A5: TRUMPET PEDESTALS

The true 'trumpet' pedestal should have a definite turned-out curve at the lip of the foot, and is usually quite deep. The body is plain, but cordons are common on neck and foot; the neck is often tall to counterbalance the high foot. The form requires some skill in maintaining a good line and getting the base to join the body well and smoothly. The examples illustrated show varying degrees of success. There is even a HM copy, from Mucking, which has a distinct hiccup at the join of body and pedestal; the pedestal rim has a flat-footedness which is inevitable in a HM version.

Notes
It is very much an Essex form, popular for burials; it is unknown in Kent, and in the Beds.-Bucks, area, and the Herts, examples are all fragments from settlement contexts except for the elegant little pot from Welwyn D, which is 1st century BC. Hawkes
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and Hull (1947) considered it derived from imported Gallo-Belgic pedestalled beakers. The development seems, perhaps, a natural one, but stimulated by elegant foreign models.

The early date of the Welwyn pot is anomalous, since the form in its classic shape (which Welwyn is not) is absent from the 1st century BC Lexden graves. It is 1st century AD in Essex; continuing after the conquest but gone by the end of the century. Trumpet bases were very common at Sheeepen, by far the commonest pedestal form there, but stereotyped and often thin, hard, and romanised, although some are in thick soft native ware. Roman examples are known from the Vinces Farm pit, Ardleigh, and elaborately cordoned and burnished from the unpublished excavations at the same site (Hull & Erith, n.d.; there are a few in Roman pale grey wares from the Chelmsford excavations (Site S, unpublished; post-Boudiccan); another Roman example comes from Tilbury (Wheeler 1930, fig.56, 2). Many of those illustrated are romanised or associated with Roman vessels; but there remain plenty in good native fabric. The Creeksea urn with angled shoulder is a local form found also at Sheepen (one in the type trays) and at Kelvedon (unpublished; County Unit excavations). Two of those illustrated from Great Chesterford are similar; this is an instance where Great Chesterford appears more in the orbit of Essex pottery fashions than that of Zone 7. It is also curious that the A5 form should be so common in S Essex and yet quite unknown in Kent.