

DAVID H. KENNETT

LATE ROMAN BRONZE VESSEL HOARDS IN BRITAIN*

In his study of Roman bronze vessels in Britain, H. J. Eggers included the large hoard of vessels found in 1864 between Aldborough and Knaresborough, Yorkshire¹). This is one of a number of late fourth century hoards in Britain, which deserve to be better known on the continent, especially as they contain pieces comparable to those in late Roman graves in northern Gaul (France and Belgium), and finds made also in the Rhineland and in the Germanic lands outside the Roman Empire.

It is the intention of this paper to present a discussion of these hoards and to examine their points of contact with continental material. The paper will concentrate on this aspect of the hoards, and give less prominence to the purely insular vessels, though as far as possible all the components of the known late Roman bronze vessel hoards in Britain have been illustrated (fig. 2-12), with the exception of the Knaresborough hoard which was figured by Eggers.

* The author wishes to thank the British Museum, Northampton Museum, Bedford Museum and Saffron Walden Museum for permission to study and publish material in their collections. The blocks for fig. 6-10 and 13 have been loaned by the Journal of Northampton Museum (per Mr. W. N. Terry). Professor K. Böhner most kindly read the proofs.

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1) Eggers, 1966, 91 and 107 Kat. 55, Abb. 41-44.

The hoards

Six late Roman bronze vessel hoards are known from Britain. Their location with that of three single finds of late Roman bronze vessels is shown on fig. 1.

Catalogue

1. Sandy, Bedfordshire (fig. 2)

A hoard of three vessels found in 1856.

1. A bassin festonné, in good preservation, with flat rim decorated with a continuous scalloped edge.

Diameter 32,1 cm. (Bedford Mus. 3298)

2. A bassin à bord godronné, in poor preservation, with a long tear in the sides and lacking its foot plate. It has a series of 59 continuous godrons (repoussé bosses) on the rounded angle of the rim. Originally it had a flat base plate with a foot-stand.

Diameter 30,5 cm. (Bedford Mus. 3299)

3. A bassin uni, in good preservation, with a flat rim with small, almost imperceptible bosses on it. The foot-ring is formed from the metal of the bowl by folding back the metal.

Diameter 22,8 cm. (Bedford Mus. 3300)

Lit. *Bedford Modern School Museum Guide* (1925) 45, plate 9; Kennett, 1972.

2. Sturmere, Essex (fig. 3-4)

A hoard of nine vessels found in 1807, of which seven are extant.

1. 'Irchester' bowl, fair preservation.

Diameter 23,3 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CIX)

2. 'Irchester' bowl, fair preservation, but lost base and patched.

Diameter 26,8 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CX)

J. Nenquin

1953 *La Necropole de Furfooz (Dissertationes Archaeologicae Gandenses 1)*.

R. Pirling

1964 *Ein fränkisches Fürstengrab aus Krefeld-Gellep; Germania 42, 1964, 188—216*.

A. Radnoti

1938 *Römische Bronzegefäße von Pannonien (Dissertationes Pannonicae, Ser. 2 No. 6)*.

H. Roosens

1962 *Quelques mobiliers funéraires de la fin de l'époque romaine dans le nord de la France. (Dissertationes Archaeologicae Gandenses 7)*.

W. Schulz

1953 *Leuna: ein germanischer Bestattungsplatz der spätrömischen Kaiserzeit*.

R. von Uslar

1938 *Die römischen Bronzegerätedepots des 3. Jahrhunderts aus Mittel- und Westdeutschland*.

J. Werner

1938 *Die römischen Bronzegerätedepots des 3. Jahrhunderts und die mitteldeutsche Skelettgräbergruppe; Marburger Studien (1938) 259 ff.*

H. Willers

1907 *Neue Untersuchungen über römische Bronzeindustrie in Capua und in Niedergermanien*.

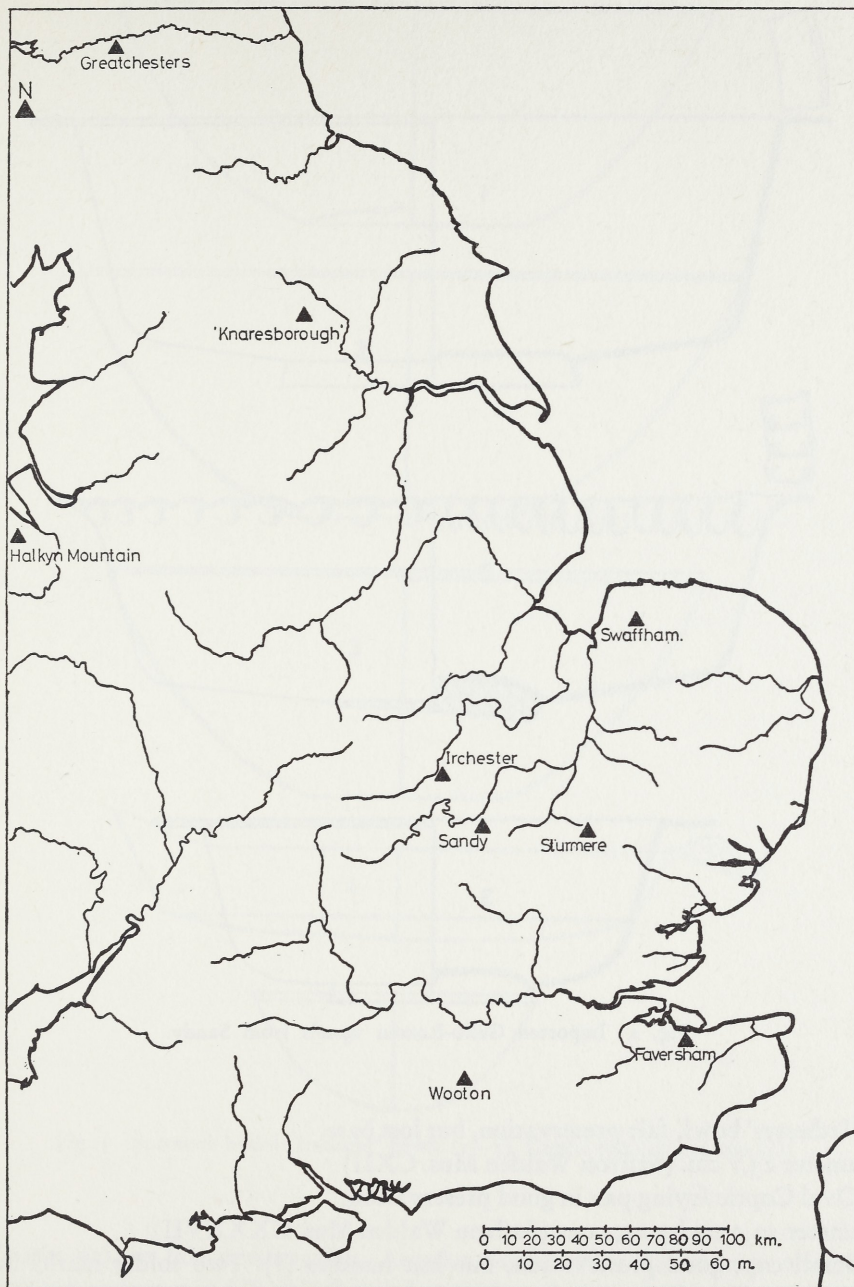


Fig. 1 Late Roman Bronze vessel finds from Britain.

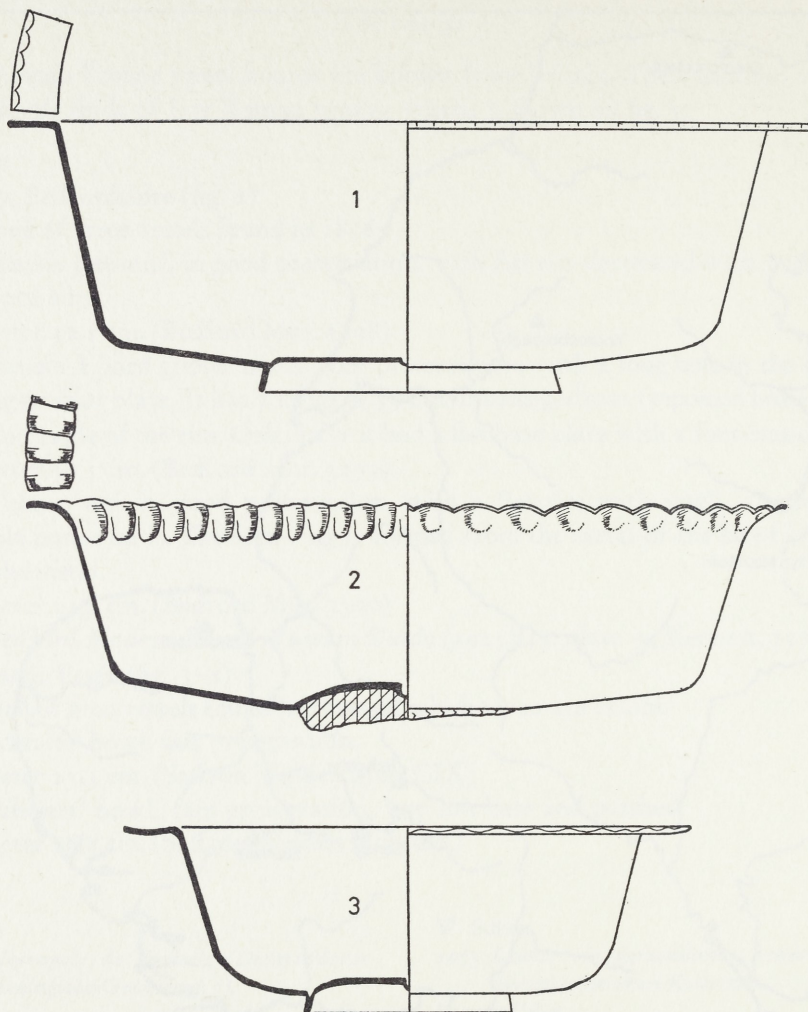


Fig. 2 Imported Gallo-Roman vessels from Sandy.

3. 'Irchester' bowl, fair preservation, but lost base.
Diameter 23,7 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CXII)
4. Oval Coptic frying pan in good preservation.
Diameter 22,0 cm by 21,4 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CXXXVII)
5. Small cup, good preservation, but lost handles (?). Two solder marks indicate some form of handle.
Diameter 11,5 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CXXXVI)

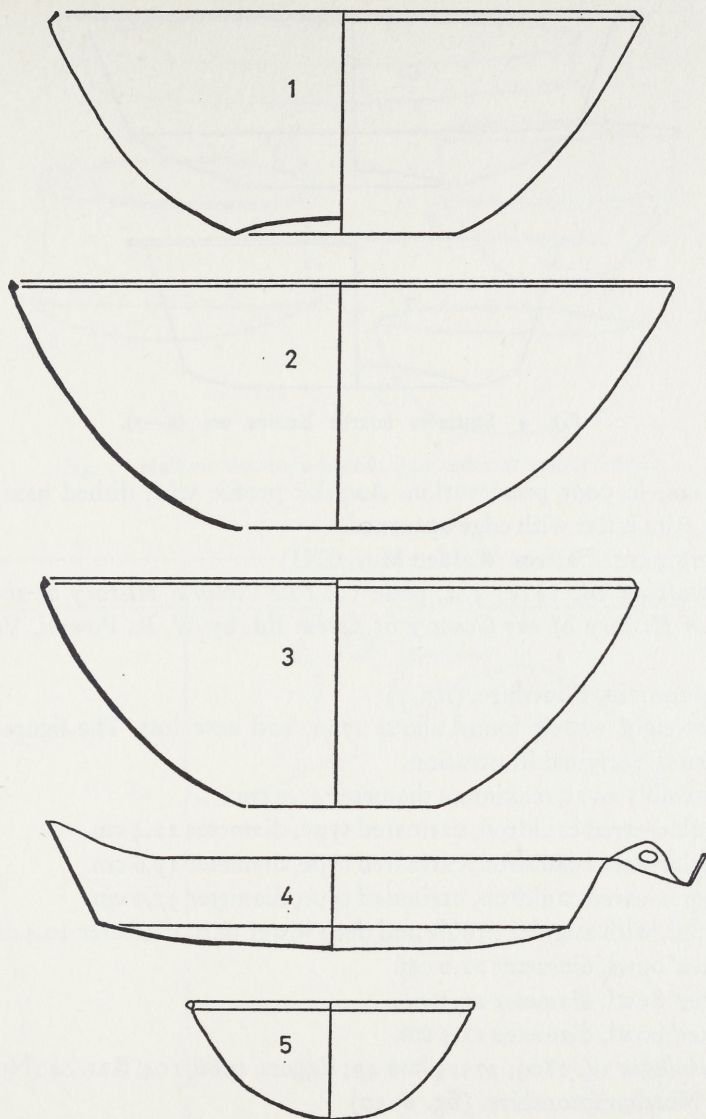


Fig. 3 Sturmere hoard: Irchester' bowls (1—3), Coptic pan (4) and cup (5).

6. Bassin uni, in fair preservation. Angular profile with dished base omphalos in centre, but no foot stand. Rim is flat and unthickened. Diameter 25,5 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CVIII)

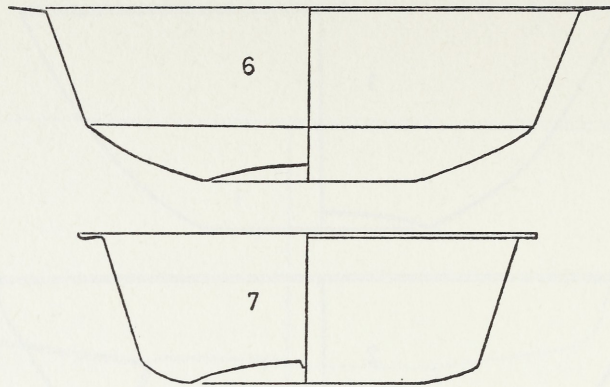


Fig. 4 Sturmere hoard: Bassins uni (6—7).

7. Bassin uni, in poor preservation. Angular profile with dished base with central omphalos. Rim is flat with edge upturned.
Diameter 18,4 cm. (Saffron Walden Mus. CXI)
Lit. *Archaeologia* 16, 1812, 364, plate 59; *The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A History of the County of Essex*. Ed. by W. R. Powell, Vol. 3, Roman Essex.
3. Halkyn Mountain, Flintshire. (fig. 5)
A hoard of eight vessels found about 1760, and now lost. The figure has been re-drawn from the original illustration.
1. Dish, possibly oval, maximum diameter 41,0 cm.
 2. Triangular-eared cauldron, carinated type, diameter 22,4 cm.
 3. Triangular-eared cauldron, carinated type, diameter 29,6 cm.
 4. Triangular-eared cauldron, carinated type, diameter 37,0 cm.
 5. Bassin uni, with angular profile and deep lower part, diameter 20,4 cm.
 6. 'Irchester' bowl, diameter 22,0 cm.
 7. 'Irchester' bowl, diameter 27,3 cm.
 8. 'Irchester' bowl, diameter 11,5 cm.
- Lit. *Archaeologia* 14, 1803, 275, plate 49; Eggers, 1966, 104, Kat. 24 (Not illustrated)
4. Irchester, Northamptonshire. (fig. 6—10)
Hoard of nine vessels found in 1874, now in Northampton Mus.
1. Tub, very fragmentary and poorly preserved. Once with iron fittings, mostly not now extant. Diameter 42,3 cm.
 2. 'Irchester' bowl, fair preservation, but lost base and patched base.
Diameter 28,8 cm.
 3. Bassin à bord godronné, in poor preservation. Convex profile, and separate base plate. Rim of continuous godrons. Diameter 27,4 cm.

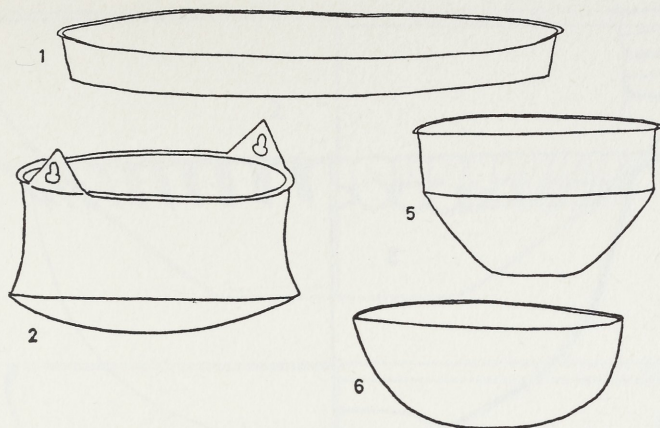


Fig. 5 Halkyn Mountain hoard: type series of vessels found.

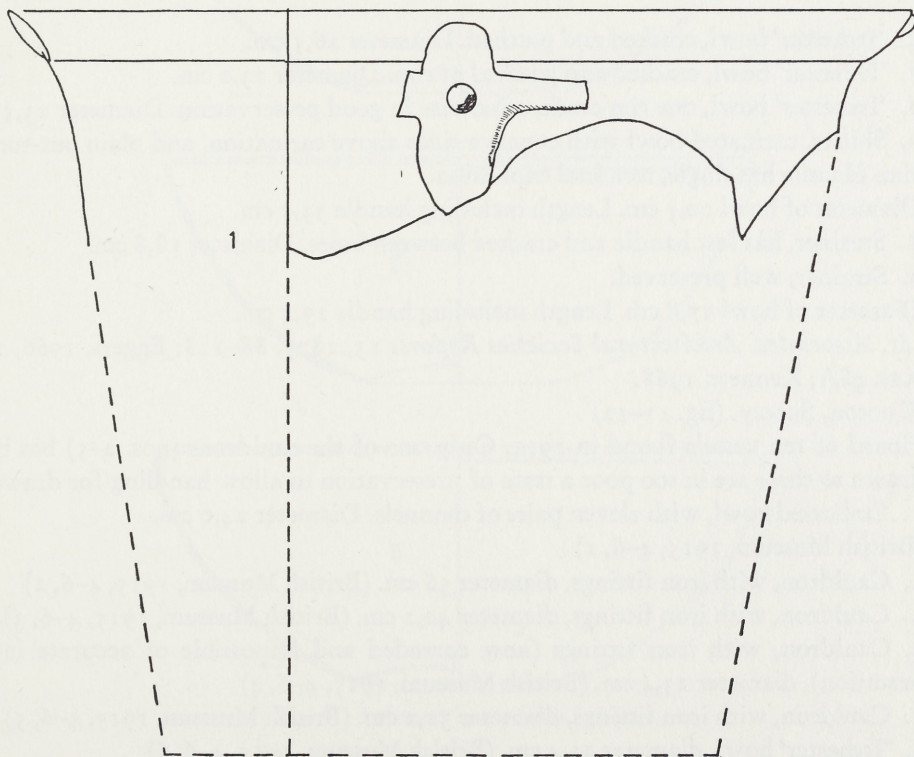


Fig. 6 Large vessel from Irchester.

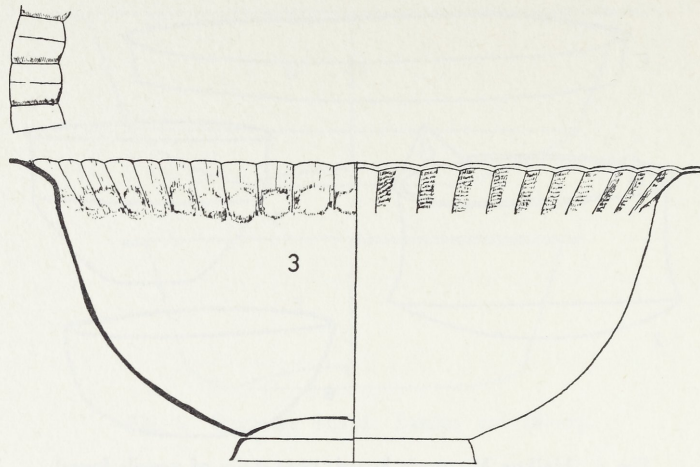


Fig. 7 Bassin à bord godronné from Irchester.

4. 'Irchester' bowl, cracked and patched. Diameter 26,5 cm.
5. 'Irchester' bowl, cracked and patched at rim. Diameter 23,0 cm.
6. 'Irchester' bowl, one rim crack, otherwise in good preservation. Diameter 23,5 cm.
7. Skillet, carinated bowl with concave sides above carination, and plain out-turned rim. Handle has single, terminal expansion.
Diameter of bowl 20,5 cm. Length including handle 33,5 cm.
8. Strainer, has lost handle and cracked between holes. Diameter 18,8 cm.
9. Strainer, well preserved.
Diameter of bowl 17,8 cm. Length including handle 29,4 cm.
Lit. *Associated Architectural Societies Reports* 13, 1875, 88-118; Eggers, 1966, 106, Kat. 48A; Kennett, 1968.
5. Wooton, Surrey. (fig. 11-12)
Hoard of ten vessels found in 1914. Only one of the cauldrons (nos. 2-5) has been drawn as these are in too poor a state of preservation to allow handling for drawing.
 1. Embossed bowl, with eleven pairs of channels. Diameter 24,0 cm.
(British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 1)
 2. Cauldron, with iron fittings, diameter 56 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 2)
 3. Cauldron, with iron fittings, diameter 40,2 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 3)
 4. Cauldron, with iron fittings (now corroded and impossible of accurate interpretation), diameter 23,4 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 4)
 5. Cauldron, with iron fittings, diameter 31,2 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 5)
 6. 'Irchester' bowl, diameter 31,4 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 6)
 7. 'Irchester' bowl, diameter 29,4 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 7)

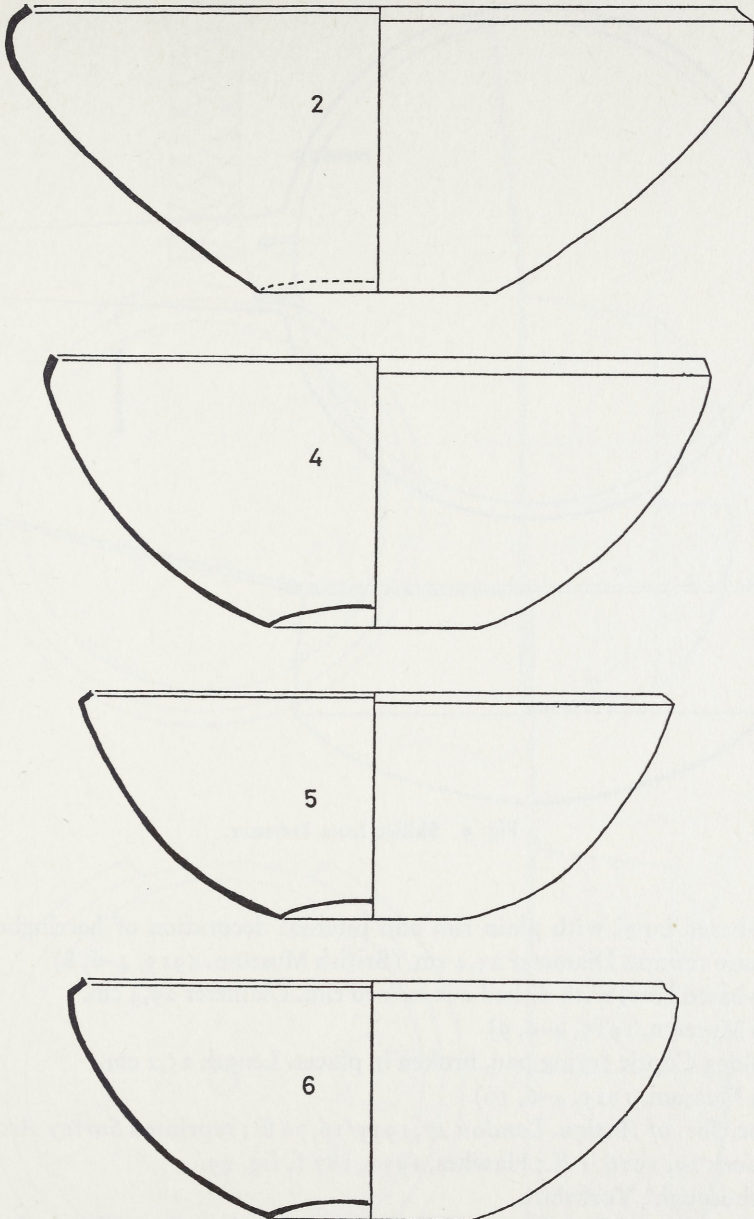


Fig. 8 'Irchester' bowls from Irchester.

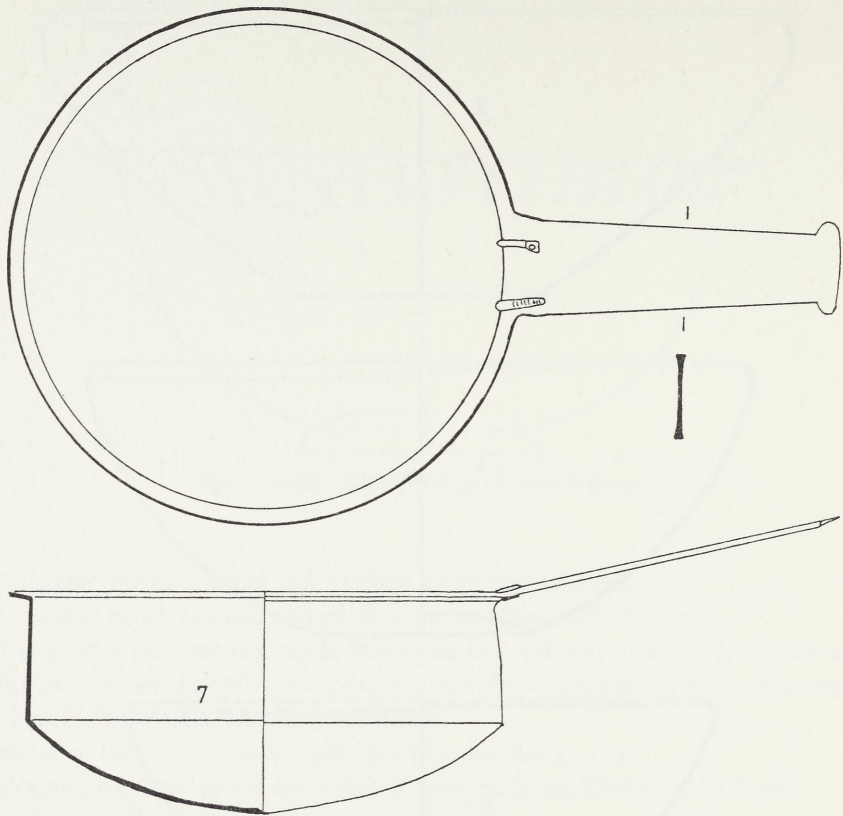


Fig. 9 Skillet from Irchester.

8. Flat-based bowl with plain rim and internal decoration of herringbone pattern and square stamps. Diameter 25,4 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 8)
9. Flat-based bowl with dished out-turned rim. Diameter 29,4 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 9)
10. Oblong Coptic frying pan, broken in places. Length 25,2 cm. (British Museum, 1915, 4-6, 10)
- Lit. *Proc. Soc. of Antiqu. London* 27, 1915/16, 76 ff.; reprinted *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 29, 1916, 1 ff.; Hawkes, 1951, 187 f. fig. 49.
6. 'Knaresborough', Yorkshire.
 A very large hoard found in 1864 on the Aldborough to Knaresborough road whose precise find spot is unknown. Part, perhaps the major part was melted down soon after the hoard was found. When found it is said to "have filled a cart". The surviving pieces are in the Yorkshire Museum, York.

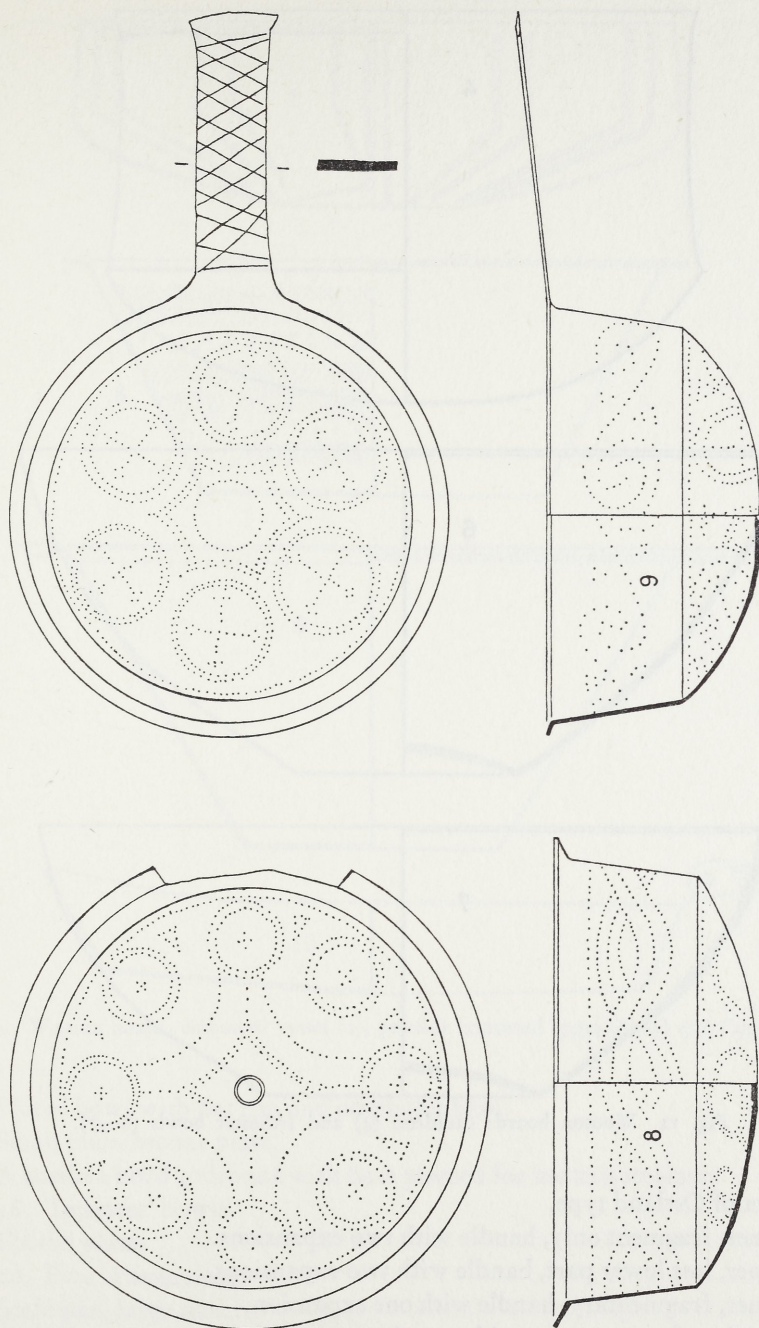


Fig. 10 Strainers from Irchester.

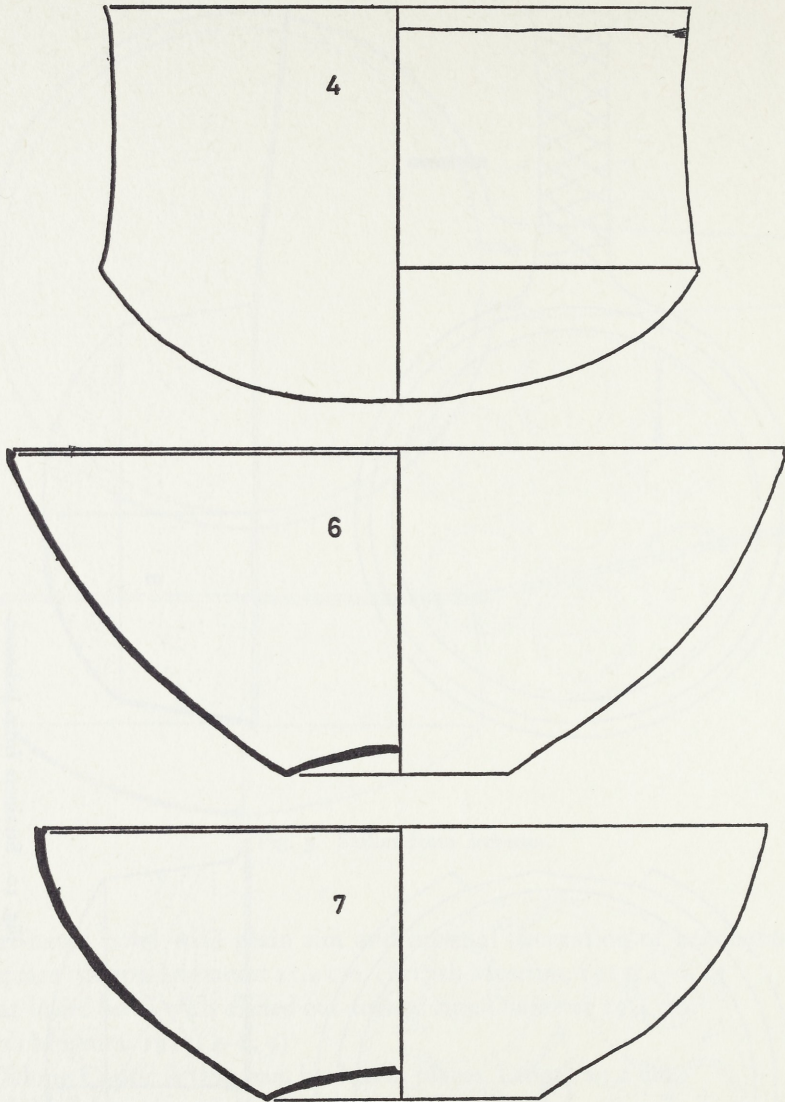


Fig. 11 Wootton hoard: cauldron (4) and Irchester bowls (6-7).

1. Bucket of Ostland type.
2. Strainer, fragment only, handle with two expansions.
3. Strainer, lost lower part, handle with two expansions.
4. Strainer, fragmentary, handle with one expansion.
- 5.-7. Strainer fragments: one side, two bases.

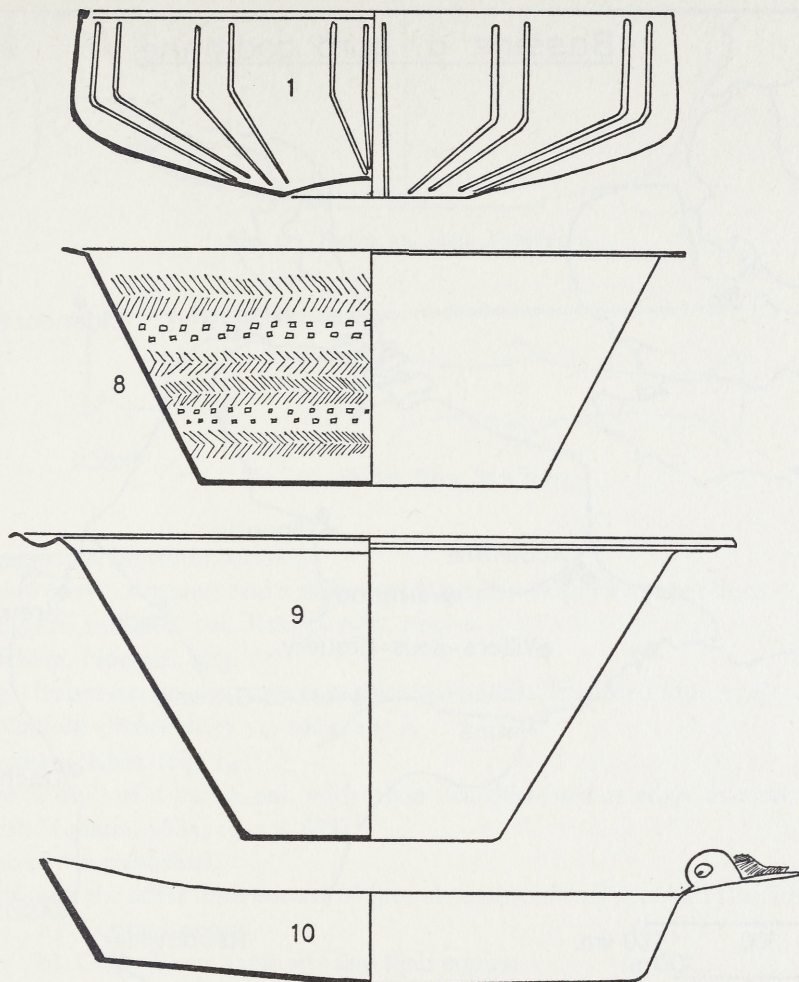


Fig. 12 Wooton hoard: embossed vessel (1), possible imported types (8—9) and Coptic pan (10).

8. Fluted bowl with flat rim and omphalos base.
9. Small plain bronze plate.
10. A bassin à bord godronné with base pierced for use as a strainer.
- 11.—16. 'Irchester' bowls.
17. Footed plate.
- 18.—20. Five bronze rings.
21. Scale pan, large size.
22. Skillet fragment including handle.

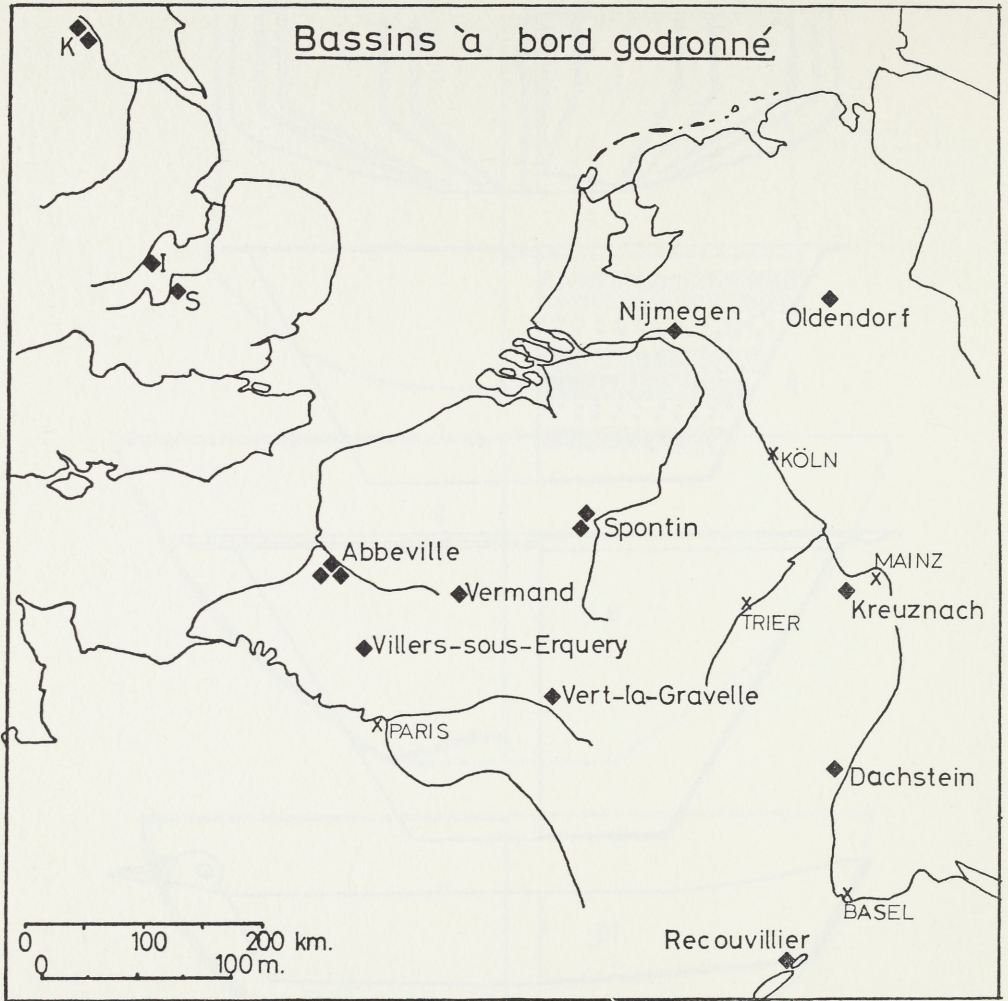


Fig. 13 Distribution of *bassins à bord godronné* in Europe. English finds shown by initial letters: I = Irchester; K = Knaresborough; S = Sandy.

23. A *bassin à bord godronné*, in poor preservation, with folded foot (omitted by Eggers).

Lit. Eggers, 1966, 91. 107, Kat. 55 Abb. 41-44. There is no English publication of this hoard.

Also marked on the map (fig. 1) are a number of other late Roman bronze vessel finds from Britain.

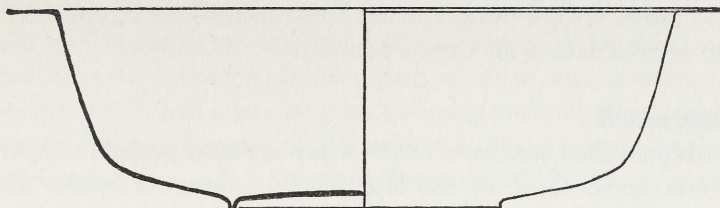


Fig. 14 Bassin uni from Faversham.

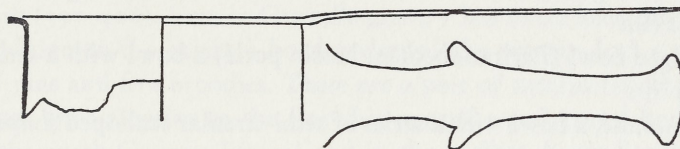


Fig. 15 Skillet from Swaffham.

7. Greatchesters, Northumberland.

A group of two strainers and a skillet, with handles with two expansions.

Lit. Eggers, 1966, 80. 108, Kat. 59 Abb. 10 c-e.

8. Swaffham, Norfolk. (fig. 15)

Skillet, fragmentary, with two expansions to handle. (Bedford Mus. 774)

Lit. *Norfolk Archaeology* 34, 1969, 435 f.

9. Faversham, Kent. (fig. 14)

Grave find (?) of a bassin uni, with plain rim thickened at edge, diameter 29,2 cm.

(British Museum, 1883, 12-13, 688)

Previously unpublished.

The hoards and the other finds consist of four elements, not all present in each find:

- a) Coptic Imports.
- b) Gallo-Roman imports and their copies.
- c) Cauldrons.
- d) Romano-British vessels: 'Ircchester' bowls and skillets and strainers.

The discussion which follows treats the individual vessels in that order.

a) *Coptic Imports*

The frying pans of the Sturmere (fig. 3, 4) and the Wooton (fig. 12, 10) hoards are most probably Coptic in origin. Other examples are known from a hoard found at Westhall, Suffolk²), consisting mainly of third century small bronze objects and London³),

²) *Proc. Soc. Antiqu. London* 27, 1915/16, 78
fig. 4.

³) Guildhall Museum, London.

an unassociated piece. Willers illustrates one from Reims⁴). In Egypt their associations are late Roman or even date to the Coptic period⁵).

b) Gallo-Roman vessels

All of the hoards published here have vessels which are most probably imports, or copies of imports, from north Gaul in the late fourth century. Previous discussions by Roosens⁶), Lantier⁷) and the present writer⁸) have pointed to a number of types based on rim form. These are:

- a) the bassin à bord godronné, a bowl with a series of continuous godrons, or repoussé bosses on the rim
- b) the pearl-edged bowl (Perlrandbecken, bassin perlé) a bowl with a series of separate bosses on its rim
- c) the bassin festonné, a bowl with a series of semi-circular scalloped shaped lines on the rim edge
- d) the bassin uni, a bowl with a plain out-turned rim
- e) fluted bowls of several types.

Each of these has been identified in the British material and among graves of the fourth century. To a great extent the various types are inter-related and are often found in different graves of the same cemetery or as in the Sandy hoard (fig. 2) together in the same hoard.

At the same time, it must not be thought that these are common types. The Pannonian survey of Radnoti⁹), and equally the published collections at Saalburg¹⁰) and Augsburg¹¹), do not include these types. Equally it would seem that their appearance in free Germany is the exception rather than the rule.

Of the purely late Roman types the commonest is the bassin à bord godronné. Eighteen examples are known to the author and the seventeen, whose provenance is known, are mapped on fig. 13. Significant for their dating are five vessels, those in Abbeville graves 53 and 83, Spontin graves D and G, and Vert-la-Gravelle grave 7.

In the graves from Abbeville republished by Roosens, three have a bassin à bord godronné: graves 52, 53 and 83. Grave 52¹²) also contained a glass bowl with Christian scenes, a glass jug, a pot, belt fittings and a pin. In grave 53¹³), the man was buried with a set of three glass vessels, a bronze plate, the bassin à bord godronné, a comb, shears and a spoon. With him was a coin of Valentinian I (364–375). In grave 83¹⁴), the woman

4) Willers, 1907 Abb. 207.

5) *Am. Journal of Arch.* 25, 1921, 44 ff.

6) Roosens, 1962, 30.

7) Lantier, 1948, 377.

8) Kennett, 1968, 12 ff.

9) Radnoti, 1938.

10) H. J. Eggers, Die römischen Bronzegefäße von

der Saalburg. *Saalburg-Jahrb.* 14, 1955, 45 bis 49.

11) W. Hübener, *Saalburg-Jahrb.* 17, 1958, 66 bis 73.

12) Roosens, 1962, 15 plate 3,4.

13) Roosens, 1961, 16 plate 4,4.

14) Roosens, 1962, 18 plate 6,4.

had two glass vessels, two pots, a comb, a finger ring, and the fittings for a box. With her was a coin of Gratian (375–383). Two of the graves at Spontin, republished by Dasnoy¹⁵), had a bassin à bord godronné. Each of these was accompanied by coins. Grave D (formerly 63)¹⁶) had a pair of pins, two pots and two glass vessels in a female grave with a purse of five coins: one of Valentinian I (364–375) and two each of Valens (364–378) and Gratian (375–383). Grave G (formerly 68)¹⁷) was the grave of a young man whose weapons included an axe and whose other accoutrements were three glass vessels and five pots. With him was a purse of twentyeight coins, of which ten have been identified: two of Valentinian II (383–392), six of Theodosius the Great (379–395), and two of Arcadius (395–408). Vert-la-Gravelle grave 7 has twice been discussed in recent years¹⁸). In addition to the bassin à bord godronné the woman had a glass jug, three pots, a pair of pins and five brooches. These are a pair of tutulus brooches and three of the north French type anterior to the fine chip-carved equal-armed brooches found in cemeteries in the north German littoral and in the earliest Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in England. Also in Vert-la-Gravelle grave 7 was a coin of Valens (364–378).

The coin associations would indicate that at the earliest the bassin à bord godronné was not buried until the last third of the fourth century, and that the latest, Spontin grave G, cannot be much later than the early years of the fifth century, for associations with later fifth century coins are unknown. Two other cemeteries, Vermand¹⁹) and Villiers-sous-Erquery²⁰), also have a bassin à bord godronné.

Among the other examples three are from the Rhineland. One in the Römisch-Germani-

¹⁵) Dasnoy, 1966, gives a selective republication of the reconstructable grave groups; citation of previous numbers is to the earlier publication in *Ann. Soc. Arch. de Namur* 8, 1864, 327–368.

¹⁶) Dasnoy, 1966, 182, fig. 7.7.

¹⁷) Dasnoy, 1966, 186, fig. 9.20.

¹⁸) Lantier, 1948, 376 f. plate 4.; *Archaeologia Geographica* I, 1950, 25, fig. 4–7.

¹⁹) Eck, 1891 plate 11.8. The bibliography of the Vermand cemetery is complex. Eck, 1891, reprints three papers by Eck in *Mém. de la Société Académique de St. Quentin* Ser. 4, no. 7, 1884/5, 178–352, with plate 1–7; 8, 1886/7, 190–256 with plate 8–14; 9, 1888/9, 210–250 with plate 15–20; but with the plates renumbered by one after the first as there is an additional, coloured plate of the objects in the grave of the military leader (no. 284) as plate 2. This plate is derived from a separate account of this grave by Pilloy in

Mém. St. Quentin 7, 1884/5, 353–367. Pilloy also gives a separate account of the cemetery in *Mém. St. Quentin* 9, 1888/9, 287–340; 10, 1890/1, 62–117 with plate 7 bis not in Eck, 1891; and 11, 1891/2, 63–119 with plate 21, again not in Eck. Eck's plates are reproduced in these accounts in the same numbering as in Eck's three papers. Pilloy's accounts are brought together as *Etude sur d'anciens lieux de sépultures dans l'Aisne* 2, 1895. For bronze vessels see Eck in *Mém. St. Quentin* 8, 1886/7, 203–207 with plate 10; Eck, 1891, 192–196, with plate 11; Pilloy in *Mém. St. Quentin* 11, 1891/2, 80–84. On all sets of plates the individual vessels are numbered the same.

²⁰) von UsLAR, 1938, 96 Anm. 26 citing Th. Baudon, *Étude sur le cimetière du IV^e siècle gallo-romain de Villiers-sous-Erquery* (1910) plate 10,1. (This publication was not available to me.)

schen Museum, Köln, is without greater provenance than the Rhineland²¹). There is one from Kreuznach in the Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum, Mainz²²), and a fragmentary example from a settlement site at Dachstein²³), dated to the end of the Roman period. Another example from a settlement site is from Recouvillier, Switzerland²⁴).

As far as I know, only one example has been analysed. This is an unassociated find from the River Waal at Nijmegen²⁵). Non-destructive spectro-chemical analysis, giving both quantitative and qualitative results²⁶), showed the vessel to be brass with a particularly high zinc (Zn) content, (27⁰/0). There was 5⁰/0 lead (Pb) and 2,7⁰/0 tin (Sn). Apart from a number of trace elements, the remaining 65⁰/0 of the metal was copper (Cu).

Only one example of the bassin à bord godronné would appear to be known from outside the Roman Empire. This is a vessel from a small cemetery at Oldendorf, Kr. Halle²⁷), whose published illustrations clearly show it to be of the type.

A number of points of contrast within this small, but scattered group of vessels can be noted. Two of the English finds – Irchester and Sandy – once had separate base-plates with a foot ring. The Sandy vessel has now lost its foot-plate, but that of the Irchester vessel remains. As far as I am aware the foot-stand of the continental examples is a folded ring made from the metal of the bowl. The use of the published Knaresborough example as a strainer is at present without parallel. The other Knaresborough example is of the normal continental form.

Within both the British and the continental examples two body profiles can be seen. Some, like the Irchester vessel (fig. 7), are rounded in profile, while others, like that from Sandy (fig. 2, 2) are angular. A similar distinction will be seen in the bassin festonné (see below p. 142).

The pearl-edged bowl (Perlrandbecken, bassin perlé) is more common in graves of the succeeding Merovingian and Anglo-Saxon period, but is found in some late Roman graves. Among the well known examples are Furfooz grave 4²⁸); Abbeville grave 85²⁹) with a coin of Honorius (395–423); Spontin grave C (formerly 2)³⁰) with a purse of eighty-four coins ending with nine of Arcadius (395–408); and Spontin grave H³¹). All of these are examples of the pearl-edged bowl with a high foot, and it would seem

21) Fremersdorf, 1933, 104, Text Abb. 11. B.

22) L. Lindenschmit, *Das Römisch-Germanische Centralmuseum in bildlichen Darstellungen aus seinen Sammlungen* (1889) Taf. 15, 34.

23) R. Forrer, *Cahiers d'Arch. et d'Hist. d'Alsace* 31–37, 1940–47, 208, plate 8, 7.

24) Bern Mus. 21137, cited by den Boesterd, 1956, 59.

25) den Boesterd, 1956, 58–59 no. 198 plate 9 and 15. den Boesterd, 1965, 108 and 120–121 Nr. 198.

26) Method employed and the deviations required

for reliability of results given den Boesterd, 1965, 101–104.

27) *Mannus* 5, 1913, 45–52 Taf. 4, 5; von Uslar, 1938, 96, Taf. 21, 3.

28) Nenquin, 1953, fig. 12, C4.

29) Roosens, 1962, 19 plate 8, 4.

30) Dasnoy, 1966, 180 fig. 6, 15.

31) Dasnoy, 1966, 188 fig. 12. This grave has no previous number; it was previously published in *Ann. Soc. Arch. de Namur* 4, 1856, 380–382.

that this may be an early type. At least one of the four pearl-edged bowls from Haillot³²) is of this type, though a different form is seen in another early example, that from Grosskarben, near Mainz³³).

Equally there are much later examples of pearl-edged bowls in continental graves. For example what would seem to be a late sixth century group, with separate bosses placed so as to leave no space between them on the rim, is represented by examples from Köln-Müngersdorf grave 91b³⁴), with a coin of Justinian I, a half-silqua minted at Ravenna between 555 und 565; Rommersheim³⁵); and Schwarz-Rheindorf grave 10³⁶), probably but not certainly associated with a coin of Justinian I (527–565).

Ten examples are known in Anglo-Saxon graves in England. The two earliest are probably those in isolated warrior burials of the fifth century. These are one from Sawston, Cambridgeshire³⁷), associated with a triangular-eared cauldron of the carinated type (as fig. 5, 2 see below p. 146), a sword and a shield-boss; and a burial also with a triangular-eared cauldron, which was too fragmentary to allow reconstruction, found at Queniborough, Leicestershire³⁸), with a bucket, pottery, buckles, a sword and a shield-boss. A third grave with a triangular-eared cauldron and a pearl-edged bowl is Holywell Row grave 11, Suffolk³⁹), buried in the early seventh century with rich accoutrements, including a square-headed brooch, a pair of annular brooches, girdle hangers, buckles, a knife, an iron purse-mount, a silver bracelet on each wrist, a spiral finger-ring, and a string of beads. Interspersed in the beads were three pendants, which as the latest objects in the grave date its deposition. Round the woman's hair was gold braid and outside her coffin an iron weaving batten. Rich too are the associations of Alfriston grave 28⁴⁰), with a large square-headed brooch, two zoomorphic-ornamented saucer brooches, and two swastika brooches, as well as a glass bowl and 186 beads, finger-rings and bronze rings. For this grave the middle years of the sixth century would not be inappropriate. The grave at Dartford, Kent⁴¹), with a fine late sixth century square-headed brooch and a pearl-edged bowl is one of two associated examples from that county. The other is from grave 21 at Bifrons⁴²), with a pair of radiate brooches of Kühn's type 21⁴³), a

32) J. Breuer and H. Roosens, *Archaeologia Belgica* 34, 1957, 225, fig. 16,1. (reprinted from *Ann. Soc. Arch. de Namur* 48, 1956, 171–316).

33) *Germania* 15, 1931, 259 Abb. 5.

34) F. Fremersdorf, *Das fränkische Reihengräberfeld Köln-Müngersdorf* (1955) 126 Taf. 16,28.

35) *Mainzer Zeitschr.* 28, 1933, 122 Abb. 6.

36) G. Behrens, *Merowingerzeit* (1947) 4 Abb. 10.

37) *Archaeologia* 18, 1818, 340–343 plate 24 and 25,9.

38) J. Nichols, *History of Leicestershire* 1 (1815)

39) T. C. Lethbridge, *Recent excavations in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk* (1931) 4–9: The pearl-edged bowl is not figured; for illustration see D. H. Kennett, *Proc. Cambridge Antiqu. Soc.* 65, 1972 (forthcoming).

40) *Sussex Arch. Coll.* 56, 1914, 35–36 plate 13,1.

41) *Arch. Cantiana* 70, 1956, 191. Not figured.

42) *Arch. Cantiana* 10, 1876, 306.

43) H. Kühn, *Die Germanischen Bügelfibeln der Völkerwanderungszeit in der Rheinprovinz* (1940). These brooches were omitted by Kühn.

necklace of glass and amber beads, belt studs, a knife and a headdress of gold braid. Again this would appear to be a middle to late sixth century grave group. Other finds from Kent are examples from Stowting⁴⁴) and Gilton (also known as Ash)⁴⁵). Other English examples are Mitcham, Surrey, grave 230⁴⁶), without associations, and likewise unassociated, a very large bowl from North Luffenham, Rutland⁴⁷).

It should be noted that within the examples from Anglo-Saxon graves more than one type would appear to be present, and it would seem likely that these may possibly be an insular development or equally they could reflect the wide variety that must exist in the hundred or more continental examples, dating from the late fourth to the late sixth century.

One of the three Sandy bowls is a bassin festonné, (fig. 2, 1). At present this is the only British example of the small group of this widely scattered type. The vessel form is defined by the continuous series of semi-circular cuts round the edge of the rim. Three other examples are known from inside the Roman Empire: Furfoz grave 3 or grave 13⁴⁸); Köln-Müngersdorf sarcophagus D⁴⁹); and Vert-la-Gravelle grave 26⁵⁰), associated with a tutulus brooch and two of the early equal-armed type of brooch, precisely the same types as were found with the bassin à bord godronné in Vert-la-Gravelle grave 7. The bassin festonné in Vert-la-Gravelle grave 26 has a rounded profile, while the other vessels quoted have a more angular profile. Also with an angular profile is a vessel in grave 3 of the 1926 finds at Leuna, Kr. Merseburg⁵¹), which had originally four handles on its body but is otherwise indistinguishable from the normal form of bassin festonné. A variant is represented by two Scandinavian finds, at Harv⁵²) in northern Sweden and one from the Vestfold region of Norway⁵³) but without more exact provenance. These have the scalloped rim design, on a broad flat rim, above a bowl whose upper side is nearly vertical, but whose lower part is fluted. These would appear to connect with the wide series of fluted bowls to be considered shortly, (below p. 144). The bassin uni is defined as a vessel with a plain rim and in it has been placed most of the remaining examples of what can be considered imported Gallo-Roman bronze vessels in Britain or their copies. It will be obvious from the illustrations (fig. 2, 3; 4, 6; 4, 7; 5, 5; 12, 8; 12, 9; 14, 1) that a variety of vessels is represented in this class.

44) G. B. Brown, *The Arts in Early England* 4 (1915) plate 116,3.

45) *Archaeologia* 30, 1844, 133 with fig.

46) J. Morris, *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Mitcham. Surrey Arch. Coll.* 56, 1959, 104—108 plate 23.

47) Rutland County Museum, Oakham.

48) Nenquin, 1953, 52 fig. C 3.

49) *Germania* 12, 1928, 174—176 Abb. 3.; Fre-

mersdorf, 1933, 104, Taf. 50, D2. and 53, 3—4.

50) Lantier, 1948, 383 plate 6, 2—3.

51) Eggers, 1951, Taf. 8,89.; Schulz, 1953, 26—27 and 61 Abb. 50 and Taf. 24.

52) *Altschlesien* 5, 1934, 252—253, find 39, Taf. 48,4.

53) *Altschlesien* 5, 1934, 253, find 40. Not illustrated.

The Sandy vessel (fig. 2, 3) has a foot-ring and on its rim there are small, almost imperceptible bosses. These are at present features for which no comparable vessel can be quoted.

Flat based vessels are common in this group and include two from Wooton (fig. 12, 8-9), in England and a number of continental examples. These include Monceau-le-Neuf, Aisne, in an extremely well-known grave⁵⁴), and grave 13 at Abbeville⁵⁵), as well as vessels in sarcophagi B⁵⁶) and D⁵⁷) at Köln-Müngersdorf. However, the dished rim of one of the Wooton vessels (fig. 12, 9) and the internal decoration of the other (fig. 12, 8) have no known parallels at present.

Several of the English vessels, like the footed one from Sandy (fig. 2, 3), have an omphalos base. These are the two in the Sturmere hoard (fig. 4, 6-7) and one from Faversham (fig. 14, 1). The slightly up-turned edge to the rim of one of the Sturmere examples (fig. 4, 7) is a feature which could suggest a Romano-British imitation rather than a Gallo-Roman origin for the vessel, for I do not know of any continental examples like this.

The Faversham vessel (fig. 14, 1) may well be a grave find but its associations are unknown. During the building of the railway in the second half of the nineteenth century at Faversham a large quantity of material, both Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon, was dug up, but unfortunately none was sufficiently well recorded to have any reliable associations. The collected material is now dispersed between several museums: the British Museum, London, both the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities and the Department of Prehistory and Roman Britain, (who between them have the largest part) the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, and the museums at Maidstone, Canterbury, Rochester (all Kent) and Farnham (Dorset); and includes several bronze vessels, both Roman and later. The Roman vessels include fragments of two trefoil-lipped jugs, and the vessels from Anglo-Saxon graves a group of four Coptic bronze bowls, one of which has a vandyked rim with twelve points, and all of which have an openwork foot⁵⁸). There is also one of the sixth century type of footed bowl, with a plain rim, and three small feet below a stand⁵⁹), as found in a number of continental graves⁶⁰), e.g. Lommersum grave 48⁶¹), Köln-Junkersdorf grave 71⁶²), and the Fürstengrab at Krefeld-Gellep⁶³).

The Fürstengrab at Krefeld-Gellep has amongst its rich accoutrements four bronze

⁵⁴) Roosens, 1962, 23 plate 12,9; *Medieval Arch.* 5, 1961, 29 fig. 11.

⁵⁵) Roosens, 1962, 14 plate 2,4.

⁵⁶) Fremersdorf, 1933 Taf. 50,B2 and 53,1.

⁵⁷) Fremersdorf, 1933, Taf. 51,6. and 53,2.

⁵⁸) With the exception of one Coptic bowl with a plain rim (in Ashmolean Museum, Oxford),

all the metal vessels are in the British Museum.

⁵⁹) British Museum, 1294 '70.

⁶⁰) The type is found also in other Anglo-Saxon graves, see *Medieval Arch.* 11, 1967, 32-33.

⁶¹) *Bonner Jahrb.* 160, 1960, 246 Abb. 15, 2-6.

⁶²) *Bonner Jahrb.* 146, 1941, Taf. 72, 1.

⁶³) Pirling, 1964, 205 Nr. 35; Taf. 59,2.

vessels⁶⁴). The triangular-eared cauldron will be noticed later (below p. 146), and the footed bowl has just been mentioned. Also in this rich grave of the second quarter of the sixth century is a bronze jug⁶⁵, of a form which imitates late Roman silver jugs (and in England those in pewter, too) and a flat-rimmed bowl with a rounded profile and straight upper sides⁶⁶). This vessel found on an iron stand would seem to be the Merovingian successor of the flat rimmed bowl in the Halkyn Mountain hoard (fig. 5, 5). Suggested as Merovingian, but possibly late Roman, is a similar vessel to the Halkyn piece found at Meclueves, near Strassbourg⁶⁷).

The final group of fourth century Gallo-Roman bowls to be considered also have on many examples a plain out-turned rim, but they are characterised by a fluted body. The bowl with straight fluted sides in the Knaresborough hoard⁶⁸) is paralleled in an unassociated find from the Vermand cemetery⁶⁹). A variant of this form is another bowl at Vermand with straight fluted sides and a godronné rim whose godrons are not on the same alignment as the flutings⁷⁰). It is probable that this last named is a development from a vessel seen in the third century hoard from Filzen which has the godrons on the same alignment as the flutings of the body⁷¹). In turn it is probable that the Filzen piece is a development from an earlier form where there is no distinction between the rim and the sides as in the vessel in grave 9 of the Fintherstrasse cemetery at Mainz, associated with a coin of Nerva, (96-98)⁷²).

All the vessels just noted have straight flutings, but there are too vessels with twisted flutings. The most well-known of these is a vessel with a broad horizontal rim and a body with twisted flutings found in the rich grave 5 at the small St. Quentin cemetery⁷³), associated with three coins, one of Valens (364-378) and two of Constantius II (351-361). A direct parallel to this is provided by a recently published vessel from Penard, Glamorgan, Wales⁷⁴), which contained a coin hoard of 2583 antoniniani from Valerian to Carausius, with one denarius of Severina, and which can be said to have been buried at the very end of the third century.

At this point it is apposite to mention that silver vessels with fluted bodies are known. One with twisted flutings is that in the Rheinzaubern hoard⁷⁵), and one with straight flutings was among the contents of the Kaiseraugst hoard from Switzerland⁷⁶).

64) Pirling, 1964, 205-206 Nr. 34-37 Taf. 57,2-59,2.

65) Pirling, 1964, 206, Nr. 37 Taf. 57,2.

66) Pirling, 1964, 205, Nr. 34 Taf. 58.

67) *Gallia* 16, 1958, 330 plate 12.

68) Eggers, 1966, Abb. 42,8.

69) Eck, 1891, plate 11,9.

70) Eck, 1891, plate 11,11.

71) Werner, 1938, Taf. 109,6.

72) *Mainzer Zeitschr.* 24-25, 1929/30, 149-150 Abb. 9,4.

73) Eck, 1891, 295, with plate 1,4 (headed "St. Quentin"); Eck, 1891, 286-308 with plate 1 (St. Quentin) reprints a paper by Eck in *Mém. de la Société Académique de St. Quentin* Ser. 4 Nr. 9, 1888/9, 251-286 with the same plate.

74) G. C. Boon, *Bull. Board Celtic Studies* 22, 1967, 291-310.

75) Werner, 1938, Taf. 114,3.

76) R. Laur-Belart, *Der spätromische Silberschatz von Kaiseraugst* (1963).

The exact correlations between silver and bronze vessels is a subject requiring future research, as is the relationship between bronze bowls with fluted sides and the series of bronze cauldrons with fluted sides for which a Dacian or an Italian origin can be postulated⁷⁷).

This interim statement on the state of our knowledge on Gallo-Roman bronze vessels in Europe will have served its purpose if it stimulates research into the problems it has raised, and thereby brings a closer definition of the period of currency and use of the types it has mentioned.

c) *Cauldrons*

Two of the hoards under discussion have cauldrons. Unfortunately it has only been possible to illustrate one of each type, but these still allow the main features to be seen. In the Wooton hoard (fig. 11, 4) there is a series of four cauldrons of a globular bodied variety with iron fittings (mostly now too corroded to permit reconstruction). This type is a lathe spun, one-piece cauldron which is the late Roman development from an earlier type of similar profile made from beaten bronze sheets. These have been termed the Santon-Carlingwark type⁷⁸) after the hoard from Santon, Norfolk⁷⁹), buried probably in response to the Boudican revolt of A. D. 60, and containing bronze fittings, and two bronze vessels – a trefoil-lipped jug and an animal-headed patera handle⁸⁰) – and the vessel which held the hoard of metalwork found in Carlingwark Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland⁸¹). The Santon-Carlingwark form is the naturalised British adaptation of the La Tène III (Emmendingen) type found on the continent⁸²). During the fourth century (and to some extent the third century as well) the two-piece cauldron becomes modified to a one-piece, lathe-turned vessel seen in the four examples in the Wooton hoard. Other British finds of this type are single finds, and include ones from Baschurch, Shropshire⁸³); Silchester⁸⁴); and two from Icklingham, Suffolk, the more recently found of which was the container for a hoard of third century material, mainly pottery⁸⁵).

In shape, with their concave bodies above a slight carination, these cauldrons imitate another form found in Britain, and illustrated here by one of the three in the Halkyn Mountain hoard (fig. 5, 2). This type of cauldron with a concave body above a carination and triangular ears holding a handle first appears in the third century in the

77) G. Ekholm, *Acta Arch.* 6, 1935 71–87 for Italian origin; Eggers, 1951, 45 and 55 for Dacian origin.

78) *Proc. Soc. Antiqu. Scotland* 87, 1953, 28 ff.

79) *Proc. Cambridge Antiqu. Soc.* 13, 1909, 146–148 plate 15, 1; I understand a republication of this hoard by M. G. Spratling is in preparation.

80) Eggers, 1966, Nr. 44, Abb. 37.

81) *Proc. Soc. Antiqu. Scotland* 87, 1953, 31 fig. 7, C1.

82) Evolution discussed Hawkes, 1951, 179–187.

83) *Proc. Soc. Antiqu. London* 21, 1907, 325.

84) *Archaeologia* 57, 1901, 246.

85) *Proc. Cambridge Antiqu. Soc.* 55, 1962, 7 plate 1c.

Filzen hoard⁸⁶). The Halkyn Mountain examples are the only certain finds of the type in Britain which are definitely to be dated within the Romano-British period, but a large fragment including an ear from among the rubbish of the theatre at Verulamium would seem to be of this, rather than a later form⁸⁷).

The type is found, however, in some of the earliest Anglo-Saxon graves in England. In addition to the Sawston, Cambridgeshire⁸⁸), burial already mentioned (above, p. 141), there is one from a man's grave at Ixworth, Suffolk⁸⁹), associated with a sword, shield-boss, and a spear, and another from grave 93 in the Long Wittenham, Berkshire⁹⁰), cemetery found with the well-known bronze bucket ornamented with Christian scenes. It is found in fifth century graves in the continent, including one from Mainz-Bretzenheim⁹¹) and another at Helle, near Oldenburg, grave 6⁹²).

Developed from the carinated form is a type found in Anglo-Saxon and continental graves with a globular body. Typical rich associated finds of this type in England include grave 42 at Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire⁹³) with a sword, shield-boss, spear, and drinking horn mounts; the Holywell Row⁹⁴) and Queniborough⁹⁵) graves noted above (p. 141); and one used to hold a seventh century cremation at Brightwell Heath, Suffolk⁹⁶), whose other grave goods included a bone comb, a bone draughtsman, and an ivory ring. The type is used as a cremation container⁹⁷) also at Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire⁹⁸) and Baginton, Warwickshire⁹⁹).

Without a doubt the richest associated find of one of this type on the continent is the Fürstengrab at Krefeld-Gellep¹⁰⁰), but it would be useful if an European list of these cauldrons, both in their carinated and globular versions could be made. It may be possible then to document the route by which the several Norwegian finds¹⁰¹) were exported and to suggest possible workshop centres. At present it would seem that there is a strong possibility that the English finds¹⁰²) (7 carinated, and 25 globular) are a native development from a late Roman prototype rather than imports.

⁸⁶) Werner, 1938, Taf. 108,7.8; 109,7.8.

⁸⁷) Publication by the present writer forthcoming in *Hertfordshire Archaeology*.

⁸⁸) *Archaeologia* 18, 1818, 340—343.

⁸⁹) *Proc. Suffolk Inst. of Arch. and Natural Hist.* 25, 1951, 213.

⁹⁰) V. I. Evison, *Fifth Century Invasions south of the Thames* (1965) 106, fig. 13, b—c.

⁹¹) G. Behrens, *Das frühchristliche und merowingische Mainz* (1950) 25 Abb. 43, 14.

⁹²) *Bonner Jahrb.* 158, 1958, 387 Abb. 11, 4.

⁹³) R. C. Neville, *Saxon Obsequies Illustrated* (1852) 16; Kennett, 1969, fig. 3b.

⁹⁴) T. C. Lethbridge, *Recent excavations in Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk* (1931) 4—9 fig. 3, 1.

⁹⁵) J. Nichols, *History of Leicestershire* 1 (1815) 135.

⁹⁶) *Journal of the Ipswich Field Club* 6, 1921, 1—14.

⁹⁷) For discussion of metal vessels as cremation containers in England see *Medieval Arch.* 11, 1967, 11—13.

⁹⁸) Kennett, 1969, fig. 3d.

⁹⁹) Coventry Museum, unpublished.

¹⁰⁰) Pirling, 1964, 206 Nr. 36, Taf. 59, 1.

¹⁰¹) A. Bjørn, *Bronsekar og glas begre fra Folkvandringstiden. Det Kongelige Norske Videnskabers Selskabs Skrifter* (1929) no. 6.

¹⁰²) *Listed the Antiqu. Journal* 36, 1956, 197—199, revised list Kennett, 1971, appendix 3.

d) *Romano-British vessels*

The cauldrons just discussed may have been Romano-British rather than Gallo-Roman, but their inspiration was probably Gallo-Roman even if their manufacture was Romano-British. The two final types to be discussed are both purely insular types, though the second has continental forebears.

The bowls with curving sides, an omphalos base and an inturned rim, present in all the large hoards under discussion, have been termed the 'Irchester' type¹⁰³). Four are present in the Irchester hoard (fig. 8); three each in the Halkyn Mountain (fig. 5, 6) and Sturmere (fig. 3, 1-3) hoards; two in the Wooton hoard (fig. 4, 6-7); and the Knaresborough hoard has six extant and probably originally had others of the type. Some single finds are also known of this type which appears to have no readily identifiable continental parallels or antecedents¹⁰⁴). Three bowls from Nijmegen¹⁰⁵) have an omphalos base and curving sides but are described as rimless. It is possible these brass vessels with a high zinc (Zn) content are analogous to the 'Irchester' type in Britain. Equally it should be mentioned that several hanging bowls in Britain have this form of bowl, with escutcheons added. These are found in Anglo-Saxon graves, and have been the subject of a number of studies usually with very different conclusions¹⁰⁶). These are not found in early post-Roman graves in Europe, though some are found in Viking graves in Norway¹⁰⁷), usually of a different type to the 'Irchester' bowls. One other vessel deserves notice here. This is a skillet, of post-Roman date, in the Altertumsmuseum, Mainz¹⁰⁸), which from its published illustration has a bowl very much like those of the 'Irchester' type.

The skillet and two strainers in the Irchester hoard (fig. 9-10) have carinated bodies and a flat handle terminating in an expansion. Their handles are much shorter than the more usually found form with two expansions. The latter, illustrated here by a skillet from Swaffham, Norfolk (fig. 15), is the European type, which is found in Britain both in its earlier, rounded¹⁰⁹), and in its later, carinated¹¹⁰), varieties. Handles are common, and their frequency demonstrates the weakness of the type in the lightness of its handle.

¹⁰³) *Antiquity* 6, 1932, 162-3; Hawkes, 1951, 188; Kennett, 1968, 29-32, with fig. 6-7; plate 4.

¹⁰⁴) Examples noted Kennett, 1968, 29.

¹⁰⁵) den Boesterd, 1956, 61, no. 207-209; plate 9,208; den Boesterd, 1965, 120-121, no. 207-209.

¹⁰⁶) On this see the wide literature with conflicting views represented by G. B. Brown, *The Arts in Early England* 4, 1915, 466-480; E. T. Leeds, *Celtic Ornament* (1933) 144-164; T. D. Kendrick in *Antiquity* 6, 1932, 161-184; F. Henry in *Journal of the*

Royal Soc. of Antiqu. of Ireland 76, 1936, 209-246; G. Haseloff in *Medieval Arch.* 2, 1958, 72-108; and E. Fowler, Hanging Bowls. In J. M. Coles and D. D. A. Simpson (eds), *Studies in Ancient Europe: Essays presented to Stuart Piggott* (1968) 287-310.

¹⁰⁷) *Viking Antiquities* 5, 1940, 83-112.

¹⁰⁸) G. Behrens, *Merowingerzeit* (1947) 77 Abb. 157. Altertumsmuseum now Mittelrheinisches Landesmuseum.

¹⁰⁹) Eggers, 1951, type 160.

¹¹⁰) Eggers, 1951, type 161.

Vessels with repaired handles, such as the one which held a coin hoard ending with coins of Commodus (180–192) found at Great Chesterford Essex¹¹¹). This was of the earlier, rounded variety. Vessels with broken handles have also been found as in the 1834 grave at Leuna, Kr. Merseburg¹¹²), now in the British Museum, London. To counteract this vessels with a shorted handle were made in Britain in the fourth century. They were only partially successful for one of the two strainers from Irchester lost its handle soon after discovery and the skillet has a repaired handle.

It has been suggested by Radnoti¹¹³) that in the fourth century local bronze vessel industries grew up in the provinces. The 'Irchester' bowl is one example of the local Romano-British industry; it would appear the skillet and strainer with a shorter handle with a single, terminal expansion is another. Another strainer of this type is one in the Knaresborough hoard¹¹⁴), though the other two complete¹¹⁵) vessels are of the European type.

Apart from the Swaffham skillet, the later European form is known in Britain from a service of two strainers and a skillet at Greatchesters¹¹⁶) and a pewter strainer from Stalmine Moss, Lancashire¹¹⁷). The later European form is thought to date to the third and fourth centuries¹¹⁸), but on present evidence the local Romano-British form would seem to be purely fourth century.

Conclusion

This study has, I hope, demonstrated the importance of the late Roman bronze vessel hoards in Britain. It has underlined the correlations between them and bronze vessels in late Roman graves on the continent, whose coin associations, though few, are sufficient to indicate a dating not earlier than the late fourth century and to preclude, except for the pearl-edged bowl and the triangular-eared cauldron, a date too far into the fifth century. At the same time it has been possible to point to purely insular types which demonstrate the existence of a local Romano-British bronze vessel industry.

The precise local context of each deposition is unknown to us but a raid, a local revolt, and the general collapse of society at the turn of the fourth and fifth centuries are all cogent possibilities for the several deposits. Each, however, represents a degree of prosperity that is part of the general prosperity of late Roman Britain. Equally their deposition is a pointer to the troubled nature of the last years of Roman Britain.

111) Eggers, 1966, Nr. 36. Abb. 38.

112) Schulz, 1953, 34 Taf. 31,2.

113) Radnoti, 1938, 79.

114) Eggers, 1966, Abb. 41,4.

115) Eggers, 1966, Abb. 41,2–3.

116) Eggers, 1966, Nr. 59, Abb. 10, c–e.

117) B. J. N. Edwards, *Roman Lancashire*. In:

M. G. Jarrett and B. Dobson (eds), *Britain and Rome* (1966) 102 fig. 2.

118) Werner, 1938; to which add the recent evidence of Les Mureaux, Siene (*Gallia* 21, 1963, 357–362 fig. 17–25) and Illingen (*Fundber. aus Schwaben* 16, 1962, 254–5 Taf. 46–47 and 71).