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A FRENCH, SAINTONGE JUG FROM NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT

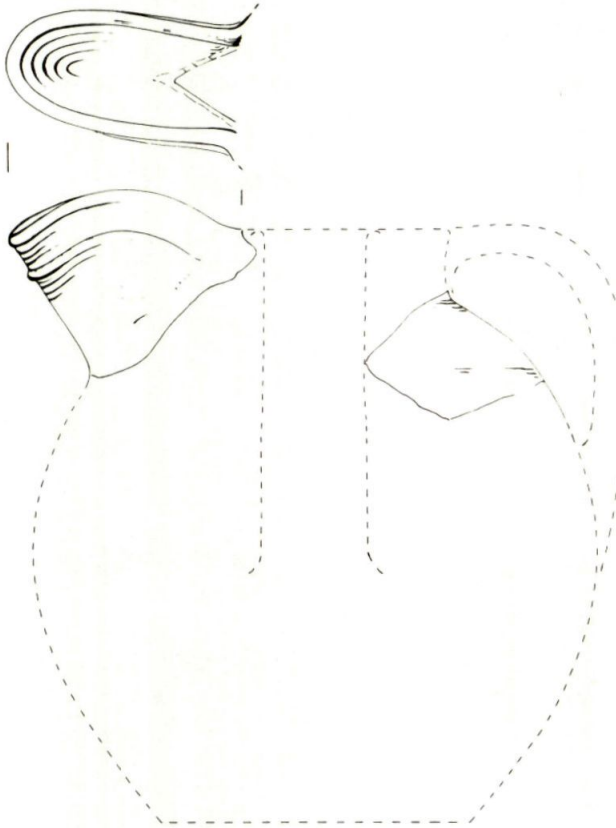


Fig 2. The Saintonge jug from Sea Street, Newport, Isle of Wight. Scale 1:4.

In 1980 during rebuilding works in Sea Street, Newport, on the corner with Little London (SZ 5004 8938), a small pit was noticed cut through by the foundation trench for a new frontage wall

being built to the works now occupying this corner plot. The pit apparently contained much ash, bone and shell which had been scattered over the spoil heap but this was not retained.

However also noticed were about 12 sherds, some joining together, from the shoulder and spout of a large jug. This was later recognised as an imported pitcher of 'pegau' type from the Saintonge in south west France (Fig 2).

The vessel is in a smooth, creamy-buff, slightly micaceous fabric with occasional medium to large red (? haematite) inclusions. The surface is smooth and plain though one sherd exhibits a very small spot of yellow glaze. The rim has been cut away in part to accommodate the large, jutting 'parrot-beak' spout luted on. The lip of the spout is moulded into a collar. The vessel presumably had three handles, though no sherds confirmed this, and it was not possible to tell whether any applied strips decorated the body as is usual on this type (Dunning 1965-7).

Vessels of plain form from south west France

are now increasingly recognised, especially on sites in southern England, along with the more distinctive polychrome jugs. These plain 'pegau' jugs seem to have a longer date range than was originally suggested by Gerald Dunning (1968; Allan 1983). They would seem to run now from the mid thirteenth century to c 1350/1400. Imports of south west French wares do seem to decline though in late medieval times before more developed forms enjoy greater favour later on in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is perhaps not surprising to meet this import in Newport, by the medieval quay, in view of the common occurrence of these vessels in the southern English ports most especially in Plymouth and of course Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975).

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PRALLINGWORTH - A LOST LOCALITY IDENTIFIED

Saxton's map of 1575 shows a hamlet called 'Prowlingworth' in the parish of Titchfield north-west of Titchfield village (Saxton 1575). The hamlet appears again on Kitchin's map, but it was not marked on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map and indeed had by then apparently disappeared (Kitchin 1762). No such place-name occurs on any other OS map, nor is it in the OS Parish Name Book (SU 518 104). The word left no trace in modern field, farm or road names, and it is unknown to older residents. Prallingworth, as it was most often spelt, was then 'lost' with quite unusual com-

pleteness and speed in the early nineteenth century. Why? What was Prallingworth? Where - exactly - was it? Did the community merely change its name, and if so, to what? Or is there an as yet unidentified site in the woodland north-west of Titchfield awaiting excavation? An attempt to answer these questions leads us into an interesting historical detective story.

The place-name, by itself, arouses our curiosity. If Gover's interpretation - 'the farmstead of the Prallings' - is correct we seem to have here a very early place-name form, as early as any in Titchfield parish (Gover 1961). But the name