



The Study Group for Roman Pottery

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

S.G.R.P. Website - www.romanpotterystudy.org.

Remember to use our website for information and queries. If you would like to add an item, or suggest how the website may be developed, please contact

Ed Biddulph Email: edward.biddulph@oxfordarch.co.uk

Other Contacts:

Treasurer and Membership Secretary : Diana Briscoe,

Email: archive@asps.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Peachey

E-mail: ajpeachey@yahoo.co.uk



News from the Committee



✓ Welcome...into a Spring into the research of the Group

Welcome to the Study Group for Roman Pottery Spring 2018 newsletter; in which we are excited to announce details of the annual conference in Oxford, and delighted to see the continuing insights into the work and analysis of our diverse membership. But, in particular the timing of this newsletter has coincided with several 'behind-the-scenes' meetings that are moving the SGRP forward in terms of our research agenda, and the pursuit of furthering Roman pottery studies within the wider framework of finds research and British archaeology. Therefore I would like to express our collective gratitude to all who have given their time and effort to these endeavours, both now and in the past, for it is the progress of these agendas that so often show their fruition with themes addressed at our conferences.

It is always a pleasure and challenge to elicit contributions to this newsletter, and we had a very positive reaction to the last edition which highlighted small informal notes simply focussing on what you are working on in the present moment...simply what is on your desk (special thanks to Jason Monaghan, who has provided a second note for this edition – clearly a very busy desk). But, please consider the newsletter as a very open receptacle to hear about all your news and ideas on Roman pottery! I am always delighted to hear from you.

Many thanks to all contributors

Andrew Peachey

✓ Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2018. Annual subscriptions £15 (overseas £20). Cheques should be made payable to the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Payments by Standing Order would be preferred. Please contact Diana Briscoe (Hon Treasurer). Email: archive@asps.org.uk Address: 117 Cholmley Gardens, Fortune Green Road, London, NW6 1UP. Individuals who are not up to date will be removed from the circulation list. Please contact Diana if in doubt.

✓ The John Gillam Prize

We are constantly looking for nominations of articles or reports for the 2017 John Gillam prize. Please send your nominations to the Gillam Committee, consisting of the President and Publication Committee at youngokthorpe@btinternet.com. A wide range of work on pottery found in Roman Britain is eligible, so long as it was completed within the last two years. Nominations can include pottery reports (both published and grey literature), synthetic studies, websites, student dissertations, and theses etc. These contributions can range from day-to-day pottery or site reports to monographs and digital projects, as long as they highlight specific aspects of Roman pottery from a technological, regional or thematic perspective.

✓ The Committee

The SGRP committee currently comprises the following members:

President:	Christopher Young
Treasurer:	Diana Briscoe
Secretary:	Jane Timby
JRPS Editor:	Steve Willis
Ordinary Member (Newsletter Editor):	Andrew Peachey
Ordinary Members:	Jane Evans, Ed Biddulph, Stephen Wadeson, Jane Faiers & Roy Friendship-Taylor
Website:	Ed Biddulph

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The formal 3 year tenure of the position of **Secretary** (Jane Timby) is due to expire. If any body would be interested in filling this vacancy, nomination papers are included below, and if you would like to discuss what this role entails then please feel free to contact the secretary or other committee members to discuss this, either by e-mail or in person at the forthcoming conference.

Secretary

The main role of the **Secretary** is to set the agendas and take the minutes at the Committee meetings (twice a year) and the AGM (once a year), to ensure various timetables are met and liaise with other members of the Committee when necessary, and to circulate information and enquiries to members. The secretary may assist in the organisation of conferences where required, and is fully supported wherever necessary by the President, Treasurer and other committee members.

NOMINATION FORMS

Secretary (Jane Timby- term expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by



SGRP 2018 conference



STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 16th June – Sunday 17th June 2018

Venue: The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Theme: Late Roman Pottery and other ceramic matters

This year the SGRP conference will be a one-day conference with an optional second day and is being held at the Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford. This is easily accessible by car and train and is located close to Oxford Archaeology. On Saturday we will combining lectures with pottery handling and a pottery 'road-show' where you can bring along your query colour-coats and we can disagree as to what they are. On the Sunday we will arrange a visit to North Leigh Roman villa followed by lunch in Woodstock where there are plenty of eating places, and a visit to the County Museum at Woodstock to return to Oxford.

As the conference is primarily on Saturday, with an optional visit on Sunday we have not arranged a hotel deal but there are lots of hotels in Oxford. However, early booking may be sensible as they tend to get booked up.

For those coming by car the Pear Tree services on the A34/ A44 junction just north of Oxford has a Travelodge and Holiday Inn and is next to the Pear Tree Park and Ride which has a regular bus service into central Oxford from early in the morning until late evening

[https://assets.goaheadbus.com/media/cms_page_media/2018/3/26/park&ride300 WEB_March2018.pdf](https://assets.goaheadbus.com/media/cms_page_media/2018/3/26/park&ride300_WEB_March2018.pdf). This is also on the right side of Oxford for anybody planning to stay on for the site visit on Sunday.

Saturday 15th June

9.00	Registration (tea/coffee available)
9.30	Welcome – Christopher Young
9.35	An introduction to Oxford in the late Roman period – Paul Booth
10.00	Late Roman pottery from Aylesbury Berryfields, a settlement on the line of Akeman Street - Edward Biddulph
10.25	A late Roman kiln from Canterbury - Malcolm Lyne
10.45	Tea/coffee
11.05	Roman pottery from Harper Road, Southwark - Eniko Hudak
11.25	Over the garden fence – new insights on the Moorgate potters from a contemporary consumer site – Fiona Seeley
11.50	to be confirmed
12.15	AGM
13.00	lunch (included: soup/sandwiches)
14.00-15.30	Pottery viewing with discussion of local wares and ‘road-show’ for people to bring along their problem colour-coats or other wares
15.30	Tea/coffee
16.00	Making pottery industries visible today: Oxfordshire Roman pottery as a case study – Christopher Young
16.30	Conference ends

A venue for a conference dinner will be arranged for those wishing to stay on.

Sunday 16th June

Trip: North Leigh Roman Villa (HE) No on-site facilities.
Lunch at Woodstock followed by a visit to the County Museum
Return to Oxford.

Registration Form

Conference	Member	Student	Non-member*
Saturday	£35	£25	£40
Sunday	£0	£0	£0

*It costs £15 (UK members)/£20 (non-UK) to join the SGRP for reduced conference rates and free bi-annual monograph publication. Joining fees can be submitted with conference registration, but please make it clear if you are including a membership subscription as well.

The conference fee includes Saturday lunch (soup and sandwiches) and tea / coffee but does not include accommodation or a conference dinner. Attendees wishing to stay over will need to make their own accommodation arrangements.

Sunday

Depending on how many people wish to come we hope to do a visit to North Leigh Roman villa guided by Christopher Young in the morning and arrive at Woodstock, where there are plenty of options for lunch. In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to visit the Oxfordshire Museum, which has a display of Oxfordshire Roman pottery. It is anticipated that travel will be by private cars.

If individuals staying over could indicate whether they are bringing a car and would be happy to transport passengers could they let us know on the booking form. There is on-street parking in Woodstock with time-limits. There is also a free car park in Hensington Road on the east side of the A44 Oxford – Chipping Norton main road. Its post code is OX20 1JQ.

Bursary Details

Two Graham Webster bursaries are available for attending the conference. These will cover 50% of the conference fee and 50% of return travel to the conference up to a maximum of £100 each.

Please apply to Diana C. Briscoe, Dr. (SGRP Treasurer/Membership Sec.) - archive@asps.org.uk

Booking Form

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Email:

:		
Dietary requirements: Vegetarian/Vegan/Other		
Do you require a car parking place?	Yes	No
Would you be interested in attending a conference dinner Sat pm?	Yes	No
Do you expect to attend the trip on Sunday?	Yes	No
If yes and are bringing a car would you be happy to transport others?	Yes	No



*I would like to become a member of the SGRP: - ☐ (Please provide details):

Please make cheques payable to: SGRP. Payment can also be made by bank transfer or in cash especially for delegates based abroad, please contact Diana for details.

Post to: Diana C. Briscoe, Dr. 117 Cholmley Gardens, Fortune Green Road, London, NW6 1UP

If you require additional information please email Jane Timby (janertimby@gmail .com) or Edward Biddulph (edward.biddulph@oxfordarch.co.uk)



✓ A Day on the Desk of....Jason Monaghan (Part 2)... Late Iron Age Discoveries from Alderney

(jason.monaghan@gov.gg)

In June 2017, contractors were machine-excavating a cable trench which came within 100m of the Roman small fort on Longis Common in Alderney. Although the trench was only 1m wide and 1.5m deep it revealed archaeological features for over 175 metres. A rescue dig over two days was hampered by the sections being entirely of sand, but revealed a number of walls and remains of possible structures in the eastern end of the trench. To the west the trench clipped more than a dozen stone cists and a single cremation. Finds were principally of late Iron Age date although as Roman rule may have been imposed soon after 56 BC in the Channel Islands they could extend into the transition period. A supine burial without goods was C14 dated to 174 - 19 BC. A shattered cremation urn (*photo, right*) was recovered with much of its contents, including a bronze ring. C14 dating of the cremated bone gave a date range of 198 - 47 BC. The pot is handmade in a coarse sandy fabric, with an iron hoop around its rim. One cist contained the remains of hoops from a wooden bucket, a bronze fibula and a fine pedestal bowl (*photo, left*) which also had an iron hoop around the rim. It was clearly not manufactured on the island. Finds of two more bronze fibulae, two shale bracelets and a fine tubular bronze bracelet indicate significant trading connections, and create questions about the apparent high status of the people being buried, and presumably living, on an island of just three square miles. See: <https://www.facebook.com/AlderneyNunnery/?ref=bookmarks>



A pedestalled urn from Alderney



The cremation urn

✓ The Third Century in the North-West – Evidence from Maryport and Brougham

Ruth Leary

Editors note: this very insightful paper was originally presented by Ruth at the SGRP conference in Carlisle, after which she very promptly provided it for the newsletter, but due to my editorial oversight it was not included in the last edition, so Ruth, please accept my apologies as its wonderful to able to present it now....)

The pottery assemblage from excavations in the extra-mural settlement at Brougham carried out by Oxford Archaeology North was presented. The group is dated firmly to the third century by the mortarium and coarse pottery profiles, and Kay Hartley considered the lack of bead and flanged mortarium types pointed to a date after cAD190 at the earliest. By contrast at Maryport a longer chronology was indicated starting in the Hadrianic period but with a peak in the mid- to late second century and continuing to the mid-third century with fewer late third to early 4th century types. The earlier pottery types at Maryport occur residually within the third century assemblages, unlike at Brougham.

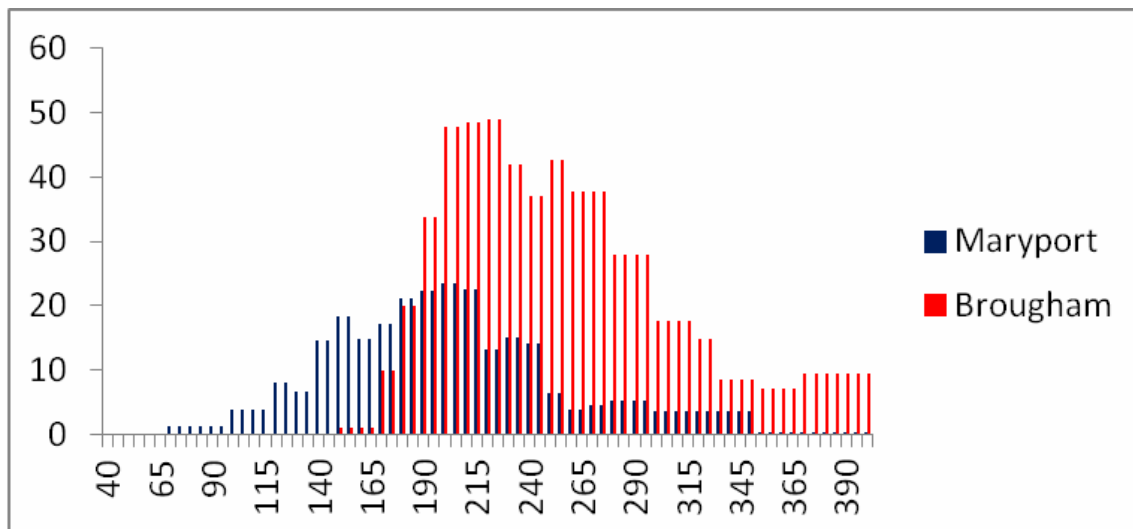


Figure 1 Bating profile for mortarium assemblages from Brougham and Maryport

The third century group at Brougham is representative of sites in the North West. Around third of the assemblage came from Dorset with a further 12% from a variety of regional sources of grey wares including kilns in Yorkshire. The next most numerous ware group was the oxidised ware wares from Walton-le-Dale and Wilderspool products. The most common type in this group was the narrow-necked jar. Samian made up about a fifth of the pottery (using EVES). Amphora made up less than 1% with the bulk of this being Dressel 20 and less than 1% of Gallic amphora by weight: none by EVES. Wine clearly was delivered using barrels. A further 5-6% (eves and weight) comprised fine wares from the Nene Valley with Trier blackslip wares providing 1% and Central Gaulish black slip wares less than 1%. Few or no fine wares were made locally although some red slip wares may be from kilns in the NW such as Wilderspool and Walton-le Dale. Mortaria made up c10% and most of these were from Mancetter-Hartshill.

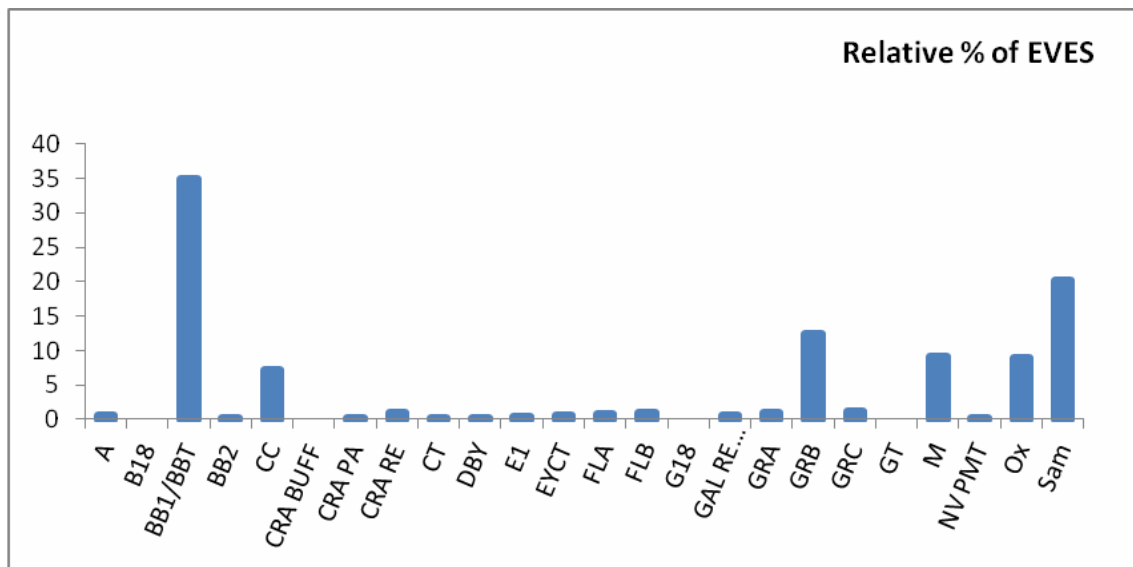


Figure 2 Wares at Brougham

Examples of traded vessels coming to the site as singletons or only a handful include some Derbyshire ware jars, a Dales ware jar and several of the gritty grey ware Sub Dales, lid seated and everted rim jars from various possible sources in Yorkshire (Green Hammerton) and Catterick/Piercebridge and a hooked rim shell-tempered jar from Northamptonshire Ebore 1 was identified in the early third century African type platter and casserole forms. A small number of oxidised North Gaulish pentice moulded beakers were present.

The assemblage at Maryport was very similar in make-up but had a surprising group of grey wares from Mucking, Thameside. This group was dominated by wide-mouthed jars. The ware group first occurs at Maryport in the late 2nd C but not in quantity until phase 3c (L2nd-E3rdC) increasing in phases 3c and 3d (cAD223/5 to AD250/60) rising from 5% to 11% by weight and 5% to 12% by count, a similar pattern to that found in the north-east on Hadrian's Wall.

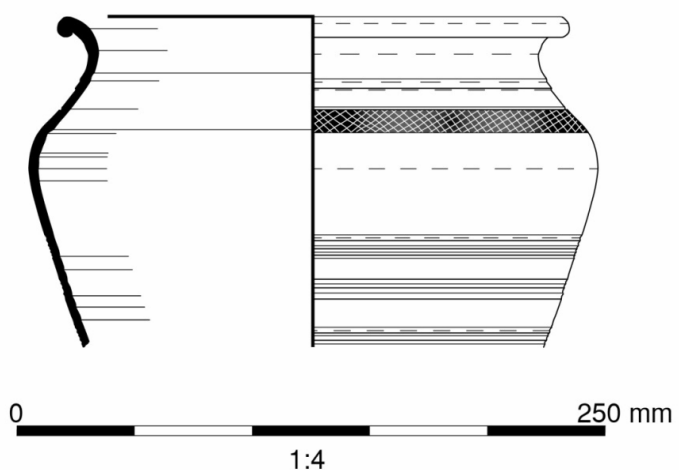


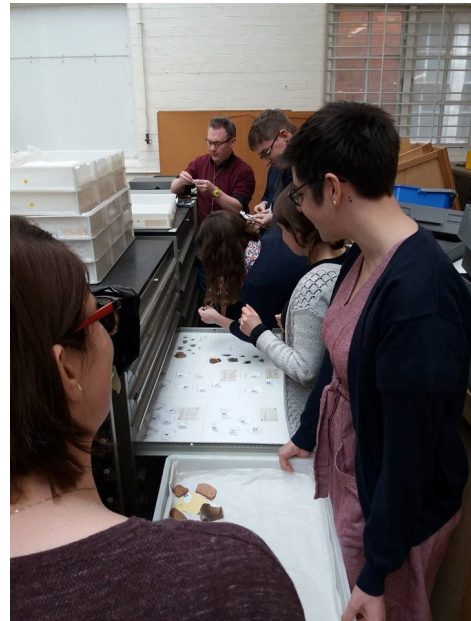
Figure 3 Diamond rouletted jar from Maryport

In contrast to the Group from the eastern half of Hadrian's Wall, The Maryport assemblage was made-up predominantly of wide-mouthed jars, including one with diamond rouletting. Although grey wares from the Essex kilns have been identified at Carlisle and Ravenglass, these have been small numbers. The relatively large group from Maryport is somewhat puzzling.

✓ Roman Pottery Training Day

A growing shortage of pottery specialists, a decline in reporting standards and a new generation of archaeologists wishing to learn how to identify pottery highlights the need for some form of training specifically directed at handling and identifying wares. To this end a one-day workshop was arranged for a brief handling session with the National Roman fabric reference collection at Blythe House in London in March. The day was sponsored by Historic England and we are grateful for their support.

Unfortunately numbers had to be limited for logistical and practical reasons but the response was amazing and we could have held the event three times over. Despite the snow the day was attended by eleven early career archaeologists wishing to learn more about Roman pottery, one HE observer and three tutors (Alice Lyons, Ian Rowlandson and Jane Timby). We were also assisted by Dr Richard Hobbs (Western Roman Curator, British Museum) who facilitated our access to the collection.



The morning session focussed on a limited selection of Continental finewares, amphorae and mortaria. In the afternoon the group split into three with each tutor talking about a selection of pottery from their own specific region: East Anglia, the Midlands and the South. The feed-back was very positive and it is hoped more such workshops or training initiatives can be arranged for the future.



(photos by Alice Lyons & Jane Timby)

✓ New Initiative To Create A National Roman Pottery Typology

Edward Biddulph, Jane Evans and Fiona Seeley

What's the difference between a bowl and jar? When does a bowl become a dish? Is a jar whose rim has an internal hollow or step a lid-seated jar or a ledge-rimmed jar? These are not quite the trivial matters they seem. The lack of agreed and universally applied definitions has resulted in inconsistent terminologies and a reduced ability to reliably compare assemblages both within and between periods. Now, an initiative with, it is hoped, Historic England (HE) support, aims to bring some consistency to the business of typologies.



In the new year, Edward Biddulph and Fiona Seeley represented the Study Group for Roman Pottery at two HE-sponsored workshops at the Hive in Worcester to discuss with representatives of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group and the Medieval Pottery Research Group the development of online ceramic resources (*pictured above*). The meetings were held as part of the latest stage of work on the Worcestershire Ceramics online database, which is undergoing a programme of enhancement, and were intended to develop an agreed terminology consistent with recording ceramics of all periods as an important stage of developing standardised datasets and procedures. This will be a fundamental step towards the future implementation of online ceramic reference resources based on the Worcestershire Ceramics website template.

The Worcestershire system has recently been updated with information relating to medieval forms using standard definitions in *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Prehistoric and Roman forms will have to wait, however, as there is no equivalent to the medieval series for those periods. To fill this gap for the Roman period, the SGRP committee agreed to the formation of a small working group to put together a proposal to develop a 'national' Roman form typology, to sit alongside the National Roman Fabric Reference

Collection. This would not only be crucial for the development of the Worcestershire and subsequent online resources, but would also provide an agreed standard for pottery studies generally, provide a teaching aid for those learning about pottery, and offer a resource for community groups. The proposed typology would be developed in consultation with SGRP members and would allow for the integration of existing series, rather than a replacement of them.

The working group, comprising Jane Evans, Fiona Seeley and Edward Biddulph, will be submitting the proposal to HE in the next couple of weeks and we await its response. Watch this space!

✓ **More News from Usk – clibani as pottery**

By Joyce Compton

Further work on the unpublished ceramics from the 1986/8 excavations at Usk has taken place under the auspices of the curatorial officer, Mark Lewis. This work has concentrated on the remains of several examples of what appear to be portable ovens (Plates 1 and 2). Most of the fragments were excavated from the fills of two large Period I pits to the south of Building 2 (Marvell 1996, fig.4). Previous attempts have been made to group the sherds by fabric and by attribute but with limited success, and it is apparent that only a relatively small portion of each oven is present.



Plate 1

There are two main fabric groupings. The first group (Plate 1) has a sandy fabric and is pale buff in colour, with much evidence of finger-moulding on the curved sherds. The second group (Plate 2) is smooth and more orange-buff in colour, and some sherds are sooted. Within the two fabric groupings there appears to be more than one vessel.



Plate 2

A third type, in the form of a flanged dish, is also present (Plate 3). This is in a tile-type fabric, complete with sanded lower surface. Some sherds are sooted.



Plate 3

These fragments are the best evidence for the presence of *clibani* at Usk (Paul Tyers, pers. comm.) and, complete, they would have formed an example of a base for the sort of covers shown in Darling (2012, fig.33.1, nos 5 and 6).

As I write, all of the sherds are in National Museum Wales's conservation laboratories in Cardiff, being worked on and, hopefully, reconstructed, by a PhD student under the supervision of Louise Mumford. Although not all of each vessel is present, it is hoped that sufficient can be reconstructed to inform on the numbers of ovens present and the form that each takes. Also in Cardiff, through the kind offices of Oliver Blackmore, curator at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, is an example from Caerleon (Evans 2000, fig.74, no.1; Darling 2012, fig.33.2, no.17). Reconstruction of this one may help to determine whether its published appearance as a jar-like vessel is correct.

Work in Cardiff is nearing completion, and further study towards publication is anticipated. Watch this space!

References

- | | | |
|---------------|------|---|
| Darling, M. | 2012 | 'Stuffed dormice or tandoori chicken in Roman Britain?', in, Bird, D. (ed.), <i>Dating and Interpreting the Past in the Western Roman Empire. Essays in Honour of Brenda Dickinson</i> , Oxford, 346-57 |
| Evans, E. | 2000 | <i>The Caerleon canabae. Excavations in the civil settlement 1984-90</i> , Britannia Monogr. 16 , London |
| Marvell, A.G. | 1996 | 'Excavations at Usk 1986-1988', <i>Britannia</i> XXXVII , 51-110 |

✓ What's Cooking in Roman Worcester? A date for your diary

Jane Evans

Thanks to a grant from The Roman Research Trust, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service are running an outreach project to explore how pre-fabricated Roman ovens were made and used. The grant will enable the potter Graham Taylor, who many will remember from last year's conference, to reproduce one of the Worcestershire ovens. This will be done at a school's workshop hosted by King's School Worcester. This celebrates the school's link with Anthony Cubberley, who wrote a number of papers on Roman ovens and was a classics teacher there. The second stage of the project will be exploring how the ovens were used. This will be done by Sally Grainger, who will be experimenting with the oven at the King's School fete on Monday May 7th. This is a public event, so if anyone is in the area and would like to come along they would be very welcome – I'll circulate more information nearer the time. The process of making and using the oven will also be filmed, to provide a resource for SGRP members, teachers and anyone else who is interested.

It is also worth mentioning that Jane Faiers and I are in the early stage that of exploring the possibility of Coventry as a venue for the 2019 SGRP conference, a weekend meeting to be held in June or July – date to be confirmed. Depending on the availability of venues. This would allow a range of possibilities for visits – The Lunt, Mancetter, Wall.... and potentially further exploration of ceramics in action, such as this. Fuller information will be provided at the AGM.

✓ **A Course on Roman-Period Pottery, Brick and Tile Found in Sussex**

David Rudling (Academic Director, Sussex School of Archaeology)

Saturday 19 May 2018, 10am-4pm.

A joint Rottingdean Whiteway Centre and Sussex School of Archaeology Study Day at the Whiteway Centre, Whiteway Lane, Rottingdean, BN2 7HB (near Brighton).

Tutor: Gordon Hayden B.A., M.A. Gordon is a member of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Teaching will be a combination of powerpoint presentations and object handling. Fee: £25. To book please email MikeGregory@rwc.org.uk OR phone 07913 753493.

Course Outline

The course will revolve around the identification, production and use of pottery, and ceramic building material found in East and West Sussex, from the absorption of the area into the Roman Empire until the end of the Roman period (c. AD 70-410). Through the use of presentations and object handling, the most common types of pottery will be studied, with the aim of differentiating between local, regional and imported pottery, and identifying the most common diagnostic features of Roman-period brick and tile.

The morning session will include pottery vessel type and fabric identification that will involve an element of handling material recovered from recent excavations. The afternoon session will be a more practical one, with the opportunity to sort, identify and record pottery, brick and tile. This will be followed by a brief overview of the re-use of brick and tile in structures dating to the Roman and later periods.

(Refreshments and Lunch: Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided through the day. You are welcome to bring your own packed lunch or to obtain lunch at one of the many nearby village pubs or cafes.)

✓ **London Archaeologist @ 50**

Diana Briscoe

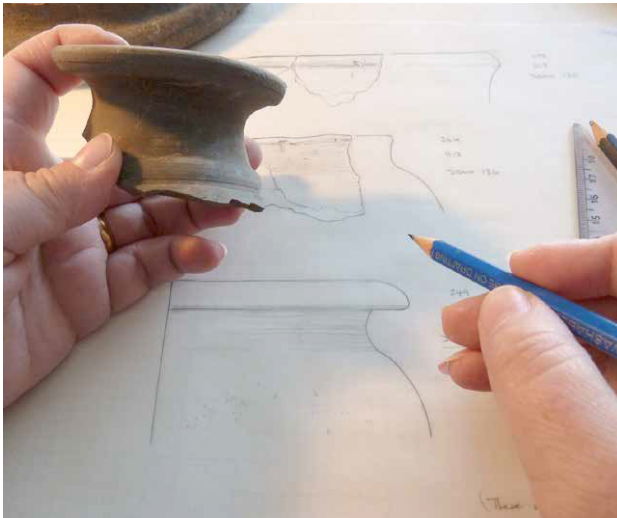
As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, *London Archaeologist* is staging a one-day conference in October 2018, which will investigate 50 years of archaeology in London. Peter Marsden, Harvey Sheldon and 12 other insightful speakers will cover everything from early developments to latest techniques and from preservation to people, with wit and wisdom, before the heads of five main contracting units look to the future in our final session.

We are extremely grateful to our generous friends at KCL's Classics department who are providing a spacious lecture theatre, excellent display and circulation areas, and students to serve as stewards. And of course everyone will be invited round to our very big party to follow. Conference booking opens in July for *LA* members, and in September for the public. Watch for details in our summer issue, out the first week in July.

Finally, you can keep up with all the news of our **LA@50** celebrations on our NEW WEBSITE: just visit www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk to find out about contributing memorabilia for the pin board (on the back cover of the 5 anniversary issues), to book a free display space at the conference or to see loads of new content.

✓ CIFA Professional Practice Paper: Introduction to Drawing Archaeological Pottery (by Lesley Collett)

This paper is intended as an introductory guide to the basic techniques of drawing pottery for archaeological purposes. Despite advances in photographic and scanning techniques, the main reasons why pottery is depicted using line illustration are still valid. Very few pots recovered from archaeological contexts are complete enough for a photograph to provide useful information; a drawing can also supply far more information in a much more immediate manner than a written description. It is essential to show the form of the pot, its cross-section, construction techniques and any decoration, using recognised conventions which allow different vessels to be compared and readily understood by different workers.



Traditional methods of illustration are now increasingly being supplemented by computer-aided graphic and photographic techniques which may make it easier to depict fabric types and enhance the presentation of the information. Although a number of guides to drawing pottery have been published over the years, it is some time since anything new has appeared in print. In the intervening years, digital and computer technology have revolutionised the production of reports and the graphics they contain.

This introduction sets out to demonstrate current practice in the preparation of pottery illustrations and describes how traditional methods of producing pottery drawings can be integrated with and enhanced by digital technology. The full paper is available as a free download at <http://www.archaeologists.net/publications/papers>, and in addition to the technical aspects includes a useful bibliography of previous period specific illustration guides.

✓ Exploring Specialisation Through Ceramic Technology and Use

After the first ACSG Conference “Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ceramic Analysis” organized the 30th of June 2017 by the Ancient Ceramics Studies Group at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, we are pleased to announce a new event dedicated to craft specialisation in prehistoric communities.

Specialisation is a concept often explored in archaeology due to its social inferences. Analysing the organisation of ceramic production can reveal how ancient communities came in contact, and in which way people perceived themselves within societies. In prehistoric communities, the role of specialists in systems of production is far from being understood, and it largely depends on the various meanings given to the concept of specialisation. The term can be defined in an economic perspective, where specialists are engaged in full-time activities and are dependent to group's demands; it can refer to individuals able to access to knowledge and ability which sets them apart from the rest of the group; or it can concern exclusive activities,

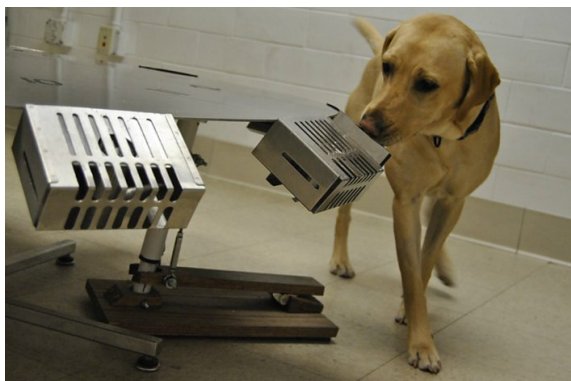


such as the production of objects for specific functions and activities. A discussion about such a concept can benefit from a comparison between prehistoric archaeological case studies from different geographic areas and from a variety of methodological approaches. The one-day conference will be opened by one keynote lecture introducing the theme and the call for papers welcomes all scholars working on this topic.

The conference will be open (free) to non-speakers, but seats should be booked in advanced (on Eventbrite, online form or email). Venues will be explored to publish summaries of the presented papers; further details will be provided in April 2018. Speakers will be asked to be video recorded. If willing to give such contribution, their talks will be live broadcasted via Periscope and/or permanently uploaded to the website (likely via SMS Streaming Media Service, University of Cambridge). More details are also available on the Facebook group of the Ancient Ceramic Studies Group ([link here](#)).

✓ And finally...meet the dogs being trained to sniff out looted treasures...

(many thanks to all the SGRP members who sent in this link...clearly it struck a chord. Given recent the recent theft and recovery of artefacts from Canterbury Archaeological Trust, and the near weekly reports of the seizure of smuggled artefacts across Europe, it is alarmingly relevant)



Dogs are being trained to detect ancient treasures in an attempt to tackle cultural heritage trafficking. Five dogs are being taught to recognise the smell of pottery and ultimately its geographical source. The programme is a partnership between the Penn Vet Working Dog Center in Pennsylvania, USA, and Red Arch Cultural Heritage Law and Policy Research.

Photo courtesy: Dr Jennifer Essler, Penn Vet Working Dog Center

You can read more here...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-43471287/meet-the-dogs-being-trained-to-sniff-out-looted-ancient-treasures>

There has as yet been no response to enquiries on experiments to use French Poodles and German Shepherds to differentiate samian ware from central Gaul and east Gaul!