

ALAN SAWILLE

WAT MUSE SCOTLAND
York Buildings
Green St EH2 1JD

NOB33NE 8

NS/829/3

page 1 of 14



Gary Dodgson
5 Coquetdale Ave
Walkerdene
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE6 4LP

23rd February 1995

Deanna Groom

Mary Rose Museum
The Mary Rose Trust
College Road
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LX

READHMS
John Sinclair House
16 Bernard Terrace
Edinburgh EH8 9NX

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a sports diver from Newcastle Upon Tyne and while diving off the West Coast of Scotland in October 1994 at a depth of 15 metres and on a muddy silty sloping bottom with no wrecks visible, I came across a two handled jug which looked very old so I was very keen to know of its origin and history. I took it along to Durham University (archaeology department) where they could not identify this jug. They did however give me a brief description about the jug and have suggested that I seek further advice.

I have enclosed the brief description and photographs of the jug and also a map on where the jug was found.

If you have any information or suggestions for identifying the jug could you please contact me at my address or on telephone number 091 2341 448.

Yours faithfully

Gary R Dodgson

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page 2 of 14

G Dodgson
5 Coquetdale Ave
Walkerdene
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE6 4LP

21/3/95

Dear Mr Dodgson

Thank you very much for your letter together with photographs of the ceramic jug you found last October. I am afraid that we cannot help you with the identification, and suggest that you contact Alan Saville at the National Museum of Scotland, York Buildings, Queen St, Edinburgh EH2 1JD.

In the first instance you should declare the object to the receiver of wreck (info enclosed), and I will leave this up to you to do, unless you have done this already.

I have taken the liberty of sending your letter and photos to Deanna Groom, RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH18 9NX. Deanna is compiling a sites and monuments register for Scotland, so she will be able to help you regarding other findspots, provided they are reported. The Museum may be able to help with identification.

I am sorry that we cannot be of more help, but we have a very small department and are very restricted in our expertise.

Call Deanna if you don't hear from her within the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Alex Hildred



letter type
11/21/94

Deanna Groom
RCAHMS

7 April 1995

Gary Dodgson
3 Coquetdale Avenue
Walkerdene
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE6 4LP

Dear Mr. Dodgson,

Re: Two-handled jug from Camas Nathias

I have recently received Alex Hildred's letter regarding the lovely ceramic vessel which you found in the sea near Oban. I was most interested to see the photographs and description, and have today passed on the information to Alan Saville, Artefact Research Unit, Department of Archaeology, National Museum of Scotland, Queen Street Edinburgh EH2 1JD. I hope do will not mind, as he may be able to supply more information about it identity and origin. Although I know a little about the subject, I feel it is much better to get the opinion of the experts.

As Alex Hildred mentioned in her letter to you, we are in the process of developing a national maritime sites and monuments record for Scotland to record shipwrecks, find spots and evidence of submerged settlement sites around the coast. Unfortunately at present time, we are only 3 months into the project and having to concentrated on developing the database structure. Hence at present I am unable to supply any information about historic ship losses in the vicinity. In time the database will develop to include historical documentary references which I hope will help to perhaps identify the vessel from which your jug may have come. This might be a year or two yet, but we are most happy to receive information about finds and about sites that you have dived in Scotland. I enclose a leaflet about the National Monuments Record.

I note that Alex Hildred suggested that you report the find to the Receiver of Wreck, this is just to comply with current regulations and should be done if you haven't already. The new Receiver of Wreck is an extremely nice lady who is most concerned that finders of marine objects do get expert advice on conservation. She sees one of her roles as being able to quickly put you in touch with local experts. Well done on seeking advice. Marine finds are often extremely delicate. Exposure to air and uncontrolled drying after retrieval can cause great damage due to the salt crystallising as the object dries. Even robust objects such as pottery suffer, particularly if the vessel is glazed. Making sure that the temperature does not fluctuate, keeping the object in dry conditions and keeping the light levels low will keep the vessel good condition. If you do notice any changes or crumbling you might like to get in contact with Anne Allan, who is an underwater archaeologists currently working for the North of England Museum Service, House of Recovery, Bath Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE4 58Q. Tel: 0191 222 1661. She will no doubt be able to advise you on the person to contact within the Museum Service who deals with artefact conservation. Although I'm sure the University of Durham would be able to advise you again.

Alan Saville may be in touch with you directly, otherwise as soon as he responds to me I will let you know his conclusions and return your photographs.

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Page 4 of 14

Yours sincerely,

Deanna Groom

Project Manager, Maritime Record.

N0839NE 8

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page 8 of 14

Deanna Groom, RCAHMS

5 June, 1995

Gary Dodgson
3 Coquetdale Avenue
Walkerdene
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE6 4LP

Dear Mr. Dodgson,

Re: Two-handled jug from Camas Nathias

Please find enclosed the photographs and sketches which were sent to me by Alex Hildred, Mary Rose Trust. I have copied the information for inclusion in the National Monuments Record (maritime). Alan Saville, National Museums of Scotland, recently sent me a quick note saying that he thought the jug was Mediterranean and he would let me know more in due course. However in the meantime, I thought that I should return your photographs.

Thank you again for allowing us to see them..

Yours sincerely,

Deanna Groom

Project Manager, Maritime Record.

POT FROM THE SEA WEST OF OBAN

Two-handled jug, with slightly everted rim, and foot ring. The pot has been wheel-thrown, and the handles added later.

The pot fabric has a buff-pink interior, and yellowish inner and outer surfaces. There is now no evidence of a glaze, but it is possible that this has been completely removed by prolonged immersion in the sea. The pot fabric has small quartz/grit inclusions, with some holes visible on the outer surface where larger inclusions have been lost. The outer and inner surfaces are now stained from contact with marine deposits.

The pot is not thought to be either English or Scottish. Several people have looked at it, and the general consensus seems to be that it is probably of Mediterranean or Spanish origin, with a possible Medieval or post-Medieval date (c. 14th-18th century). However, no-one I have showed it to could give a firm identification.

Conservation

The pot was washed in changes of tap water, to remove the soluble salts from the seawater. Because it was rather smelly, it was left in a 0.1% solution of Panacide, a biocide, for a couple of days, during the washing process.

The surface deposits were softened by immersion in a 5% solution of Hydrochloric acid for an hour. Some of the barnacles etc were dissolved by this treatment, and the rest were removed manually.

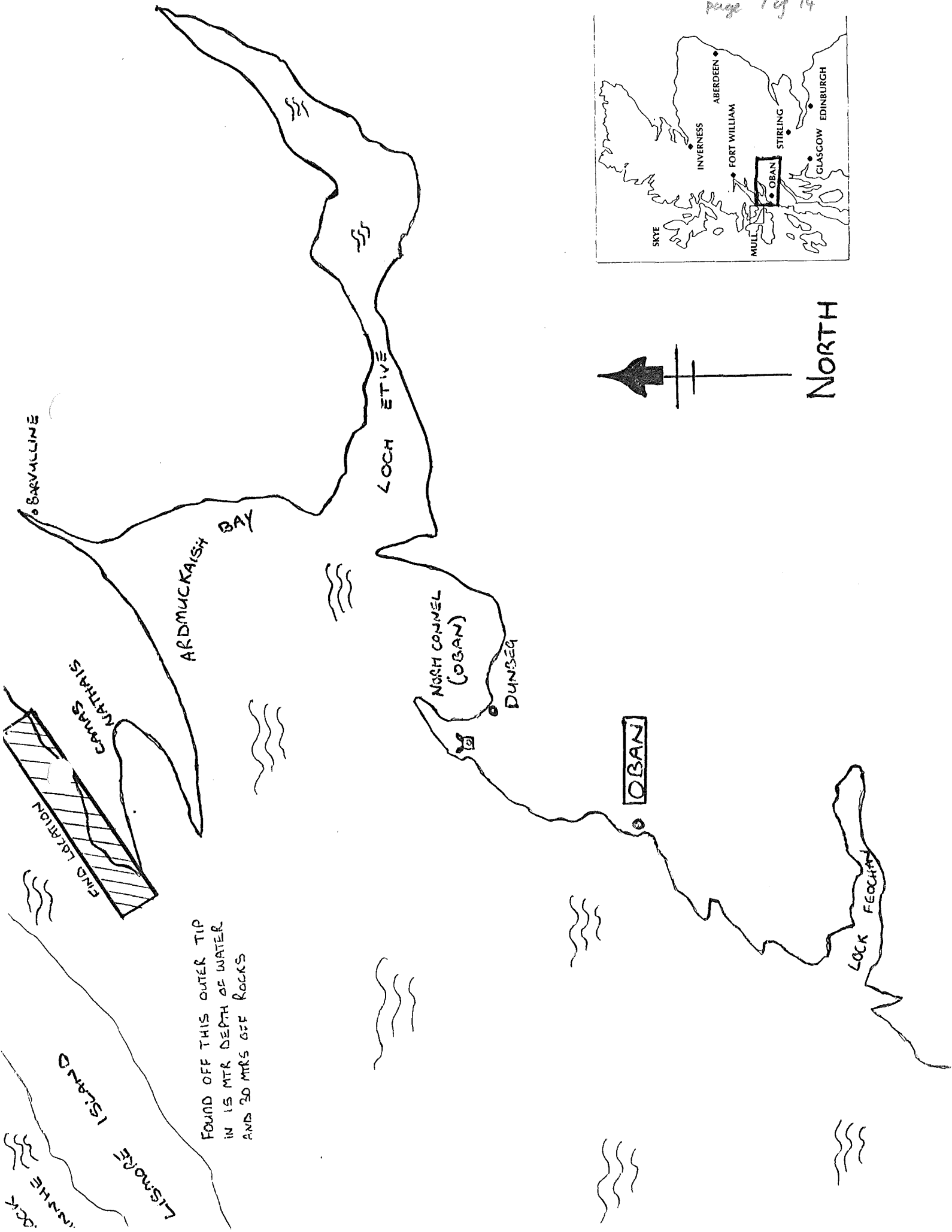
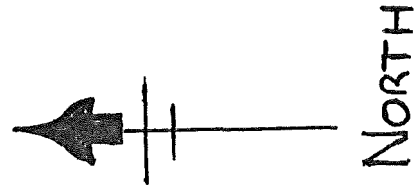
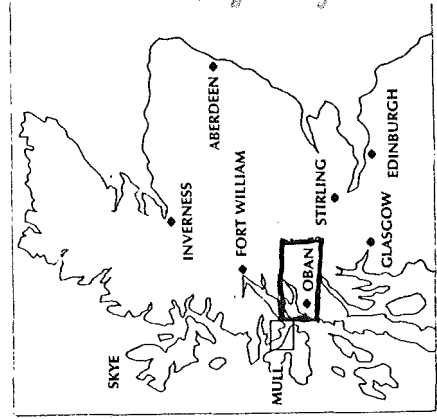
The pot was washed in further changes of tap water, to remove traces of the acid. The pot was dried out slowly in a loosely closed plastic box.

Packed with acid-free tissue, and polythene bubble-pack. The pot seems to be stable, with no evidence of salts being deposited on the surface. There are no serious cracks visible, but it should be handled with care, and stored in a stable environment.

Further Information

If the exact findspot of the pot is known, it might be worth contacting a Maritime Museum, to see if the wrecks at that spot have been recorded.

Also, send photos and descriptions of the pot to places which may have had more experience in identifying foreign marine finds.



FOUND OFF THIS OUTER TIP
 IN 15 MTR DEPTH OF WATER
 AND 20 MTRS OFF ROCKS

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page 2 of 14

National Maritime Museum
Romney Road, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
Tel 081 858 4422

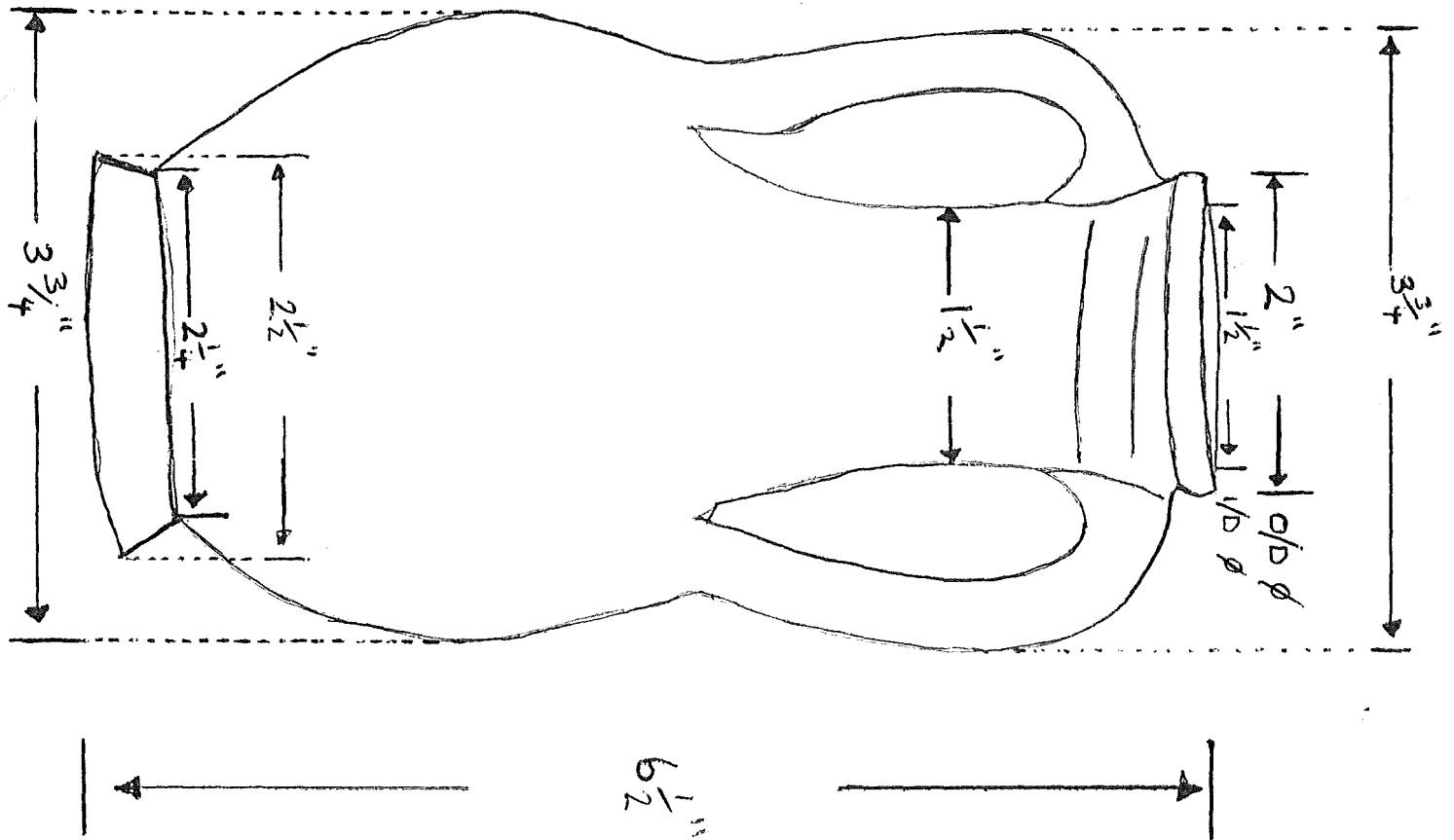
Mary Rose Museum
The Mary Rose Trust,
College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LX
Tel 0705 750521

Merseyside Maritime Museum
Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AA
Tel 051 207 0001.

NUMBER 9

NS/929/3

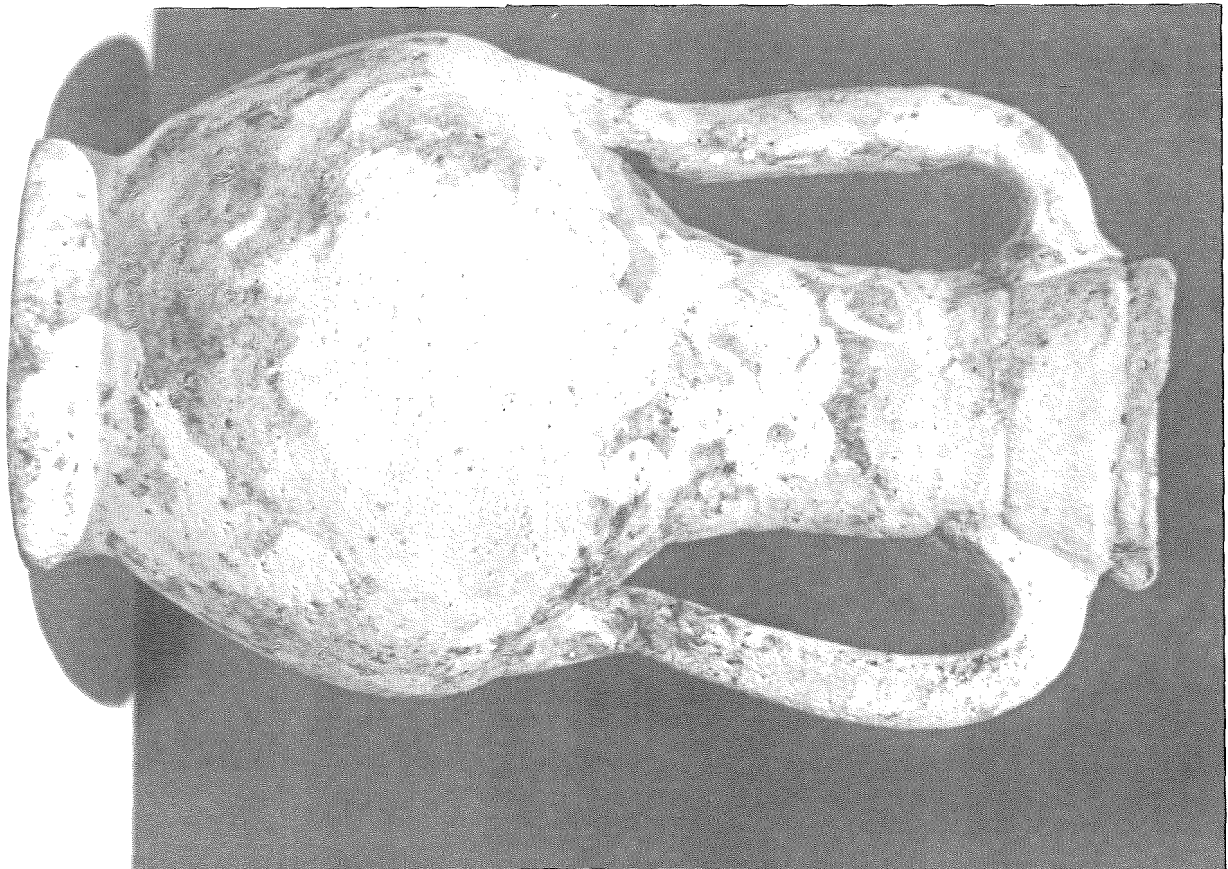
page 9 of 14



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page 10 of 14







NS/829/3

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page 13 of 14

