

NOTE ON TWO AMPHORAE FROM CANTERBURY

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

(DOE Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

1) Museum Collection

An almost complete amphora of the form Mañá C₁ (1951), with a long cylindrical body, two small handles attached on the side and a flaring rim. More recently van der Werff (1978) has divided the form into three categories, of which the Canterbury example appears to belong to his Form 2 (with hollow spike). A kiln is known at Kouass in Morocco for van der Werff Form 1, and this type was probably also made in the Carthage region, while Tunisia is also suggested for Form 2 (ibid.). The date range for Mañá C is predominantly second and first centuries B.C., continuing into the early first century A.D. (ibid.). The contents carried are not known.

Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope of a small sample from the Canterbury vessel showed frequent well-rounded aeolian grains of quartz and some limestone. A fabric which is commonly found in North African amphorae (Fulford and Peacock, 1983).

2) Canterbury MIV u/s

Part of a small looped handle in a hard, rough sandy fabric with small scattered inclusions of white limestone, creamy-white outside surface (Munsell 2.5Y 8/2)

and light red core (between 10R 6/6-2.5YR 6/6). A thin section showed a similar range of inclusions to the Mañá C vessel above. The fabric and form of the handle resemble the Mañá C type and it is possible that this may represent a similar vessel or one allied to it. However, in view of the fact that only a small part of the handle remains, it is difficult in this case to be certain of the precise form involved. To the best of the writer's knowledge Mañá C has not previously been published from an archaeological context in Britain.

References

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- Van der Werff, J.H. (1978) Amphores de tradition punique a Uzita, Babesch, 52-53, 171-200.