



The Study Group for Roman Pottery

NEWSLETTER 50

NOVEMBER 2010

S.G.R.P. Website - www.sgrp.org.uk

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
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Welcome to the autumn edition of the SGRP Newsletter. As I put the finishing touches to this issue, it is pouring down with rain and already dark outside so I hope you'll forgive me for the new colourful style! This is again a packed issue with a multitude of news and updates so happy reading.



News from the Committee



✓ Elections 2010

A couple of committee members completed their 3-year term in office at this year's AGM (Nottingham 2010). Those standing down are: Amy Thorpe (Ordinary member) and Jonathan Dicks (Ordinary member).

We warmly thank them for their work for and on behalf of the Study Group.

Following the elections at the AGM in Nottingham 2010, two new SGRP ordinary committee members were elected:

Andrew Souter and Cathy Tester

We welcome them to the Committee!

✓ President's note

It has been another lively year for the Study Group, and this is reflected in the content of the newsletter (for which again, thanks to Gwladys). Of particular importance, the SGRP Research Strategy, which will allow us to set our priorities as a group, is now with English Heritage. For me, one of the best things about membership of the group is the conference, when we can get together as specialists and share ideas. The Nottingham conference was excellent, with the kiln firing, workshops, and papers of a high standard. The subjects covered reflected the valuable contribution made to archaeology by volunteers, the importance of some of our fundamental skills (quantification, ceramic petrology, classification) and a range of recent discoveries (in Britain and France). The collaborative venture between Cotswold and Wessex Archaeology (the A46 road improvements) as well as being an interesting project in itself, reflects the continually changing face of contract archaeology. It is a worrying time for heritage funding. Please let us know if there are cuts in your area which you feel are impacting on Roman pottery studies, whether that is reduced post excavation budgets, cut posts, or cut teaching or training budgets. I think it is important that we monitor this. On a more positive note, please also let us know of any interesting developments in your area! The newsletter and the website provide a great forum for sharing information between conferences. And finally – the newsletter contains information about the 2011 conference in Amsterdam. I think this is going to be a very memorable event – looking forward to seeing you there!

✓ The John Gillam Prize

Please give some thought to the annual John Gillam Prize, established in 2004 to honour one of the key founders of our Group. The prize provides an opportunity for the Group to recognise the high

quality of work being undertaken by its members, and to encourage new researchers. We are now seeking nominations for the 2011 award. A wide range of work on pottery found in Roman Britain is eligible, including pottery reports (both published and grey literature), synthetic studies, websites, student dissertations, theses etc that were completed within the last two years. Please send your nominations to the Gillam Committee, consisting of the President and Publication Committee at bibliography@sgrp.org.uk. It is normally the responsibility of the nominator to make available a copy of the nominated work, but please write before sending the publication as in some cases it may not be necessary. Nominations are open until **11th of April 2011**. Works appearing in 2009 and 2010 will be eligible and the winner will be announced at our annual Conference in Amsterdam, between the 24th and 28th of June 2011. The award carries a small financial prize.

✓ **Brian Hartley's Archive Collection of Samian Rubbings from UK Excavations DVDs for sale**

We are delighted to announce that the Hartley DVDs, launched at the conference in July, have been selling well. The set of four DVDs (suitable for PC or MC but not stand alone DVD players) reproduces an archive, of decorated samian sherd rubbings currently held in the Department of Classics at the University of Leeds. The original rubbings were collected principally by Brian Hartley, Brenda Dickinson, Kay Hartley and Felicity Wild, with some from other colleagues. For the main part they are the by-product of reports written by Brian Hartley and Brenda Dickinson, over a period of some 30 years, on material from UK excavations. While many of these specialist reports have seen publication over the years, some have not. This archive therefore contains much material not readily available for reference or study elsewhere. Full information about the DVDs can be found on the website. If you would like to obtain a set (before stocks run out!) please send a **cheque for £12.50p** made payable to **The Study Group for Roman Pottery with your name and full postal address to:**

Pam Irving, 4 Wingfield Close, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3BX

✓ **Pottery associated with coin hoards**

The Study Group has been contacted by Richard Hobbs (British Museum, Dept. Prehistory and Europe) regarding the identification of vessels accompanying coin hoards. One of the successes of the Treasure Act of 1997, and the accompanying Portable Antiquities Scheme, has been the increase in the number of treasure cases the museum deals with each year. Although this is mainly accounted for by jewellery etc., the number of coin hoards coming to the museum has also increased. Associated with this is a rise in the number of hoard containers, either complete or fragmentary, which accompany the coins.

Richard is keen to develop a group of local contacts local Finds Liaison Officers can liaise with before the finds go to the museum, so that the vessels can be properly identified and dated. Unfortunately there is no funding to pay specialist rates, so specialists would have to give their time for free, but they could get a publication out of the process, which could go into CHRB or a local publication (or both). Richard has provided a list of Finds Liaison Officers and the local specialists they currently turn to for advice on Roman pottery (the table below). As you can see, there are a number of significant gaps.

Please could you let us know if you would be willing to provide specialist advice for any of the areas not already covered (or if you already are providing advice but have been missed off the list). Richard is currently contacting us for advice re specialists as and when a vessel containing a hoard is received. It would be great if we could provide a network of support. I'm not sure what research has been done on vessels associated with hoards: whether they are contemporary with the coins or

whether particular vessels are preferred. That could be an interesting study in itself – I'm sure Richard would be pleased to hear from anyone who wanted to pursue this.

RHOBBS@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

| Name | Area covered | E-mail | Specialist ? | Name | Comments |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Julian Watters | Beds. & Herts. | j.watters@stalbans.gov.uk | Y | Chris Green | also Liz Pieksma, Bedford Museum |
| Anni Byard | Berks. & Oxon. | Anni.Byard@Oxfordshire.gov.uk | Y | Paul Booth | |
| Ros Tyrell | Bucks. | rtyrrell@buckscc.gov.uk | | | |
| Helen Fowler | Cambs. | Helen.Fowler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk | | | |
| Vanessa Oakden | Cheshire, Gt. Manch, Merseyside | Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk | | | |
| Anna Tyacke | Cornwall | anna.tyacke@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk | | | |
| Rachel Atherton | Derbs. & Notts. | rachel.atherton@derby.gov.uk | Y | David Knight or David Walker | Trent & Peak Arch., Notts. Uni. |
| Charlotte Burrill | Derbs. & Notts. | charlotte.burrill@derby.gov.uk | Y | David Knight or David Walker | Trent & Peak Arch., Notts. Uni. |
| Danielle Wootton | Devon | danielle.wootton@exeter.gov.uk | | | |
| Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen | Dorset | c.h.trevarthen@dorsetcc.gov.uk | | | |
| Laura McLean | Essex | Laura.McLean@Colchester.gov.uk | Y/N | Paul Sealey | |
| Kurt Adams | Gloucs. & Avon | kurt.adams@bristol.gov.uk | | | |
| Robert Webley | Hampshire | Rwebley@winchester.gov.uk | Y | Helen Rees, Winchester Museum | |
| Peter Reavill | Herefs. & Shrops. | peter.reavill@shropshire.gov.uk | Y | Peter Reavill | also Jane Evans |
| Frank Basford | Isle of Wight | frank.basford@iow.gov.uk | Y | Frank Basford/ Malcolm Lyne | |
| Jennifer Jackson | Kent | Jennifer.Jackson@kent.gov.uk | | | |
| Dot Boughton | Lancs. & Cumbria | Dot.Boughton@mus.lancscc.gov.uk | | | |
| Stuart Noon | Lancs. & Cumbria | stuart.noon@lancashire.gov.uk | Y | Paul Bidwell & Alex Croom | |
| Wendy Scott | Leics. & Rutland | wendy.scott@leics.gov.uk | Y | Richard Pollard | also Richard Clark and Dr Nick Cooper at ULAS |
| Adam Daubney | Lincs. | adam.daubney@lincolnshire.gov.uk | Y | Ian Rowlinson | also Maggie Darling and Barbara Precious |
| Kate Sumnall | London | ksumnall@mususeumoflondon.org.uk | | | |
| Erica Darch | Norfolk | erica.darch@norfolk.gov.uk | Y | Andrew Rogerson | |
| Liz Andrews-Wilson | North & East Yorks. | Liz.Andrews-Wilson@ymt.org.uk | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Julie Cassidy | Northants. | jucassidy@northamptonshire.gov.uk | Y | Roy Friendship-Taylor | but requests back up if possible |
| Martin Foreman | North Lincs. | Martin.Foreman@northlincs.gov.uk | | | |
| Anna Booth | Somerset | ALBooth@somerset.gov.uk | | | |
| Amy Downes | South & West Yorks. | adownes@wyjs.org.uk | N | | No local specialist available |
| Tom Brindle | Staffs. & West Midlands | tom_brindle@birmingham.gov.uk | | | |
| Faye Minter | Suffolk | faye.minter@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk | Y | Jude Plouviez | |
| David Williams | Surrey | david.williams@surreycc.gov.uk | Y | Phil Jones | |
| Laura Burnett | Sussex | flo@sussexpast.co.uk | Y | Malcolm Lyne | Laura & Luke Barber can do general recording |
| Robert Collins | North East | robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk | Y | Paul Bidwell & Alex Croom | Jenny Vagn for Medieval and Post-Med |
| Frances McIntosh | North East | frances.mcintosh@durham.gov.uk | | Paul Bidwell & Alex Croom | Jenny Vagn for Medieval and Post-Med |
| Mark Lodwick | Wales | mark.lodwick@nmgw.ac.uk | Y | Peter Webster | |
| Angie Bolton | Warks. & Worcs. | abolton@worcestershire.gov.uk | | | |
| Katie Hinds | Wilts. | katiehinds@salisbury-museum.org.uk | Y | Lorraine Mephram | Wessex Arch |

✓ The SGRP on Facebook

From Alex Beeby:

The SGRP now has a page on Facebook. This is intended to complement the role of the website, hopefully facilitating formal and, perhaps more importantly, informal communication between members of the Group. It could, for example, be used to highlight important announcements/requests for information/new links on the SGRP website. A particularly good example of its use could be with regard to arrangements for the 2011 conference in Amsterdam. Members living in the same area could arrange to travel to Amsterdam together (car-sharing) or to book/share accommodation; cheap travel deals could be publicised. Other useful links and information could also be posted on the new page. To find the Facebook page search for 'SGRP' or 'STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY' and please let us have your thoughts about having an SGRP Facebook page and how we could be using it.



SGRP 2010 conference



The SGRP 2010 conference took place on the weekend of **Fri 2nd- Sun 4th July 2010** on University Park Campus in Nottingham. The weekend was a great success, with a range of talks on Roman pottery from Britain and beyond, several seminars, a visit to the University of Nottingham Museum, and an experimental kiln firing. As part of the weekend, we staged an experimental kiln firing on University Park Campus. Beryl Hines, who has vast experience in this type of project, supervised the kiln building and firing and provided invaluable information all weekend long. She has kindly summarized the experience for this Newsletter (see below). This year, most of the contributors sent paper summaries so please find them included below, ranging from quantification, mortarium, fieldwalking in the parish of Bingham to recent work on the A46 and research on temper.

Acknowledgements:

The SGRP and the conference organizers wish to warmly thank Beryl Hines for so readily agreeing to guide us through the kiln building and firing, Grahame Watson for his help in sourcing clay, bricks and many more beside and Martin Redding from the Fourth Witham Internal Drainage Board (Boston) for sourcing and cutting wood, twice! The SGRP and the conference organizers also wish to thank the University of Nottingham in particular the Estates Department for providing an ideal site for the kiln and for their help and support. A big thank you to Luke Saddler for filming the kiln experiment, Clare Pickersgill, Curator of the University of Nottingham Museum, Shona Powell, Director of Lakeside and James Seymour, Head of Front of House for their help and support.

✓ **Some abstracts from the 2010 conference:**

INTERPRETATION OF FIELD WALKING FINDS IN THE PARISH OF BINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

By Peter Allen (Bingham Heritage Trails Association)

In November 2004 BHTA began a five and a half year Lottery-funded project to research the history of settlement of Bingham parish. Part of the project was to field walk all 868 hectares of arable land in the parish. The project is now finished and a book ***Bingham, Back in Time***, has been published. The parish is bounded by the Fosse Way on the west and shares the Roman town of Margidunum with three other parishes.

Two-metre-wide transects, 20 metres apart, were walked entirely by volunteers under the eye of Trent & Peak Archaeology. Specialists were contracted to identify the finds. All information on them is stored in an Access database and the mapping software used was ArcMap. In this talk I propose to show some of what we have done with the information provided by the specialists, concentrating on the period Bronze Age to 8th century.

The first farming communities, who settled in the parish in the Earlier Neolithic, chose to live in an area in the south west of the parish, on a tributary of the River Smite. From then until the late Bronze Age this stream was the main axis of settlement.

In the Iron Age a different settlement pattern is evident. Finds are clustered in four sites around the parish boundary: Margidunum, Lower Brackendale Farm, Granby Lane and Parson's Hill. Virtually no Iron Age pottery was found between them.

Roman pottery sherds chart the establishment of Margidunum in the mid 1st century, through a period of expansion in the 2nd century to decline by the mid 4th century. Pottery from the mid 1st to early 2nd century has been found at all the Iron Age settlement sites. Several other clusters of Roman pottery mark the sites of small farms, probably newly established in the 2nd century. Two of them are associated with crop marks of enclosures. Between the clusters there is a wide spread of pottery fragments, thought to be the result of manure scatter. This suggests that the Roman occupation brought about a change in farming practices. Self-sufficiency during the Iron Age gave way to widespread, probably commercial, arable farming.

There are four clusters of Anglo-Saxon pottery. The sherds can be dated no more precisely than within the range 450-800 AD. Scatters near Margidunum, Lower Brackendale and Granby Lane are close to sites that had been occupied since the Iron Age. One small group occurs near the site of a 2nd century farm at Starnhill, identified by crop marks. This is the only place outside Margidunum with late 4th century pottery sherds.

It appears from the distribution maps that all except one of the 2nd century farms disappeared before the end of the 4th century. When the Anglo-Saxons arrived in the area only the long-established settlements and one of the 2nd century farms remained viable. Commercial arable farming had stopped.

A46 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. EXCAVATIONS 2009

By Ed McSloy (Cotswold Archaeology)

Archaeological works along the route of the A46, Newark, Notts to Widmerpool, also Notts were conducted as a joint venture between Wessex Archaeology and Cotswold Archaeology in the late spring and summer of 2009. The scheme, to improve the stretch of the road, has a long history, being proposed in the early 1990s. The route, approximately 22 miles in length, follows the course of the Fosse Way. It runs close to two Roman small towns at Ad Pontem in the north, at Newark and Margidunum at approximately the centre point of the route.

Of ten or so Roman sites identified along the route, only Margidunum and a site a few km to the south at Saxondale, produced moderately large assemblages: approximately 2000 sherds for Saxondale and 12000 for Margidunum. The presentation concentrated on the works at Margidunum, located approximately mid way along the route, close to Bingham, Notts.

The name *Margidunum* is recorded from two of the Antonine itineraries; those listing stations on the roads from York to London and London to Lincoln. It is listed as Between *Ad Pontem* (near Newark) and *Crococalana*, near Brough, Notts. The site is approximately mid-way between the two regional centres at Leicester and Lincoln.

There are no major pottery production sites located in the immediate vicinity, although some of the Early Roman coarsewares including 'Trent Valley ware' known abundantly from previous excavations at Margidunum are probably locally-made. The major coarseware supply of the 2nd century onwards comes as greywares and Dales/Dales type wares from the Trent valley to the north. The Lower Nene and Mancetter/Hartshill are the major suppliers of fine and 'specialist' wares. Derbyshire wares, Bourne/Greatham shell-tempered; fine, decorated reduced wares possibly from the Market Raisin area are also identified. From further afield are small quantities of Dorset Black-Burnished, Oxford red-slipped and pink grog-tempered ware. Margidunum is obviously best known for the samian collections, collected and studied by Felix Oswald from his excavations from 1910 and 1936. In these early excavations Oswald correctly identified Pre-Flavian activity at the site from the pottery, coins and metalwork. This early 'military phase' was associated with extensive evidence for iron smelting as pits full of slag. Oswald erroneously interpreted the early, earth rampart phase of

the polygonal defences as those of a Claudian or Neronian fort. The site was excavated again in 1966-8 in advance of the building of a new roundabout, this time by Malcolm Todd. Todd was able to demonstrate that the polygonal defences were no earlier than the late 2nd century and had nothing to do with an early military phase. This he thought probably dated to the mid 50s, rather than the immediate conquest period suggested by Oswald.

The long-planned A46 improvements came to fruition in 2008/9 as part of the Government's programme to stimulate economic activity. A consortium between Wessex and Cotswold Archaeology were awarded the contract early in 2009 and work started in April 2009, running through to October of the same year. Small-scale work has continued in 2010. Finds and samples processing was undertaken on site and, the offices of Cotswold Archaeology being slightly closer than those of Wessex, finds were quantified and stored at Cotswold's offices near Cirencester.

The project is currently in an early post-excavation stage, the post-excavation assessment being submitted in July. Just under 12000 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 177kg were recovered. A broad-brushed approach to recording of the Roman coarse pottery was taken at the assessment stage: quantifying by sherd count and weight by context and listing fabrics, vessel forms and context spot-date/*tpq*. Fabrics were coded, where possible using the NFRFC. The greywares, which form the bulk of the Roman coarsewares, were divided only where distinguished by inclusions other than quartz sand and sometimes by characteristics of form or decoration – for example rusticated types, late burnished types and Dales types.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of the new works, the road and new roundabout had been moved 300–400 metres to the west of the scheduled area and the areas of activity extending north and south noted by Todd. The areas to be excavated were stripped and excavated in stages. A comparatively very small area just to the east of the Fosse produced the largest volume of finds, probably as a result of its proximity to the road and the defended settlement to the north.

The larger areas of excavation, all to the west of the Fosse way, revealed a series of ditched enclosures, trackways and other settlement features. The activity dates throughout the period, probably with an emphasis on the mid later 2nd and late 3rd to 4th centuries. A metallised trackway running south-west appeared to be aligned on a major villa which is known from geophysical survey, just outside of the excavated area. A small number of extended Late Roman burials were identified in the southernmost area of excavation, within ditched enclosures aligned on the Fosse.

The area immediately west of the scheduled area was the most densely packed with features. The earliest is a double pit alignment, which included small quantities of Late Prehistoric, probably earlier Iron Age, pottery. A number of ditches and putative drip gullies contained grog or coarse shell-tempered pottery of the 'transitional' Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Nothing from the mid-1st century material was suggestive of military activity. There are occasional sherds of South Gaulish samian, 6 or 7 sherds of North Gaulish whiteware (all probably CAM 113 butt-beakers), and one sherd from a Ds 2-4 amphora. Of interest from this pit is a large shell-tempered storage jar which appears to have a post-firing graffito or doodle below its rim. There are basically similar marks to vessels of similar date from Bagendon and other sites and these are interpreted as ownership marks.

The small area (Area 'X') to the east of the Fosse produced the bulk of the coarse pottery and included eight deposits producing 150 or more sherds, to a maximum of 1400 sherds. Dating is focussed on the later 2nd century to early 3rd centuries. There are 540 sherds of samian from Area X which has been recorded by Gwladys Monteil. Approximately 70% is Central Gaulish, 16% East Gaulish and the remainder south Gaulish with much of this material probably residual. A notably high proportion of the samian shows evidence for repair and the reasons behind this will be looked at the analysis stage. Among other notable finds are five stamped Mancetter Hartshill mortaria, all identifiable with mid/late 2nd century potters, and a stamped Ds 20 amphora. This last, stamped 'DFF' to the handle, is matched by examples from Monte Testaccio and dated after c. AD 230. The most interesting single find from Area X is a portion of a central Gaulish black-slipped ware beaker (Déchelette 74) with appliqué decoration seemingly showing a winged victory on a two-horsed chariot. Two articles by Grace Simpson on this type of vessel list only 32 examples from Britain up to 1973, mainly with hunting scenes or the busts of deities. The dating would appear to be mainly Hadrianic and possibly earlier Antonine.

An area to the north-west of the scheduled area produced the only substantive evidence for Early Anglo-Saxon activity, including one sunken-featured building and a 6th century cruciform brooch. The SFB contained small amounts of abraded Roman pottery including LNVCC and Oxford red-slipped ware.

'Becoming Roman and losing your temper' A petrological study of Early Roman pottery from Cambridgeshire
by Alice Lyons

The aim of this project was to undertake a petrological study of pottery manufactured at three pre-Flavian kiln sites located in central Cambridgeshire and to try to establish whether an 'Iron Age versus Early Roman' signature was visible within the sample fabrics. This work was undertaken during 2009 as part of a MA dissertation prepared for Southampton University. Pottery for detailed analysis was selected from three sites that had recently been published (which provided valuable supporting data):

Swavesey: Willis, S., Lyons, A., Shepherd Popescu, E., and Roberts, J., 2008 'Late Iron Age/Early Roman Pottery Kilns at Blackhorse Lane, Swavesey, 1998-1999', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society Volume XCV11*, 53-76.

Addenbrookes: Webley, L., with Anderson, K., 2008 'Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery' in Evans, C., Mackay, D., and Webley, L., *Borderlands. The Archaeology of the Addenbrookes Environs*, South Cambridgeshire, CAU Landscape Archives: New Archaeologies of the Cambridge Region (1).

Greenhouse Farm: Gibson, D. and Lucas, G., 2002 'Pre-Flavian kilns at Greenhouse Farm and the social context of early Roman pottery production in Cambridgeshire', *Britannia* 33, 95-128.



Many thin section slides were prepared and examined and a very simplified results summary is provided below:

Textual summary:

Clay used to make Iron Age-type vessels

Key words: inconsistent fabric, narrow range of forms

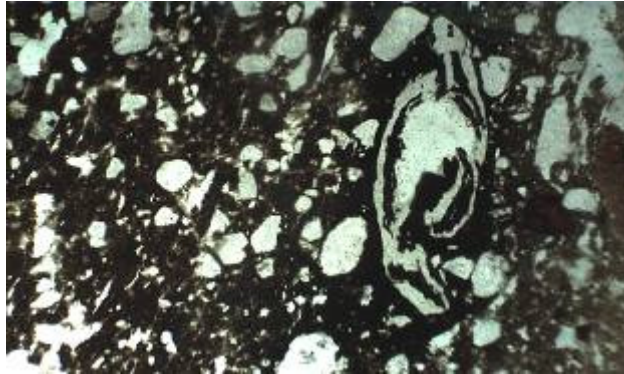
- Added to primarily 'sandy' clay matrices are common poorly sorted grog, quartz sand and organic inclusions. The fabric has generally been poorly prepared, resulting in a loose and holey appearance.
- This fabric was used to produce a limited range of vessels; in particular, the slack shouldered jar and the cordoned wide mouthed jar, and carinated cups and bowls.

Clay used to make Early Roman-type vessels

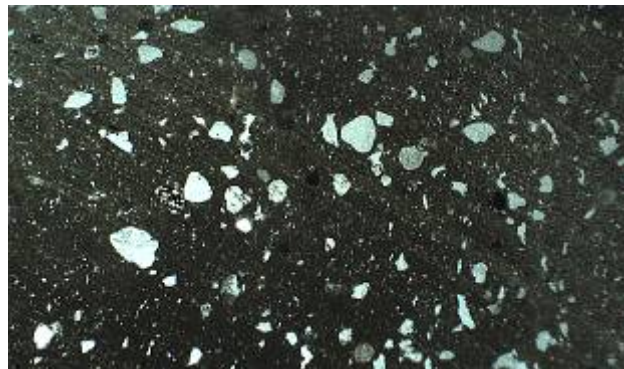
Key words: increasing standardization

- Added to the primarily 'lime-rich' clay matrices is common well-sorted quartz sand, with rare residual grog. The resulting fabric was well prepared and densely packed.
- This fabric was used to produce a wider range of forms including platters, flagons, and beakers, as well as cordoned and rilled jars, although carinated vessels had fallen from the repertoire.

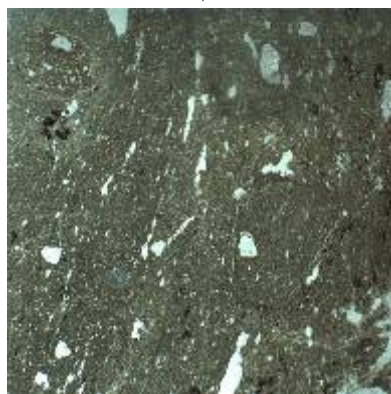
Visual Summary:



Poorly prepared clay from Swavesey, holey and full of organic material associated with LPRIA vessel types



Well mixed clay from Addenbrookes, less holey but still with poorly sorted quartz associated with more Romanized vessel forms



Very finely prepared and sorted clay from Greenhouse Farm, associated with Early Roman vessel forms

This project found that there is a very distinct change between the density of clay matrices and the sorted nature of inclusions in clay used to make Iron Age-type and Roman-type vessels, whereby the Iron Age-type have a loose and holey appearance with ill-sorted inclusions, and the ERB wares are densely packed with rarer better sorted inclusions.

This indicates that the clays used to make Iron Age-type fabrics were not washed, sorted, weathered or effectively wedged previous to manufacture while the ERB fabrics were more carefully prepared. Indeed, while the Iron Age-type fabrics remain holey and poorly prepared (do not evolve), the results of this analysis show that there is a chronological progression in the standardization of clay preparation for the Early Roman fabrics (they do evolve): the potters who worked at Greenhouse Farm managed to produce a level of standardization in their fabric preparation not seen at Swavesey or Addenbrookes.

This differentiation must mean that the method of pottery manufacture changed significantly between Late Iron Age and Early Roman fabric types; moreover, that innovation continued during the Early Roman era.

Of the three sites examined, Swavesey seems to have a distinct early (pre-conquest?) character, with a higher proportion of handmade wares, an expanding range of well-formed vessel types and (out of the three sites examined) less well prepared fabrics. The sites at Addenbrookes and Greenhouse Farm have a different (post-conquest?) character, with more wheelmade vessels, a large ceramic repertoire and more finely sorted fabrics. Indeed, the range of kiln designs and products at Addenbrookes and Greenhouse Farm were so similar as to have led to suggestions (Chris Evans *et al* 2008, 131) that both sites have been exposed to the same influences - although they are different enough not to have been built and used by the same specialist potters.

The answer to the question "Is there a distinct Iron Age versus Early Roman signature visible in the sampled fabrics?" has proven to be 'yes'.

Indeed, how clay was prepared and vessels produced have significant implications for our understanding of society at the transition between the Iron Age and Roman eras.

For example how did people learn to select and prepare clay suitable for use on a wheel? How did they learn to use the wheel? Were all clay sources freely available? What was the role of the military? Are the sophisticated levels of clay preparation (as seen at Greenhouse Farm) consistent with the idea of the mobile specialist potter?

I attempt to tackle these questions in my dissertation, which I hope will be more fully published, but please contact me (alice.lyons1@ntlworld.com) if you are interested in further details.

This work couldn't have been undertaken without the samples provided by Katie Anderson (CAU) and the support of many Study Group members, particularly Steve Willis who read a draft of this work, also the support of my colleges at OA EAST.

I will finish by saying that it has become apparent through this research that in 'becoming Roman' the community of potters in central pre-Flavian Cambridgeshire did not 'lose their temper' but, rather, learnt how to control it a little bit better.

THE SGRP 2010 CONFERENCE KILN

By Beryl Hines

This year the organizing committee decided to involve the conference in some experimental archaeology and asked me to build and fire a simple Romano/British kiln during the conference in the grounds of the University at Nottingham. The time scale for this kiln was very short, it had to be dug, built and packed on Friday for the firing on Saturday and the pots had to be ready to unpack from the kiln before the end of the conference at midday on Sunday. To build a traditional clay-lined kiln was out of the question so we decided to base the kiln on a set of fire-bars and kiln supports which had been found buried in a 1st C kiln at Haddon, near Peterborough and which are displayed at the Peterborough Service Station on the A1.

I discovered on Friday morning that archaeologists are very good at digging holes - the holes for the kiln and the stokehole were dug with remarkable speed and accuracy. To save time I used pre-fired pre-formed clay blocks (Bricks!) to line the kiln and the firebox. I brought with me some fired clay bars similar to those found at Haddon and these were placed to support the pots, radiating from a brick pillar in the middle of the kiln like the spokes of a wheel. The firebox or flu was covered with two modern kiln shelves and turves to add insulation.



Several people had brought some pots to go in the kiln and these we packed onto the fire-bars in a neat pile. To make a roof the pile of pots was then covered first with straw and then with a layer of brick clay tempered with sawdust, sand and grass.

Holes were cut into the covering of clay to enable the heat to travel through the kiln and for fuel we had a good pile of mixed seasoned coppiced wood. The kiln was lit early on Saturday morning. I placed two pyrometers in position to check the temperature – not very Roman!

We allowed the temperature to rise very slowly for the first hour and then began to increase the size of the fire but a sudden series of small explosions from inside the kiln alerted us to a problem. Three small pieces of hawthorn on the fire had caused the temperature on one pyrometer to rocket up to 600o C and the sudden heat caused some pots to blow up. We removed the hawthorn and the temperature dropped down again, much to our relief. We continued stoking all day and by six o'clock in the evening reached 900oC on one pyrometer, 800oC on the other and had flames coming out of the vent holes.



We decided to finish and sealed the kiln with earth to prevent damage to the pots as they cooled down overnight and we unpacked it late Sunday morning. Of the fifty-three pots in the kiln we lost eight but the remaining 45 fired well and the terra-cotta pots fired to a creamy red colour.



A lot of people worked hard towards the firing of this kiln. I would like to thank Ian Rowlandson, Alex Beeby and Meike Weiber, who did some amazing digging and Grahame Watson, whose hard work and efficient stoking helped to make the kiln a success.

POTTERY QUANTIFICATION: THE WHY AND THE HOW OF IT **By Clive Orton, UCL Institute of Archaeology**

Quantification is our attempt to say how much pottery we have. It has costs, in money and time. Therefore we need to ask what we can achieve from it in any particular situation. We might want to obtain:

1. The absolute size of an assemblage,
 2. The *composition* of a single assemblage (its breakdown into component parts, in terms of ceramic fabric, form, 'type', or other variables such as size or capacity),
 3. A comparison of the compositions of two or more assemblages.
1. The absolute size of an assemblage is a product of site formation processes and excavation strategy. An unknown fraction of the original assemblage is almost always missing. The absolute size is therefore very difficult to interpret.
 2. The observation that an assemblage consists of 50% of this, 30% of that and 20% of the other, is not in itself useful information. Without a basis for comparison, it does not really tell us anything.
 3. This can be useful, depending on the variables that define the composition, leading to seriation, between-site spatial analysis, or within-site spatial analysis.

Our prime interest should be in the original 'life' assemblages rather than in the 'death' assemblages that we actually have to hand. The latter are all that we have, but they should be seen as pointers towards the former, and evidence for site formation processes, rather than as objects of study in their own right. This means that we have to *estimate* the compositions of life assemblages from death assemblages; that is, we need to compare reliably the compositions of life assemblages from estimates based on death assemblages. We need a *measure* of the quantities of pottery in an assemblage which will lead to reliable inter-assemblage comparisons. The main contenders are: sherd count, sherd weight, vessels represented, and estimated vessel equivalents (*eves*).

Sherd count

Easy to measure and to manipulate statistically, but depends on both pottery type and assemblage type, not usually 'independent observations'. So it can't be used to compare compositions of assemblages reliably.

Sherd weight

Easy to measure, doesn't depend on assemblage type, but depends on pottery type, difficult to manipulate statistically. So it can be used to compare compositions of assemblages, but analysis is problematic.

Number of vessels represented

Has intuitive appeal, easy to manipulate statistically, but difficult to define, depends on pottery type, assemblage type and on the observer, is not 'additive' (can't easily combine assemblages). So it can't be used to compare compositions of assemblages reliably.

Estimated vessel equivalents

Independent of pottery and assemblage type, can be manipulated statistically, but difficult to estimate for some types. It can be used to compare compositions of assemblages reliably. Any aspect of a vessel that can be measured can be used to estimate its v.e.: rim percentage, base percentage, handles/feet (with caution), weight (standardised types). Different estimators can be used for different types. There is more flexibility than often realised.

Derived statistics such as *completeness* and *brokenness* can augment traditional approaches, such as the degree of wear and the analysis of cross-joins. We can think of sherds as indicators of the movement and dispersal of archaeological deposits.

Quantification can be used to help answer specific questions. The choice of measure depends to some extent on the questions being asked. Mathematical considerations can provide a useful critique.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CERAMIC MORTARIUM IN ANTIQUITY

By Robin P. Symonds (INRAP)

The inspiration for the seminars on mortaria presented at Nottingham goes back to a call for papers issued in early 2008 for a round table on culinary pottery, organised by Cécile Batigne-Vallet and Christine Bonnet, with the following title: *Projet de table : « Les céramiques communes comprises dans leur contexte régional : faciès de consommation et mode d'approvisionnement »*. (Proposed Round Table: Coarse wares understood in their regional setting, features of consumption and supply). When I saw this announcement, I could immediately imagine the kinds of papers that would be presented by my French colleagues, mainly also working for INRAP: "Coarse ware supply and consumption in the territory of the _____ (fill in the name of a tribe, such as the Lingons, the Eduens, the Sequani, or other)...". (In fact there were no such titles, but some came fairly close). For many of my colleagues, coarse pottery (*céramiques communes*) seems to mean grey ware cooking pots and bowls and storage jars – and possibly some flagons, and not really much else. Even though for the most part the borders of tribal areas are pretty much conjectural, and furthermore there is relatively little evidence of pottery types being limited to individual tribal areas, coarse pottery is nevertheless presented by tribal area, perhaps in the hope that by publishing enough papers in that manner eventually some patterns will emerge that respect the borders.

What is generally not alluded to in such papers is the arrival of Romans, or Roman culture, or, more specifically, Roman culinary culture. Although I would argue that Roman culture changed more or less everything, including basic cooking pots, bowls and storage jars, and that happened more or less everywhere, there are a number of pottery types that were imported with Roman culture and became popular throughout the regions that would become the provinces of the Roman Empire. Amphorae were the first type to arrive, well before the conquest of most such areas. With the conquest came sigillata and a small number of fine wares, which gave a ceremonial aspect to the table. But the real moment of cultural change must have been when there appeared a mortarium – and from the moment they appeared, there would be at least one in every household from then until the departure of the culture. The point about the mortarium is that although it almost certainly was a multifunctional utensil, it seems to represent a culinary culture that was new to the regions not previously conquered by the Romans, and it seems to have been adopted and reproduced just as faithfully as were the table wares.

So the initial motivation for the paper presented at the Round Table which took place at Lyon on the 2nd and 3rd of February 2009, was to talk about both mortaria and other vessel types that are manifestly importations from the Roman world, including, for example, Pompeian-red ware and tripod bowls. Although these latter types are likely to become part of a project currently being developed, mortaria quickly came to dominate the work. The question that arose immediately was: if mortaria came with Roman culture, when and where did they begin, and end? A general answer seems to be that the earliest ceramic mortaria that are identified as such belong to the 8th or 7th century BC, and are found in the eastern Mediterranean, in Israel or in nearby shipwrecks. There is a lengthy discussion in Sapin 1998 on whether or not the fairly simple early forms of mortarium should not better be called ‘concave dishes’, yet he uses the term in “Mortaria” in the title of his paper (ignoring, of course, that it is a Latin term, and none of his illustrated examples are later than La Tène IIC).

From there it was logical to begin to collect a bibliography and a collection of mortarium illustrations, with the aim of tracing an evolution from the earliest to the latest manifestations of the vessel. The second paper that has resulted from this work, recently submitted to *JRPS*, divides this evolution into twenty-one typochronological groups, as follows:

- Group 1: early mortaria of the eastern Mediterranean**
8th / 7th century BC / Persian period / La Tène IIC / 5th century BC
- Group 2: early Greek mortaria at Lattes**
c. 475 to 275 BC
- Group 3: *Massalia* (Marseille) mortaria at Lattes**
c. 400 to 125 BC
- Group 4: Punic mortarium at Lattes**
c. 225 to 200 BC
- Group 5: early Italian mortaria at Lattes**
c. 200 to 25 BC
- Group 6: early mortaria at Lyon**
5th century BC to c. 10 BC
- Group 7: “Rote Reibschüsseln”: a particular mortarium type at Magdalensberg**
from c. 10 BC
- Group 8: early wall-sided mortaria**
c. 50 BC to AD 60
- Group 9: Gillam form 236 mortaria, with long flange**
second half of the 1st century AD
- Group 10: mortaria of the mid-1st century AD: Camulodunum forms 192 to 194 & Gillam form 237**
AD 43 to 90
- Group 11: Gillam form 238 / Camulodunum form 195**
AD 60 to 110
- Group 12: hooked flange mortaria**
AD 79 to 140
- Group 13: mortaria of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, from sites in Moesia and Dacia**
2nd century AD
- Group 14: “Raetian” mortaria of the 2nd century AD**
2nd century AD
- Group 15: bead and flange mortaria, of the 1st to the end of the 3rd century AD**
end of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd century AD
- Group 16, late wall-side mortaria from Colchester**
first half of the 3rd century AD
- Group 17: Dragendorff form 43**
c. AD 170 to 250
- Group 18: Dragendorff form 45**
c. AD 170 to 400
- Group 19: late mortaria from Roman Britain, Gaul and Germany**
c. AD 150 to the middle of the 5th century AD
- Group 20: Merovingian mortaria from northern France**
second half of the 5th century to the middle of the 7th century AD
- Group 21: the latest mortaria, from Moesia Inferior, from Gallia Narbonnaise, from Turkey and**

from Cilicia, from the end of the 5th to the 7th century AD

c. AD 474 to the third quarter of the 7th century AD

As well as a lengthy bibliography, the paper also includes sections on 'The definition and principal characteristics of mortaria', 'Potters' stamps', 'The function of mortaria', 'Mortarium fabrics' (not treated in depth), along with conclusions that begin with a series of questions concerning mortaria that now need to be addressed, followed by the statement that "There is hardly any aspect of the study of mortaria that has been evoked in this paper that is not in serious need of further research". It is hoped that a forthcoming project on mortaria, organised by Sonja Willems, Stéphane Dubois and the present writer, will be able to address some of these questions, with the help of many interested colleagues.

Pottery from recent investigations at the Roman roadside settlement of Navenby, Lincolnshire-

From Ian M. Rowlandson

This paper presented the preliminary work on the pottery from recent community archaeology excavations at Navenby during summer 2009. The project was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd and funded by NDC Group Ltd. The volunteers received training from experienced field staff and investigated an area of the Roman roadside settlement situated along Ermine Street located to the south of the *colonia* at Lincoln. Five buildings located along the roadside and a metalled 'side road' were uncovered. A number of inhumation burials were also found to the rear of the buildings. The pottery from the 2009 excavation suggests the main period of activity was from the 2nd to late 4th century but other excavations further to the north indicate that an earlier foundation probably developed next to an Iron Age enclosure. The project will be published as a monograph in 2011 along with a summary of the previous excavations and finds from the area.

This paper focused on the disposal method of pottery during the Roman period on the 2009 site. Much of the pottery was highly fragmentary and retrieved from layers excavated around the buildings. Little of the pottery was retrieved from pits or ditches. This contrasts with recent groups from Sleaford where pottery was clearly disposed of in wells or pits. The largest groups from the Navenby site were retrieved from late 4th century layers dumped over the abandoned buildings. This suggests that the inhabitants of Navenby mostly dumped their pottery in middens or discarded it around the buildings. This resulted in a low average sherd weight.

The paper briefly highlighted a number of unusual, specialist 'cultic' vessels from Navenby including a face neck flagon, a smith god pot and a phallic spouted vessel. The significance of these vessels will be discussed further by M.J. Darling in the forthcoming monograph.

'An unusual seated figure from Old Winteringham'

From Ian M. Rowlandson

This short paper presented a fragment from an unusual vessel found in the collections of the North Lincolnshire Museum. The sherd was discovered during the excavation of a pipe trench during the 1960's and was found in the museum collections of North Lincolnshire Council Museums Service. The sherd consists of the lower torso and legs of the figure applied to the shoulder of a jar. The figure's phallus is unfortunately missing but would have formed a spout for pouring liquids. After passing the sherd around, many helpful suggestions were offered by the audience about the possible deity depicted, and it is hoped that this vessel will be published in an archaeological note in due course. A broader discussion about the value of investigating existing museum collections was also prompted.

The Supply of Pottery to Roman Leicester and the Castle Street 'Delicatessen'

From Nicholas J. Cooper and Elizabeth Johnson, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

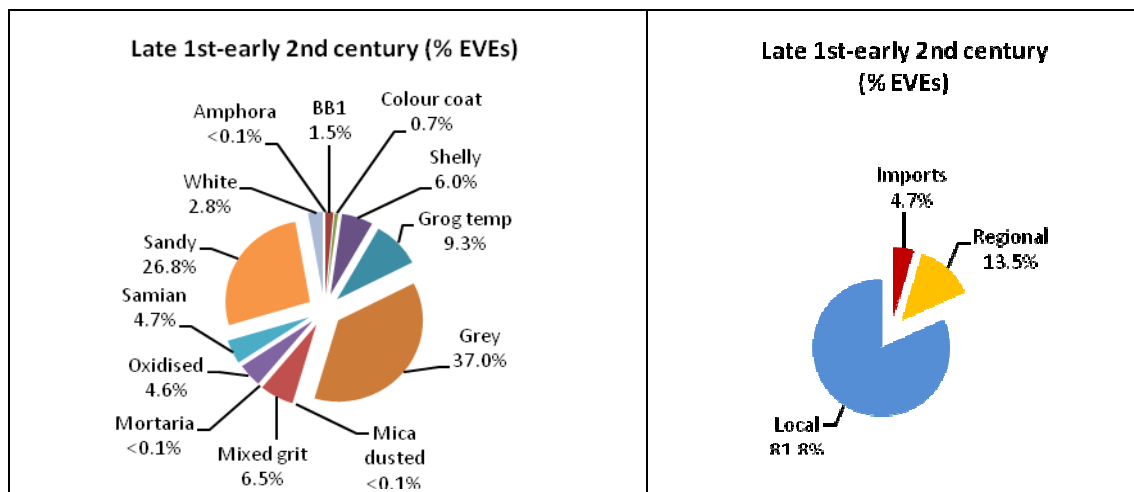
This paper seeks to flag up some important results from recent excavations in Roman Leicester, ahead of more detailed publication. The first concerns pottery supply to sites in the north-east quarter of the Roman town excavated ahead of the Highcross shopping centre, the largest ever undertaken in the city, whilst the second analyses an assemblage from a second-century cesspit at Castle Street associated with a 'delicatessen' fronting on to street close to the south gate.

Pottery Supply

Excavations on the site of a Roman town house at Vine Street from 2003-6, yielded a sequence of deposits spanning the later 1st to mid 4th century which has allowed us to chart changing supply. Some of the results are presented in a series of pie charts and these are followed by histograms summarising the source of supply over time and the variation of major vessel classes. There has been no attempt remove 'residual' pottery from the analyses and so there will inevitably be some 'lag effect' detectable amongst the later groups.

Late 1st-early 2nd century

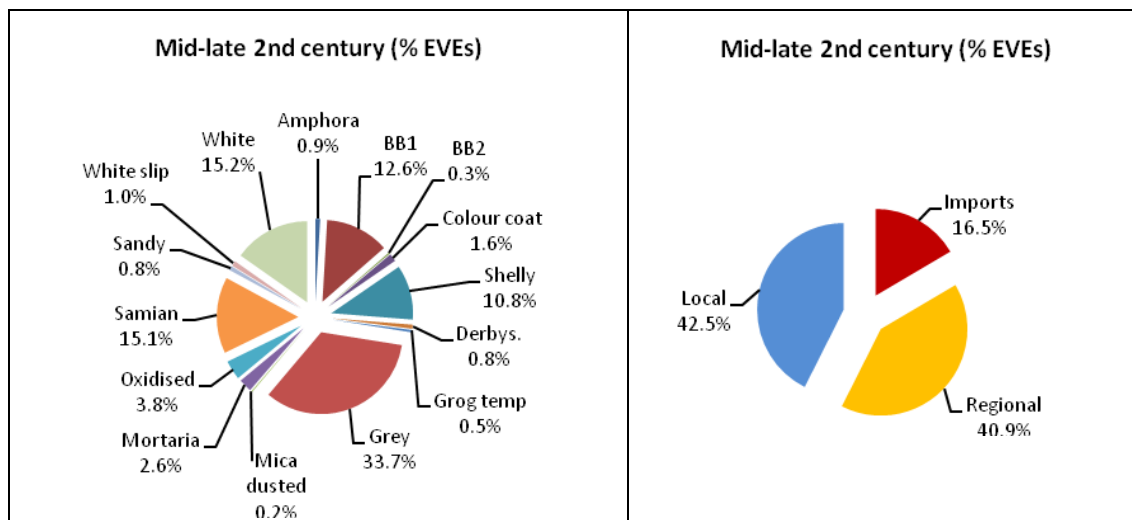
Pottery is overwhelmingly local (82%) in origin, probably made within 15 miles, the assemblage comprising sandy, mixed-gritted and grog-tempered "transitional" wares along with local grey and shelly wares.



Imports are predominantly South Gaulish samian together with a pre-Flavian Gaulish colour-coated ware beaker and amphorae from Gaul and Southern Spain. Regional Romano-British wares comprise white, oxidised, mica dusted and some grey wares, with mortaria from the Verulamium region and Mancetter-Hartshill. The small quantity of Black Burnished ware may be intrusive.

Mid-late 2nd century

The proportions of local and regional wares are now almost equal and imports have increased to 17% due to a substantial rise in the amount of samian, mostly from Central Gaul but with a little from Eastern Gaul. Central Gaulish colour-coats and amphorae are the other imports.



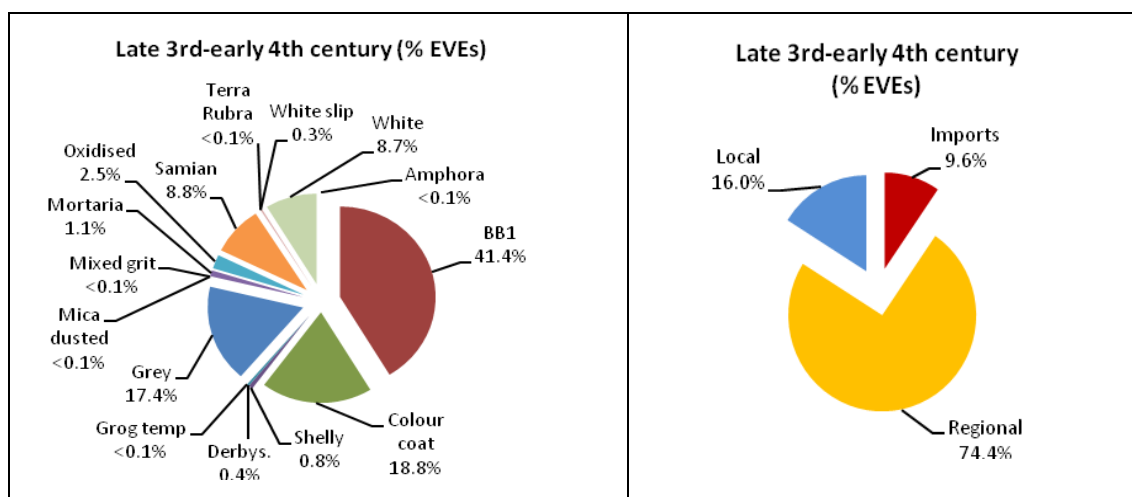
Grey wares are local in origin except for a negligible amount from the lower Nene Valley (<1%). Most of the shelly ware is also local, apart from one jar from the Bourne-Greetham area. The overall increase in regional wares stems from an increase in white wares to 15% and a substantial increase in the amount of Black Burnished wares to 12.6%. The group includes mortaria from the Verulamium region and Mancetter-Hartshill whilst the Romano-British colour-coated ware is most likely from Colchester rather than the lower Nene Valley.

Late 2nd-early 3rd century

Imports have increased again slightly to 17.7% and regional wares outweigh local wares for the first time. The sources of samian wares are similar to those during the mid-late 2nd century, with most from Central Gaul and a little from East Gaul. A Gaulish colour-coated ware beaker and a small amount of amphorae complete the range of imported wares. Most of the local wares are grey and shelly wares. A further increase in Black Burnished ware to 17.8% boosts the quantity of regional wares, with white, white-slipped and oxidised wares forming a further 22.9%. Bourne-Greetham shelly ware comprises 2.3%. Most of the mortaria are from Mancetter-Hartshill, with two residual vessels from the Verulamium region. There is also a Nene Valley mortarium and a small quantity of Nene Valley colour-coated ware beakers.

Late 3rd-early 4th century

Imports have dropped substantially and most that remain are now residual, whilst regional wares are clearly dominant with BB1 rising to 41% and lower Nene Valley colour-coats to 19%. Colour-coated beakers from Trier are also present as is a single vessel in Oxford red colour-coated ware. The mortaria are from Mancetter-Hartshill and the lower Nene Valley whilst most of the shelly and grey wares are local, with only 2% of the latter coming from the lower Nene Valley.



Early-mid 4th century AD

Though still dominant the regional contribution to the assemblage drops to 62% due to the halving of the supply of BB1 which begins the contraction of its market. Colour-coated wares from the Lower Nene Valley reach a peak of 22% and as in the previous phase, small numbers of Trier beakers and a single bowl in Oxford red colour-coated is present. Mortaria are from Mancetter-Hartshill and the Nene Valley, with Oxfordshire white and white-slipped examples also present. Shelly wares from Harrold, Beds., appear for the first time in this group (5%), whilst the grey wares are almost exclusively local.

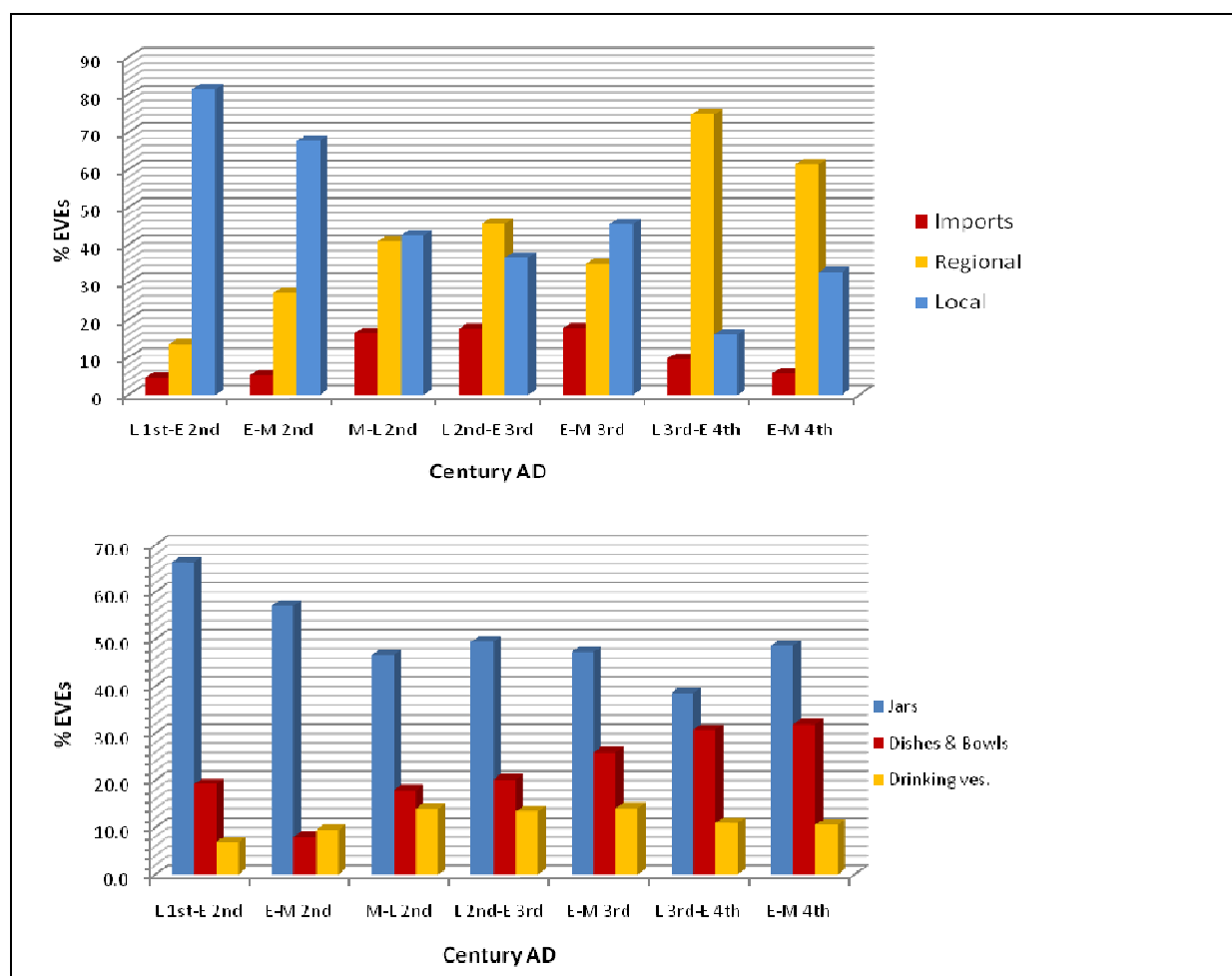
Mid-Late 4th century

As in many other towns, stratified groups belonging to the last fifty years of Roman administration in Leicester are few and far between. However, two groups from the Highcross site on Freeschool Lane usefully demonstrate the latest products reaching Roman Leicester, one dating to the middle of the 4th century, the other to the Early Anglo-Saxon period.

The mid-4th century group demonstrates the continued decline of BB1 (14%) the increased contribution of shelly wares from the South Midlands and the increasing contribution of Oxford red colour-coats alongside the late products of the Lower Nene valley. All these trends continue in the group found in the dark earth sealed by the collapsed wall of the macellum which also contained early Anglo-Saxon pottery and must represent the closest we are likely to get to a final phase assemblage in Leicester.

Summary of Supply

The trends in the supply of pottery from local, regional and imported sources as well as the major vessel forms represented are summarised below. The broad patterns are comparable to other urban centres in Roman Britain, where supply has been charted such as Chelmsford, Cirencester and London.



More detailed publication of the assemblages from the Highcross sites will be published during 2011, via OASIS and as a printed volume.

The Castle Street 'Delicatessen'

The analysis of an assemblage of second-century pottery excavated in 2005 from a cesspit to the rear of a colonnaded shop frontage, together with the associated plant and animal refuse, has led to the suggestion that the shop was probably a delicatessen. The assemblage of 549 sherds (21kg) contains an unusually high proportion of amphorae and flagons and the samian comprises platters (Form 15/17) plates (Form 18) dishes (Forms 18/31 and 79) and bowls (Forms 30, 37 and Curle 11) with none of the expected cups (Forms 27 and 33). The absence of cups has been taken to indicate that drink was not consumed on the premises and that the samian was used to display foods for purchase. The amphorae comprised Dressel 20, Gauloise 4, Dressel 2-4 (Koan-844 fabric), Cam 186 (Cadiz fabric) and Fishbourne 148.3, indicating not only olive oil and wine but also fish products and fruits such as dates. Importantly the cesspit also contained botanical evidence comprising grape pips, plum or cherry stones, strawberries, opium poppy and possibly figs and faunal remains dominated by shoulders of smoked or cured beef carved off the bone and fish, both freshwater and marine.

The detailed publication of the assemblage will appear in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 84 (2010), 77-94 in December.

Productions céramiques gallo-romaines spécifiques du Centre-Ouest de la Gaule : exportation et commerce maritime, état de la question By Jean-Philippe Baigl (Inrap) et David Guitton (Inrap)

Jean-Philippe Baigl and David Guitton wish to present a selection of fine and coarse wares produced in the territories of the Santons and Pictons (Centre- West of Gaul) that may have been exported to Britain during the Roman period. They would be interested to hear from you if you come across such wares in your area.

Le territoire des Santons et celui des Pictons (Fig. 1) montrent la particularité de s'ouvrir largement sur l'Océan Atlantique et leurs deux villes principales Saintes et Poitiers ont joué un rôle politique et économique important pour la Gaule puisqu'elles ont été vraisemblablement successivement capitale de la province romaine d'Aquitaine.

Le commerce maritime entre ces deux régions et l'île de Bretagne est attesté par la numismatique : découverte de monnaies du centre-ouest de la Gaule (groupe Contoutos) en Grande-Bretagne et de monnaies bretonnes (exemple : Cunobelinus) dans notre région.

Qu'en est-il pour la céramique ?

Nous nous contenterons de présenter les productions du centre-ouest de la Gaule susceptibles d'être exportées vers la Bretagne romaine.



Fig. 1 : Localisation des territoires santon et picton (carte Monteil/Tranoy)

Présentations des productions :

Les céramiques fines ou semi-fines

En territoire Picton

- La céramique à l'éponge (Fig. 2) :

Ce type de céramique produit dans la région de Poitiers au IV^e siècle ap. J.-C. est déjà connu en Angleterre (cf carte de P Tyers, potsherd.uklinux.net), mais les nouvelles recherches de D. Guittou ont permis de reconnaître un nouveau répertoire pour ce même groupe de productions que l'on attribuait auparavant au groupe d'Argonne. Les formes (Chenet 320, 328 /330, ...) et les décors (molette, décor peint,...).



Fig. 2 : Exemple d'une jatte du groupe des céramiques dites à « l'éponge » produite dans le sud du territoire picton. Ce type de production est réalisé en mode A, la pâte est siliceuse et engobée. Ici le décor comporte des motifs étoilés sur la partie supérieure et utilise une molette pour la partie inférieure. Certains vases peuvent avoir reçu de la peinture blanche. L'essentiel de la production est attesté au IV^e s. ap. J.-C.

- La sigillée du Centre-Ouest (Fig. 3) :

Sans doute essentiellement produite dans la vallée de la Vienne et du Clain, elle est diffusée principalement en territoire picton et plus généralement dans le quart nord-ouest de la Gaule entre la fin du I^{er} et le milieu du II^e siècle ap. J.-C.



Fig. 3 : Céramiques sigillées du groupe Centre-Ouest : ce type de céramique est cuit en mode A avec une pâte siliceuse recevant un engobe non grésé. La production s'échelonne entre la fin du I^{er} s. et le milieu du II^e s. ap. J.-C.

En territoire Santon :

- La *Terra Nigra* (Fig. 4) :

Le répertoire des formes de *Terra Nigra* présentes sur le territoire britannique semble en effet provenir du nord-ouest de la Gaule comme le montre la carte de P. Tyers. Mais il nous semble intéressant de présenter la typologie des formes saintongeaises : les ateliers saintais étudiés datent de l'époque augusto-tibérienne et sont contemporains des monnaies de Contoutos trouvés en Grande-Bretagne.



Fig. 4 : *Terra Nigra* produites à Saintes (Ier s. av. / Ier s. ap. J.-C.) : vases bobines et ratés de cuisson

Un type de céramique assez proche est également produit à Saintes : il s'agit de gobelets cylindriques avec décor guilloché dénommé par ailleurs « type Beuvray » (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5 : Gobelets à parois fines produits à Saintes, dénommé par ailleurs « type Beuvray », pâte calcaire cuite en mode B (fin Ier s. av. / début Ier s. ap. J.-C.).

- Les parois fines engobées (Fig. 6) :

La production de ces vases était attribuée essentiellement au centre de la Gaule (Lezoux) mais la découverte d'un atelier spécialisé à Soubran/Petit-Niort au sud de Saintes nous oblige à revoir les aires de diffusion. L'atelier de Soubran/Petit-Niort paraît approvisionner toute la côte atlantique et pourrait donc aussi alimenter la Grand-Bretagne entre la fin du I^{er} et le milieu du II^e siècle. Cette production se caractérise notamment par une pâte blanche kaolinitique et des décors à la barbotine en forme de lunules et d'épingles.



Fig. 6 : Gobelet à paroi fine et bouilloire des ateliers de Soubran/Petit-Niort (Saintonge) caractérisables par leur pâte blanche kaolinitique (fin I^{er} / milieu II^e s. ap. J.-C.).

La céramique commune :

En territoire Santon :

- Bouilloire en pâte kaolinitique (Fig. 6) :

Le même atelier de Soubran/Petit-Niort produit d'autres types de céramiques en pâte kaolinitique comme des coupes à décor peint mais surtout des bouilloires que l'on retrouve également en grand nombre au moins sur toute la façade atlantique de la Gaule principalement au cours de la première moitié du II^e siècle.

- Communes sombres saintongeaises du Haut-Empire (Fig. 7) :

Parmi un répertoire très vaste les pots décorés à la molette paraissent les plus caractéristiques.





Fig. 7 : Pot à cuire et jatte saintongeais en céramique commune sombres : à noter le décor à molette caractéristique sur le pot (Ier s. ap./IVe s. ap. J.-C.).

- Communes claires à pâte calcaire du Haut-Empire (Fig. 8) :
Il s'agit essentiellement de cruches que l'on trouve tout le long de la côte atlantique de Bayonne à Quimper. Egalement produites à Saintes, des coupes à collerette portent parfois des estampilles.



Fig. 8 : Cruche de saintonge en pâte calcaire très fréquente de la fin du Ier au IIe s. ap. J.-C.

En territoire Picton :

- Cruches à col renflé (Fig. 9) :

L'étude récente des ateliers pictons de Louin, Bellefonds, Naintré, a permis de définir un répertoire de formes de céramiques communes parmi lesquels des mortiers à engobe blanc et des cruches à col renflé produits de la fin du I^{er} au courant du IV^e siècle ap. J.-C.

Fig. 9 : Cruche à col renflée typique des ateliers pictons (fin du Ier au IVe s. ap. J.-C.)

Fig. 9 : Cruche à col renflée typique des ateliers pictons (fin du Ier au IVe s. ap. J.-C.)



Fig. 9 : Cruche à col renflée typique des ateliers pictons (fin du Ier au IVe s. ap. J.-C.)

La céramique paléochrétienne :

- La dérivée de sigillée paléochrétienne atlantique (DSPA) :

On finira avec ce type de céramiques fines estampées dont la production est présumée sur Bordeaux et peut-être en Saintonge aux V^e et VI^e siècles de notre ère.

Conclusion :

Le centre-ouest de la Gaule a produit un grand nombre de céramiques dont le commerce a grande distance est attesté. La présence de céramiques dite à l'éponge en Bretagne romaine au IV^e siècle étant largement démontré il paraît dès lors plausible que d'autres éléments comme ceux qui viennent d'être présentés aient bénéficiés des mêmes réseaux d'échange, quelle que soit la période.



SGRP 2011 conference-Amsterdam



From Julie van Kerckhove:

The theme and programme

As the SGRP-conference 2011 will take place in Amsterdam we will follow a programme around a theme broad enough to interest all delegates, whether they are working in the UK, the German Rhineland or in France... This theme will be: 'pottery productions transported by the North Sea and the river Rhine'. Lectures will mainly be focussed on the production of pottery and the trading routes/mechanisms of these productions. Roman Pottery specialists who have analysed production material/assemblages from kilns are particularly encouraged to present their results. They are also encouraged to display pottery (production material) for the workshops that will be organised. In this way the delegates can see and feel the fabrics that they might encounter on their excavations. Papers on your latest research in Roman period pottery are of course also very welcome.

Offers of paper should be emailed to Julie van Kerckhove (j.van.kerckhove@let.vu.nl) with a brief outline before the 31st of January 2011.

Transport (airport)

The nearest airport is Schiphol (Amsterdam), where you can take the train to Amsterdam-Centraal. Then you can walk (15 minutes) to the Ibis-hotel: Hotel Ibis Amsterdam City Stopera, Valkenburgerstraat 68, 1011 LZ Amsterdam or you can take the subway (Waterlooplein, line 51, 53, 54).

There are budget flights to Amsterdam from the UK:

- Aberdeen with BMI (www.flybmi.com)
- Belfast with Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)
- Birmingham with BMI Baby (www.bmibaby.com)
- Bristol with Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)
- Cardiff with BMI Baby (www.bmibaby.com)
- Edinburgh with Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)
- Exeter with Flybe (www.flybe.com)
- Glasgow with Transavia (www.transavia.com)
- Leeds with Jet2 (www.jet2.com)
- Liverpool with Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)
- London with Easyjet (www.easyjet.com), with Transavia (www.transavia.com) and with BA (www.britishairways.com)
- Manchester with Jet2 (www.jet2.com)
- Norwich with Flybe (www.flybe.com)
- Nottingham with BMI Baby (www.bmibaby.com)
- Southampton with Flybe (www.flybe.com)

There are budget flights to Amsterdam from Germany:

- Berlin with Transavia (www.transavia.com)

Accommodation

The price for one room is 115 euro (5% tax and breakfast **excluded**) for one or for two persons. You can ask for a twin-bed room, or a room with a double bed. Whether you use the room for one or for two persons, the price stays the same. Julie has made reservation for 70 rooms from the 24th to the 26th June 2011.

This year the arrangement will be that members/delegates book their accommodation **direct** themselves with the hotel where we are staying (see booking form below). You can book your room now if you wish; it is recommended to do this as soon as possible. The hotel is the Ibis Amsterdam City Stopera (Valkenburgerstraat 68, 1011 LZ Amsterdam-see C on map). This has been decided as the best option and the most convenient for those attending the conference as you can book to your own requirements.

We kindly ask you to register for the conference by sending an email to Julie when you have booked a hotel room.

The conference

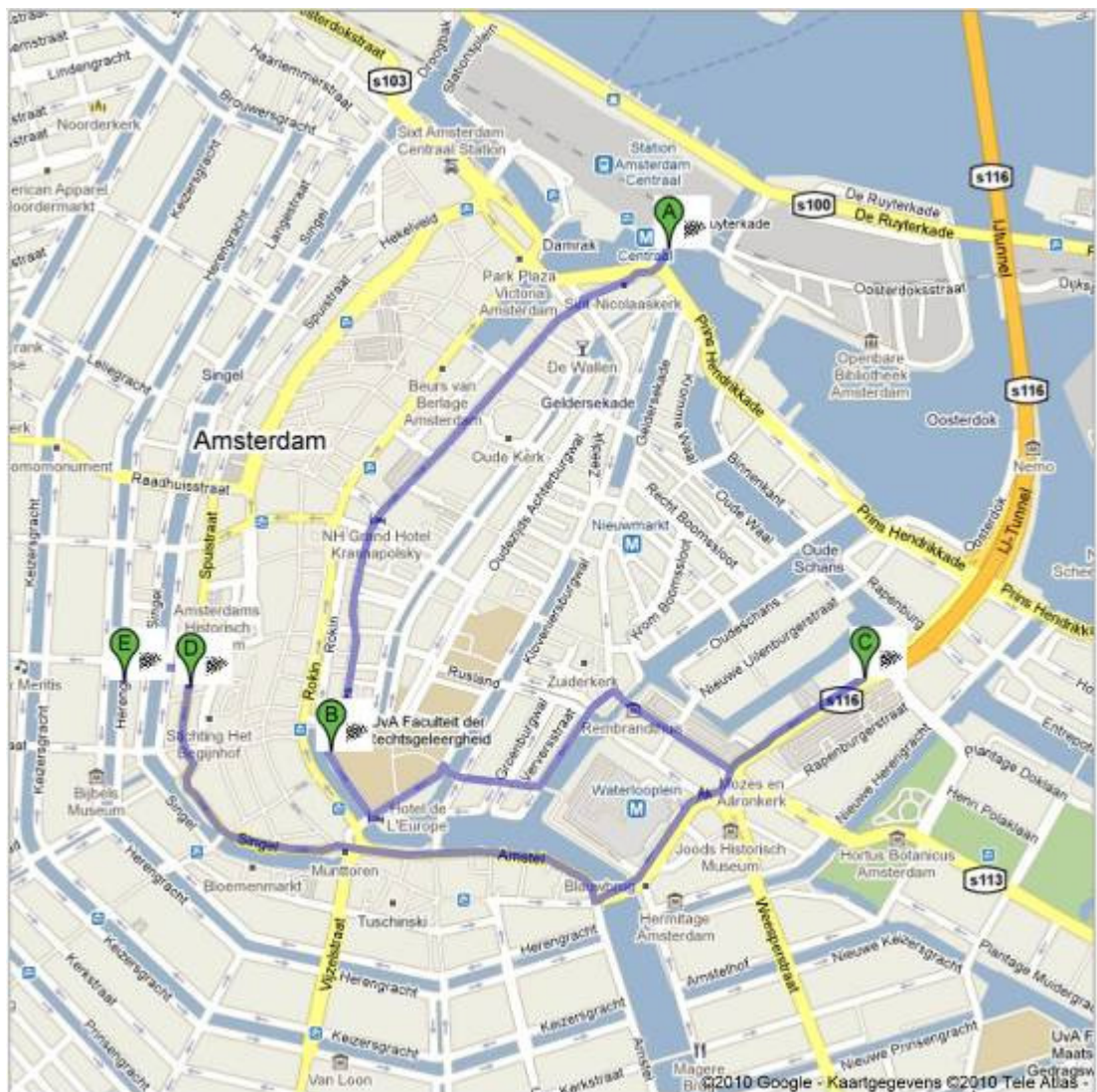
The conference will take place in the Allard Pierson Museum (Oude Turfmarkt 127, Amsterdam-see B on map), see <http://allardpiersonmuseum.nl>. This museum is within walking distance of the hotel.

The cost of the conference fee will be announced as soon as possible (to keep costs down, Julie is looking into grants and the SGRP will contribute funds using profits from previous conferences). You can register for the conference now if you wish by sending an email to Julie (j.van.kerckhove@let.vu.nl).

Dinners and gin tasting in distillery De Admiraal

The first evening (Friday, the 24th) we will dine in Haasje Claes (see D on map). “Haasje Claes” is a restaurant situated in the historical center of Amsterdam, between the Spui and the Dam square, across from the Amsterdam Historical Museum. The restaurant occupies six epic buildings, in which the original architectural features such as little steps, corridors and hallways all have been preserved. Likewise, the exterior of the building is a beautiful example of traditional Dutch architecture. See http://www.haesjeclaes.nl/?language=en_EN.

The second evening (Saturday, the 25th) we will taste several gins in the authentic distillery De Admiraal (see E on map). Afterwards there will be a buffet at the same location. See <http://www.de-oievaar.nl/english/>.



Map of Amsterdam: location of:

A=Central Station; B=Conference location; C=Hotel; D=Restaurant Haesje Claes; E=Distillery De Admiraal

VU Congres



Hotel Reservation request for:

Hotel Ibis Amsterdam City Stopera
Valkenburgerstraat 68
1011 LZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel : +31 20 53 19 158
Fax : +31 20 53 19 145
Email : H3044@accor.com

Arrival date: 24-06-2011
Departure date: 26-06-2011

All rooms have bathrooms with shower and toilet.
Prices are per room per night, excluding breakfast and excluding 5% city tax

Single room/double room € 115,00

- ☐ Single room
☐ Double room

Name Guest :
Address/City :
Country:
Telephone : Fax number:
E-mail :

All reservations should be guaranteed by credit card, we request you to fill out the details below:
The credit card will also be used for any No Show Charges or Late Cancellation Charges. Without a valid credit card number/expiry date, the room will be cancelled after 6PM on the day of arrival.

Credit card number :
Expiry date :

Send this form before 20.05.2011 to:

Fax : +31 20 53 19 145
Email : H3044@accor.com

(It is only possible to make the reservation by fax or email, on availability)

Reservation number
Confirmed by:



Other forthcoming conferences



- ✓ **Ceramics, Cuisine and Culture: the Archaeology and Science of Kitchen Pottery 16-17th December 2010, British Museum in London:**

Please see the following web-address:

http://www.tracingnetworks.ac.uk/kitchen_pottery/program.htm

- ✓ **SEEING RED: International conference on new economic and social perspectives on Gallo-Roman sigillata – from 1st April 2011 to 3rd April 2011**

The conference, held at the University of Reading, aims to capture the new research on samian stimulated by the publication of Brian Hartley's and Brenda Dickinson's *Names on terra sigillata*. Speakers from a wide range of European countries, from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, and the Baltic to the Mediterranean, will give papers on the following themes: production centres (history, location and technology); consumption and distribution; onomastics and iconography. Cost: £250 (full residential); £100 (full non-residential); £50 (day rate). Please see the website for further details, http://www.reading.ac.uk/archaeology/research/arch_sigillata.aspx

or contact Jenni Eaton at sigillata@reading.ac.uk

- ✓ **Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference 2011– from 15-17th April 2011**

To celebrate TRAC's 21st birthday it is returning to its birthplace and it will be held at Newcastle University from **15-17th April 2011**.

Sessions will start from 2.30pm on Friday 15th April and finish at 1pm on Sunday 17th April. There will be a pre-conference trip to Hadrian's Wall, departing 12 midday on Thursday 14th April. A Plenary lecture followed by drinks will run on Friday 15th April and the TRAC party will take place on the evening/night/morning of Saturday 16th April. There will be seven sessions in total. The final session on the Sunday will combine a retrospective panel session featuring delegates from the 1st TRAC and contributions by leading theorists who normally operate outside Roman studies.

The TRAC website; <http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/TRAC2011> is now online and has information about accommodation, Newcastle and the committee here. We will soon have our online registration up and running which will allow you to book both for the conference and the trips and pay in one easy process. It also includes a linked facility to allow booking for accommodation which is being organized by the Newcastle Gateshead Convention Bureau.

The deadline for submissions of papers and session proposals was on Monday 15th November but poster proposals are still possible should be submitted by 31st JANUARY 2011. Posters abstracts should be 150 words. The completed poster should be A1, colour and laminated.

The actual poster should be brought to the conference information desk at Newcastle by 2.00 pm on Friday 15th April 2011.



News and Updates



✓ **A Research Strategy and Updated Agenda for the Study of Roman Pottery in Britain by Rob Perrin**

At the conference AGM, Rob Perrin provided a brief 'history' of work on the Research Strategy project and presented a draft list of potential strategy objectives. This was compiled from comments received from members via the questionnaire and subsequent correspondence, and from the discussions held at the two regional workshops, which took place. The list had also been posted on the SGRP wikisite.

The list provoked some animated discussion and comment. As a result, it was agreed that members should have a further, final period for comment, up to the end of July. Thereafter, Rob compiled a draft final document, which was sent to the Steering Group in early September for comment and approval. The amended final document was then sent to English Heritage at the end of September. A response is currently awaited. The report will, in due course, be posted on the SGRP website and wikisite and be published in a forthcoming volume of the JRPS. The literature section will be integrated into the JRPS bibliography sections.

The list of strategy objectives is large and comprehensive and the SGRP committee will now need to consider how best to take the various objectives forward.

Rob would like to take this opportunity to thank all those in the Group who have contributed to the project and have helped him to bring it to a successful conclusion, especially the Steering Group and Project Executive.

The final list of strategy objectives is as follows:

Strategy objective 1: The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC)

Digitisation of NRFRC Put digitised NRFRC on-line

Strategy objective 2: Kilns

Digitisation of Swan 1984

Add details of kilns post 1984

Add type series

Add break section photographs

Add photographs of special features, e.g. spouts

Establish the extent of Roman thin sections (see 7A)

Add thin section etc info

Put digitised kiln database on-line

Strategy objective 3: Regional Roman Fabric Reference Collections

Compile data on existing fabric/form reference collections

Identify locations for and establish other reference collections

Place reference collections on line

Strategy objective 4: Pottery practice

Revise guidelines to reflect current working practice

Check status of other SGRP documents

Review of statistical analyses

Establish correct terminology for firing technology

Strategy objective 5: Museum etc collections

Compile database of Museum collections
Identify collections currently held elsewhere

Strategy objective 6: Training Initiatives

Compile list of topics suitable for MA and PhD research
University teaching
Liaise with museum curators to use collections as educational resource
Study days based on collections
Themed workshops
Website as training tool

Strategy objective 7: Scientific initiatives

Establish the extent of scientific analysis undertaken on Roman pottery
Samples for residue analysis
Residue analysis - function of BB1 cooking wares
Samples for rehydroxylation analysis
Samples to help identify possible sources/locations
Kiln site location

Strategy objective 8: Review of sites mentioned in regional research agenda

Strategy objective 9: Digitising of mortarium stamps

Strategy objective 10: Extending the 'Gillam' typology

Strategy objective 11: Influencing

Recording, reporting and publication issues, including grey literature reports, development briefs and monitoring of reports
Archive storage, including access and retention
Policy
Frameworks and Agenda

Strategy objective 12: Liaison

Other specialist pottery, finds, environmental groups
Local societies
'Amateur' groups
Museums
Universities
English Heritage
Historic Scotland
CADW

Strategy objective 13: A Roman pottery taxonomy

✓ **'Emperors, usurpers, tyrants: the history and archaeology of western Britain from AD 350 to 500,' Cardiff University, 30th-31st October 2010**

Jane Evans writes:

Having attended the End of Roman Britain conference at the British Museum in March (Newsletter 49) I wondered if there would be a lot of repetition at another conference on a similar theme. But the range of papers and the focus on one area provided many good insights into the problems and potential of researching this period, and I enjoyed the emphasis on archaeological evidence that came through many of the papers.

The potential and limitations of coin evidence, to date and characterise late Roman activity, was discussed in detail by Peter Guest and recurred as a theme in a number of other papers. Particularly telling was the late Roman coin loss pattern he presented for Trier, which did not seem to reflect the high level of commercial activity that clearly existed. This was a potent reminder that we need to consider how long Roman coins may have continued in circulation, and what other mechanisms for trade may also have existed. Peter Webster described the late Roman assemblages from a range of sites: Segontium, Dinorben, Lydney, Caerwent, Caerleon and Coygan Camp. The evidence from the latter illustrated some of the problems of dating: the coins cease at the end of the 3rd century, the pottery looks typically 4th century (for example BB1, Oxfordshire and Nene Valley ware forms), but the site also produced diagnostically mid 5th century or later pottery (Hayes form 3.23). This raised the possibility that pottery was being curated. From the discussion that followed it appears that there is good evidence for curation, tied in with C14 dates, from Cornwall. Hilary Cool described the characteristics of 5th century artefact assemblages. A number of the speakers at the British Museum conference in March presented PAS finds data. Hilary's paper illustrated the importance of understanding the archaeological context of finds, as well as the need for detailed quantification (some of the defining characteristics rely on relative proportions of different types). Hilary described one characteristic as the re-use of earlier finds; for example samian re-used to make spindle whorls and counters, and late 1st- early 2nd century brooches appearing in Anglo Saxon burials. The importance of independent dating, particularly C14, was noted by a number of speakers. Hilary discussed some of the difficulties in interpreting C14 dates for this period.

Sadly I was not able to stay for the Sunday morning session and summing up, but the Saturday proved to be stimulating and informative. My apologies to any of the speakers who I may have misrepresented in my summary of the day!

✓ **Rehydroxilation and pottery dating**

Jane Evans writes

At the 2008 conference in Chichester, Dr Moira Wilson of Manchester University presented a paper on a new dating technique, based on rehydroxilation (for those who want to read more about this, see <http://rspa.royalsocietypublishing.org/site/misc/rehydroxilation.xhtml>). Members of the Group have been very interested to know how the development of this technique is progressing, so we recently contacted Moira to find out.

Moira reported that *enormous* progress has been made over the last 12 months, successfully transferring the technique from brick to pottery and making a number of fascinating methodological advances. The latter include:

- Finding that material can be returned to its as-fired mass by reheating to *any* temperature between 500 deg C and its original firing temperature
- Confirming experimentally that the mass gain data from a reheated ceramic exactly superimpose on the mass gain data of the same material immediately following firing
- Showing that the reactivity of a material (the stage 2 gradient) increases as the firing temperature decreases (good news for things fired at low temperatures)
- Showing that repeated firing renders the material increasingly less reactive (implications for dating kiln-lining bricks that are repeatedly re-fired)
- Completing some temperature modelling on both the effects of high temperatures (i.e. greater than 11 deg C) at early times in a material's life (e.g. a cooking pot) AND the effects of higher temps during the last few decades of a material's life (e.g. in a museum). Neither makes a difference, happily.
- Determining a correlation between specific surface area of material and how it takes the stage 2 gradient to equilibrate (i.e. how quickly we can date something).

These results are currently being written up for another article in the Proceedings of the Royal Society (though this is currently held up by heavy teaching commitments).

The researchers have obtained consortium funding from English Heritage, EPSRC's Knowledge Transfer Account (KTA) and the microbalance manufacturer for a seven months study with the specific aim of increasing sample throughput by at least a factor of 10. They are waiting for the final decision on a NERC application, which would provide two workers for two years (we will keep you updated on this). As part of Phase 1 of the English Heritage funding component, they will need to assemble sets of VERY WELL DATED MATERIAL OF KNOWN TEMPERATURE HISTORY (=The temperature of the environment that the pot has been sitting in over the time it has existed, i.e. where in the world the sample came from and, for example, whether it has been buried). This is where we as a group of specialists will be able to help.

Moir did say that because of her teaching commitments, she has a large backlog of emails, so asked that her apologies be sent to any members who have not received a response.

✓ Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers warns of storage crisis

FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) warned last week of a growing crisis facing Britain's archaeological treasures, pointing out that in many parts of the country there is no museum space to store and preserve important finds.

FAME's members report that archaeology units across the country are reaching bursting point, with finds and records hidden from the public and unable to find a permanent home. It is estimated that the country's leading practices may be storing over 15,000 boxes of archaeological finds and records on 5,000 sites, at an annual cost of perhaps £0.25m - because no museum is willing or able to accept them. And forthcoming local government cutbacks are likely to place even more pressure on staff and facilities.

FAME's Chief Executive, Adrian Tindall, comments: "This problem has been twenty years in the making. We would like to work with local museums and the Heritage Lottery Fund to set up resource centres, so that the public can see important local discoveries. But we must also look more carefully at whether keeping everything we find is really sustainable. For too long we have assumed that all finds must be kept, in case they're needed for future research. Whilst this might occasionally be justified, we need to concentrate much more on the public benefit of what we keep."

✓ **Experienced fieldworks and researchers wanted for summer opportunity in Bulgaria**

Dear all,

Many of you may know colleagues who have worked with me in Bulgaria before (the city of Nicopolis, then the fortress at Dichin). Last summer we commenced excavations on the site of a well-preserved late Roman fortress (Dobri Dyal). We shall continue with our second season this summer.

The team will include 60-65 people, including 45 university archaeology students. Vacancies still exist for 8 professional, experienced field-officers, a **ceramicist** (to assist the chief ceramicist, Jane Timby), and a small-finds officer. I would prefer the ceramicist to be there for the full 5 weeks. (The positions of bioarchaeologist, zooarchaeologist and electronic data manager have already been filled).

ALL expenses (including travel, good accommodation and food) will be paid for by the project. For background to the excavations in Bulgaria see <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/people/andrew.poulter>. The field season is 5 weeks from c10th July - 15th August.

Those interested should get in contact with me by email (andrew.poulter@nottingham.ac.uk).

Yours,
Andrew Poulter