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THE ROMAN POTTERY CENTRES OF URMITZ AND MAYEN (DISTRICT MAYEN-KOBLENZ, GERMANY)

New archaeological and typological evidence for dating their production and the usage of their products

Urmitz/Weissenthurm

The common-ware potteries of Urmitz/Weissenthurm were situated in the Middle-Rhine/Mosel-region, close to the city of Koblenz in the western German federal state Rheinland-Pfalz, in the ancient province *Germania superior*. The state of research on the pottery center, which extended across the meadow “Am guten Mann” between the municipalities of Urmitz und Weissenthurm in the so-called Neuwieder valley, is moderate: known since the 19th century, no intensive excavations were undertaken before those of the 1970s by Hans Eiden (OELMANN 1914, 70; UNVERZAGT 1916, 32; STAMM 1962, 91; EIDEN 1982, 175–195). Since then the numerous discoveries await a complete scholarly analysis. Characteristic for Urmitz coarse ware is a whitish, yellowish or beige-coloured fabric which is moderately textured and of slaty pattern, containing fine, often red quartz sand. The colour of the sherd’s surface varies from grey, grey-blue, yellowish-beige to yellowish-green (OELMANN 1914, 70; STAMM 1962, 91–92).

Until recently the common ware from Urmitz has been analyzed mostly in relation to sites other than Urmitz itself: according to these studies coarse ware of Urmitz-technique can be traced along the river Rhine at least as far as Worms and Nijmegen, along the river Mosel as far as Trier and along the *limes* from the Roman fort at Niederbieber as far as the Odenwald (OELMANN 1914, 70; STAMM 1962, 91; BAKKER 1987, 43; HUNOLD 1997, 129).¹ Amongst the finds from the *limes*-forts at Niederbieber and Holzhausen, which were occupied approximately between AD 190 and 260, products from Urmitz make up the majority of the coarse ware. They do not occur yet at *Nida*-Hedderheim around AD 181. The production near Urmitz/Weissenthurm probably began in the second half of the 2nd century and achieved supra-regional importance not before the 3rd century as research at *Nida*-Hedderheim, Altenstadt, Echzell, Langenhain (Wetterau) and Urmitz demonstrates (OELMANN 1914, 70; PFERDEHIRT 1976, 113; BIEGERT 1997, 12; SIMON/KÖHLER 1992, 102, 104; BERNHARD 2005, 166; EIDEN 1982, 171).²

Widespread is the thesis that the potteries were seriously affected by the general crisis during the third quarter of the 3rd century – resulting in their abandonment – as the Urmitz-ware is seemingly absent from all 4th-century sites (UNVERZAGT 1916, 32; EIDEN 1982, 172; GILLES 1985, 95; STAMM 1962, 101).³ According to L. Bakker, however, who refers

to unpublished finds excavated in the adjoining vicus, the ware might have been produced until the middle of the 4th century – an observation which apparently has not found any response (BAKKER 1987, 43).⁴

Without claiming to present a complete compilation of all existing data, I would like to introduce results of an analysis of certain Urmitz vessels concerning their occurrence during the 4th century. The basis of this research was mainly typological comparison.

Proofs of production of Urmitz vessels during the 4th century

At several sites in the area of the lower Mosel Urmitz vessels were recovered which suggest production and usage of Urmitz ware in the 4th century.

Seven bowls from a *villa rustica* near Winningen, district Mayen-Koblenz (KIESEL 2005, 333–334), of which one is illustrated here (**fig. 1,1**), possibly represent an intermedi-

¹ This study is a by-product of my dissertation (KIESEL 2005) which was supported by the “Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe Rheinland-Pfalz, Direktion Archäologie, Amt Koblenz”, in the person of Dr. H.-H. Wegner. See also M. KIESEL, Die römischen Töpfereien von Urmitz und Mayen, Kreis Mayen-Koblenz. Ihre Bedeutung für den Absatz von Gebrauchskeramik im Rhein-Mosel-Gebiet und neue Erkenntnisse zur Produktionsdauer. Zeitschr. Schweizer. Arch. u. Kunstgesch. 65/1–2, 2008, 129–132; ID., Rauhwandige römische Keramik aus Urmitz/Weissenthurm (Kr. Mayen-Koblenz), Zu Typenspektrum, Produktions- und Nutzungsdauer. Arch. Korbl. 38/3, 2008, 1–9; ID., Zur Datierung der Produktion von rauhwandiger Ware Mayener Technik. Ber. Arch. Mittelrhein u. Mosel 12, 2007, 207–214 (by misunderstanding an older version of the paper was published, therefore it contains some mistakes).

² The imprecise dating of the beginning of the production is based exclusively on the similarly unsure dating of the *vicus* at Urmitz-Weissenthurm; see BAKKER 1987, 43.

³ H.-H. WEGNER in: H. Cüppers, Die Römer in Rheinland-Pfalz (Stuttgart 1990) 662–663. – Compare: H. v. PETRIKOVITS, Bonner Jahrb. 142, 1937, 334 (on the layers of the fort at Schnepfenbaum-Qualburg). – BERNHARD 2005, 166, according to whom the ware “is widespread until AD 260 in the northern *limes* area and the northern Upper-Rhine region”.

⁴ L. BAKKER, Gefäßkeramik in spätrömischer und frühmittelalterlicher Zeit. In: A. Wolff, Die Domgrabung Köln. Altertum – Frühmittelalter – Mittelalter. Kolloquium zur Baugeschichte und Archäologie 14.–17. März 1984 in Köln. Stud. Kölner Dom 2 (Köln 1996) 222. – Already STAMM 1962, 92 considered it possible that the ware was still produced “some decades” after the abandonment of the *limes*.

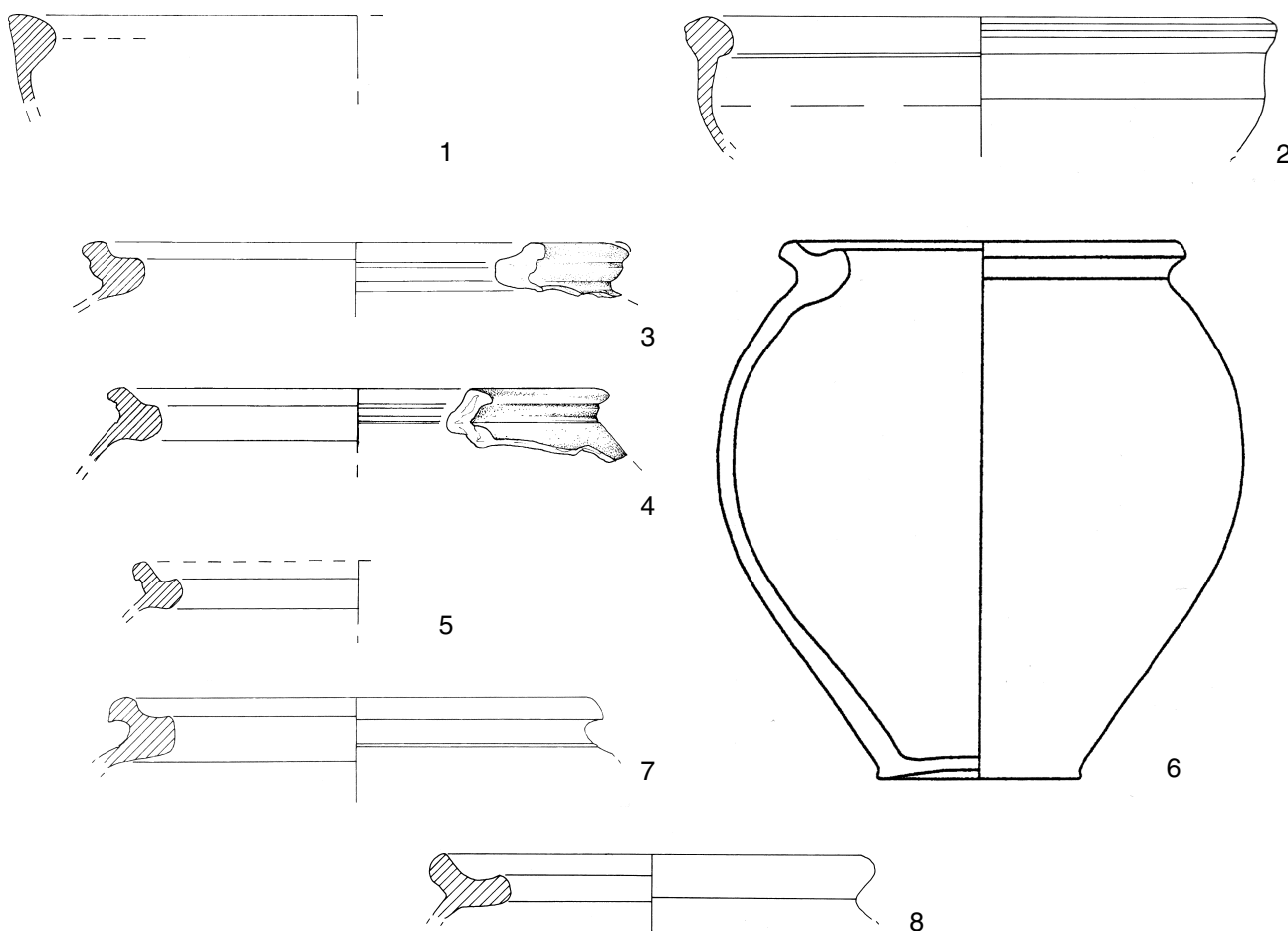


Fig. 1. Urmitz ware. (1.3–5 pencil drawings M. Kiesel, ink drawings A. Bogott, Koblenz; 2.7.8 after HUNOLD 1995 fig. 20, 22; 13,15–16; 6 after BRÜCKNER 1999 pl. 2,5.)

ate stage between the types Niederbieber 104 and Gellep 121, due to their mildly outward-sloping rims and walls. This stage is already perceivable in type 63 of the pottery deriving from the Louis-Lintz square at Trier (OELMANN 1914, 76–77 pl. 4,104; PIRLING 1966, 92–93 pl. 10,121; LOESCHKE 1923 pl. 12,63). Therefore these bowls might date to a period between the second half of the 3rd and the first half of the 4th century (UNVERZAGT 1916, 34 fig. 22,6–7).

Another variant of the bowl-type Niederbieber 104 from a site in the state forest of Koblenz is characterized by a thick rim, which projects outside and inside and which is emphasized by a channelling and a groove respectively (**fig. 1,2**) (HUNOLD 1995, 276 fig. 22,20). A parallel from the construction layers of the “Kaiserthermen” of Trier at least permits the allocation of this vessel to the later 3rd century (HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972, 25–27 type 63 fig. 12i).

The shape of a lid-seated pot from the *villa rustica* near Winnigen is well documented for the 4th century (**fig. 1,3**). It displays a certain variant of the rim of lid-seated pots, an outwards directed lip, a sharply angular cordon and a horizontal lid-seating. This variant exists at least since the middle of the 2nd century AD (BAATZ 1973 pl. 19,R 11d; PFERDEHIRT 1976 pl. 17,F 550. F 700. F 716. F 727)⁵ and still occurs in the second half of the 4th century. However, then the vessels show a later characteristic, generally ob-

servable on lid-seated pots, consisting of a relatively flat angle to the wall below the rim. This later characteristic seems to appear among the pottery from the construction layers of the “Kaiserthermen” of Trier for the first time (HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972 pl. 8,68a). Therefore it was named *stage Kaiserthermen pl. 8,68a*, in contrast to the older *stage Niederbieber type 89* (KIESSEL 2005, 339–441)⁶.

Another lid-seated pot from Winnigen might belong at least to the turn from the 3rd to the 4th century, revealing a further variant of the rim, with an outwards directed lip, mildly angular cordon and horizontal lid-seating (**fig. 1,4**): Its profile tends to the *stage Kaiserthermen pl. 8,68a* and closely resembles a fragment from Tongeren dated to the first half of the 4th century. Additionally, most of the examples of this variant belong to the *stage Kaiserthermen pl. 8,68a*, which occurs from the end of the 3rd century onwards (STEIDL 2000, 86 fig. 11,1; KIESSEL 2005, 343 type 115 form 4).

⁵ This rim profile is classified by me as form 2 of type 115: see KIESSEL 2005, 342.

⁶ In contrast to the *stage Kaiserthermen pl. 8,68a* stands the earlier *stage Niederbieber type 89*, displaying a relatively steep angle of the wall below the rim. The chronological importance of the angle of the wall was emphasized by UNVERZAGT (1916, 34 type 27) and BRÜCKNER (1999, 78). – Examples 3rd–4th century: HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972, 27–28 type 68 fig. 12p; compare pl. 8,68a. – 4th century: *ibid.* 59 type 89 pl. 13,89a; 80 type 42b fig. 38,1.

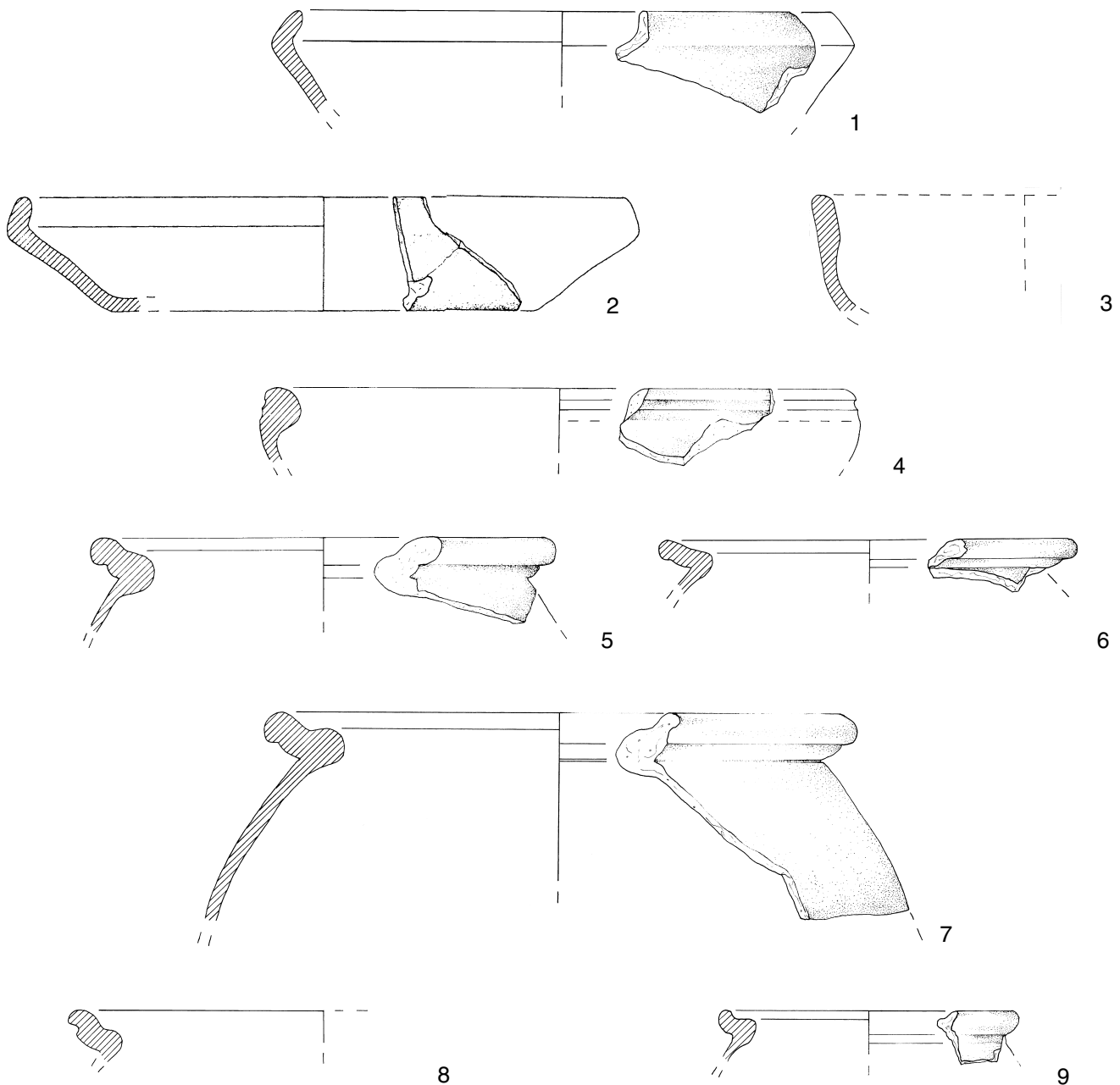


Fig. 2. 1–2 Urmitz ware; 3–9 Mayen ware. (Pencil drawings M. Kiessel; ink drawings A. Bogott, Koblenz.)

At a *villa rustica* in the state forest of Koblenz a lid-seated pot was recovered (HUNOLD 1995, 274–275 Kat.-Nr. 13 fig. 13,15) (**fig. 1,7**) which is attributable to the *stage Kaiserthermen* pl. 8,68a. Its rim-profile, an outwards directed lip, a channelling between lip and shoulder and a horizontal lid-seating, occurs massively during the 4th century (KIESSEL 2005, 344 type 115 form 6; PIRLING 1966 (2), 84–86 type 105; EAD. 1966 (1) pl. 99,6; MÜLLER 1977, 49–50 grave 126 Nr. 6; BINSFELD 1962/63 fig. 1,6). The object introduced here dates surely not before the 4th century.

A lid-seated pot, likewise from Winnigen (**fig. 1,5**), and a grave deposit from Andernach (**fig. 1,6**) (BRÜCKNER 1999, 78 pl. 2,5) correspond to the *stage Kaiserthermen* pl. 8,68a and to a rim-variant consisting of an outwards directed lip, a

channelling between lip and shoulder and a (slightly) concave lid-seating. This variant belongs mainly to the 4th century (KIESSEL 2005, 344–345 type 115 form 7; PFERDEHIRT 1976 pl. 17,F 488; 18,F 818; BINSFELD 1960/61, 76 fig. 2,18–19; UNVERZAGT 1916, 34 type 27 fig. 21,3).

Again from the state forest of Koblenz a lid-seated pot was recovered displaying a rim-variant with a diagonal, often angular rim and a horizontal lid-seating (**fig. 1,8**) (HUNOLD 1995, 274–275 Kat.-Nr. 13 fig. 13,16). Presumably this variant of the type Alzei 27 appears just briefly before the middle of the 4th century (KIESSEL 2005, 345–346 type 115 Form 8 Aa; PIRLING 1979, 157–158 pl. 62,12; BINSFELD 1960/61, 76 fig. 2,20; UNVERZAGT 1916, 34 type 27 fig. 22,10).

3rd century vessel types from Urmitz produced during the 4th century?

If the potteries at Urmitz indeed continued to produce for a period of time in the 4th century, then we may expect the production of certain vessel types of the 3rd century during the 4th century also. Those vessel types were continuously produced also by other coarse ware potteries without essential typological changes, for example:

*Plate, Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914) type 111/
Alzei (Unverzagt 1916) type 34*

Plates of this type feature a more or less strongly incurved, partially thickened rim (OELMANN 1914, 78 type 111 fig. 54,15; 55,21; BAATZ 1962, 46 pl. 12,11.15). Therefore the Niederbieber type is interpreted as predecessor of the related type Alzei 29/34 (REDKNAP 1999, 156 type R 6; STEIDL 2000, 91 [Alzei type 29]). Vessels with rounded and thickened incurved rim correspond to a variant A. Concerning the short and sharply incurved rims of a variant B the distinction from the type Alzei 34 is nearly impossible (KIESSEL 2005, 354–357 type 127–128). Variant B does not obviously occur before the 3rd century, probably not until the second quarter of that century (MÜLLER 1962, 37 ff. pl. 14,21; BAATZ 1962 pl. 12,11.15). Among the findings from the construction layers of the “Kaiserthermen” it is still rare: only six out of more than 150 plates correlate with this variant whereas the majority of more than 300 plates, recovered from the 4th century filling of the bath’s cellar corridors, belongs to variant B (HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972, 25 type 62c fig. 12,c–d; 57–58 type 81c–d pl. 14,81c–81d). Two Urmitz vessels of variant B from the *villa rustica* near Wunningen may be dated to the 3rd or to the 4th century (fig. 2,1–2).

*Plate, Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914) type 113/
Pirling (1966) type 128*

This plate type is a typical Urmitz product and experienced widespread distribution in sites of the “Niederbieber era”. The type, produced also by other coarse ware potteries, persists until the second half of the 4th century, despite a decline in frequency (OELMANN 1914, 78 type 113 pl. 4,113; PIRLING 1966, 95–96 type 128; HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972, 84 Type 25 fig. 42,25). Its outward-sloping wall can be slightly curved or straight, without being of chronological significance (KIESSEL 2005, 353 type 121; HUNOLD 1997, 148). The vessel presented here (fig. 2,3) derives, like six other Urmitz vessels, from the mid-4th century floor layer b of the auxiliary building C of the *villa rustica* near Wunningen (KIESSEL 2005, 362). It was therefore at least in use during the 4th century.

Coarse ware production at Urmitz after the abandonment of the limes?

The concentrated evidence proves, according to my opinion, that we have to consider either a limited continuity of the Urmitz potteries after the abandonment of the *limes*, or the existence of workshops which produced with “Urmitz know-how” and which had access to the same clay resources.

The lack of Urmitz ware within supra-regional contexts of the first half of the 4th century may have been caused by the dominance of the Mayen potteries since the late 3rd century, resulting in a production of the Urmitz workshops for the local markets only. Possibly the typical lack of 4th-century vessel forms in regional sites is related to a certain conservatism of these workshops and with a continuation of traditional vessel forms. Key products like the lid-seated pot and the bowl type Niederbieber 104 probably survived into the 4th century in rather conservative forms of the 3rd century. Occasionally form innovations of the 4th century were applied as is shown by some of the examples described above.

Mayen

Like Urmitz, Mayen is also situated in the Middle Rhine/Mosel region. The widely-known late Roman coarse ware from Mayen, on which a comprehensive study has been published recently, was traded as far as the Upper Rhine, the Netherlands, Belgium and even Britain (REDKNAP 1999). According to traditional opinion, this characteristic late Roman ware appears at the end of the 3rd century – after the crisis during the third quarter of that century (REDKNAP 1999, 61–65; STAMM 1962, 101)⁷. This chronology has been accepted since the study of the ceramics from the Roman fort of Alzei by W. Unverzagt (UNVERZAGT 1916, 32; STAMM 1962, 101–102; BERNHARD 2005, 166). Meaningful, closely datable findings, however, do not date before the first half of the 4th century, according to my knowledge (REDKNAP 1999, 61–62)⁸. The late Roman ware is well documented in settlements at least until the middle of the 5th century, a period when style and production methods would change during approximately one generation (REDKNAP 1999, 63–64; BERNHARD 2005, 166) and lead to post-antique Mayen earthenware (REDKNAP 1999, 65–66). Late Roman products from Mayen display a rugged, roughly textured sherd, which encloses fairly large quartz grains and blackish shining augite. The sherd’s surface colour varies between whitish-yellow, light brown, grey, dark brown, red-brown, red, purple and black (REDKNAP 1999, 58; STAMM 1962, 102).

According to a short note by W. Unverzagt in 1916 there had already been local potteries at Mayen, *before* the potteries of the characteristic coarse ware (recovered at the Roman fort at Niederbieber and today known as the Urmitz/Weissenthurm ware) allegedly abandoned production due to the crisis in the third quarter of the 3rd century (UNVERZAGT 1916, 32; STAMM 1962, 101; OELMANN 1914, 70). Therefore

⁷ R. M. SWOBODA, Die spätrömische Befestigung Sponeck am Kaiserstuhl. Münchner Beitr. Vor- u. Frühgesch. 36 (München 1986) 86–87 note 41, who recognized a majority of the ceramics of the Upper-Rhine region which had been identified as Mayen ware by R. Fellmann, as products from other pottery workshops. Alike: STEIDL 2000, 84.

⁸ For critical comment on the layers of the fort at Schnepfenbaum-Qualburg, see E. SCHALLMAYER, Zur Chronologie in der Römischen Archäologie. Arch. Korbl. 17, 1987, 488. See also: LENZ 1999, 47–48 (on the Germanic invasions of AD 260/275 and on the burial site of Krefeld-Gellep); GILLES 1985, 60–61 (on the hill settlements of the “Trierer Land”).

2 nd cent.	2 nd –3 rd cent.	2 nd –4 th cent.	3 rd cent.	3 rd –4 th cent.
–	26 vessels	21 vessels	10 vessels	2 vessels

Table 1. Complex 1: building B, room 4, vessels contained in and over-lying the floor-layer.

2 nd cent.	2 nd –3 rd cent.	2 nd –4 th cent.	3 rd cent.	3 rd –4 th cent.
–	7 vessels	8 vessels	8 vessels	9 vessels

Table 2. Complex 2: building B, room 4, vessels from the pit in the western corner.

it can be supposed that vessels in Mayen-technique were already being produced on a local scale some time before the end of the 3rd century, before the supra-regional boom commencing in approximately AD 300. Clues which can prove a clearly earlier occurrence derive from discoveries in the local environment of Mayen: within the burnt-down room no. 4 of the auxiliary building B of the *villa rustica* “Auf dem Bingstel” near Winnigen, district Mayen-Koblenz (EIDEN 1982, 125 pl. 96; KIESSEL 2005), ten Mayen-vessels were discovered belonging to two complexes which date to the 3rd century.

The chronological distribution of all ceramic finds contained in and over-lying the floor-layer of room 4, is represented in **table 1**⁹.

The complex does not contain vessels which date exclusively to the 2nd century or earlier. In the group “2nd–3rd cent.,” consisting of 26 vessels of a longer duration, only two may theoretically be as early as the first half of the 2nd century. All 21 pieces of the group “2nd–4th cent.,” which contains alike forms of longer duration such as the types Niederbieber 53b or 120 (OELMANN 1914), date to the second half of the 2nd century at the earliest. Definite 4th-century forms do not occur, though. Typologically none of the fragments has to be attributed necessarily even to the end of the 3rd century, neither the two pieces from the group “3rd–4th cent.” (Niederbieber types 33 and 113), nor the three coarse ware vessels in Mayen-technique from the group “3rd cent.” (**fig. 2,4,5,8**). The same observation is effective for the filling of the pit in the western corner of room 4 (EIDEN 1982, 125 pl. 96), although nine vessels from the filling belong to the group “3rd–4th cent.” and seven vessels (in Mayen technique) do not date before the middle of the 3rd century (**fig. 2,6,7,9**, in addition to four lids, not illustrated)¹⁰.

The overall picture of the ceramic material from room 4 corresponds to ceramic complexes of the “Niederbieber era”, which belong to the period between the end of the 2nd and the third quarter of the 3rd century. The fire incident in room 4, therefore, should have taken place during the third quarter of the 3rd century, presumably close to the end of that quarter due to the presence of Mayen coarse ware. The still meagre occurrence of Mayen vessels, which stand in a ratio of 1:5 in relation to other coarse wares (10:51), certainly proves the supposed date of the fire: before the rise of the Mayen workshops at the end of the 3rd century – during a period, when coarse ware of Mayen technique could not have had much importance compared with Urmitz ware. Vice versa the two complexes of room 4, typologically belong-

ing to the “Niederbieber era”, demonstrate the first appearance of Mayen coarse ware before the end of the 3rd century, probably already around the middle of that century. In the following some of the vessels from room 4 are introduced.

Vessel types from room 4, building B, villa rustica of Winnigen

Bowl, Gilles (1985) type 45 B/Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914) type 104 (Fig. 2,4)

This variant with incurved wall and rim is frequently documented approximately from the middle of the 2nd century in burials at Neuss. Another early example derives from a pottery workshop in the Wetterau which was active until the first third of the 3rd century (MÜLLER 1977 grave 212 no. 6; grave 193 no. 6; BIEGERT 1997, 12 fig. 5,5). During the first half of this century the form appears among the finds from the hill settlements of the Trierer Land (GILLES 1985, 97 pl. 46,45B). At Mayen it was apparently produced in quantity as finds from Winnigen (12 vessels; KIESSEL 2005, 335) and from Mayen pottery sites demonstrate (REDKNAP 1999, 154 type R 2.23 fig. 13, R 2.23). According to my knowledge the type does not occur in the 4th century. It is obviously a typical variant of the form Gilles (1985) type 45 A during the second half of the 2nd and the 3rd century. Therefore the vessel presented here (**fig. 2,4**) and the eleven other vessels of this type from Winnigen in Mayen technique will surely not have been produced at the end of the 3rd century.

Lid-seated pot with cordon and horizontal lid-seat, Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914) type 89 (fig. 2,5,6,7).

Lid-seated pots with cordon and steep wall below the rim (*stage Niederbieber type 89*) appear for the first time during the period from the second half of the 2nd to the early 3rd century (MÜLLER 1977, 64–65 grave 194 no. 30; 86–87 grave 255 no. 33; 110 grave 320 no. 1; PIRLING 1997, 11–12 pl. 2,15 (grave 3762); SIMON/KÖHLER 1992 pl. 55, C VII 887). Cordon profiles are frequent during the 3rd century and occur at least until the middle of the 4th century, then being

⁹ An illustration of the complete ceramic complex cannot be given here: see KIESSEL 2005, 132–136.

¹⁰ My suggestion of dating the Mayen vessels around the middle of the 3rd century is related to the general scholarly opinion according to which this ware appears at the end of the 3rd century and from which I did not want to diverge too far. However, typologically some vessels could be dated even earlier (compare 119.67 [**fig. 2,6**] and 111.17+118.26+ 119.63 [**fig. 2,5**]).

clearly less abundant, though (PFERDEHIRT 1976 pl. 17, F176. F256. F481. F487; LOESCHKE 1923 pl. 12, 67b; OELMANN 1914 fig. 55,5; MÜLLER 1962 pl. 14,13 [Schicht VIII]; PIRLING 1966, 84–86 type 105 (grave 460); EAD.1979, 157–158; 72 pl. 72,3; HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 27–28, Type 68 fig. 12n).

Two pots with cordon from room 4 (fig. 2,5,6) correspond to the *stage Niederbieber Type 89* (2nd–end of 3rd century), whereas a third example, due to the angle of its wall, displays already a mild tendency towards the *stage Kaiserthermen Pl. 8,68a* (since end of 3rd century) (fig. 2,7). No typological necessity of dating these three vessels to the end of the 3rd century exists, though. This is effective also for a further six vessels of this type from the *villa rustica* at Winnigen, produced in Mayen technique and belonging to the *stage Niederbieber type 89*.

Lid-seated pot with angular cordon and horizontal lid-seat, Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914) type 89 (fig. 2,8)

The existence of this type is proven since the middle of the 2nd century: the form occurs among the finds from the *limes*-fort at Hesselbach which was deserted in the 250s, likewise in a grave at Koblenz-Niederberg dated to the third quarter of the 3rd century (BAATZ 1973 pl. 19, R 11d)¹¹. At the turn from the 2nd to the 3rd century the type appears in graves of the burial site of Krefeld-Gellep and within the “pottery depot” of Langenhain (PIRLING 1997, 11–12 fig. 21,1–2; 44,1; SIMON/KÖHLER 1992 pl. 55, C VII 874). It is frequent during the 3rd century, but less common during the second half of the 4th century (OELMANN 1914, 70 fig. 55,3; PFERDEHIRT 1976 pl. 17, F 550. F 700. F 716. F 727; HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972, 27–28 type 68 fig. 12p; 59 type 89 pl. 13,89a; 80 type 42b fig. 38,1). The vessel from Winnigen belongs again to the *stage Niederbieber type 89* and can be placed alongside the examples from the *limes*-fort at Holzhausen (PFERDEHIRT 1976, loc. cit.).

Handled pot with lid-seating, Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914) Type 94/Pirling (1966) Type 106 (fig. 2,9)

This rim-sherd could belong to a handle-less lid-seated pot as well, as an absolutely sure differentiation of profiles of lid-seated pots is impossible. Yet, its strongly flattened rim is a typical characteristic of many handled pots, e.g. of those recovered at the burial site of Gellep. Its small rim diameter of 14 cm supports my identification too (PIRLING 1966, 87 type 106 fig. 11,a–r; PIRLING 1979 pl. 69,10; PIRLING 1989 pl. 50,5; 54,17). As far as we know, the type appears in the later 3rd century. At Niederbieber only one, at Holzhausen no example at all was identified. On the other hand, it appears frequently within 4th-century complexes such as in Krefeld-Gellep and persists until the Frankish period (OELMANN 1914, 74 Type 94 Fig. 54,7; PIRLING 1966 (1), 87–88 Type 106; BRÜCKNER 1999, 79)¹². The development of the type’s rim profile obviously follows the same course as the handle-less lid-seated pots¹³. Sick-shaped rims or profiles displaying a sloping rim without cordon are common for handled pots during the 4th century and later (PIRLING 1966 pl. 13,1; 30,5; 72,13; 97,2; 104,5; EAD.1979 pl. 64,6; EAD.1979 (2), 10 pl. 7,1; HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972 pl. 14,90a; 17,45 fig. 45,30a–b pl. 17,45)¹⁴; profiles showing an angular cordon hardly occur,

for example, within late antique burials at Gellep (PIRLING 1966, 88 fig. 11,a–b; HUSSONG/CÜPPERS 1972, 60 type 90 pl. 14,90). As the sick-shaped profile already exists occasionally in the 3rd century¹⁵, it cannot be excluded that it appears on handled lid-seated pots in that period as well. The vessel from Winnigen (fig. 2,9), characterized by a mildly sick-shaped rim, is surely to be attributed to the *stage Niederbieber type 89*, due to its steeply sloping wall below the rim¹⁶.

Summary

The examples of Urmitz ware discussed indicate that the production of coarse ware continued locally approximately until the middle of the 4th century. Probably some of the key-products like the pot- and plate-types Niederbieber 89 and 113 survived into the 4th century in rather traditional forms of the 3rd century. Apparently there were also occasional form-innovations in the 4th century, as is shown by finds from the state-forest of Koblenz, a grave at Andernach and from a *villa rustica* near Winnigen.

The unique discovery of Mayen coarse ware within a “Niederbieber-period” complex at Winnigen and their typological analysis prove an earlier beginning of the ceramic production at Mayen. The vessels from building B of the *villa rustica* near Winnigen make it very likely that the potteries existed already around the middle of the 3rd century, before the supra-regional boom of Mayen ware commencing approximately 300 AD.

Urmitz ware

From the *villa rustica* “Auf dem Bingstel” near Winnigen, stored at Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe Rheinland-Pfalz, Direktion Archäologie, Amt Koblenz:

1. Inv.-Nr. 256.7+271.32 (fig. 1,1)
2. 97.83 (fig. 1,3)
3. 47.23+52.69 (fig. 1,4)
4. 218.17 (fig. 1,5)
- 5a–b. 40.6 und 84.1–2 (fig. 2,1 /2,2)
6. 260.7 (fig. 2,3).

¹¹ Bonner Jahrb. 145, 1940, 324 ff. fig. 64,4.

¹² However, some of the Holzhausen profiles could derive definitely from handled lid-seated pots, for example PFERDEHIRT 1976 pl. 17, F 665.

¹³ The angle of the wall below the rim is obviously similar as well, compare OELMANN 1914 fig. 54,7 (steep angle of the wall) and PIRLING 1966 pl. 14,9; 82,6; 104,5; EAD.1979 pl. 69,10; EAD.1989 pl. 50,5; 54,17 (relatively flat angle of the wall; all vessels from 4th-century graves). – Contrary: LENZ 1999, 49 and STEIDL 2000, 90.

¹⁴ U. GROSS, Zur rauhwandigen Drehscheibenware der Völkerwanderungszeit und des frühen Mittelalters. Fundber. Baden Württemberg 17/1, 1992, 425–428 fig. 3,3.

¹⁵ Occasionally, however, sick-shaped rims appear which belong to the *stage Niederbieber type 89* due to the angle of their walls (MÜLLER 1962 pl. 14,17 (from layer VIII); PFERDEHIRT 1976 pl. 17, F 665; MÜLLER 1977, 123–124 grave 399 Nr. 6). – See REDKNAP 1999, 57, who has observed Urmitz-vessels with sick-shaped rim profiles among the finds from production sites.

¹⁶ Compare OELMANN 1914 fig. 54,7.

From settlements in the state forest of Koblenz, stored in the Amt Koblenz:

7. HUNOLD 1995 fig. 13,15 (**fig. 1,7**)
8. Ibid. fig. 13,16 (**fig. 1,8**)
9. Ibid. 270; 276 fig. 22,20 (**fig. 1,2**).

Grave deposit from Andernach:

10. BRÜCKNER 1999 pl. 2,5 (**fig. 1,6**).

Mayen ware

From the *villa rustica* “Auf dem Bingstel” near Winnigen, stored at Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe Rheinland-Pfalz, Direktion Archäologie, Amt Koblenz:

- Inv.-Nr. 102.45 (**fig. 2,4**)
 Inv.-Nr. 111.17+ 118.26+ 119.63 (**fig. 2,5**)
 Inv.-Nr. 119.67 (**fig. 2,6**)
 Inv.-Nr. 121.18-21+ 122.57 (**fig. 2,7**)
 Inv.-Nr. 105.63-64 (**fig. 2,8**)
 Inv.-Nr. 122.68 (**fig. 2,9**).

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