

the south wall of the building. The two marked sections of pipe were removed from the piscina drain, the remaining 27 sections coming from the infirmary.

It is interesting to note that the pipes can be dated fairly closely. Type 1, belongs to the inserted piscina in the wall of the south presbytery aisle, which is dateable to the period 1400 to 1475 architecturally.¹¹ However, a close examination of the piscina-base, all that now remains, shows that it originally drained into a soak-away within the wall foundations. This must have proved unsatisfactory, for a hole was cut through the wall behind the piscina, and a lead pipe inserted, which led in turn to the pipe-drain. This modification which must date the pipes seems to have taken place towards the middle of the 15th century, after there had been some erosion of the original drain. The date of types 2 and 3 also falls in the 15th century, at a time when the infirmary was rebuilt, and an opening was provided in the south wall of the range to let the pipe out. Because of the provision of an outlet for the drain, it would seem reasonable to assume that the drain was provided at the time when the building was being rebuilt, and almost certainly at an early stage in that programme. The similar drain that still flows below the infirmary must also be of this date, as the stone culvert in which it runs is incorporated in the footings of the range. The date of the rebuilding of the infirmary should fall in the middle of the 15th century¹² on the evidence of surviving detail, though heavy post-dissolution robbing of this part of the site makes it difficult to give a close date for the rebuilding.

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A Portuguese Jar from Lakenheath. The vessel published in this note is part of a collection of miscellaneous antiquities preserved by Ebernezer Gathercole of the parish of Lakenheath in the first half of this century. Little is known of the circumstances of its discovery but it would appear to be a local find and has been so accepted by the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (accession no. Z15159).¹³ The vessel is an 'onion-shaped' jar in a pink, micaceous ware, with smoothed surfaces, fired internally pink and externally to a buff/brown. It has a narrow neck below a thickened rim, external diameter 8 cm, internal diameter 6 cm. Below the neck constriction the vessel broadens into a generally bulbous shape

¹¹ F. J. E. Raby and P. K. Baillie Reynolds, *Thetford Priory* (H.M.S.O. 1970), p. 6 and plan.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 9, and observations by the writer on site.

¹³ I am grateful to the Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology for facilities at the museum and for permission to publish the vessel. Mr. P. Gathercole, the museum's curator, was kind enough to furnish details of his late relative's collection.

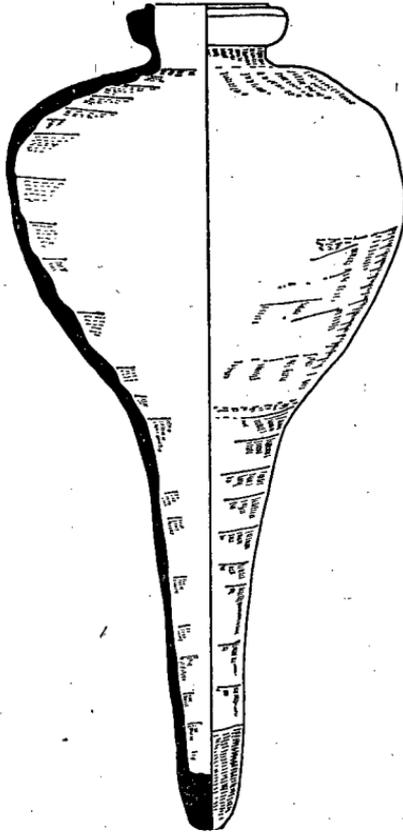


FIG. 27.—Portuguese Jar from Lakenheath. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

before a long spike drawn out of the base. This gives the pot the appearance of an onion and a total height of 40·5 cm (Fig. 27).

The vessel is one of several storage jars of Iberian origin in the Cambridge Museum,¹⁴ which belong to a group of types studied extensively for the eastern littoral of the Americas, including the Caribbean, by J. M. Coggin,¹⁵ but so far only published individually

¹⁴ These have been drawn by the author in connection with a larger study, 'Jarros emportado desde peninsular Iberica em norte Europas', *Conimbriga* (Coimbra) forthcoming. The present vessel is included there as Cambridge 1. The paper is henceforth cited as Kennett, 'Jarros'.

¹⁵ J. M. Coggin, 'The Spanish Olive Jar', *Yale University Publications in Anthropology* 62, 1960 (part of S. W. Mintz (ed.) *Papers in Caribbean Anthropology*, Yale Univ. Publ. Anthop., 57-64, copy in Haddon Library, Cambridge). Henceforth cited as Coggin.

in northern Europe.¹⁶ Coggin has distinguished three styles – termed early, middle and late – and with the two last, isolated three and four shapes respectively. Our vessel may be seen as a representative of his late style, shape ‘D’, called by him ‘top-shaped’, by analogy with a child’s spinning top.¹⁷ Vegetable-derived names are favoured by the present author. Other common shapes in England and Holland are globular¹⁸ and ‘carrot-shaped’,¹⁹ Coggin’s ‘egg-shaped’.

The ‘onion-shaped’ vessel is not found on American sites before the last quarter of the 18th century and seems to be current until the mid 19th century or later.²⁰ With the absence of stratified specimens in England, one can accept the analogy, though its application may not be completely valid. The forerunners have a long history in Europe, but those known to me are complete examples, often recovered for museum collections from a secondary use, often as water carriers. The primary function of these vessels would have been to act as containers for importing wine, olives in brine, and when internally glazed, for olive oil.²¹ It is these last two uses which have led to the type being called ‘olive jars’.

The Lakenheath pot is the largest of the five ‘onion-shaped’ jars in the museum. The others²² show more clearly the marks of the potter’s fingers when drawing the spike out of the base of the bulbous portion of the vessel. The spike would have been a stabilising influence when the pots were in the hold of a schooner: the same function as the spike on Roman amphorae. The latter are smoothed, unlike the post-medieval examples.

On present evidence in northern Europe, the ‘onion-shaped’ jar is confined to England. An intensive search in Dutch museums failed to reveal any examples, though ‘carrot-shaped’ and globular ones are common. Earlier examples have been suggested as purely Spanish in origin, possibly with a centre of manufacture in the region of Andalusia around Seville and Cadiz. Later it seems

¹⁶ British examples include Bristol, *Med. Arch.* viii (1964), p. 211 and fig. 72, no. 95; Tresco, Isles of Scilly, *Post-Med. Arch.* iv (1970), p. 23, no. 29; near Tenby, in Tenby Museum: Waterford. For knowledge of the two last, I am grateful to J. M. Lewis.

¹⁷ Coggin, 18-21 with pl. 8, a-c.

¹⁸ Coggin, shape B, both middle and late styles.

¹⁹ Coggin, shape A, particularly in his middle style; e.g. Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, accession nos. 23.847A and Z15160A, respectively Kennett, ‘Jarros’, Cambridge 8 and 9; and Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, accession nos. KOG 485 and 486, respectively Kennett ‘Jarros’, Amsterdam 1 and 2.

²⁰ The evidence is summarised in Coggin, 24 and 32-35 with full references.

²¹ Miss M. D. Cra’ster kindly pointed out that the density of olive oil is heavier than the ceramic and unless the vessel was internally glazed it is unlikely that oil would have been contained.

²² Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, accession nos. Z15994C, Kennett ‘Jarros’, Cambridge 2-5, all without greater provenance than ‘England’.

probable that manufacture spread along the Atlantic seaboard to Portugal, though without detailed thin-sectioning and heavy mineral analysis of many vessels, this is not possible to prove. Coggin has suggested that in view of the greater diversity of shapes, his examples in the Americas may have been made there in the 19th century.²³ The strong possibility of a Portuguese origin rather than an Andalusian one for the Lakenheath pot is emphasised by the only Iberian parallel known to me being one of uncertain but local provenance on the Praia de Faro, now in the Museu Arqueologia, Faro. None of the museums in Seville known to me contain examples of the type, though they do have both globular and 'carrot-shaped' ones.

The extensive contacts of Britain and Portugal in the wine trade²⁴ are reflected in the ceramics.²⁵ Ipswich had contacts with the wine trade as early as the 17th century.²⁶ Imported coarse wares, such as the Lakenheath pot, probably reflect this but until further work is done upon these ceramics and more stratified examples are unearthed, they can only be viewed as examples of a type in eastern England, probably with much greater currency than has hitherto been recognised.

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²³ Coggin, 5 and 21.

²⁴ H. E. S. Fisher, *The Portugal Trade 1700-1770* (1970); A. D. Francis, *The Wine Trade* (1973); L. B. Sutherland, *A London Merchant, 1695-1774* (1933).

²⁵ J. M. Lewis, 'A Spanish Olive Jar from Caerleon', *Monmouthshire Antiquary* II (1961-5), pp. 118-9 makes the point about Chepstow.

²⁶ V. B. Redstone, 'Ipswich Port Books', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xiv (1912), pp. 238-242.