

Glass Vessels from 8th - 9th century Emporium Ribe. Shapes, decorations and types.

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The glass-vessel sherds from the emporium Ribe occupy an important position within North European glass-vessel material, both on the grounds of their quantity, and also, in particular, because of the stratigraphic conditions at the emporium, which have made it possible to establish an unusually refined relative and absolute chronology for the period c.700 – 900 AD. 45 years of archaeological excavations have been carried out at several stages and with different excavation-methods at the emporium Ribe and this has resulted in finds of a total of ca. 5400 sherds of glass vessels (October 2020). The, by far, largest find of glass vessel sherds from the 8th - 9th century AD from one location in all western Europe.

Glass vessels in Scandinavia from the 8th - 9th century AD have so far been a relatively anonymous find-group and for many years this category of finds has been represented by very few finds, and publication of the finds as a group has been lacking. Complete glass vessels from Scandinavia dated in 8th - 10th century AD are rare, and are only known from very few grave finds. The largest material of complete vessels still comes from the graves at Birka in Sweden, a total number of 18 different vessels dated in the 10. Century AD. Excavations through the last decade and more on several archaeological sites as such as Åhus, Slöinge, Uppåkra, Lofoten, Kaupang, Gross Strömkendorf, Dorestad and Ribe have revealed a growing number of glass vessel sherds. Latest R. Broadly has published the Anglo - Saxon glass vessel material in 2019. The more finds, the clearer it becomes that the glass vessel sherds are representing a very homogenous trading material in the towns of the 8th - 10th century AD.

This presentation is based on my dissertation from 1993 supplemented with vessel glass material from later excavation in Ribe until the present day, with special focus on the most recent finds from the excavation "Northern Emporium" 2017/18.

The primary purpose of the dissertation was to determine whether it is possible, on the basis of the sherd material from the 9 Posthuset, to identify which shapes and types of glass vessel are represented in the emporium Ribe and whether it is possible to establish a chronology relating to their presence in the Emporium

The Ribe material, with its unusually fine-meshed relative and absolute chronology, makes it possible to identify sherds of glass vessels from the 8th - 9th centuries in contexts where the excavation conditions and stratigraphic relationships in themselves do not permit dating of the finds.

