

CONTINENTAL AFFINITIES

It appears that the strong bias towards local potting and regional fashions makes it difficult to match the origins of British forms to any particular area on the continent. Very little is exactly similar; rather, the British material can be seen to be a vigorous indigenous development from a pool of general ideas and forms found over a large area of France, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany (although see below). In France, it is true that the pottery of the north-east is closest, as might be expected; but some forms find parallels even in the very different pottery of central and southern France, roughly S of the Loire and in the Rhone valley. It is also apparent that 'La Tene finale' is much better known in central and southern France than it is in the northern half of the country, where 'La Tene ancienne et moyenne' sites (especially in the Paris basin and Champagne areas) are most frequent (see maps, Guilaine 1976; and Duval and Buchsenschutz 1976). Much cinerary pottery in N France comes from ancient rescue operations and suffers from a loss of associations and lack of dating; and there has been no extensive publication of settlement material (summaries in Collis 1975a).

Good parallels for particular forms are noted in the type series (see A3, A10, B5s, El-2, D3-5 for examples) but as the principle behind the study of the British pottery is based on fabric as well as form, no extensive attempt has been made to trace the development of the British forms on the continent. Some use of grog is known in the Champagne area (Flouest and Stead 1979; some crude HM forms, with wheel-made vessels in La Tene III graves); but the study of fabric in France has hardly begun.

Parallels for forms have been found chiefly in the Champagne, NE France, and Trier areas (see, e.g., A10); and in the general *French* later La Tene (El-2). The ecuelle a bord rentrant (Collis 1975b, fig.5 nos.13, 14) is very common in France and Germany in the late La Tene but does not occur in Britain (except possibly Cam.251: see G2-2) although it is found with forms that do; it emphasises the individual nature of the British forms. Two sites only just across the Channel in the Pas-de-Calais (Wissant: Mariette 1966; Frencq: Dilly 1978) illustrate many close parallels, even with less specialised forms such as B2 jars, as well as A3 and A10 pedestals; and Wissant has a D3-5 (q.v.), a rare form known only in Kent here. The evident relationship between these neighbouring areas needs pursuing.