

Inkpen's Beakers

A beaker and a four-legged bowl from Inkpen, Berks.—Mr. H. J. E. Peake, F.S.A., Local Secretary for Berkshire, sends the following: Messrs. James Edwards & Sons of Inkpen have recently opened a sand-pit on the east side of the road from Hungerford to Inkpen, opposite Colnbrook Copse and not far from Totterdown Farm. While one of their men, Albert Culley, was working in this pit on 18th October 1934, he found at a depth of 4 ft. from the surface a red earthenware pot, in which was another, taller and narrower, like a jug standing in a basin, except that the inner pot was leaning forward, having been dislodged from its upright position by the roots of a bush (pl. xxii).

Both pots are hand-made, of well-kneaded clay, symmetrically formed, and covered with a bright red ochrous slip, which had been burnished with a flat stone or bone tool before firing.

The taller pot is a typical beaker, of the type termed B 1 by Lord Abercromby. It is 10 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, being the tallest yet recorded and exceeding by half an inch in height the specimen from Somersham, Hunts., now in the Cambridge Museum. Its diameter at the rim is 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., at the belly 7 in., and at the base 3 in. It is decorated with four zonal bands of finely incised ornament, notched with a finely pointed tool after burnishing had been completed, but before baking. The three upper zones consist of two bands of XXXX, separated by three horizontal lines and having four more above and four below; in the bottom zone there is only one line of XXX with three lines on each side.