

## Pottery from Kinnoull, Perth, and the distribution of tubular spouts in Scotland

by Lloyd R. Laing

In 1959 Miss A S Henshall and Mr R B K Stevenson published a note in these Proceedings of a probable late thirteenth-century kiln-site at Kinnoull, Perth, and illustrated a selection of the pottery (for ref, see *Perth*). The purpose of this note is to publish a further group of pottery from the same kiln, the types chosen not having been hitherto illustrated. The sherds were collected over a period of time by the late Mr R G Thompson in his garden at Wellbank, Kinnoull, and given to M P B W in 1949. There they were seen and drawn by myself prior to being passed on to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland via the Finds Disposal Committee in 1968.

### *The Catalogue* (fig 6)

1. Cooking pot in fine orange sandy ware with creamy-yellow slip. Spots of honey-coloured glaze which extend over the fracture suggest it is a waster. Slightly squared rim, hollowed inside for lid seating. Compare *Dundee Overgate*, 43 or *Upper Heaton*, fig 13, 7 (both fourteenth century); *Newcastle S Curtain Wall*, 35 provides a similar late thirteenth-century example. A somewhat similar profile can be seen in *Perth*, fig 16, 13.
2. Cooking pot rim in fine sandy ware, creamy colour with light grey core and fine quartz grits. Some traces of fuming. This is a fairly common Scottish type – cf *Dundee Overgate*, 38 for an early fourteenth-century example, in coarser ware. See also *Upper Heaton*, fig 12, 5.
3. Jug rim in dark buff ware with grey core, mica dusted. Spot of green-yellow glaze on rim. This is a common general type of jug rim of the late thirteenth–early fourteenth century, and is found with slight variants from Yorkshire northwards. For a Yorkshire example see *Scarborough*, fig 3, 12/1. For a closer parallel from Scotland see *SMP*, 4 (Jedburgh).
4. Jug rim in fine yellow ware with creamier external surface. Spots of honey-coloured glaze. Cf *Linlithgow I*, 22 (fourteenth century).
5. Rim of small jug of club profile with concavity on exterior, in orange fabric with cream slip. Spots of honey-coloured glaze.
6. Rim of small jug in hard grey ware with fine texture. Spots of black glaze. *Dundee Overgate*, 1 shows general type.
7. Body sherd of jug in buff ware with honey and light green glaze and impressed wheel stamp divided into 4 segments.
8. Spout of tubular-spouted jug with support (septum) joining body of vessel. Orange buff fabric with worn bovril and green glaze.
9. Body sherd of jug in light grey ware with applied scale ornament. Dark green glaze tending to black on scales.
10. Body sherd of jug in orange buff ware with applied scale ornament and apple green glaze.

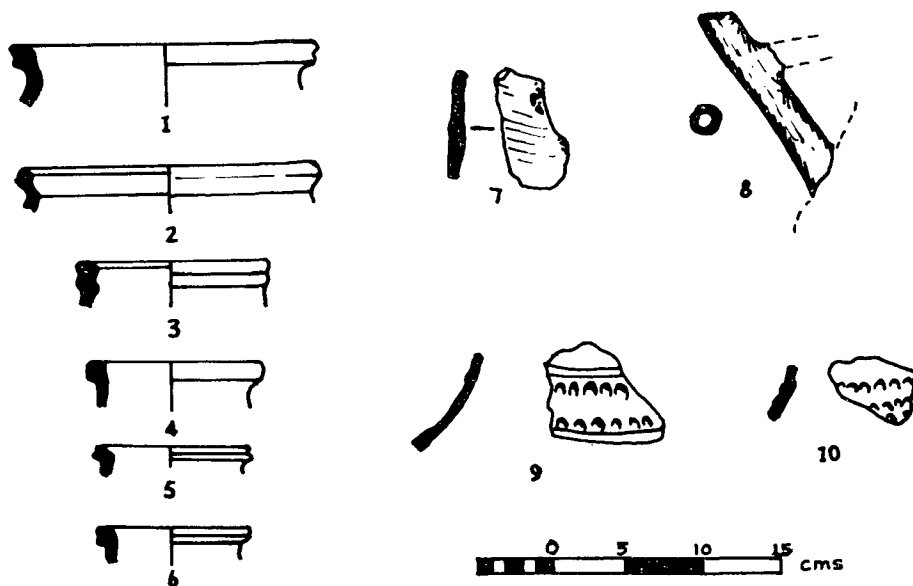


FIG 6

### Discussion

From the above list it can be seen that all these vessels are in keeping with the late thirteenth- or early fourteenth-century date suggested in the original report; of particular interest are nos 7 and 8.

It is noteworthy that the long tubular spout with supporting strut (no. 8) appears in the assemblage. This type of spout is characteristic of the north of England and Scotland in the late thirteenth century, and appears to have been built up on a stick.

The tubular spouted jug was a type produced in both the Colstoun (E Lothian) and Kinnoull kilns. The association of a coin hoard in the case of no. 15 (below) shows the type to have remained current in the early fourteenth century, and the associations with other pottery in the case of nos 14 and 16 would confirm this dating. The type, though current at Cambridge and elsewhere in the south, is sufficiently rare to suggest that it was a popular type mainly in the north, and its spread in Scotland may not be altogether unconnected with the Yorkshire influence on Scottish pottery, especially that of the Scarborough district where it is a feature of many of the Scarborough jugs. The form is a pottery skeuomorph of the spouted tripod pitchers and related bronze vessels that were particularly common in the period from the mid-fourteenth century. As the metal prototypes seem to have continued it is surprising that their pottery copies are not equally common. Particularly interesting in this connection is no. 18 (here shown as fig 7). This spout, from Coupar Angus Abbey, terminates in an animal head of uncertain type but probably meant to be a lion. Such animal-head terminals to spouts are of course common on bronze aquamaniles.

The English examples have been plotted by Jope and Hodges in 1956 (see map, *Carlisle I*, fig 5). The Scottish examples (see map, fig 8) are:

1. *Jedburgh* Unusually large example. *SMP*, 14.
2. *Deer* Two examples, one with strut. *SMP*, 40 and 41.
3. *Glenluce* Scarborough Ware. See Laing and Robertson, *PSAS*, 102 (1969-70), no. 4.
4. *Bothwell* Decorated with crude animal head and with upright septum. *Bothwell*, 26.

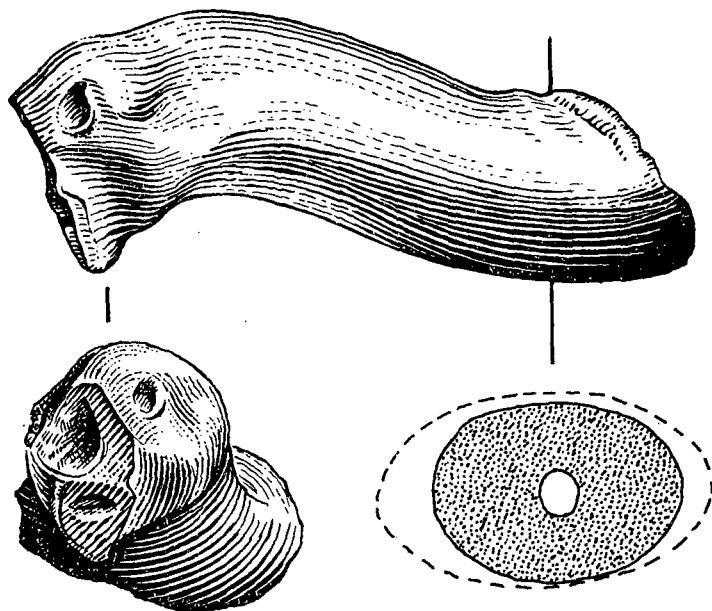


FIG 7

## TUBULAR SPOUTS



FIG 8

5. *Melrose* Three examples. Two illustrated as *Melrose*, 2 and 10. Two are decorated with scale ornament. The other example is pierced with a quatrefoil matched exactly at West Derby Castle, Liverpool. Cf *Liverpool Annals of Archaeology*, xv (1927), 47 and pl xxb.
6. *Inchcolme* With attached loop. *SMP*, 68.
7. *Kirkcudbright* Dunning *et al*, *PSAS*, xci (1957–8), 127 and fig 4, 12. Anthropomorphic type with face mask and arm.
8. *Dundee Overgate* Figured as *Dundee Overgate*, 52.
9. *Peebles Castle* NMAS, unpublished. With applied roundel of clay at mouth. No cat. no.
10. *Colstoun* From kiln. In NMAS. Unpublished.
11. *Mote of Urr* Truckell and Williams, *Trans D & GNHAS*, xlv (1967), 14b/2, 161 and fig 11. Possibly associated with an Irish penny of Edward I.
12. *Leuchars Castle, Fife* NMAS, unreg. and unpublished. Henderson Coll.
13. *Pitleithie, Leuchars, Fife* (NMAS, unregistered, as above).
14. *St Andrews* Abbey St excavation.
15. *Dumfries* The tubular spout on this pot is missing, but it obviously had one. It contained a hoard datable to c 1310, and the form of the vessel, with tripod feet, suggests it was similar to that from the Mote of Urr (no. 11 on list). NMAS, Reg. no. MEA 242.
16. *Springwood Park, Kelso* From a medieval house near the deserted medieval burgh of Old Roxburgh, excavated by Mr Robb of Kelso. Material from the excavation deposited with Dept of Environment. Associated pottery suggests an early fourteenth-century date.
17. *Burrafirth, Orkney* NMAS, Reg. no. AC 211.
18. *Coupar Angus Abbey* Henderson Coll., NMAS, unreg. Illustrated as fig 7. Hard orange ware with patchy green-yellow glaze.
19. *Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries* Spout with face and arms, septum decorated with incisions. Publication forthcoming in report on finds.

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