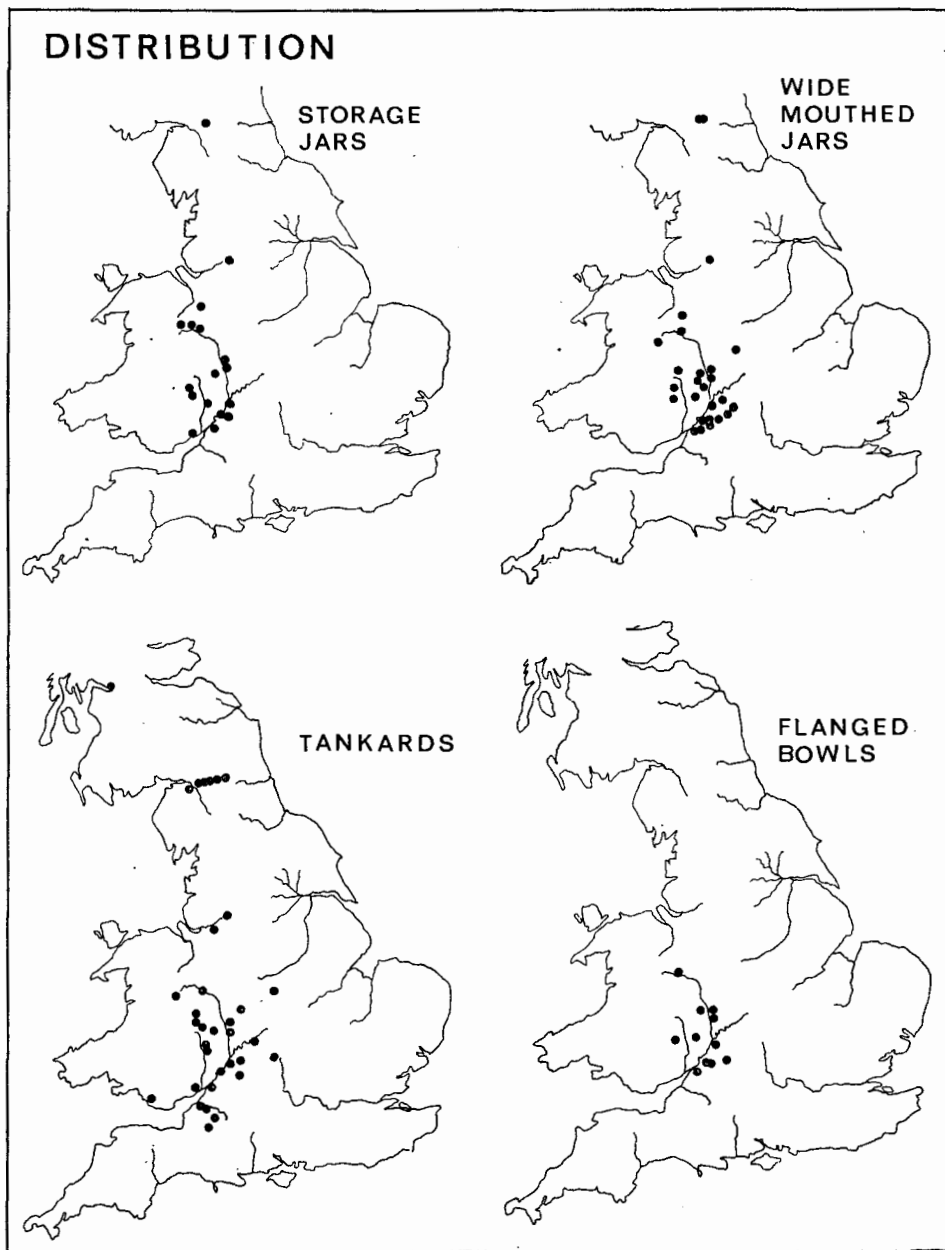


FIG. 11.

main tributaries. If we exclude the 'export area' in the northern military zone the limits of distribution on the north lie along the edge of the Cheshire plain (Whitchurch, Northwich, Manchester), on the west they are either Forden Gaer or possibly Caersws,<sup>19</sup> Leintwardine and Kenchester. Penetration of the South Wales market was limited to the conquest period with examples from Mynydd Bychan, Sudbrook and the Neronian fortress at Usk. To the south most types are not found south of the Bristol Avon, although the tankard is found as far south as Shepton Mallet. The eastern limit would seem to be the head of the Thames river system. The primary influence in this distribution pattern would seem to be geographical, the concentration of routes along the valleys of the Severn and its tributaries, although as we shall see the availability of military markets in the mid 1st century may also have played a part.

We do not know how the ware was distributed, although if we are correct in assuming numbers of small centres long-distance transport may not often have been necessary. The Severn must have been much used in Roman times for transport<sup>20</sup> and would have provided an easy means of transporting and distributing pottery. Water transport seems most likely as the means of getting the ware to the northern/military zone.<sup>21</sup> However, two of the known kilns (Perry Barr and Shepton Mallet) lie close to major roads (Ryknield Street and the Fosse Way respectively) but removed from any major waterway and for these (and perhaps other centres also) road transport to their markets seems most probable. Pottery crated and packed in straw<sup>22</sup> can withstand quite a rough ride and could be moved by cart, while smaller loads such as the local potter would take to sell at the local market might even have been carried by pack-horse.<sup>23</sup>

#### *The Origins and Chronology of the Industry*

Severn Valley Ware probably first appeared in the lower Severn basin c. A.D. 55-70. At Gloucester it has been found by Green and Hurst on the Kingsholm site and it occurs on the forum site in levels predating the construction slots of the fortress barracks and dated probably to the mid-sixties of the 1st century.<sup>24</sup> A few fragments were associated with the kilns in Brunswick Road and Berkeley Street, although they were not kiln products in my opinion.<sup>25</sup> In South Wales the ware occurs on native sites of the conquest period at Mynydd Bychan (apparently in the period c. A.D. 50-75) and also at Sudbrook where it occurs only in levels also yielding samian (dated c. A.D. 40/50-80) and not on the earliest levels on the site. It is likely, therefore, that the ware appears on these native sites along with other romanized goods and it can be seen as material offered in trade by merchants from the Roman province to natives living on the borders of the province during the period of penetration and conquest in South Wales.

The key site in South Wales is, however, the large base at Usk.<sup>26</sup> The probable date for the pre-

19. There are a few sherds in Severn Valley Ware from recent excavations at Caersws (*cf* *Montgomery Col-lections*, 61, Pts 1-2 (1971), 37-42).

20. *Cf* Gildas, *De Exidio Britanniae*, 3. 'It has the advantages of the estuaries of two noble rivers, the Thames and the Severn, arms as it were, along which, of old, foreign luxuries were wont to be carried by ship.' Trans. by H. Williams, *Cymrodorion Record Series*, 3 (1899), 14-15. I am most grateful to Mr Mark Hassall for bringing my attention to this passage.

21. *Cf* Webster 1972, 197.

22. As evidence for the use of this method in Roman times we have the famous Pompeii 'hoard' of samian and lamps (*JRS*, 4 (1914), 28ff.). The juxtaposition of Gallic samian and Italian lamps in the hoard also suggests middlemen in the pottery trade and it would be interesting to know if such people existed in the domestic industry in Britain also.

23. Transport by boat, horse and cart and pack-horse are all shown on the Igel Monument, *cf* E. Esperandieu, *Récueil Général des Bas-Reliefs, Statues et Bustes de la Gaule Romaine* (Paris, 1914, reprinted New Jersey, 1965), Vol. VI, 437-60.

24. I am most grateful to Mr H. Hurst for discussing his excavations with me and for the help which he, J. Rhodes and M. Watkins gave in showing me relevant pottery housed in the Gloucester Museum.

25. *Cf* *Gloucester Kiln I*. I would date the kiln to the early Flavian period.

26. See *Usk Pottery*. I am most grateful to Drs Manning and Greene for their comments on the Usk excavation and pottery. It should be noted that since the writing of *Usk Pottery* renewed excavation and reassessment of the evidence has shown that there is only one fortress phase at Usk.

Flavian fortress at Usk is c. A.D. 55-67. The pottery from the fortress falls into two distinct groups. The first consists of forms, many of which, as Kevin Greene has shown, owe much to 'traditional' forms used by the army, principally in the lower Rhineland,<sup>27</sup> although in manufacture they are almost certainly local. At a point which can be shown stratigraphically to be later than the foundation of the fortress, a second series of types were added to the first; these are of more varied origin within lowland Britain and included Severn Valley Ware. The precise moment in the development of the fortress at Usk when Severn Valley Ware first appeared on the site cannot as yet be determined, but the possible date range is narrow and lies between the late fifties and late sixties of the 1st century. The correspondence with the dating at Gloucester and elsewhere is striking.

The early Severn Valley Ware potters were clearly catering for a mainly military market. The ware cannot, however, be tied to any one particular unit or site and therefore to a military production centre. The military sites at Kingsholm and under central Gloucester seem unlikely to have been used by the same unit but the ware appears on both sites. Any attempt to relate the ware to either the Twentieth or the Second Legion fails because, although both may have used the ware at Gloucester, it does not appear at Wroxeter until well after the departure of the Twentieth from that site and it does not appear at Caerleon at all. This leads us away from the hypothesis first advanced by Charles Green<sup>28</sup> suggesting that the 'Glevum' variety of Severn Valley Ware was legionary in origin. Indeed, other elements of Green's argument would no longer be accepted: it is difficult to see similarities between his 'Glevum Ware' and the ware which used to be called 'Legionary Ware' at Caerleon. Although both wares include copies of samian and Belgic prototypes the differences in technique are marked, not least in the use of a red samian-like slip by the Caerleon potters, which is quite unlike the burnished finish of the Severn Valley Ware vessels. Most important of all, it has been demonstrated by Mr G. Boon and Mrs K. F. Hartley that the Caerleon fabric itself is unlikely to be the product of a truly legionary pottery and is most likely the product of a civilian pottery albeit supplying a largely military (but not exclusively legionary) market.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, Boon's assessment of the dating evidence at Caerleon makes continuity between Gloucester and Caerleon production improbable.

The likely origin of the common Severn Valley Ware forms seems too varied if we are to think of a military origin for the ware. Certainly there are some types which derive from samian types or from coarse pottery types used by the army abroad,<sup>30</sup> but other types have their origin in pre-conquest Britain. For example, the wide-mouthed jars (types 19-20) and some of the bowls (types 59-60) are best derived from Belgic prototypes<sup>31</sup> although it is not possible to identify firmly from which part of Belgic Britain their makers are likely to have come, or even if they were indigenous to the lower Severn region. However, in the case of the handled tankard we can be more definite. The derivation of the Romano-British tankard is discussed elsewhere<sup>32</sup> and it is sufficient to say here that the restricted distribution of pottery tankards in the pre-Roman period and the similarity of these, Durotrigan, vessels with early Severn Valley forms make it highly likely that a movement of potters producing pottery tankards took place between Durotrigia and the lower Severn in the early Roman period.

The first Severn Valley Ware to appear would thus seem to be the product of civilian potteries probably staffed by potters of diverse origins, some probably of Belgic origin, some from Durotrigia, some probably from the *vici* around military camps on the continent. They each brought

27. *Usk Pottery*, 31ff.

28. *Gloucester*, q.v.

29. Cf G. Boon, 'Legionary ware at Caerleon?', *Arch. Camb.*, 115 (1966), 45-66.

30. For example, the bowls with inturned lip as type 45 have a close resemblance to vessels derived from the Mediterranean via the Lower Rhineland (cf *Usk Pottery*, type 11, pp. 33-5).

31. A comparison of the wide-mouthed jars with R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle* (London, 1943), 239. FIG. 75, 234-6, or Hawkes & Hull, *Camulodunum* (London, 1947), pl. 78, form 230, or E. Clifford, *Bagendon* (1961), FIG. 52, 18-26, FIG. 53, 1-3 will suffice to make the point.

32. P. V. Webster, 'Roman and Iron Age Tankards in Western Britain', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, 25 (1974-6), 231-6.

their own styles with them and learnt new ones at their new centres where they produced pots in local materials and, perhaps under the influence of the demands of the military market, developed a remarkably uniform series of forms and a fairly standard fabric.

The reasons for such a concentration of potters in the lower Severn basin at this time are not hard to find. It is an area where the pre-Roman ceramic tradition was less developed than in the more Belgicized areas of Britain and there must, therefore, have been few potential local sources of supply to meet the needs of the growing military force deployed against the Silures in the period A.D. 50-70. At the same time troops must have been withdrawn from southern and eastern Britain for service in the west and there would thus be an obvious incentive for potters to follow their markets in the move westwards and at the same time fill the supply vacuum on the western frontier.<sup>33</sup> The supply position at Usk seems to illustrate this point. At first Usk was supplied with pottery with strong continental affinities and probably produced locally by potters who had come to Britain with the army. Before long, however, a whole variety of 'native' types make their appearance on the site; clearly the supplies of pottery were being supplemented by potters from lowland Britain. Some of these men will have sent their wares to the site from a distance, but the existence of such large units on the western frontier as those found at Usk and Gloucester must have caused others to cut their transport costs by moving to the new area of demand and selling their wares 'hot from the kiln'.

We may, therefore, replace Green's hypothesis of a military or legionary kiln with one in which the military is seen as a major market rather than a major producer. Even in this situation it might have been possible for the military to compel potters to move to a new area with them. This is certainly a possibility with the early producers of Severn Valley Ware but is on the whole unlikely, firstly because, as we have seen, the ware reaches native as well as military sites and secondly because despite the fact that the military concentration in the lower Severn soon dispersed the potters producing Severn Valley Ware did not again move with the military market. Just as Severn Valley Ware did not travel to Wroxeter with the Twentieth Legion, it did not go to Caerleon with the Second, or into Wales with the new Flavian garrison. Instead the potters producing this ware seem to have stayed in the lower Severn basin, presumably because the veteran colony at Gloucester and the growing civilian market of the area provided a sufficiently lucrative trade.

During the 1st century the ware appears to have a restricted distribution in the lower Severn area (see FIG. 12). In the 2nd century, however, there was a major expansion into the upper Severn valley and beyond with the ware reaching Wroxeter, Whitchurch, and Manchester probably shortly after the mid century,<sup>34</sup> while it was being exported to the Hadrian's Wall area by as early as the early A.D. 120s.<sup>35</sup> The ware would seem to have reached Leintwardine on the western limits of its distribution soon after A.D. 160 as it does not occur in the fort at Bucton (dated on samian evidence c. A.D. 120-160) but appears in the fort at Leintwardine which probably replaced Bucton c. A.D. 160.

By the end of the 2nd century the industry seems to have reached the limits of its expansion, although it continued to flourish throughout the 3rd and well into the 4th century (see FIG. 12 and below). The 2nd-century expansion may have been partly in response to army contracts in the north but is likely to have been largely a matter of the gradual migration of potters using the Severn Valley Ware technique along the main routes of the Severn basin until they came to supply most of the major centres of population in the area. The attraction of the new area must have been in the increased civilian prosperity (and therefore demand) which is evidenced in another way by the construction of large public and private buildings at centres such as Wroxeter<sup>36</sup> and in the large

33. For what may be a similar movement of potters following a military market, see *Arch. J.*, 130 (1973), 103.

34. Cf *Wroxeter I*, 40, *Manchester 1972*, 94, 102, *Whitchurch*, 155.

35. For a review of the evidence see *Webster 1972*. For a vessel from a context of c. A.D. 122-30 see *Milecastle 50 TW*, 31.

36. Cf S. S. Frere, *Britannia* (London, 1967), 242-3. The civil development of Wroxeter may have been retarded by the presence of a military garrison in the 1st century, but the examples cited by Frere show that it was far from being alone in its provision of public buildings in the 2nd century.

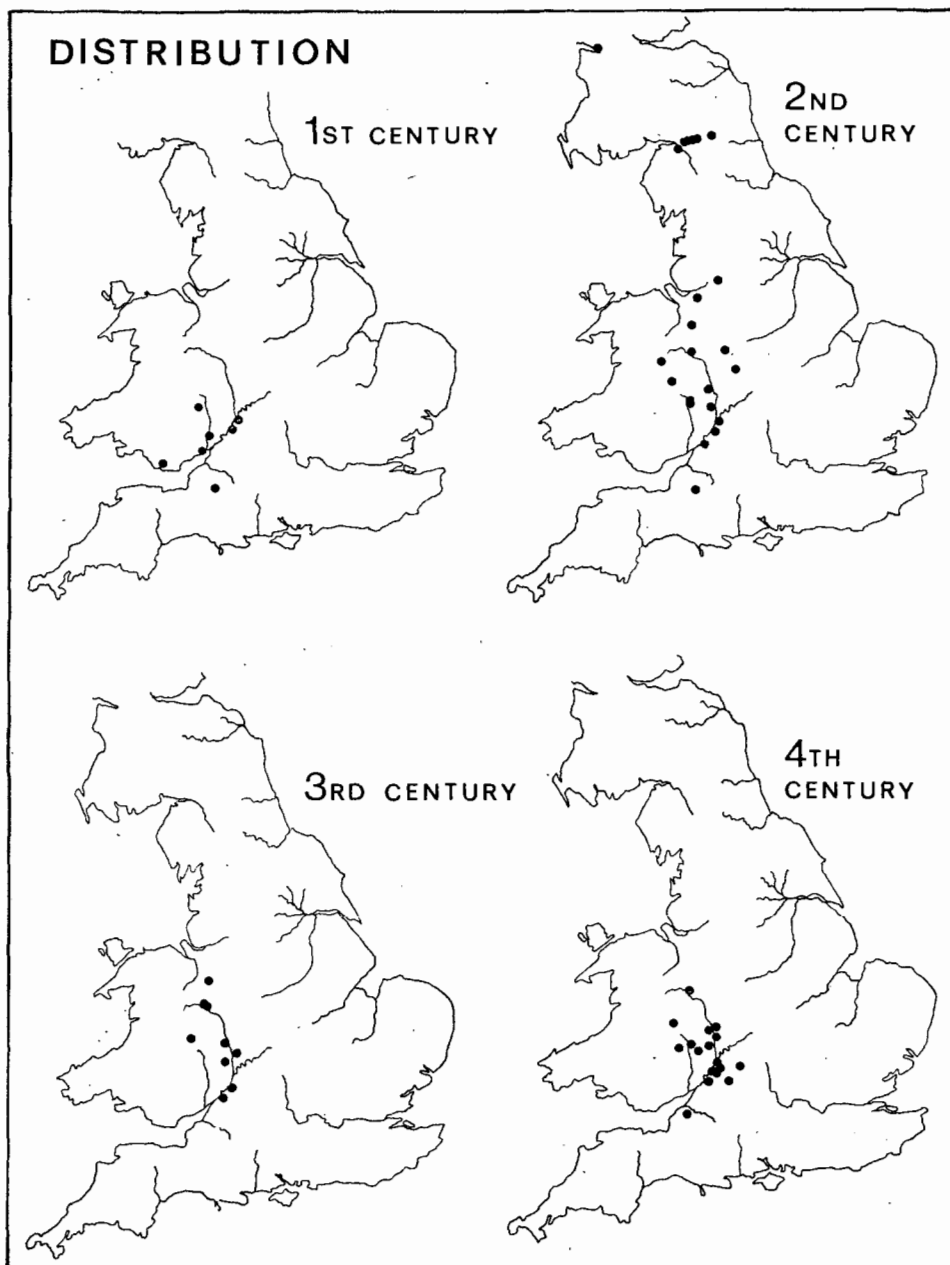


FIG. 12.

private buildings which are apparent even at such small centres at Whitchurch, Shropshire.<sup>37</sup> We may also see this growing prosperity reflected in the coin evidence from rural sites where coins of the 1st century are rare but increasingly abundant from the 2nd century onwards.<sup>38</sup> All points to

<sup>37</sup> *Whitchurch*, 207. The buildings revealed by the 1965-6 excavations are unlikely to have been the only substantial buildings of this date in the town.

<sup>38</sup> I should like to thank Dr J. P. C. Kent for information on this point.

an increasing civilian demand in the Severn basin as a whole which was met by the expanding Severn Valley Ware industry.

Although the contract with part of the garrison of the northern frontier was lost during the course of the 2nd century<sup>39</sup> other markets remained constant throughout the 3rd century and much of the 4th century. Some time about the end of the 4th century production of the ware seems to have stopped. The exact date is difficult to ascertain and indeed need not have been simultaneous at all kilns. In the middle Severn valley production was certainly still in progress in the mid 4th century and probably later as the material from Bays Meadow, Droitwich and Astley indicates. The ware does not, however, appear at the late 4th-century site at Lydney, Gloucestershire<sup>40</sup> and is rare on the predominantly later 4th-century site at Frocester, Gloucestershire.<sup>41</sup> Only more groups from sites not extensively occupied before the late 4th century can help us to be precise as elsewhere it will be difficult to distinguish residual material. The vulnerable position of the predominantly rural Severn Valley Ware kilns may be pointed out, however, and it would seem likely that at least those in the lower Severn had ceased to function in the last quarter of the 4th century. These may well have ceased to operate in the troubled period *c.* A.D. 367. It would not be at all surprising if kilns in the less vulnerable middle and upper Severn basin continued in use after the demise of their more southerly counterparts, but we await firm evidence on this point.

### *Conclusion*

The Severn Valley Ware industry was thus one of small producers working from a diversity of centres. This scattered group was bound together by a common tradition in the forms and fabric of their products. The ware differs from many others in that it is not the product of a single industrial complex but one of localized production from centres which, by the end of the 2nd century were able to market their products throughout the Severn basin and sometimes beyond. The ware seems to have originated in the coming together of several traditions into one geographical area at a time of troop movements and increased military demand in the lower Severn valley. It developed as a result of increased civilian demand. It is interesting that at least one source of inspiration for the Severn valley potters was the pre-conquest Durotrigan tankard. The influence of the Durotriges upon Romano-British ceramics is wholly out of proportion with their position in pre-conquest Britain. One wonders if the concentrated military activity in the Durotrigan tribal lands shown at Maiden Castle, Hod Hill and elsewhere and attested by Suetonius may not have led to a diffusion of Durotrigan craftsmen throughout lowland Britain due to the consequent impoverishment of their traditional markets and perhaps acted as a spur towards attachment to the new major market, the army.

A study such as this hopes to contribute something towards the economic history of Roman Britain by its general discussion of a regional fabric but also, through the chronological analysis of forms to be of some use to the excavator who has found Severn Valley Ware on his site. In turn it is to be hoped that excavation will in the future help to build up the body of site evidence and thus enable the chronology of the forms and the industry to be tightened up considerably.

*January 1975*

39. *Webster 1972, 197.*

40. All the Lydney pottery was not published and some cannot at present be located. However, the material now housed in the museum at Lydney Park contains no Severn Valley Ware likely to be associated with the temple complex although an unprovenanced 2nd-century tankard fragment may belong to an earlier phase of the site.

41. It may also be noted that the latest Roman level on the Gloucester 1966-7 site (Horizon 14, dated late 4th-5th century) contained very little Severn Valley Ware.

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