

AN 8TH-CENTURY MAYEN WARE PITCHER FOUND IN RIBE (SYDDANMARK / DK)

Excavations in the pre-Christian cemetery of the early medieval *emporium* of Ribe (Syddanmark/DK) uncovered a completely intact example of an 8th-century Mayen ware pitcher (or *Kleeblattkanne*; **fig. 1**). The vessel was reused as an urn for a cremation burial for a small child. The find is so far unique in Scandinavia and the best example of this ware in the early North Sea trade. Though relatively rare in a North Sea context, Mayen ware shows a distinct presence in early *emporium*, and is among the earliest examples of the pottery trade from the Middle Rhine Basin. This paper presents the find and the evidence for its use in Ribe and discusses its wider context in early medieval trade and cultural interaction.

THE RIBE PITCHER

During 2014-2016, the Museum of Southwest Jutland together with Aarhus University investigated parts of the pre-Christian cemetery associated with the early medieval *emporium* or port town Ribe, at the North Sea coast of Denmark (Ribe Rosenallé II, Museum of Southwest Jutland SJM 348). Together with previous excavations (Feveile 2006; Feveile/Jensen 2006), the investigations have uncovered a total of 100 features

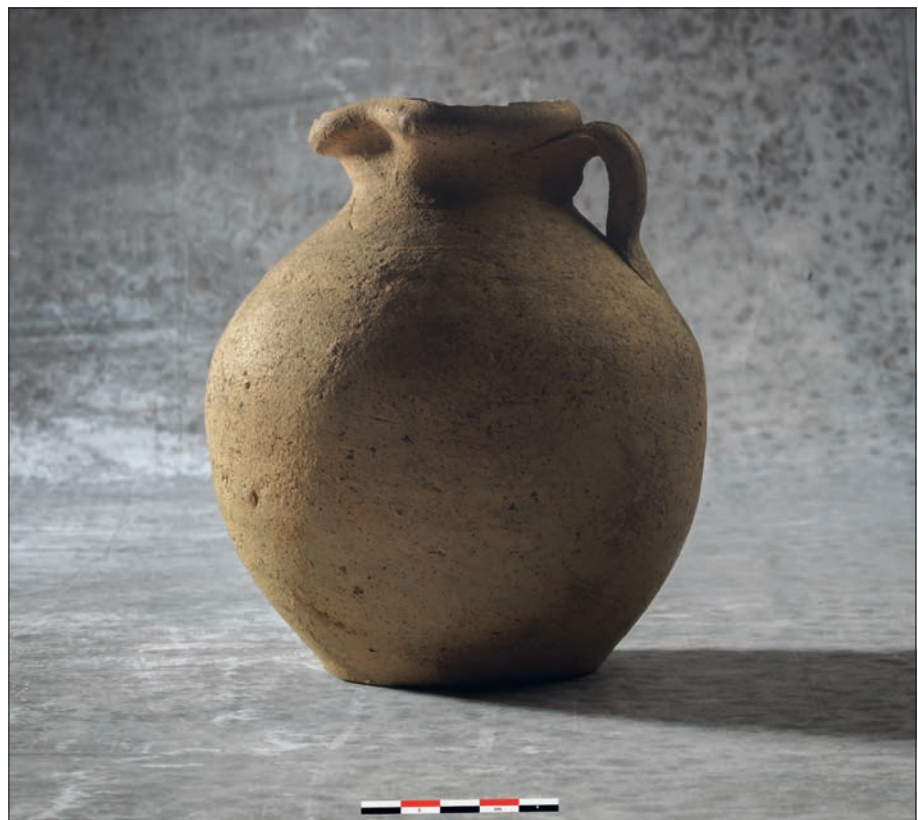


Fig. 1 An 8th-century Mayen ware Pitcher found in Ribe (Syddanmark/DK). – (Photo Moesgaard Photolab.).

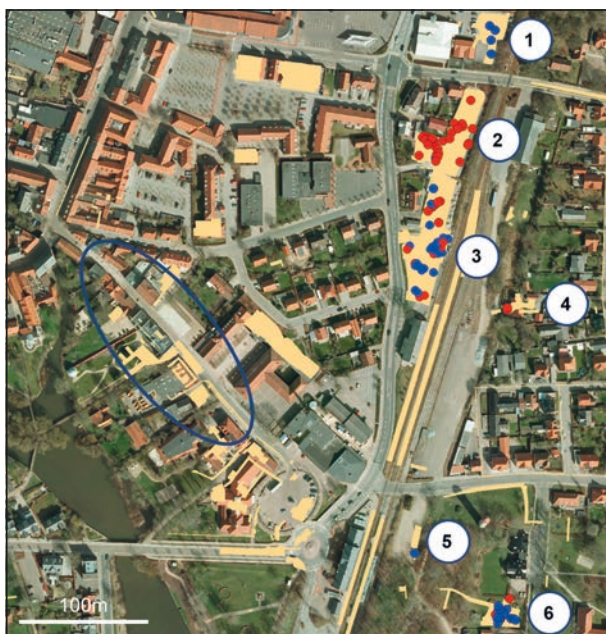


Fig. 2 Ribe's *emporium* in the 8th century. The cemetery was mostly in use in the 8th and early 9th centuries (red dots: cremation graves; blue dots: inhumation graves). Excavation campaigns with burial finds relating to Ribe's earliest cemetery: **1** SJM 129 Seminarievej, 2012. – **2** ASR 8 Rosen allé, 1989. – **3** SJM 348 Rosen allé, 2014-2016. – **4** ASR 937 DSB Øst / Dr. Dagmars Vej 5a, 1990, 1991, 1998. – **5** 43M70 Skt Nicolai kirkegård, 1970. – **6** ASR 1000 Ribelund II, 1991-1992. – The main settlement area of the *emporium* is indicated with a blue circle. – (Graphics L. Hilmar / S. Croix / S. M. Sindbæk / M. Søvsø).

associated with the burial ground dating to the period c. 700-1000 (**fig. 2**). They comprise 28 securely attested and a further 16 probable inhumation graves, together with 41 securely identified cremation graves, while finds from four disturbed deposits may relate to further cremations (Croix 2020).

The cemetery displays a broad range of burial rites, including inhumations in either crouched or supine position placed in coffins, troughs, log boats, or graves without containers, as well as cremations placed in pits, shallow patches, or urns. Remains were also discovered of animal graves, animal offerings, traces of grave markings (low mounds), and stray finds indicating disturbed graves. The area was heavily cultivated by the townspeople in the Medieval and Early Modern Period, and a high number of shallow cremation graves have been destroyed. While most graves were poorly furnished, some contained bead sets or dress fittings, or artefacts such as coins, combs, knives or tweezers. A small number of graves contained parts of more elaborate equipment such as riding gear or chests. Only a small part of the expansive cemetery has been excavated to date, and the total area of the cemetery is estimated to cover at least 8-9 ha.

One of the most remarkable finds at the cemetery was made in June 2015, when a pit was discovered to contain a completely intact yellow earthenware pitcher with a single lug and trefoil-shaped mouth, a prime example of an imported Frankish *Kleeblattkanne* (feature K242, Find no. x500). The vessel was found immediately below the modern topsoil, yet had survived previous construction work on the site, many years under a parking lot with heavy vehicles, and the machinery used to strip the modern soil. The feature was identified during the initial excavation, as the upper fill of the pit contained sherds of a local grey ware bowl, which had been placed upside down. The pitcher appeared as the sherds were removed, and was excavated in perfect condition (**fig. 3**).

The small pitcher has a globular shape and flat standing surface. With a diameter of 12 cm, it stands to a height of 15 cm (**figs 4-5**). The short, narrow neck opens to a rim of c. 6.5 cm in diameter with a clearly marked spout formed by drawing out a lip from the rim between the indented sides. Opposite the spout, a 4 cm wide, flat handle with two ornamental grooves is placed just below the rim. It holds a modest 0.85l and was probably intended for wine. The vessel was



Fig. 3 The Ribbe pitcher: excavation situation. – (Photos Aarhus University / Museum of Southwest Jutland).

expertly crafted on a fast wheel, smoothed with wet cloth in leather-hard condition, and fired under controlled, oxidising conditions. The fabric presents a yellowish-beige colouration with inclusions of quartz and fine, black particles, which may be of volcanic stone. The fabric is relatively hard and dense, and, although wheel-thrown, is not perfectly smooth, with inclusions protruding from the surface.

The pitcher belongs to a type of pottery common in the Frankish regions from the Merovingian Period onwards, known as *Kleeblattkanne* due to the trefoil shape of its rim. While this form was produced in many places in Northern Gaul and the Middle Rhineland since Late Antiquity, the pitcher from Ribbe has been visually identified as a Mayen ware MD, clay type A following Redknapp's typology. With its nearly spherical body and small, flat base, the form belongs to Type 44 (Redknapp 1999, 205 fig. 40, A44, 4f.; see also Grunwald 2015; 2012). A recent reassessment of artefact typochronologies in the burial contexts from the Middle Rhineland places the dating of parallel examples for the form to the period 710/720-750/760 (Saal 2014, 388).

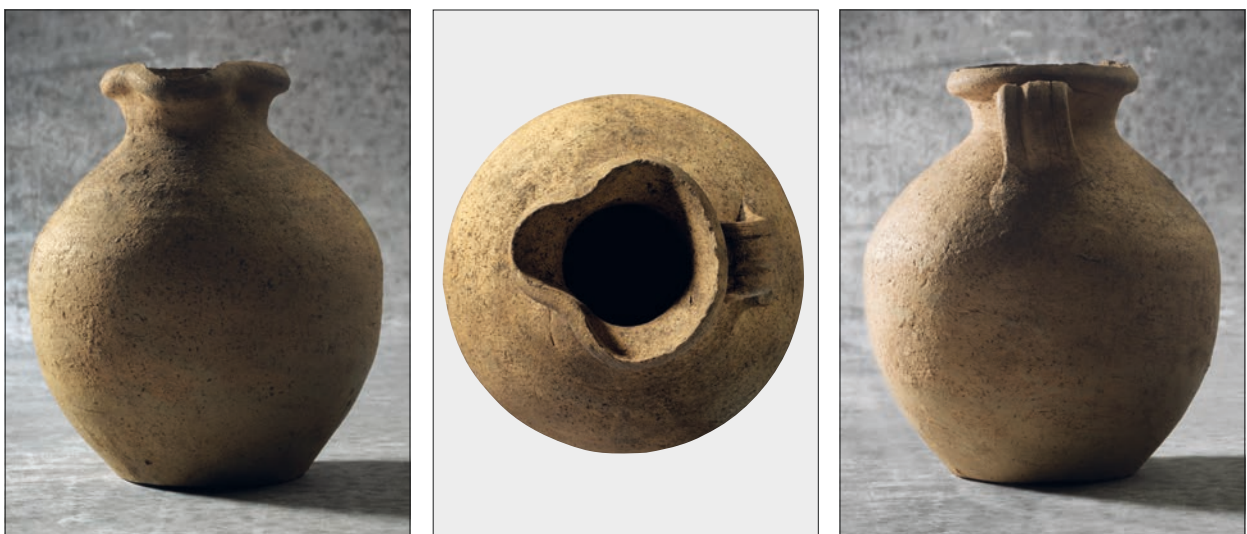


Fig. 4 The Ribbe pitcher seen from the front, top and back. – (Photos Moesgaard Photolab.).

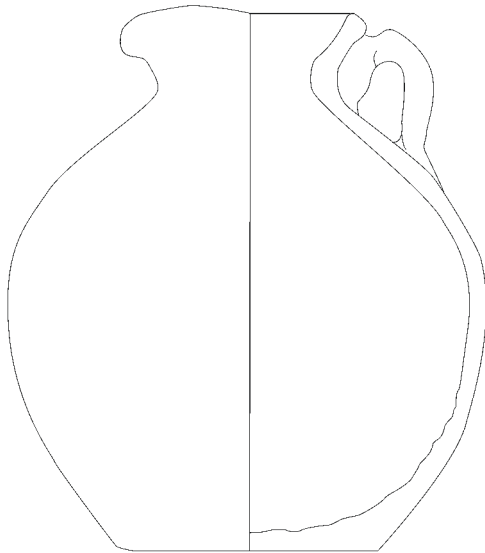


Fig. 5 The Ribe pitcher. – (Drawing L. Hilmar). – Scale 1:2.

THE CONTENT

The content of the pitcher was assessed by CT scanning at Aarhus University Hospital before being emptied by conservators at the Department of Conservation and Natural Science, Moesgård Museum. The CT scanning produced high-resolution 3D images of the content of the pitcher, which informed the strategy for excavating the fill to keep the human bone remains from further fragmentation and to understand their deposition (cf. Harvig/Lynnerup/Amsgaard Ebsen 2012). The visual analysis of the 3D images indicated that the pitcher was filled up with various materials. The upper part of the fill consisted mainly of sandy soil material, which probably occurred as a secondary, accidental deposition after the collapse of the small pot acting as a lid for the pitcher (**fig. 6**). A sherd of pottery, belonging to this pot, could be observed between the upper and lower part of the fill. A conical bead was visible in the fill, near the neck of the pitcher, as well as a human tooth. The lower part of

the fill consisted chiefly of small, highly fragmented human remains, which seem to have all been poured intentionally on one occasion. These were mixed with several artefacts, including a second bead and two small metal objects fitted into an object of similar composition as the bone remains, which turned out to be comb fragments held together by rivets. The excavation of the pitcher confirmed the depositional process of materials inside the pitcher, refined the identification of the content, and provided further materials, which were not identified on the CT scan images.

Together with the artefacts gathered on top of the pitcher and those retrieved by emptying its content, the find material of this deposit consisted of the following items (**fig. 7**):



Fig. 6 View of the Ribe pitcher under investigation by CT scan. – (Photo Retsmedicinsk Institut, Aarhus University).

- Three glass beads. Two of them conical in shape and made from opaque red glass (x579). The first, found in the upper part of the fill, was intact, with a maximum length of 2 cm. The second, found amongst the human remains in the lower part of the fill, had been damaged by exposure to fire, with a maximum length of 1.6 cm. This type of bead was not produced in Ribe. Very similar types occur in the cemetery of Nørre Sandegård Vest (Bornholm/DK) graves 20 and 22, both dated to the early 7th century (Jørgensen/Jørgensen 1997, 37, cf. also pls 28. 31). In addition, a few pulverised fragments of a whitish/colourless glass bead were recovered from the excavation of the content.
- Fifteen fragments of a burnt comb and a comb case of bone or antler (x361; x578). Three fragments were found during the excavation on the site together with the sherds of the small pot



Fig. 7 Artefacts associated with the pitcher: **a** beads. – **b** fragments of a comb and comb case. – **c** cup. – (Photos a-b Moesgaard Photo-lab.; c Museum of Southwest Jutland). – a-b scale 1:1; c scale 1:2.

functioning as a lid, all of which were under 1 cm in maximum length (x361). This includes a piece of two connecting plates held together by an iron rivet, one of which is ornamented; a second fragment from an ornamented plate; and one from an unornamented plate. Twelve additional pieces were found during the excavation of the pitcher in the lab (x578). They were mainly deposited with the human remains. Most elongated fragments belong to the connecting plate of the comb case, as these did not display any rivet perforation once refitted. Parts of the comb case's end-plate have also been identified. The comb itself is only represented by four tooth fragments and three iron rivets with remains of connecting plates. The find is identified as a Frisian type, Tempel type A, dating up to the 700s (Tempel 1979, 154). Combs and comb cases of this type are common along the North Sea coast and were also produced in Ribe.

- A collapsed, small globular cup (height 8.5 cm), probably local grey ware, originally acting as a lid (x361; x586). Three rim sherds and six belly sherds from the same vessel were found *in situ* during the excavation around the top of the pitcher. Four belly sherds from the same cup were retrieved from the fill of the pitcher (x586). The vessel cannot be more precisely dated than to the 8th-early 9th centuries.
- Small fragments of fuel ash slag (x587), which were produced during cremation and presumably deposited inside the pitcher through indiscriminated gathering of pyre remains.

Besides artefactual remains, cremated bone fragments were also collected. During the excavation of the pitcher at the site, 8 g of bone was gathered on the surface (x361) but were not further analysed due to possible disturbances. An additional 33 g or 75 ml of cremated bone was collected from the excavation of the fill of the pitcher (x580). Their physical anthropological analysis, conducted by Susanne Østergaard, Department of Conservation and Natural Science, Moesgård Museum, has identified the fairly well-preserved and moderately fragmented cremated bone remains as belonging to a single *Homo sapiens*. Of the c. 150 bone fragments, 43 could be identified, nearly half of which belong to the cranium of the individual as well as two tooth fragments. They allowed age estimation of the individual to under two years at the time of death. Furthermore, the tooth remains (first molar, M1) as well as the petrous bone (*pars petrosa*) were used

for strontium isotope analysis to assess whether the individual – or rather, its mother – originated from Ribe and its »local« area or a more distant region (Croix et al. 2020). With a range of 0.71000 (M1) and 0.70978 (*pars petrosa*), the results indicate that the small child may have been born in Ribe or in an area with similar bioavailable strontium isotopic values, such as the Northern Frisian coast.

Alongside the human bone remains, a small sample of charred plant remains and charcoal was gathered (x588). The anthracological analysis was not able to identify the plant remains, but younger oak wood (*Quercus*) was identified among the charcoal fragments, indicating the use of this type of wood on the funerary pyre. Samples of charred plant remains and cremated bone fragments found during the excavation of the content of the pitcher were selected for radiocarbon dating at the Aarhus AMS Centre (AARAMS). The two dates gave the following response:

- SJM 348_K242_x580: Bone, burnt (human), AAR 26229
1400 ± 30 84.01 ± 0.31 -22 ± 3 IntCal13 (Atmospheric)
68.2 % probability: 621 AD (68.2 %) 659 AD
95.4 % probability: 597 AD (95.4 %) 670 AD
- SJM 348_K242_x588: Plant, charred (undetermined), AAR 26230
1279 ± 28 85.28 ± 0.3 -20 ± 1 IntCal13 (Atmospheric)
68.2 % probability: 683 AD (40.3 %) 721 AD; 741 AD (27.9 %) 767 AD
95.4 % probability: 668 AD (95.4 %) 772 AD

The results of the radiocarbon dating of the charred remains are consistent with the range indicated by the typochochronology of the vessel and comb, pointing to a deposition in the earliest decades of the 8th century. The dates from the burnt human bones fall earlier, but may be affected by the »old wood« effect from wood used in the cremation pyre (Olsen et al. 2013).

The evidence gathered from the investigation of the grave in the field and laboratory allows us to reconstruct some of the aspects of the burial process. The body of an infant, no more than two years of age, was cremated on a pyre using, among other materials, oak wood. On the pyre was also placed the small comb with its case, as well as at least one glass bead. Considering the young age of the child, it is uncertain if it would have ever made use of these items. Remains from the pyre were collected, privileging the gathering of human bones and excluding charred wooden remains to a large extent. The remains were placed inside the pitcher. The pitcher was then deposited in a small pit directly dug into the ground, barely larger than itself, and its mouth was closed using a small ceramic cup turned upside down.

The use of an urn for depositing cremated remains is not the most common form of cremation at Ribe's pre-Christian cemetery but is relatively well-attested with six examples. All other examples involve domestic pottery vessels. The practice is not particularly associated with infants, as both juvenile and adult individuals are also documented. While the fragmentary character of the cremated bone remains advises caution in estimating the sex of the deceased, based on the grave goods, both male and female individuals seem to be represented.

The child placed inside the pitcher stands out, besides the unusual selection of an imported vessel as an urn, by being the youngest individual that we know to be buried at Ribe's pre-Christian cemetery. The find of a child's grave, however, is not unusual at Ribe's cemetery, with 21 graves belonging to individuals under the age of c. 20 years old. This is a fairly large proportion in the light of the usual age distribution among buried populations in Viking-Age contexts (Croix in press).

Ribe's pre-Christian burial ground displays a wide variety of burial customs reflecting the wide-ranging, cross-cultural nature of the *emporium* and its visitors. The burial in the Mayen ware pitcher fits into this diverse picture by being unique in several ways. The single burial of the toddler displays unusual care for a child of fewer than two years of age. Choosing a small pitcher and a small cup may be seen as symbolic

representations of the size of the deceased. The unusually small cup might even be a personal belonging, a child's cup.

Both the pitcher and the conical glass beads are imports and could indicate a non-local origin or cultural transfer. Objects such as the comb and comb case are rarely found associated with children this young. In this way, the burial raises many questions and reminds us how much there still is to be gained in the understanding of the burial customs of the 8th century.

FRANKISH VESSELS USED AS URNS

Pitchers with a trefoil-shaped mouth represent a type of artefacts commonly deposited in Frankish inhumation graves from the beginning of the 6th century to the 8th century. Their deposition spans from Normandy (Hincker 2006, 131. 139) to the Middle Rhine region (e. g. Herget 2006, 105-107; Saal 2012; see also Gross 1996, 590. 592) and involves different types, forms and wares, originating from different places of production. Mayen ware is also represented (e. g. Redknap 1999, 387). As cremation burial was no longer practiced in these regions, occurrences of Frankish vessels used as urns are only to be found north of the Rhine. Frankish vessels, including pitchers from the Middle Rhine Basin, were used for this purpose up to the 8th century in coastal Frisia (Knol 1993, tab. 14; Knol/Bardet 1999, 215) and the Northern Frisian Islands (Eisenschmidt 2004, 258). A small number of examples are also attested in the *emporía* around the Baltic Sea: At Reric/Groß Strömkendorf (Lkr. Nordwestmecklenburg/D) in the form of a Merovingian Black ware vessel (Grave Fst 800; Gerds/Wolf 2015, vol. 2, 104-105). At Birka (Stockholms län/S), where »Rhenish« ware and »Kugeltopf« occur in many burial contexts, though only in four instances as a container for cremated human remains (Arbman 1943, vol. I, 2, pls 219-223; Bj 82A, Bj 369, Bj 457, Bj 714). In Hedeby/Haithabu (Lkr. Schleswig-Flensburg/D), a single cremation grave (Fundstelle 325) contained imported pottery in the form of four sherds of Tating ware in the fill of the deposit; the cremated remains were deposited in an »Eitopf« vessel (Arents/Eisenschmidt 2010, vol. 1, 154-155; vol. 2, 126-127).

The Ribe find is thus exceptional in the type of vessel employed as an urn. No Mayen ware *Kleeblickkanne* has previously been identified as an urn further north than the Frisian coast, and the practice is not documented for this period in the Middle Rhine Basin. This suggests that some of Ribe's inhabitants in the 8th century had access to products from this region but did not adhere to its burial practices for religious or cultural reasons. On the contrary, the custom of using Frankish imported wares as cremation urns connects Ribe's community to the other Scandinavian *emporía* but mostly to the Frisian coastal regions. The uniqueness of the find in a Scandinavian context also suggests that the pitcher may have reached Ribe as a personal belonging, rather than as a traded good. Perhaps it had a specific significance for the mourners, as an object brought from a journey, or due to other aspects of appearance or biography that we cannot reconstruct.

MAYEN WARE IN THE EARLY MEDIEVAL NORTH SEA AREA

The pottery industry at Mayen (Lkr. Mayen-Koblenz/D) shows a continuous production from the Roman Period into the Early Middle Ages. The Mayen workshops continued the traditions of late Roman technology and forms, as in the case of the pitchers with a trefoil-shaped mouth. Finds of Mayen ware pitchers are relatively rare from the 7th and 8th centuries when furnished burials disappear, but occasional finds from settlements show that the production continued into the 8th century (Redknap 1988; 1999; Grunwald 2015).

In the North Sea area, Mayen ware is common among finds in Dorestad (prov. Utrecht/NL; Verwers 1988). A pitcher with a trefoil-shaped mouth was discovered at the Hoogstraat I excavation in Dorestad (van Es/Verwers 1980, 111). A further seven rim fragments of jugs with a trefoil or circular mouth (type W XiVF) have been retrieved from other Hoogstraat excavations, some closely resembling the mouth of the Ribe pitcher (van Es/Verwers 2009, 151-152). By contrast, less than five Mayen sherds are identified from 8th-century Hamwic/Southampton (Hampshire/GB) and London (Hodges 1981, 19; Blackmore 2003, 241). A few probable Mayen-type sherds, including remains of at least two pitchers, are also found in 8th- or early 9th-century contexts in York (Yorkshire/GB; Mainman 1993, 576-579 nos 2470-2476).

In Ribe, sherds of Rhenish pottery appear from the early 8th century and a few sherds are known, where fabric and colouring closely resemble the pitcher in question. However, none of the diagnostic rim, handle or bottom sherds have so far been found, confirming the rareness of the pitcher discovered in the grave. More than 1500 sherds of Rhenish pottery from the 8th and 9th centuries are known from Ribe, but so far only small parts of this material have undergone expert study. If examined, this would most probably also lead to the identification of further sherds of Mayen ware.

Rare examples of Mayen ware are identified among the 9th-10th-century-imported pottery from Hedeby/Haithabu (Janssen 1987, 59). Five sherds from indeterminable vessels are identified as Mayen ware at the 9th-century *emporium* Kaupang (Vestfold/N; Pilø 2011, 292), while a small number of sherds of Mayen ware pottery is noted from excavations at Birka (Bäck 1995). While the shape of the vessels in these finds cannot be determined, they testify to the fact that Mayen-type pottery arrived in the 8th and 9th centuries in trading sites in Scandinavia and the North Sea area. They form a minor but consistent component among the small-scale import of middle Rhenish pottery that reached *emporía*. The general rareness in the trading centres seems to support that the Mayen wares traded on a very small scale, compared to the slightly more common later wares, Badorf and Tating from the Lower Rhine Bay.

MAYEN, THE MIDDLE RHINE AREA AND NORTH SEA TRADE

The pitcher from Ribe is exceptional in terms of its intact preservation and as type which saw only rare circulation in the North Sea *emporía*. The links it draws between Ribe and the Middle Rhine area are sustained, however, by several more frequent types of finds, including Badorf ware ceramics and sherds of glass vessels (Madsen 2004; Lund Fèveile 2006). The active export industries of this particular area undoubtedly relate to the fact that the Middle Rhine was a hub of wine production and trade in the Early Middle Ages (Saal 2016). Several large wine barrels from the early 8th century derived from the Middle Rhine area (Mainz) were reused in Ribe as well linings. Together with many sherds of Frankish drinking glasses, they point towards wine and wine-consumption as an important activity at the market site in Ribe (cf. Gaut 2007). One can speculate that the Mayen pitcher would fit well as the personal belonging of a trader.

The find group pointing most conspicuously to the Middle Rhine Basin are quern stones made of Niedermendiger basalt (Lkr. Mayen-Koblenz/D), of which more than 150 kg has been discovered in Ribe (Fèveile 2010, 133). As a relatively bulky cargo, basalt quern stones could only be moved profitably over long distances where direct water transport was available. The Niedermendiger basalt quarries are close to the Mayen kilns, and M. Redknap sees »A probable association between the two industries«, in terms of organisation and/or the individuals transporting these items (Redknap 1987, 90).

Considering this association, the rarity of Mayen ware in Ribe and other North Sea *emporía* may seem surprising. Part of the explanation may be provided by the chronology. There is no evidence for the import of Rhenish wares in Denmark before the 8th century. By the time when Carolingian North Sea trade reached its

most active phase in the late 8th century, Mayen had been superseded by Badorf (Rhein-Erft-Kreis/D) as the most prolific kiln area in the Upper Rhine area. By this date, the production of pitchers with a trefoil-shaped mouth also disappears in favour of vessels with spouts (Sanke 2001). There was thus only a short window in the late 7th century and the first half of the 8th century when vessels of this type might have reached a North Sea port.

The use of imported vessels for urns was characteristic for the Frisian region in the 8th century, while it was unknown in the Rhine area and most of Jutland. Therefore, we may also see the Ribe burial with a Mayen ware pitcher as a unique yet characteristic testimony to Frisian engagement in the 8th-century North Sea trade.

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Eine Kleeblattkanne des 8. Jahrhunderts aus Mayener Ware, gefunden in Ribe (Syddanmark/DK)

Bei Ausgrabungen auf dem Friedhof des frühmittelalterlichen Handelszentrums von Ribe wurde im Jahr 2015 eine vollständig erhaltene Kanne gefunden. Mittels typologischer Vergleiche wurde sie als Kleeblattkanne identifiziert, die wahrscheinlich in Mayen oder Umgebung im 8. Jahrhundert hergestellt wurde. Weitere Analysen des Inhalts der Kanne ergaben, dass sie als Urne für die Bestattung der eingeäscherten Überreste eines kleinen Kindes verwendet wurde, das vermutlich jünger als zwei Jahre war. Die Überreste wurden von Glasperlen sowie den Fragmenten eines Kamms und Kammfutterals begleitet. Die Radiokohlenstoffdatierung des Inhalts stützt die typologische Datierung der Artefakte und des Krugs in das 8. Jahrhundert. Überreste von Feuerbestattungen in Urnen werden durch andere Beispiele auf dem frühen Friedhof von Ribe belegt, obwohl Feuerbestattungen in Gruben und Leichenbestattungen in Form einfacher Erdgräber häufiger vorkommen. Diese Bestattungspraktiken weisen starke Ähnlichkeiten mit jenen auf, die entlang der ost- und nordfriesischen Küste dokumentiert sind.

Die Kanne selbst ist in Skandinavien bislang einzigartig. Mayener Keramik ist im Nordseekontext im Vergleich zu späteren Keramikprodukten aus der Kölner Bucht, wie Badorfer und Pingsdorfer Ware, relativ selten. Sie zeigt jedoch eine deutliche Präsenz in frühen Emporia und gehört zu den frühesten Beispielen des Töpferhandels aus dieser Region. Die Handelsbeziehungen zwischen Ribe und der Kölner Bucht werden durch eine Reihe importierter Waren bestätigt, darunter Badorfer Töpferwaren, Glasgefäße und Quernsteine aus Niedermendig Basalt. Zusammen mit der auf dem Friedhof geborgenen Kanne zeugen diese Funde von den Handelskontakten und dem kulturellen Austausch zwischen Ribe, Friesland und dem Mittelrhein im 8. Jahrhundert.

An 8th-Century Mayen Ware Pitcher Found in Ribe (Syddanmark/DK)

A completely intact pitcher was found during excavations in the pre-Christian cemetery of the early medieval *emporium* of Ribe in 2015. Through typological comparisons, the pitcher was identified as a *Kleeblattkanne* (trefoil-mouthed jug), probably manufactured in Mayen or its region in the 8th century. Further analysis of the pitcher's contents revealed that it had been used as an urn for the deposition of the cremated remains of a small child, probably less than two years old. The remains were accompanied by glass beads, as well as the fragments of a comb and comb case. Radiocarbon dating of the contents supports the typological dating provided by the artefacts and the pitcher to the 8th century. Cremation deposits in urns are attested by other examples in Ribe's pre-Christian cemetery, although cremated deposits in pits and inhumations in the form of simple earth graves are more common. These burial practices bear strong similarities to those documented along the Eastern and Northern Frisian coast.

The pitcher itself is so far unique in Scandinavia. Mayen ware more generally is relatively rare in a North Sea context in comparison to later pottery products from the Cologne Bay, such as Badorf and Pingsdorf wares. However, it is distinctly present in early *emporia* and counts among the earliest examples of the pottery trade from this region. The trading connections between Ribe and the Cologne Bay are further attested by a range of imported goods, including Badorf ware pottery, glass vessels, and quern stones made of Niedermendig basalt. Together with the pitcher found in the cemetery, these finds attest to the trading links and cultural exchanges between Ribe, Frisia and the Middle Rhine area in the 8th century.

Un pichet de Mayen Ware du 8^e siècle trouvé à Ribe (Syddanmark/DK)

Un pichet en céramique, complet et intact, a été découvert lors des fouilles conduites en 2015 au cimetière de l'*emporium* du Haut Moyen Âge de Ribe. L'étude typologique a identifié le pichet comme une *Kleeblattkanne*, sans doute fabriquée à Mayen ou sa région au 8^e siècle. L'analyse du contenu du pichet a révélé qu'il avait été utilisé comme urne pour le dépôt des restes incinérés d'un petit enfant, probablement âgé de moins de deux ans. Les restes étaient accompagnés de perles de verre ainsi que des fragments d'un peigne et de son étui. La datation par le carbone 14 des charbons corrobore la datation typologique fournie par le mobilier, permettant ainsi de dater la sépulture au 8^e siècle. D'autres exemples attestent la pratique des dépôts de crémation en urne au cimetière de Ribe, bien que les dépôts de crémation en fosse et les inhumations en fosse en pleine terre soient les deux pratiques les plus courantes. Ces différentes formes de sépulture présentent de fortes similitudes avec celles documentées le long de la côte est et nord de la Frise.

Le pichet lui-même n'a aucun parallèle connu en Scandinavie. Les productions céramiques de Mayen sont de manière générale relativement rares autour de la mer du Nord par rapport à celles, plus récentes, provenant des centres de production de Badorf et de Pingsdorf. Cependant, leur distribution indique une présence plus marquée dans les *emporia* du Haut Moyen Âge, attestant l'exportation, déjà à cette époque, des productions céramiques de la région du Rhin moyen. En outre, les échanges commerciaux entre Ribe et la région du Rhin moyen sont bien documentés par

la présence d'une gamme de produits importés sur le site de l'*emporium*, comprenant de la céramique de Badorf, des tessons de verres et des pierres de moulins manuels en basalte de Niedermendig. Ces découvertes, ainsi que celle du pichet réemployé comme urne cinéraire, témoignent des liens commerciaux et culturels entre Ribe, la Frise et la région du Rhin moyen au 8^e siècle.

Schlüsselwörter / Keywords / Mots clés

Nordseeregion / Mayener Ware / Emporia / Bestattungsbräuche / Computertomographie
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