

Three Medieval jugs from St. Bartholomew's Hospital

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THREE medieval jugs were found in the mid-19th century at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. They were presented in June 1851 to the British Museum by Philip Hardwick, architect. He also put a note of this discovery in the *Archaeological Journal* with an illustration of No. 1 (see fig 1). In the first paragraph he describes them as "three curious specimens of medieval glazed ware, found during recent excavations at St. Bartholomew's Hospital." Each of these jugs has a paper label stuck to it, where it states that they were "found at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London 1850, in a hole that had been filled in with rubbish." They were published in Hobson's *Catalogue*² as a list and by Rackham³ who only reproduced a photo of No. 1. It now only remains to bring the Philip Hardwick material together as a group.

No. 1 Scaled Jug. Dull yellow coarse sandy ware, applied scales and at base a row of continuous light finger impressions. The rod handle is luted into body, applied spurs, three incised vertical lines with a row of stabbed holes along the centre one. The exterior is covered with a lustrous finely mottled green glaze. (B.M. B.34).

No. 2 Rilled Jug. Rough, sandy red ware, lightly rilled exterior with a continuous row of finger impressions at base. A stump of strap handle luted into body. Exterior is covered with a thin white slip, over which is a clear pale mottled green glaze. The upper portion is a suggested reconstruction by the author, who considered there was a pulled spout with possible finger-impressed spurs. (B.M. B.27).

No. 3 Baluster Jug. Sandy red ware showing a set of three light finger impressions at base. The exterior is covered with a thin even white slip, partly covered by a bib of pale yellow mottled green glaze. The upper portion is reconstructed on a Classic Baluster Jug in the Museum of London's collection (B.M. B.14).

These jugs can be dated by comparison with others found in London. The scaled jug No. 1 would in fabric seem to be a Surrey product. An example simi-

lar to this was recently found at Bridge House, Southwark in June 1975⁴. It was associated with a pear-shaped Saintonge polychrome jug and the lower portion of a baluster jug. A marginal date for this would seem to be 1275-1320. The rilled jug No. 2 is at present unfamiliar in shape to the author, but in technique it would seem to be a West Kent product. The baluster jug No. 3 is a well-known type in London, and the reconstructed rim form shown belongs to the Classic London type. Dateable examples found at Windsor Court associated with a silver penny of Edward III suggest a date not earlier than 1327⁵. In the provinces in a garbouse group at Lesnes Abbey another was found associated with a Saintonge Jug similar to the Bridge House example mentioned above.⁶ This would imply a slightly earlier marginal date.

It would seem from the above dating evidence that the St. Bartholomew's jugs belong to the early 14th century, and that they are a homogeneous assemblage. The author considers that these jugs are the remnants belonging to a larger deposited assemblage which is likely to contain sherds belonging to other vessels. It would seem that the description of a "hole" could imply a pit or possibly a wood-lined well.

The location of this feature in the precincts of the hospital could be identified by isolating Philip Hardwick's constructional works there. In 1842 he constructed the new surgery block⁷ just east of St. Bartholomew the Less which was extended to Duke Street (now Little Britain St.) in 1861. He was also engaged in refacing James Gibb's east wing of the hospital in 1845 with Portland stone. It seems that he completed this in 1852. According to the House Committee minutes of 14th December 1852 ("£500 presented to Philip Hardwick for superintending the refacing of the hospital and other works so satisfactorily completed."⁸ There is only one reference to his work in 1850, the year when the medieval pottery was found. In the minutes for 23rd December 1850 it states that "£150 paid him in superintending the works."⁹

1. P. Hardwick, *Archaeol. J.* 8 (1851) 103.

2. R. L. Hobson, *Catalogue of the English Potter in the British Museum* (1903) 62.

3. B. Rackham, *Medieval English Pottery* (1948) pl. 11.

4. Information by Michael Hammerson (S.A.E.C.).

5. W. F. Grimes, in R. Bruce-Mitford (ed.), *Recent*

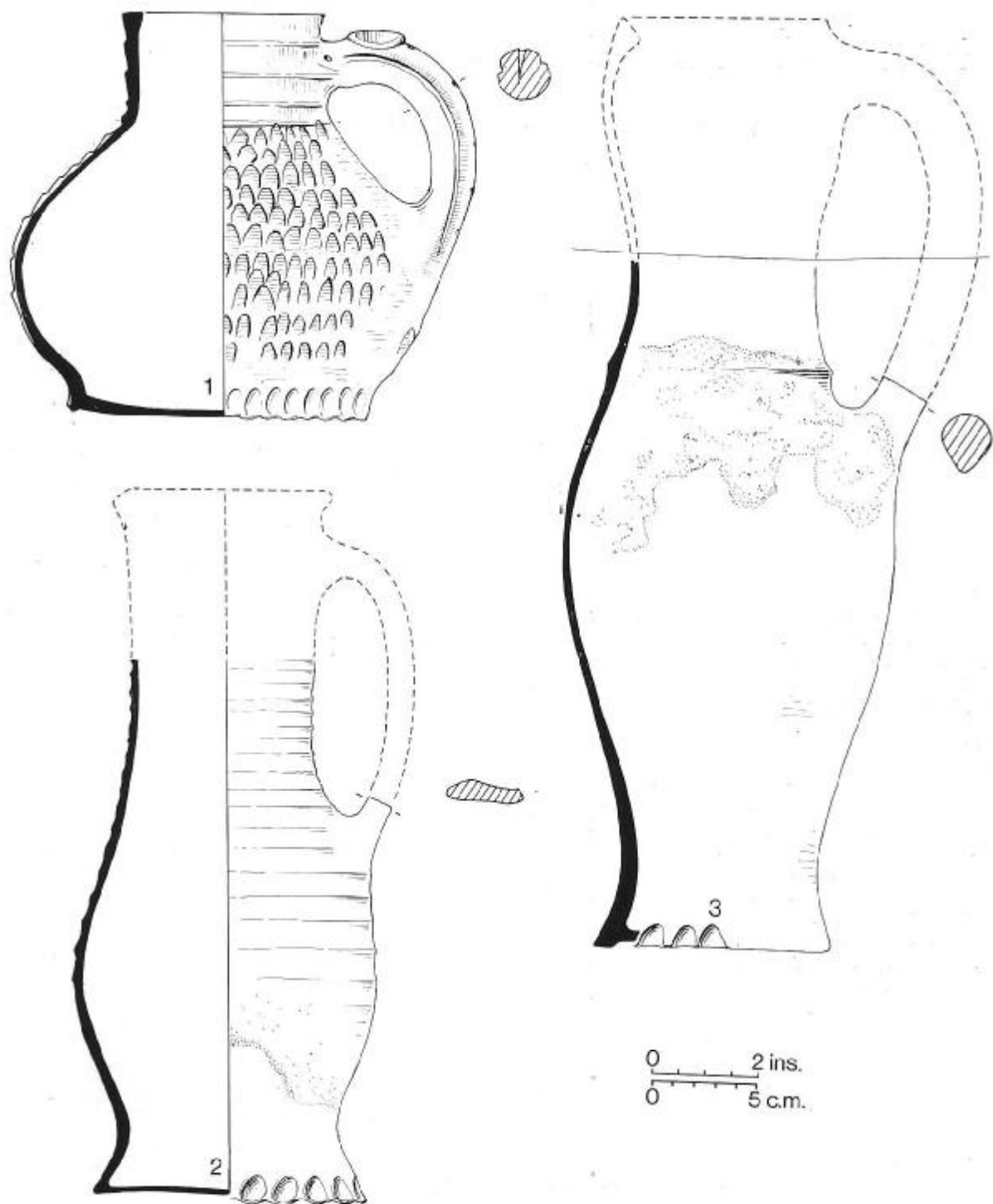
Archaeological Excavations in Britain (1956) pl XX(a) and p.119.

6. G. C. Dunning, *Ant. J.* 61 (1961) 4-5, figs. 1 and 4.

7. St. Barts MS Hc 19/7/84.

8. St. Barts MS Ha 1/20 fol. 446.

9. *Ibid.* fol. 255.



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