

# Four Gloucestershire Finds

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Recent post-excavation work for the Crickley Hill Archaeological Trust on Roman pottery from Gloucester and the Forest of Dean has brought to light four pieces thought worthy of note.

Figure 1, A is from the villa at Boughspring, near Chepstow (Walker 1986). The vessel is nearly complete, only missing one handle and the rim. No date can be assigned to its context other than 4th century or earlier. The fabric is a hard reddish-yellow (Munsell 5YR 6/8) throughout, and the surface has slight horizontal burnishing. The shape of the rim is indeterminate, but may well have been more than a simple bead. This would make the surviving upper part a waist zone – always a weak point.

Figure 1, B–D are blind spouts from face-pots, for example Braithwaite 1984, fig. 1.7 or 4.3. B and C are from a 2nd century dump layer and later clay layer located outside a stone building uncovered on an extramural site at Southgate Street, Gloucester (Cracknell et al., forthcoming). Piece B is just a spout, while C has

more of the shoulder of the vessel, including a roller-decorated band. 19th century dock excavations adjacent to the site revealed several urned cremations, and these pieces could be from face pots used for cremations. D is similar to B but is shorter and thinner walled. It comes from an extramural kiln site at the College of Art, and was interpreted at the time as a "clay holder for a wooden handle" (Rawes 1973, fig. 9, no. 158). The fabrics of B–D can be identified as Gloucester Type 11A, a local hard light red micaceous ware of the late 1st and early 2nd centuries. C has a reduced core.

Three other fragments of face pots have been published from Gloucester. Charles Green (1934, no. 12) illustrates a large, broad shouldered one with a frilled rim from eastern Kingsholm, and notes a "similar" fragment from Eastgate Street (in the Colonia). A 2nd century context at the North Gate contained a face fragment in mica-gilt pottery (Ireland 1983, fig. 67, no. 100).

A is on display locally, while B–D are in the Gloucester City Museum (site/accession code 13/83).

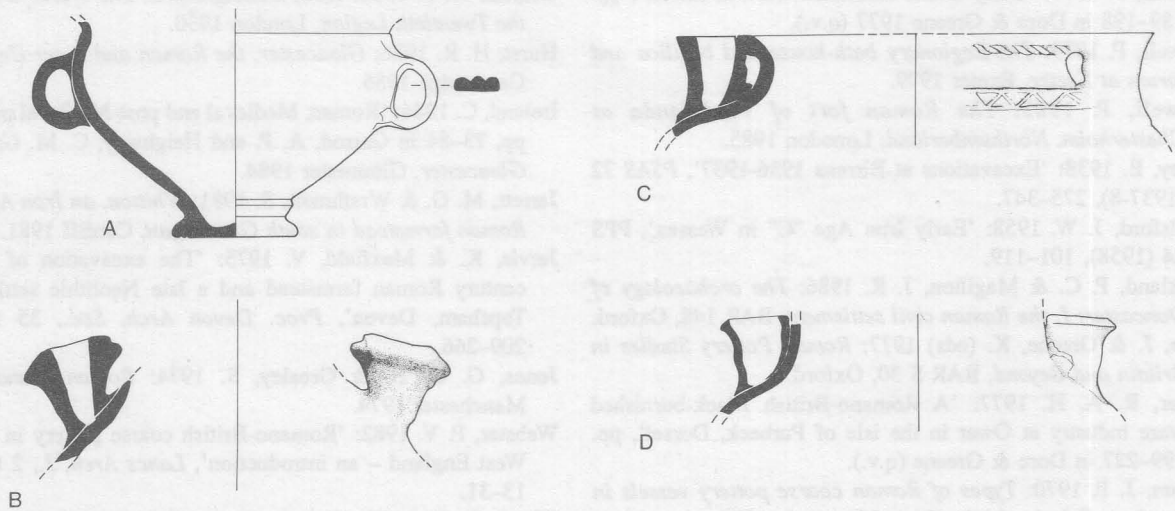


Fig. 1

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Briony Walker for allowing me to work on Boughspring, Mrs Gillian Braithwaite for her comments on the drawings of B and C, Malcolm Watkins of Gloucester City Museum for permission to examine and draw D, Philip Cracknell for his drawings and helpful discussion, Bernard Rawes and Jane Timby. The post-excavation work was carried out under a Community Programme contract with the Manpower Services Commission. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the MSC or any other Government Department.

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