

BEAKER POTTERY FROM HUNEBED D 19 NEAR DROUWEN,  
PROV. DRENTHE

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*Among the countless sherds of the TRB culture some sherds of two thick-walled Bell Beakers and of at least five thick pots of settlement ceramics have been found. We are dealing with a closed find which has to be dated to the period preceding that of the Veluwe Bell Beakers.*

Thanks to the ready co-operation of the director of the National Museum of Antiquities, a group of Prehistory students was given the opportunity of studying the remains which were excavated from Hunebed D 19 near Drouwen by J. H. Holwerda in 1912. One of the students, Mrs. C. Staal-Lugten, has subsequently made an analysis of the decorated TRB pottery. There appear to be various connections between the shapes of the vessels and the method of decoration employed. We hope to publish this data in the near future.

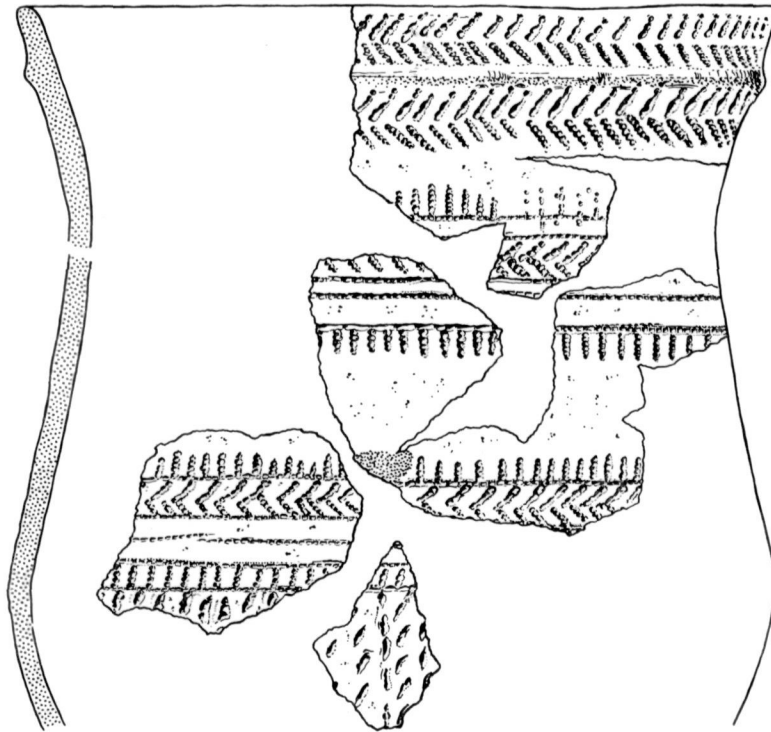
Among the sherds from D 19 are sherds from a pottery group that can clearly be distinguished from the bulk of TRB pottery. At the time Holwerda (1913) described these as sherds of a sort of 'zone beaker' and of several large 'bell urns'. These attracted our special interest as the finds from de Meerlo-er Heide (Verlinde 1971) were being studied at the same time. Indeed there exists in general a marked interest to become better informed about the properties of what can be called the every day ceramics of the Beaker Cultures. What follows does not aim at more than making a modest contribution to the knowledge of this pottery, which for a very important part consists of thicker sherd-material than we are accustomed to in beakers from graves.

Unfortunately the conditions of the find in the present instance give nothing to go by. The tremendous quantity of sherds from the Drouwen Hunebed were not separated either horizontally or vertically. The lack of recognizable base sherds that could belong to the beakers brings to mind that examples are known of Pot Beakers and

other large beaker-like vessels which were buried in an inverted position. This procedure often has as a result that we do not recover the bases. This remark cannot be called anything more than a suggestion. From two of the pots to be described below there are just enough sherds present to be able to reconstruct a complete profile, let alone there being a complete rim. One is thus able with complete justification to cast doubt on whether the pots were whole when they were deposited in the Hunebed.

The pottery published by Holwerda (1913, p. 30, fig. 33) as sherds of a 'zone beaker' are listed as number c 1912/12 29. The sherds are moulded from clay which has been strongly tempered with coarse sand. After the exterior surface was polished, decoration was introduced with a fine-toothed spatula so that decorated and undecorated zones alternate with each other. The lowest portion of the pot is decorated with alternating upright and oblique impressions which are placed in vertical rows. This method of decoration is known to us from the developed Bell Beakers of the 2Ic type (v. d. Waals 1964, p. 29). The interior is fairly smoothly finished. The pot has been baked under conditions which tended to oxidize. In exceptional cases a thin layer within the sherd is reduced. The surface is coloured light reddish brown (Munsell Soil Color Charts: 5 YR 6/4) to a very pale brown (10 YR 6/3), but on the broken edges the sherds are light red (2.5 YR 6/6) which could indicate a secondary reduction of the surface. We cannot share Holwerda's supposition that the beaker may have had a handle.

Without making any claim to being exhaus-



*Fig. 1.* Bell Beaker from Hunebed D19 near Drouwen. 1 : 2.

tive, we should like to point out some examples of Bell Beakers which, in our opinion, display typologically comparable decorative features. We consider as characteristic the fact that the edges of the decorated zones have been furnished with a fringe on the side of the undecorated zones. In Drenthe the Bell Beakers from Emmen (e.a. v. d. Waals & Glasbergen 1955, Pl. XII) and Erm (Waterbolk 1959, fig. 4) and in Twente a find from near Enschede (Bursch 1933, Pl. IV: 1) are so decorated. From the Veluwe we know of examples from Houtdorp and Putten (Bursch 1933, resp. Pl. III: 3 and 9). In the developmental sequence of Bell Beakers these can, in my opinion, be placed in the series directly preceding the Veluwe Bell Beakers from the Veluwe.

In his publication Holwerda has included among the sherds of the Bell Beaker just described a sherd that is in our opinion definitely from another Bell Beaker (See fig. 3: 7). This

sherd is moulded from clay which has been tempered with fine gravel. There are clear indications that the pot has been built up in coils, in view of the peculiar fracture on the underside and a threatened repetition of the same sort of fracture in the middle of the sherd. After it was polished the outer surface was decorated with a toothed spatula. The inside has been smoothed. Only the surface gives the appearance of having been baked under conditions which tended to oxidize. It is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6), while the core has been reduced. This rather clumsily decorated sherd can best be compared with the 2Ib Bell Beakers.

A fairly large number of the second group of sherds, which is listed under number c 1912/12 30, can be considered as coming from one large pot of which the profile has been reconstructed (fig. 3: 1). This pot is comparable in form to the Trumpet Pot Beakers (Lehmann 1965). The pottery is moulded from clay tempered with



Fig. 2. Bell Beaker from Hunebed D19 near Drouwen. 1 : 2.

coarse sand. After having been made very smooth, the surface has been decorated with an object which left a double impression. It looks as if the joint end of a long bone has been used. The impressions are in more or less horizontal rows. The inner surface of the pot has been smoothed. On and against the rim are impressions of two barley grains set close together (identification by Miss C. C. Bakels). The pot has been baked under conditions which tended to oxidize; the surface is light reddish brown (5 YR 6/3). It is far beyond the scope of this short communication to advance material for comparison.

Among the remaining thirty sherds of the second group, in view of the difference in the manner of decoration, at least five different pots can be distinguished. Two display rows of pairs of impressions set in the form of V's that are clearly distinguishable from each other and a

third has rows of isolated impressions (fig. 3: 3, 4, and 6). The decoration was introduced with a broad spatula. There are sherds from the rims of three different pots (fig. 3: 2, 3, and 5). The remaining sherds cannot be further classified (fig. 3: 8). There is no fundamental difference from the sherds discussed earlier with regard to the clay used, the finish and the colour of the pottery.

The question arises as to whether we should view the thick-walled Bell Beakers and the fragments of the large beakers from Hunebed D 19 at Drouwen as the remains of a single event in the burial chamber, or that each of these tells its own story. At the moment we cannot answer this. We still lack the ability to date the sherds of the large beakers as precisely as those of the Bell Beakers. The V-shaped pairs of impressions call to mind the method of decoration on the lower part of fully developed Veluwe Bell



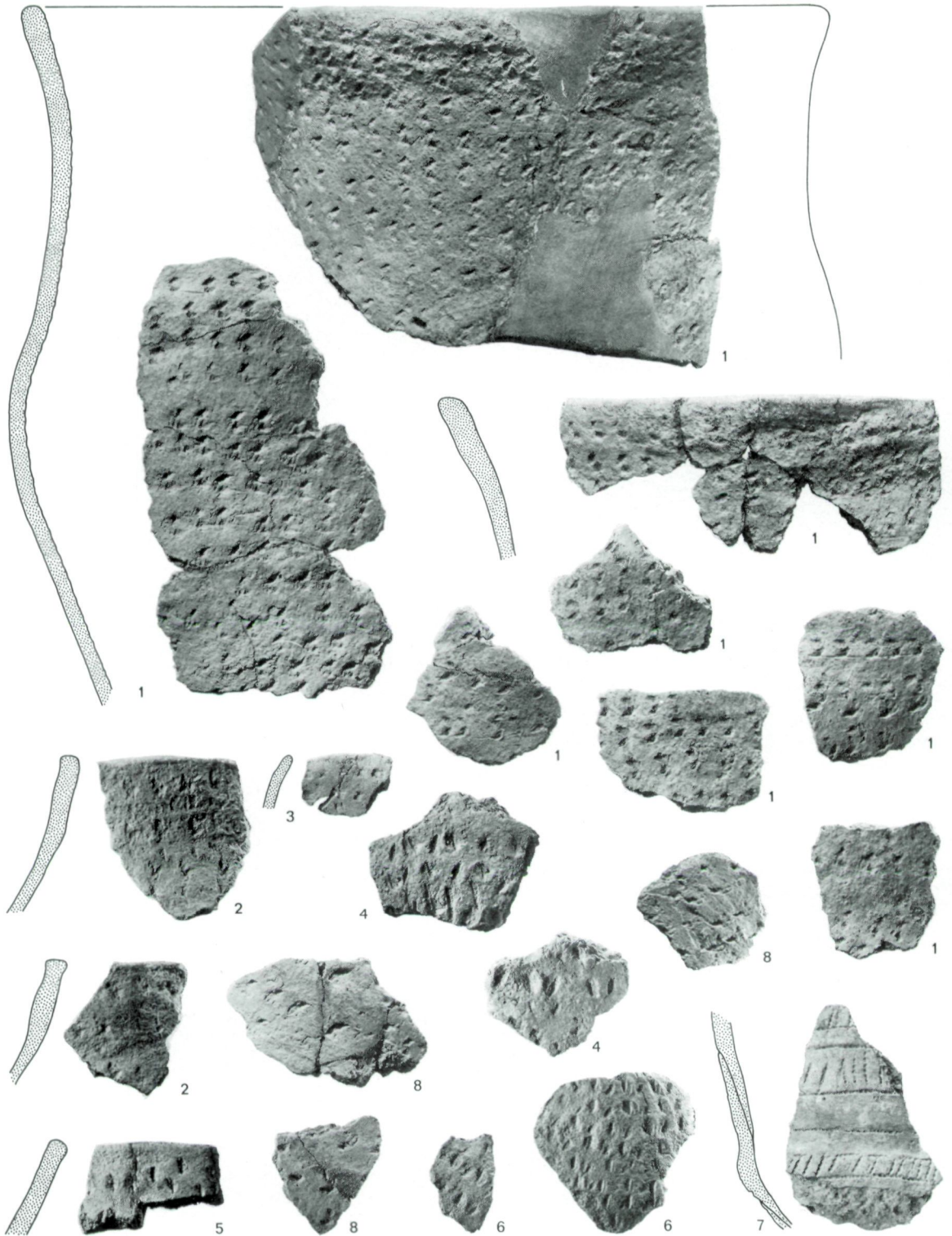


Fig. 3. Beaker pottery from Hunebed D19 near Drouwen. 1 : 3.

Beakers, which in my opinion does not mean that this motive has to be considered as strictly defined in terms of time. From the present data it is most probable that the sherds published here form a closed find. Chronologically this can

best be ranked immediately before the rise of the true Veluwe Bell Beakers.

The translation of this article into English was done by Mrs. S. O. Robson.

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