

2008 3644

POMPEIAN RED WARE FROM CITCHESTER

D. P. Williams, Ph.D., F.S.A.

(1968 Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

CH-79-CM A37

A sherd of Pompeian Red Ware from a dish, with four closely-spaced grooves on an inner surface which has been given a thick red slip (Munsell 10R 4/6). The outer surface and core are reddish-brown in colour (2.5YR 5/6) and contain much medium-grained black sand. This sherd undoubtedly belongs to Peacock's Fabric 1, with a likely Campanian origin (1977, 149-153). This particular Pompeian Red Ware fabric type is fairly widely distributed in the southern half of Britain and appears to have been imported during the period from c. A.D. 10 to early Flavian times (*ibid.*). One of the functions of these platters was for cooking flat loaves, as we can see from several examples at Pompeii where the carbonized bread is still in place (Moritz, plate 16, b). For cooking purposes the internal thick red slip probably gave the vessel a certain 'non-stick' property.

References

- Moritz, L.A. (1958) Grain-Mills And Flour in Classical Antiquity (Oxford, 1958).
- Peacock, D.P.S. (1977) 'Pompeian Red Ware', in Peacock, D.P.S. (ed.), Pottery and Early Commerce (London, 1977), 147-162.