

# ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

## REPORT

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**TITLE** Amphorae from Worcester

AMPHORAE FROM WORCESTER

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The amphorae sherds were classified by fabric and form and then weighed and counted. The types represented are Dressel 20, which represents some 70% of the total amphorae recorded, Dressel 1B, Dressel 2-4, Rhodian style, Pélichet 47, Camulodunum 185A, Camulodunum 186A, Southern Spanish, ?Gauloise 1 and a small number of unassigned types. The origins and dates of these amphorae are described below, together with a summary of their quantitative proportions in the different phases of the site.

Total weight of amphorae                      27,726gms

Total number of amphorae sherds            293

% total of each fabric

	<u>% by weight</u>		<u>% by count</u>	
Dr. 1B	316gms	1.1%	3	1.0%
Dr. 2-4	1,980gms	7.2%	7	2.4%
Dr. 20	20,199gms	72.8%	200	68.3%
Rhodian style	756gms	2.7%	4	1.4%
Pélichet 47	742gms	2.7%	23	7.8%
Cam. 185A	131gms	.5%	4	1.4%
Cam. 186A	1,806gms	6.5%	19	6.4%
Southern Spanish	1,202gms	4.3%	12	4.1%
?Gauloise, 1	322gms	1.2%	5	1.7%
Unassigned	272gms	1.0%	16	5.5%

Phase I (late first century A.D. / early second century A.D.)

12 sherds of Camulodunum 186A.

Phase II (second century A.D. - possibly early)

2 sherds of Camulodunum 186A.

Phase III (second century A.D. - possibly to late Antonine)

<u>% total of each fabric</u>				
	<u>% by weight</u>		<u>% by count</u>	
Dr. 2-4	1,980gms	19.1%	7	6.8%
Dr. 20	7,081gms	68.2%	67	65.6%
Rhodian style	604gms	5.8%	3	2.9%
Pélichet 47	267gms	2.6%	12	11.8%
Cam. 185A	80gms	.8%	2	2.0%
Cam. 186A	268gms	2.6%	4	4.0%
Southern Spanish	68gms	.6%	2	2.0%
Unassigned	30gms	.3%	5	4.9%

Phase IV (second century A.D. - possibly to late Antonine)

<u>% total of each fabric</u>				
	<u>% by weight</u>		<u>% by count</u>	
Dr. 20	1,284gms	51.5%	14	46.7%
Cam. 185A	51gms	2.0%	2	6.6%
Southern Spanish	1,117gms	44.7%	9	30.0%
Unassigned	46gms	1.8%	5	16.7%

Phase V (c. A.D. 180/200 - 250)

<u>% total of each fabric</u>				
	<u>% by weight</u>		<u>% by count</u>	
Dr. 20	1,095gms	68.3%	12	63.1%
Rhodian style	152gms	9.5%	1	5.3%
Pélichet 47	284gms	17.7%	5	26.3%
Cam. 186A	72gms	4.5%	1	5.3%

Phases VII and VIII (largely residual)

<u>% total of each fabric</u>				
	<u>% by weight</u>		<u>% by count</u>	
Dr. 1B	316gms	2.7%	3	2.3%
Dr. 20	10,739gms	91.2%	107	83.6%
Pélichet 47	191gms	1.6%	6	4.7%
Southern Spanish	17gms	.1%	1	.8%
?Gauloise 1	322gms	2.7%	5	3.9%
Unassigned	196gms	1.7%	6	4.7%

Comments on individual forms

Dressel 1B (1280/1-2, 1360)

Wine-amphora characteristic of the Campanian, Latium and Etruria districts of Italy (Peacock, 1971). This form can be dated to the second half of the first century B.C., which suggests that the

Worcester sherds come from a pre-Roman phase of the site.

Dressel 2-4 (1638/39-43)

This type of amphora was made in a variety of places during the period from the late first century B.C. to the mid second century A.D., e.g. Italy, southern France and Spain, as well as the Aegean, and was probably used mainly for carrying wine (Peacock, 1971; Panella, 1973).

Dressel 20 (1420/43, 1455/1, 1430/34, 1228/1, 1499/86, 1423/14, 1394/25, 1488/30, 1479/8, 1437/25-26, 1438/27-28, 1422/27, 1391/19, 1392/30-31, 1414/31, 1411/8, 1400/86, 1393/37, 1472/37, 1482/6, 1278/1-2, 1029/2-4, 1029/1, 1029/5, 1408/12, 1498/89-91, 422/7, 422/196, 422/194, 1441/64, 1441/63, 1441/61, 1441/62, 1018/1, 1630/6, 1332/1, 1239/1, 1217/1, 1030/1-3, 1601/3, 1627/28-29, 1613/33, 1099/1, 1647/18-20, 1608/35-39 & 49-51, 1609/31, 1609/30, 1609/32, silt/86, 1080/1, 422/196, 422/199, 1638/39-42/43, silt/96, silt/87, silt/89, 1408/12, 1334/1, 1404, 1444, 1645)

Dressel 20 amphora come from the Guadalquivir region of Spain, between Seville and Cordoba, where they were used principally for the transportation of olive-oil (Bonsor, 1931). This type of amphora has a wide date-range from the pre-Roman Period I levels at Camulodunum (Hawkes and Hull, 1947) to the third century A.D. One of the handles from Worcester contains an incomplete name-stamp ANPER (silt/96). This may possibly be part of a variation of SANVM PEREIVM (Callender, 1965, 1573).

Rhodian style (1195/20, 1612/7, 1647/18-20, silt/89)

This amphora form occurs in the pre-Roman Period 1 levels at Camulodunum and lasts until well into the Flavian period (Peacock, 1977). The sherds at Worcester which occur in Phases III and V are most likely residual from an earlier occupation of the site. All the Worcester sherds are in Peacock's Fabric 1 (1977) with a probable origin in Rhodes, and it is likely that these vessels carried wine.

Pelichet 47 (F422/1605, 1018, 1278/1-2, 1281/1-2, 1498/88, 1608/49, 1614/1-3, 1638/39-42/3, 1645, 1647/18-20)

This flat-bottomed amphora form was predominantly made in southern Gaul, more particularly around the mouth of the Rhône and around the Gulf of Lyons (Peacock, 1978). It was also one of the amphorae types made at the recently excavated kilns at Crouzilles, Indre et Loire (information from Alain Férdière), indicating that the form was made in central Gaul as well. In Britain these vessels date from the latter half of the first century A.D. to the beginning of the third century A.D., with the main concentration of finds occurring during the second half of the second century A.D.

Camulodunum 185A (422/198, 1616/56)

This amphora form originated from southern Spain and may have held defrutum, which had various uses (Parker and Price, 1981). In Britain this type occurs in first and second century A.D. contexts.

Camulodunum 186A and Southern Spanish (423/28, 1497/36, 1614/1-3, 1705/4, 422/199, 1614/1-3, 1677/1, silt/89)

This material probably derives from the coastal regions of southern Spain, between Cadiz and Malaga, and seems to have been mainly used to carry fish-based products (Peacock, 1977). In Britain this material occurs in first and second century A.D. contexts.

?Gauloise 1 (1029/5)

This is present as three collar rim sherds, two of which join, a strap-handle and a bodysherd, and probably represents one vessel. The fabric is slightly sandy, with scattered small fragments of white limestone, and is reddish-buff in colour (Munsell 10R 6/2 to 7.5YR 7/4). The amphora form that most closely resembles the Worcester vessel is Gauloise 1 which, like Pelichet 47, appears to have been made at several centres in Gaul (Genty, 1980). To the best of the writer's knowledge Gauloise 1 has not been recognized before in this country, though two amphorae from Billingsgate Buildings may be related (Jones, 1980, fig. 21, nos. 38 and 39. I am grateful to Mme. P. Laubenheimer for this suggestion).

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