



The Study Group for Roman Pottery

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

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 : Derek Hurst,

Email: DHurst@worcestershire.gov.uk

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Peachey

E-mail: ajpeachey@yahoo.co.uk



News from the Committee



✓ Newsletter note

Welcome to the Study Group for Roman Pottery Spring newsletter; arriving as we begin to look forward to our forthcoming conference in Norwich in June, for which an enticing programme has been brilliantly assembled by Alice Lyons including regional themes, as well as presentations on specific projects, technology, manufacture and more. The SGRP depends upon and is always grateful to the dedicated members that continue to drive it forward, and we are always on the look out for individuals who wish to participate. If anybody would like to join the committee, please have a look below, or if you would be interesting in coordinating a future conference (*perhaps a day or weekend conference in 2016*), we would love to hear from you.

The breadth of interest that falls within the SGRP is well -demonstrated below, with a special thank you to Barbara and Franzisca for contributions from the continent, to supplement work within Britannia. Therefore, if any of our members would like to comment, bring their latest work or bring our attention to others, don't hesitate to get in touch with the newsletter.

Many thanks to all contributors

Andrew Peachey

✓ Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2015. Annual subscription £15 (overseas £20).

Cheques should be made payable to the Study Group for Roman pottery. Payments by Standing Order would be preferred. Please contact Derek Hurst (Hon Treasurer). Email: DHurst@worcestershire.gov.uk Address: 2 Barbel Crescent, Worcester WR5 3QU. Individuals who are not up to date will be removed from the circulation list. Please contact Derek if in doubt.

✓ The Committee and 2015 Elections

The current SGRP committee comprises the following members:

President:	Paul Booth
Treasurer:	Derek Hurst
Secretary:	Jane Timby
JRPS Editor:	Steve Willis
Ordinary Member (Newsletter Editor):	Andrew Peachey
Ordinary Members:	Rachel Seager-Smith, Chris Young, Ed Biddulph and Diana Briscoe
Website:	Ed Biddulph

At the next Annual General Meeting on Friday 12th June 2015, incorporated into the SGRP Conference in Norwich (see below), Paul Booth will be standing down as President and Rachel

Seager-Smith as an Ordinary Member following the completion of their terms on the committee. Therefore these positions will be open for nominations, with each post-holder expected to serve a *term of 3 years*.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Committee, please complete one of the forms below, print and return, with the nominee's permission, to Jane Timby, Hon Secretary, Sister Mary's Cottage, High Street, Chalford, Gloucestershire, GL6 8DH before the 5th June 2015.

President (Paul Booth- standing down)

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

Ordinary Member (Rachel Seager-Smith- standing down)

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

Treasurer / Secretary

While we are focussed on current nominations, the posts of Treasurer and Secretary will also become vacant in 2016. If anyone is interested in undertaking these roles in the future or finding out more of what will be involved please contact the Secretary. We would welcome any interested individuals to our next Committee meeting (November 2016, probably Oxford or London). This will also hopefully ensure a smooth handover for these roles in a year's time.

✓ **The 2015 John Gillam Prize**

We are constantly looking for nominations of articles or reports for the 2015 John Gillam prize. Please send your nominations to the Gillam Committee, consisting of the President and Publication Committee at president@romanpotterystudy.org. 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.



SGRP 2015 conference



Study Group for Roman Pottery Annual Conference

Friday June 12th – Sunday June 14th 2015

This year the SGRP conference is being held in the vibrant city of Norwich, it will be a full weekend combining lectures, pottery handling, tours and food! The conference will enjoy the dual locations of the Norwich Castle Museum and the University of East Anglia. Over the weekend the group will be addressing several themes including the Roman pottery of eastern Britain, pottery from larger projects and international sites. There will also be a joint session with the PCRG looking at some of our shared concerns.

Provisional Timetable.

Friday 12th: Norwich Castle

Time	Activity	People
11.30am-12.25pm	Registration: as people arrive they can look around the museum (entrance included in conference fee) and get lunch/tea at Castle café if desired (not included in fee).	
12.30-2.15pm	Session1: Roman Pottery and Eastern Britain	Chair: Paul Booth
12.45-1.15pm	Introduction to Roman Norfolk	John Davies
1.20-1.45pm	East coast trade in pottery	Paul Bidwell
1.50pm-2.15pm	The Roman kilns at Duxford, Cambridgeshire	Kayt Brown and Katie Anderson
2.20-2.50pm	Tea Break	
2.55-4.25pm	Session 2: Roman Pottery and Eastern Britain continued	Chair: TBC
2.55-3.30pm	The Roman Kilns at Horningsea, Cambridgeshire	Jerry Evans
3.35-4.00pm	Ceramic consumption on the eastern Fen Edge	Andrew Peachey
4.05-4.25pm	Discussion	
4.30-5.30pm	SGRP AGM (those not attending can look around the museum)	SGRP
5.30-7.00pm	Wine reception and buffet	SGRP

Saturday 13th: Norwich Castle

Time	Activity	People
9.30-10.55am	Session 3: Large Projects	Chair: TBC
9.30-9.55am	Amphorae from Pudding Lane, London	Fiona Seeley
10.00-10.25am	Mancetter-Hartshill project	Jane Evans & Laura Griffin
10.30-10.55am	Caistor Roman town project	Will Bowden
11.00-11.25am	Tea Break	
11.30-12.55pm	Session 4: Joint PCRG & SGRP	Chair: TBC
11.30-11.55am	Progress on joint PCRG, SGRP and MPRG pottery guidance document	Paul Booth/Jane Evans/David Knight
12-12.25pm	Pottery reference resources project	Hal Dalwood
12.30-12.55pm	Pottery residues guidance document	Alistair Barclay/Rob Perrin/David Knight
1.00-8.30pm	Session 5: Tour of Roman Norfolk	
1.00-3.00pm	Tour: Caistor (lunch eaten as a picnic on the coach)	Will Bowden
4.00-5.30pm	Tour: Burgh	
6.00-7.30pm	Conference dinner at The Queens Head, Burgh	
8.30pm	Coach drop off Castle/UEA	

Sunday 14th: UEA/Sainsbury Centre

Time	Activity	People
9.30-11.15am	Session 6: Exotics and petrology	Chair: Jo Clarke
9.30-9.55am	Roman Pottery from the Channel Islands: Indicators of Maritime Trade	Jason Monaghan
10-10.10am	Samian from 3 Quays in London	Gwladys Monteil
10.15-10.25am	The technology of grog-tempered pottery	Adam Sutton, PhD student University of Reading
10.30-10.40am	Fabric analysis in the study of Roman ceramic building material	Sara Wilson, PhD student University of Reading
10.45-11.15am	Tea break	
11.20am-12.30pm	Session 7: Manufacture	Chair:
11.20-11.45 am	Were potters, basket makers?	Jo Clarke
11.55-12.20 pm	Great Casterton Colour-coated Ware Industry	Nick Cooper
	Discussion	
12.30pm	Conference close	

Registration Form

General conference registration will close on May 29th, however, for those also requiring UEA accommodation the deadline for booking is April 5th (see below).

Conference

	Member		Student		Non-Member*	
Friday 13 th , afternoon conference at Norwich Castle with evening wine buffet	£25		£23		£28	
Saturday 14 th , morning conference at Norwich Castle with an afternoon tour of Roman Norfolk and an evening pub meal	£35		£32		£37	
Sunday 15 th , morning conference at UEA	£8		£5		£10	
All weekend ticket	£68		£60		£75	
Total						

*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.

Accommodation – book through SGRP (ie include with conference fee payment)

Accommodation is NOT included in the standard fee, however, a limited number of B&B rooms are available at the newly built conference facilities at the University of East Anglia (UEA) (<https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/visiting-staying/visitor-accommodation/broadview-lodge>). Please note that it is a short journey from the UEA to Norwich Castle Museum in the centre of Norwich but there is a reliable regular bus service between the university and castle (No 25 - every 15 minutes) which covers the distance in 25 minutes - taxi or car share are also possible.

University: Broadview Lodge	Single		Double/Twin	
Friday 13 th	£54.00		£67.00	
Saturday 14 th	£54.00		£67.00	
Total				

TO BE BOOKED BY APRIL 15TH FOR A GUARANTEED PLACE

Accommodation – self book

If you would prefer to stay in the centre of Norwich many different types of accommodation available with a booking service provided through the tourist information centre:
www.visitnorwich.co.uk/stay.

If you fancy a bit of historical accommodation, SGRP have negotiated a discount at Maids Head Hotel (<http://maidsheadhotel.co.uk/>) which is only a 5 minute walk from Norwich Castle. If you would like to pursue this please call their reservations team on 01603 209955 and quote reference number 1678. A credit or debit card will be required to guarantee the rooms. As these are discounted rates they will be not transferable or refundable 30 days prior to arrival and must be booked by May 12th. Guests can opt from a BB rate of £60 per person or £75 dinner, bed & breakfast per person based on 2 adults sharing a double bedded room. A single occupancy room would be at a supplement £25 per night.

✓ Memories and Reminiscences

By Rob Perrin

Recently, two former members of the SGRP have sadly passed away, Don Mackreth and Charmian Woodfield. We will be including formal obituaries for them both in a forthcoming edition of JRPS, but thought it fitting to include some fond memories of two distinctive characters here.

Donald Mackreth



Don MacKreth inspecting sherds at the annual Conference of the Study Group at Durham in 1994 (photo courtesy of Sue Wade)

With his beard, Arran sweaters, blue jeans and sandals, Don was instantly recognisable. He was a great supporter of the SGRP and was a popular figure at Group conferences and meetings, and at the Peterborough Archaeological Field Centre, where we hosted a number of regional pottery meetings in the late 70s and 80s; his genial manner, fund of stories, all-round archaeological knowledge and interest in ceramics and finds in general were much appreciated. He was, of course, one of the few Unit directors who had an interest in the Group, being of the 'old school' of field archaeologists, who thought it was fundamentally important to have a working knowledge of ceramics. Working for the Nene Valley Research Committee with Don as boss was very enjoyable, with plenty of humour alongside serious study.

I joined the NVRC in 1977, after two years with the YAT, where the management had been rather hands-off. Don's attitude and support, and that of the Committee, was refreshing and motivating – the Committee, of course, included other pottery buffs, especially Graham Webster, John Peter Wild and Geoff Dannell.

The small team we had there all got on very well together and met regularly outside work hours. This camaraderie was thanks in no small way to Don's approach to management and overall positive support. Don was a great lover of good food and drink and the parties and gatherings that we held at the Field Centre and that Don and his wife Christine hosted were always keenly anticipated and well attended. One thing that always used to impress me about Don was that he was able to read a new report critically (in the older, wider sense), such was his all-round knowledge. He had an enormous influence of both my career and my life as a whole, for which I will be forever grateful. I hope he realised this, though I never said as much to him. I remember him with great fondness and to say that I'll miss him is a massive understatement.



Don MacKreth (right) with Rob Perrin during the annual Conference of the Study Group at Chichester in 1995 (photo courtesy of Sue Wade)

Charmian Woodfield



Charmian Woodfield at St Johns College during the annual Conference of the Study Group at Durham in 1994 (photo courtesy of Sue Wade)

Charmian's individual, almost bohemian, dress style also made her instantly recognisable. She too, was an accomplished field archaeologist with a great interest in ceramics, especially Roman. Charmian was a regular at SGRP conferences, keeping many of us informed about her site and pottery work and entertained with her recollections and stories. She was always happy to carry on socialising into the early hours, often being the last to retire to bed. Some of her reminiscences could be interesting as she had been one of the few female field archaeologists at a time when there was less political correctness than today! Charmian was always willing to share her knowledge and provide advice, but she could be ferocious in matters relating to the protection of archaeology, especially when she thought that not enough was being done to preserve or record important remains, or to publish. I'm sad to think that I'll not see her again.

✓ Roman Pottery Production in the Civitas Tungrorum, Belgium, during the 1st-3rd century AD – An Integrated Compositional Approach.

By Barbara Borgers (with photographs by Hans Denis, Onroerend Erfgoed Brussel)

On July 3rd 2014 Barbara successfully defended her viva and completed her PhD at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University Brussels); under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Marc De Bie (Free University Brussels), Prof. Dr. Patrick Quinn (Catholic University Leuven) and Dr. Patrick Sean Quinn (University College London). We would like to extend our congratulations to Barbara on the completion of her PhD on the subject of Roman pottery, and present a summary of her thesis:

This study investigates how the local production of Roman pottery originated and developed in the Civitas Tungrorum, Belgium between the 1st and 3rd century AD. It examines in detail the archaeological sources of five pottery industries in this former Roman province in eastern Belgium. It focuses on the varied cultural and environmental strands that influenced the organisation of pottery industries in the Civitas, and on the fabrics and forms that the pottery vessels included and expressed. Roman ceramic assemblages from the region have been studied from a typo-morphological perspective and defined in chronological sequences (Vanvinckenroye 1991; Hanut 2010). The most common fabrics have also been examined and described in hand specimen (Willems 2005). Building upon this work, this study aims to answer questions such as: What was the extent of potters' knowledge and exploitation of raw materials, and of their

technological skill in the Roman era? Can patterns of movement of potters be traced? Did they transmit their technological knowledge through time?

Towards addressing these issues, the author selected more than 300 ceramic wasters from five Roman pottery production sites in the Civitas Tungrorum, including Vervoz, Tienen (Fig. 1), Rumst (Fig. 2), Kontich (Fig. 3) and Grobbendonk (Fig. 4). The author used an integrated approach to ceramic analysis – one that builds upon macroscopic descriptive work, and focuses on the production defects which occurred during the drying, firing and post-firing handling stages, and combines thin section petrography and geochemistry (ICP-OES). The underlying aim of this approach is to reconstruct the so-called chaîne opératoire (Van der Leeuw 1993), and to identify patterns of technological choices over the course of the Roman era.



Figure 1: Grey coarse ware from the site at Tienen, dated to the Flavian period. The vessel shows fire clouding and a fire crack near the rim.

The author then integrates the insights gained in an anthropological framework, and interprets the pottery production activities of Roman potters in a wider environmental and cultural setting. To this aim, the author carried out a program of raw material prospection around each Roman pottery production site, and sampled specific geological sources that could have been used in the past. Finally, the author considers the Roman pottery industries in their wider economic and social contexts, and examines their relationship with other major potteries of the region.

The five pottery industries under study have yielded evidence for most activities related to the pottery-making stages. The evidence suggests that Roman potters invested considerably in the procurement and preparation of the raw materials, as well as in the forming, decorating and firing of their pottery. This hints at a complex organisation necessary for producing pottery, and perhaps at a specialisation of the pottery production workshops. These results give a reason to revise some received views which typically assumed that the significant production centres of Roman pottery were located in the central region of the Civitas, compared to the few and apparently isolated kiln sites in other areas of the Civitas (Peacock 1982; Hiddink 1991). The results of this investigation have offered reasons for questioning such views: the potters, working in the different regions of the Civitas, were a community involved in potting activities, and they shared potting knowledge over space and time. The results of this research further indicate that the potters in the Civitas Tungrorum not only manifested and expressed changes in the choice of raw materials and technology, but also consistency and continuity throughout the Roman era.



Figure 2: White slipped mortarium from the site at Rumst, dated to the first half of the 2nd c. AD.

They sourced the clayey raw materials at c. 10 km from the production sites, and they procured the tempering materials, including grog, limestone and sand, at the premises. Furthermore, they used three main 'recipes' for the manufacture of specific types of vessels: a fine fabric for tableware, a sand tempered fabric for cooking ware, and a grog or limestone tempered fabric for jars. The choice of clay had little impact on the vessel shape, as illustrated by the fact that potters produced both fine and coarse ware pottery with similar raw materials.



Figure 3: Coarse ware from the site at Kontich, dated to the Flavian period. The vessel warped as the result of overfiring.



Figure 4: Misfired coarse grey ware from the site at Grobbendonk, dated to around the mid 2nd c. AD.

In addition, the potters produced remarkably visually homogeneous vessels, regardless of variations in local clay sources. This evidence is taken to suggest that the potting groups were skilled, and they had a sophisticated knowledge of both the available raw materials and of the potting techniques. Hence, they adopted distinct material and social strategies. In particular, the Flavian period appears to have been a turning point, suggesting that social, economic and political factors shaped Roman pottery production at that time.

By placing regional ceramic compositional groups in the wider cultural and environmental context, this study provides a firm basis with which to interpret aspects of pottery production in this northern area of the Roman Empire.

Bibliography

- Hanut, F., 2010, Le Faciès Céramique de la Cité de Tongres: les principaux constituants d'un répertoire, Société Française d'étude Céramique Antique en Gaule, Actes du congrès de Chelles, 331-346.
- Hiddink, H.A., 1991, Rural Centres in the Roman Settlement System of Northern Gallia and Germania Inferior, in N. Roymans & F. Theuws (eds.), Images of the Past: Studies on Ancient Societies in Northwestern Europe, Amsterdam, 201-233.
- Peacock, D.P.S. 1982, Pottery in the Roman World: an ethnoarchaeological approach, London.
- Van der Leeuw, S. E. 1993, Giving the potter a choice: Conceptual aspects of pottery techniques, in P. Lemonnier (ed.) Technological Choices: Transformation in material cultures since the Neolithic, London, 238-288.
- Vanvinckenroye, W., 1991, Gallo-Romeins aardewerk van Tongeren, Publicaties van het Provinciaal Gallo-Romeins Museum, 44, Tongeren.
- Willems, S., 2005, Roman Pottery in the Tongeren Reference Collection: Mortaria and Coarse wares, Vlaams Instituut Onroerend Erfgoed, Rapport 1, Tongeren.

✓ Roman Kiln Remains Uncovered Near Manningtree

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is currently working on a site near Manningtree in Essex. We have been conducting an evaluation on the site since the beginning of January, and investigating features, including linear features (field ditches). On Thursday (22nd January), we were excited when our excavators uncovered the remains of a small Roman pottery kiln. The superstructure of the kiln had been destroyed in the past by ploughing, so we are excavating the surviving remains of the substructure, below ground. The substructure was the lower chamber of the kiln, where fuel was burned to produce the heat which fired the pottery vessels in the upper chamber. This kiln was quite basic, and the remains consist of a keyhole-shaped feature: the narrow part of the feature represents the flue of the wider part of the feature, which represents the lower chamber. We have found kilns of various types and dates over the years but this is only the fifth Roman pottery kiln which we have excavated, and the others were at Colchester, including one at Middleborough and three at Oaks Drive in Lexden, all in the 1970s.



However, nearly 40 Roman pottery kilns have been recorded at Colchester altogether, since 1819. The kilns have been recorded at sites off Lexden Road, off Butt Road, at Mile End and at Sheepen, with evidence of a number of other kilns or possible kilns, including two at Fitzwalter Road. Sheepen produced a group of kilns with a kiln enclosure, which were excavated in the 1930s by the Colchester Excavation Committee (the precursor of the Trust). Smaller Roman settlements, or perhaps even large farmsteads, also included pottery kilns, and examples have been recorded in the area around Colchester, eg at Ardleigh and Witham, and now we have uncovered the kiln near Manningtree. The kiln is very interesting in itself and it also provides further evidence of Roman activity and settlement near Manningtree. The site is being supervised by Trust archaeologist Nigel Rayner.

✓ Developing romanpotterystudy.org

The SGRP website is shortly going to be revised and updated, therefore we would welcome any suggestions from members for things they would like to see included or changed. If you have any suggestions, please send them to edward.biddulph@oxfordarch.co.uk

✓ Illustrating Samian Ware

Guidelines for the illustration of samian ware are now available on the SGRP website, under the publications tab

(http://romanpotterystudy.org/SGRPPublications/Illustrating_Samian_Ware.pdf)

The guidelines, compiled by Ed Biddulph include chapters on the development of recording samian ware, techniques of rubbing moulded decoration and stamps, drawing, photography, publication, archiving and resources. The chapters have been written by a selection of samian specialists, pre-eminent in their subject, and it is hoped that this document may reach a significant circulation beyond samian ware, to a wider pottery and graphics audience.

✓ SGRP Bibliography

To ensure its long-term stability and curation, the SGRP bibliography is hosted at http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sgrp_2013/ and so that this digital bibliography remains dynamic, Diana Briscoe has offered to maintain and update this valuable resource. She would be happy to receive updates from members of any more recent published reports they are aware of or indeed any missing from the existing bibliography. Please send to sgrp_biblio@asps.org.uk

✓ Recent Research on Face Flagons

By Franziska Dövenner

It is sometimes the case that amongst the myriad of archaeological publications, high quality research into ceramics gets swamped and overlooked, therefore we are very grateful to have highlighted to the SGRP the publication of Franziska's Ph.D thesis back in 2000, but rarely cited in recent reports on the subject matter. The thesis based on the author's unpublished M.A. dissertation *Die Wormser Gesichtskrüge* ("the face flagons from Worms") from 1990. BAR IS 270 is intended as a manual which comprises the research done so far on face flagons as well as it tries to offer new ideas about the distribution, chronology, interpretation etc. of this type of pottery. A summary of the contents is included below, with an expanded summary of the chapter concerning Roman Britain.

***Die Gesichtskrüge der römischen Nordwestprovinzen* (BAR International Series 270, 2000)**

Die Gesichtskrüge
der römischen Nordwestprovinzen

Franziska Dövenner



BAR International Series 270
2000

- The **first chapter**, the introduction ("*Einleitung*"), deals with the geographical limiting (on Roman Britain, Gaul, Germany and Belgium as well as the Danube region and the Mediterranean) and the aims of the thesis (the study of the origin, dating, distribution, iconography and interpretation of face flagons).
- The **second chapter** "*Vorläufer und Nachfolger*" is about predecessors and successors of this vessel type during the course of centuries, if not millennia, from the first examples found on the Neolithic Danube near Belgrade (6th millennium B.C.) to successors of the face flagons such as the 17th c. "Bellarmine jars".

- The **third chapter** "*Allgemeines zur Herstellung*" gives general informations on the mode of face flagon production. The manufacture of the mere vessel and the shaping of the "mask" or "applique" by means of a mould are to be distinguished.
- In the **fourth chapter** "*Gesichtskrüge des 1. und 2. Jahrhunderts*", we meet the first Roman face flagons from the north-western provinces, comprising fragments two face flagons found and probably also made at Rheinzabern in the 2nd half of the 1st c.
- The **fifth chapter** "*Gesichtskrüge in der Maxima Sequanorum*" presents very unique specimens from the French and Swiss Jura region, the area of the late Roman province *Maxima Sequanorum* that seem to date in the 3rd or 4th c.
- The **sixth chapter** on "*Gesichtskrüge in Frankreich*" deals with the different face flagon wares to be found in Roman Gaul. There are two regional centres: one is dominated by the so-called "sponge-decorated" pottery ("*céramique dite à l'éponge*"), mainly a table service ware which is to be found above all in the triangle outlined by the river mouths of the Charente and the Loire as well as the town of Bourges (Cher) ; the other is the area more or less around Chartres and south-west from Paris where the "late painted ware" ("*céramique peinte tardive*") and the St.-Evroult ware include face flagons. Apart from these, unique fragments of our vessel type found at Saintes (3rd/4th c.) and at Sarrebourg (3rd c. ?) are introduced. At Boulogne-sur-Mer, even two Romano-British face flagons appear on the continent.
- The **seventh chapter** is about the face flagons from the Rhine and Moselle region ("*Gesichtskrüge an Rhein und Mosel*"). At Worms, these vessels belong to a late red-coloured ware, predominantly consisting of jugs and flagons. It dates between the late 3rd c. and the 1st half of the 4th c. and was perhaps made by migrated samian potters from Rheinzabern. The Worms ware face flagons have, like their equivalents of the "*céramique dite à l'éponge*", a red-coloured body and a white painted neck and handle. Up to ten different "applique types" can be distinguished, some even with variants in hairstyle etc. The majority of these face flagons is locally distributed, most of them were found in the Roman cemeteries at Worms. At Trier, extraordinary face flagons were produced between the end of the 3rd c. and the middle of the 4th c. Differently from most other vessels of this type, the necks of these flagons are made by means of double moulds and therefore form a complete head. This technique is evidently influenced by local glass blowers. The face flagons are made in a white-painted ware which is decorated with wavy reddish brushing, very similar to the Speicher "marbled ware" though different in fabric. There are thirteen "head-types" showing not only feminine features but also bearded men, grotesque heads or caricatures as well as animals (ape, dog) ; all these are gaudily painted. Oddly enough, the majority of these attractive flagons was found as pottery waste in the south of the Roman city of Trier. Have they been a sales flop or is this a find gap ? Six other unique face flagons are treated in this chapter: Two examples with hand-made faces and interesting headdress ("crowns") which might have been produced at Speicher (4th c.). Among them are also two samian face flagons with drinking inscriptions in thin white paint on their shoulders ; they probably derive from Rheinzabern (late 3rd/4th c.). Finally, we got two vessels of an unknown ware, perhaps made at Mainz (3rd/4th c. ?).
- The **eighth chapter** "*Gesichtskrüge in Britannien*" treats the enormous variety of face flagons made in Roman Britain.

In fact, about two fifths of the face flagons dealt with in BAR IS 270 are Romano-British. We can distinguish three major pottery production centres (Lower Nene Valley, Oxford and Hadham) which included face flagons among their standard range of vessels as well as four potteries which made these pots less frequently (Pakenham, Homersfield, Swanpool, Crambeck). Still, there are several face flagons which cannot be assigned to a certain pottery or ware; some of them are described in the sub-chapter "*Außergewöhnliche einzelne Gesichtskrüge unbekannter britannischer Provenienz*". Yet, the discussion of Romano-British face flagons starts with a group of vessels found at Colchester ("*Colchester-Gruppe*"). Here we find five different "applique types". Although, at first sight, they seem to belong to different wares - one white-slipped with red-brown painted decoration, the other covered with a brown-red colour-coat - these flagons have a buff to orange-red fabric in common, sometimes with a grey-blue core. There are further joint characteristics, too, e.g. "classical" features (one even wearing a "wall crown" as

headdress), fake-handles with herring-bone decoration, spiral ornaments at both sides of the "mask" and by the majority a "coal-scuttle profile" of the mouth.

The types A, C, D and E of the "Colchester group" intersect - concerning their "classical" features - stylistically with Hadham type A; in the case of type C even the same hairstyle, i.e. model or mould, is used. As there has been no potter's workshop in Colchester which could have produced these face flagons at that time (4th c.), it is argued that the face flagons of the "Colchester group" are in fact products from Hadham. A Hadham type C face flagon in "white-slipped ware" proves that such vessels were made in the Hertfordshire potteries. Further arguments to support this hypothesis are the "coal-cuttle profile" and the fabric (both typically Hadham). Obviously, there existed an exceptional demand for face flagons at Colchester in the late Roman period which might have caused special manufacturing for this local customer. The "standard" face flagons from Hadham are more easily recognizable, especially the frequent types A and C. They are made in the 2nd half of the 4th c. in an oxidised red ware and are covered with a thin, light red slip which is rarely conserved. Characteristic are also the "coal-scuttle profile" of the mouth and the "chain-like" imprints or stabs on both sides of the "mask". Type B and D mark rarer examples of Hadham face flagons; type B is supplied by a mould, too, and type D copies the Lower Nene Valley type A. Presented are also two hand-made face flagons which might be from Hadham as well as another mould (recent informations on the Hadham moulds from Bromley Hall Farm could not be included in BAR IS 270). In the 2nd half of the 4th c., the Oxford potteries produced face flagons in two different wares, i.e. in "oxidised resp. colour-coated ware" and - more rare - in "white ware". Some of the vessels are decorated with white barbotine, some with rosette stamps. A complete Oxford face flagon has so far not been found. We can distinguish five "applique types" plus a two single face flagon fragment, one copying a Hadham type C "mask". Furthermore, there exists an unusual mould found at Horspath. Types B, C and D show extravagant hairstyles inspired by *coiffures* of the Constantine period. A characteristic of several Oxford face flagons are big imprints on both sides of the "mask" in the place of earrings; sometimes these imprints are even pierced, probably to fix small metal rings.

The face flagons from the Lower Nene Valley have also been produced in two different wares: in black "colour-coated ware" as well as in "parchment ware/painted cream ware". The colour-coated flagons wear white barbotine and rouletted decoration, the cream ware flagons are lively decorated with red-brown or black paint. The neck and body of the latter normally show several painted stripes. As for the "masks", we find an abundance of at least nine different types as well as some odd pieces which might have been made in the Lower Nene Valley, too. Due to few and sometimes dubious context finds, the Lower Nene Valley flagons can only be vaguely dated into the 3rd to 4th c., though the author assumes the production period to be above all the 1st half of the 4th c. (with possible extensions maximally to the late 3rd c. and to the 2nd half of the 4th c.). The intersections with Hadham ware concerning "applique types" and with Oxford as for barbotine decoration and "earring piercing", make it clear that the major face flagon producers competed more or less simultaneously for customers. We may suspect "industrial espionage" or think of migrating mould makers. So far, there are just one to three examples of this vessel type (resp. a mould) available from the four smaller face flagon manufacturers (cf. above). Except for Crambeck where the production of mould-made face flagons is questionable at all, the three others are seen in dependence of the Lower Nene Valley. The all date into the 4th c.

- The **ninth chapter** ("*Gesichtskrüge in Kleinasien, Nordafrika und im Donaauraum*") presents the face flagons found in the Mediterranean and on the Danube.
- The **tenth chapter** ("*Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse*") summarizes the whole volume, with regard to the distribution, chronology, function and interpretation of face-flagons. The volume is completed by a catalogue (presenting a short record of all studied face-flagons, arranged according to the sequence of the chapters and the typology of the particular provenance), by the list of illustrations as well as by the bibliography.

✓ The Birth of a Kiln, at Stowmarket Suffolk

By Andrew Peachey

On-going excavations by Archaeological Solutions at Stowmarket, on the boulder clay of central Suffolk have recorded three Roman kilns and a drying oven or kiln, associated with pottery production, and with kilns previously recorded in the local area. One kiln (right), included an intact perforated floor and features probably associated with a superstructure.

In addition, the possible drying oven or kiln (below) with walls of substantial slab construction was to prove to have an unexpected foundation.



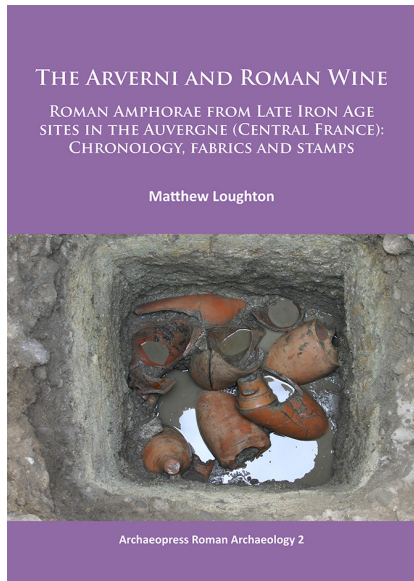
Once the collapsed or dumped superstructure had been removed, a burnt floor was revealed, and when this was sectioned to investigate if previous phases of construction/loning were present, it became apparent that an infant burial had been deliberately placed below or within the centre of the chamber. While uncommon examples of burials within kiln or drying chambers have been recorded, the placement of a body before firing appears remarkable, and if SGRP members have any suggestions as the post-excavation process begins, we would be interested to hear them.



✓ A New Title on Amphorae

Roman Amphorae from Late Iron Age sites in the Auvergne (Central France): Chronology, fabrics and stamps by Matthew Loughton (2014)

Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 2 (ISBN 9781784910426)



Large numbers of Greco-Italic and Dressel 1 amphorae were exported to many parts of Gaul during the late Iron Age and they provide a major source of information on the development and growth of the Roman economy during the late Republican period. This volume examines in detail this trade to the Auvergne region of central France and provides a typological and chronological study of the main assemblages of Republican amphorae found on the farms, agglomerations, oppida, and funerary sites, dating from the second century BC until the early first century AD. Other topics examined include the provenance of the amphorae, the stamps, painted inscriptions and graffiti, the distribution of Republican amphorae in the Auvergne, and the evidence for their modification and reuse. Finally, a gazetteer of Republican amphora findspots from France is also provided

✓ LIMES (Roman Frontiers) Congress: **CALL FOR PAPERS**

By Sue Stallibrass

CALL FOR PAPERS for the Food and Drink session at the LIMES (Roman frontiers) congress, Ingolstadt, Germany 14th-20th Sept 2015 <http://www.limes2015.org/home/>

Once every three years, there is a congress on Roman Frontiers (the LIMES). It is a very sociable meeting, with days of presentations alternating with days of site visits: an excellent way to meet colleagues and discuss potential collaborative research. There will be visits to archaeological sites along the Raetian Limes in Bavaria as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Frontiers of the Roman Empire. If you are interested in contributing a paper or a poster to the Food & Drink session, please contact Sue.Stallibrass@english-heritage.org.uk and also the organising committee info@limes2015.org.

Food and drink – what do they tell us about people living and working in the frontier regions of the Roman Empire?

What you eat, how you prepare food and who you dine with can indicate a range of factors including cultural background or ethnicity, and economic or social status. Diverse people moved around the frontier zones: foreign soldiers were sent on military postings whilst local people and workers moved to industrial sites, towns and extra-mural settlements. When they met, did they mix or keep their distance, and did they use food and drink to express their identities? Did

soldiers everywhere have a uniform military diet, or did they spice things up with flavours from home, or make use of local specialities? Did locals adopt colonial foodstyles?

Recent research and developing techniques are revealing new insights into expressions of identity, methods of production and logistics of supply. We would like this session to include different types of evidence and geographical location. Some potential questions and types of evidence are suggested below:

- What did people consume, and was this through choice or necessity? - plant and animal remains, food residues in ceramic containers, isotopes in human bones, epigraphic and literary sources
- How did people prepare and consume food? - ceramics (individual food portions or group meals), butchery practices, imported tableware or traditional drinks containers?
- Where did the food and drink come from and what were the distribution, processing and storage facilities? – containers, processing waste
- Can you distinguish between people living inside and outside the Empire, or in a military or extra-mural settlement through their consumption of food and drink?

Titles and brief abstracts of papers need to be submitted by **31st March**. For posters, the deadline is **10th August** and there is helpful information on the Congress website at <http://www.limes2015.org/congress/poster-submission/>

✓ Forthcoming colloquium on Italian Sigillata

By Franziska Dövenér

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Augustan period was an era of change, but also of consolidation, across all aspects of Roman society. This is reflected in a new multitude of images, which directly reflect new ideologies of statehood and power. Such politically motivated changes in artistic conventions can be identified not only on key monuments of "public art", but also on artefacts such as decorated finewares and lamps. During the Republic, such objects only rarely served as iconographic agents. The Augustan period, however, firmly established them as pictorial media. Amongst such objects, the richly decorated Italian Terra Sigillata, produced in several workshops from c. 30 BC onwards, plays a key role. This type of pottery, exported across most of the Mediterranean sphere, is to be studied and analysed as part of this workshop.

As usual for Roman decorated finewares, Italian Sigillata has mainly been studied in chronological, typological and iconographical terms. Wider-reaching questions regarding the interpretation and meaning of the imagery depicted on this type of medium, however, have only rarely been undertaken.

The aim of this workshop is to focus on such themes, in order to develop an understanding of the function and potential of the iconography depicted on this type of ceramic, which is the first instance of Roman Imperial systematic sigillata production.

Organizer:
Dr. Manuel Flecker
Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen.

VERANSTALTUNGSORT



Universität Tübingen
Philosophische Fakultät
Altertums- und Kunstwissenschaftlichen
Institut für Klassische Archäologie
Schloss Hohentübingen, Burgstraße 11 · 72070 Tübingen
Telefon +49 7071 29-78546 · Telefax +49 7071 29-5778
www.klassarch.uni-tuebingen.de/Sigillata

titelbild: thomas zachmann

**EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN**



**PHILOSOPHISCHE FAKULTÄT
Institut für Klassische Archäologie**

KOLLOQUIUM

NEUE BILDERWELTEN

**ZU IKONOGRAPHIE UND HERMENEUTIK
ITALISCHER SIGILLATA**

16. APRIL – 18. APRIL 2015

✓ And finally... Amphorae in the present day

By Nabe Lion

The SGRP has long included potters whose work and observations on the past and present practices have proved very informative in understanding Roman pottery; while recent meeting examining portable ovens and similar ceramic structures have highlighted that ethnographic parallels need not be confined to prehistory. On a tangent from these comparisons, it was very engaging to recently encounter the work of an Egyptian photographer, Nabe Lion, who has kindly given his permission to use his photographs of the firing of amphorae-derived vessels at the village of *At Tiwayrat (el twyraad)*, outside Qena; Upper Egypt (c.45km north of Luxor).



The kiln chamber



Loading the kiln



Firing



The finished product