

A Throsk-type ware jug from the River Forth

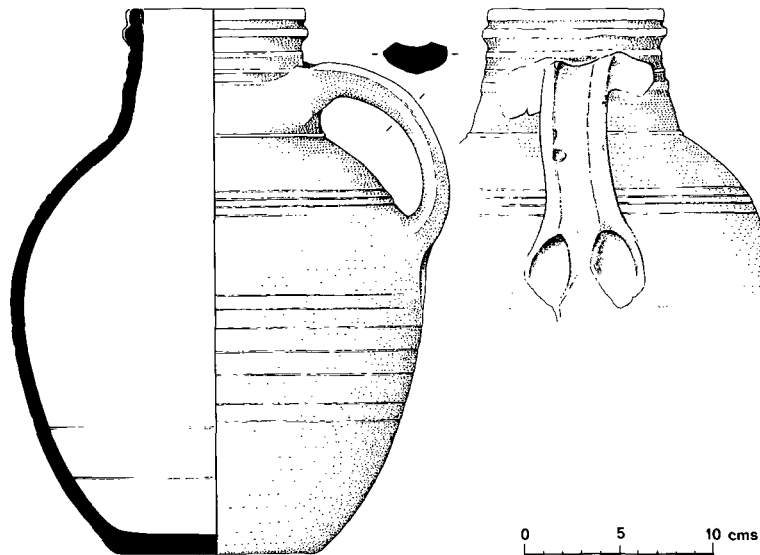
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ABSTRACT

Describes a Throsk-type ware jug of the earlier 17th century, found in the Forth at Gargunnoch.

While diving in the river Forth at Gargunnoch (NGR NS 720 961), roughly 14 km upstream from Stirling, Mr D Allan recovered an intact green-glazed earthenware jug of post-medieval date (height 291 mm, base diameter 105 mm, rim diameter 93 mm).

The jug (illus 1), of tall biconical form with a flat base, thick cordons around the neck and incised bands around the body, has an overall exterior green glaze (Munsell 2.5Y–5.6). Identification of the vessel as a product of the potteries at Throsk, Stirlingshire, was made by comparison of the reduced grey body-fabric with a type-series of sherds housed in the National Reference Collection of



ILLUS 1 Throsk-ware jug from the river Forth at Gargunnoch

Medieval Pottery at the British Museum (BM M&LA 1982, 5–3, 54; 56 & 57) and by comparison with previously-published forms (Caldwell & Dean 1986, 108, fig 4a).

Throsk, on the south bank of the river Forth to the east of Stirling, has long been recognized as a site of a substantial post-medieval pottery industry (Caldwell & Dean 1981), with documentary

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evidence attesting to potting on the site from the second quarter of the 17th century onwards. Typologically, the vessel may belong to the earlier 17th-century phase of production. The terminal date of around 1650 for comparable jug-forms from Linlithgow Palace helps to confirm the dating of the vessel on stylistic grounds (Laing 1969, 142, fig 6, nos 31 and 32).

The increasing incidence of casual finds of Throsk-type ware along the river Forth (pers comm D Caldwell) points to the reliance on riverine transport as the major means of long-distance pottery distribution in the region. The Gargunock jug may well have come from a capsized consignment of these wares lost in transit to a pottery market upstream from the production centre.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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