

**The Study Group for Roman Pottery**

**NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN  
2013**

**S.G.R.P. Website - [www.romanpotterystudy.org](http://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  
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## News from the Committee



### ✓ Newsletter note

Welcome to the Study Group for Roman Pottery Autumn newsletter; we have attempted to balance this edition, chronologically speaking, between the recent one day meeting in London, and in preparation for the forthcoming one day meeting in Worcester. Although a change from our typical annual conference, the two meetings provide a really interesting contrast between the urban pottery groups of Londinium and evidence from the west of England, supplemented by a diverse range of thematic pottery papers.

The opportunities for emerging artefacts and research to continue to illuminate Roman Britain and the wider empire are clear to see in the content of these meetings, past and present, and if any of our members would like to 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*

### ✓ The Committee and 2013 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:	Amy Thorpe, Rachel Seager-Smith and Meike Weber, Ed Biddulph and Diana Briscoe
Website:	David Dearlove

At the last AGM, Cathy Tester and Andrew Souter stood down as Ordinary Members of the SGRP committee as their terms of office expired, and on behalf of the group we would like to thank them for all their work, imagination and input into the progress and projects of the SGRP. Stepping up to fill their vacancies, Ed Biddulph and Diana Briscoe were elected as Ordinary Members to the committee, and we look forward eagerly to their contributions at future meetings.

### ✓ The 2013 John Gillam Prize

The John Gillam prize, established by the group in 2004, is awarded annually for significant achievement in the Roman pottery studies, and in recent years has been awarded for contributions ranging from undergraduate dissertations to substantial monographs. This year it was clear that it was right to recognise the huge achievement of completion of publication of the Leeds corpus of samian potters' stamps. The award was accordingly made to Brenda Dickinson on behalf of the whole of the team involved in the project. Brenda was not present at the London conference to receive the award in person, but very kindly sent a message to the group to be read out at that meeting, and repeated here:

*'This award is a moving and well-deserved tribute to Brian Hartley, who appreciated the value of samian stamps, not only for dating, but for helping to shed light on aspects of the economy of the Roman Empire over its first 250 years. This became clearer as more and more large collections of samian were recorded and validated his original vision. I was thrilled and delighted to hear that Brian and the team had been awarded the John Gillam Prize for the stamp corpus, now affectionally known as NoTS. Geoff pointed out that the award may have been the only thing Brian got from John, apart from the odd pint of Newcastle Brown! I just wish that Brian's health had not prevented him from collecting the award himself.*

*The appreciation of the SGRP made the 59 years of collecting and writing up stamps seem very worthwhile and made me forget the few occasions when I wished I'd never agreed to undertake the completion of the project after Brian's death. I'd have liked to thank the members of the Group personally on Saturday, but Geoff and I will be driving home up the motorway from Narbonne then, after a month of rubbing samian stamps, interspersed with sitting in the garden of our gite (cottage), eating, drinking and reading whodunits, when we weren't sitting in little village cafes drinking coffee!*

*The award goes equally to the other members of the NoTS project, Mike Fulford, who got us the two grants, Roger Brock of the University of Leeds, who was our link with the University and our loyal supporter, Paul Tyers, who created a splendid new font to enable us to represent the non-standard characters, Allard Mees, who transferred the 9 volumes to a database in Mainz and has developed lots of cunning ways of using it and my brilliant assistant Rosie Wilkinson, who survived 6 years of formatting the text, so that Allard could put it straight into the database. I don't know how she stood it! The illustrators, Kay Hartley, Malcolm Stroud and Brian Williams did sterling work for us and made the drawings really look like the stamps (no mean feat). Joanna Bird read the text before publication, and Richard Simpson of the Institute of Classical Studies saw the manuscript to press; many thanks to both of them too.*

*But the whole project would have foundered without the unfailing support of Geoff [Dannell] (aka Mr Fixit), who kept things going while I was ill and sorted various administrative problems - what a star!*

*We hope you'll enjoy the Pompeii exhibition as much as we did.*

*Our best wishes to and thanks to you all.*

*Brenda'*

We are constantly looking for nominations of articles or reports for the 2014 John Gillam prize. Please send your nominations to the Gillam Committee, consisting of the President and Publication Committee at [president@romanpotterystudy.org](mailto: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 2013 day conference - London



On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, members of the SGRP gathered at the Clore Learning Centre in the Museum of London to hear and discuss papers on recent London sites and the themes of trade, stock and distribution (**summaries below**). The conference was well-organised and impressively attended, for which we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the immense hard work of the organisers – Fiona Seeley, Amy Thorp and the staff of the Museum of London.

### ✓ Abstracts from the 2013 London meeting

#### **Bucklersbury House revisited: recent excavations in the centre of Roman London**

*Sadie Watson, MOLA*

MOLA have been excavating on the site of the Temple of Mithras since 2011. Our recent work through the deepest waterlogged sequence of the Walbrook Valley revealed the preservation of structures and artefacts to be so remarkable the site was dubbed 'The Pompeii of the North'. Although excavations are ongoing, Sadie presented some initial thoughts on the significance of the archaeology encountered so far, which include a complete Roman sequence from the earliest years of occupation by the military to the Temple phases and the end of Roman London.

#### **Recent ceramic finds from the Walbrook: an interim discussion**

*Amy Thorp/Beth Richardson, MOLA*

This presentation is given at the half way point of spot dating the huge assemblage of pottery from Bloomberg Place (a revisiting of the original Bucklersbury House Mithraeum site), and outlined our research aims for the site, as well as discussing some of the more interesting and unusual ceramic finds.

#### **Three Quays: An interim report on the mid-Antonine samian stock groups**

*Gwladys Monteil, Freelance*

The presentation summarized the first results of a recent assessment on a large waterfront group of samian ware recovered during excavations by Museum of London Archaeology on the site of Three Quays House north of the river Thames in London. The excavations have revealed large wooden structures representing the remains of Roman quays with various dumps of pottery including samian ware recovered behind the quays and on the foreshore. With more than 15,000 sherds, this very large samian assemblage includes a significant number of unused and sometimes burnt vessels from Central Gaul. The talk will highlight the main components of this latest quayside group from Roman London and will attempt to understand whether we are dealing with a single discarded stock or several.

#### **Some problems of mortarium typology. Development of the 2012 JRPS paper, and a progress report on the creation of a mortarium database for Gaul and neighbouring regions**

*Robin P Symonds, Inrap*

The purpose of this paper is to discuss several aspects of the author's 2012 JRPS paper, 'A brief history of the ceramic mortarium in antiquity', and to offer a brief progress report on the creation of

a mortarium database. The problems addressed include Italian mortaria; the form Curle 21 / Bet 096 / Hartley Raetian type 1; glazed ware mortaria; Group 15 (too big and too heterogeneous); and mortarium sizes. The database, still in its infancy, is being created in collaboration with Stéphane Dubois and Sonia Willems. It is partly aimed at cataloguing the known production centres and their products, and partly aimed at cataloguing published examples of mortaria, à la *JRPS* volume 13, but with rather more detail concerning the individual mortaria, including dating, the nature of the deposit, the fabric and form type, and the precise location, in order to be able eventually to map the various recorded parameters. The latter work has so far concentrated specifically on the mortaria in the 28 volumes of the *Actes of SFECAG* that have so far been published since 1985, since this is a resource that more or less covers the entire study region.

### **Trade in ceramic building material in the Roman world**

*Phil Mills, Freelance*

Ceramic building materials in the Roman world should be considered as a highly specialised, high value and high status commodity. Recent work has identified a number of regional supply zones across the Roman world. This paper summarises the present state of knowledge and look at different production and supply strategies within different parts of the ancient world.

### **Upchurch Revisited**

*Kayt Marter-Brown, Freelance, and Jason Monaghan, Guernsey Museums & Galleries*

The author reviews his own research on the Upchurch pottery industry undertaken between 1981 and 1986, culminating in the publication of BAR 171 *Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery* (Monaghan 1987). Twenty-seven years later, the typology is still in widespread use and the validity of the work is tested with reference to publication of the Springhead complex and sites along the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. This shows that most of the conclusions still hold good and some indeed are reinforced.

### **Never change a running system? - A technological approach to the Verulamium Region**

#### **White ware production in Brockley Hill**

*Silvia Amicone, Institute of Archaeology, UCL*

In this paper I present the results of a project that focuses on the technological and compositional characterization of well dated groups of pottery from Brockley Hill, one of the most extensively excavated Romano-British kiln sites of the Verulamium region. This large pottery industry developed along Watling Street in the area between Verulamium (St. Albans) and Londinium (London) and was one of the major suppliers of Romanised coarse pottery for southeast England between the late 1st and early 2nd century AD.

An integrated plan of petrographic and chemical analysis (Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence) was applied to the Verulamium Region White Ware (VRW), the most common ware produced at Brockley Hill. The data obtained was processed through different kinds of statistical analysis, thereby providing valuable information about a variety of technological aspects related to VRW production. Within that it was possible to define a clear chemical and petrographic fingerprint for the VRW produced in Brockley Hill. This allowed us to clarify issues related to the production and distribution of VRW. Given the similarities between products created by this industry, only chemical and petrographic analysis can provide a reliable tool for identifying products manufactured in the different kiln sites.

Furthermore, this research allowed us to clarify the broader socio-political contexts under in which this pottery was manufactured through the reconstruction of the organization of production. The results revealed a scenario of strong persistence of technological traditions and characterized Brockley Hill as a large-scale production site, where potters of different origins worked together throughout the period in which the kiln site was functioning, sharing similar raw materials and making similar technological choices.

### **Shades of grey and red. Recent excavations of three Alice Holt pottery kilns**

*Jane Timby, Freelance*

Archaeological investigation carried out at Osborne Farm near Kingsley, Hampshire in advance of the construction of a new garden centre in November 2011 revealed three Romano-British pottery kilns, belonging to the Alice Holt industry. The site was originally identified as a possible production site by Lowther in the 1930's and further survey work in the 1970's by Lyne and Jefferies defined seven discrete pottery scatters/waster dumps at the location (the Malthouse Farm group). The excavated pottery kilns were all of the single chambered twin-flue variety, typical of the Alice Holt industry. The associated pottery assemblage was of later Roman date probably within the period AD 270 – 330.

### **Terra sigillata hispanica in Britain**

*Joanna Bird, Freelance*

This will be a brief talk to draw members' attention to the - very remote - possibility of Spanish samian (*Terra sigillata hispanica*) turning up in a samian assemblage in Britain, with illustrations of typical pieces and information on the dating

### **Ashtead, Surrey: Roman tile kilns**

*David Bird, Freelance*

Excavations at Ashtead in Surrey have been in progress since 2006. The current programme of fieldwork by the Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological Society will be completed this year. The aims have been to revisit the excavations carried out in the 1920s by A W G Lowther and A R Cotton, so as to achieve a better understanding of the plan and phasing of the villa and separate bath house, together with better information about several other aspects of the site. It is also intended to re-examine all previous finds.

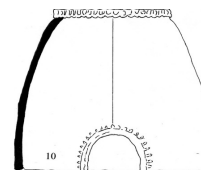
A major component of the work was intended to be a fresh look at the tileworks known to have been located on the site but only mentioned in passing by Lowther in his reports. Assessment of the tileworks has been based on fieldwork undertaken by J N Hampton in the 1960s that has remained unpublished and will be included in an overall report on the work up to 2013. A report by Joanna Bird in the 1990s on pottery from his excavations led to the suggestion that pottery may also have been made on site. Hampton identified and surveyed a series of claypits associated with the tilery and what he took to be tile clamp mounds, probably in fact waster and rubbish heaps. Recent geophysical survey has identified possible kiln sites and when one of these was tested it proved to be not one but two tile kilns, one built onto the cut-down remnants of the other. When this was done, a tegula structure was left in situ that must have been intended to form a temporary blocking of the flue to regulate the air flow once the kiln had reached operating temperature. It seems to be a unique survival and this short talk is intended to draw attention to its discovery and provide enough background information to place it in its context.



## SGRP 2013 day conference - Worcester



**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013**  
at  
**The Hive, Worcester**  
(Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology  
Service)



### ✓ Notification and Call for Papers

As it was only possible to have a one day conference this year, an additional regional day meeting is to be held in November at The Hive Library and History Centre, in Worcester. It is intended that this should be an informal event, with the opportunity to lay out and discuss recent finds / work in progress.

One theme for the day will be portable Roman ovens, with examples on show from Worcester (Jane Evans), and the Chester amphitheatre (Alison Heke), to be discussed with reference to Maggie Darling's recent publication, 'Stuffed dormice or tandoori chicken in Roman Britain.' Ed McSloy has offered to talk about finds from the Bridges Garage site in Cirencester, and it would also be possible (if there is interest) to view pottery from Yazor Brook, Kenchester, from the Sherifoot Lane, Sutton Coldfield pottery kiln and from recent excavations in Worcester.

If you would like to present some pottery or just attend, and haven't already contacted Jane Timby, please let us know, so we can arrange the programme and have an idea of numbers attending.

Jane Evans

[Jevans1@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Jevans1@worcestershire.gov.uk)



## Standards in Pottery Recording



### ✓ 'Does he drink small beer from a silver jug? Or a bowl? Or a glass? Or a cup? Or a mug?'

*David Knight (PCRG), Jane Evans (SGRP), and Duncan Brown (MPRG)*

The following is a summary of a joint presentation, compiled on behalf of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery and the Medieval Pottery Research Group. The paper was presented in the 'Akond of Swat' session at the April IfA conference (hence the title!), and represents a development of a joint paper that was presented at the 'Insights through Innovation' conference, held in Southampton last October in honour of David Peacock. One of the key objectives of the paper was to emphasise shared ambitions and methodologies, and in particular to ensure that appropriate standards of analysis are maintained in the face of increasing commercial pressures.

There is increasing concern amongst ceramic specialists of all periods that pressures upon excavation budgets are impacting negatively upon standards of recording, analysis and reporting, forcing undue emphasis upon basic questions of dating to the exclusion of other, no less significant, themes. This is especially the case where additional expenses might be incurred by further petrographic, chemical and other scientific analyses to pursue crucial research issues such as ceramic production and distribution.

To address this problem, members of the ceramic study groups are currently liaising to explore the options for preparing a best practice guidance document that may be applied across the period divisions. This would supplement rather than replace the variety of existing documents prepared by the period groups, which would remain essential for describing the specific methodologies required in the analysis, of prehistoric, Roman and later pottery. It is intended that this single document, endorsed by the three ceramic groups and linked to both the IfA's Standard and Guidance documents and appropriate English Heritage guidelines, would:

- provide a single document for pottery of all periods, emphasising best practice and acting as an entry point to relevant period guidance.
- ensure that ceramics are taken fully into account during the preparation of project designs, empowering planning archaeologists in negotiations with developers and consultants to insist upon strategies highlighted by the ceramic community as of fundamental concern.
- ensure that ceramic studies are more closely integrated with archaeological fieldwork, encouraging a closer involvement of ceramic specialists during the development of schemes of treatment, so they can influence excavation strategies and the use of scientific techniques.

The document would aim to encourage the production of high quality and readily accessible archives of long-term research value by:

- strengthening efforts to guarantee high standards in the recording and analysis of ceramic artefacts
- ensuring comparability between datasets
- facilitating the development of consistent approaches to museum archiving
- encouraging engagement with the developing research agendas and strategies of the ceramic period groups.

With regard to research, various issues could be addressed with the aims of ensuring:

- appropriate reference to existing regional and period-based ceramic type-series (fabric and form), and development of these where gaps are identified
- joined-up research across period divides (e.g. Iron Age-Roman transition, fabric continuity across period divides)
- enhanced liaison between the period groups.

The key elements of such a document should be the subject of discussion and continuing feedback from ceramic specialists, both to maximize engagement with colleagues and to spread the workload. Our current thoughts are that the document should follow the project path from initial project design through to deposition of the material and documentary archive and dissemination of the report. Issues to consider, therefore, would include:

- definition of the subjects to be considered during the preparation of initial project briefs, including sampling methodologies, provisions for scientific dating, sampling of local clays and on-site spot-dating procedures
- the definition of an appropriate format for ceramic assessments as part of a post-fieldwork Updated Project Design, building we would suggest upon current MoRPHE guidelines.



- specification of the range of methods to be employed during post-excavation processing, recording and analysis, including recommendations specific, for example, to poorly fired prehistoric coarse wares, mass-produced Roman fine wares or tiles and post-medieval kiln groups.
- recommendations for scientific dating (including, for example, Bayesian analyses of radiocarbon dates) and specialised scientific analyses (including petrographic and chemical analyses of pottery fabrics and residue analysis)
- recommendations for long-term storage and curation of the material and documentary archive, including the vexed issue of finds selection strategies
- methods of report dissemination and publication
- proposals for the development of on-line ceramic type series, by period, regionally and nationally, together with the compilation of a guide to current type-series

Looking at this realistically, in terms of the resources available to each period group, we suggest the following sequence of tasks:

- preparation by a working group, comprising members of each of the period groups, of a concise draft document, trimmed to its essentials to ensure maximum impact.
- widespread circulation of this document, via the web, for comment from PCRG, SGRP and MPRG members and by other interested individuals
- incorporation of comments and preparation of a final document for posting on the websites of the period groups, followed by promotion of the guidance document via the IfA, English Heritage, ALGAO and other relevant bodies
- liaison with the IfA Finds Group and other IfA colleagues to revise current Standards and Guidance Documents, ensuring that these incorporate specific references to the analysis of pottery and other ceramic artefacts
- regular updates to take account of the impact of new scientific techniques, evolving digital technologies and changing research priorities.

### ✓ Progress on the Development of New Standards

A couple of weeks ago the Medieval Pottery Research group published a short version (2 sides of A4) of its minimum standards for the processing, recording and reporting of medieval pottery on its website, in advance of the publication of a new joint standards document currently being produced by MPRG and the Prehistoric and Roman pottery groups. This summarised version of the guidelines is particularly aimed at local authority archaeological advisors, and can be downloaded at <http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk/standards.htm>.



### ✓ Recognising a new regional coarse ware: kilns at Woburn, Bedfordshire

*James Newbould (Headland Archaeology, project manager)*

Between October 2012 and January 2013, Headland Archaeology excavated the remains of a Romano-British pottery production site in Woburn, Bedfordshire NGR (SP 9340 3333). Excavations comprised approximately 3.5ha of a 6.5ha site, the remainder of which was preserved *in situ*. Early phases of the site comprised field boundaries and enclosure systems indicating the presence of farming. This was supported by finds of quernstones and cereal grains. Apparently following the disuse of the land for farming, the focus shifted to pottery production. A total of ten very well preserved sunken pottery kilns were identified (provisionally dating from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD). Three of these were comparatively small (1-1.5m wide and 3-4m long) and may represent earlier, smaller-scale domestic production. The remaining seven were much larger (between 2.5-4m wide, 6-8m long and depths in excess of 1.8m) and are considered to represent a more intensive, industrial-scale phase of production. Construction of the kilns chambers was of clay, with the fireboxes variously made of Iron Stone blocks, clay or both. Several of the kilns show evidence of repair indicating multiple firings. The intercutting nature of some of the kilns also indicates several phases of production. Analysis will focus on determining the dating and periods of use of the kilns; How many were in use at once? Are the variations in kiln design significant for producing different wares? As well as looking at the distribution patterns of the Woburn pottery and making comparisons to other production sites in the region, particularly the recently discovered 'Woburn pottery type' (Newbould & Slowikowski 2013).

### ✓ On a pedestal, an early Roman kiln at Snape, Suffolk

*Andrew Peachey (Archaeological Solutions, pottery specialist)*

In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions excavated a twin-flued kiln at Snape in east Suffolk. The kiln had a single cigar shaped pedestal with vertical fluting around its sides, which appears to have been pre-fabricated before being placed in the kiln chamber. The fluting may have allowed for the fitting of kiln bars, although none were recovered, or may have served to channel an up-draft. The two narrow stokeholes would have allowed a substantial draft, and charred plant remains indicated chaff was used as fuel, which was differentially sucked into parts of the firing chamber.





Waster material from the kiln indicates that production occurred in the mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and focussed on a range of utilitarian coarse ware vessels, including plain butt beakers, necked jars with a plain shoulder cordons and storage jars with stabbed shoulder decoration. The range of forms is similar to those at kilns at Wherstead, and comparable with many form types at Sheepen, Colchester.

## ✓ Open Access to a Late Roman Well

The journal *Internet Archaeology* has recently published '**A Late Roman Well at Heslington East, York: ritual or routine practices?**' by Steve Roskams, Cath Neal, Jane Richardson and Ruth Leary.

This article is free to access at [http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue34/roskams\\_index.html](http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue34/roskams_index.html), and a summary is included below:

The supply of fresh water is a central requirement for human settlement. This article discusses evidence associated with the construction, use and demise of a late-Roman well recently excavated at Heslington East near York, UK. It seeks to suggest that, by a holistic analysis of all archaeological evidence, we can distinguish the ideological from the functional dynamics that made up the site formation processes within this feature. The assemblages that evidence these activities might be considered mundane in some respects but their



integrated assessment, along with a detailed examination of depositional and formation processes in the feature, produces compelling evidence for what has been termed 'structured deposition'.

A total of 1045 sherds of Romano-British pottery (just under 25kg) were identified from the well. These included small numbers in fabrics of East Yorkshire grey ware from kiln groups such as those on Holme-on-Spalding Moor and Norton-type wares or perhaps made nearer York at Stamford Bridge, BB1, colour-coated, shell-tempered, white-slipped and oxidised wares. The remaining vessels present in the well, the overwhelming majority of material comprised jars of three types: calcite-gritted jars with lid-seated rims of Huntcliff type (henceforth Huntcliff-type jars); grey ware jars with constricted mouths and often with lug handles on the shoulders (henceforth grey ware jars but predominantly Crambeck grey ware); and small, handmade jars with everted or hooked rims, often with acute lattice burnish decoration on the girth, of so-called 'signal station' type.

Two complete jars were included in the well assemblage, but even without these vessels, the profile for wares and vessel types from the feature are quite different from contemporary groups elsewhere, most obviously in the paucity of tableware, mortaria, amphorae, flagons and beakers. This assemblage also differs in terms of wear patterns and fragmentation, there being more fresh sherds here, a greater number of sherds from each vessel than normal, and unusual wear patterns on base edge and girth of jars. When looked at stratigraphically, the forms in the lowest four fills are similar. The quantity of pottery from each stratum is quite different, however, notwithstanding their different volumes, with a huge concentration of pottery in the two earliest levels. These individual groups are considered in detail in the article.

## ✓ Pleased as Punch: the Navenby Archaeology Group

Heritage Lottery Funding has allowed the Navenby Archaeology Group (<http://www.navenbyarchgp.org>) to continue their excavations at High Dyke on Ermine Street, to the south of Lincoln.



In this seasons excavations two or three Roman buildings have been located, with finds including a large Roman grey ware bowl deposited in association with a large Red Deer antler. Mr Ian Cox (left with Councillor Marianne Overton) said that he thought the pot would have possibly been used by Romans as a punch bowl or that it was perhaps used to contain grain that was ready to be milled.

## ✓ Forging Samian Ware

*Forging Samian Ware in the Pannonian way: The case of Stamped Pottery, by Alexandra Nagy*

Alexandra Nagy displayed this incisive and thought provoking poster at the 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the RCRF, Catania, Italy in late September 2012, and while relating to classical Pannonia (parts of modern Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bosnia & Herzegovina), the analysis of this design and production process, as well as the clear economic demand, is clearly applicable to pottery research throughout the provincial Roman Empire.



*Examples of local Pannonian interpretations of samian motifs*

The term 'Pannonische Glanztonware' is commonly used to describe either a variety of pottery with stamped decoration or 'plain' ware with grey slip (mainly with rouletted bands or rings). The manufacture of these vessels took place at an unknown number of sites in Pannonia but can be divided into three main types: Eastern, western and South Pannonian. The poster focuses on some groups from Aquincum (the East Pannonian workshop) alone because more than 3000 stamped sherds have been identified here and tens of thousands of the 'plain grey ware' as well. The



identification of the formal typology and classification of the decorative motifs suggest that this type of vessel will provide more information on trade networks, Celtic and Roman artistic expression, and may be helpful in achieving greater chronological precision. The figures (examples above) are intended to represent a selection of basic forms, decorative schemes, motifs, present a few special or unique (unusual) vessels and, in many cases suggest something of the sense of humor of the potters.

The full poster can be viewed at:

[http://www.academia.edu/4021035/Alexandra\\_Nagy\\_Forging\\_Samian\\_Ware\\_in\\_the\\_Pannonian\\_way\\_The\\_case\\_of\\_Stamped\\_Pottery](http://www.academia.edu/4021035/Alexandra_Nagy_Forging_Samian_Ware_in_the_Pannonian_way_The_case_of_Stamped_Pottery). Poster for the 28th Congress of the RCRF Catania Italy 23-30 September 2012

### ✓ Conference: Romano-British Towns

#### ***Assessing the Contribution of Commercial Archaeology on the Towns of Roman Britain.***

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013, University of Reading

A day conference to discuss and debate the contribution of developer archaeology to the study of the major Romano-British towns (*coloniae* and *civitas* capitals). The papers will demonstrate the value of commercial work, and highlight the areas where much has been learnt, and also those where comparatively little progress has been made. The emphasis will be on those historic towns of England which have seen significant commercial work, as opposed to the largely greenfield sites where there has been much less developer work. The papers will help to inform future curatorial strategies and assist in the setting of research objectives for future investigations.

#### *Programme*

10.00-10.30 Arrive + coffee

10.30-11.05 London (Dominic Perring, University College, London)

11.05-11.40 Towns of the South East (Michael Fulford, University of Reading)

11.40-12.15 Towns of the South West (Neil Holbrook, Cotswold Archaeology)

12.15-12.50 Towns of the Midlands and North (Paul Bidwell, North Shields)

1.00-2.00 Lunch

2.00-2.30 Burial Practice (John Pearce, King's College, London)

2.30-3.00 Food Supply 1: Zooarchaeology (Mark Maltby, Bournemouth University)

3.00-3.30 Food Supply 2: Archaeobotany (Mark Robinson, University of Oxford)

3.30-3.50 Tea

3.50-4.10 The English Heritage Perspective (Barney Sloane, English Heritage)

4.10-4.25 Discussion (Martin Millett, University of Cambridge)

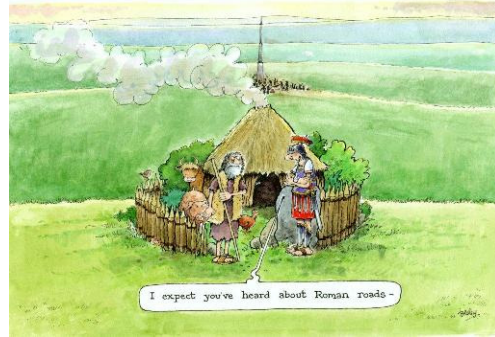
4.25-5.00 Discussion

The conference will appeal to academics; professional practitioners and others with an interest in all aspects of Romano-British urbanism. Booking details can be found at:

[http://www.store.reading.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?compid=2&modid=2&prodid=221&deptid=18&catid=11](http://www.store.reading.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=2&modid=2&prodid=221&deptid=18&catid=11)

## ✓ Conference: The Impact of Rome on the British Countryside

The 2013 **Royal Archaeological Institute** conference is being held in partnership with the University of Chester at the Riverside Innovation Centre (Riverside Campus) on the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October. Leading British archaeologists will present the results of their work over the last decade. One focus will be on the recent geophysical surveys which have taken place in both southern and northern England allied to selective excavations, while the contribution of finds in rural contexts will also be examined.



### **Programme**

#### **Friday 11 October**

Chairman **Professor David Breeze**

19.30-20.30 Public lecture by **Professor Nico Roymans** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

*Re-assessing the transformation of rural society in the Roman Rhineland*

#### **Saturday 12 October**

Chairman **Dr John Creighton**

09.30-10.15 **Dr Roger White**. *The Wroxeter environs project*

10.15-11.00 **Professor Dominic Powlesland**. *Survey and excavations in the Vale of Pickering, East Yorkshire*

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-12.15 **Professor Martin Millett**. *The complexity of impact on a local scale: studies from Yorkshire*

12.15-12.45 Discussion

12.45-14.00 Lunch

Chairman **Professor David Hinton**

14.00-14.45 **Dr Nick Hodgson**. *Rural settlement in the northern frontier zone: the impact of Hadrian's Wall*

14.45-15.30 **Dr Tom Moore**. *From community to civitas: the impact of Rome on the southern Cotswolds*

15.30-16.00 Tea

16.00-16.45 **Sally Worrell**. *The contribution of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to understanding the countryside*

16.45-17.30 Discussion

#### **Sunday 13 October**

Chairman **Professor David Breeze**

09.30-10.15 **Neil Holbrook**. *Developer archaeology and the Romano-British countryside: a revolution in understanding?*

10.15-11.00 **Dr Ioana Oltean**. *A view from the east: the impact of Rome on Romania and Britain compared*

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-12.15 **Professor Brian Roberts**. *Looking at the countryside*

12.15-13.00 Discussion

14.30 Visit to the Grosvenor Museum and tour of Chester

#### **Monday 14 October**

Tour led by **Fiona Gale**, Denbighshire County Archaeologist

From Chester, the coach will travel to Prestatyn to see the Roman bath-house, and then on to the recently restored Cornish engine house and to St Winifred's, Holywell. We shall then travel on to Denbigh for the town walls, the castle and lunch (not provided). In the afternoon, we will go on to Ruthin, and a cruck-framed medieval town-house. We shall return to Chester via Moel y Gaer hillfort on Halkyn Mountain, but we will not have time to climb it. The coach will drop off at the station, no later than 5 p.m.

More details and booking forms can be found at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/conferences>