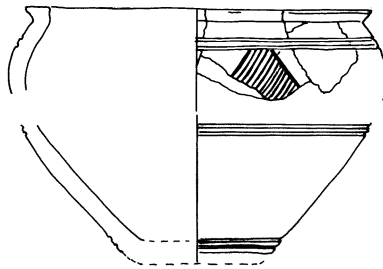


Local pottery found in the Roman military fortress Velsen I

An approach at understanding local pottery from the Late iron Age found at the location of
Velsen I



By

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1.1 Introduction

Amongst the many tens of thousands of shards excavated within the boundaries of the Early-Roman military base 'Velsen I', the amount of locally produced pottery is amazing. During excavation it was all thought to be dating from the period the fortress was in use and despite that fact, was totally discarded until Bosman's thesis of 1997¹. He was also the first to ascertain the fact that both older and younger indigenous pottery must have been deposited at the site before and after the Roman occupation. He therefore acknowledged the difficulty in distinguishing between contemporary and older/ younger material other than on the basis of the relative completeness of the pottery itself and the obvious find spots such as datable pits and wells.²

Bosman also raises the question of the relationship between Romans and Frisians and the role of the local pottery therein.³ Difficulties such as the practical impossibility of precisely dating local pottery found in contemporary native settlements in the vicinity strongly hamper further investigation. Even in sites where early Roman imported pottery was found, it is impossible to link that pottery to the locally produced wares, as no 'terminus ad quem' of the presence of the Roman shards can be presented.⁴

The only way to approach this problem is to try and find out the development of the local pottery in the centuries before the arrival of the Romans, in order to fix a typological starting-point for the years 14 to 16 when Romans first appeared on the horizon.

The Iron Age pottery of the western Netherlands was studied extensively and in great detail by Robert van Heeringen in his 1992 thesis. He painstakingly describes nearly every shard found and, even more importantly, tries to attach a 14C date to most settlements. Unfortunately he is rarely able to date a site within a century and the variability of forms within the 'Pottery Style Groups' he distinguishes, is great.

Yet, Van Heeringen is our most important source of information for the area around Velsen and will be the basis for further investigation.⁵

1.2 What is it we would like to know?

First of all, the answer to the question of what relationship there existed between Romans and Frisians. To what extent does the local ware found in the fortress quantitatively differ from what is found in local settlements and what does that tell us?⁶ Were pots used as packaging material for

¹ Bosman 1997

² Bosman 1997, p 91

³ Bosman p 88

⁴ Bosman 1997, p 103: site H in the Assendelver Polder could even be dated into the second century.

⁵ Van Heeringen 1992

⁶ Bosman's conclusions are on p 113

products the Frisians supplied to the Romans, or were local pots used by soldiers for the preparation of their daily meals? Did every group of soldiers cook their own meals or were there central places within the camp where food-preparation took place and who prepared the food: Romans or local women?

1.3 Difficulties on the way to all the answers

Apart from the fact that we do not yet exactly know what a local dinner service AD 15 looked like, not all shards found were in their original place of deposition. The Oer-IJ River was reactivated in mediaeval times and caused a large portion of its former banks to be eroded, including the place of the Roman camp and harbour. Large-scale abrasion caused the original level to be lowered by 1.5 to 2 meters.⁷ So remains the question to what extent archaeological material was redeposited elsewhere and how results are influenced by that fact. Moreover, it had been established that a lot 'older' indigenous pottery was present, but no attempt at quantification had been done. Finally, the distribution pattern of finds would be hard to make, due to the different approach of the respective excavators between 1972 and 1989. Finally, the totally different ways in which material was collected: the harbour area had practically gone through a sieve, whereas acres of the military base itself were all machine-dug and most of the finds ended up in big heaps of soil. What was retrieved is so little that no quantitative data could be derived.

The material was packed in boxes and deposited at the RMO by both IPP and AWN Werkgroep Velsen⁸. Some material wasn't washed or sorted out and some boxes were so full, the shards at the bottom of the box were crushed by the sheer weight of what was on top. It was also obvious that some sorting of part of the material had taken place; probably to compare this material to what was discovered in the Assendelver Polders.⁹ Unfortunately not all shards had a number on them and others had been broken so badly that after restoration the original number was no longer there.

⁷ Bosman 1997, p 89

⁸ Thanks are owed to Mrs. Marijke Edel of the RMO who arranged the temporary removal of part of the material to the workshop in Schagen.

⁹ Bosman 1997, p 87



Fig.1 Packing too much weight in a hard box leads to catastrophe

Most shards are of a soft fabric and have suffered from the elements they were exposed to. This means that the majority has rounded edges and the original surface has often gone. Therefore it is difficult to establish what outside treatment a pot originally had, or whether it was decorated. Due to the apparent wet surroundings most of the material has lain in for prolonged time, the tempering material used for the fabrication of the pottery has also disappeared; this goes especially for shell grit, but also secondarily fired grog has sometimes been washed out. Many of the shards show brown rust, even deep into the fabric.



Fig. 2 Difficulty in determining what tempering material is gone

On the other hand, where pottery was deposited in the water and covered with silt or sand, the material is crisp and traces of use in the form of soot on the outside and/or carbonated food-remains on the inside are present.

On the question of how far the material has been washed away from its original place of deposition, I must assume not very far, as shards belonging to one pot were often in the same or in an adjacent square. What we do not know, however, is how the material came to be in the ground; was it deposited in pits or used for surface improvement of the terrain? In the last case, material in Schagen was proved to be spread over a very large area.¹⁰

The vast majority of the material was excavated by the AWN Velsen Group in the '70's in a series of trenches with a 2 by 2 meter grid. Material from both Iron Age and Roman times was found together in a layer of so-called 'dirty sands'.¹¹

The second largest group is formed by the material excavated in the '80's during the I.P.P. investigations and comes for the greater part from the harbour.

2.0 The state of knowledge about locally made pottery

Bosman has carefully collected all relevant sources about indigenous pottery up to 1997. Unfortunately not much can be added from after that date, relating directly to the area around Velsen. Therkorn has published material from the Heemskerk Broekpolder, but due to the fact that the site excavated was used for religious and cultural events during a very prolonged time of nearly three thousand years, the material is difficult to date within a century and is by no means comparable to the average set of pottery people used in their settlements.¹² Further to the North in Schagen, a clear picture of chrono typology emerged out of the thousand of shards and pots discovered there in Roman Time sites.¹³ The starting date of the typology, however, lies in the mid-third century and goes far beyond the scope of the Velsen material.

There is yet unpublished material from an Iron Age / Roman Times site in Den Helder¹⁴, and several from Schagen, where one site revealed a possible 'pick-up' TS shard from Velsen.¹⁵ This material will be taken into account, despite the distance between these sites and Velsen. The recent studies of P.J.Woltering of the Iron Age pottery from Texel¹⁶ will be used as a reference point in between Holland and Friesland, the latter area being described by Ernst Taayke.¹⁷

¹⁰ In the excavation Schagen Muggenburg 1989, the yard between a house and a probable barn was totally troweled out and shards of four different pots proved to be strewn all over the yard. Personal observation by the author.

¹¹ Bosman 1997, p 12-13

¹² Therkorn 2009

¹³ Diederik 2002

¹⁴ Woltering 1900###

¹⁵ Arjen Bosman identified the shard as part of a rim of a Dragendorf 15 dish.

¹⁶ Woltering 2001

¹⁷ Taayke 1990

2.1 The modus operandi followed

Studying Van Heeringen's thesis, it is possible to follow the pottery development through the entire Iron Age. Van Heeringen does this on the basis of general statistics and establishes several areas with common denominators which he calls 'pottery style groups'. Within the present provinces of North- and South-Holland he recognises several of these groups in the Early-, Middle-, and Late Iron Age. Yet he leaves the various apparent differences in shape and size (types) for what they are and does not attempt to differentiate too much within the groups¹⁸. This makes comparison of material difficult as 'profile types' are only generally described.

So it would be handy if an attempt were made to filter out some of the main pottery forms and follow them through time. As it is widely assumed that pottery types from Friesland have migrated south and types and decoration from the south of Holland have had their influence further to the North, it suddenly dawns upon one that there seems to be no original pottery from Noord Holland; this is certainly not so. As Velsen is more or less (coincidentally or not?) in between these large areas, it stands to reason to form two chrono-typologies and see when and where they overlap and / or influence each other. Apart from influences within the present provinces of Noord- and Zuid-Holland, there was a major influence from the present-day Friesland. This is the important group of pottery originating from the Sleen pottery and more commonly known by one of its developments as 'Ruinen-Wommels'. This pottery group from Northern Frisia quickly and widely spread into Holland, perhaps even before it became widespread in the Western terp-area.

The result would then be that the position of Late Iron Age Velsen in a 'pottery style group' becomes clear and that the bulk of the Iron Age pottery from Velsen will get its place there.¹⁹ The remainder of the local wares will both belong to the occupation phase of the fortress and probably to later periods when the terrain was possibly occupied again. We should beforehand note that also pottery from other parts of the Netherlands can be found, as Bosman keenly noticed the presence of 'Batavian' pottery used in the camp.²⁰

This way of dealing with the material is totally different from what Bosman has done: taking a selection of the material which is apparent or likely to be contemporary with the Roman occupation and therewith ignoring the fact that this selection may very well not be representative of all the pottery used in the camp.²¹

¹⁸ Van Heeringen uses 'profile types' in his descriptions and sorts his drawings of the pottery in the plates accordingly.

¹⁹ It can be expected to coincide with Van Heeringen's Santpoort II pottery style group, although I believe that to contain too many old forms. Van Heeringen (p 204/288) points out that Assendelft site N-1 is more indicative for the last IA forms.

²⁰ Bosman 1997, fig 6.2 nrs 9 and 10.

²¹ Bosman 1997, p 91

2.2 The chrono-typology of Iron Age pottery

If possible, Van Heeringen starts his Iron Age pottery with transitional types from the tenth century; I will do so too. By picking out nine main types, I will do injustice to many smaller groups that no doubt occur. If necessary, reference will be made to them eventually. The chrono typology I introduce here, consists of two numerals; the first indicating the pottery type and the second indicating the period. The periods discerned are:

'0': Late Bronze age, approximately 1000 BC to 900 or 850 BC

'1': first part of the Early Iron Age, approximately 850 to 700 BC

'2': second part of the Early Iron Age, approximately 700 to 600 BC

'3': early Middle Iron Age, approximately 600 to 450 BC

'4': late Middle Iron Age, approximately 450 to 300 BC

'5': first part of the Late Iron Age, approximately 300 to 200 BC

'6': second part of the Late Iron Age, approximately 200 BC to the arrival of the Romans.

These dates do not always correspond to the official dates, but are related to the dating Van Heeringen got for his pottery assemblages.

All the drawings used here, were taken from Van Heeringen's thesis and were originally made at the former ROB. All the drawings of the Velsen material, as well as the unpublished sites from Den Helder and Schagen, were made by the author.

2.3 Catalogue

N-H Type 1

N-H type 1.0 (1000-900 BC) consists of wide-mouthed vessels with a steep 'S'-formed profile and a slanting shoulder which gradually flows into the belly of the pot. Decoration with fingertip-nail imprints on top of the rim is common.

N-H type 1.1 (800-700 BC) is practically similar to the previous one.

N-H type 1.2 (700-600 BC) has a sharper profile with a steep and straight shoulder and a somewhat sharper transition to the belly; decoration is still on top of the rim and the lower part of most pots is slicked.

N-H type 1.3 (600-400 BC) may still be the same as 1.2, but too little material from this period has come to light to be absolutely sure.

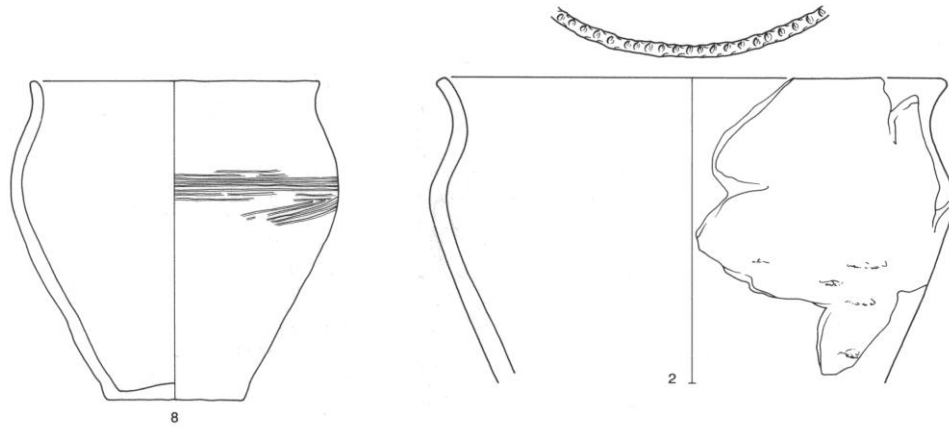
N-H type 1.4 (400-300 BC) still holds the main characteristic: the straight and slanting shoulder. No complete specimens have survived, but it is likely that the lower parts of the pots were slicked.

Decoration is still uniquely on top of the rim, but is more 'spaced out' than before. This phenomenon goes for all the types with this kind of decoration.

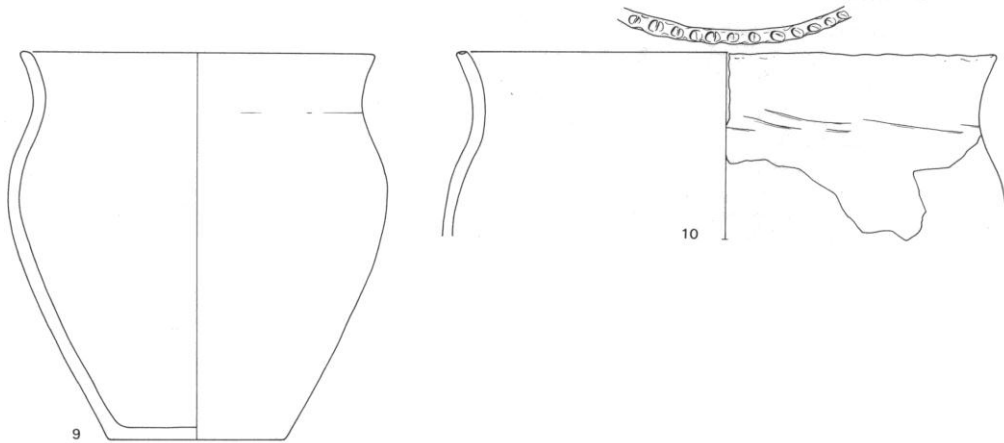
N-H type 1.5 (300-200 BC) still has its long and straight shoulder and the decoration on the rim is like 1.4, but also fingernail impressions and 'wild scratches' on the body are found. Most lower parts of the pots seem slicked. An incidental 'streepband' decoration is found on the transition of neck to shoulder.

N-H type 1.6 (200-0 BC) is a meagre derivative of the original form, but has a very steep and long shoulder. The total circumference of the pot is almost equal to the outside rim diameter. Handles occur on both large and small pots, although they are more abundant there. Decoration on top of the rim is rare and is mostly found on the outside of the rim. All kinds of decoration are found, but most likely in the earlier part of the period. The decoration of the inside of the rim seems typical of North Holland.

Noord-Holland, type 1.0 1000 - 900 BC



Noord-Holland, type 1.1 800-700 BC



Noord-Holland, type 1.2 700-600 BC

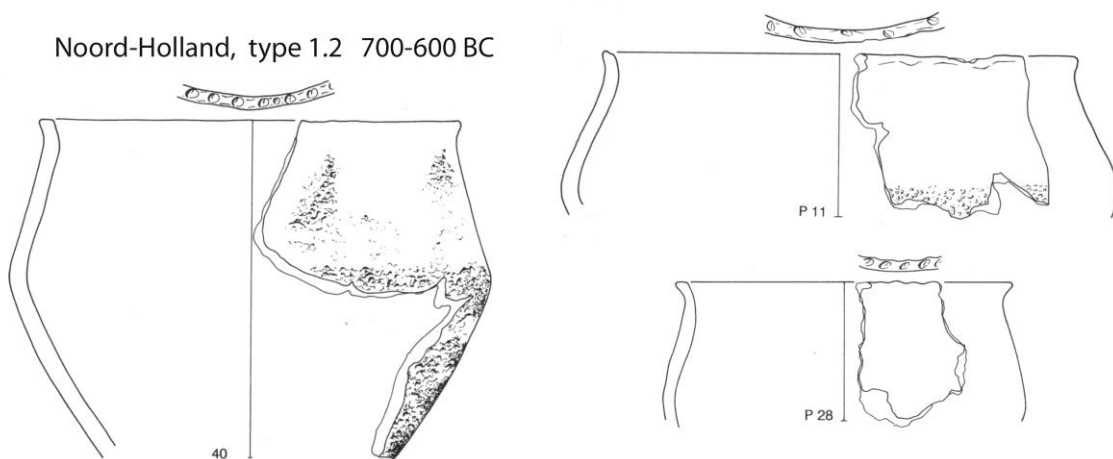
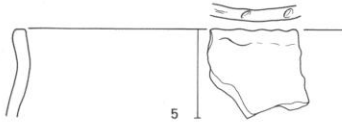


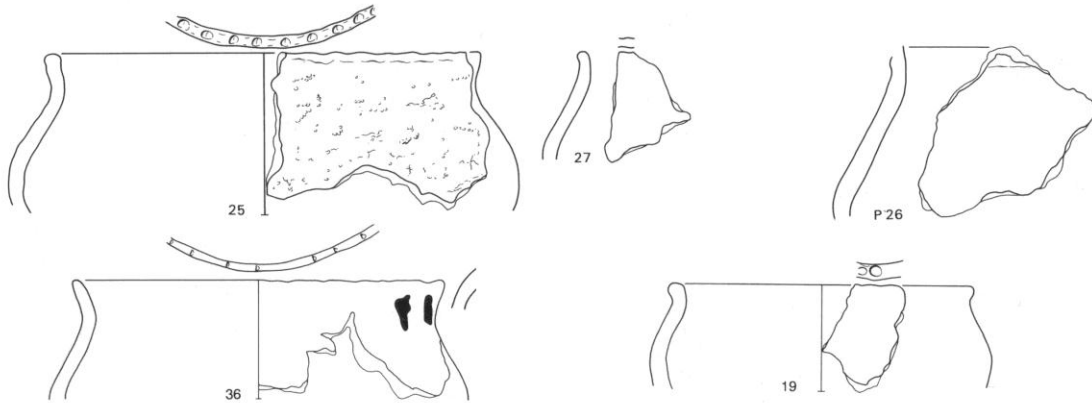
Fig.3 First three stages of the development of Noord-Holland type 1

Noord-Holland, type 1.3 600-400 BC



Zeer weinig materiaal aanwezig; Heemskerk Kerkweg is de enige site te dateren tussen 500 en 400 BC

Noord-Holland, type 1.4 400-300 BC



Noord-Holland, type 1.5 300-200 BC

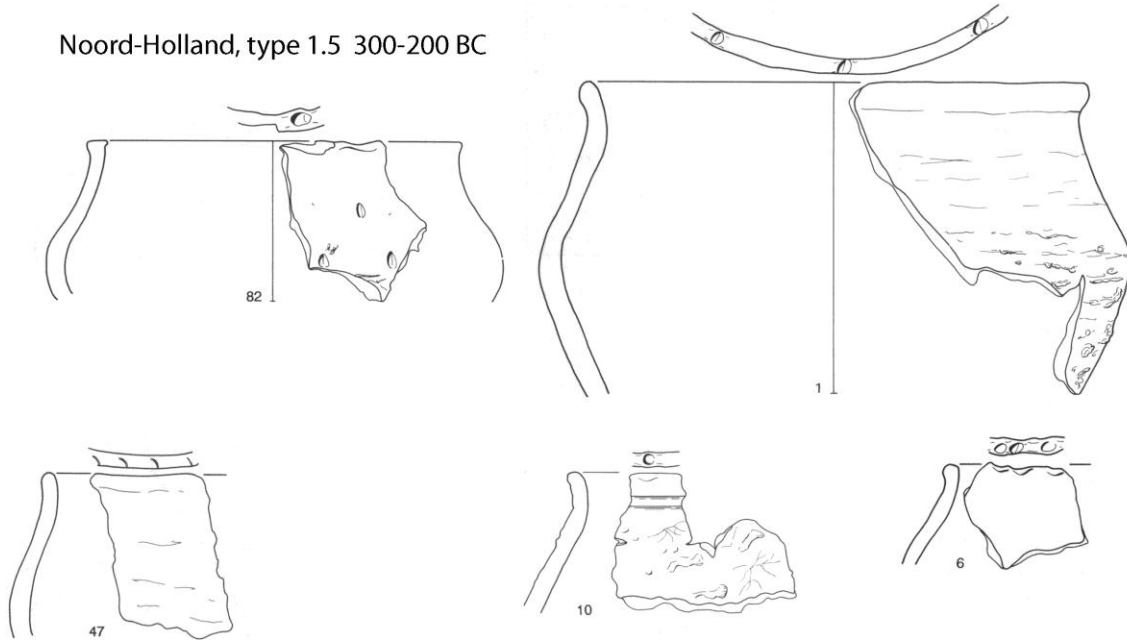


Fig. 4 Development of type Noord-Holland 1.3 to 1.5. 1.3 is nearly absent in Noord-Holland.

Noord-Holland, type 1.6 200-0 BC

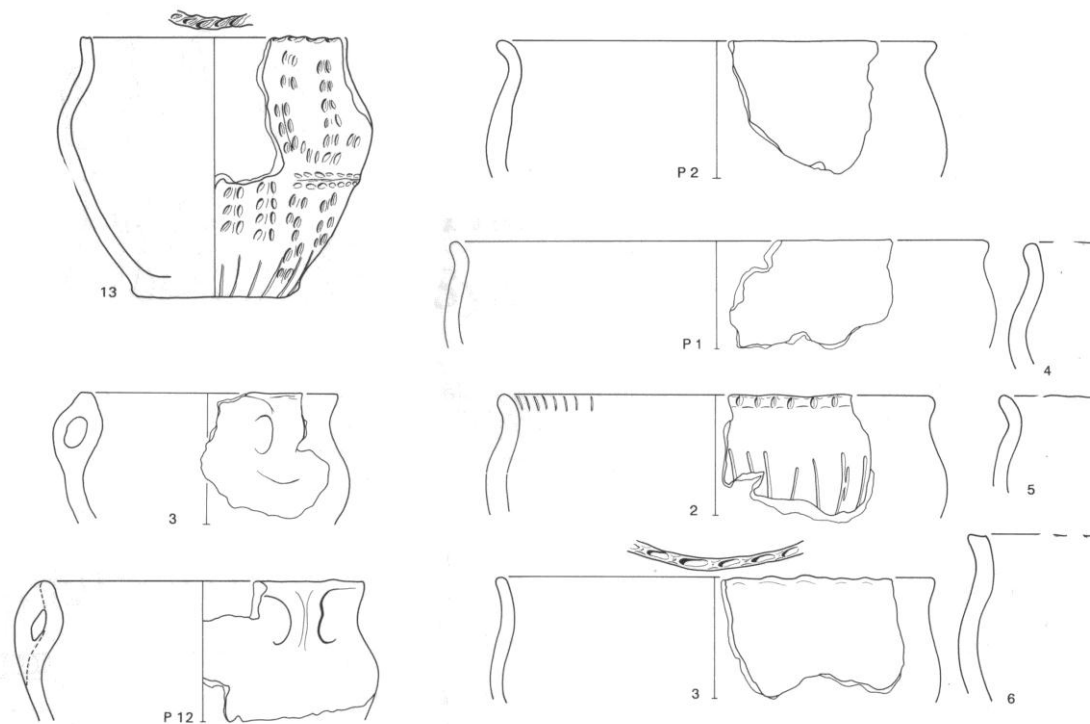


Fig. 5 Noord-Holland type 1.6 with their characteristic slanting profile, where rim and belly diameter do not differ much.

N-H Type 2

N-H type 2.0 does not occur.

N-H type 2.1 (850-700 BC) is a mixed bag of wide- and narrow-mouthed pots with a flowing 'S'-formed profile and a decorated cordon on the transition of neck and shoulder. Like type 1.2 most rims are also decorated with fingertip-nail impressions. Most pot bodies are slicked.

N-H type 2.2 (700-600 BC) The wide-mouthed and narrow-mouthed types still exist side by side, but the raised decorated cordon has given way to a simple horizontal row of fingertip-nail impressions. The rims are invariably decorated on top and slicking of the lower parts of the pots seems rare.

N-H type 2.3 (600-400 BC) probably occurs, but the only material from the period comes from a single find spot. Some pots may have slicked bodies.

N-H type 2.4 still has the rounded shoulder of its predecessors; most pots are slicked and most rims are decorated like 1.4

N-H type 2.5 has a clear 'S'-shaped profile, a round shoulder and little or no slicking of the body. The rims are usually curved and not decorated. Decoration of the body seems rare.

Noord-Holand, type 2.1

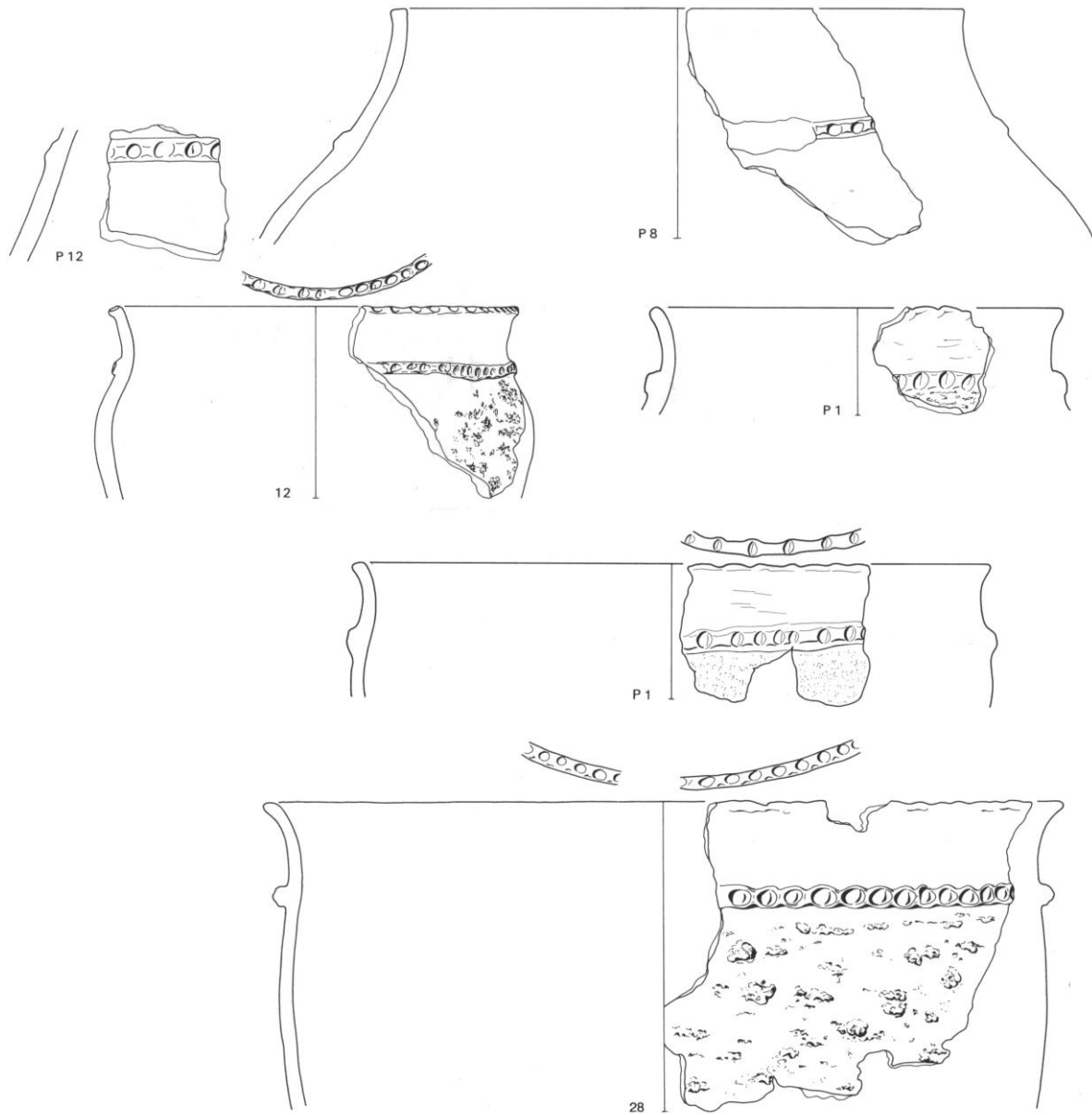
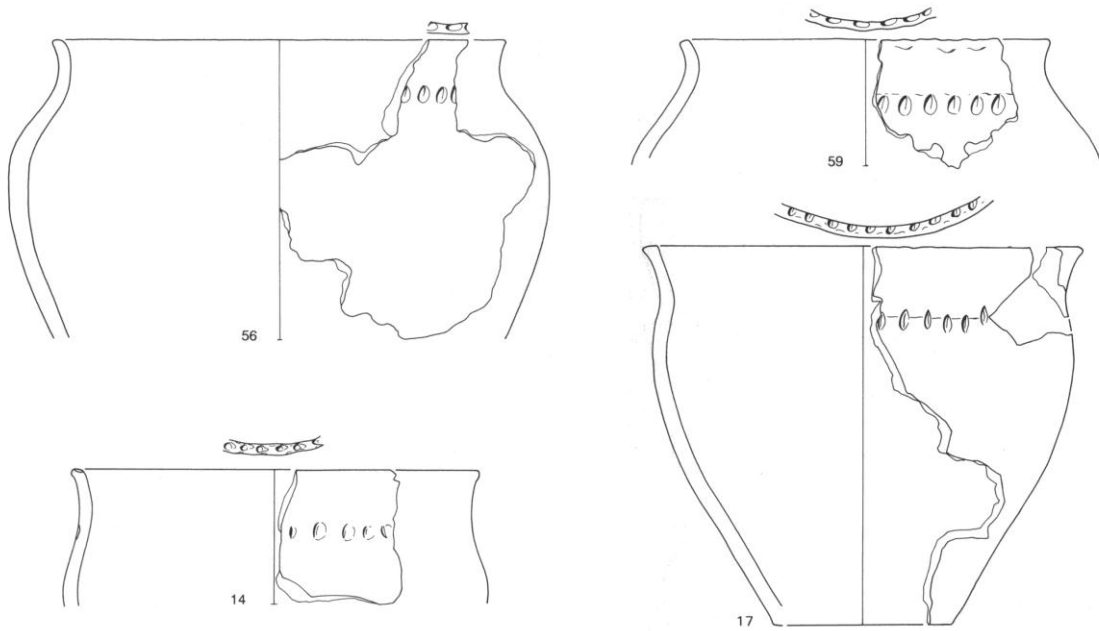
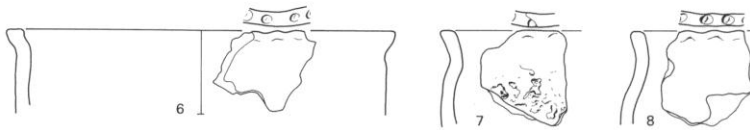


Fig. 6 Noord Holland type 2.1 with its wide- and narrow-mouthed profiles and characteristic decorated cordon.

Noord-Holland, type 2.2 700-600 BC



Noord-Holland, type 2.3 600-400 BC



Dit is het enige beschikbare materiaal uit de periode; Heemskerk, Kerkweg.

Noord-Holland, type 2.4 400-300 BC

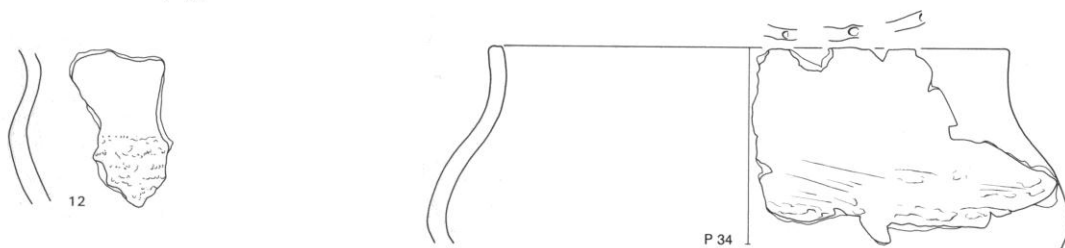
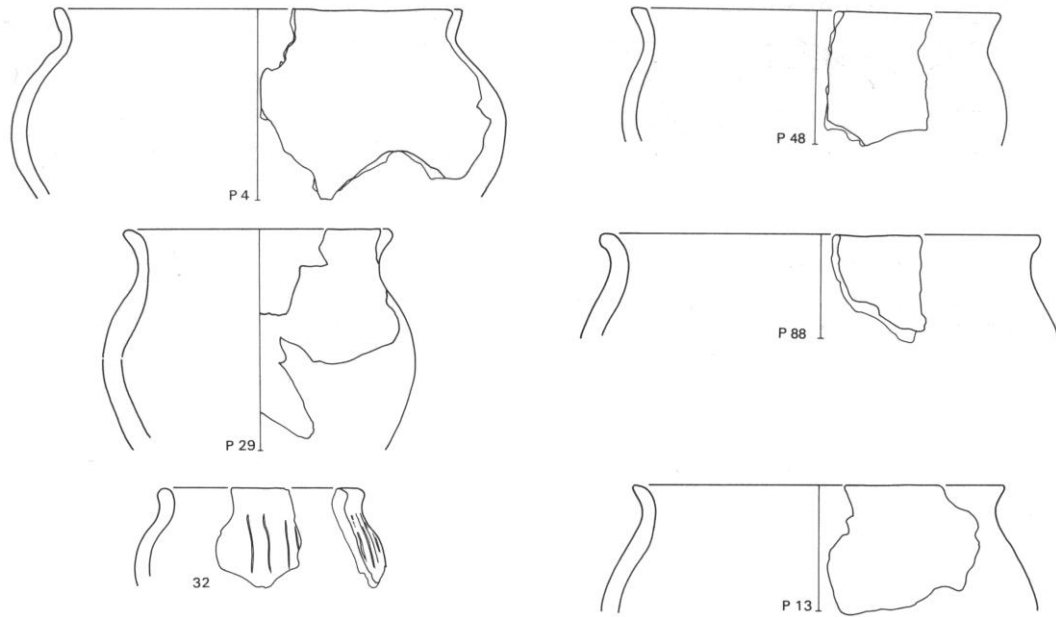


Fig. 7 Types Noord-Holland 2.2 to 2.4 where the cordon has been replaced with a horizontal row of finger tip impressions and where the curved 'S'-shaped profile has been retained

Noord-Holland, type 2.5 300-200 BC



Noord-Holland, type 2.6 200-0 BC

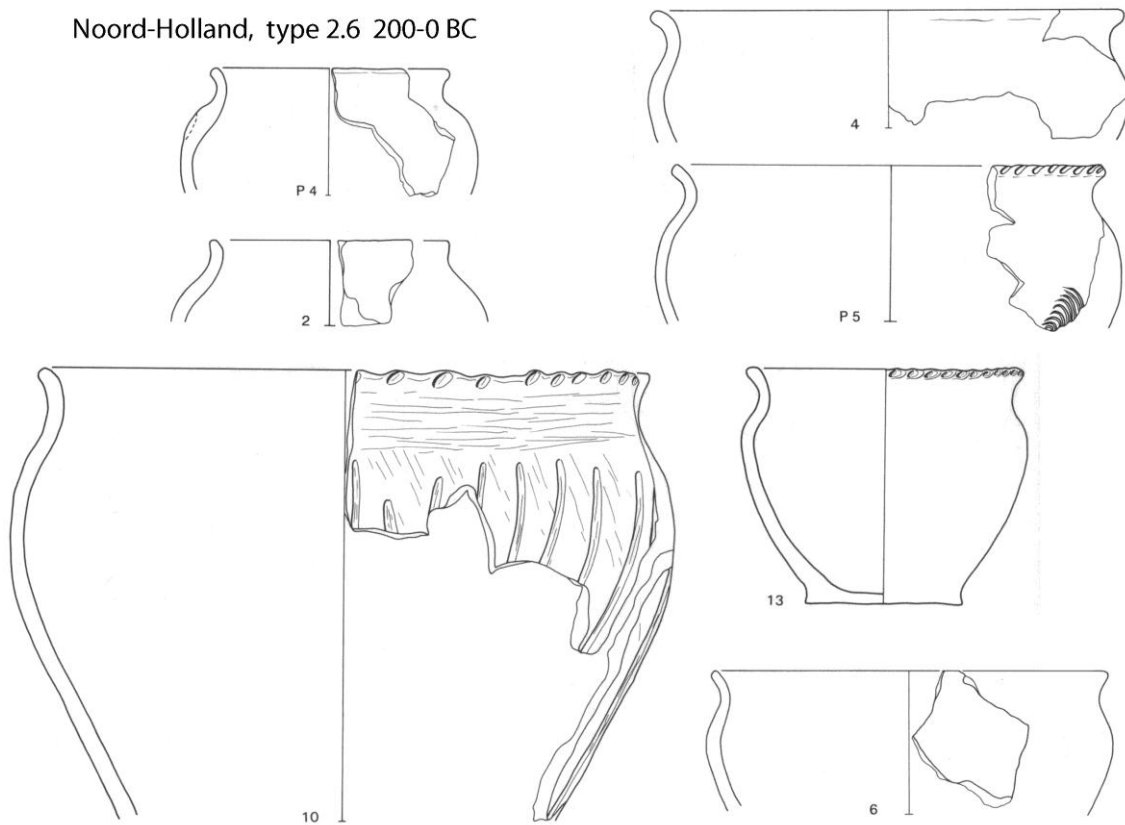


Fig. 8 Types Noord-Holland 2.5 and 2.6 where the 'S' shaped profile has been retained

N-H type 2.6 still has the curved profile and mostly curved rims. Some narrow-mouthed small pots seem to fit the type and decoration of the rim does occur more frequently as well as on the body, with wavy lines, comb-impressions etc.

N-H type 3

N-H type 3.0(1000-900 BC) is a direct descendant of the Bronze Age bi-conical pots. They are all narrow-mouthed and have a very short (undecorated) rim on the long and straight shoulder. The transition of the shoulder to the belly may be sharp or slightly rounded. Sometimes the total profile is 'Z'-shaped. One example has a sharp edge at the transition of the neck to the shoulder.

Noord-Holland, type 3.0 1000-900 BC

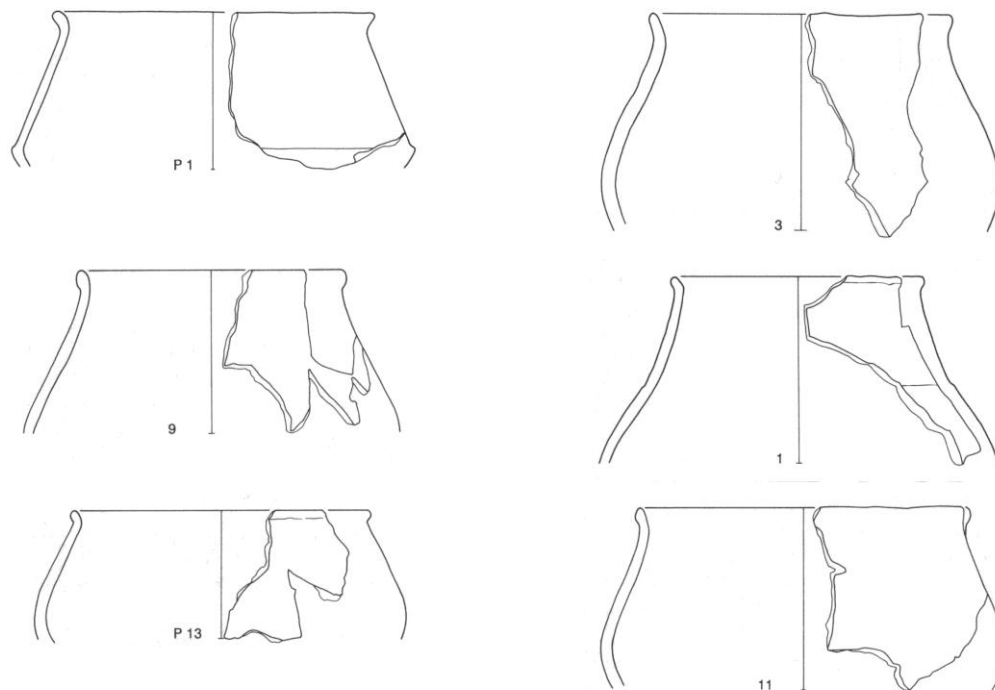


Fig. 9 The Noord-Holland 3.0 pots still have their biconical form as the already possessed in the Bronze Age, though there is some variation

N-H type 3.1 (800-700 BC) is still bi-conical, but slightly more open. In one instance the transition of shoulder to belly is decorated with three rows of fingernail impressions. Like 3.0 there is one example with a sharp edge on the transition of the neck to the shoulder.

Noord-Holland, type 3.1 800-700 BC

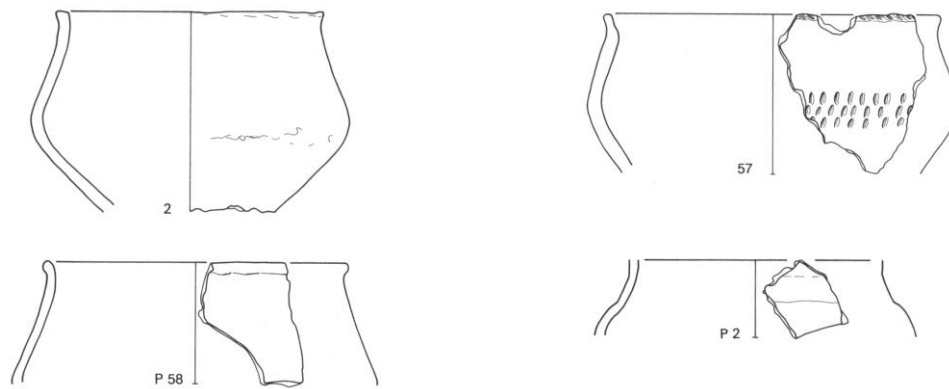


Fig. 10 Noord-Holland type 3.1 still bears great resemblance to its predecessor, but slowly the biconical type tends to become tripartite

N-H type 3.2 (700-600 BC). The rim has become slightly longer and forms a cylindrical neck; the shoulder is long and straight and the transition to the neck is sometimes sharply marked. The body of the pots is slicked; decoration occurs on top of the rim.

Noord-Holland, type 3.2 700-600 BC

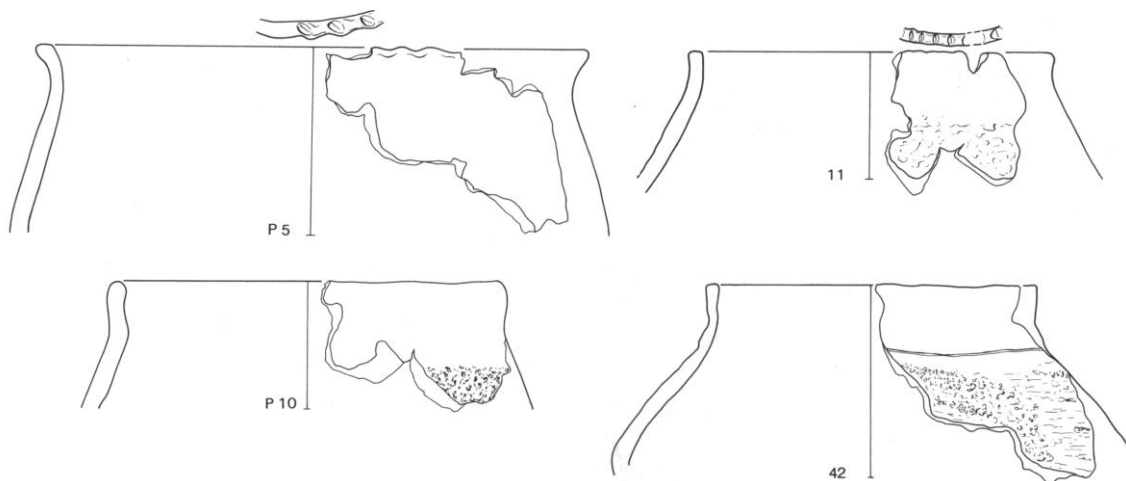
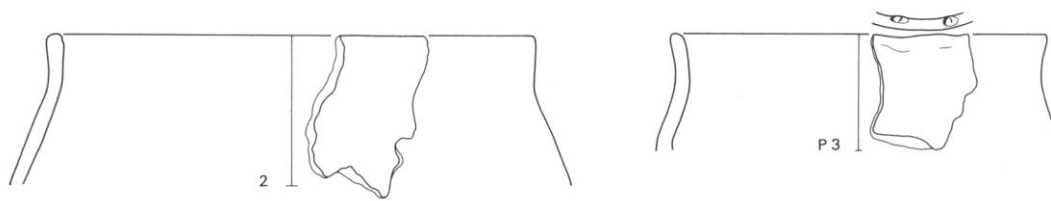


Fig. 11 Even with incomplete profiles, the straight and long shoulder is characteristic of Noord-Holland 3.2

Noord-Holland, type 3.3 600-400 BC



Noord-Holland, type 3.4 400-300 BC

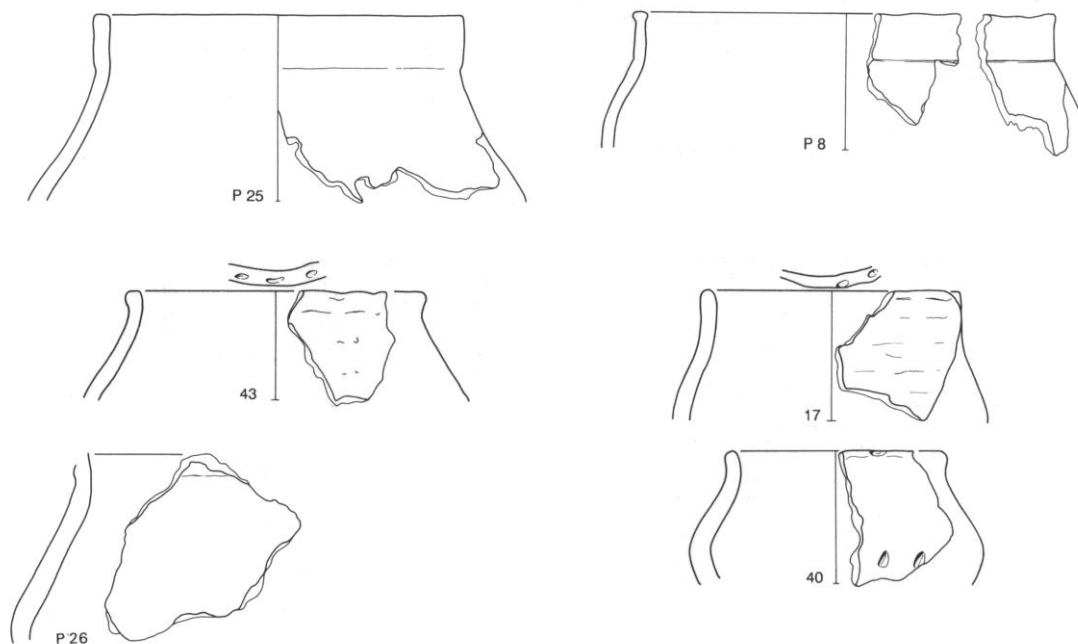


Fig. 12 Though complete forms of Noord-Holland 3.3 and 3.4 are still lacking, the body is still biconical and the rim is straight as is the long shoulder

N-H type 3.3 (600-400 BC) seems unchanged, but slicking of the pot is uncertain.

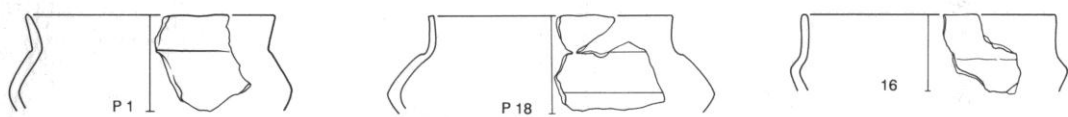
N-H type 3.4 (400-300 BC) has still a bi-conical body with a neck standing straight up; the transition of neck to shoulder is mostly marked. One, slightly atypical example of a small pot has fingertip-nail decoration on the transition of the shoulder to the belly, as we saw with 3.1. Decoration on top of the rim is less frequent.

N-H type 3.5 (300-200 BC) is no longer recognised as a separate group; most probably it began to fall together with 1.5, also a type with a long straight shoulder.

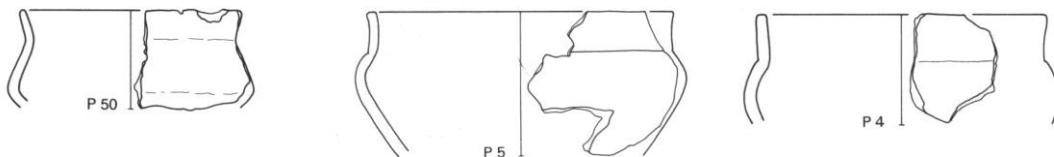
N-H type 4

N-H type 4.0 (1000-900 BC) is a very remarkably 'Z'-shaped low pot with a marked transition of the straight neck to the shoulder and a sharp transition to the belly of the pot. N-H type 4.1 (800-700 BC) still contains the characteristics of 4.0, but the transition of the shoulder to the belly is more rounded. N-H type 4.2 (700-600 BC) has a slightly curved neck. N-H type 4.3 (600-400 BC) the only example we have looks very 'old-fashioned' and could easily fit in type 4.0! N-H type 4.4 (400-300 BC) the shard illustrated is a probable fit to the type as material is very scarce. N-H type 4.5 (300-200 BC) only two examples could be found; the sharpness of the type has gone and after 250 the type probably ceased to exist.

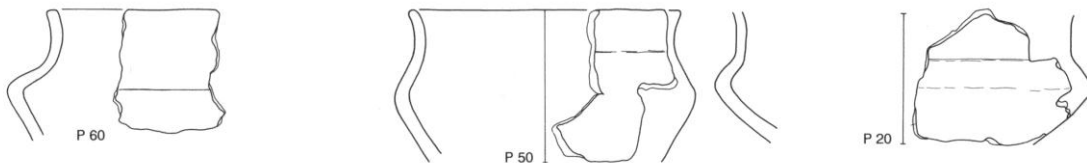
Noord-Holland, type 4.0 1000-900 BC



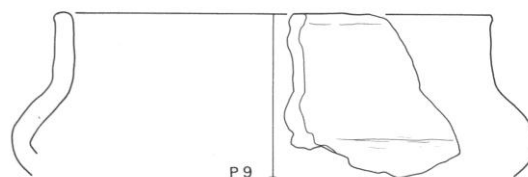
Noord-Holland, type 4.1 800-700 BC



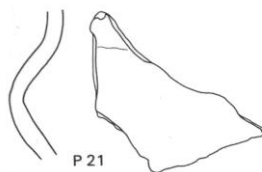
Noord-Holland, type 4.2 700-600 BC



Noord-Holland, type 4.3 600-400 BC



Noord-Holland, type 4.4 400-300 BC



Noord-Holland, type 4.5 300-200 BC

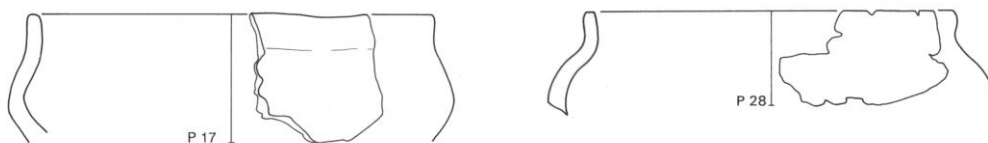


Fig. 13 The various stages of the development of the curious and rare type Noord-Holland 4. The striking 'Z' shaped small pot loses some of its sharpness in the course of the centuries but remains clearly recognisable until its disappearance, shortly after 300 BC

N-H type 5

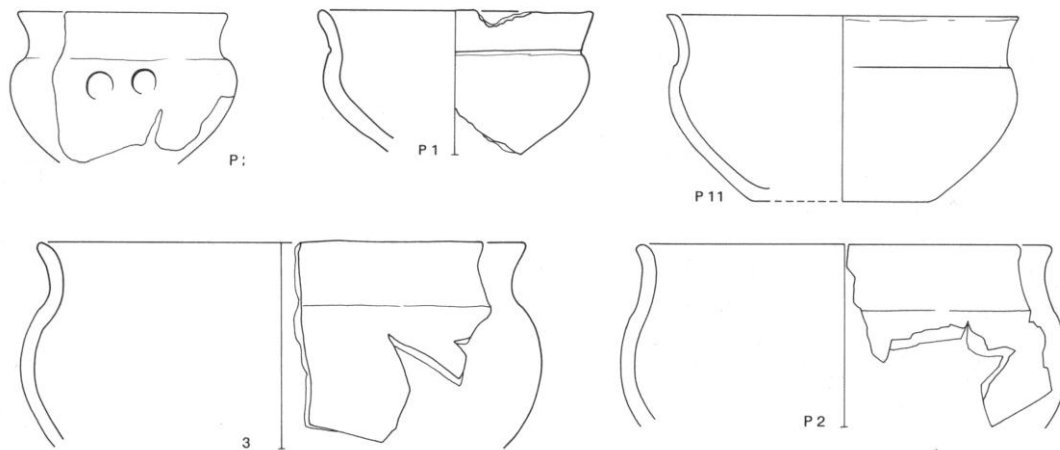
N-H type 5.1 (800-700 BC). These are pots with a long curved neck and a sharp edge at the transition to the shoulder. This predecessor of the so-called 'Ruinen-Wommels' pottery makes a very early appearance in Noord- Holland.²² The surface is often smoothed or burnished. The lower parts seem not to be slicked. Woltering has found several beautiful examples among which are some taller, narrow-mouthed forms as are described with 5.2.²³

N-H type 5.2 (700-600 BC) seems relatively unchanged, but some higher and more narrow-mouthed pots emerge. Decoration is absent and slicking is not found.

²² Extremely interesting in this case is the relative late dating Taayke comes up with for the G1 and V1 material from Westergo. See Taayke 1997 p. 168 ff.

²³ See Woltering 2001, p. 155 fig 102

Noord-Holland, type 5.1 800-700 BC



Noord-Holland, type 5.2 700-600 BC

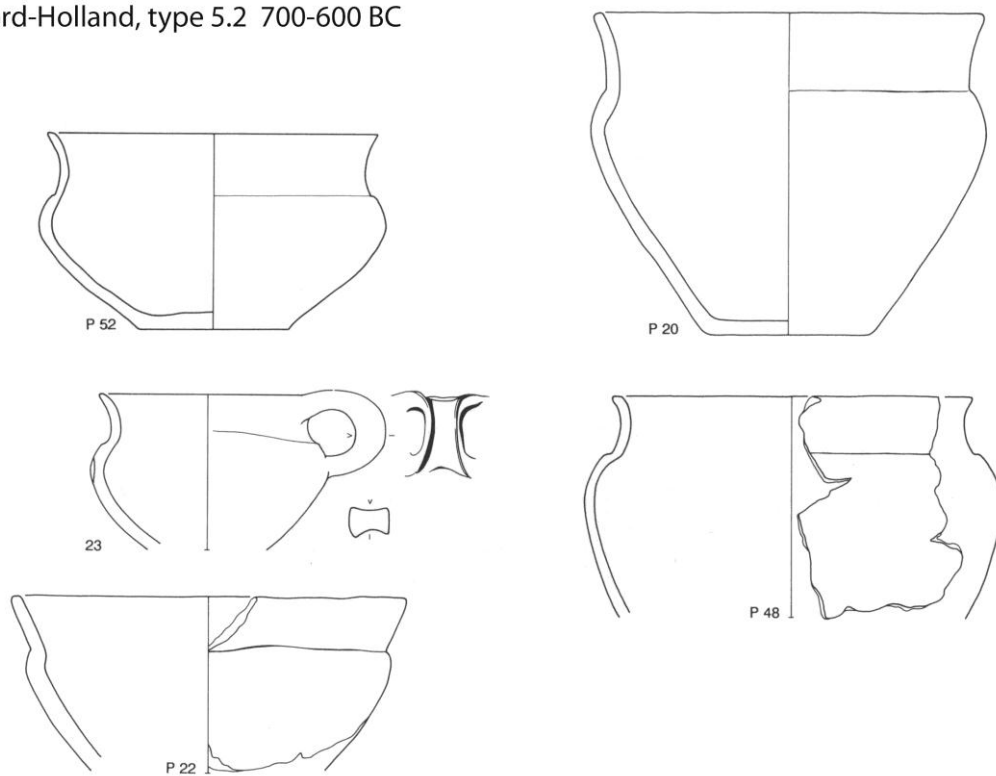


Fig.14 Predecessors of the 'Ruinen-Wommels'pottery which clearly possess their long curved necks and sharp transition to the narrow shoulder. Right from the start there seems to be a variety of forms

N-H type 5.3 (600-400 BC) Only one possible shard was found in Noord-Holland which could represent the type, but Woltering shows masses of pots from the period on Texel²⁴

Noord-Holland, type 5.3 600-400 BC



Fig. 15 The only shard Van Heeringen could find from the early Middle Iron Age, which is a striking example of its distribution as little to no contemporaneous pottery was known yet north of Alkmaar. On Tessel this type is abundant

N-H type 5.4 (400-300 BC) Both coarsely made wide-mouthed pots with decorated rims and slicked lower parts, occur side by side with burnished decorated ones. The variation in the pots is large and a sub-type with a slight thickening at the rim can be discerned, but overall the type stands out because of its unique edge at the transition of neck to shoulder. Totally geometrically decorated pots as occur frequently in Friesland seem a lot rarer in Noord-Holland.²⁵

²⁴ Woltering 2001, p. 157 ff

²⁵ Woltering too notices that the geometrical pattern is rare outside Westergo; Woltering 2001, p. 198.

Noord-Holland, type 5.4 400-300 BC

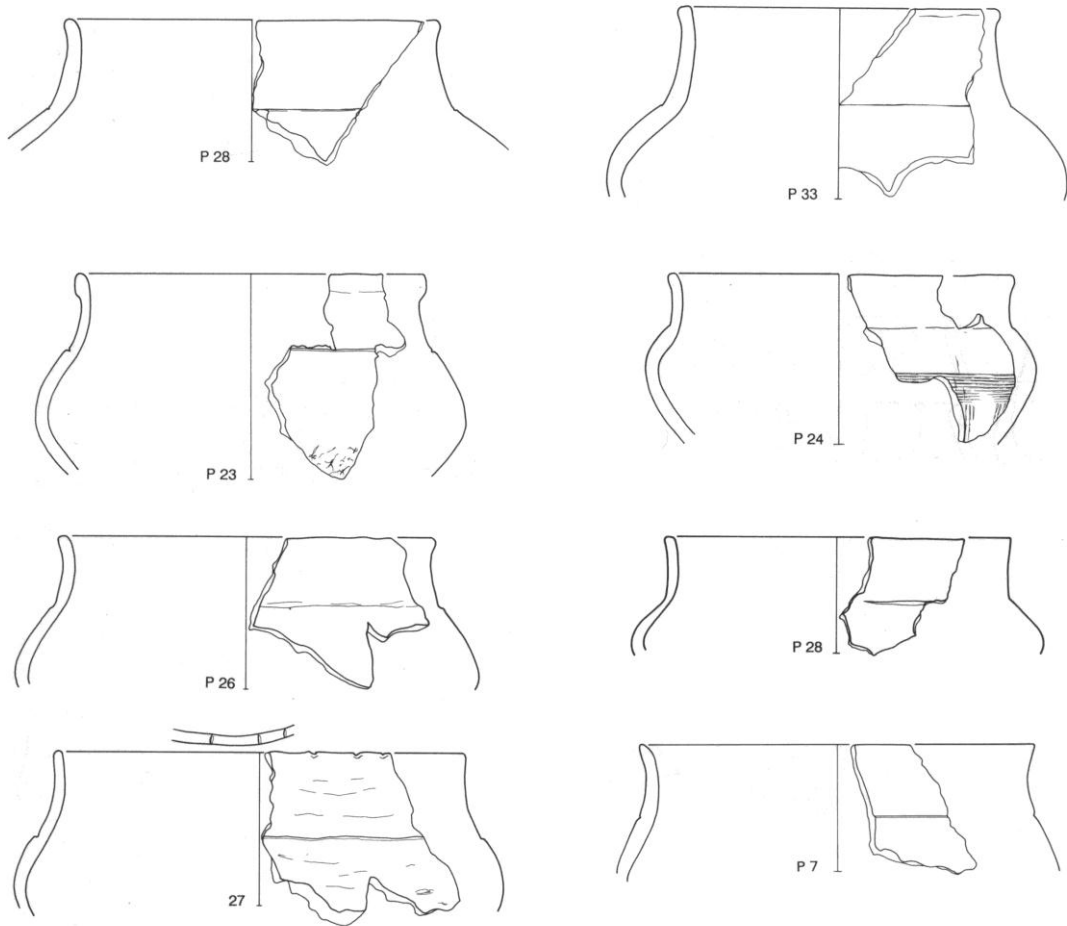


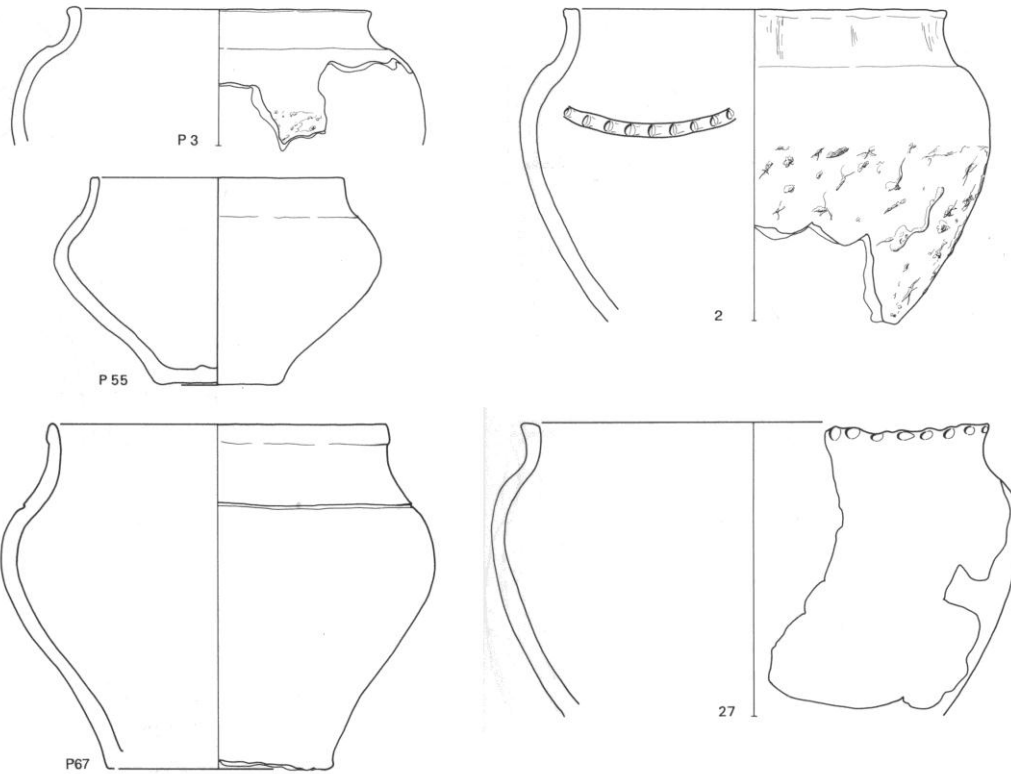
Fig. 16 Noord-Holland 5.4, the typical Ruinen-Wommels forms, both in slicked and course fabric, but all with the long curved necks and sharp transition to the narrow shoulder

N-H type 5.5 (300-200 BC) pots of varying sizes and finishing as with 5.4. A remarkable type of rim treatment emerges: a slightly thickened rim, which is flattened on top. Next to this flattened rim, a simple curved straight or rounded rim occurs. In the courser material the so obvious edge on the (high) shoulder is not always present. Decoration with (simple) geometrical pattern occurs.

N-H type 5.6 (200-0 BC). Where an edge on the shoulder is visible, its origin is obvious, but 'S'-shaped models such as type 2.6, although their overall form is much rounder, will mix with the type. Decoration²⁶ is abundant and handles occur on both small and large vessels. The decoration on top of the rim is now rare and must date to the beginning of the period. Rims are frequently decorated on the outside with fingertip-nail impressions as well as small incisions. Streeband decoration is very common, as it has succeeded and replaced the edge on the shoulder.

²⁶ Decoration in all its aspects, will be dealt with in a separate chapter.

Noord-Holland, type 5.5 300-200 BC



Noord-Holland, type 5.6 200-0 BC

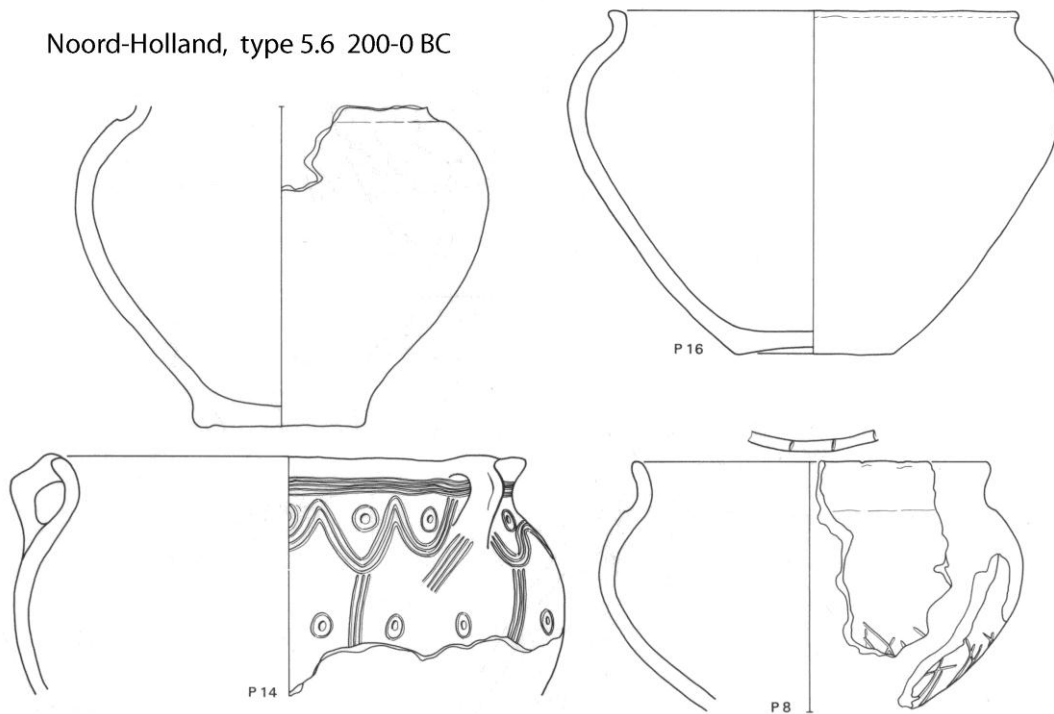


Fig. 17 Noord-Holland 5.5 and 5.6 show the gradual decline to overall 'S' shaped pots which become harder and harder to be distinguished from types Noord-Holland 2.5 and 2.6

N-H type 5.6a (50-0 BC) A remarkable and probably late appearance in Noord-Holland is the narrow-mouthed pot with two handles on the rim. Its opening is seldom more than 10/16 centimetres wide and the shoulder of the pot is sometimes slightly sunk into the pot. The handles are often remarkably decorated with three lines, and/or fingertip impressions. Very often the pots are smoothed or burnished and the lower parts may be slicked. There is no example in Van Heeringen, but the type does occur elsewhere in Noord-Holland into the Roman period. As Woltering ends his description of the Iron Age on Texel at around 100 BC, this type is not found among the illustrations on the plates. It IS found among the material from Velsen.

N-H type 6

N-H type 6 is a cross-over from Zuid- Holland which finds its origins in the tenth century BC. The type will be fully described with the other Z-H types. The type is not found north of the Oer-IJ, with the exception of 6.6 which seems to have survived into early Roman times in Schagen.²⁷

N-H type 6.4 (400-300 BC) two-partite bi-conical pots which are slicked on the lower part. The finishing of the rim varies from a slight lip to fingertip impressions on top.

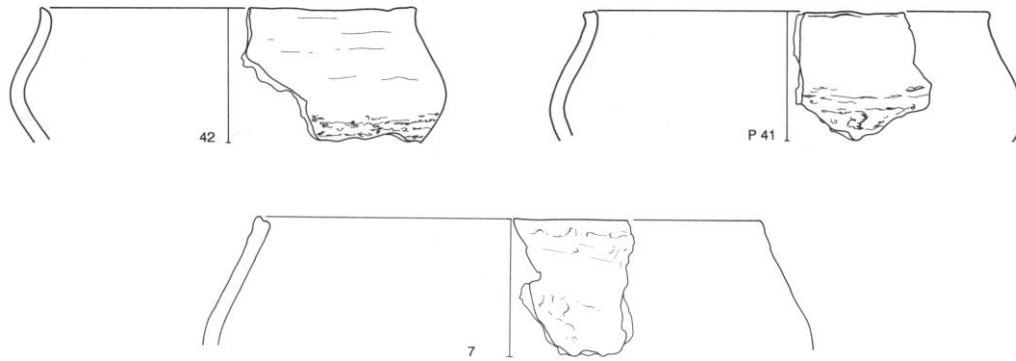
N-H type 6.5 (300-200 BC) pots as 6.4, but more often a separate rim is visible, so that the type actually has a tri-partite model. The lower parts of the pot are often slicked and decoration on top of the rim occurs.

N-H type 6.6 (200-0 BC) Van Heeringen does not include any pots related to the type, but it is found in some places²⁸, be it only at the end of the period.

²⁷ Schagen, Witte Paal III, Diederik in preparation.

²⁸ In Schagen pots of the type were found in the excavation of Witte Paal (Diederik in preparation).

Noord-Holland, type 6.4 400-300 BC



Noord-Holland, type 6.5 300-200 BC

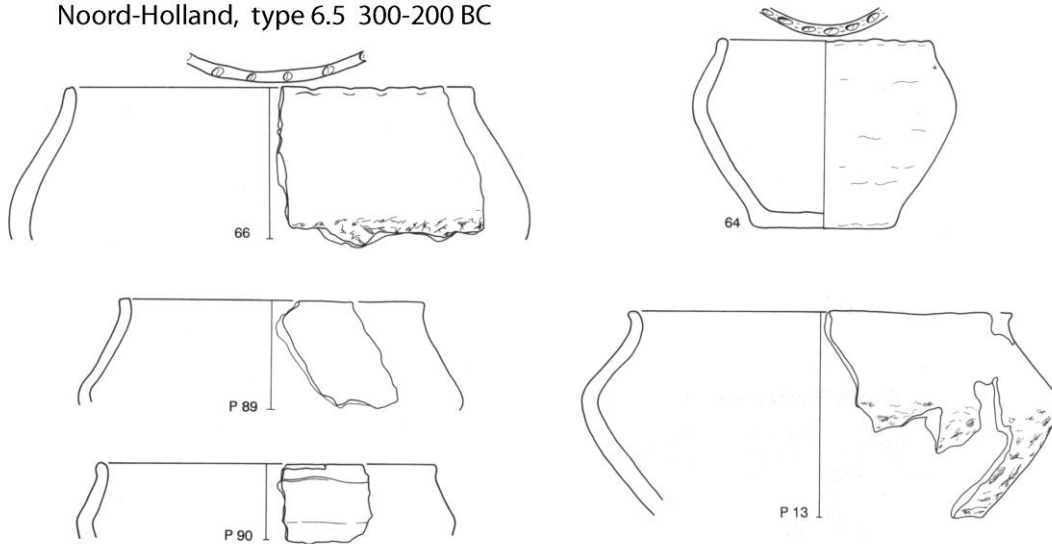


Fig. 18 Type Noord-Holland 6 is identical to the Zuid-Holland type 6 and can be seen as a frequent import from the South, but only up to the Oer-IJ

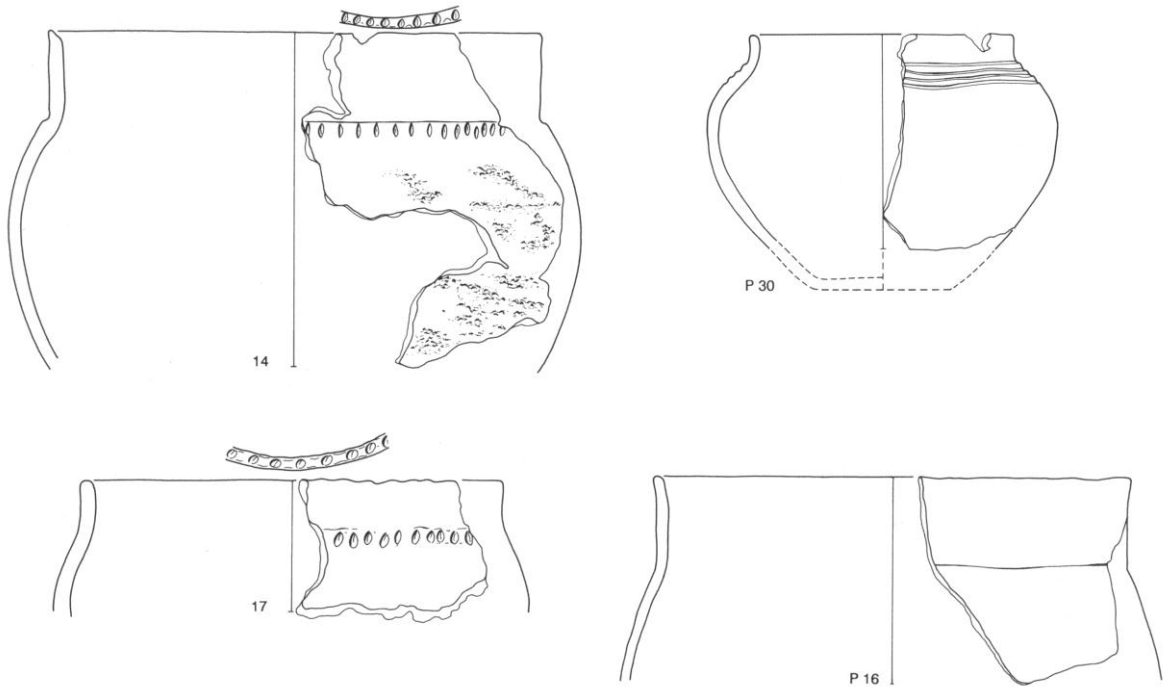
N-H type 7

N-H type 7.2 (700-600 BC). A model of unknown origin; a bowl-shaped pot with an upright straight neck which is set off against the shoulder of the pot. In most cases the sharp transition is given extra attention by a horizontal row of fingernail impressions or by several horizontal grooves. Some pots are slicked and the rims can be decorated on top by fingertip-nail impressions. The type is not found on Texel.

N-H type 7.3 (600-400 BC). No examples available.

N-H type 7.4 (400-300 BC). Pots exactly like 7.2, although decoration seems absent.

Noord-Holland, type 7.2 700-600 BC



Noord-Holland, type 7.4 400-300 BC

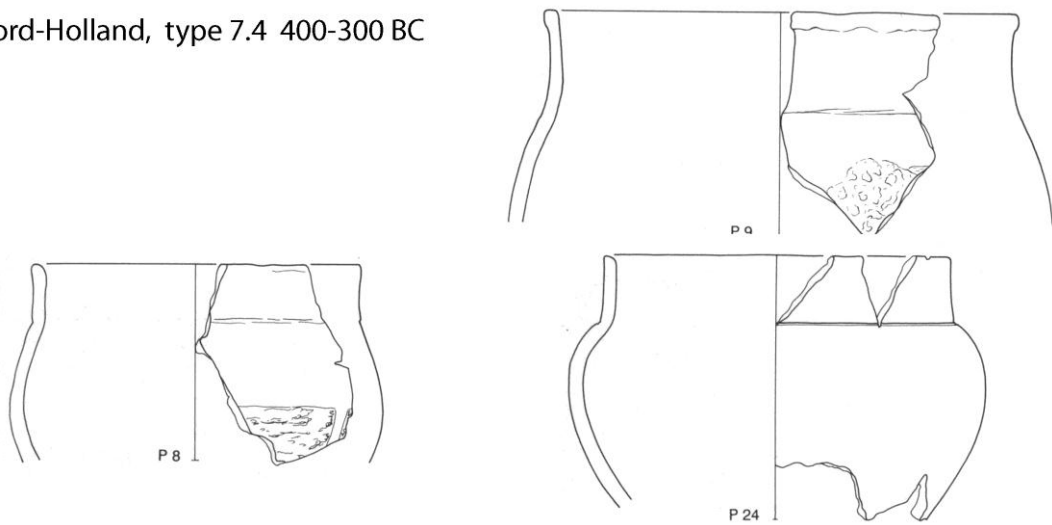
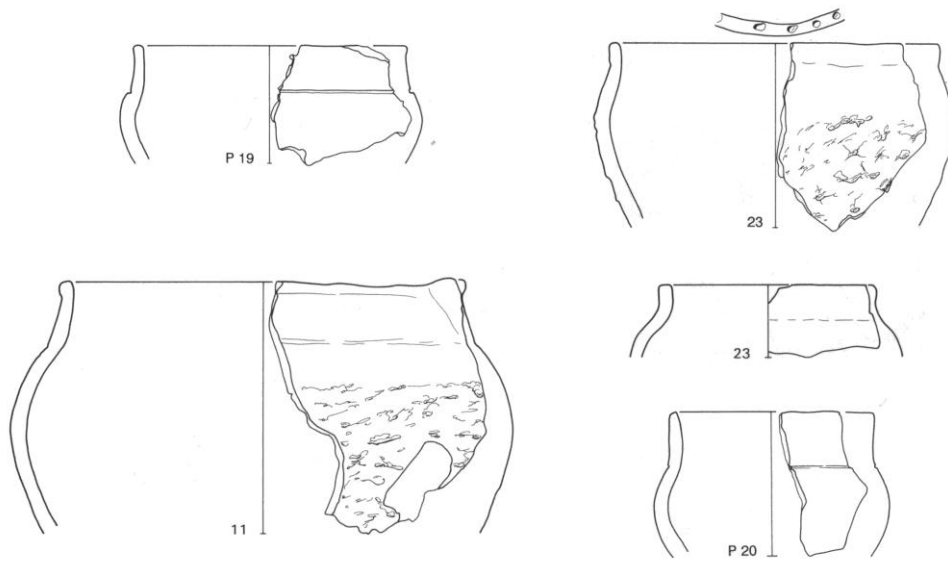


Fig. 19 Noord-Holland type 7 is remarkable for its bowl-shaped body and cylindrical neck. It is a rare type and due to the scarcity of findspots, yet unknown from the early Middle Iron Age. It probably petered out in the third century BC

N-H type 7.5 (300-200 BC). The pots still have their round bodies, but the shoulder seems to have got somewhat higher on the body. In most cases the transition from neck to shoulder is still marked. The larger pots are slicked. N-H type 7.6 (200-0 BC). In this period the type is no longer found.

Noord-Holland, type 7.5 300-200 BC



Noord-Holland, type 7.6 200-0 BC

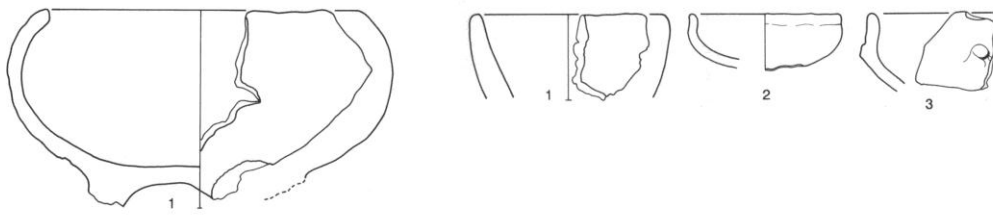
Niet meer waargenomen

Fig. 20 Possible remnants of type Noord-Holland 7 with its globular body and originally cylindrical neck

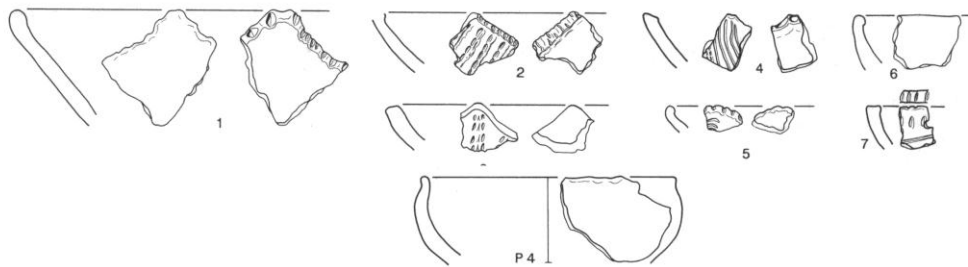
N-H type 8

Noord-Holland type 8 is a curious collection of dishes, bowls, cups and plates, all of which are rare in most settlements. All known specimens from Van Heeringen have been illustrated, but detailed descriptions here are useless, due to the variability in shape and their relative rarity. Only of the type 8.5 more examples are known, but all of them from Santpoort Spanjaardsberg. In the first century BC these special forms almost cease to exist. On Texel the situation is entirely comparable: special forms are really special.

Noord-Holland, type 8.0 1000-900 BC



Noord-Holland, type 8.1 900-700 BC



Noord-Holland, type 8.2 700-600 BC

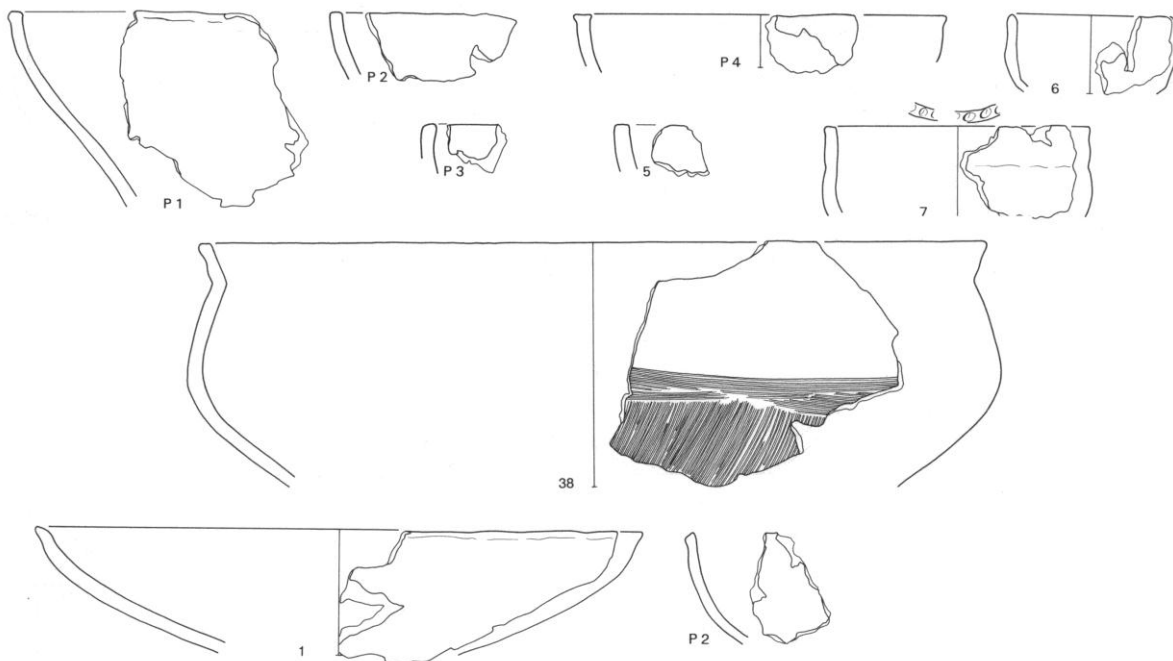
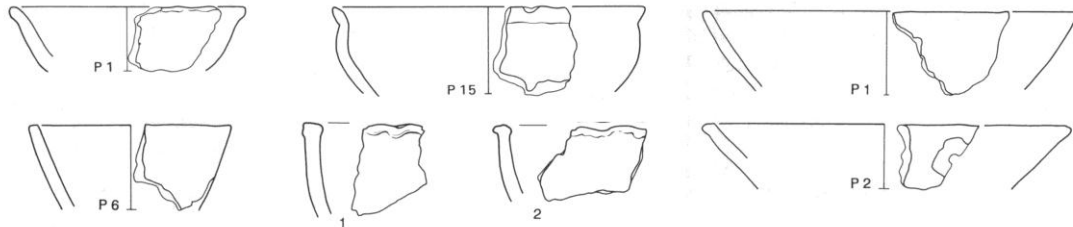


Fig. 21 All known cups, plates, bowls saucers and other remarkable pottery form from the Early Iron Age as illustrated by Van Heeringen in his thesis

Noord-Holland, type 8.3

Geen materiaal beschikbaar.

Noord-Holland, type 8.4 400-300 BC



Noord-Holland, type 8.5 300-200 BC

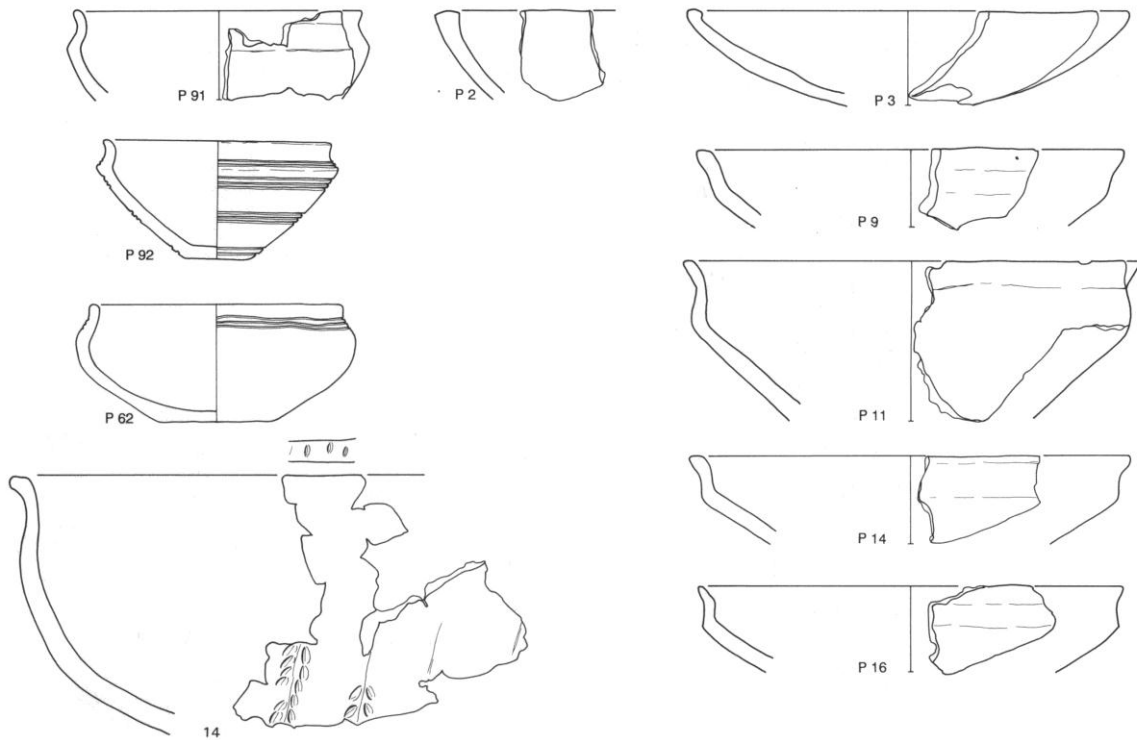


Fig. 22 Various remarkable forms from the late Middle Iron Age and early Late Iron Age; all tripartite dishes were discovered in Santpoort – Spanjaardsberg and show southern influence

Iron Age types from Zuid-Holland

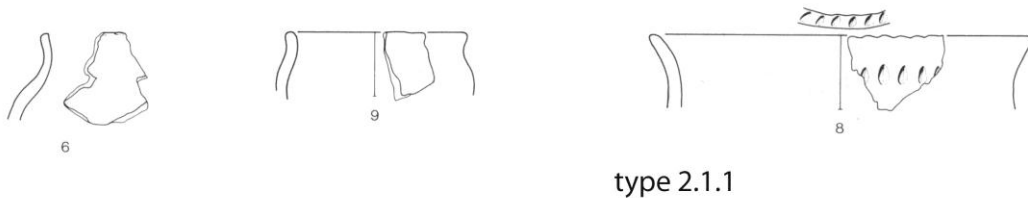
As there is no comparable material to N-H type 1, there is no **Z-H type 1**.

Z-H type 2

Z-H type 2.1.1 (950-800 BC) is a small collection of 'S'-shaped bowls with a probable steep profile

Z-H type 2.1.2 (950-800 BC) is the wide mouthed variant with fingernail impressions on the neck and on top of the rim. There are some similarities to the N-H type 2.1, which also has a flowing 'S'-shaped body and a narrow-mouthed and wide-mouthed variant. The decorated cordon is absent, but frequently a horizontal row of fingertip impressions is found on the shoulder.

Zuid-Holland type 2.1 950-800 BC



Zuid-Holland type 2.2 700-600 BC

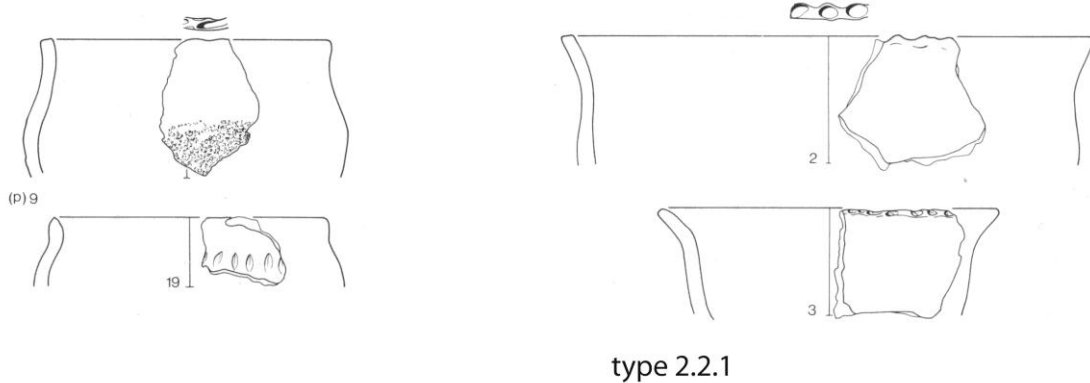


Fig. 23 Elegant elongated 'S'-shaped forms which are both narrow- and wide-mouthed

Z-H type 2.2.1 (700-600 BC) shows the type practically unchanged, but for the occasional slicking of the lower part of some pots. Here too fingernail impressions on the transition of the neck to the shoulder occur as well as decoration on top of the rim. The rim and shoulder have become one and the transition to the belly is sometimes sharper. Z-H type 2.2.2 (700-600 BC) is the continuation of 2.1.2.

Z-H type 2.3 (600-400 BC) not observed due to a lack of sites from the period.

Z-H type 2.4 (400-300 BC). The type is quite comparable to some examples of 2.2.1, although some examples with a shorter shoulder occur.

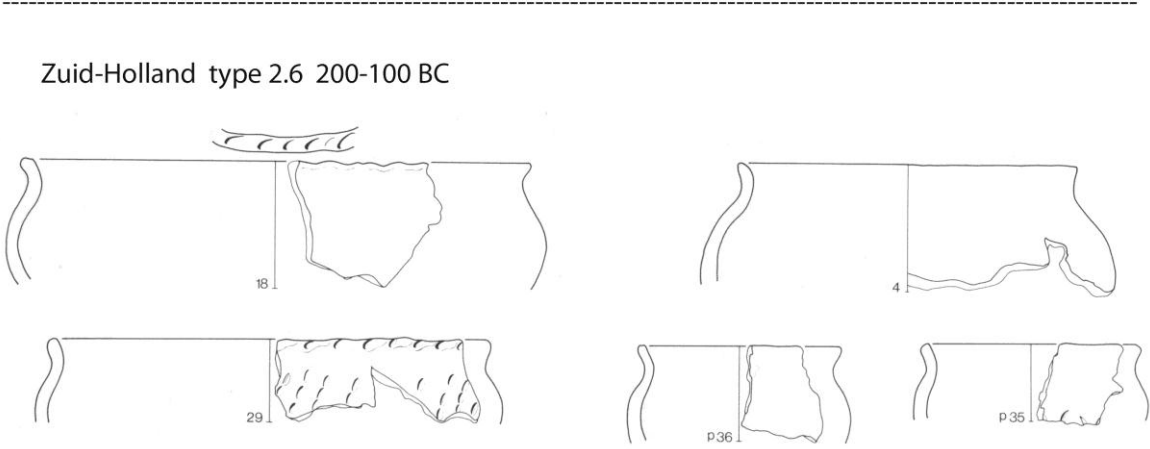
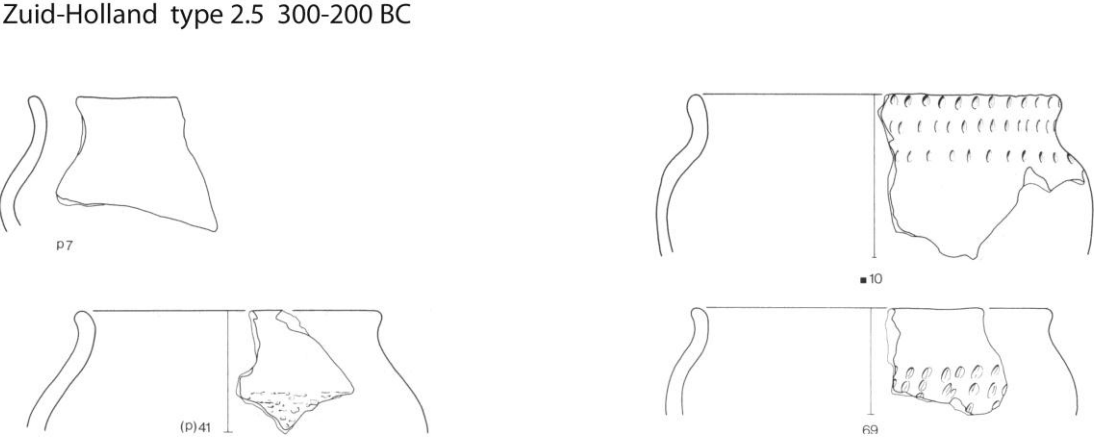
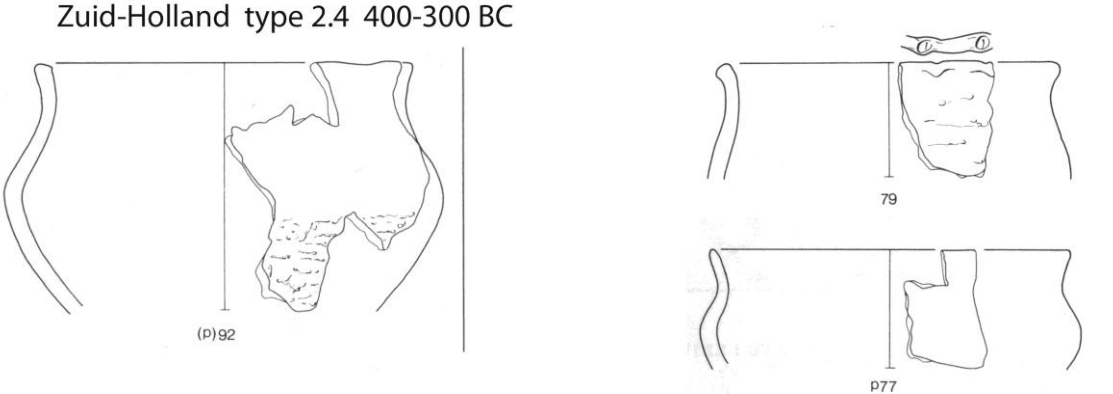


Fig. 24 Zuid-Holland types 2.4 to 2.6 show the gradual loss of the long necks and shoulders into a very basic 'S'-shaped form

Z-H type 2.5 (300-200 BC) Here too there are variants with a longer and straighter shoulder, but also the simple 'S'-shaped pots with a relatively high shoulder seem to exist side by side. Decoration with fingertip and / or fingernail impressions is common.

Z-H type 2.6 (200-100 BC) Simple 'S'-shaped pots in all sizes and all kinds of decoration and mostly curved necks. Rim diameter and largest circumference of the pot do not differ much in the wide-mouthed pots.

As there is no comparable material, the types **Z-H 3** and **Z-H 4** do not exist.

Z-H type 5

Z-H type 5.2 (700-600 BC) is the Northern Ruinen-Wommels type, which also makes an early start in Zuid-Holland, although it is much rarer there than in Noord-Holland. The steep curved neck and the edge indicating the transition of it to the shoulder are its famous trade mark.

Z-H type 5.3 (600-400 BC) is not observed due to a lack of sites from the period.

Zuid-Holland type 5.2 700-600 BC



Zuid-Holland type 5.4 400-300 BC

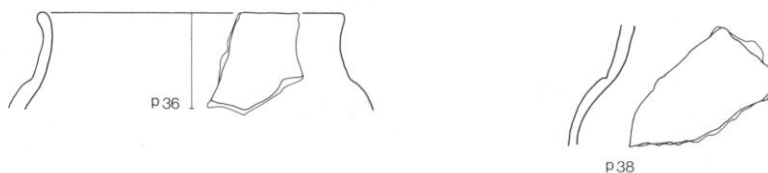


Fig. 25 Zuid-Holland types 5.2 and 5.4. Rare in Zuid-Holland, yet clearly recognisable 'Ruijn-Wommels'-like pottery with its long curved necks and sharp transition to the narrow shoulder.

Z-H type 5.4 (400-300 BC). Long necks with a marked transition from neck to shoulder. The round rim sometimes is slightly thickened. It is an exact parallel to N-H type 5.4.

Z-H type 5.5 (300-200 BC). 'S'-shaped pots in all sizes, wide- and narrow-mouthed, often decorated with 'streeband' decoration and often a slightly thickened and flattened rim. Handles occur, usually

attached to the rim of the pots, but incidentally attached to the neck. All kind of decoration with wavy bands, vertical comb decoration and horse-shoe decoration are pretty abundant. The type is an exact parallel to N-H type 5.5.

Zuid-Holland type 5.5 300-200 BC

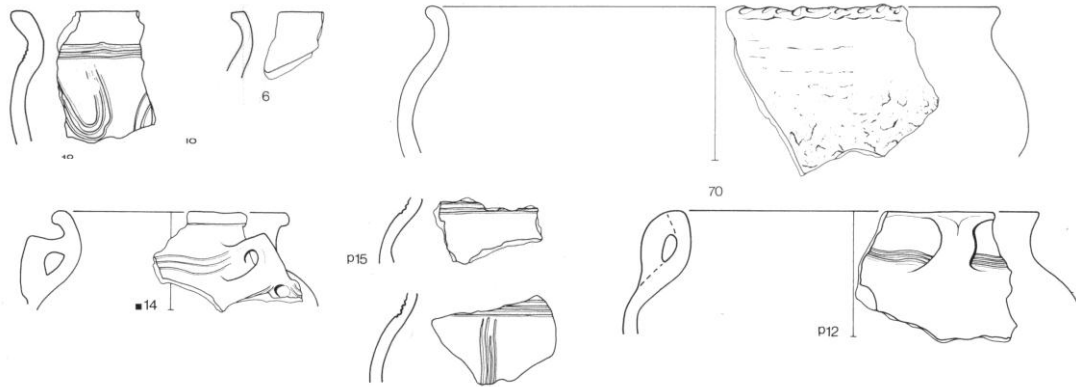


Fig. 26 Zuid-Holland 5.5 is only distinguishable from type 2.5 when 'streepband'-like decoration and a special type of rim finish can be discerned

Type 5.6 (200-100 BC). Much as in 5.5, but also similarities to 2.6. Only the thickened, flattened rims are characteristic of the northern origin, but it is fair to say that both groups here largely coincide. Decoration is abundant: scratches, lines, wavy patterns, nail impressions etc. The decoration with the tree-like motif (Tannenbaum) stands out. The narrow-mouthed pot illustrated as '62' could be an example identical to the type N-H 5.6a which is there, but not included in the material Van Heeringen had seen.

Zuid-Holland type 5.6 200-100 BC

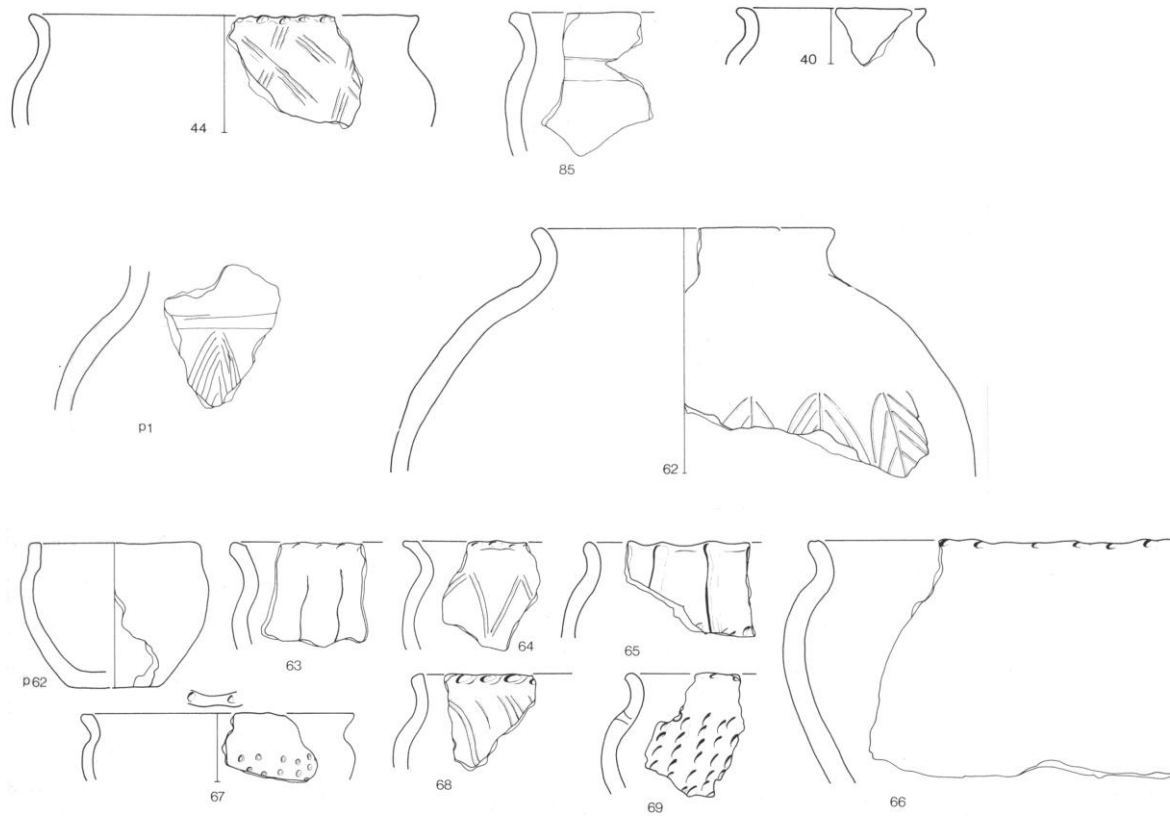
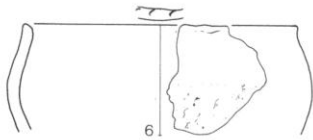


Fig. 27 Apart from some thickened, usually flattened rim finish, the Zuid-Holland 5.6 is hard to tell apart from 2.6. The narrow-mouthed globular pot has counterparts in Noord-Holland and Friesland

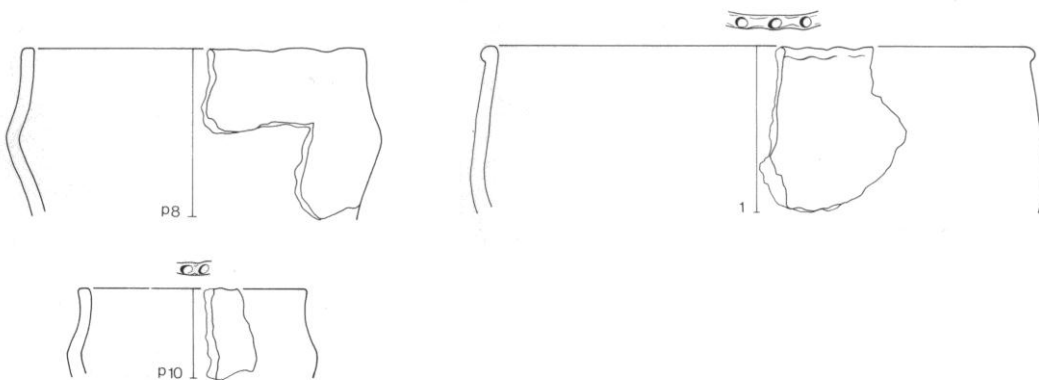
Z-H type 6

Z-H type 6.1 (950-850 BC). A bi-partite pot with decoration on top of the rim and a slicked body. The transition from upper and lower parts is rather sharp.

Zuid Holland Type 6.1 950-850 BC



Zuid-Holland type 6.2 700-600 BC



Zuid-Holland type 6.4 400-300 BC

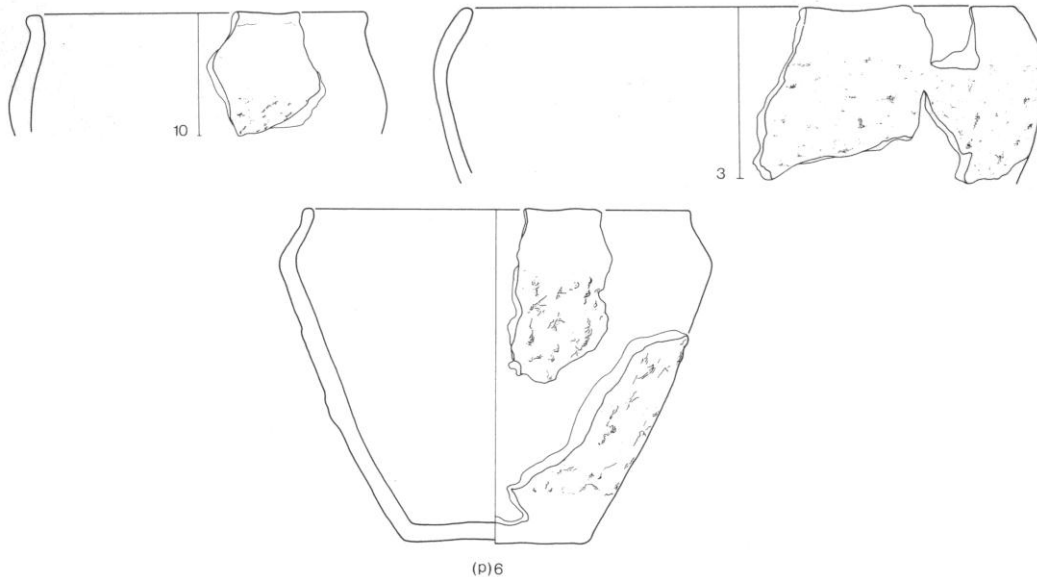


Fig. 28

Zuid-Holland 6.1 , 6.2 and 6.4 represent the shards of a long lived type of bi-partite pots with connections to the pottery of the Marne group. Material from the Early Middle Iron Age is lacking.

Z-H type 6.2 (700-600 BC). Same type as previous.

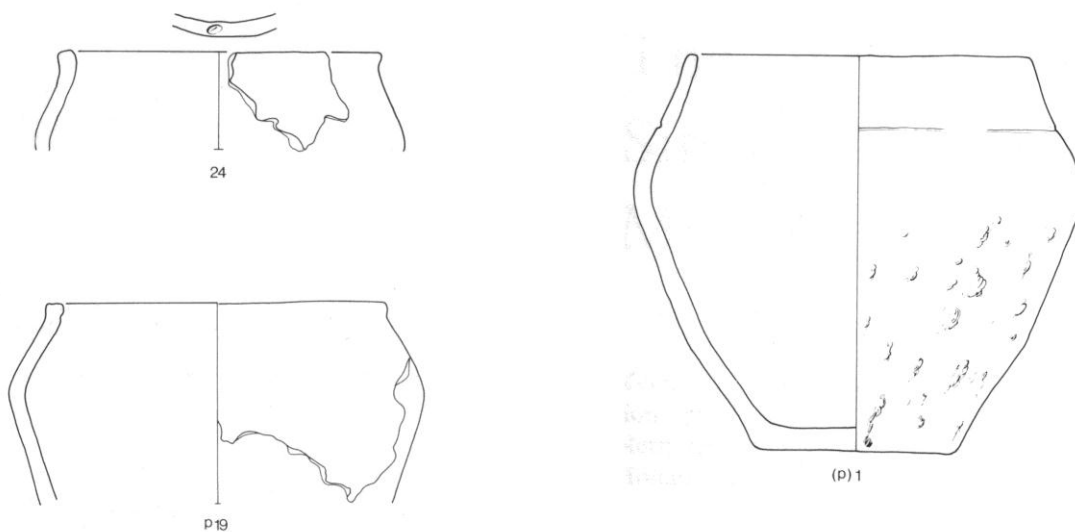
Z-H type 6.3 (600-400 BC) not observed due to a lack of sites from the period.

Z-H type 6.4 (400-300 BC). The variability in shape seems greater than before, but most rims seem plain now and all bodies are slicked.

Z-H type 6.5 (300-200 BC). The variation is in the treatment of the rim, which is sometimes slightly thickened. Occasionally decoration on top of the rim occurs and remarkable is a specimen with a horizontal groove around the shoulder. Some pots are slicked; others aren't.

Z-H type 6.6 (200-100 BC). The thickened rims have evolved, so that strictly speaking, the type has become tri-partite in form.

Zuid-Holland type 6.5 300-200 BC



Zuid-Holland type 6.6 200-100 BC

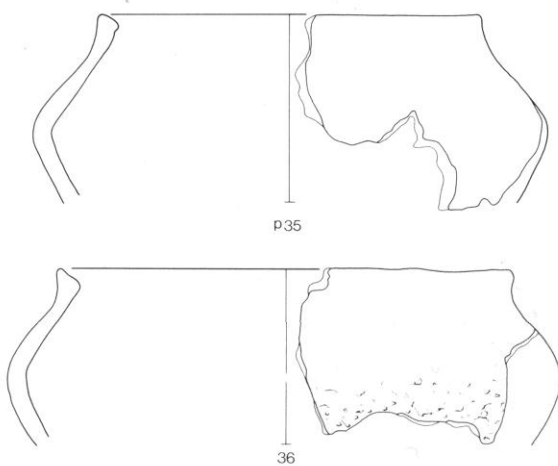


Fig. 29 The Zuid-Holland late iron Age bi-partite pots of types 6.5 and 6.6 develop a thickened rim by which the type has become tri-partite

Z-H type 7

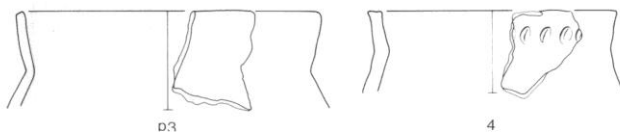
Like Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland knows a simple round pot with a more or less vertical neck:

Z-H type 7.1 (900-800 BC). Although the total shape is unknown, the sharply set off near cylindrical neck is typical. One instance with fingertip-nail decoration on the neck is so far unique.

Z-H type 7.2 (700-600 BC). The same, sharply set off vertical neck, but a shallower pot below? The pot with the decoration on top of the rim possibly does not belong to the type.

Z-H type 7.3 (600-400 BC). Not observed due to a lack of sites from the period.

Zuid-Holland type 7.1 900-800 BC



Zuid-Holland type 7.2 700-600 BC

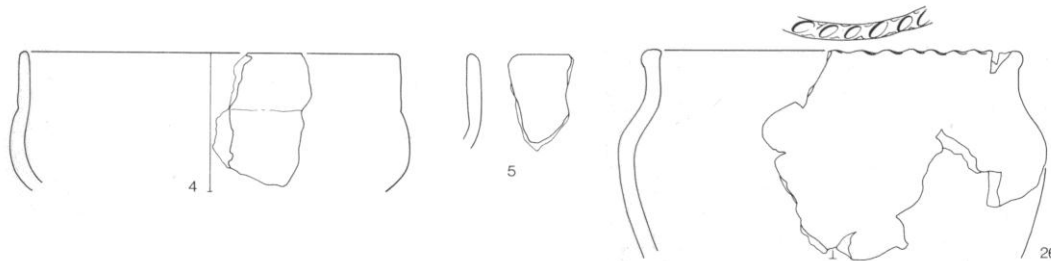


Fig. 30 Zuid-Holland type 7.1 and 7.2 from the Early Iron Age, show vertical to near vertical long straight neck which is sharply set off to the shoulder of the pot

Zuid-Holland type 7.4 450-300 BC

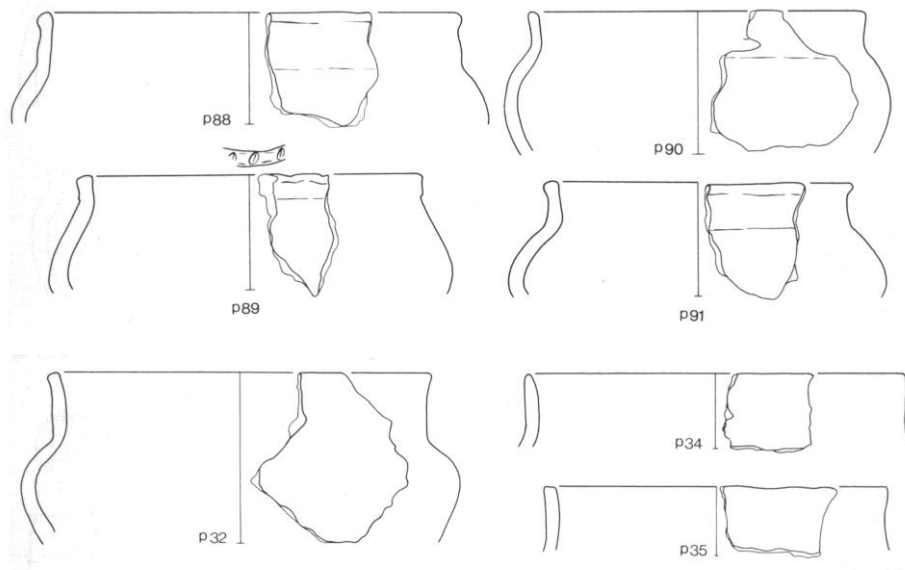
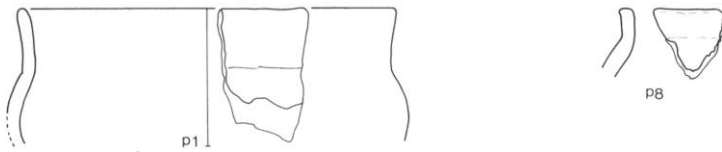


Fig. 31 The sharply sett-off near vertical neck of the pot still defines Zuid-Holland type 7.4

Z-H type 7.4 (450-300 BC) Though there is some variation, the relatively long neck still stands upright and here too, the one decorated rim looks out of place. The transition from shoulder to belly seems to have become sharper.

Zuid-Holland type 7.5 300-200 BC



Zuid-Holland, type 7.6 200-100 BC

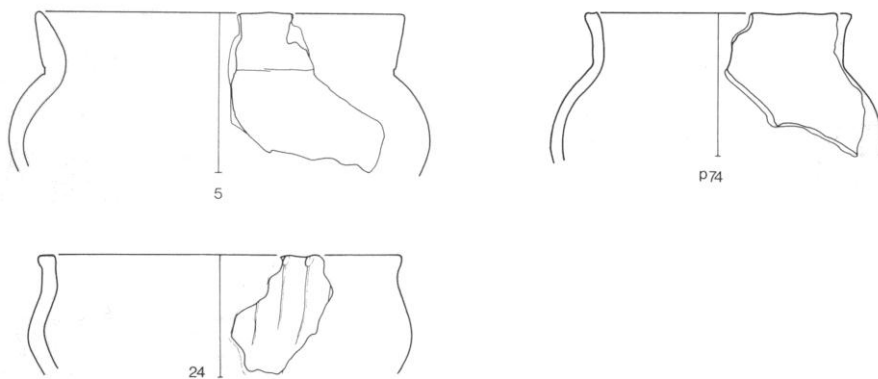


Fig. 32 The rare type (if at all) Zuid-Holland 7.5 and 7.6 are encountered so unfrequently that it is unclear if the type was still there after 200 BC

Z-H type 7.5 (300-200 BC). The few shards from the period seem to fit the type.

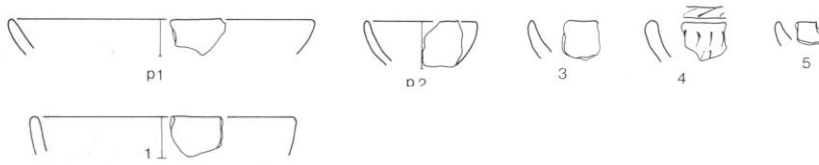
Z-H type 7.6 (200-100 BC) Two of the three examples have a cylindrical neck and the third one too, if seen from the outside; only nr 24 is true to the type, be it the first to be decorated with vertical groove lines. As the examples themselves do not exactly fit the type, it is likely to occur only in the first part of the period.

Z-H type 8

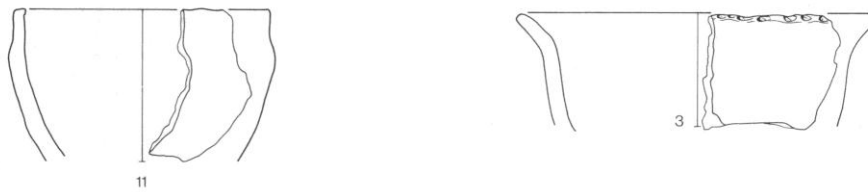
Z-H type 8 is again a collection of every vessel that cannot be called a pot. Only the tri-partite dishes of Z-H type 8.5 are noteworthy, as they form a remarkable group which we encountered in N-H type 8.5 as well. The tripartite form is characteristic of the Haamstede pottery style group.²⁹

²⁹ Van Heeringen 1989, p. 197 ff.

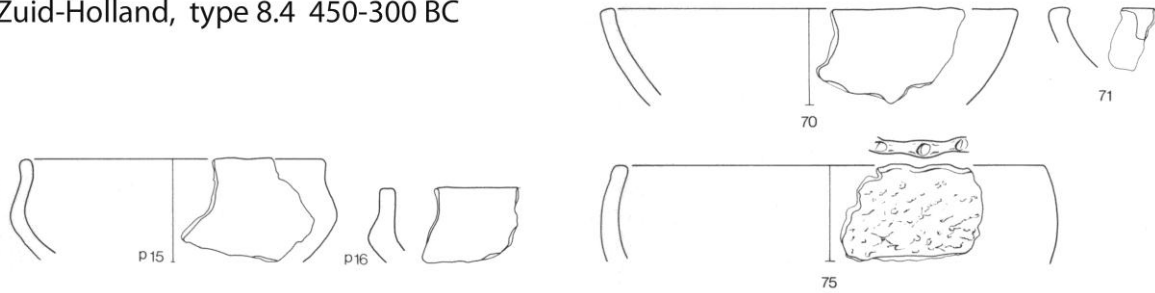
Zuid-Holland, type 8.1 950-800 BC



Zuid-Holland, type 8.2 700-600 BC



Zuid-Holland, type 8.4 450-300 BC



Zuid-Holland, type 8.5 300-200 BC

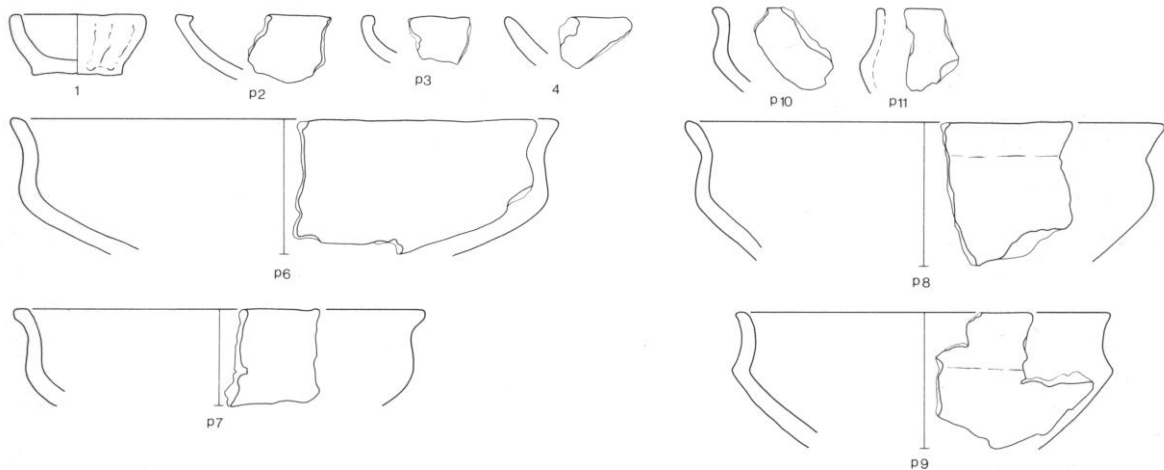


Fig. 33 Zuid-Holland, types 8. Various rare forms from the Early Iron Age up to the beginning of the Late iron Age. These are all that was found by Van Heeringen and show the relative rarity. The tripartite dishes have nice parallels in Santpoort-Spanjaardsberg, but were never found north of the Oer-IJ

Zuid-Holland , type 8.6 200-100 BC

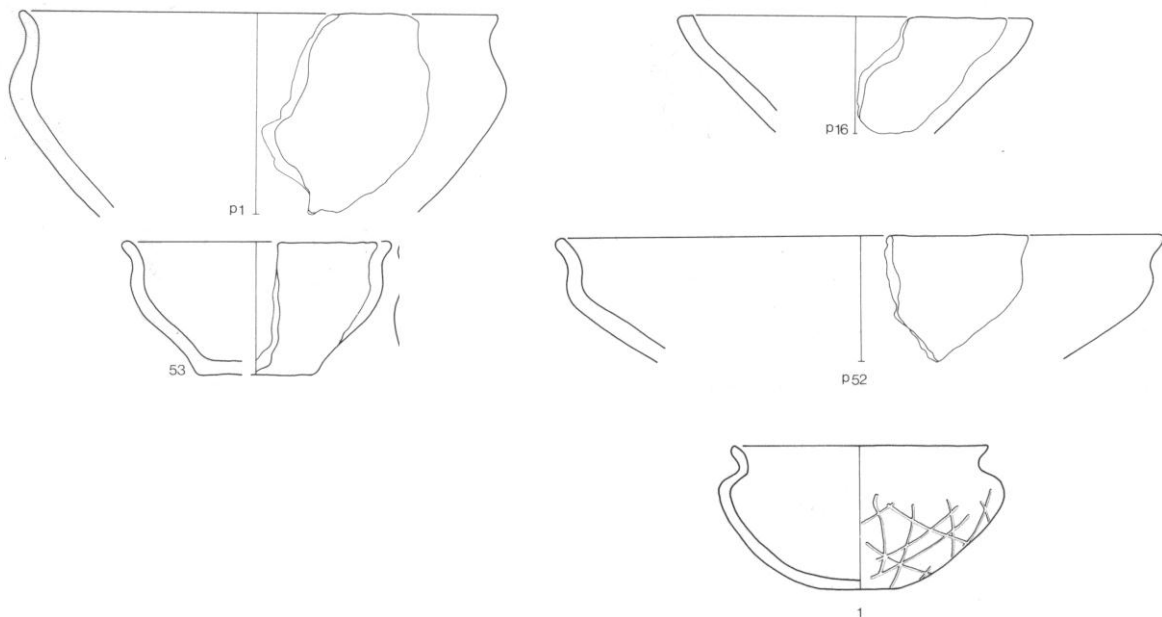


Fig. 34 Zuid-Holland 8.6. Remarkable forms, probably all dating from the second century BC

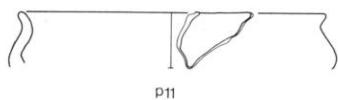
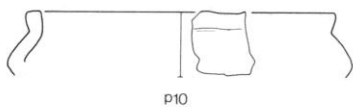
Z-H type 9

Z-H type 9.1 (950-850 BC). A very remarkable 'zigzag' model pot, of which the overall profile is lacking. Of the whole type, no rims are decorated.

Z-H type 9.2 (700-600 BC) A much bigger example than in 9.1, but it fulfils the requirements of the sharp zigzag profile.

Z-H type 9.3 (600-400 BC) not observed due to a lack of sites from the period.

Zuid-Holland , type 9.1 950-850 BC



Z-H type 9.4 (400-300 BC). Here we find small and large examples together.

Z-H type 9.5 (300-200 BC). Excellent examples that haven't changed for hundreds of years.

Zuid-Holland, type 9.2 700-600 BC

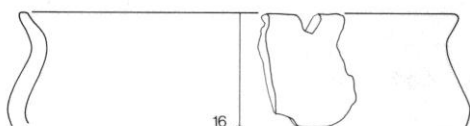
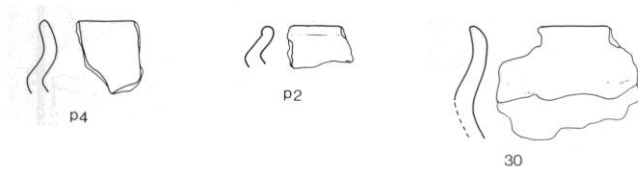


Fig. 35 Zuid-Holland types 9.1 and 9.2 with their remarkable 'zigzag' profile

Zuid-Holland , type 9.4 400-300 BC



Zuid-Holland, type 9.5 300-200 BC

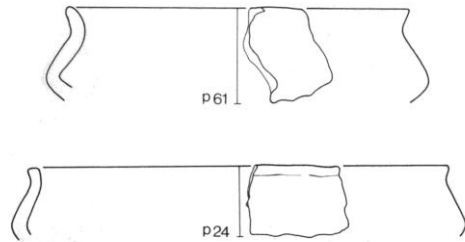


Fig. 36 Zuid-Holland types 9.4 and 9.5 still differ very little from their counterparts from the Early Iron Age

Z-H type 9.6 (200-100 BC) A mixed bag of zigzag pots of which it is not at all certain they are derived of the previous type.

Zuid-Holland, type 9.6 200-100 BC

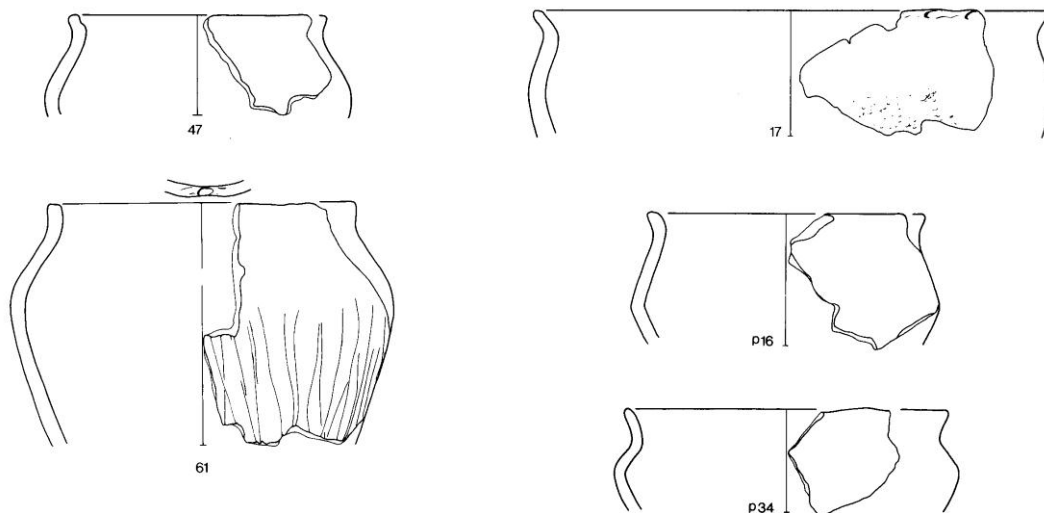


Fig. 37 Zuid-Holland type 9.6 is a mixed bag of zigzag-like forms which may be descended from 9.1.

4.1 Decoration and its chronology

Decoration, though at first possibly meant as a taboo sign for a specific use of the vessel, later probably becomes fashionable and as it goes with fashion: it spreads. To see where a certain type of decoration started, one might be able to establish the direction into which the fashion spread, or to put it more scientifically: to determine which cultural influence was stronger at the time.

Fingertip-nail impressions on top of the rim

These occur from the earliest times in both provinces, get spaced out in later centuries and peter out in the first century BC. Strangely enough, although pottery from the Middle Iron Age was found in Velsen, not a single shard with this type of decoration was found among the material.

Fingertip-nail impressions on the outside of the rim

Occur in Zuid-Holland for the first time among the Waalsdorpervlakte material (400-300 BC) and in Noord-Holland at Velsen Hoogovens and on Texel (300-200 BC). In Texel this type of decoration is not



at all abundant. It was observed 48 times in Velsen and makes out 3% of all rims.

Fig. 38 Fingertip-nail impressions on the outside of the rim.

Fingertip-nail impression on the body of the pot (single rows excluded)

Is found in Den Haag Plan Waldeck between 450 and 350 BC and the Leiden Gasthuispolder and the Waalsdorpervlakte between 400 and 300 BC and gets abundant between 300 and 100 BC. In Noord-Holland the type is first found at Velsen Hoogovens and Texel (300-200 BC). The real abundance is found between 200 and 100 BC. The Noordwijkerhout Langeveld site is an exception as many other types of decoration are found there as early as 900-750 BC. This decorative pattern was observed only five times among the Velsen material (0.3%).



Fig. 39 Fingertip-nail impressions on the body of the pot.

Streepband (i.e. at least two parallel grooves on the transition of neck and shoulder)



Found earliest in the Leiden Stevenhofjespolder (300-200 BC), which is so far the only place where streepband is found in numbers in Zuid-Holland. Santpoort Spanjaardsberg and Velsen Hoogovens and Texel (350-250 BC) are the places where the decoration is found earliest. Exception is a very atypical pot from Assendelft 60 (700-600 BC).

Fig. 40 *Streepband* decoration paired with a number of other decoration motifs as grooves in the rim, geometrical decoration on the shoulder mixed with fingertip-nail impressions

The type is abundant in Velsen (n=168), but considered it can be seen two times when a shard is broken exactly on the streepband (it is a weak point). So if only rim shards are taken into account, the number falls down to 129 (8%). In only few cases it is found together with other types of decoration such as wavy lines, comb decoration and (irregular)lines (n=14=1%)

Broad grooves on the shoulder of the pot.

Not observed by Van Heeringen and probably originating from Westergo³⁰ where this phenomenon is dated from 350 BC onwards. On Texel numerous examples are known and Woltering dates them

³⁰ Taayke type G3b.

accordingly to Taayke³¹. They occur frequently in Den Helder and Schagen. In Velsen the type also is a regular one and is observed thirty-five times, both on wide-mouthed pots and on narrow-mouthed ones. It is striking that the type is not among the prolific material of Santpoort Spanjaardsberg which is only a few kilometres away from Velsen. Explanation could be that the introduction of the type in Velsen was not before the end of the third century BC when the Santpoort site was growing smaller. Velsen is the most southern find spot of the type. This especially is valid for the concentric rings under the handle, which is a rare northern influence only seen in Westergo between 200 and the beginning of the Christian era.³²

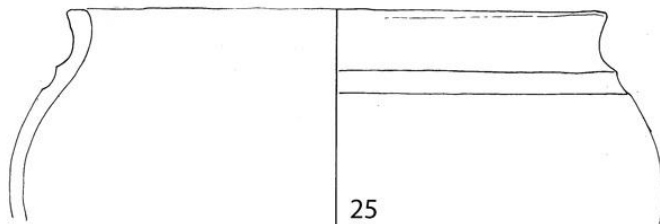


Fig. 41 Velsen I, pot with broad grooves on the shoulder and a fragment with three concentric rings applied below a handle

Zigzag lines on the pot body (usually two or three parallel lines)

Monster, 't Geestje (200-100 BC) (Wassenaar Huis ter Weer is 'avant la lettre'). In Noord-Holland Santpoort Spanjaardsberg and Velsen Hoogovens (350-250 BC) are the earliest examples. (Heemskerk Duitslandlaan (1000-900 BC) is obviously not connected). In Velsen only one sand-tempered rim shard was seen with this decoration, be it in combination with streepband, a rim with grooves and nail impressions on the body! (Nr 917) A similar shard is illustrated here, with nail impressions on the shoulder and a single broad (streep)band around the neck.

³¹ Woltering 2001, p236 (III.2.1.3) and figure 167 in particular; discussion on page 199.

³² Taayke Westergo GW4a-1 and GE4-2



Fig. 42 Velsen I, zigzag lines on the body of the pot, here combined with fingertip impressions on the rim, streepband and a row of horizontal fingertip-nail impressions on the transition of shoulder to belly

Tannenbaum or fir-tree

Monster 't Geestje and Den Haag (200-100 BC) are the only examples in Zuid-Holland. Woltering shows a possible Tannenbaum from the period 400-300 BC.³³ Neither Den Helder, Schagen nor Velsen yielded an example.

Wavy lines

Zoeterwoude Weipoortse Vliet and Leiden Stevenshofjespolder (300-200 BC) are the oldest occurrences in Zuid-Holland. Assendelft 32 and Assendelft 4(200-100 BC) are the only Noord-Holland examples in Van Heeringen. Woltering shows some nice examples from Texel from the same period.³⁴ Other examples in the north of Noord-Holland come from Den Helder, Schagen and Haringhuizen.³⁵ Velsen only has two examples, one of which in combination with streepband and the other with a rim with grooves on the outside.



Fig. 43 Velsen I, Fragment with part of a 'wavy line' decoration

³³ Woltering 2001, fig 106 nr 15.

³⁴ Woltering 2001, fig 170.

³⁵ The Haringhuizen material was published by Woltering in 1979 in: Archeologische Kroniek over 1978.

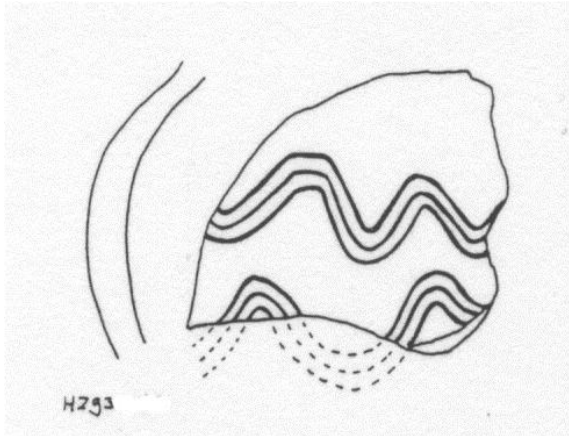


Fig. 44 Schagen, Hoep-Zuid, belly fragment with two paralel wavy lines

Wild scratches (indiscriminative pattern of grooves or scratches)

Both Den Haag Zichtenberg and Leiden Stevenshofjespolder are the oldest Zuid-Holland sites to present this pattern (350-250 BC). Heemskerk Kerkweg has the decoration already in 500-400 BC, but also in Santpoort Spanjaardsberg, Assendelft N and also on Texel, the pattern can be found between 400-300 BC. Twenty-three examples are among the Velsen material, only one with shell tempering, indicating that the decoration was used here from about 250 BC onwards.



Fig. 45 Velsen I, 'wild scratches' on the body of the pot

Vertical scratches (very often on the lower side of the pot) In Zuid-Holland Leiden Bosch en Gasthuispolder yields the pattern as early as 400-300 BC and Leiden Stevenshofjespolder between 350 and 250. In Noord-Holland this type of decoration is found earliest at Velsen Hoogovens and Santpoort Spanjaardsberg between 300 and 200 BC. It is common in many cites between 200 and 100 BC and occurs in Velsen twenty-five times (1.5%).



Fig. 46 Velsen I, Vertical scratches from the bottom of the pot upward

Comb decoration (usually broad bands of parallel scratches or grooves)

In Zuid-Holland this type of decoration is found earliest in Den Haag Uithofpolder between 450 and 350 BC, but in Noord-Holland this pattern already exists between 700 and 600 in Assendelft 60 and somewhat later in Heemskerk Kerkweg (500-400 BC) as well as on Texel in the fifth century. With forty-seven examples the decoration may be called common in Velsen (3%).



Fig. 47 Velsen I, 'comb' decoration on the body of the pot

Rather broad spatula incisions on top of the rim

This kind of decoration is absent in Zuid-Holland, occurs sporadically in Noord-Holland (Den Helder and Schagen) and seems more abundant in Friesland, whence it possibly originates.³⁶ Just one single

shard was found in Velsen, probably indicating the boundary of its distribution.

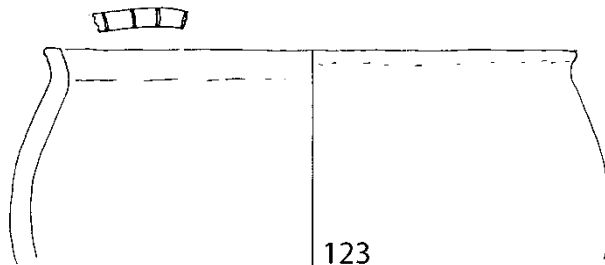


Fig. 48 Velsen I, Spatula impressions on top of the rim is very rare in Velsen.



Small vertical incisions on the outside of the rim (grooves)

These appear in Noord Holland earliest at the very end of the Iron Age, possibly even the beginning of our era (Uitgeest 19 West 65) and are absent in Zuid-Holland. The Velsen material yields exactly one hundred rim shards with this decoration (6%), but some appear in combination with other decorations like wavy lines, streepband and comb decoration (n=11=0.8%), thereby indicating that during the whole Late Iron Ages as well as probably Roman times this type of decoration was in vogue.

Fig. 49 Velsen I, incisions (spatula impressions) on the outside of the rim, here combined with streepband and)probably) wild scratches on the body of the pot

³⁶ Taayke 1996, Westergo Variante V2b, which he dates from 400 BC onwards. Woltering observes the decoration several times and mentions the occurrence in the Den Helder material (vide supra). It is also among material from Barsingerhorn and Schagen (observation by the author).

Oblique parallel lines over the body of the pot

This decoration was first and well observed among the material of Assendelft, Uitgeest and Castricum, all dating from 200 up to 50 BC. Among the Velsen shards some ten times this specific decoration was found, some under circumstances where also Roman shards were found. A C14 dating is carried out on some soot and carbonated food remains, to determine whether this decorative pattern was in use before the Romans came, or when the Romans came.³⁷

As from the footnote can be derived, all decorated shards dated into the third and second centuries BC.



Fig. 50 Velsen I, oblique parallel lines (scratches) probably all date into the third century BC

Round impressions

Probably made with a finger, but no nail is visible. These appear from earliest times onwards, but usually in horizontal or vertical rows on the shoulder or the body of the pot. The decoration described here is found standing alone or in a group of three, forming a triangle. The oldest group of three was seen by Van Heeringen among the material of Assendelft 41 (700-600 BC). The pattern re-occurs occasionally throughout the Iron Age and is possibly a sign indicating a special use of the vessel in question. In Velsen it is seen 7 times on rough-walled as well as polished wares. The

³⁷ Only in 2013 these data became available and showed a much earlier date than on the basis of Van Heeringen's observations was expected: 4 shards with soot and/or food remains dated from the third and second century BC. KIA 45559- KIA45562 generating: 2280 + 30 BP, 2200 + 35 BP, 2125 +25 BP and 2100 + 25 BP. Thanks to Leibniz Labor für Altersbestimmung und Isotopenforschung Christian Albrechts Universität Kiel.



tempering material includes shell (2x), sand (1x), pot grit (2x) and organic material (2x), which also indicates the spacing in time. Two or three impressions under one and other were each seen once on shards with plant tempering. Round impressions in relation to an applied handle were observed. On top of the handle or just on the lower part of it or, more frequently so: both (n=8= 0.5%)

Fig. 51 Velsen I, group of three round impressions on the belly of the pot seems a rather timeless form of decoration or indication of a taboo

Decoration of the neck

Remarkable among the Velsen shards is the occurrence of decoration under the rim i.e. the neck of the pot. Some 25 instances were noted (=1.5%); straight grooves, curved grooves and fingertip impressions all occur in about equal numbers. Browsing through Van Heeringen, only few examples can be found from 200 BC onwards, but they seem to occur more south of Velsen than north of it, as the pattern is absent in the North of Noord-Holland. The dating must be from 250 BC as three instances of shell tempering were seen. The decoration is unlikely to have lived into Roman Times.



Fig. 52 Velsen I, decoration in the form of scratches on the neck and fingertip impressions on the rim, here combined with 'wild scratches' .probably dates from the third century BC

Finger stripes on the lower part of slicked pots

Taayke illustrates only one example on a Westergo GE4 pot, where three fingers, held together, have gone upwards through the still wet slicking; this was done three or four times around the pot. Taayke dates this type between 150 BC and 50 AD. In Roman Times the decoration is common in Westergo. Woltering does not have this decoration among the Texel shards, but as his investigation ends 100 BC, this is not surprising. We may conclude that the decorative pattern was only introduced in Velsen in the first century BC or even in Roman Times. In Velsen seventeen instances were recorded (=3% of all pot bases), 15 on slicked lower parts and two times on a smooth-walled pot. The tempering material used was in all instances with pot grit or organic material, which is in correspondence with the 'late' dating.

Paint or spilled blood?

The phenomenon of dark brown or reddish brown stains on the pot be it rim, shoulder, belly or bottom, always seems random and lacks any discernable decorative pattern. Taayke saw this in Westergo and discarded paint as a decorative expression.³⁸ As blood contains a rather high amount of iron, the brown oxide would remain after firing blood stains.



Fig. 53 Velsen I, Paint or blood or both; found randomly on rim and shoulder, but also on the (turned up) bottom of pots

Horse shoes

This interesting pattern is found in the North of Noord-Holland and seems rare in Velsen. The crescent shaped decoration is found open at the top or at the base and sometimes another decorative pattern is found inside. The only Velsen shard shows finger tip and nail impressions on the neck and shoulder of the pot as well as a diagonal comb decoration. The crescents are small compared to examples from Schagen.

³⁸ Taayke 1996, p. 167.

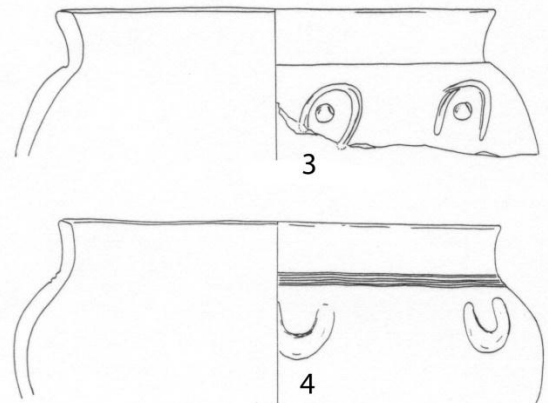


Fig. 54 Velsen I and Schagen Hoep-Zuid, examples of 'horse-shoe' decoration on the belly of pots, probably dating from the second half of the third century BC



Wild geometrical patterns

Very interesting among the Velsen material is a very specific finely executed pattern of shallow lines forming squares or diamonds.

Unfortunately it is only found on a handful of wall shards and cannot be related to certain pot types, but the tempering of the shards with plant material suggests the Late Iron Age.³⁹

Fig. 55 Velsen I, geometrical decoration which recently found a parallel in Middle iron Age pottery from Schagen

4.1 Conclusion

Decoration may seem of little importance to the understanding of Iron Age pottery, but will show of great interest while discussing the position of the Velsen I material.

On the whole it can be said that decoration seems more abundant in Zuid-Holland, where it started somewhat earlier than in Noord-Holland. Interesting exceptions are the comb decoration, which seems to have its roots in Noord-Holland and, not really surprising, the streefband ornament was found slightly earlier in the North than in the South. The wild scratches are a real surprise to have their roots in Noord-Holland, but perhaps due to the lack of sites from the fifth century in Zuid-Holland, this idea may eventually be proven wrong.

³⁹ Recent investigation (2012) in Schagen yielded some exact parallels; the site in Schagen, however must be dated between 350 and 275 BC which makes the dating of this pattern somewhat older.

Decorative patterns found on Iron Age pottery from Velsen form no exception to what is found elsewhere in Noord- or Zuid-Holland. Streepband however is much commoner in the North than in the South and the numbers in Velsen clearly indicate the northern influence.

5.1 Comparison of the 9 main pot types

Where type numbers correspond, we are dealing with more or less the same type of pottery. So when there is only N-H type 1, this means that no mass of comparable material is available in Zuid-Holland, though incidental parallels can be found.

N-H type 1 can be seen as the arche-type pot; slightly higher than wide, hardly ever decorated and big. It is a wide-spread type, from Texel to Assendelft. Only later in its development do we see smaller sizes appearing. The end of type 1 is perhaps not really satisfactory as it remains difficult to distinguish the 'S'-shaped pots with curved necks from the ones of types 2.6 and 5.6 or even from Z-H type 2.6. Van Heeringen has made the same remark when he states: "We could say that the beginning of the LIA in the second century BC is marked by a certain homogenisation of pottery characteristics. This may be a consequence of increased contacts between the various groups and the diminishing need over a large area to express individual cultural identities."⁴⁰ Yet the type is characterised by a very steep shoulder and a belly circumference that is only marginally bigger than the rim diameter. The later type 1.6 does not seem to be prolific among the Velsen material, probably due to the 'homogenisation' mentioned by Van Heeringen.

N-H type 2 and Z-H type 2 have many similarities in the early phases: steep but flowing 'S'-shaped profiles; both have wide- and narrow-mouthed variants and both have a decorative row of fingertip-nail impressions on the neck. Their final destination as stated above, in simple, but flowing 'S'-shaped pots is hardly surprising. Yet the overall shape of the body of the pots remains round and the necks are short. This type is well represented in Velsen and is possibly the standard type in the late first century BC.

N-H type 3 originates from the bi-conical Bronze Age pots, which were widespread in Noord-Holland, and also in West-Friesland. Here, however a local development took place which resulted in the so-called 'Hoogkarspel' pottery⁴¹. The 'Hoogkarspel-Jong' pottery is de facto an Iron Age pottery group which, for obscure reasons, was not included in Van Heeringen's work. Later some attention will be given to it. The story of type 3 is simple: the angular bi-partite pot developed a neck and got more rounded. The rim came to be upright, by which a 'Z'-shaped pot resulted. Why it disappeared after 300 BC or into what other type of pot it merged, is obscure. It is practically absent in Velsen and probably sets the date for the first human activity on the site at 300 BC.

N-H type 4 is a very curious and striking form with its clear 'Z'-shape and angular profile. The type remains virtually unchanged when it disappears towards the end of the third century BC. The Zuid-Holland equivalent of the type may be Z-H type 9. There are, however differences in the very earliest forms which made me decide to make it a separate type. It is absent among the Velsen material.

⁴⁰ Van Heeringen 1992, p. 219/303.

⁴¹ Brandt 1989.

N-H type 5 and Z-H type 5 both make an early start in the western Netherlands, though more abundantly so in Noord-Holland. The famous black burnished pots with geometrical decoration for which the later Frisian Ruinen-Wommels types are famous, do not seem to have been very popular in the West: just a children's handful of shards can be attributed to them and probably none were discovered in Velsen. The types 5.5 and 5.6 do, contrary to their counterparts from Friesland, sometimes have decoration in the Western tradition.

N-H type 6 and Z-H type 6 are identical and originate from Zuid-Holland and change little over time. In the later phase the rim gets thickened and causes the pots to get more tri-partite than bi-conical. As we will see later, the type survives in Noord-Holland into Roman times⁴² but is practically absent in Velsen, whereas the type is a regular feature in Santpoort, in the near vicinity of Velsen.

N-H type 7 and Z-H type 7. The Zuid-Holland type clearly has the older roots and the Noord-Holland type may be derived from it. The cylindrical neck and the round shoulder retain its characteristics up to the second century BC when the type seems to disappear, probably merged in to an 'S'-shaped type like 2.6 or 5.6. The most northern example is Den Helder, but strangely enough it does not seem to appear in Texel. The type is well-represented in Velsen, but only in period 5.

N-H type 8 and Z-H type 8. The most striking form among the type is the tri-partite dish 8.5 that clearly originates from Zuid-Holland and seems to have got as far north as Santpoort. In Velsen dishes, cups and bowls are extremely rare as they are in the rest of Noord-Holland.

Z-H type 9. The most striking phenomenon of the type is the sharp 'Z'-shaped profile which is practically unchanged through the centuries. After 200 BC the type begins to get somewhat fuzzy and has probably disappeared somewhere around 100 BC. No examples of the type were observed among the Velsen material.

5.2 Material from other sites in Noord-Holland

Hoogkarspel Jong

As I earlier remarked, the Hoogkarspel Jong group should actually be incorporated into the Noord-Holland Iron Age pottery, as it existed into the seventh century BC⁴³. It is also a 'dying' type as the area of its distribution, Eastern West-Friesland, had become depopulated and no clues to the continuation of the pottery type elsewhere were known. If we imagine the poor population seeking refuge in the territories of other tribes and clans, we may expect their cultural identity to peter out soon. Yet the eighth century Hoogkarspel Jong was yet a vibrant type of pot: very often all-overall decorated with fingertip-nail impressions, the bi-and tripartite pots were respectively bucket-shaped and 'S'-shaped, with rounded or, more usual, pointed rims.⁴⁴

⁴² Material was found in Schagen, Witte Paal III. Diederik in preparation.

⁴³ Brandt 1989, p 219; '...deze late fase van het Hoogkarspel-jong complex voorlopig op ca. 2750-2600 BP gedateerd worden.'

⁴⁴ This material was published by R.Brandt in 1989.

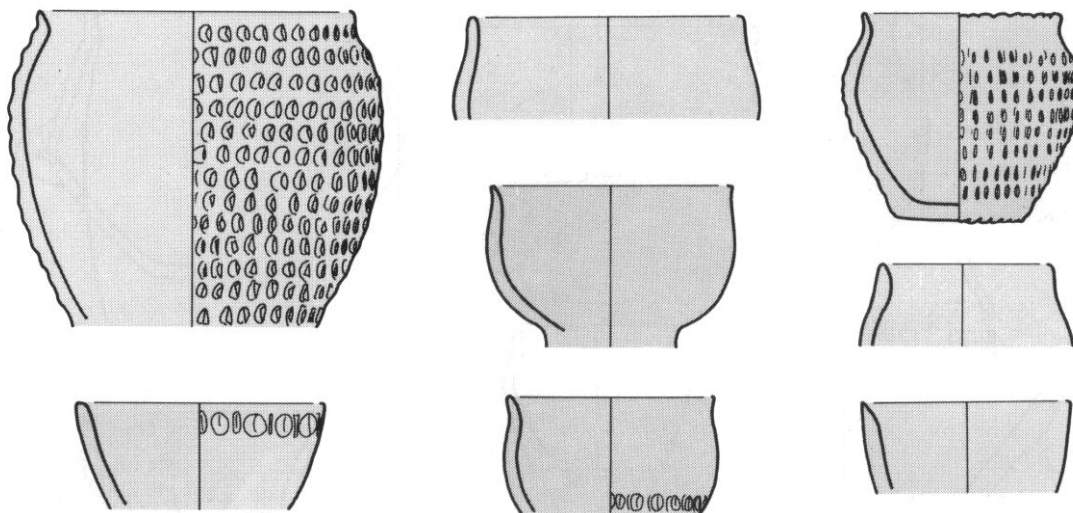


Fig. 56 Hoogkarspel, variety of pot form from the last phase of the Hoogkarspel-Jong period with their characteristic pointed rims and flowing forms⁴⁵

Among the Alkmaar Huiswaard material (750-650 BC) described by Van Heeringen, two pot forms stand out for their similarity to the Hoogkarspel Jong ware⁴⁶; the rest of the complex seems largely influenced by RW types.⁴⁷ Only recently some more comparable material was discovered in Heemskerk.⁴⁸

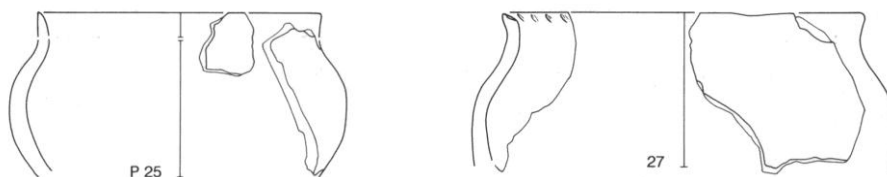


Fig. 57 Pots from Alkmaar-Huiswaard, which show influence of Hoogkarspel-Jong pottery

Den Helder Parkzicht

In Den Helder a collection of several hundreds of shards came to light in 1978, dating from the Iron Age. Unfortunately most of them stray finds from heaps of soil. The oldest material is totally shell tempered and stands no comparison to any other material from Friesland or Noord-Holland; they are bowl-shaped, narrow- and wide-mouthed pots with a rounded straight or pointed rim finish; thickened rims are rare. Since there is no exact dating possible for the type, we may first have to establish when shell tempering in Noord-Holland was in use. Here Van Heeringen, in his excellent thesis, has done a lot of field work:

⁴⁵ Pictures taken from Brandt 1988

⁴⁶ The material is dated 750 – 650 BC

⁴⁷ Van Heeringen 1992 plate CXVIII nrs p25 and 27.

⁴⁸ Investigation by

5.2.1 Van Heeringen's survey of tempering

find spot	C14 dating	tempering	yrs BC
25-west-33		Grog and granite	1000-900
25-west-34		Grog and granite	1000-900
25-west-27		Grog and granite	1000-800
19-west-41		Granite	1000-<900
19-west-45		Grog and granite	1000-700
25-west-6		Granite, quartz and grog (1x shell)	1000-900
25-west-7		Grog+white quartz and mica	1000-900
25-west-5		Granite and grog	1000-900
19-west-20		Granite (43%) and granite +grog (57%)	900-<800
19-west-44	2635 BP	Grog and granite	800-700
25-west-30		Granite (50%) and grog (50%)	800-700
19-west-21		Granite (61%) and granite +grog (39%)	>800-700
19-west-29		Grog and granite	800-700
19-west-30		Granite, quartz and mica	800-700
19-west-31	2805 - 2485 BP	granite, grog and sand	1000-900 and 800-700
25-west-4		Granite and grog	750-650
25-west-8		Granite	750-650
19-west-9		Stone grit (100%)	750-650
19-west-10		Granite and grog	750-650
19-west-14		Sandy	750-650
19-west-40		Grog and granite	750-650
25-west-17	2600 - 2410 BP	grog (25%), granite (25%) and mixed (50%)	700-600
25-west-18	2465 - 2520 BP	Grog (14%), granite (27%) and mixed (52%)	700-600
25-west-19		Granite (69%) and mix with grog (31%)	700-600
19-west-28	2360 BP	Grog (7%), granite (11%), shell (82%)	500-400
19-west-18		Shell	>400-300
19-west-37		Grog and shell	400-300
25-west-43		Grog (24%) and mix with shell (76%)	400-300
25-west-9-1	2275 BP per.1	Grog (43%) and shell (56%)	400-300
19-west-1		Grog and shell grit	400-300
19-west-7	2280 - 2240	Grog (11%) and shell mix (89%)	400-300
25-west-2	2250-2420 BP	shell-grit	400-200
19-west-47	2265 BP	Shell (85%) and grog	350-250
25-west-9-2	2190 BP per.2	Grog (29%) and shell (70%)	350-250
25-west-9-3	2315 BP per.1		300-200
25-west-9-4	2180 BP per.2	Grog (71%) and shell (29%)	300-200
25-west-9-4	Per.3	grog and shell	300-200
25-west-9-4	Per.4	grog and shell	300-200
25-west-9-4	Per.5	grog and shell	300-200

25-west-10	2210 - 2275 BP	Grog (77%) and shell (23%)	300-200
25-west-32	2180 BP	grog and shell	300-200
25-west-36		Grog + shell, plant (2%)	300-200
25-west-45	2240 - 2190 BP	Grog (100%)	300-200
19-west-36		Grog (58%) and mix with shell (42%)	300-200
19-west-2		Grog (50%) and mix with shell (50%)	300-200
25-west-16		Grog (100%)	250-150
25-west-20		Grog (100%)	250-150
25-west-14	2140 - 2115 BP	Grog (100%)	200-100
25-west-15	2125 BP	Grog (100%)	200-100
25-west-37		Grog and mixture with plant	200-
25-west-38	2125 - 2110 BP	Grog (100%)	200-100
19-west-42		Grog	200-100
19-west-43		Grog	200-100
25-west-44		Grog (100%)	200-100
19-west-17		Grog (sandy clay)	200-100
19-west-22		Grog and grog+plant	150-50
19-west-48		Grog	150-50
19-west-60		Shell (40%) and grog	150-50
25-west-43-	2300 BP	Grog (46%), plant (11%) mixture (43%)	100-
19-west-52		Grog and plant	100-
19-west-65		Grog and shell+plant	100-

Remarkable is that granite becomes obsolete after 400 and that shell tempering has taken over its place. Grog, on the other hand, has always been a material that was used side by side of, or together with granite and the same goes for the combination with shell. Grog replaces shell more and more until around 250 BC shell is practically out of use.⁴⁹ Tempering with organic material comes into use from 200 BC onward and seems to be used as only tempering material at the beginning of our era. Interesting is the re-occurrence of shell from the second half of the second century BC onwards.

5.2 continued

Back to the early type of Den Helder, we may, on the basis of tempering (85% shell-grit, 4% sand, 11% not visible), assume this group to belong to the period after 400 BC, but well before 250 BC. Although there are similar shards to be observed in Texel, the group as a whole remains remarkable.

⁴⁹ The situation in Friesland is identical according to Taayke 1996, p 193. Woltering 2001, p 196 ff even states that in the second half of the Middle Iron Age stone grit was used only sporadically and was superseded by shell grit. Here three authors are in firm agreement for a large area.

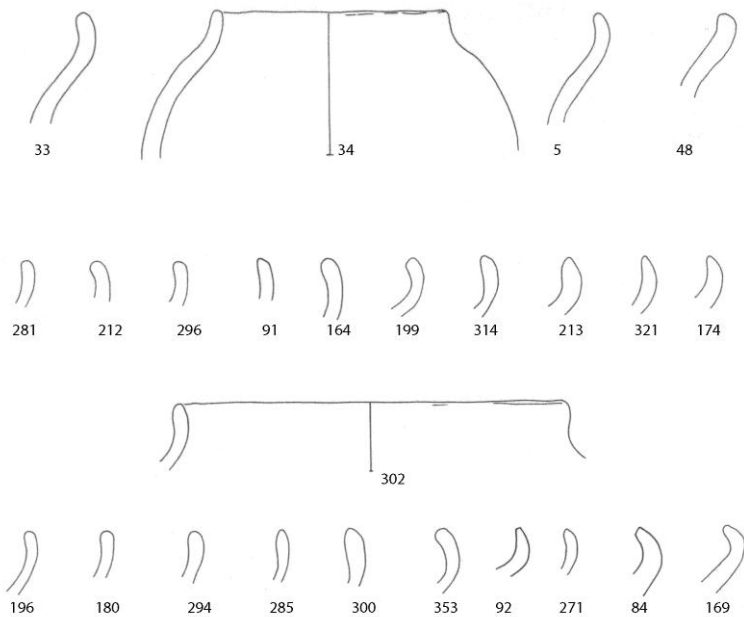


Fig. 58 Den Helder, Parkzicht, pottery with curved necks and completely tempered with shell grit. This group dates to the second half of the Middle Iron Age

Then there is a large portion of RW related pottery with the same percentages of shell tempering, datable on the basis of type, from the middle of the fifth century to about 350 BC. Three wall shards with fine geometrical decoration could belong to the fifth century. A third group is composed of pots with a pretty steep profile and straight or slightly curved necks with rim decoration on the inside and/or outside. This type of decoration is very rare elsewhere, so seems a typical phenomenon for the North of Noord-Holland and Texel⁵⁰. It is also observed in Velsen, be it only one shard.

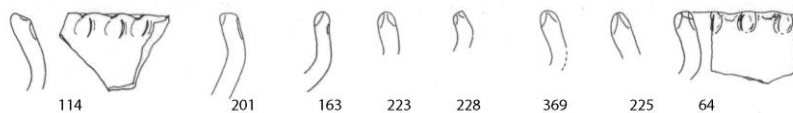


Fig. 59 Den Helder, Parkzicht, pottery with straight or slightly curved necks with Fingertip-nail decoration on both the outside and the inside of the rim. This type of decoration seems restricted in distribution to Noord-Holland and would date to the end of the Middle Iron Age

There is yet a high percentage of shell tempering (42%), so that this group could belong between 300 and 200 BC. All the shards with a streeband decoration have a tempering of grog and or organic material, so that we may assume all shell tempered material to be before 250 BC. Decoration with fingertip-nail impressions on the wall of the pot occur 8 times, neither shard has shell grit. Eight times the 'wild scratches' are observed, one of them having shell grit as tempering and therewith attesting the early date this type of decoration occurs in Noord-Holland. Comb decoration is seen nine times, one with shell having a decoration of horizontal zigzag lines. The most modern group

⁵⁰ Woltering notices several double-decorated rims like the Den Helder ones. They can all be dated to the last part of the Middle Iron Age.

from Den Helder is probably from a later settlement on top of the raised platform and comprises of streepband pottery and handles, some of which are decorated. Two narrow-mouthed pots with handles and 'sunken' necks could be dated to the end of the first century BC.

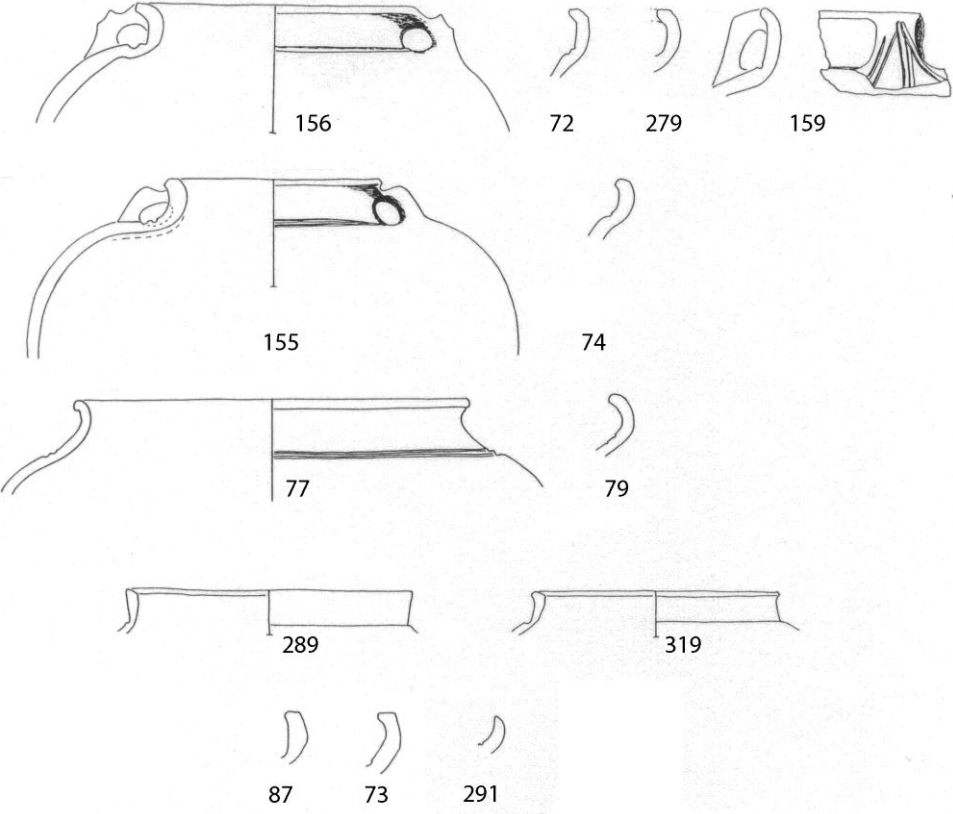


Fig. 60 Den Helder, Parkzicht, pottery from the Late iron age up to Roman Times. The narrow-mouthed pots with handles combined with streepband motif are characteristic of the period

Shards that are certainly from Roman times, could be dated into the third century (<1 %) and bear no relevance to the afore-mentioned pottery.

Among the 'special' items from the site, a burnished narrow-mouthed bowl with two broad and deep grooves round the upper part is remarkable. It is reminiscent of some of the Texel material from the third century BC.⁵¹

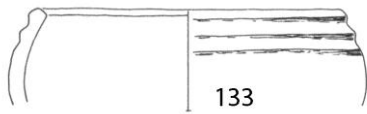


Fig. 61 Den Helder, Parkzicht, burnished bowl from the middle of the third century BC

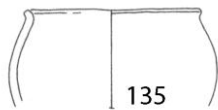


Fig. 62 Den Helder, Parkzicht, finely burnished cup with a very short rim which is probably early first century AD

When we divide the Den Helder material into a group datable before 200 and a group after, we see remarkable differences in the frequency of the pot diameters: the early settlement (n=159) shows a curve where the small forms (dinner service) is underrepresented and where the larger vessels are found in more or less equal numbers. The later group (n=324) shows a gradual increase of diameters up to 20/22 cm and then a gentle decrease and no pitch for any big volume pots; they were there, but in minor numbers.

⁵¹ Woltering 2001, p 154, fig 101 nr 4 Den Helder

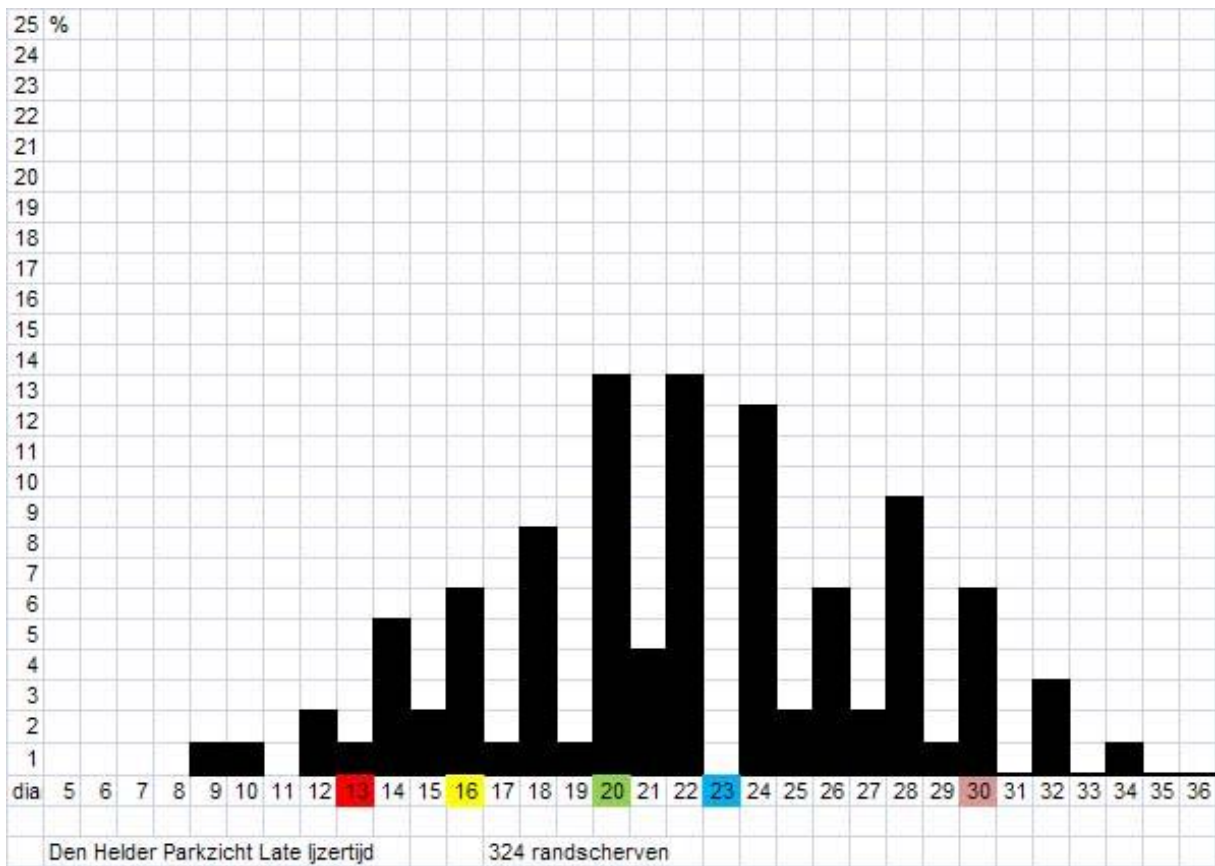
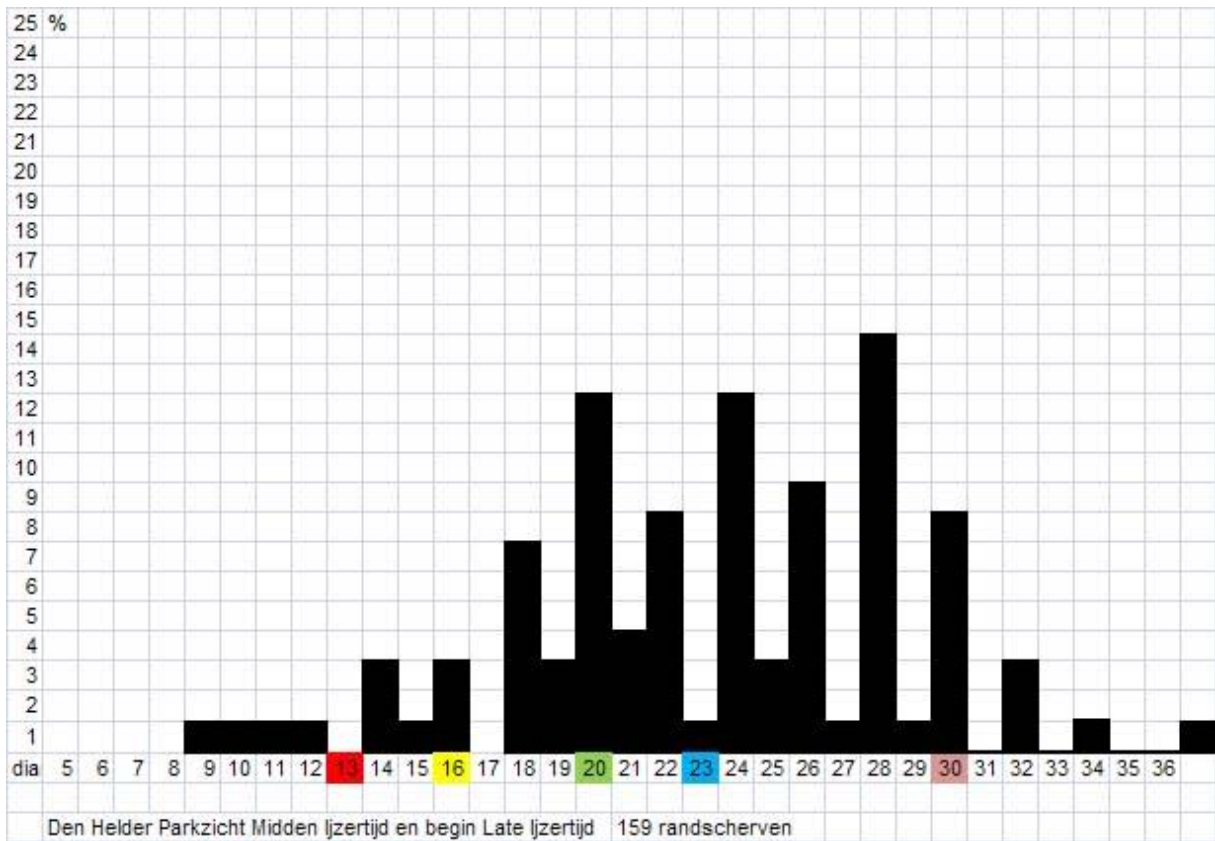


Fig. 63 tables of frequency of rim diameters from the early phase of occupation (top) and of the later Late Iron Age phase.

The conclusion of the comparison of these two periods is that apparently the differences in size of the pots can be brought back to a changed environment and/or a changed composition of the group of people the pots were in use for. A third factor could be a difference in the way people made a living. It now seems that any comparison of size of pots used, could only be made if sites are comparable in many, if not any respect; i.e. same time, region, activity and size.⁵²

Schagen, Hoep-Zuid

Discovered in the early nineties, the site, situated on the banks of a stream running through moorland (nowadays called 'Leets'), yielded more than 700 shards that needed description.⁵³

31% of the pottery has a tempering of shell and 54 % contain grog. When considered that 12% had no visible tempering, and that the amount of plant tempering, which is dated to the second and first centuries BC is neglectable, the site must be dated between 350 and 200. Despite the fact Schagen lies high up North in Noord-Holland, the amount of decorated shards is amazing: of the 469 rims, 190 are decorated, mostly with fingertip-nail impressions (88%) and incisions (10%). As observed also in Den Helder, decoration of the rim is not limited to the outside; all feasible combinations are present:

	N	%
Inside	6	3
Topside	23	12
Outside	68	36
Inside and top	6	3
Inside, topside and outside	16	8
Inside and outside	5	3
Topside and outside	16	8
Unrecorded	32	17
Incisions top and outside	1	1
Incisions outside	17	9

It now stands beyond question that the multiple decoration of the rim is typical for the late fourth and early third centuries in the North of Noord-Holland and Texel. Decoration in the form of streeband occurs 67 times, practically all in combination with an undecorated rim; pots with two or three broad grooves are observed four times. Decoration of the shoulder and belly of the pots is abundant as well as the very lower parts which are often 'scratched'. In total 150 decorated shards were recognised (not included are decorated rims and streeband) with a wild variety of decorations. Sixty times fingertip-nail decoration was applied and thirty times 'scratches'; wavy lines 16 times and 15 times comb decoration. 'Horse-shoes' were found on three shards as well as circle-dot decoration. Many decorative patterns are used in combination.

⁵² The Den Helder material was collected from a very limited area and could therefore not be representative of all the material in use in the settlements.

⁵³ A small excavation was carried out by F.Diederik and showed some pits and rows of small posts as part of a boundary. Due to the fact that the original peat-layer had disappeared, no stratigraphy was visible.

Some of the pottery can directly be compared to examples from Zuid-Holland, as nr 25 is a perfect fit to ZH type 2.5, including the fingertip decoration. The profile of pot 16 fits ZH type 9.6 with its overall zigzag-like form. The signature for most other pot forms is NH 5.4 and NH 5.5, apart from fragment 18 which can be linked to type NH 2.5. This is the first time direct links to Zuid-Holland types can be made.

The graph for the rim diameters (n=457) shows a pitch at 16 cm and another at 23 cm and then a rapid decrease in number for the bigger diameters. Like Den Helder, no sign of a dinner service and no real need for very large vessels.

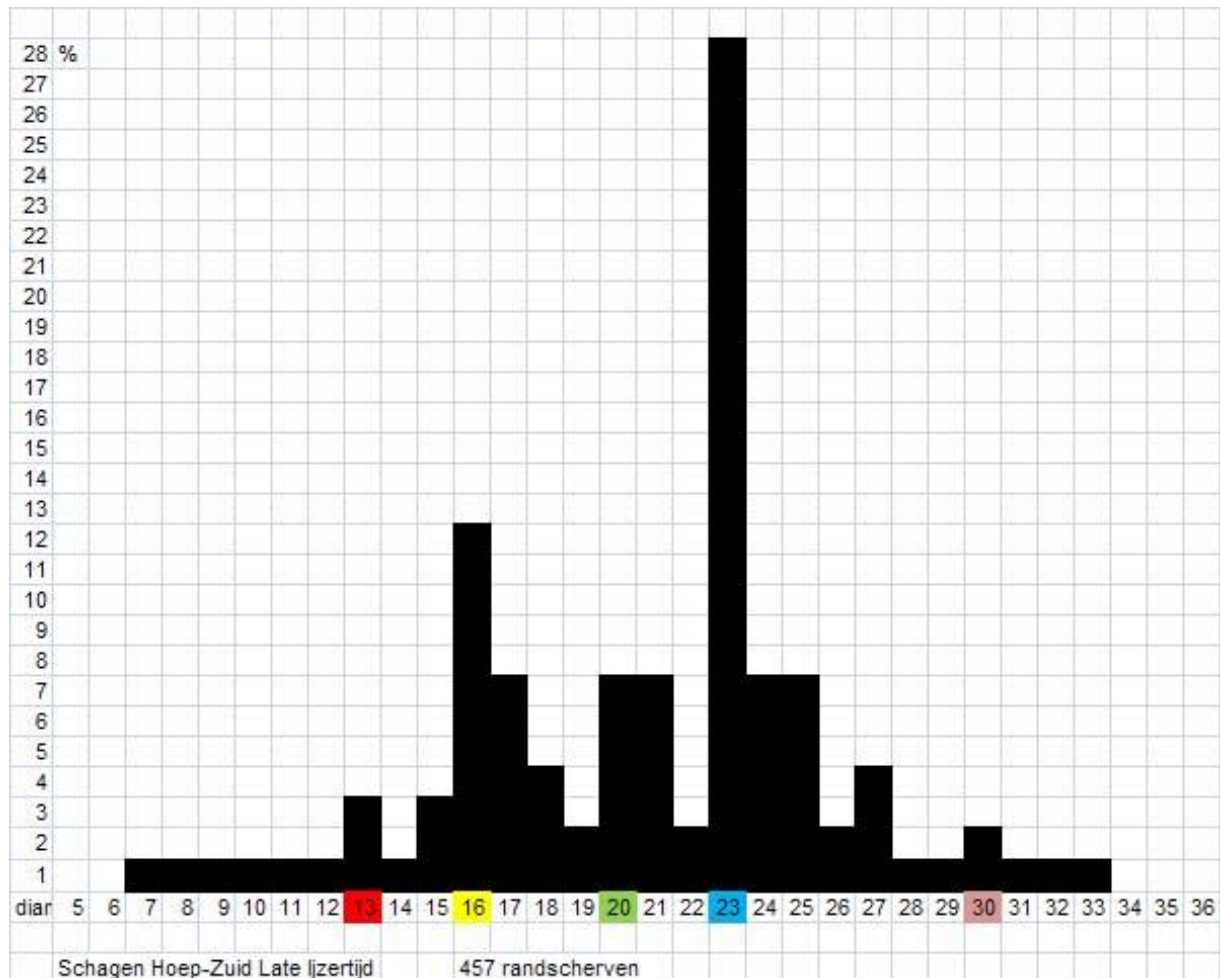


Fig. 64 Schagen, Hoep-Zuid, graph of the frequency of rim diameters

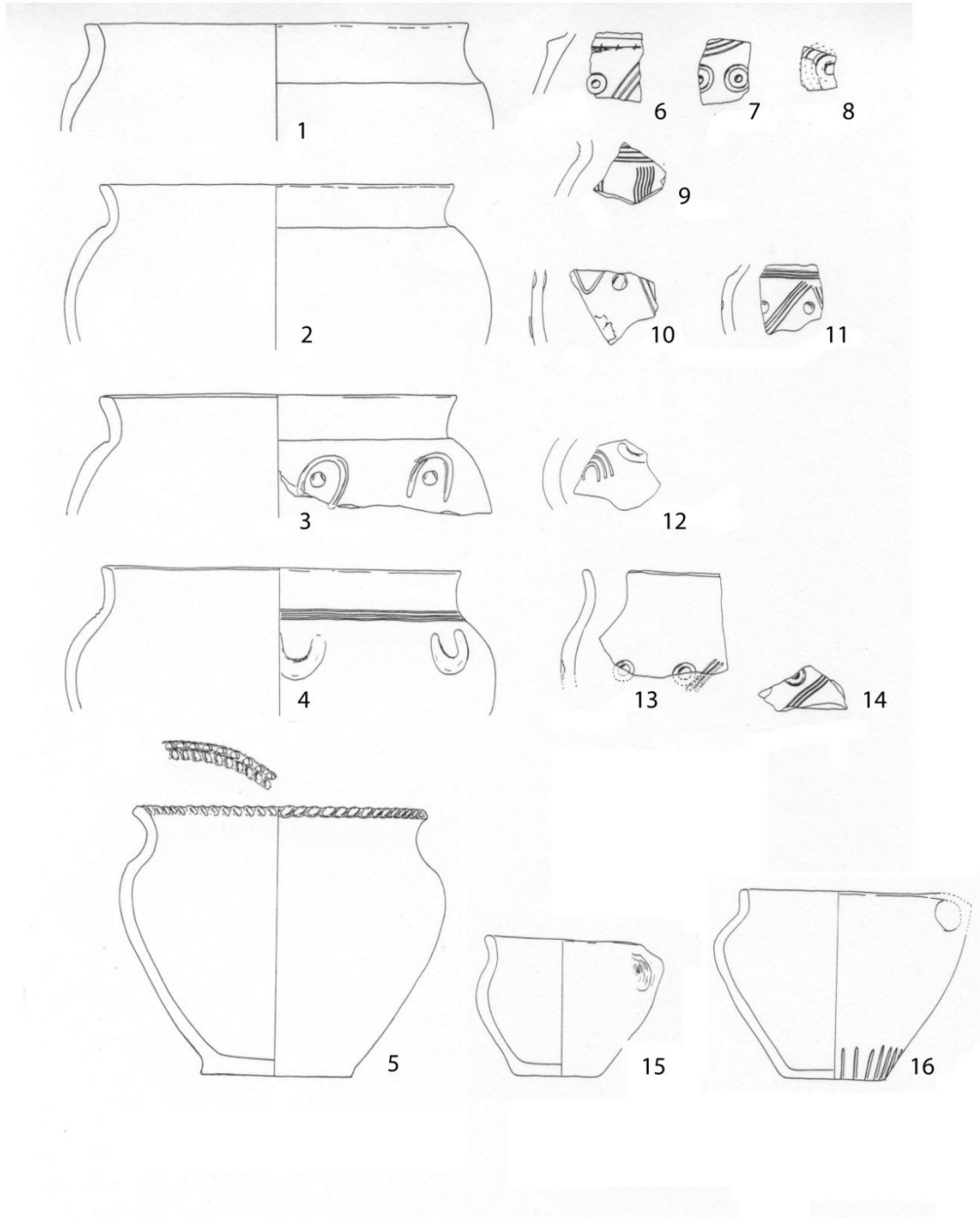


Fig. 65 Schagen, Hoep-Zuid, pottery datable to the third century BC

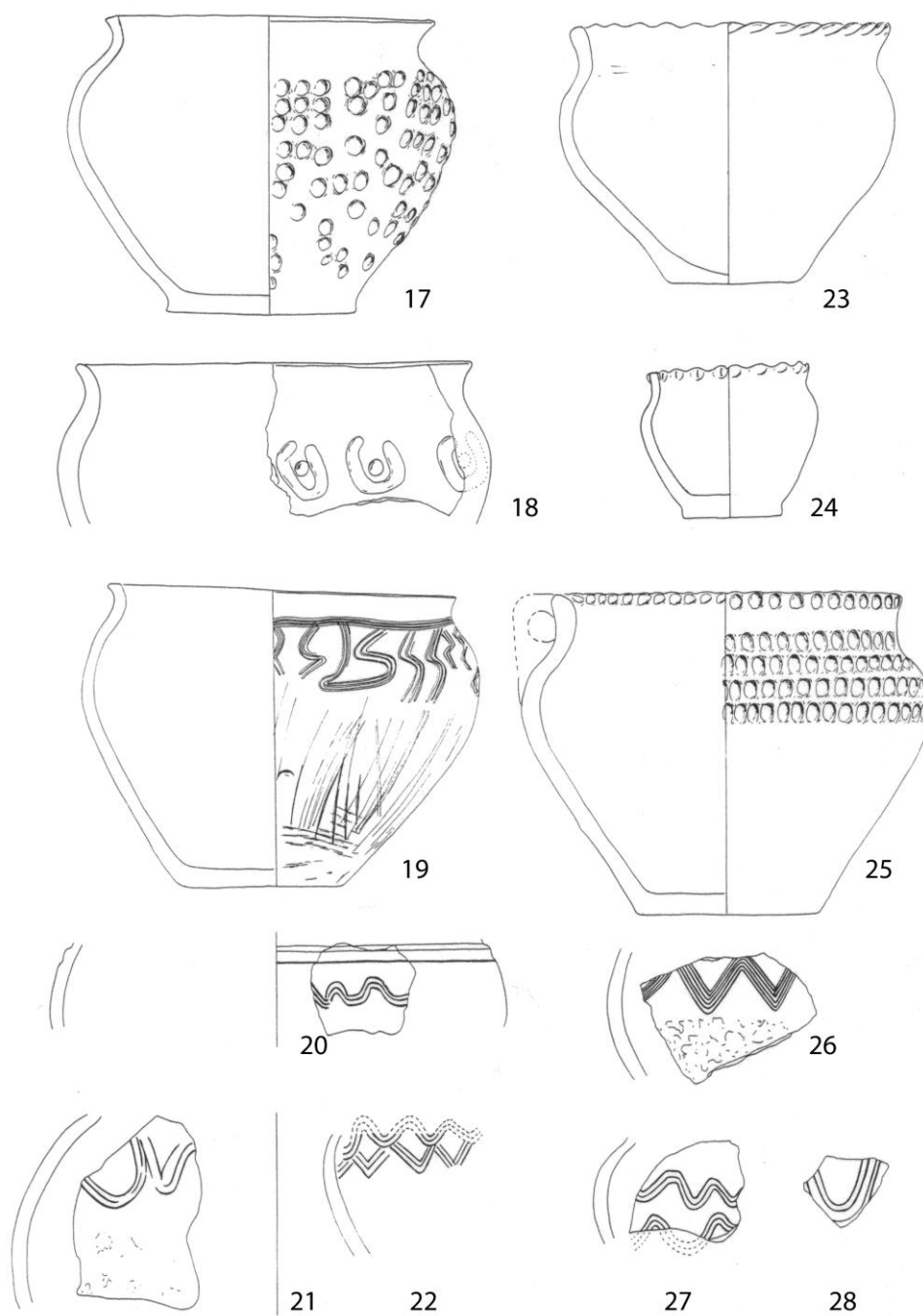


Fig. 66 Schagen, Hoep-Zuid, pottery datable to the third century BC

Schagen Witte-Paal (Noordoost and Zuidoost)

Almost simultaneously with Hoep-Zuid, a number of small settlements were discovered somewhat further to the South. They were situated in their original allotment of parallel ditches, draining the fields onto the Leets, which was mentioned when discussing Hoep-Zuid. Here too, the original layer of peat on which the settlements were situated, had disappeared in the Middle Ages, leaving hardly any sign of buildings in the ground. Only the deeper ditches and pits were proof of human activity, apart from the bones and shards.⁵⁴ Among these, quite a lot of streeband shards could be observed and indeed, the two-handled narrow-mouthed pots as were described earlier. One complete specimen was buried, standing upside-down, a small pot beside. Around it all were some foot-bones of cattle and a possible 'pick-up' from Velsen: a TS shard of a Dragendorf 15 dish⁵⁵. The combination of the special pieces of crockery buried with an early first century shard leaves little room for a dating beyond 50 AD. Besides the TS shard, two more Roman shards were found⁵⁶, unfortunately not suited for a more precise date, but

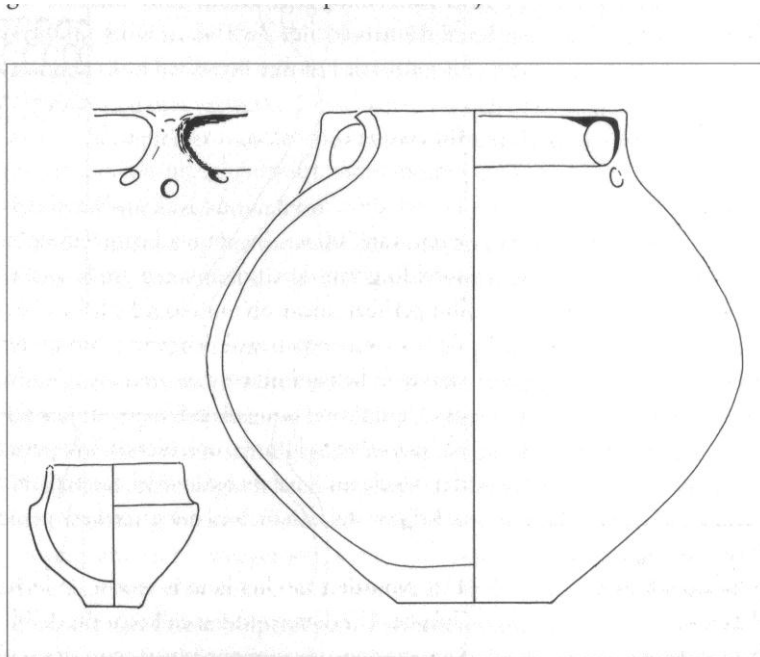


Fig. 67 Schagen, Witte Paal Noord-Oost, ritual burial with a pick-up from Velsen datable around 50 AD

⁵⁴ At Easter 1993 the work of filling with sand of already dug trenches for new roads, came to a standstill, which allowed the AWN Werkgroep Schagen, to make drawings of the situation and to collect material. Later a small excavation was carried out on the site of a probable house.

⁵⁵ Personal communication from A.V.L.Bosman

⁵⁶ In a settlement about a hundred meter further south, unfortunately dug away later.

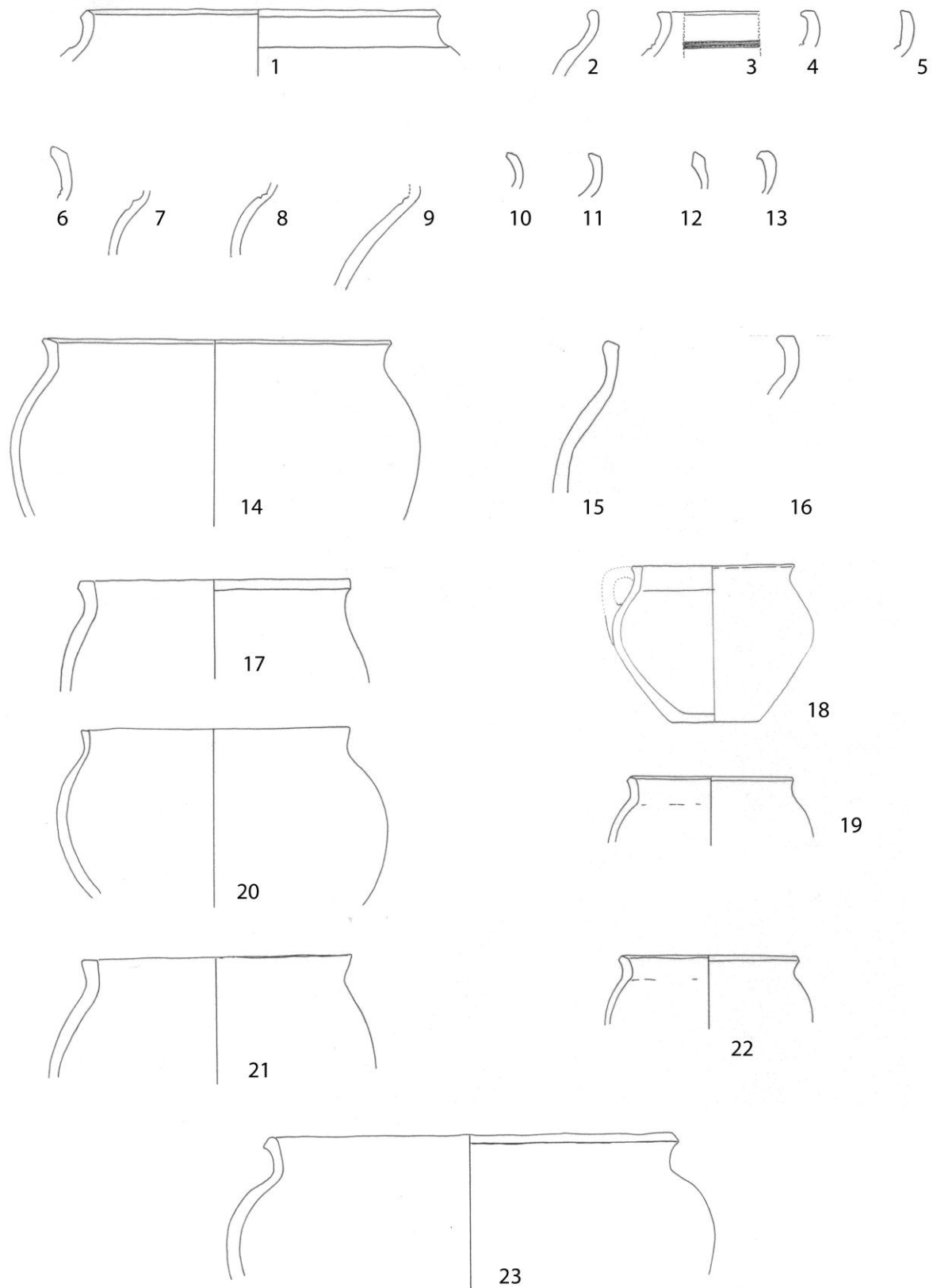


Fig. 68 Schagen, Witte Paal Noord-Oost, pottery from around the beginning of our Era

probably also pick-ups. So here we have settlements dating from about the time Velsen I was in use, give or take a few decades. Caution should be taken as the arable land these settlements lay on, was

also used in the centuries following, so with manure shards of later pottery were strewn across the farmlands. First of all, it is clear that none of the later Frisian forms as footed cups or situlae are present; nor are there any of the forms so often found in the northern provinces, such as Paddepoel IVa or the Z-shaped forms. The whole nomenclature is a collection of well-made variously sized round pots which for the greater part fall into types 2.6 no longer in use. This group of material can be regarded to represent the pottery in use in Schagen during, and immediately after the Roman occupation of the fortress at Velsen I.⁵⁷

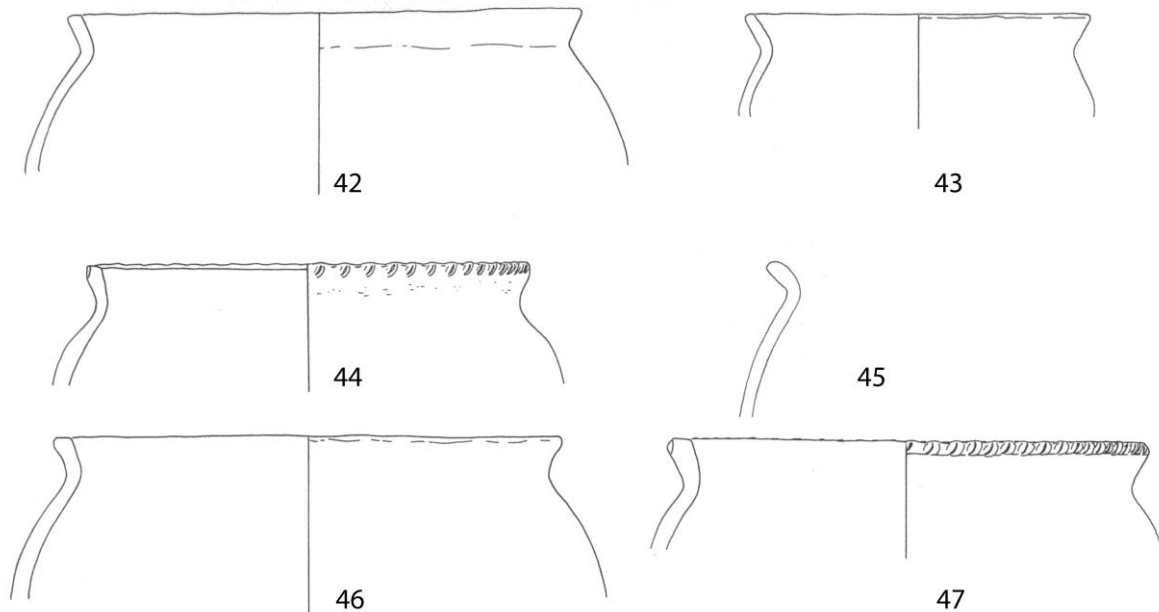


Fig. 69 Schagen, Witte Paal Noord-Oost, pottery from around the beginning of our Era

6.1.0 Discussion of the types of local wares found at the Velsen I site.

The oldest of the N-H type 1 pottery forms found at the site is N-H type 1.5, the type with the long steep shoulder and the greatest circumference which is only marginally wider than the rim diameter. Decoration is scarce on the smaller forms, but seems normal on the bigger pots. Fingertip and nail impressions on the outside of the rims and nail and line decorations on the neck and belly of the pots. The type dates to the third century BC. The type is seen throughout the province including Texel.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ It is however, apparent that some of the streepband shards illustrated may be older; especially nr 2, which could well belong to the third century BC and must be regarded a stray find.

⁵⁸ See Woltering 2001, p 166, figures 109/110

6.1.1 Velsen I, N-H type 1.

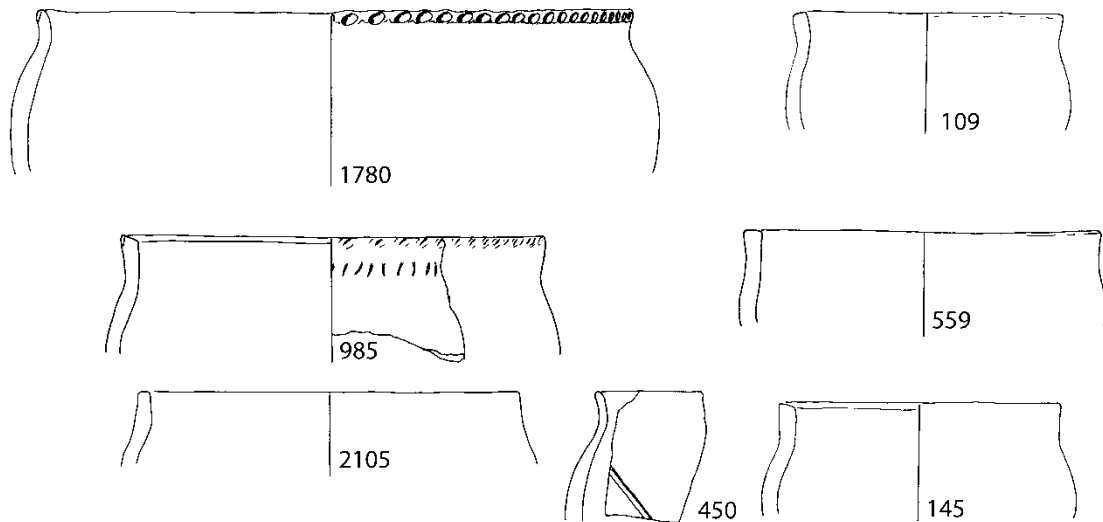


Fig. 70 Velsen I, N-H type 1.5 300-200 BC

As stated before, N-H type 1.6 is in fact a rudimentary type as it had more and more been replaced by the rounder forms of N-H type 2 and the Northern N-H type 5. Yet a collection of pots with a very steep profile could be discerned and some of these made it possibly into the Roman period. Rim decoration with small incisions on the outside has become normal and was probably still in use in Roman times, although it is absent in Schagen and Den Helder. One slightly atypical example shows 'streepband'. Due to good condition for preservation also a decoration (intentionally?) with 'paint' is observed on bottom, rims and shoulders of various pots.⁵⁹ More likely is it blood, the iron in which had adhered to the surface of the pot and had become part of the surface after heating.

⁵⁹ Note what was said earlier under 'Decoration'

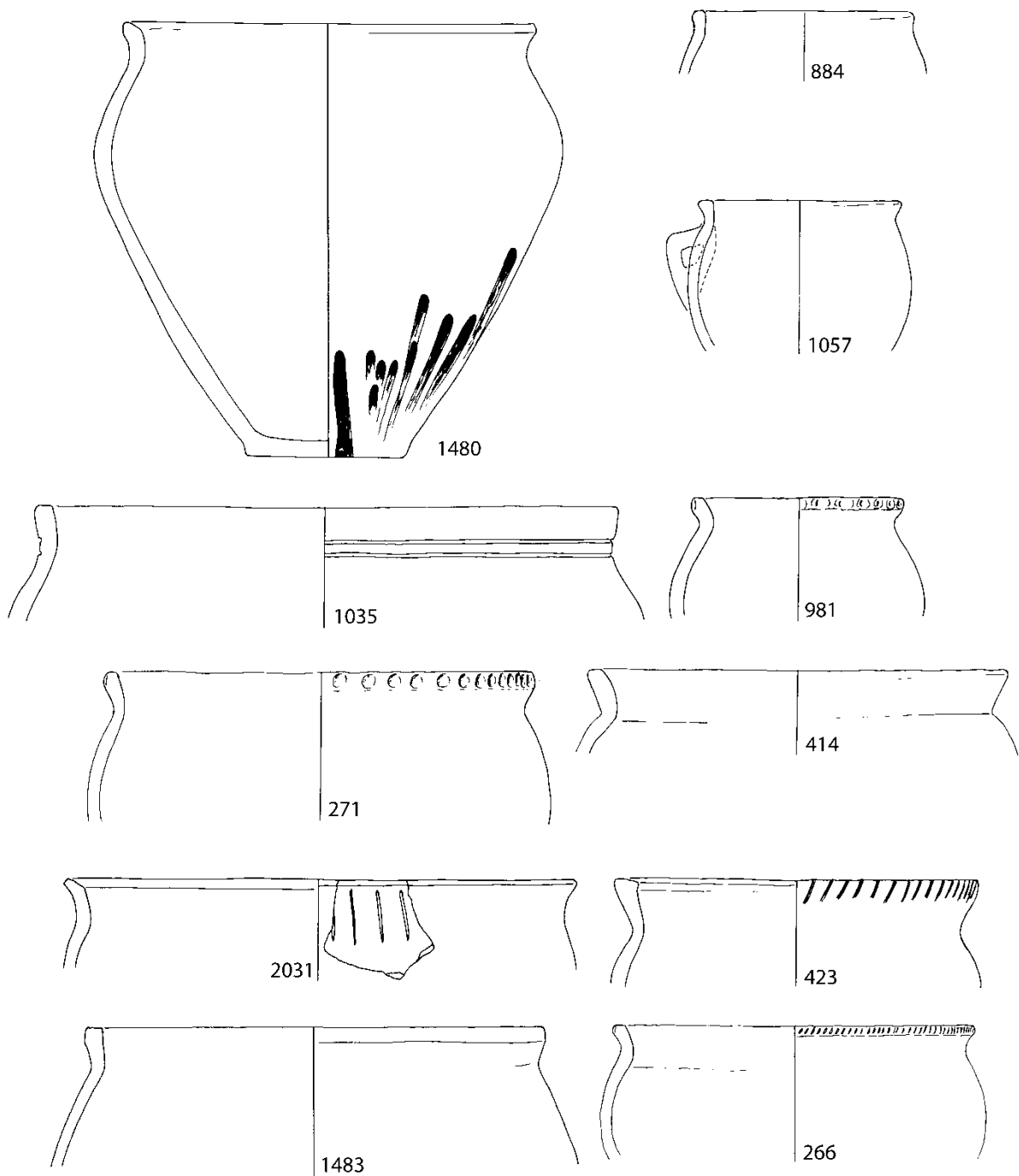


Fig. 71 Velsen I, N-H type 1.6, 200BC – Roman Times

Many of the rims have been flattened on top and some have been thickened and/or faceted. The decoration on the neck (nr 2031) was most likely obsolete in Roman times and is not observed in Schagen either. When the widest circumference of the rim is subtracted from the widest circumference of the belly and is divided by the vertical distance between these two points, a number smaller than 1 occurs with all measurable fragments of the type. All fragments are put in a graph where the rim circumference is the X bar. This will be done for all types of period 6.

6.1.2 Velsen, N-H type 2

One of the oldest types recognized among the material is N-H type 2.4, dating to the second half of the Middle Iron Age. The rather long slightly bent-in neck is characteristic of the type. The tempering material applied is usually crushed shell.

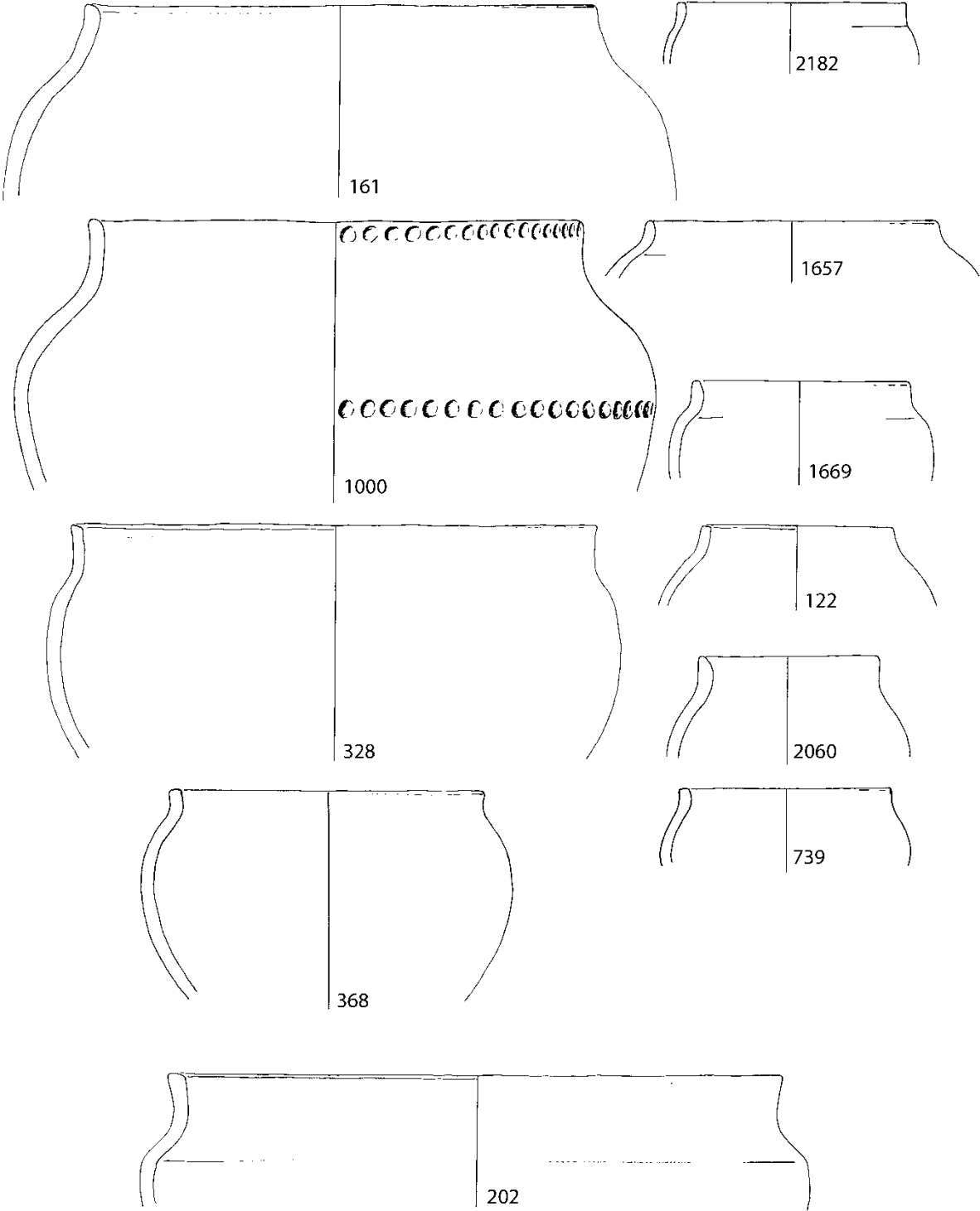


Fig. 72 Velsen I, pottery type 2.4, 400-300 BC

Type 2.5 has the same characteristics as its predecessor, but the rims are now slightly everted. The tempering has changed into very fine pot grit, sometimes mixed with organic material. The make of the pots is very good and the thin-walled pots are often smoothed. Decoration is limited to nail impressions on the rim and neck of the pots; one example has pairs of parallel grooves running obliquely down the belly of the pot. Some examples are slightly narrow-mouthed as compared to others.

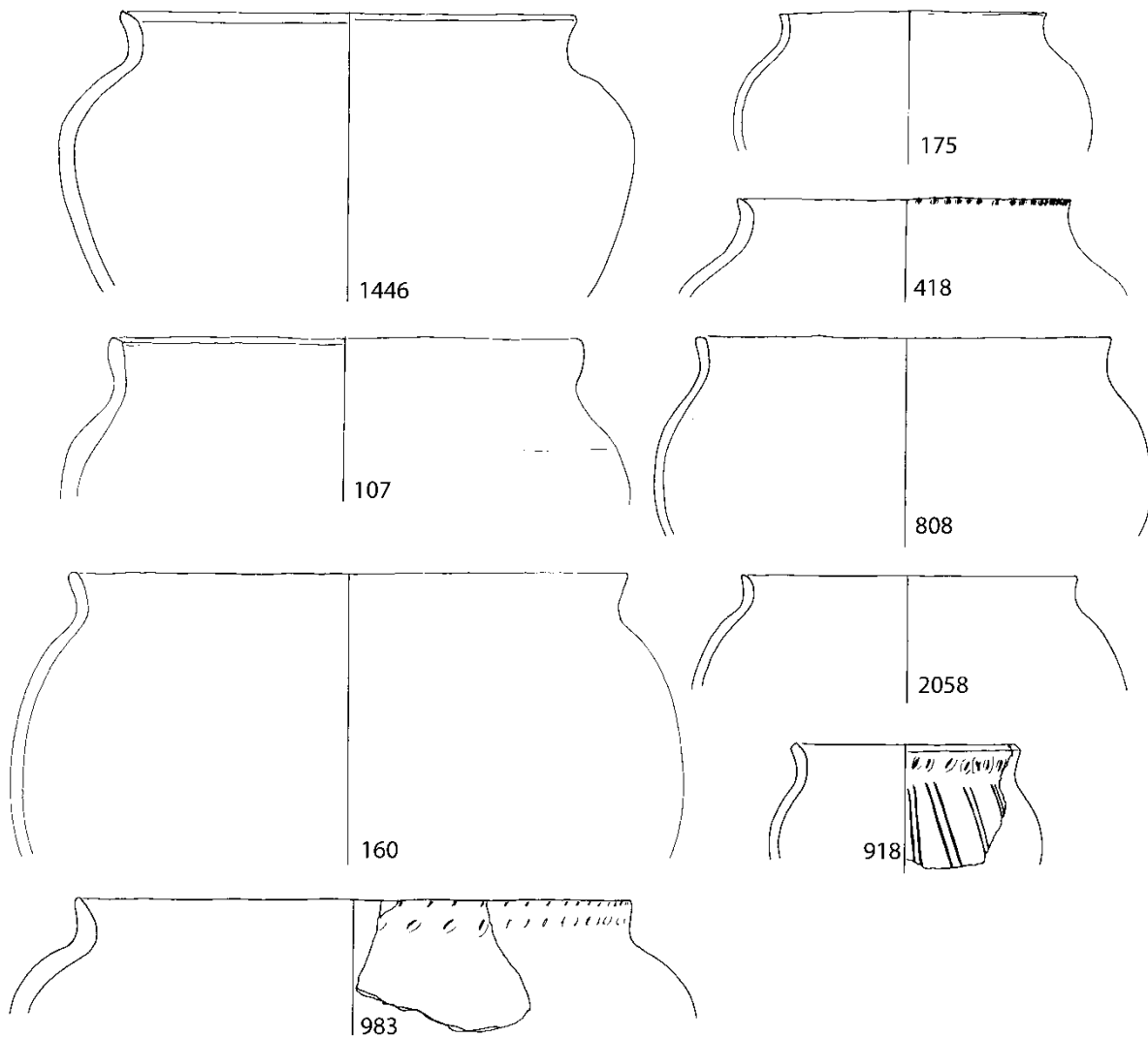


Fig. 73 Velsen I, pottery type 2.5, 300-200 BC

Type N-H 2.6 with an overall globular body can be divided into several sub-categories: those with straight and round necks and narrow mouthed examples of both groups.⁶⁰ The group with the straight necks has a predominantly flattened rim finish. Decoration in the form of brushstroke like lines occurs regularly, mostly in combination with a kind of brushed 'streeband' motif. Rim finish with incisions and fingertip impressions is not abundant. The decoration on pot 914 looks a bit old-

⁶⁰ The straight neck is apparently either a typical Noord-Holland phenomenon, or a very late one, possibly both; neither Van Heeringen, nor Woltering provide clear examples.

fashioned for the period, and the type certainly lived into the Roman occupation, as the material from Schagen Witte Paal Noord-Oost is nearly identical. Question remains on the decoration; it is not found further North than Assendelft and should be considered a local phenomenon. The fabric usually contains organic material, often mixed with pot grit.

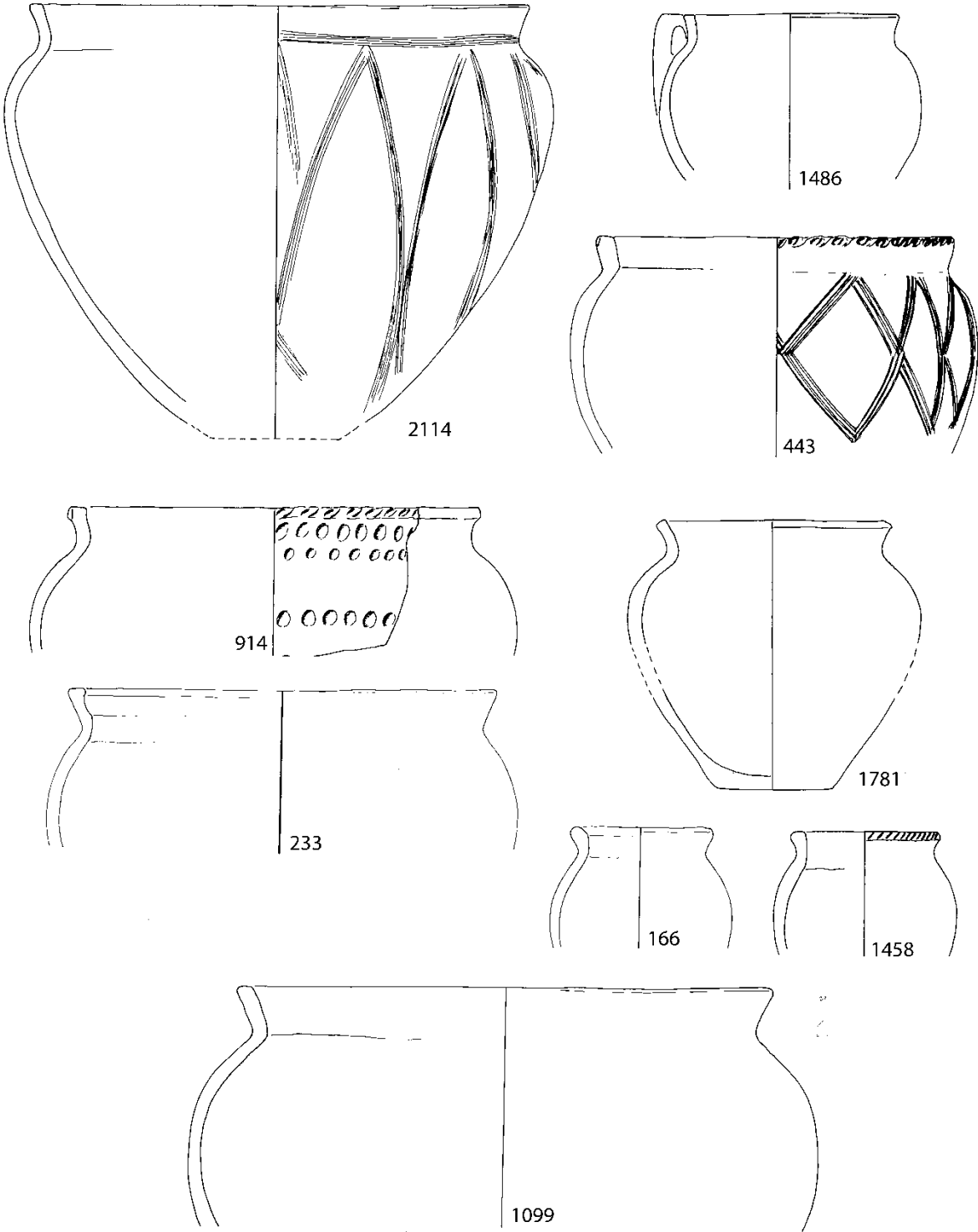


Fig. 74 Velsen I, pottery type 2.6 with a sharp transition to the shoulder and a straight rim, 200BC – beginning of our Era, though the decorated ones are earliest

The more narrow-mouthed pots of the type comprise quite a lot of smaller modules, which is to be expected as they will have had their use for liquids or food consumption. Very interesting is the profile of nrs 1765 and 332 which have an extra curve in the neck and a pointed rim finish.⁶¹

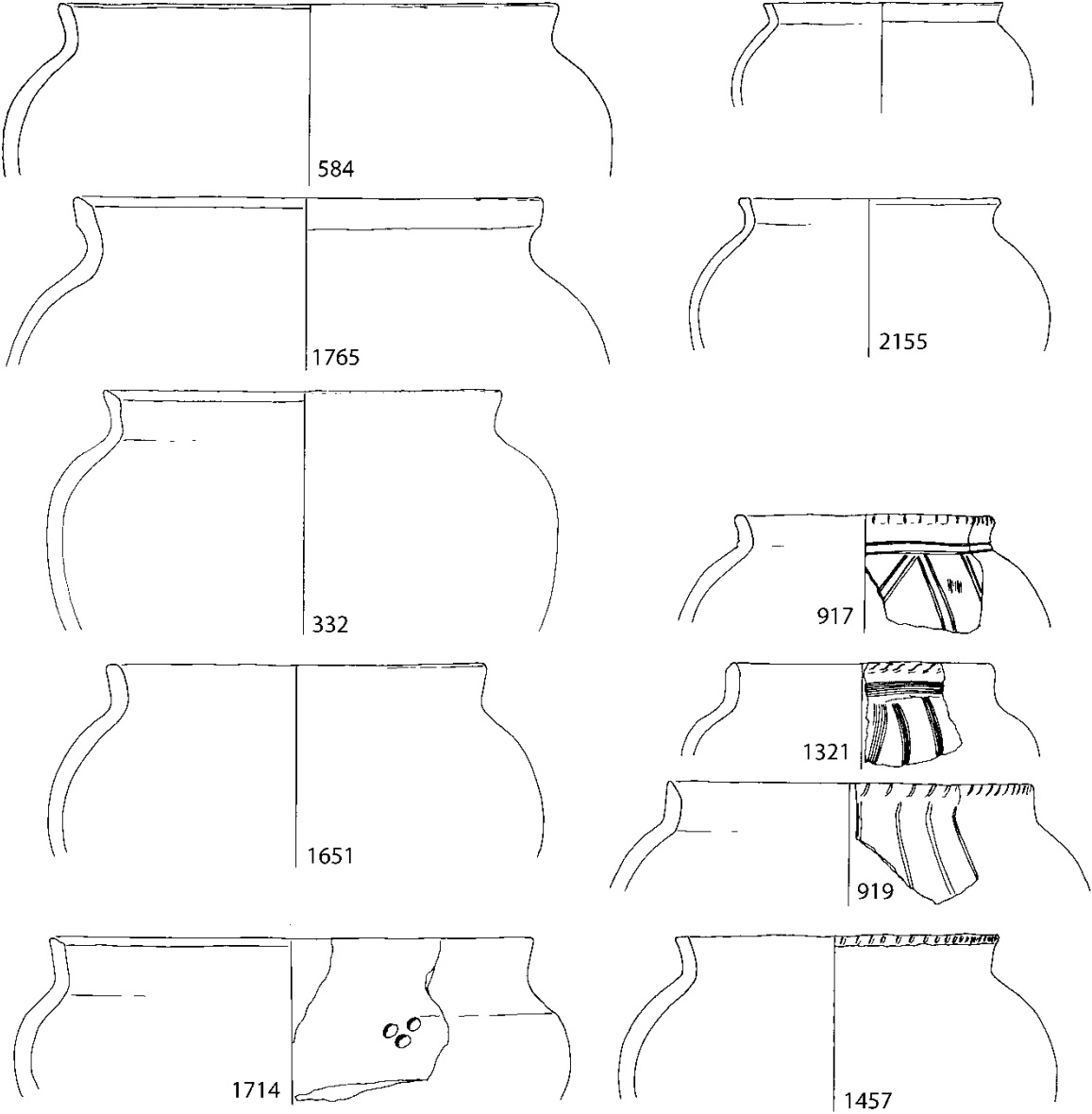


Fig. 75 Velsen I, pottery type 2.6 with a smooth transition to the shoulder and a slightly curved rim, 200 BC –beginning of our Era, though the decorated ones are from around 200 BC

⁶¹ This finish is occasionally seen on pottery from Zuid-Holland; Leiderdorp Achthoven (Van Heeringen, plate LXXV-9) and Leiden Stevenshofjespolder (Van Heeringen, plate LXXIX-9)

6.1.3 Velsen, N-H type 2.6

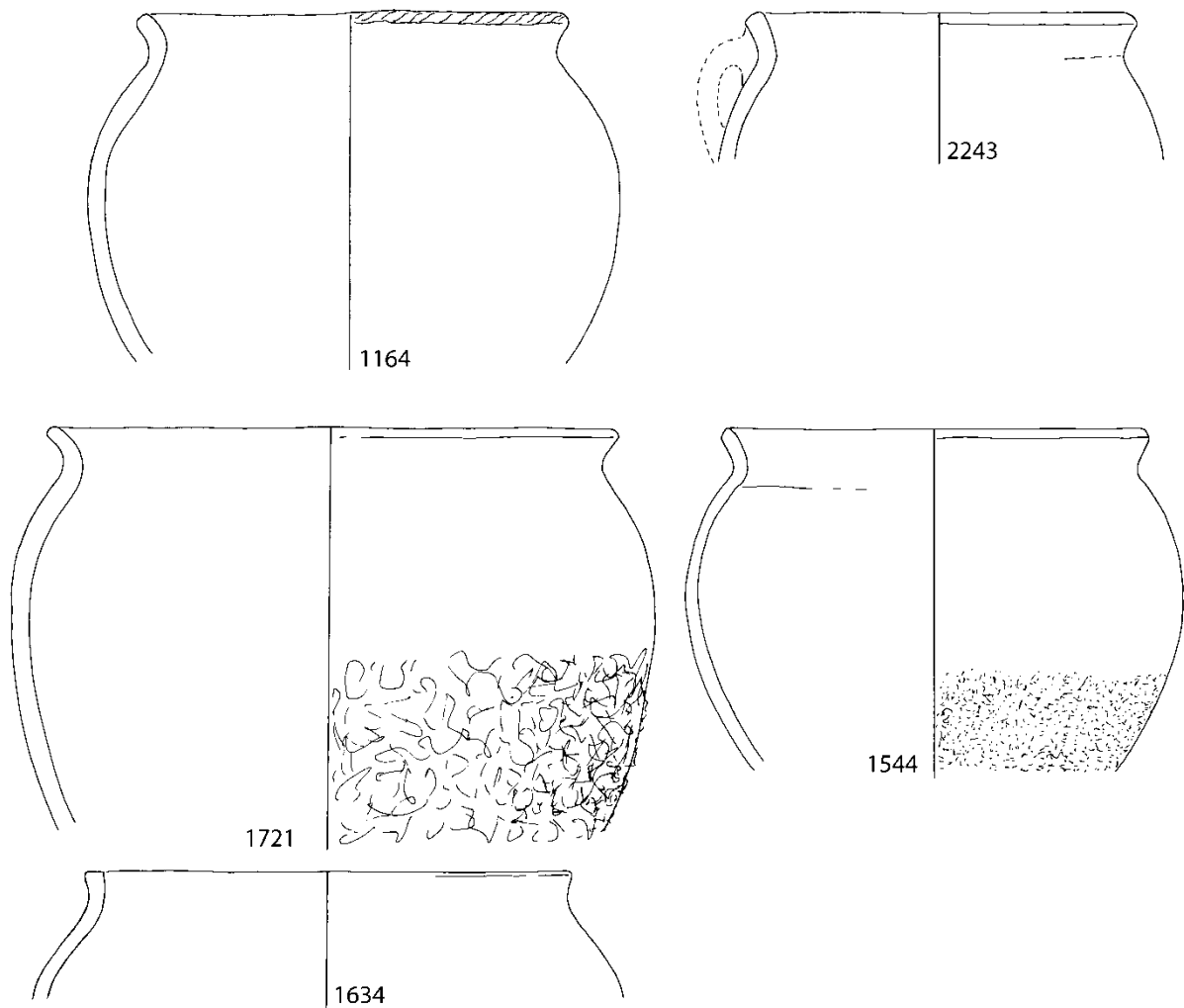


Fig.76 Velsen I, type 2. 6, big vessels, 200 BC – Roman Times

The type 2.6 with a curved neck seems contemporary with the straight rims and will last into the Roman occupation, although it is difficult to establish what quantity from the bulk of material. The larger pots are frequently, if not all, slicked, often with a vertically applied decoration of 'smudges' made with an object, or, more frequently, with fingers, which is probably done in Roman Times. Decoration on the body of the pots in the form of parallel grooves is only seen on medium-sized and small pots, often in combination with a 'streepband' motif. Rim decoration with small incisions or fingertip impressions is relatively rare. Many of the small pots seem to have had a handle, but the smallest forms are mostly found without one; they may have been used as cups for drinking liquids.

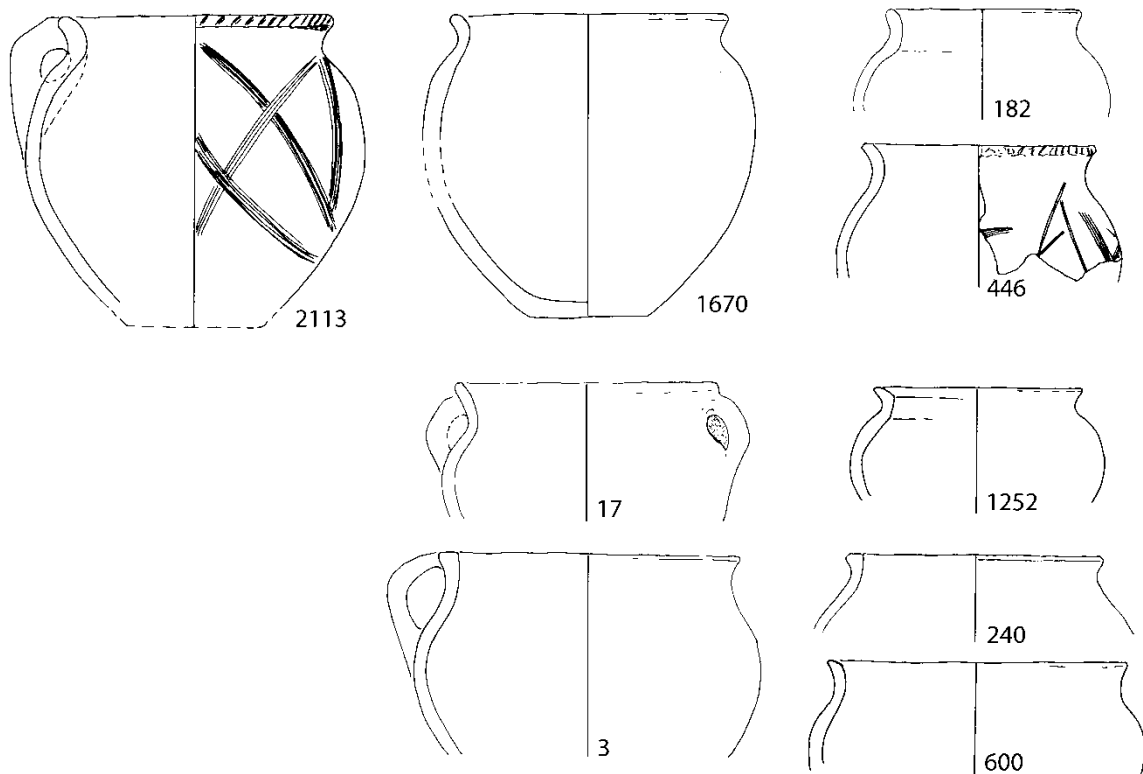


Fig. 77 Velsen I, type 2.6 smaller pots, 200 BC – Roman Times. Pot 2113 was radio carbon dated to 175-125 BC

The narrow-mouthed pots of type 2.6 with a curved neck seem to fit in the Roman period for the greater part.

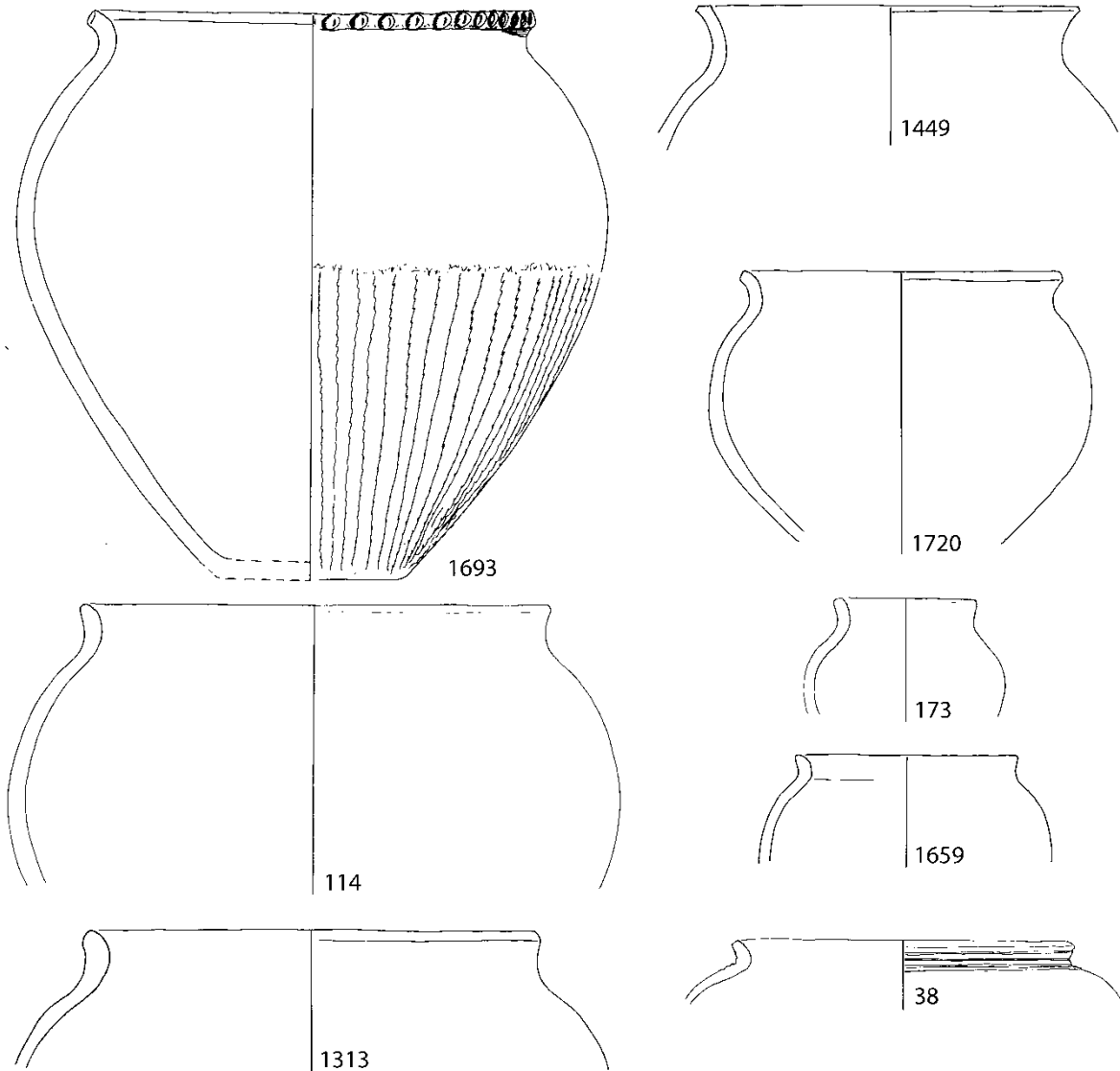


Fig. 78 Velsen I, pottery type 2.6, end 1st century BC-Roman Times,

No shards could be attributed to type N-H 3 or N-H 4.

6.1.4 Velsen, N-H type 5

Type N-H 5 is the northern influence of the 'Ruinen-Wommels' material, whose most striking characteristic is the sharp transition of a long and curved neck to the short shoulder. The longer the neck, the older the material probably is. In period 4 (400-300 BC) both fine and coarse wares still have that transition. Remarkably often do we see in Noord-Holland sites that this transition is

indicated with broad shallow grooves.⁶² Decoration on especially, burnished pots with horizontal grooves and geometrical patterns is typical of the type, but lacks in Velsen and dates the pottery probably to the later half of the period.

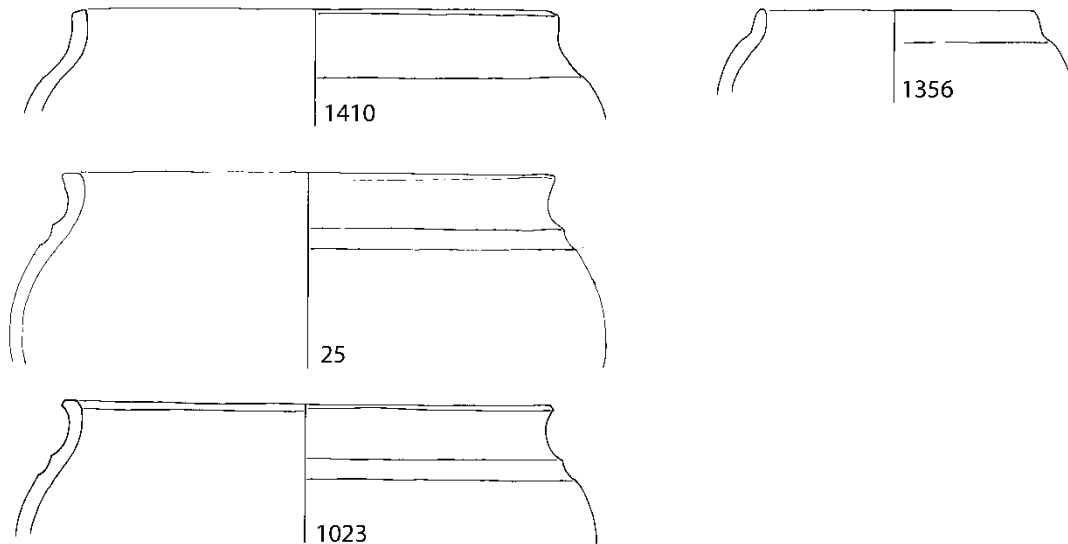


Fig. 79 Velsen I, pottery type 5.4, 400-300 BC

Type N-H 5.5 is well represented among the Velsen material; especially the well-made burnished pots stand out. The courser ware is represented by examples with a rim decoration, a differentiation used by Taayke in his discussion of the Iron Age Pottery in the Northern provinces. All the examples have a curved neck and a sharp transition to the belly of the pot. Two finely finished pots have the broad shallow grooves discussed in type 5.4. Number 26 seems to be a terrine, rather than a (cooking) pot.

⁶² They belong to Taayke's type Westergo G3b which he dates between 350 and 200 BC. Woltering on p 199 however gives a slightly later terminus ad quem at 300 BC, but suggests overlapping with streeband pottery of which the type with the broad shallow grooves is supposed to be its precursor.

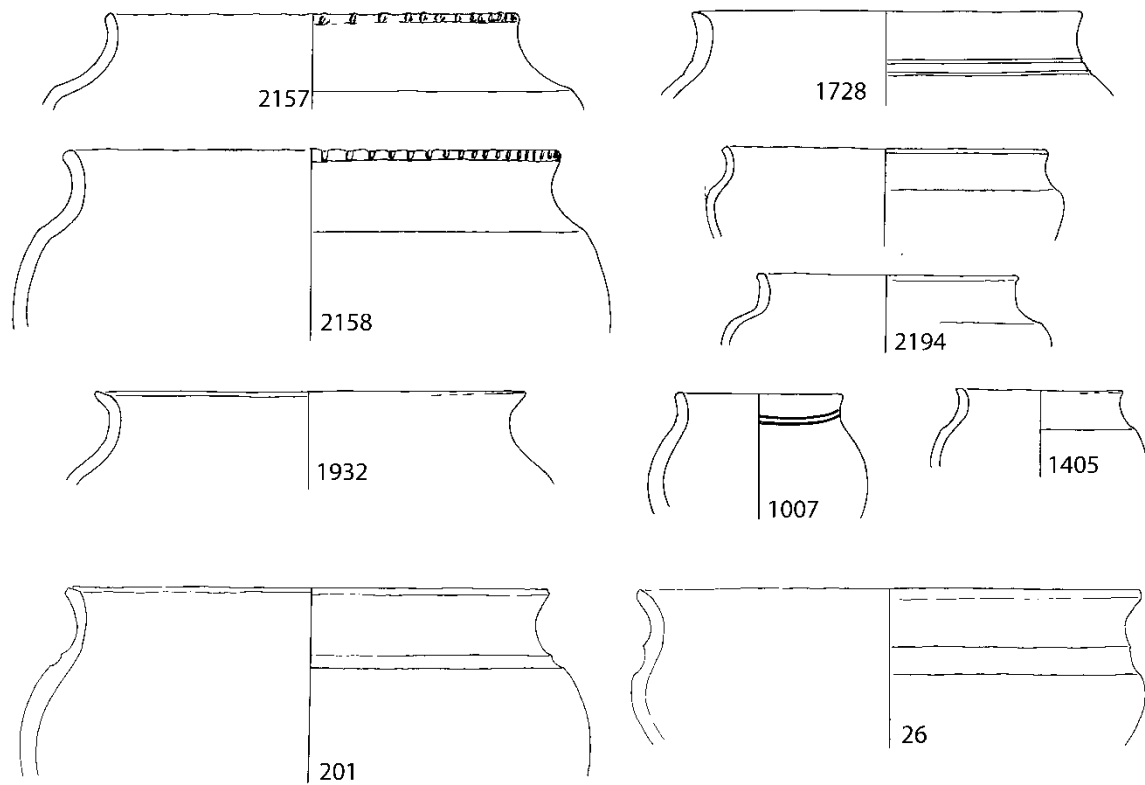


Fig. 80 Velsen I, pottery type 5.5b, 300-200 BC

Narrow-mouthed, jar like pots are rare and probably make their appearance towards the middle of the third century. The two handles are not attached to the rim, but to the neck of the pot, as is the case with their counterparts in Westergo.

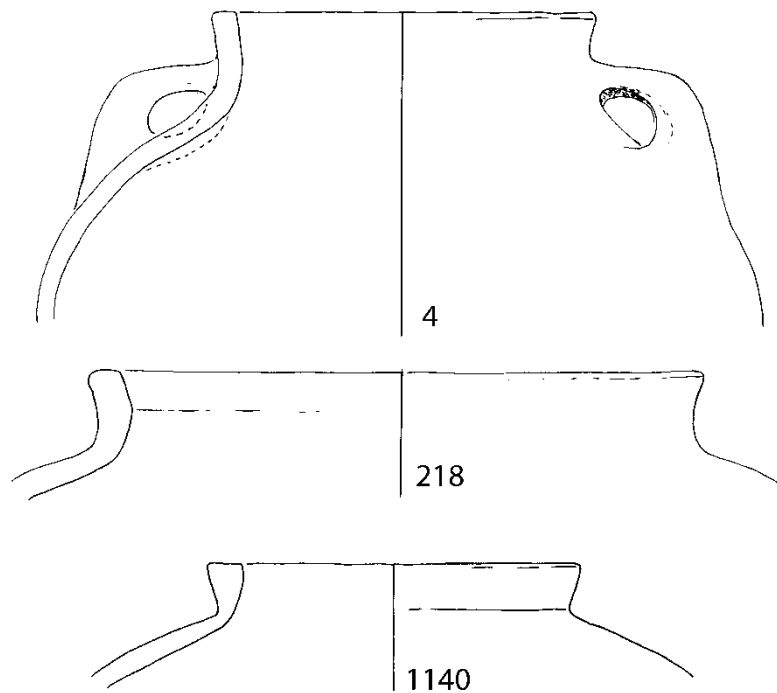


Fig. 81 Velsen I, Pottery type 5.5b, narrow-mouthed forms, around 200 BC

Type 5.6 is by far the largest group of pottery and was certainly still in use during the Roman occupation. The frequently occurring 'streepband' motif can be considered another guide fossil, apart from the sharp shoulder/belly transition.

Within the type again some sub-species can be observed: first of all the 'old-fashioned' shards which tend towards type 5.5, and two groups with straight and curved necks, respectively. The old-fashioned ones have necks that incline or are more or less cylindrical. The coarser (big) pots mostly have a decorated rim on the outside with fingertip/nail impressions. The finer pots sometimes have the 'streepband' motif. The straight outside of the neck seems a typical phenomenon for the West; in Westergo they are absent. In Texel no examples are shown, possibly indicating that the boundary of the distribution lies further south, or, most likely, the development lies after 50 BC. Yet Den Helder has some examples, as well as Schagen. I have not been able to find examples in Van Heeringen. So what was said about the straight rims with type 2.6 seems to be applicable for 5.6 as well.

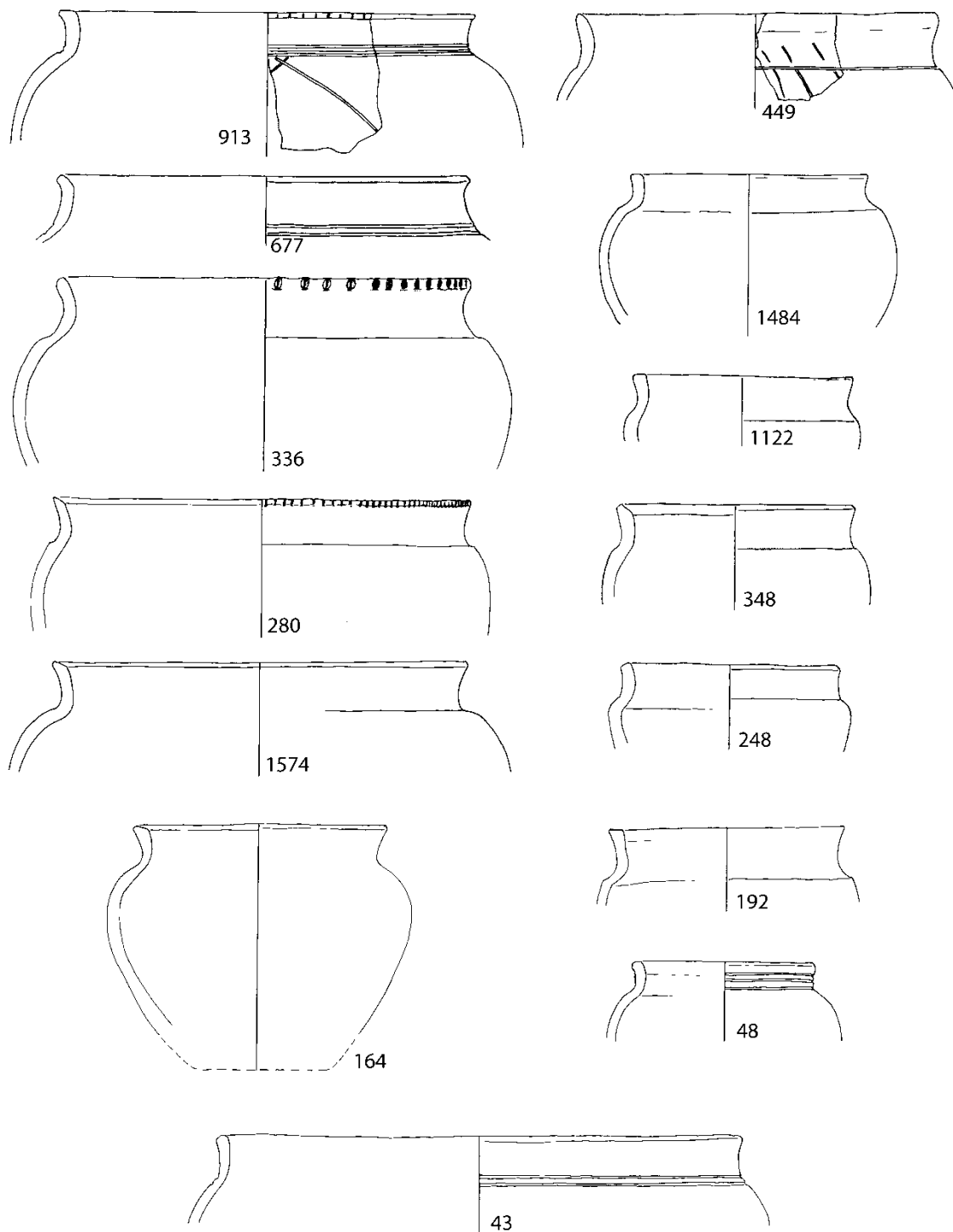


Fig. 82 Velsen I, pottery type 5.6, 200 BC – Roman Times

The coarse ware of 5.6 distinguishes itself from the same pots found in Westergo by the better finish and the rim-decoration which is often absent in Velsen, or consists of incisions on the outside of the rims. The Westergo examples seem old-fashioned compared to the Velsen ones.

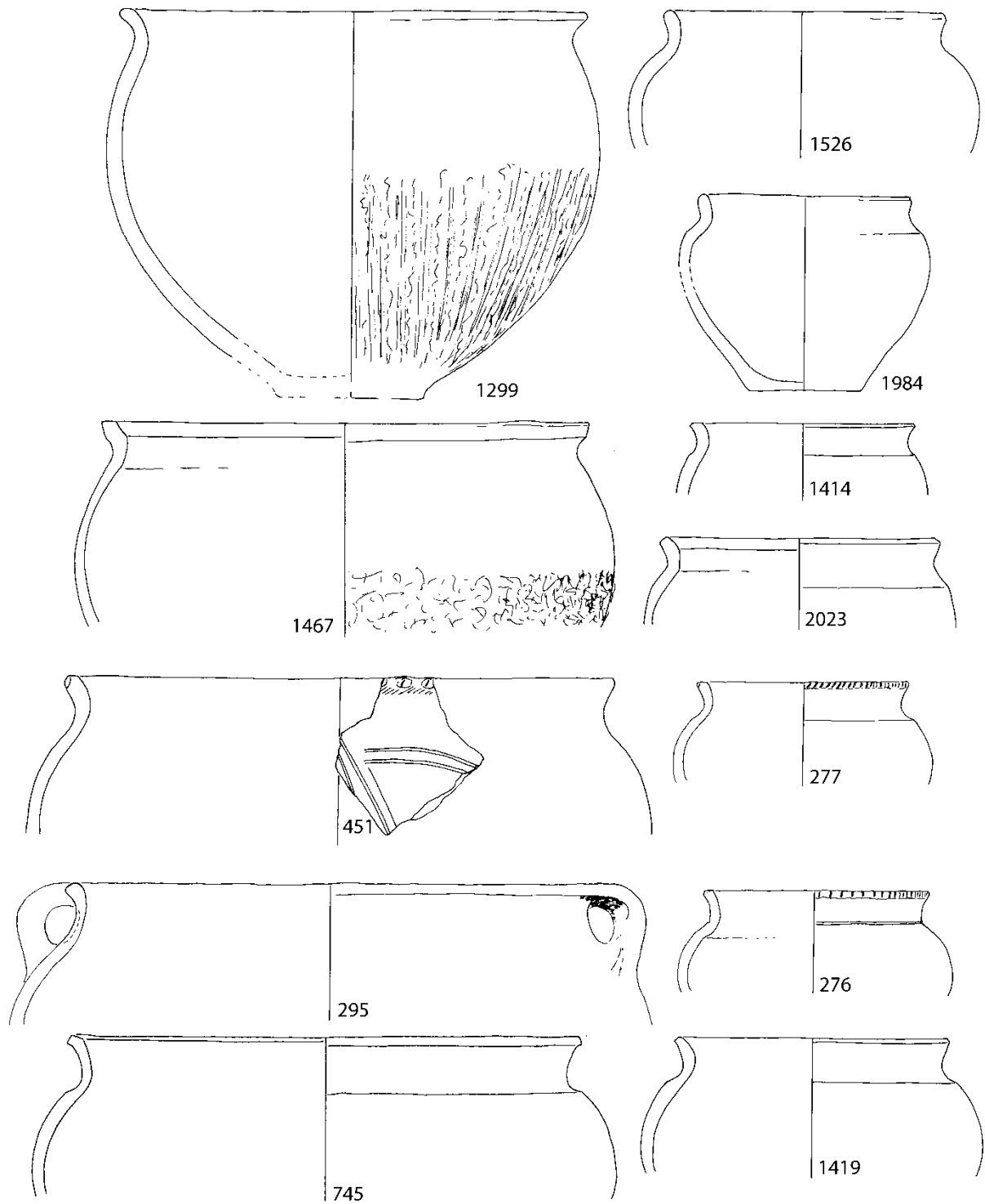


Fig. 83 Velsen I, pottery type 5.6, 200 BC – Roman Times

The streepband pots of the same type have an overall good finish and many of them are burnished. The colours are often orange, grey or yellow. The smaller pots are apparently part of the dinner

service. Remarkable is the total absence of the wide-mouthed terrine-like pots with one or two handles on the rim.⁶³ In the same period these also seem to lack in Schagen.

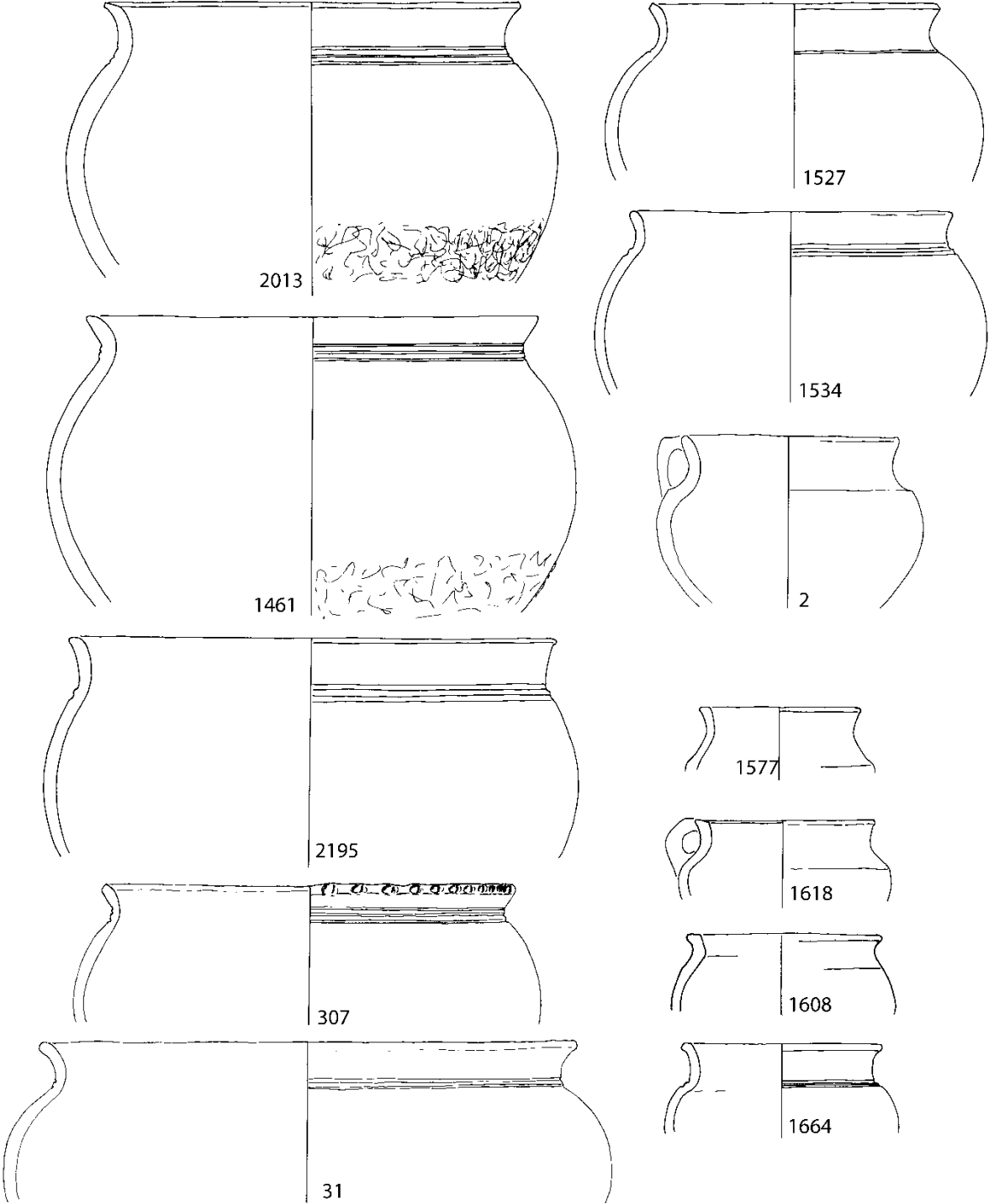


Fig. 84 Velsen I, pottery type 5.6, probable Roman Times

⁶³ Taayke’s GW5c is dated between 150 BC – 50 AD. As far as I know it is not found in Noord-Holland.

In the narrow-mouthed pots of 5.6 again some old-fashioned form can be discerned: 1021 with its practically vertical neck, 1 and 1485 with their straight necks on the outside. The 'sunken necks' of 1031 and 2174 are accompanied with the broad and shallow grooves, which can be regarded as an early phenomenon and therefore dates these pots probably between 200 and 100 BC. Nrs 1192 and 1191 represent the most recent forms: near globular pots with an angular shoulder/neck profile and possibly one or two handles on the rim. They certainly date from Roman times and nicely correspond to the same pot found at Schagen Witte Paal Noord-Oost.

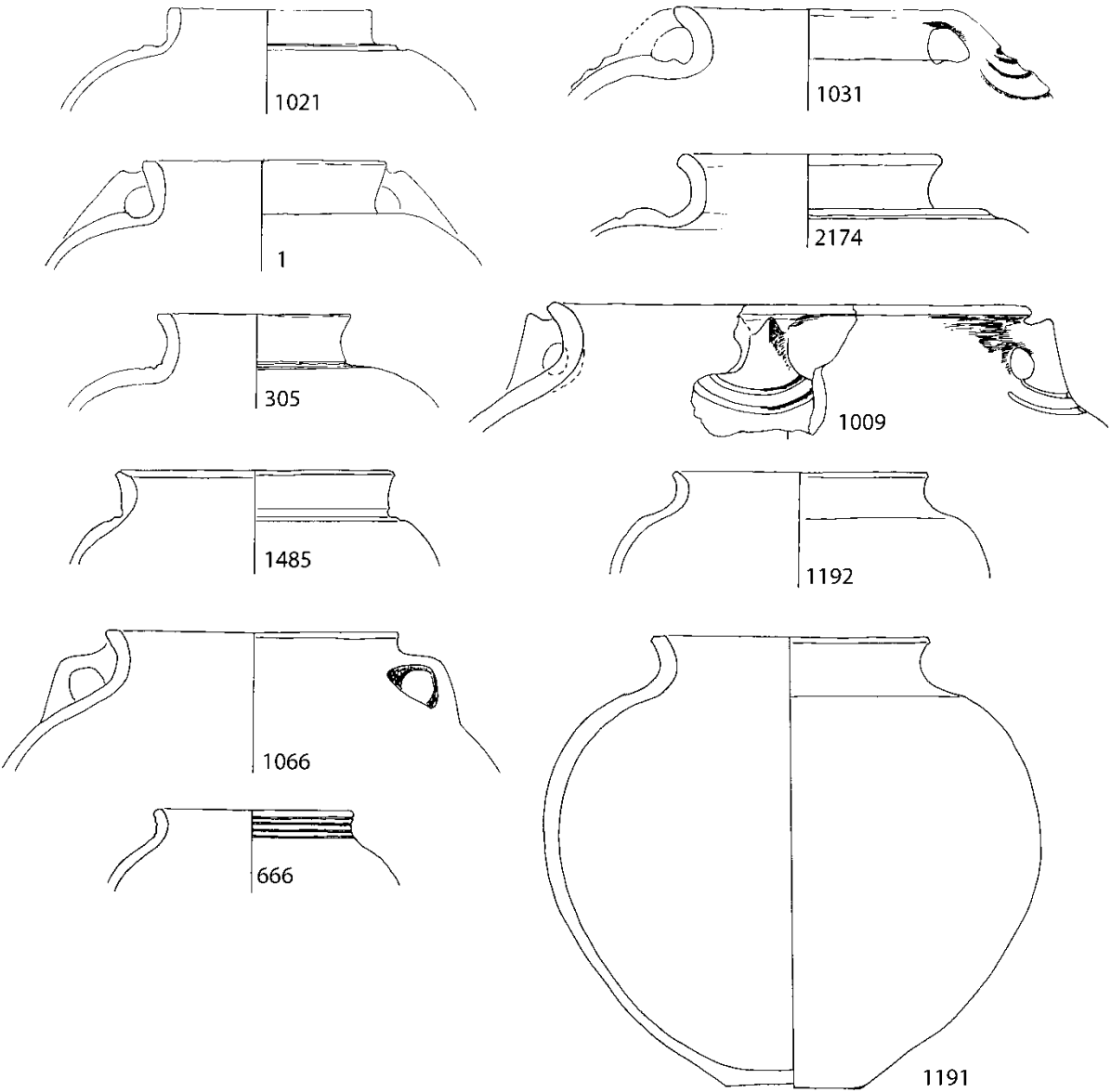


Fig. 85 Velsen I, pottery type 5.6b narrow-mouthed pots, 200 BC – Roman Times

6.1.5 Velsen, N-H Type 6

It is in fact a copy of Z-H 6, whence the type originates. It was first observed among the material from Santpoort and therefore could be expected in Velsen at just a few miles' distance. The biconical two-partite pots have an inwardly bent shoulder and a simple rounded or pointed rim finish. The shoulder is long and straight and the transition to the belly is pretty sharp. The fragments found are too small to say if the lower part of the pot was slicked, as they often are in Zuid-Holland. The few shards probably date to the third or second centuries BC.

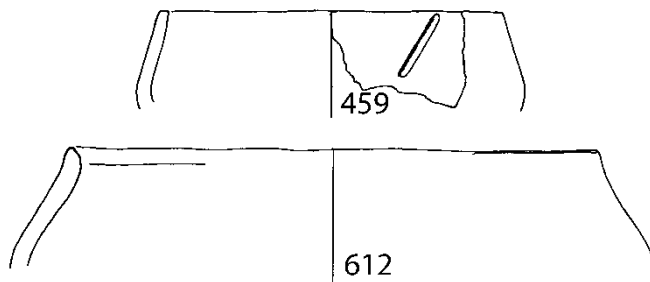


Fig. 86 Velsen I, pottery type 6.5, 300-200 BC

6.1.6 Velsen, N-H type 7

N-H type 7.5 is derived from globular pots with a cylindrical neck which is mostly sharply set off. The decoration on 438 is characteristic of the North of Noord-Holland where multiple decoration of the rim occurs frequently around 300 BC. The sharp transition probably wears off at some time in its development and therefore the type will have merged into 2.6 or 5.6 (probably the ones with the straight necks).

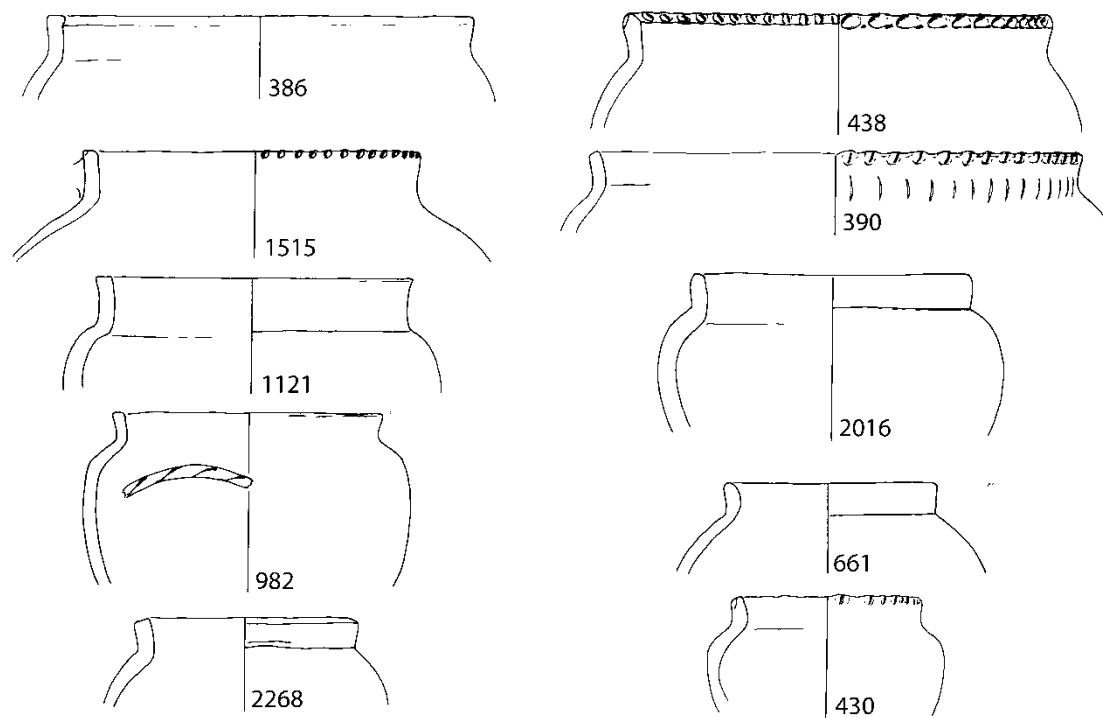


Fig. 87 Velsen I, Pottery type 7.5, 300-200 BC

6.1.7 Velsen, Chaucian pottery

A separate group is formed by a set of shards not fitting into any of the above groups. They most likely belong to types in use in the Northern provinces, more specifically in Groningen and the adjacent German coastal area inhabited by the Chauci. Two larger fragments belong to the Groningen Paddepoel IVa type⁶⁴; the others have multi-faceted rims and a smooth or burnished outer surface (238, 1554, and 1138). The small vessel with the linear decoration certainly belongs to this group; it is, like the Paddepoel IVa pots, black and burnished. Also belonging to the pottery of the Chauci are the thickened vertical necks with flattened rims. Chaucian pottery was also found at a site in the province of Utrecht, where a settlement of Chauci could be traced, starting around 20 AD and continuing for some forty years.⁶⁵ The consequences of this observation will be discussed later.

As they are a very special group, therefore, a thorough description of the material will be in place. Nrs 238, 1554 and 1138 have multi-faceted rims which are flat on top and can be referenced with Paddepoel type IVa which is dated between 50 BC and 50 AD. The type is rare in the Netherlands, but according to Van Es⁶⁶ comparable finds are known from the Elbe-Weser region. Miedema's type IVa is also an exact parallel in appearance and dating.⁶⁷

1995, 1576, 1562, 1611, 2156 and 2082 have a connection with Paddepoel Ia and the first two can be regarded as parallels, but they also bear relationship to Taayke's Oostergo K4a⁶⁸ and, of course, to his

⁶⁴ Van Es 1968.

⁶⁵ Den Hartog 2009.

⁶⁶ Van Es 1968, p 264 and fig. 43.

⁶⁷ Miedema 1990, p.159 and fig. 43.

⁶⁸ Taayke, Oostergo, p 110 and fig. 26.

Mittel Groningen type K4⁶⁹. Van Es also shows some fragments of larger pots, although no diameters are indicated. The sharp transition of shoulder to belly, however, is indicative of the type.

1635, 1057, 234, 1950, 1550 and 264 stand out from the pottery because of their upright thickened rim. Van Es shows two examples in his type IVc⁷⁰ and Miedema shows a perfect pot in the narrow-mouthed type IIIc.⁷¹

Decoration in the form of parallel linear motif around the pot is very characteristic of the Northern decorated fine ware, sometimes in combination with the typical triangular geometric pattern. Good examples are found in Paddepoel⁷², Oostergo⁷³ and Noord Drenthe.⁷⁴

The typically profiled rims of nrs 1765, 205 and 332 find parallels in Oost Fivelingo where such rims are observed among the types IIc2, IVb and IVd⁷⁵.

1950 and 1550 with their small lip at the rim can exactly be found in Oost Fivelingo with type IVG1⁷⁶

The small narrow-mouthed pot 1496, with its inverted upper part, could be taken from a similar pot from Oost Fivelingo, where it corresponds to type VIB⁷⁷

⁶⁹ Taayke, Mittel Groningen p 32 and fig. 25.

⁷⁰ Van Es 1968, p. 324, fig 53 nrs 130, and 133 and his discussion of the type on p. 264 and 265.

⁷¹ Miedema 1990, p. 196, fig. 38 nr 3.

⁷² Van Es 1968, fig. 43.

⁷³ Taayke, Mittel Groningen K3 on p. 32, fig. 24.

⁷⁴ Taayke, Nord Drenthe K2 where he suggests the material to originate from the German coastal areas where the type is dated in the first century AD. See Taayke Nord Drenthe p 59 and 60 and fig. 24

⁷⁵ Miedema 1990, fig 42 nr 1, fig 44 nrs 1 and 5 and fig 47 nrs 1, 3 and 6.

⁷⁶ Miedema 1990, fig 52 nr 1.

⁷⁷ Miedema 1990, fig 57 nr 3 and her comment on p. 160. The type VIB starts in the middle of the first century BC

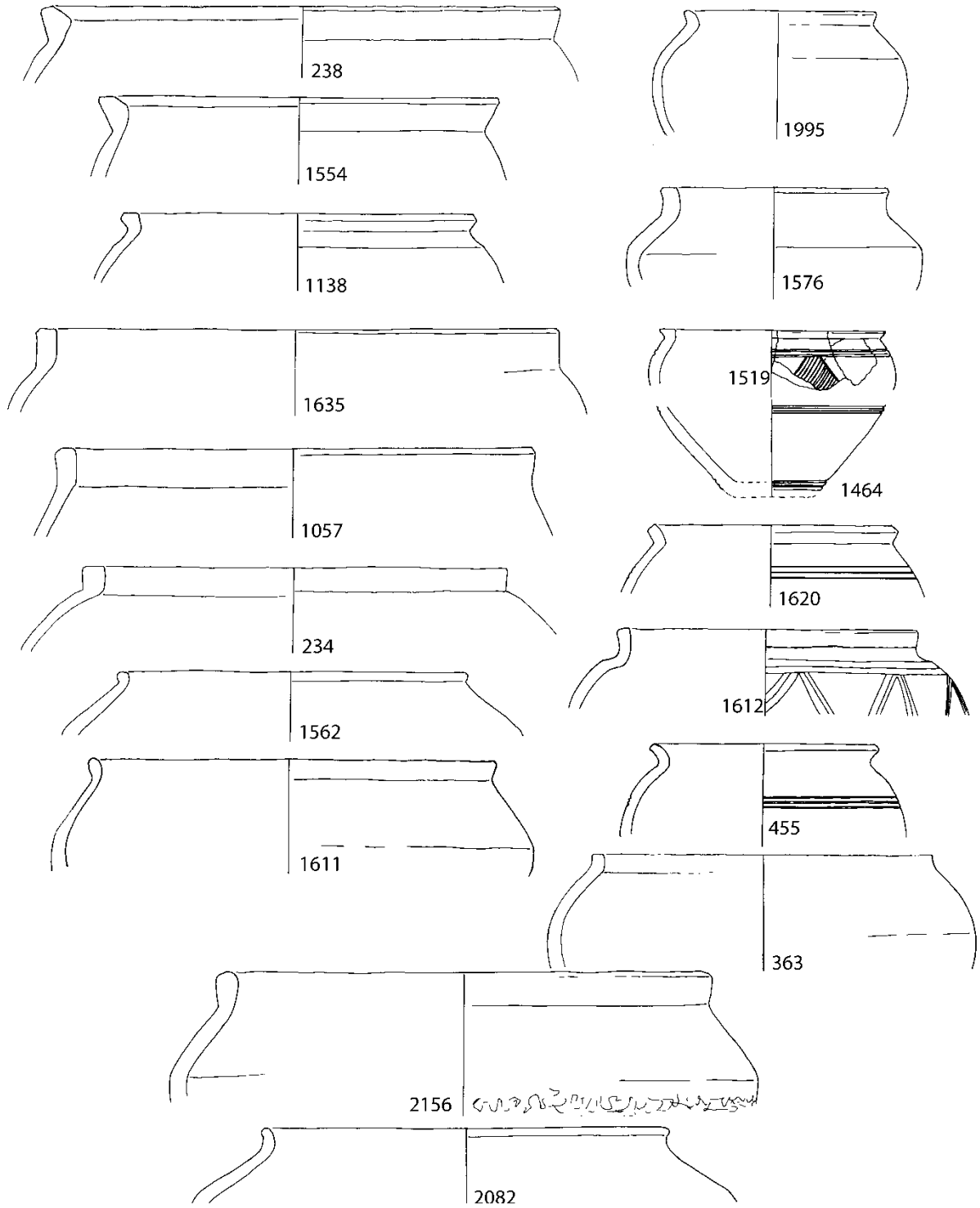


Fig. 88 Velsen I, Chaukian pottery, 15 – 35 AD

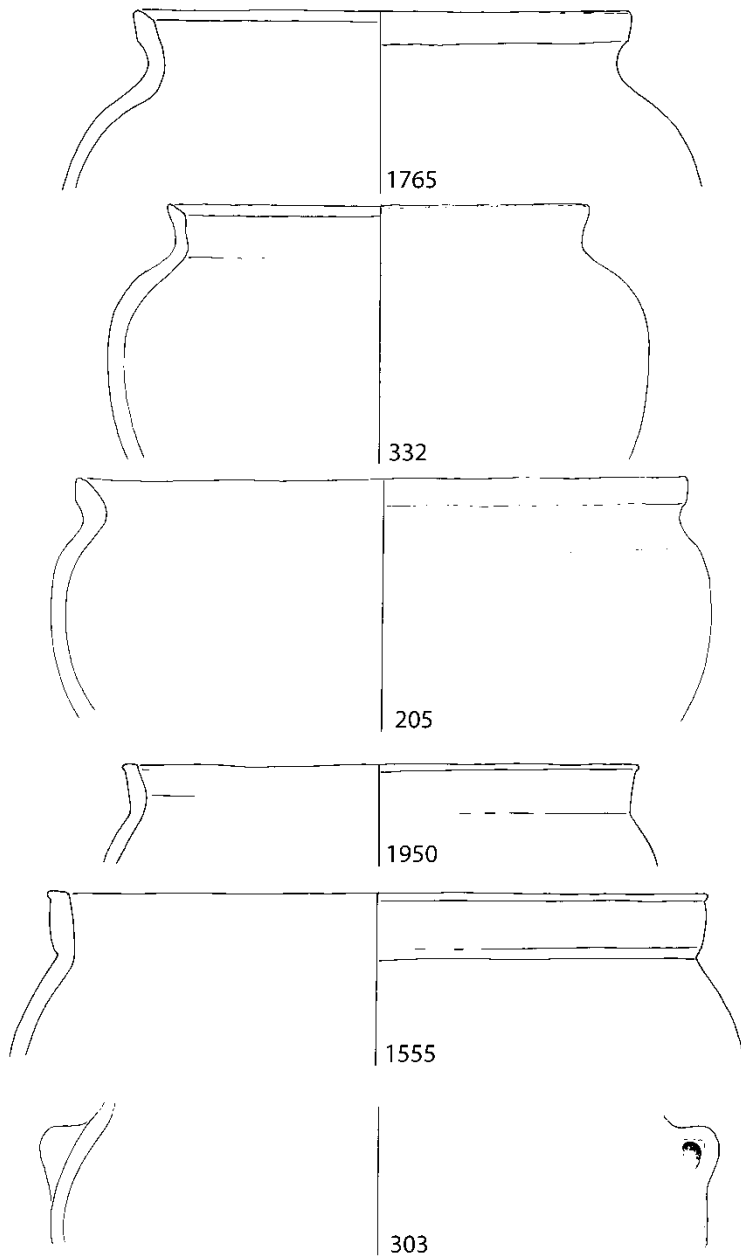


Fig. 89 Velsen I, Chaukian pottery, 15 – 35 AD

6.1.8 Velsen, Batavian Pottery

It is not totally surprising that pottery of the Batavians was found among the shards. We know from historical sources that Batavian cavalry was present during the uproar of 26 and that a Batavian soldier scratched 'BATAVVS' on the bottom of his TS plate.⁷⁸ What IS surprising is the very small

⁷⁸ Bosman 1996, p. 121.

amount of shards that could be attributed to an origin in the probable vicinity of Nijmegen.⁷⁹ Only six rim shards have a clear pedigree and are illustrated together. In their discussion, reference will be made to the excellent field-work Eef Stoffels did, some years ago, on the native pottery found in the Augustan castra in Nijmegen.

Most remarkable is the thickened, profiled rim of a two-partite globular pot (nr 1594), which had earlier gained Bosman's attention as well.⁸⁰ The shard is plant tempered and smooth-walled and can be compared to Stoffels 2.14.

Nr 196, with its cylindrical neck, most likely globular body, of the same bake and finish as 1594, fits nicely in Stoffels 8.2.

Nr 119 is a very large, nearly globular pot with only a hint of a rim, same bake and finish again, fits Stoffels 4.4.

The next three are more or less comparable in that they are narrow-mouthed, have a very short rim, a clear indication on the transition of shoulder to neck and have a flattened or faceted rim. The fabric of 310 is rough with no visible tempering, whereas the other two, 2062 and 1144 are smooth-walled and have plant tempering again. They are best compared to Stoffels 4.21.

⁷⁹ See Eef Stoffels, 2006

⁸⁰ Bosman 1996, fig 6.2 (his second example could now not be found)

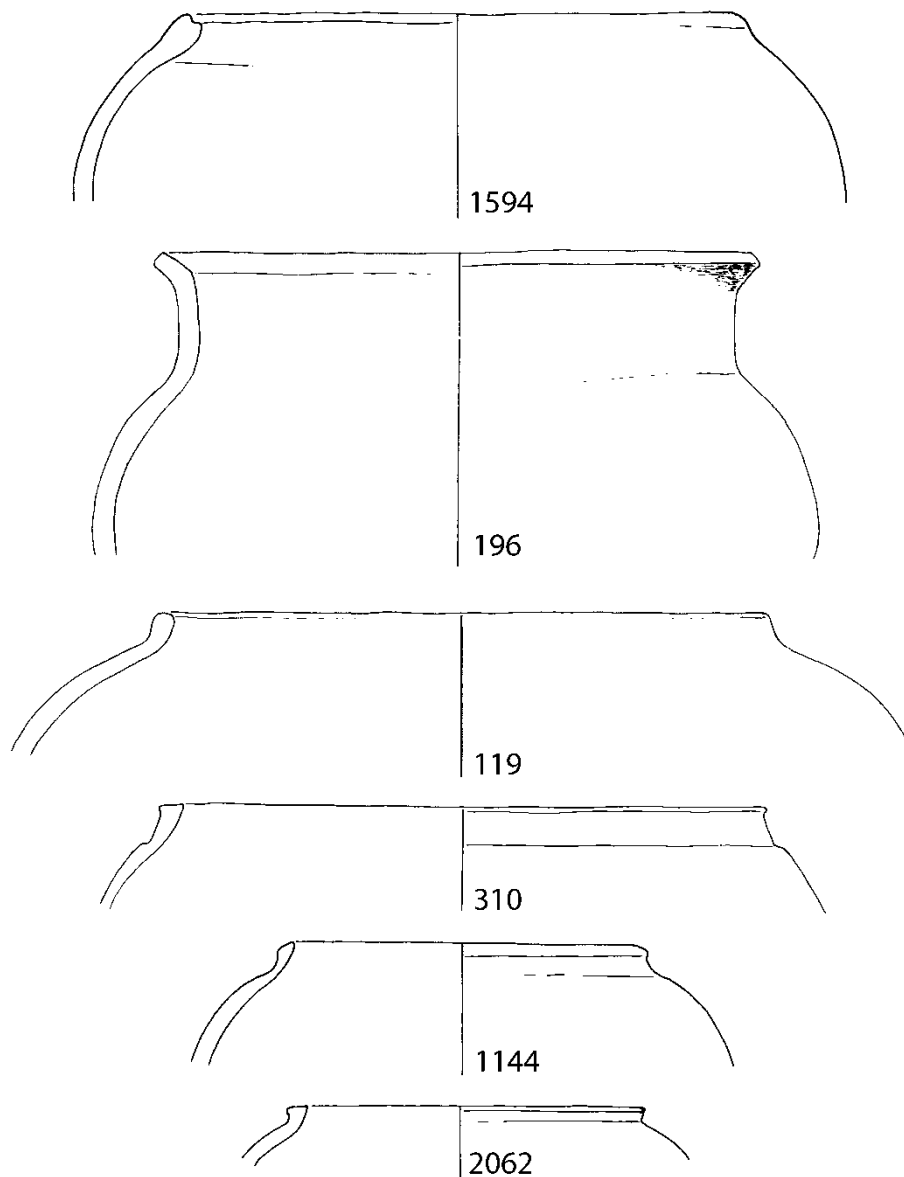


Fig. 90 Velsen I, Batavian pottery, 15 AD-35 AD

6.1.9 Velsen, Later native ware

During the excavation in the late eighties, a ditch with some later Roman native shards had already gained attention,⁸¹ and some third century imports and coins found earlier, made it clear that the site was revisited by Romans or inhabited by later local people who possessed Roman goods and coins. The little locally made third century pottery makes the assumption of indigenous people living there impossible.

⁸¹ Bosman 1996, p. 20 and 21.

It is an odd collection of loose shards, neither of which is indicative of any intense habitation, but more likely to be considered as stray finds. All of the shards are comparable to what was found and described in Schagen.⁸² Four shards (247, 604, 250 and 1976) belong to rough-walled cooking pots, type F-1 and have a typical, slightly everted 'A' rim (vide ultra). The specimen with a slightly rounded neck (250 and 1976) may belong to the late first or early second century; 247 to the second century and 604 to the period around 200. The smaller pots (599 and 654) have a smooth finish and belong also to type F-1, to be dated in the second century and late first respectively.

The second group consists of 'Driesum' pottery, related to the Eddelak style group and must be dated in the second half of the third century. The two narrow-mouthed pots 340 and 2212 are the Schagen types L-IIIa. They are both smooth walled, one tempered with pot grit and the other with shell-grit, which is quite remarkable, but have parallels in Schagen. The small pot 1366 is a wide-mouthed, rough-walled small cooking pot L-1 with a slight zigzag model, also from the second half of the third century.

1097 is a very special form as it can be dated in the late fourth or early fifth century and is fully comparable to the Schagen L-IV- type with its remarkable small lip at the outside of the rim. This specimen is rough-walled and tempered with quartz.

Though the shard (1231) is a bit small, it has all the characteristics of fifth century pottery as was found in Schagen (Schagen, Muggenburg)⁸³ and, more recently found among the material of Bloemendaal, Groot Olmen.⁸⁴

⁸² Diederik, 2002.

⁸³ Diederik 2002, p 117, Afb 89, type L-le.

⁸⁴ Identified as such by the author.

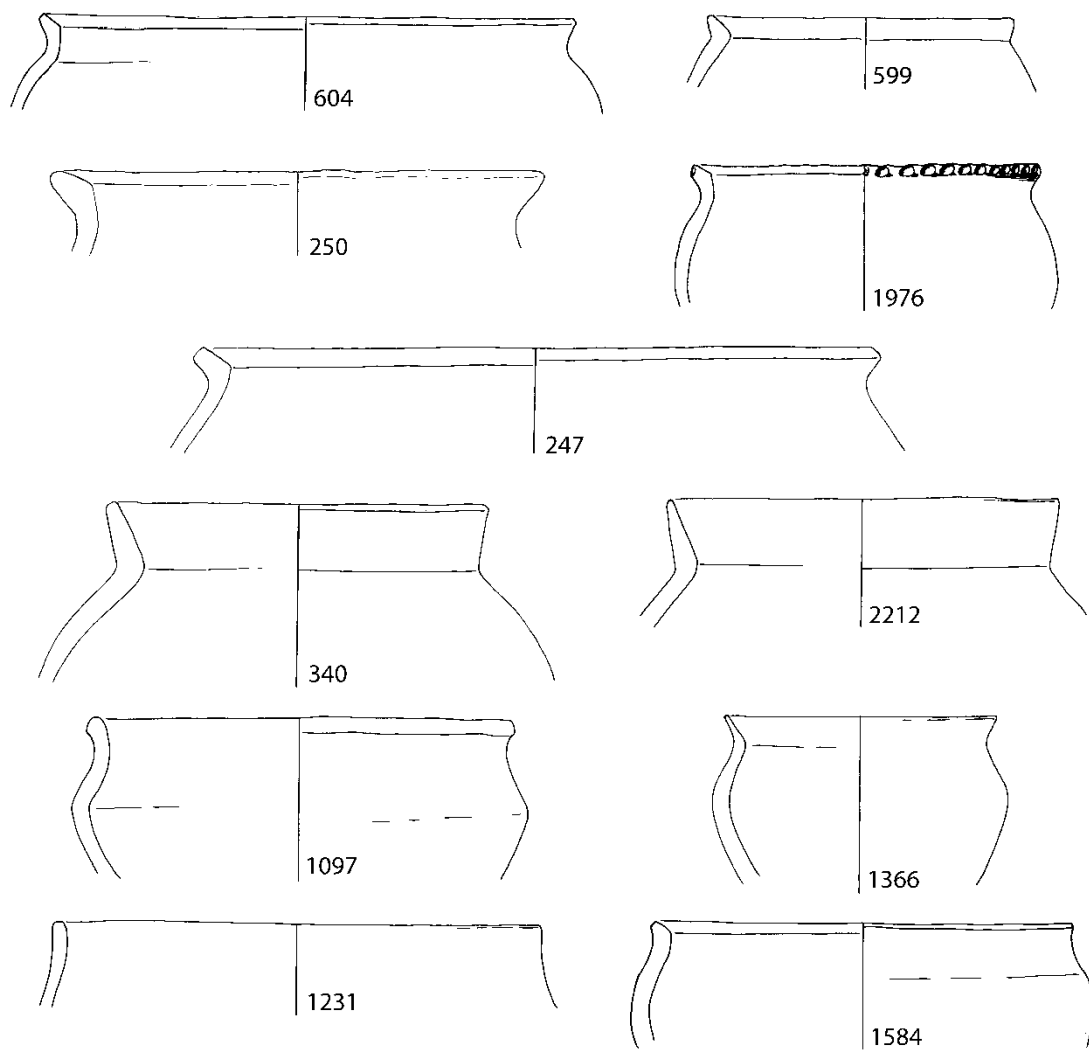


Fig. 91 Velsen I, Later pottery types (see text for description)

7.0 Statistics

7.1 Rims

Rims and necks can be divided into five main groups:

'A' rim, which has a thickened, flat or faceted rim finish, in combination with a curved neck and a sharp transition on the inside.

'B' rim, which is straight and not thickened. The transition into the neck can be abrupt or fluent.

'C' rim, which is a curved rim, mostly not thickened, fluently merging into the neck of the pot.

'D' rim, which is a straight, upward standing neck, mostly sharply set off to the shoulder of the pot. (so in fact it is not a 'rim')

'E' rim/neck, which is straight on the outside, usually sharply set off, thickened and rounded on the inside.

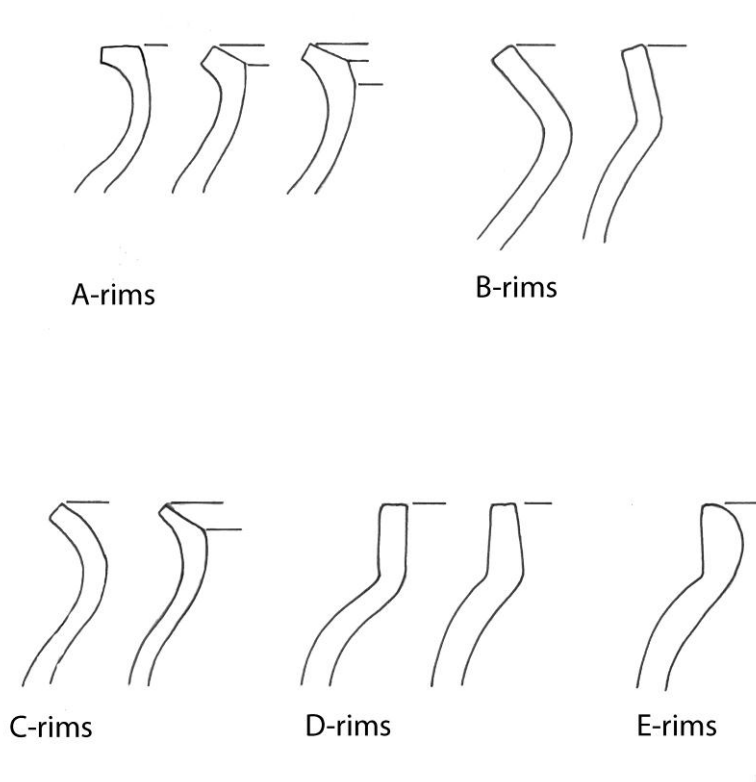


Fig. 92 Rim types as described in the text

'A' rims occur on 15% of all the measured shards. They originate from the terp area, where they occur from about 300 BC on the bigger cooking pots. The rims are usually flat on top or faceted on the inside. Both decorated and plain rim finish are present. In later Noord-Holland settlements, such as Schagen, Witte Paal III, the rim type on cooking pots is 63% 'A' type (n=2948). So it can be justly said that this type of rim came to make an appearance in Velsen just before and in Roman times.

'B' rims occur on 10% of all the rims. Its origins are obscure as straight rims occasionally occur both in Noord- and Zuid-Holland from the Early Iron Age onward. In Schagen, Witte Paal they occur on 29% of all the cooking pots.

'C' rims form the vast majority with 65%. They are the simplest form of necks/rims and are from all ages, but in the Schagen Witte Paal settlement, they form only 7% of the cooking pots and then tend to date from the (late) third century. So, probably in the first century AD there was a rapid decline of C-rims in favour of A-rims, which were replaced by the end of the third century AD by C-rims again.

'D' rims are a minor group with only 5% and belong to clear Iron Age types, but also to some of the types from the fourth and fifth centuries. Noted should be that among the Northern (Chaukian) pottery some upright standing necks are found.

'E' rims are found on some forms of 'streeband' pottery. (The 'old-fashioned' 5.6) and on some of the types from the Groningen/Northern Germany area, which are much shorter than the streeband variants. They constitute only 5% of the total.

The angle of the rims was noted down from horizontal 'a', to 30° elevation 'b', to 60° elevation and straight up 'd'. Practically this was mostly done as 'ab', 'bc' and 'cd'. The finish of the rim was also noted down as 'Re' for Dutch 'recht' = straight, 'Ro' for round, 'F' for faceted, and 'Pu' for Dutch 'puntje' = tapered. If the rim is flattened on top, a letter 'a' was added to the angle indication.

At the same time the rims can be plain or decorated: 'G' for Dutch 'glad' = smooth, 'N' for nail impression, 'Vt' for Dutch 'vingertop' = tip of the finger and 'Vn' for ditto with a nail impression, 'K' for Dutch 'kerf' = incision and 'Ka' for Dutch 'kabel' = cable, and finally 'G' for Dutch 'golf' = undulated rim finish. So the description 'C cda reke' would stand for a steep curved rim which is faceted on top, therefore has a straight finish decorated with incisions.

7.2 Tempering

The tempering of the clay is very diverse, due to the long period of time the site has had visitors or inhabitants. As we have seen before, the material used varies from time to time. The quantities of shards with a particular tempering are an indication of the intensity of habitation.

Quartz was only observed for 0.3% (n=6) and can be discarded as a clear sign of an inhabited area.

Shell in combination with other ingredients was seen in 2.6% of all shards and indicates a possible permanent or more likely, incidental use of the area in the period prior to 250 BC. When discussing Van Heeringen's survey of used tempering materials, there was one site, 25 West 60 that had quite some shell tempering in the period 150-50 BC. The same goes for some of the Velsen pottery, where among the types from period 6 sometimes shell temper was observed. This goes especially for 'streeband' ware, probably even lasting into the Roman period.

Pot grit in combination with sand was observed in 4.2% of all shards, whereas pot grit alone constitutes 7% of all tempering material. This is a clear indication of habitation of the terrain in between 250 and 100 BC.

Sand alone was seen in 7.2% of all cases and cannot in itself be attributed to a period, but is a probable result of the use of naturally occurring sandy clay. As no other tempering material is seen, it

was probably in use in the second and first century BC, which is in accordance with the pottery types where it was applied.

Grog combined with some form of plant remains amounts to 26% of all tempering material observed, and is indicative of habitation between 150 BC and Roman Times.

Plant remains alone were seen in a whopping 32% and indicate intense habitation from 100 BC onwards up to the end of the Roman period.

In many cases no tempering material could be seen (7%) and the absence of it (visually!) indicates to the Roman Period.

Both rims and decorated shards were looked at for tempering, but also, separately, all pot bases from the site (n= 645). The percentages of the different tempering coincide nicely, but in some instances there are striking differences that need explaining. The percentage of the combination of grog with plant is much lower in the pot bases than in the rim/wall fragments. The explanation could be that crushed pot grit in a low-fired environment as the base of the pot usually is, can easily be overlooked as both remain black, whereas in a well-fired (secondarily fired) area as the belly or the rim, the used grog will show its colour and stands out. Bases also have more sand tempering in the stats, but this is probably due to sand from the environment sticking to the base of the pot.

7.3 Pot Bases

Pot bases were catalogued according to their shape and size. Several dozen could not be taken into account as they had, at one moment since their retrieval, been put together in bags and boxes without their identifying (find) number. Yet, some 645 may be called representative of the bulk of the material.

The A-type of bases has a straight side, directly from the bottom (41% of the total of 635);

The B-type immediately starts with an outward curve (35% of the total of 635);

The C-type is immediately concave (bent inwards) (11%)

The D-type has a low foot and a concave side (6%)

The E-type has a low foot and a convex side (3%)

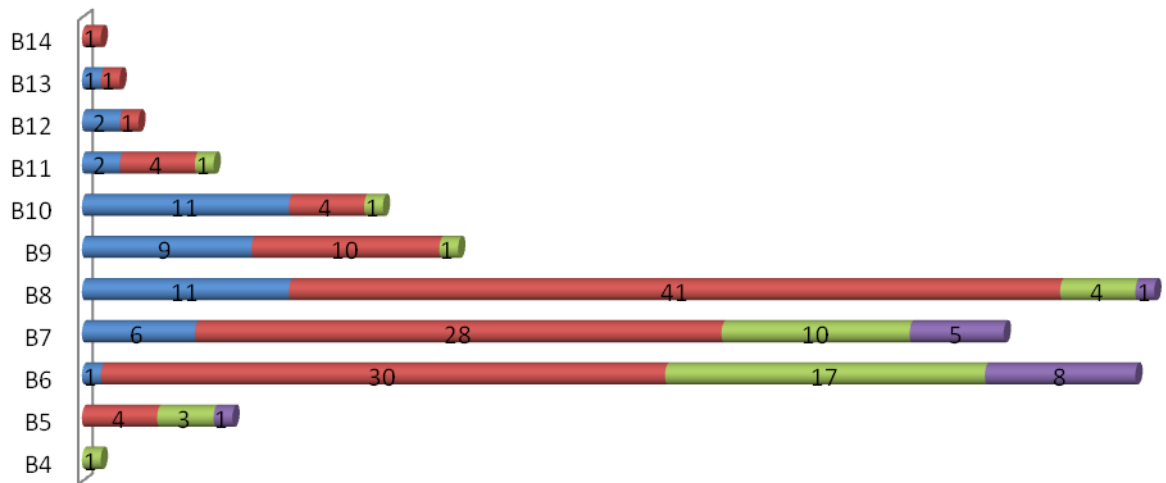
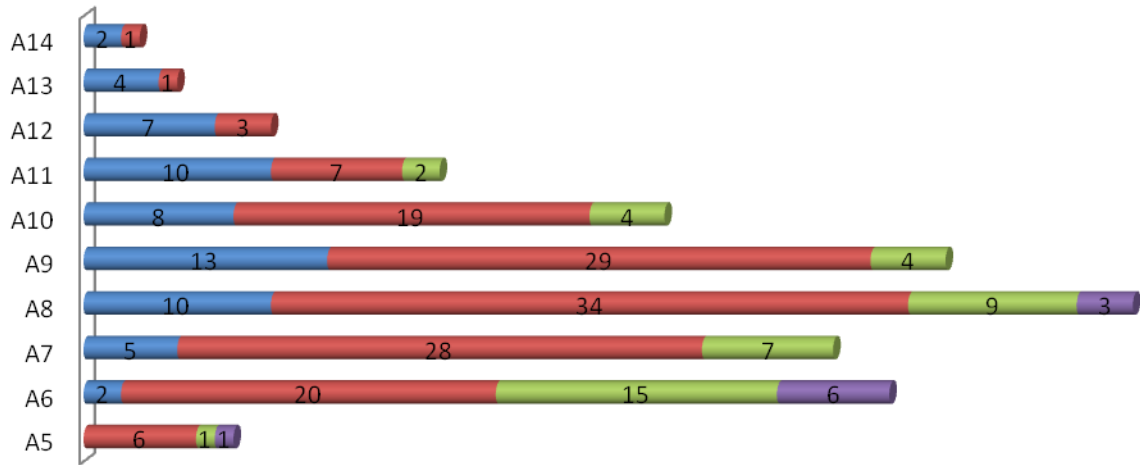
The F-type has a low foot and a very bulbous body (3%).

Only few examples were found with a slightly hollow base and a low foot; these may be a late intrusion.

The finish of the bases more or less corresponds with the diameter: the bigger, the rougher. Slicked bases frequently occur with big diameters and corresponding big pots. Fourteen of the slicked bases were also found to have the 'finger-stripes', which decorative pattern was discussed earlier. These bases may almost certainly belong to the Roman period. The smaller bases were more often smooth (80x) or even polished (27x) as can be expected by their possible use as part of the dinner service.

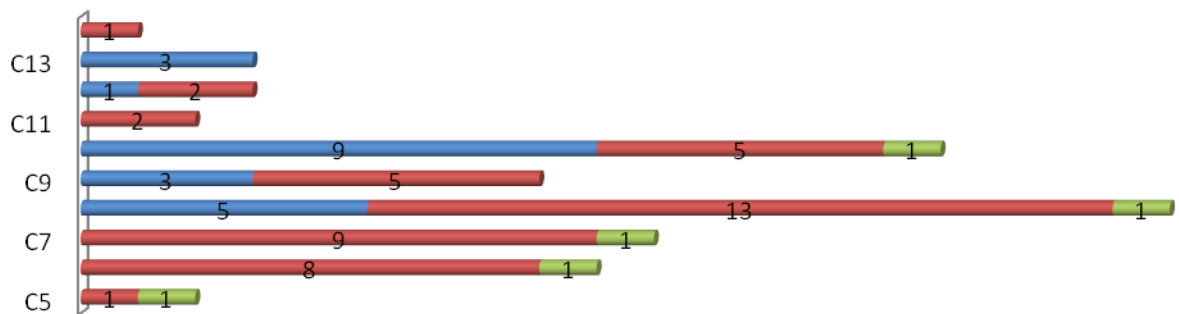
Base type A

■ Slicked ■ Rough ■ Smooth ■ Polished



Base type C

■ Slicked ■ Rough ■ Smooth ■ Polished



8.0 Distribution

A good comparison of the distribution of pottery types is only possible when the circumstances of excavation are more or less comparable. As stated before, the harbour area was in fact the only place where systematically everything was retrieved from the earth. Despite the fact that abrasive and formative processes took place after the deposition of the archaeological remains, the aforementioned processes will not have caused the material to be seriously displaced horizontally.

To get a good quantitative view of the presence of local pottery remains, the material was plotted on the eastern part of the excavation (harbour and first phases of the Roman occupation) by quantity in grams. This should be regarded as the starting point; every different distribution than the mainstream could mean something.

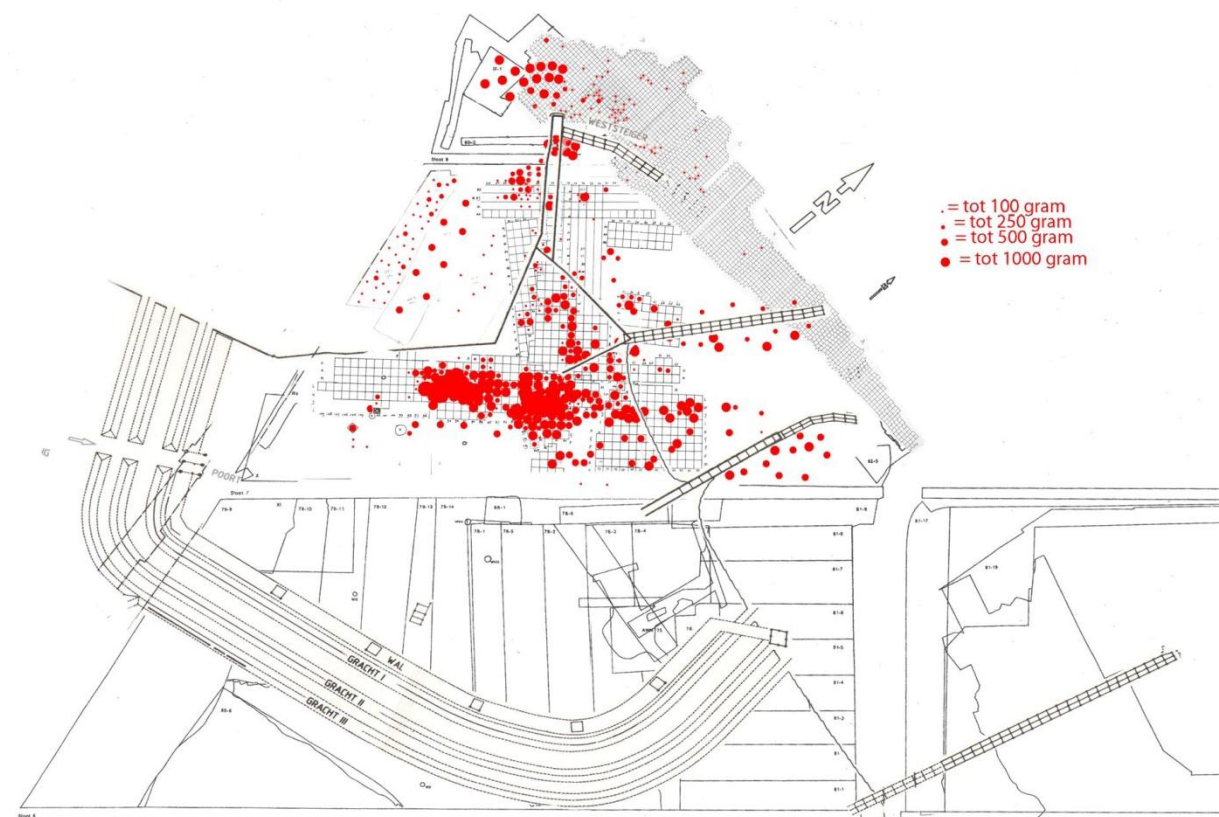


Fig. 93 Velsen I Early phase, distribution of local pottery according to weight of remaining shards.

From the plan of the distribution it is evident that several areas of high concentration can be discerned; first of all along the South bank of the Oer-IJ river and the adjacent shallow waters. Secondly a concentration at the end of the West pier and less so around the North and West piers.

Looking at the distribution of periods four and five (300-100 BC), we see that the massive concentration is no longer present, but that the dispersion of material extends into the harbour area. This can be explained by a change in the current of the river. Unfortunately a distinct concentration of Iron Age material remains absent, so that the presence of a settlement cannot be proved. What has become clear from the excavation is that the possibility of deliberate deposits of Iron Age

material into the river is possible. Parallels thereof were found in the Heemskerk Broekpolder.⁸⁵ The oldest material found in the harbor may even go back as far as the fourth century BC and consists of large fragments of a decorated pot, made of clay with a tempering of crushed shell.

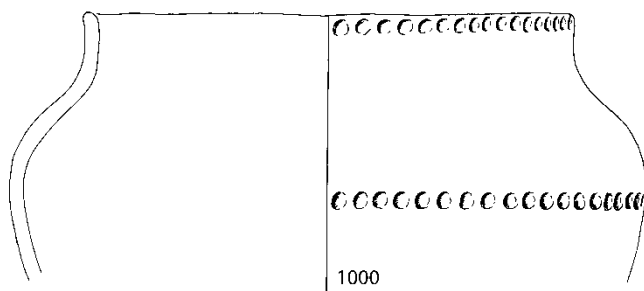


Fig. 94 Velsen I, Found at the West pier and yet dating to the fourth century BC. N-H type 2.4 with crushed shell tempering.

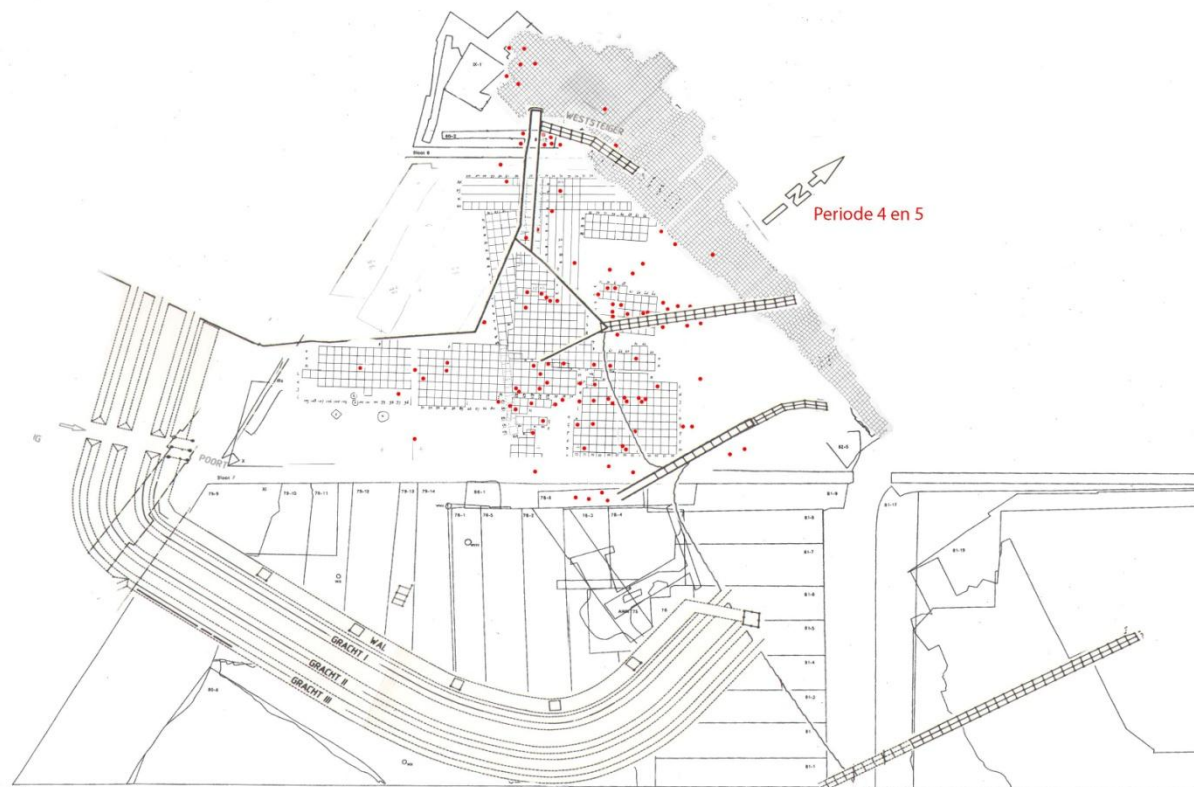


Fig. 95 The harbor area with the distribution of local pottery from the period 400-200 BC.

The distribution of period 6 small⁸⁶ pottery from 100 BC onwards, yields yet another picture: here we see the harbor front littered with shards, especially around the piers. Material seems to be dumped equally both in the harbor and on the harbor front which connects the piers. Of the two big concentrations where the most weight of shards was seen, the most Western one is absent in the

⁸⁵ Therkorn 2009.

⁸⁶ Diameters up to 16 cm rim circumference have been used here.

first century BC and early Roman Times. The concentration at the base of the platform connecting the West and the North piers is there, but is nothing compared to the masses of shards found around the West Pier itself. This is a clear evidence of systematically clearing of waste from the encampment.

The number of small pots compared to the average native settlement, is totally out of proportion and should therefore indicate upon the personal use by a single Roman soldier. Interesting is then to see where the really big pots were used or deposited. The overall picture looks the same, but with far fewer material; yet the disposal in the areas between the piers occurs obviously less frequent than the small pots. The disposal at the West pier however, is obvious and is certainly part of an organized garbage disposal.

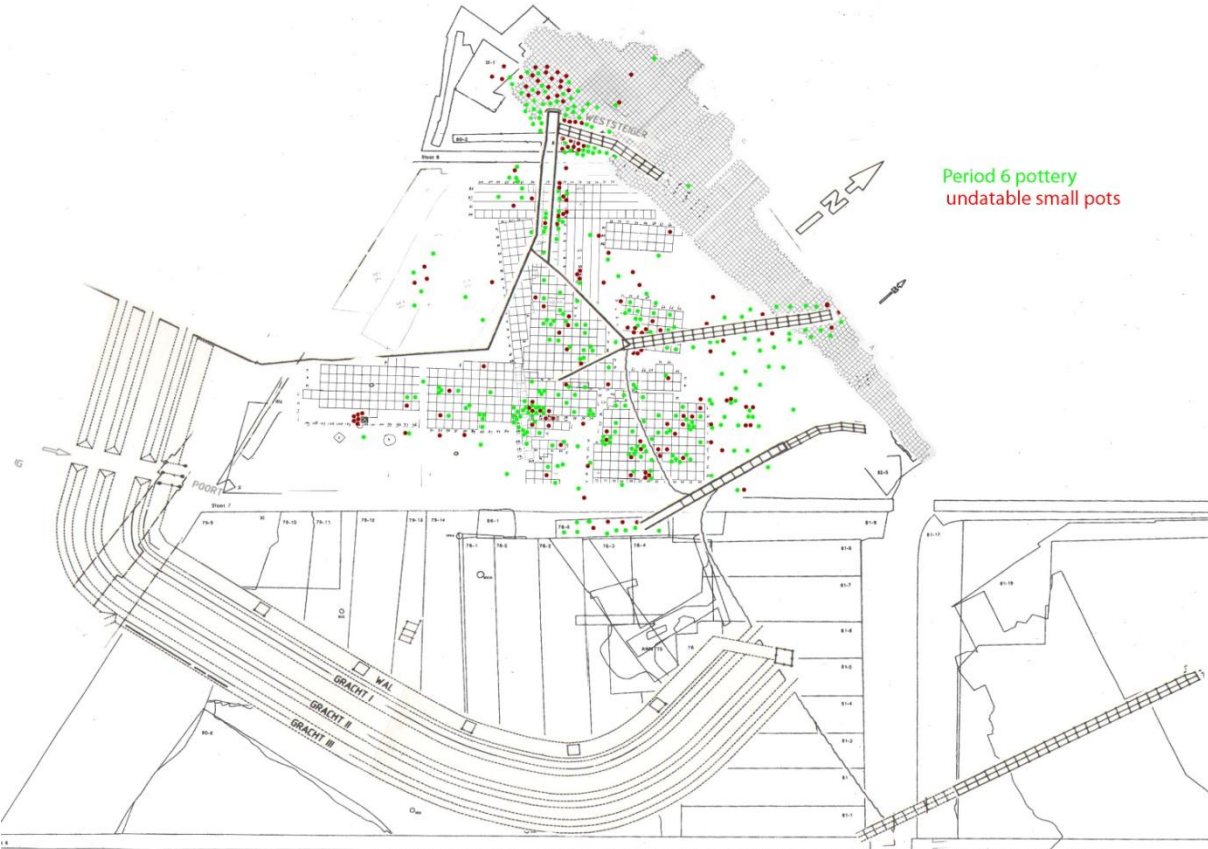


Fig. 96 Distribution of period 6 small pots and undatable small pots.

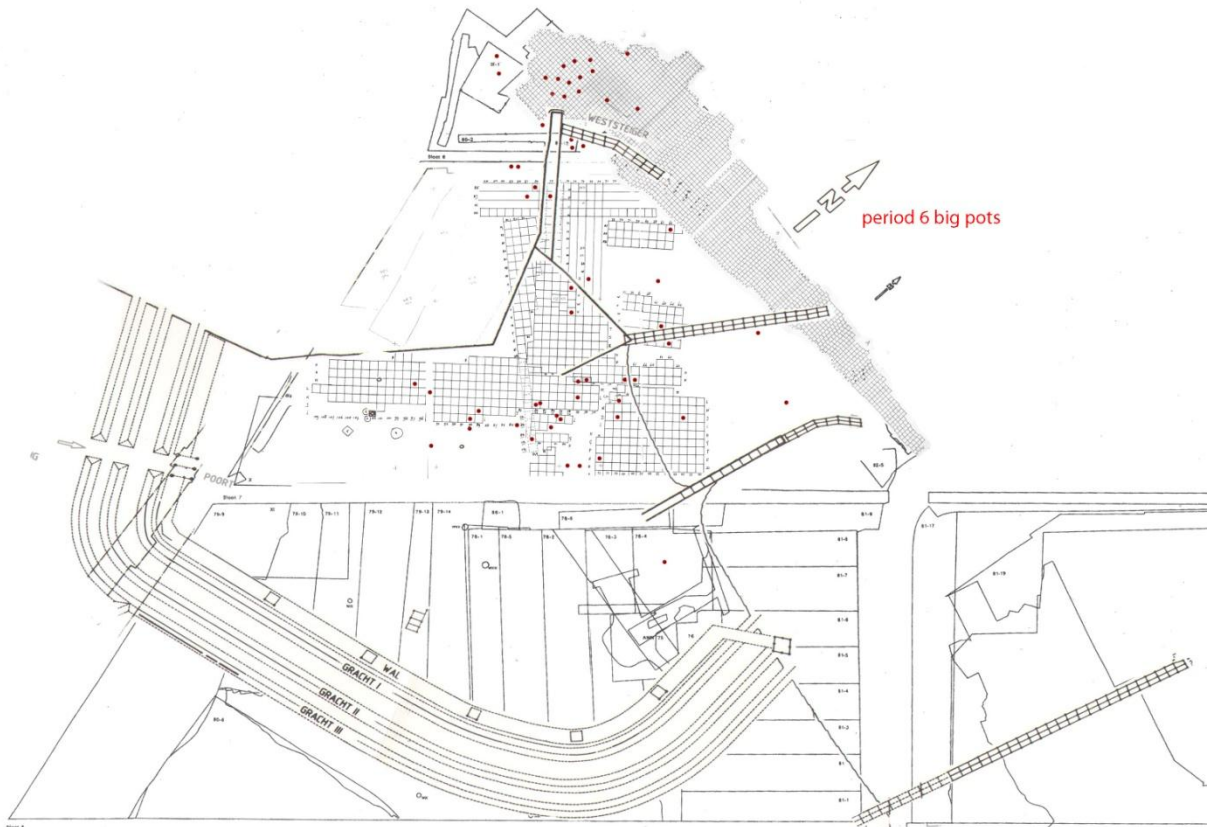


Fig. 97 Period 6, distribution of local pottery with a rim diameter over 25 cm

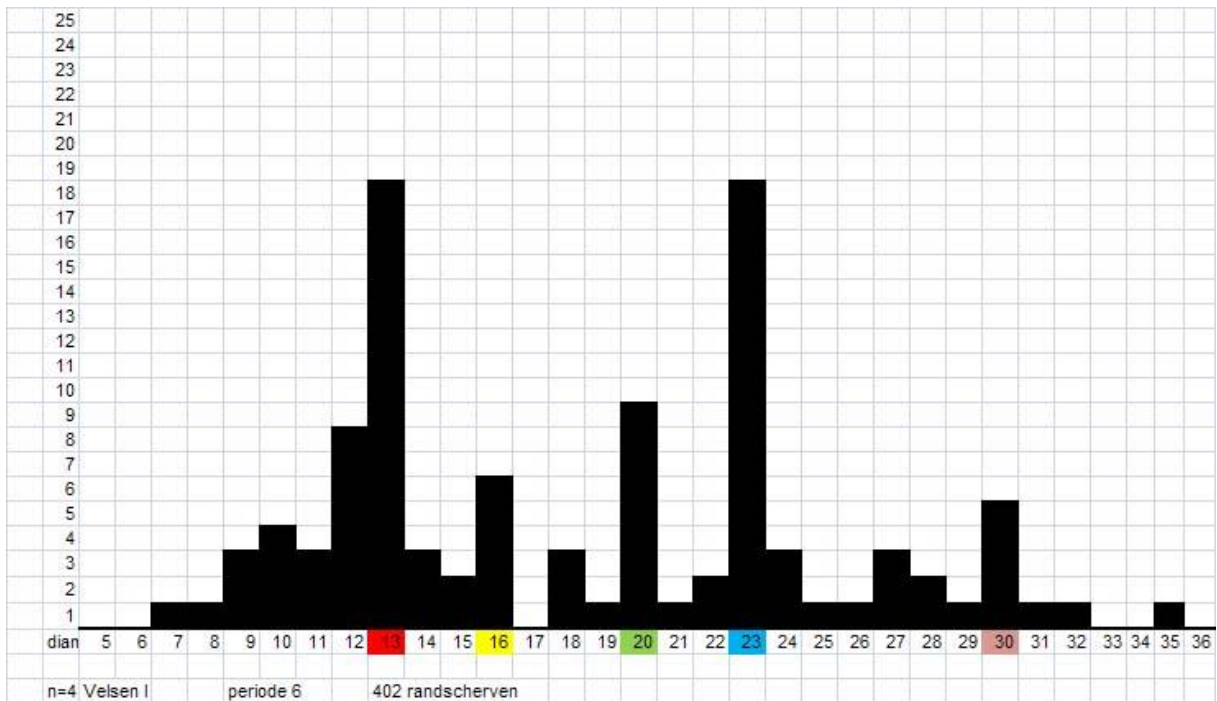


Fig. 98 Velsen I, graph of rim diameters of period 6 with peaks in 13 and 23 cm pots and small numbers of big pots

9.0 Use of local pottery in the fortress

Although no hard conclusions can be drawn from the distribution and the frequency of pot diameters, it is safe to say that it appears that every soldier had possession of one or more small pots for his daily meals. For the common Roman soldiers these would have been the imported rough-walled pots Haltern 57, which is the most abundant form which has been used as a cooking pot.⁸⁷ The isolated situation of Velsen may have caused shortages in individual cooking pots, which may have necessitated the soldiers to acquire local pots of about the same size.⁸⁸ These were found in great numbers, mostly as waste thrown in the shallows of the river bank, but also in the deep waters at the end of the Western Pier. The conclusion that every soldier had a private pot and should therefore have cooked his own individual meal, is drawn too fast; there is also a vast quantity of medium-sized pots of around 23 cm of rim diameter that may have served as cooking pots, but for a group of people. As for size, there is no equivalent among the Roman wares to fulfill this requirement and brings us again to the question how food preparation was organized. Pots with a 23 cm rim diameter (excluded the very narrow-mouthed ones) contain up to 6 liters of fluid, which, in the form of porridge or thick soup, can be considered enough to feed eight mouths. The food was then served out among the men on their individual plates, pots etc. Yet quite a number of the small pots were actually used as cooking pots, as soot is often found on the outside. This need not be primary cooking, but can be seen as heating it up or keeping it warm. In 54 instances soot on the outside or carbonated food remains on the inside were observed, most frequently on very small pots. 50% of all pots had a rim diameter up to 16 cm, 35% consisted of pots up to 24 cm and the remainder of only 15% belonged to the really big pots of around 30 cm in diameter. These pots may have been used for storage pots for corn or fresh water. In incidental cases they will have served for cooking larger quantities or preparing food for long term storage. So the ratio of pots, from small to medium-sized and big: 10, 7, 1. In the well-excavated site Muggenburg 3 in Schagen, with a totally different organization, but with the same basic needs for food and its preparation, we see the ratio as: 7, 5, 8.⁸⁹ It is clear that without a thorough understanding of the nature and complexity of a native site, comparison to a Roman site is a rather fruitless enterprise, apart from the fact that it becomes apparent that food preparation was carried out differently and that preparation and storage for the long winter month in a native settlement will have required a large amount of big vessels. In the Roman fortress, the dolia and amphorae will have filled that need.

9.1 Chaukian pottery

The number of shards of Chaukian pottery is rather surprising and may reflect more of the native pedigree. Therefore it is interesting to see what types of pots were in use by these auxiliary soldiers, which they will no doubt have been. Although the number of rims is limited to 41, the overall picture with its peaks at 13, 20, 23 and 30 cm is striking. The three volume categories stand out and can easily be put in a ratio: 5, 5, 4. It is clear that among the Chaukians, food preparation was done differently from the other occupants of the fortress. If, for instance, women accompanied the Chaukians, food preparation and consumption can have differed greatly from that of the ranking

⁸⁷ Bosman 1997, p 232 ff who also notices soot on many pots.

⁸⁸ This is on the assumption of the presence of 'real' Roman soldiers only.

⁸⁹ This site existed well into the fourth century, but for the sake of comparison, only material of the period up to about 270 AD is taken into account here (n= 1176)

common soldier. As in Mediaeval times, it could have been normal to 'dig in', instead of serving helpings to an individual.⁹⁰

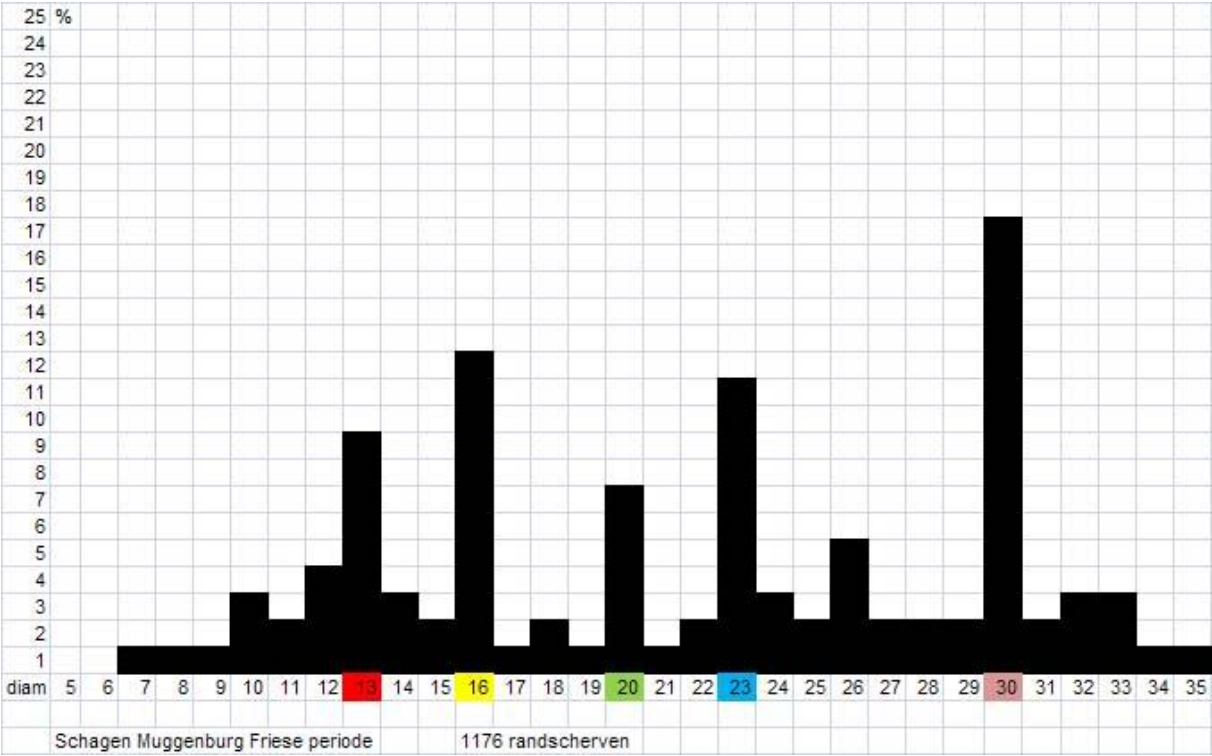


Fig. 99 Schagen, Muggenburg, graph of the diameters of Frisian pottery from the second and third centuries

⁹⁰ The absence of possible individual pieces of pottery used for consuming food, such as plates and bowls, in Iron Age native settlements, make such a hypothesis all the more likely.

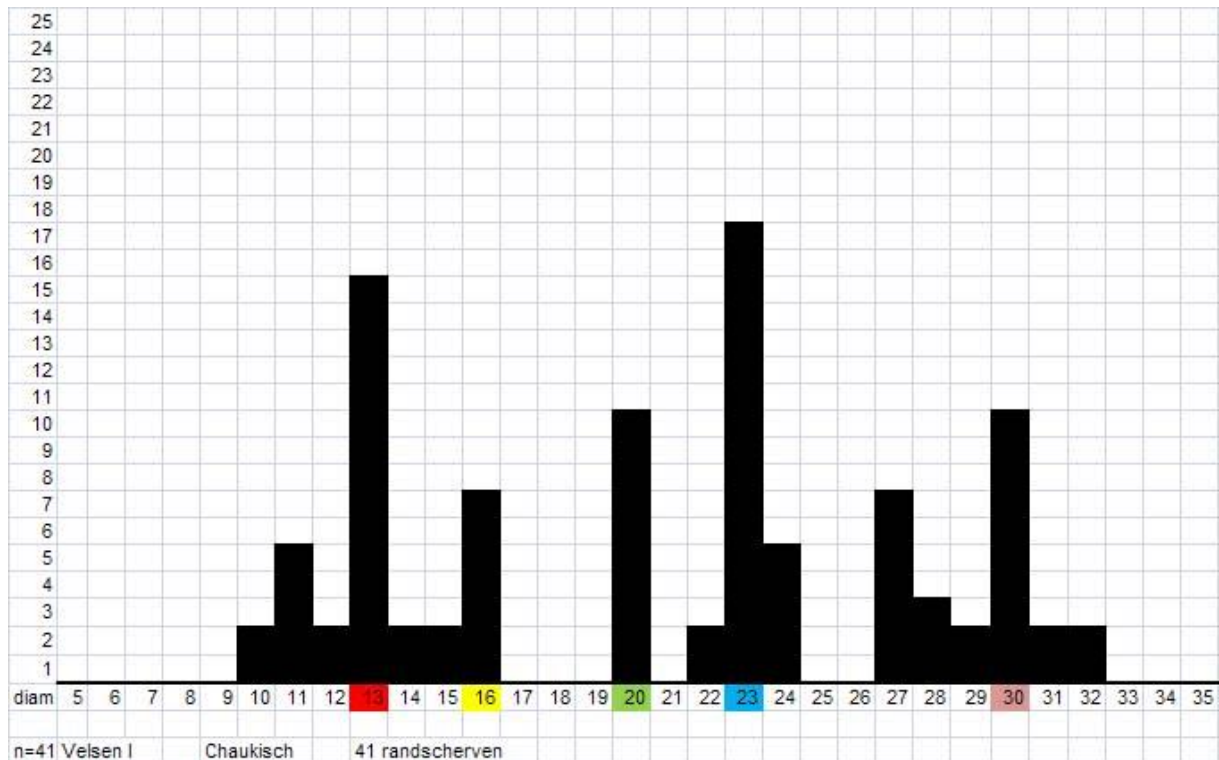


Fig. 100 Velsen I, graph of the diameters of native Chaukian pottery (in numbers)

9.2 native auxiliary troops?

Comparison of the number of Roman cooking pots and locally produced pots is difficult as only numbers of shards of rough-walled pottery (n=28,400)⁹¹ are given and it is difficult to determine what amount of locally produced pots belonged to the Roman Period, but, on the basis of typology, some 20% of the local wares belong to the period prior to 200 BC and probably two thirds of the remainder would have been in use in the Roman period. This leaves us with the estimate that 55% of all local pottery would date to Roman Times. That would give a number of shards of about 13,750. Assumed that most of the local pottery would have been used for the preparation of food, this means that one third of all pottery used for food preparation consisted of local wares. This is a staggering number and could implicate an interruption in the delivery of supplies over a prolonged time, or a relatively vast number of locally recruited soldiers.⁹² The recruiting of troops would then have taken place after Germanicus' campaign of 15 AD, when he passed the territories of both Chauci and Frisians. This would account for the presence of Chaukian and Frisian pottery in the camp. Before the campaign only pottery of the indigenous people living in the vicinity of the fortress, which probably still held up their original 'Hollands' tradition as is shown by the pottery types 1.6 and 2.6.

⁹¹ Bosman 1997, p 300

⁹² This assumption was also vented by Eef Stoffels, who, on the basis of Bosman's observations, concluded: 'Dit maakt de aanwezigheid van inheemse hulpstroepen binnen Velsen des te waarschijnlijker.' *This makes the presence of local auxiliary troops within Velsen all the more likely.* Stoffels 2006, 6.3 on p 63.

This would also account for Bosman's observations that large quantities of Frisian pottery superseded these local types.

10.0 Comparison to the fortress at Nijmegen

Fortunately a thorough study of the local wares found in the Augustan Castra on the Hunerberg in Nijmegen gives us an insight in the distribution and use of local wares in a predominantly Roman situation.⁹³ Yet, the native pottery made up for a quarter of all pottery used there. This too is a staggering amount, but in many respects differs greatly from what was found at Velsen. Firstly the functional category in Velsen can be described as predominantly made for food preparation and consumption, whereas in Nijmegen a whole variety of forms will have served various purposes.⁹⁴ This will be an indication that the users of that pottery were a different group of people in a different situation. On the other hand, the range of forms in the West and the North of the Netherlands was very limited and pots would have served several uses. In Nijmegen too, 90% of all pottery is ascribed to food preparation.⁹⁵ The conclusion for both sites must be that the large amounts of native pottery did not come there as packaging material for exchange goods, but were specifically used in the camps for food preparation. This was most likely done by people who were used to this sort of pottery and can't have been other than auxiliary troops. In Nijmegen these have been Batavians and in Velsen these have been Chauci and Frisians. Contrary to Nijmegen, the presence of women in Velsen can only be assumed, not proved.

Summary

The excavation at Velsen I yielded a large amount of locally made pottery from at least three centuries of occupation including the short period the Romans had a fortress on that place. Unfortunately all this material had been mixed by geological processes. As too little was known about the exact dating of locally made pottery, first an attempt was made to group the pottery into periods and types. For this enterprise use was made of the inventory Van Heeringen made in the 1980's. This inventory some unpublished material from Den Helder and Schagen was added and for good comparison Woltering's inventory from material from the island of Tessel proved very helpful. This led to a catalog of types through 6 periods in history. This was the basis for comparison of the Velsen material.

The oldest signs of habitation date from the fourth century BC and continue up to Roman times. It is even possible the site was inhabited when the Romans arrived. Why the Romans settled there, could be the same reason why local people inhabited the place: the presence of the river. The nearby important ritual place in the Velserbroekpolder and the possibility that the river was the natural frontier between tribes, all contribute to the importance of the site. In the fights of 27, Roman

⁹³ Stoffels 2006

⁹⁴ Stoffels 2006, 5.2.1 on p. 49

⁹⁵ Stoffels 2006, 5.4 on p 57

equestrian troops are said to have crossed the river, which may give indication to a 'ford', a place to get safely across. From a strategic point of view enormously important.

Romans held contact with Batavians, which is hardly surprising as the Romans in Velsen depended on other Roman troops upstream the Rhine where Nijmegen was the centerpoint. Yet surprisingly little native pottery can be attributed to the Batavians. This could lead to the assumption that no Batavian troops of any importance were stationed at Velsen.

Germanicus used Velsen as a basis for his campaigns into the Frisian and Chaukian territories. Despite the fact that these campaigns were not so successful, quite a lot of 'northern', Chaukian pottery was found. This is a clear indication that Chaukian people were recruited as auxiliary soldiers on the way back to Velsen. Also Frisians may have accompanied the Romans as auxiliary troops, but their pottery didn't differ from what was made just north of Velsen in Noord-Holland and can therefore not be differentiated.

Comparison of sizes of pottery used in native Frisian sites, both in Iron Age and Roman times with that used in Velsen, only indicates the impossibility of this comparison as too few parameters are known. Even native sites can differ greatly. Yet the size of the Chaukian ware indicates a probable different way of food consumption as no amount of individual small pots can be shown.

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Some natural processes observed

As in the main body of text was explained, many shards suffered from exposure to the elements, thus diminishing the amount of information that was once there. Tempering material such as shell grit has mostly disappeared under the influence of acids and surfaces that were once burnished have turned dull or even rough.



Fig. 101 Disappeared shell grit can only be seen if a recognizable imprint was left

In the Middle Ages the terrain must have become 'swampy' making it possible for iron oxides to develop naturally. Rusty deposits on the shards are frequently observed and sometimes a real crust of iron oxides has formed on the shard.



Fig 102 Shard from the harbor with a shiny layer of iron oxide due to natural processes.

An other interesting phenomenon that was observed, was the fretting by sea acorns. As the exoskeleton of these animal also consists of calciferous material, the shallow round depressions on some eroded shards, first remained a mystery. In the course of the investigation into the phenomenon, it became clear that they were certainly not man-made. Only when minute remains of the foot of the animal were seen around the depressions, the mystery was solved. Unfortunately it remains obscure in what period the sea acorns lived, though most shards were shell tempered and therefore suggest a date in the Middle iron Age.



Fig 103 Fretting by sea acorns left numerous small depressions in this originally shell-grit tempered shard



Fig. 104 Fortunately a small amount of the shell of a sea acorn was left, so that the mystery of the round depressions on some shards could be explained

Out of the box

In dual respect the shard discussed here is out of the box. No doubt unobserved by investigators into the Roman material from the excavation, sometimes small amounts of Roman pottery were found among the boxes supposed to be containing locally made pottery alone. One of these small surprises was a shard of a white baked wine jar with a sgraffito reading 'MAR' written in ligature.⁹⁶ It could either be the abbreviation of a person's name or the indication of the month of

⁹⁶ Box 9760, catalogued as 'loose find 6700, 2-8-1986'

March.



Fig. 105 Sgraffito 'MAR' on a Roman wine jug, found among native pottery as a loose find