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SOME POTTERS' MARKS FROM CALES.

By C. LEONARD WOOLLEY, M.A.

The names of the potters who produced the black varnished vases decorated with reliefs commonly known as Calene phialae, have been adequately recorded by Pagenstecker; but there have not been published the marks of any of the manufacturers of the undecorated black ware from the same site, nor, to the best of my belief, have marked specimens of certain origin been known. While on a visit to Cales, the modern Calio, during the spring of 1910, I was fortunate enough to secure a number of them.

Cales lay on a spur of high ground bounded on south-east and south-west by precipitous slopes: this spur is still known as the Capitolio. At its broader end, near to the amphitheatre, there are a few ruins standing above ground. One group apparently belonged to the basilica, another, decorated with much ruined stucco reliefs, was perhaps a private house. Towards the point of the spur agriculture has brought the modern ground level down to or below that of Roman time; floors have been destroyed by the plough, the stone sill of a shop front could be seen on the surface, and lead pipes were to be found only a few inches below it. The close tufa of which the hill is made is honeycombed by sewers, well cut and lined with smooth cement, some of which have been broken into by field labourers, while in the steep sides of the sunken road that now runs across the site can be seen the broken ends of innumerable such channels. I penetrated one or two of these whose man-holes had been found flush with the modern ground level. The best had a man-hole 7.30 m. deep and 0.55 m. in diameter, with steps cut down the sides; at the bottom two sewers ran at right angles to one another. They were faced with cement, had flat bottoms and rounded tops, were 0.90 m. wide and 1.50 m. high, and ran for 5.00 m. and 8.00 m. respectively. Close to the man-hole was a circular tube 0.75 m. in diameter running down at a slight angle, blocked by fallen soil. At the far end of one sewer was a pipe 0.15 m. in diameter which ran up at a sharp angle to the surface, above which had presumably stood a latrine. The circular pipe pointed in the direction of the ravine below the spur of the Capitolio, and doubtless discharged into this. In the sewer were numerous fragments of pottery, all of Roman date, including parts of two lamps, one with a triangular palmette handle and one with a scene of two gladiators, a small amphora of fine thin buff ware haematite washed and lightly burnished (now in the Ashmolean Museum,

Oxford), and several pieces of *terra sigillata*, a flat dish with appliqué ornament, another with part of a mark as given below, another with the

CALN

defaced stamp L . . . in a foot, and no. 37 with decoration. There were also a piece of an "engine-turned" vase of thin reddish-brown ware, a piece of a deeply indented "thumb vase," a fragment with a lustrous black warty surface like some poor Castor examples, a small fragment of black varnished Calene pottery, and a reeded glass handle. In spite of the Calene piece, which had doubtless filtered in through the broken roof, the sewer, which is typical of the rest, must be regarded as Roman. Roman also are the big walls at the very point of the spur where, from the steeply shelving bank, a series of galleries had been built up to form an artificial terrace level with the hill top. The important building of which these are the substructures has disappeared. On the south-east slope, near the crest, can be traced in several places heavy walls of large tufa blocks well squared and laid, presumably the walls of the city. At intervals along the face occur vertical semicircular channels which lead down to circular stone-lined holes running into the ground; these also seem to have been drains. They seem choked with débris of coloured wall-plaster, moulded plaster cornices, etc. Above and within the low line of this wall, where the edge of the earth crest had fallen away, a heavy layer of broken pottery, animal bones, etc. shewed clearly the level of the late Graeco-Oscan period some feet below the existing surface. From this stratum, and from the slope beneath the wall face, which was strewn with fragments of pottery, I picked up hundreds of sherds of the black Calene fabric; most of these were plain, two or three were decorated with flower-wreaths in white slip, many had stamped palmettes but there were no examples of the relief ware ordinarily associated with the name of Cales. Moreover I was rewarded by the discovery of the base of a flat dish on which was stamped the name Sextus. But the main find was made further along towards the point of the Capitolio. Here just under the crest were to be seen two walls, one a retaining wall built against the face of the slope, another at right angles to it projecting outwards for some two metres and then broken away where the soil had slipped from beneath it. The walls were of roughly cut small tufa blocks in a style hardly worthy of the title *opus reticulatum*, but preserved traces of a quite good white intonaco, and in the angle lay a few fragments of plaster painted a Pompeian red; a rough concrete floor had left its mark along the wall face and a few centimetres width of it still remained in the corner of the room. Some

FIG. 37 (p. 200).

labourers working at this point brought to light a mass of broken pottery. Under the floor-level of the room, and running under the foundations of the walls, was a stratum roughly 0.60 m. thick composed entirely of potsherds (fig. 37). When first encountered, close to the sloping face of the ground, this layer was of course mixed somewhat with the upper soil, and tailed off to nothing at the surface; but when once the deeper soil was reached the stratum was clearly defined, and the fragments were so thickly heaped together that comparatively little earth had filtered in between them. The men did not work beyond the angle of the wall, but from the small area cleared, not more than three square metres in extent, I took out several sackfuls of sherds. The bulk of these were of rough red and brown vessels, broken up so small that their forms could not be

FIG. 38 (p. 204).

distinguished; mixed up with these were a fair number of animal bones, a part of a clay crucible with iron slag adhering to it, and one or two fragments of *terra sigillata* which came from the upper soil or from the outer edge of the pottery stratum and probably belonged to a later date; there were besides thousands of fragments of black varnished ware of which a hundred and eighty-four were bases of pots bearing potters' marks. This remarkable deposit cannot represent the refuse from a factory; a factory would scarcely be at the very top of a hill when immediately below there is a convenient stream; nor were there any "wasters" amongst the fragments. It might possibly be a shop or warehouse. But the

FIG. 39 (p. 204).

systematic way in which the vessels had been broken, and the presence of animal bones amongst the sherds to the exclusion of any other form of refuse makes it more probable that we have here the rubbish-heap of a temple where periodically there were broken and thrown away the dedicated vessels whose embarrassing accumulation made such measures necessary.

The vessels were all bowls of the type shewn in fig. 38 : these correspond more or less with the shapes numbered by Pagenstecker 5 and 13 to 18, and are obvious and simple forms not confined to any one locality. Only one fragment occurred which was definitely not of any of those types ; it was too fragmentary to admit of reconstruction, but might have been from the neck of a large vessel or from the stand of Pagenstecker's no. 19. The marks were no less limited than the shapes ; twenty-five were broken or doubtful ; the remaining 159 gave only twenty-four varieties representing not more than seventeen names. A deposit so homogeneous must belong to a short period ; the constant recurrence of the same stamps and the fact that they have not occurred elsewhere are proof that we have to deal with a local product. At Cales the factory for the production of the decorated phialae seem only to have been established well after the foundation of the Roman colony (331 B.C.), and the names, which are exclusively Latin, are written in the style of the third century. On the plain pottery none of the same names occur, and the epigraphy is also rather different, the alphabet being of a more markedly colonial type of Latin ; the names are possibly earlier than the Gabinus, Atilius and Ancleius of the Calene phialae, but it is more likely that those two fall within, or nearly within, the limits of the third century, to which period the black Campanian pottery for the most part can be assigned. The actual position of the deposit, immediately below the foundations of probably Roman buildings, does not help to fix the date very closely.

An interesting point is the occurrence of the word *MUNI* or of its abbreviations *MV* and *M* where on later Roman pottery we should find *MANU* or its shortened equivalents. The explanation of this word, which looks temptingly like the ablative of a U-stem word corresponding to *manus* I must leave to those who are familiar with the dialects of Italy.

All the names are stamped in relief within a depressed field, sometimes bordered by a line in relief, on other cases plain (fig. 39) ; all are stamped in the centre of the interior of the bowl. Generally, there was round the name, about at the spring of the curve of the sides, a ring either of "engine-turned" ornament or of small rosettes, palmettes, etc. It was not possible to identify in all cases the original shapes of the vases and so to establish any relation between types and marks ; of shapes 8 and 9 however, no marked examples were found, while stamps were perhaps most frequent on shapes 1 and 5.

The stamps occurred in the following numbers :

Stamp	No. of examples.	Stamp	No. of examples.	Stamp	No. of examples.
1	21	9	2	17	3
2	7	10	13	18	15
3	2	11	13	19	1
4	1	12	1	20	2
5	12	13	12	21	27
6	2	14	12	22	2
7	1	15	1	23	1
8	20	16	12	24	1

No. 3 ; in each of the two examples there was a blemish over the II of SIX which may have been merely a fault in the clay, or a ligature.

No. 4 was fragmentary and badly weathered.

Nos. 10 and 11 are put together, as the small dot which forms the only difference between them was doubtful in some damaged cases.

Nos. 13 and 14 put together as some weakened or broken examples could not be distinguished.

No. 16. The dot in front of the 3 was not always visible, but this was probably due to the impression being weak or the specimen weakened.

The Ashmolean Museum at Oxford possesses a representative series of the stamps here published, the remainder are in Italy. But these probably form but a small proportion of what might be discovered were a proper excavation undertaken on the site. Being on the spot, I was glad to take advantage of what was being done by the casual work of a few labourers ; but the bulk of the fragments remain in the hill-side. In my conclusion based on the examples that were secured, it must be remembered that they came from a very limited area and may form part of a deposit by no means so homogeneous or so limited.