

# Cylindrical Storage Jars

(a summary by Roman Glassmakers)

(All drawings are at scale 1:2)

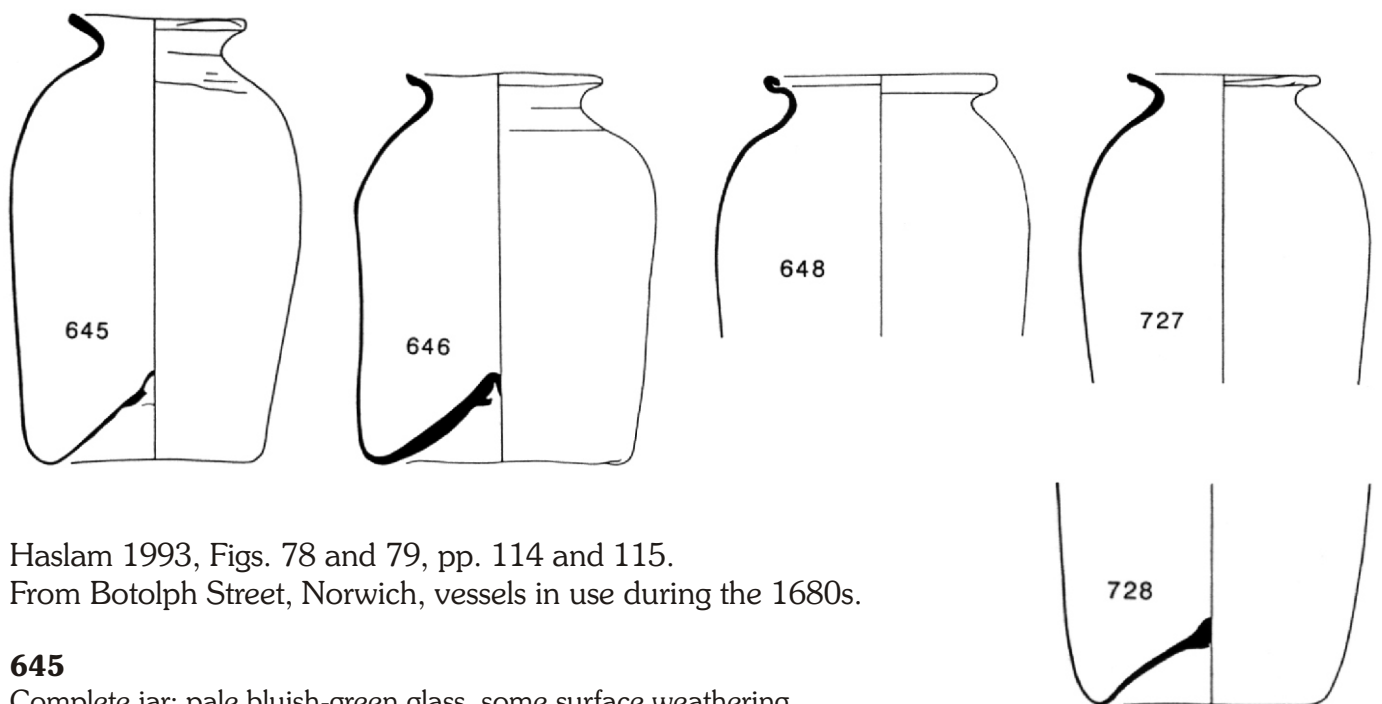
These wide-mouthed jars, possibly sealed with cloth or waxed paper tied with string, would be excellent for storing solids or semi-solids. They occur in domestic contexts such as those from a pit group in Botolph Street, Norwich, where they probably would have been used to store foodstuffs. They are also associated with apothecaries, for the storage of drugs and medicines, e.g. in the inventory of the shop of Southampton apothecary, John Brodocke in 1571 (Willmott 2002, p.97).

Cylindrical jars are common finds in England, copying pottery forms of the same date. Most have vertical sides, although some are slightly concave, possibly in imitation of the tin-glazed *albarello* (medicine storage jar).

Fragments have been found on 16th and 17th century English glasshouse sites, such as Rosedale, in Yorkshire and Haughton Green, near Manchester. This suggests English manufacture.

## Plain cylindrical storage jar with 'vertical' sides:

These vessels have vertical or slightly flaring sides, a steep shoulder and a wide, out-turned rim. They are a common find in England and date to the mid 16th - mid 17th centuries.



Haslam 1993, Figs. 78 and 79, pp. 114 and 115.  
From Botolph Street, Norwich, vessels in use during the 1680s.

### 645

Complete jar; pale bluish-green glass, some surface weathering.

### 646

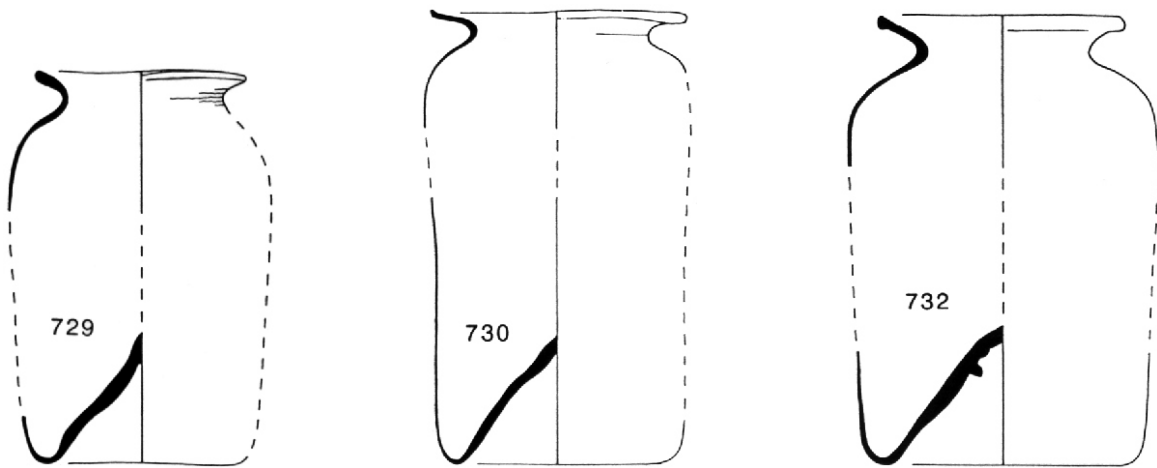
Jar, with simple everted rim; yellowish-green glass, slightly weathered on surface.

### 648

Neck and shoulder of jar, with edge of rim folded inwards; pale yellowish-green glass.

### 727, 728

Two jars, bulbous in profile, with short necks and wide mouths, comprising at least two different vessels; pale yellowish-green glass, much weathered.



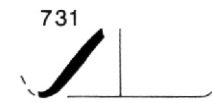
Haslam 1993, Figs. 78 and 79, pp. 114 and 115.  
From Botolph Street, Norwich, vessels in use during the 1680s.

**729**  
Neck, shoulder and base of similar jar (to **727** and **728**).

**730**  
Similar jar, but with wider neck and mouth, and flattened and turned-over rim.

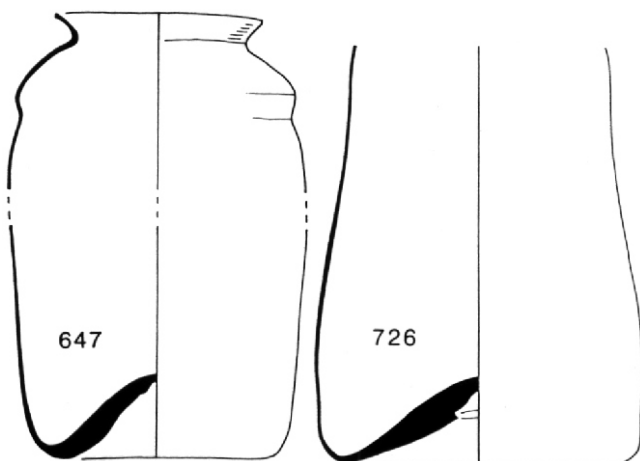
**731**  
Part of similar jar; no decoration showing.

**732**  
Neck and base of similar jar, with inturned and flattened rim; no decoration showing.



**Plain cylindrical storage jar in imitation of albarelli:**

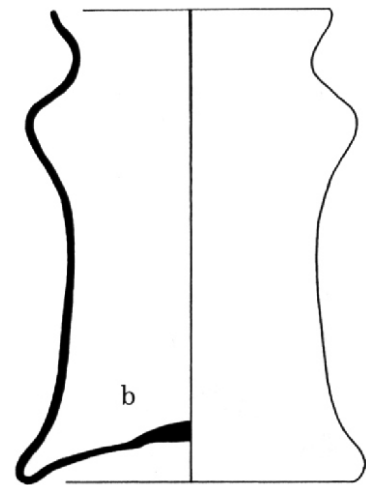
These vessels have concave or waisted sides, a steep shoulder and a wide, out-turned rim. They are a common find in England and date to the mid 16th - mid 17th centuries.



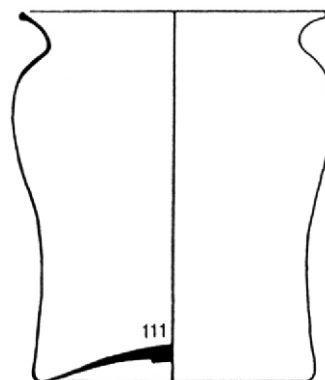
Haslam 1993, Figs. 78 and 79, pp. 114 and 115.  
From Norwich, vessels in use during the 1680s.

**647**  
Upper and lower parts of thin-walled jar, simple everted rim; pale bluish-green glass.

**726**  
Base of round bottle, with body fragments; pale olive-green glass.



*Figure 131b*  
*Plain cylindrical jar*  
Willmott 2002, from Nonsuch Palace



**Exeter, G.111:**  
Fragments of a small jar with waisted sides; green glass with encrusted brown weathering. English.

**Cylindrical jar with optic-moulded vertical ribs:**

The vertical or slightly flaring sides of these jars are decorated with vertical ribs produced by dipping the molten glass into an optic mould before blowing. They are made in England ( the finds from Rosedale may have been made there), and date to the late 16th and first half of the 17th centuries

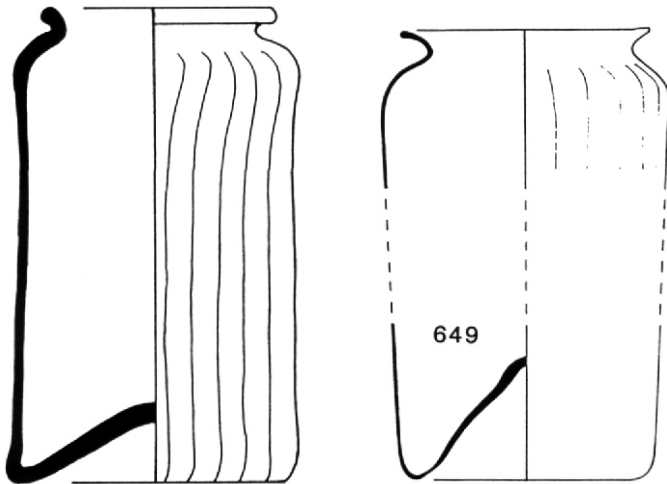


Figure 132 Cylindrical jar with optic-blown vertical ribs  
Willmott 2002, from Oxford

Haslam 1993, Figs. 78 and 79, pp. 114 and 115.  
From Botolph Street, Norwich, vessels in use during the 1680s.

**649**  
Fragments of jar, decorated with faint vertical mould-blown ribbing; pale blue glass.

**Rosedale Fig. 60, 8:**

Shoulder fragment of thin., pale green glass with faint vertical mould-blown ribbing. The line of the shoulder bulges out slightly from the vertical wall of the fragment.



FIG. 60  
HUTTON AND ROSEDALE  
Vessel glass from Rosedale

**Rosedale Fig. 60, 9:**

Shoulder fragment closely resembling 60, 8 above.

**Cylindrical jar with optic-moulded wrythen ribs:**

The vertical or slightly flaring sides of these jars are decorated with wrythen ribs produced by dipping the molten glass into an optic mould and twisting the resulting vertical ribs before blowing. They date to the late 16th and first half of the 17th centuries

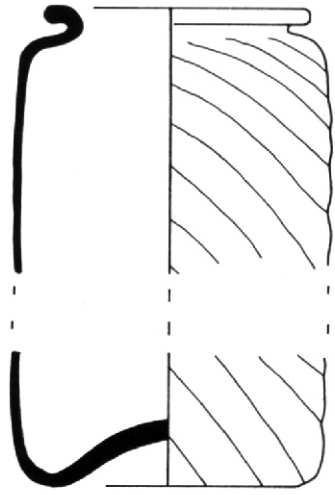


Figure 133 Cylindrical jar with optic-blown wrythen ribs  
Willmott 2002, from Oxford

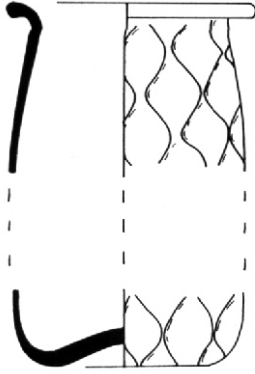


Figure 134 Cylindrical jar with optic-blown mesh  
Willmott 2002, from Oxford

**Cylindrical jar with optic-moulded mesh pattern:**

The vertical or slightly flaring sides of these jars are decorated with a diamond pattern of ribs produced by dipping the molten glass into an optic mould before blowing. They date to the late 16th and first half of the 17th centuries

### Squared cylindrical storage jar:

These vessels have bodies that are square in cross-section and vertical sides formed by mould-blowing, a steep shoulder and a wide, out-turned rim. They date to the late 16th - early 17th centuries.

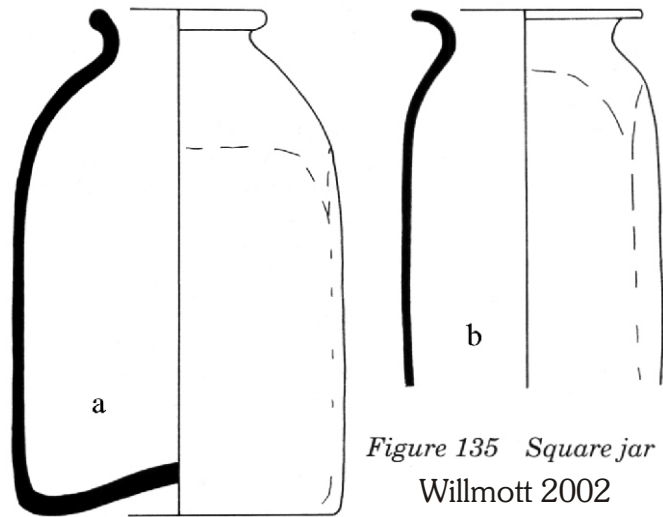


Figure 135 Square jar  
Willmott 2002

Late 16th - early 17th century squared cylindrical storage jars in the Museum of London  
(Mortimer Wheeler House, Ceramics and Glass store - Post-Medieval section)

[www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics/pages/glass.asp](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics/pages/glass.asp)

(Bottles, 17th and 18th century - Phials and small, short-necked bottles)



**5476**



**5498**



**5499**



**A23374**



**NN23801**

**5476:** London

Height: 80mm, Rim diam: 44mm, Base width: 36mm

Bottle in pale green glass. Mould-blown, squared body with concave sides, rounded steep shoulders and a wide flattened rim (chipped). Base has a shallow kick and a pontil mark.

**5498:** Old Jewry, Cheapside, London

Height: 82mm, Rim diam: 38mm, Base width: 32mm

Bottle in pale green glass with iridescent surface. Mould-blown, squared body with concave sides, rounded steep shoulders and a flattened rim. Base has a shallow kick and a pontil mark.

**5499:** London

Height: 90mm, Rim diam: 47mm, Base diam: 39mm

Bottle in green-brown glass. Mould-blown, squared body with concave sides, rounded steep shoulders and a flattened rim. Base has a shallow kick and a pontil mark.

**A23374:** Moorgate Street, Moorgate, London

Height: 93mm, Rim diam: 45mm, Base width: 45mm

Small bottle in pale blue-green glass. Mould-blown, squared body with concave sides, rounded steep shoulders, and a flattened rim. Base has a shallow kick and a pontil mark.

**NN23801:** Southwark, London

Height: 102mm, Rim diam: 35mm, Base width: 31mm

Small bottle or phial in pale green glass with some surface iridescence. Mould-blown, squared body, with concave sides, rounded steep shoulders, no neck, flattened rim (broken). Base has a shallow kick and a pontil mark. Old label: 'Roman Guild. Coll. found in Southwark 1835?'

## **Selected References:**

Willmott, Hugh (2002) 'Early post-medieval vessel glass in England c. 1500-1670' Council for British Archaeology: CBA Research Report 132 pp.97-99. Types 31.1 - 31.5

Charleston, R. J. (1984) 'The Glass', in Allan, J. 'Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter, 1971-80' Exeter Arch. Report 3, pp.258-278. Exeter: Exeter City Council

Crossley, D. W. and Aberg, F. A. (1972) 'Sixteenth-Century Glass-Making in Yorkshire: Excavations at Furnaces at Hutton and Rosedale, North Riding, 1968-1971' Journal of Post Medieval Archaeology 6 pp.136-141 (fig. 61), 146 (figs. 64 - 65)

Haslam, J. (1993) 'Glass Vessels' in Margeson, S. (ed) (1993) 'Norwich Households - Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-78' East Anglian Archaeology Monograph No. 58 (Norwich Survey) pp.97-117 (pp.104-105 (fig. 70, nos. 653-658))