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AMPHORAE FROM MUCKING, ESSEX

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Introduction

The amphorae sherds, many of which are fairly small and some adversely affected by burial conditions, were classified by fabric and form. The classification of types is based on Dressel (1899), Pélichet (1946) and the Camulodunum series (Hawkes and Hull, 1947), supplemented by descriptive terms suggested by Peacock (1971; 1977a). The overwhelming majority of sherds belong either to the Spanish olive-oil amphora Dressel 20, or the Gallic wine amphora Pélichet 47. There is a possible Dressel 1 handle present which, if correctly identified, suggests a pre-Conquest date. It is possible that there may be other Dressel 1 material present, although this could equally well belong to the later Dressel 2-4 type.

Numbers of individual sherds for each amphora type:

Dr.1 or 2-4	4
Dressel 20	455
Gallic	561
Southern Spanish	12
North African	2
Undesignated	95
Total	1,129

Comments on Individual Forms

Dressel 1 and Dressel 2-4

Dressel 1 are wine-carrying amphorae that were made primarily in the Campanian, Latium and Etruria districts of Italy (Peacock, 1971; 1977b). The 1A form was produced from about 130 B.C. till around the middle of the first century B.C., while the 1B form was made from the first quarter of the first century B.C. until the last decade of the century (ibid.; Tchernia, 1983). Fairly large numbers of Dressel 1A have been recovered from Hengistbury Head in Dorset, while the majority of Dressel 1B vessels are found north of the Thames (Peacock, 1984). It is clear, however, that the 1A form did occasionally reach the latter region, as a 1A rim from Gatesbury Track demonstrates (Williams and Peacock, 1979). By and large though this twofold division of the Dressel 1 distribution in Britain appears to be valid (cf. Peacock, 1984). The small piece of handle from Pits Misc. (1157 237) appears to be from a Dressel 1 vessel. A thin section of the sherd reveals a volcanic assemblage of minerals and rocks similar to those of other amphora of this form (Peacock, 1971). If this is correctly identified it suggests a pre-Conquest date.

Apart from the Dressel 1 handle, there are a number of featureless bodysherds from the site which may also belong to this form, and for which thin sectioning suggests an Italian origin. However, it is difficult to be precise because similar fabrics were used for the later Dressel 2-4 form, which is the direct successor on Italian kiln sites to Dressel 1 amphorae (Peacock, 1977b). It is possible therefore that these bodysherds belong instead to the Dressel 2-4 form, which ranges in date from the later first century B.C. to the mid second century A.D. (Zevi, 1966).

RB III Ditch

370 65

Pits (Miscellaneous)

1015 222

33 720 392

1157 237 (handle)

Dressel 20

This is the most common amphora type imported into Roman Britain, though recent research has shown that it was already present in some numbers during the late Iron Age (Williams and Peacock, 1983). Dressel 20 amphorae were made in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba, and carried olive-oil (Ponsich, 1974; 1979). This type of amphora has a wide date-range, from the Augustan prototype (Oberaden 83) with a fairly upright rim, a short spike and less of a squat bulbous body than the later form, to the developed well-known globular form which, with some typological variation, was in use at least up to the late third century A.D. (Zevi, 1967) and probably into the fourth (Manacorda, 1977). Rims of the Oberaden 83 type are known from pre-Roman levels at Prae Wood and Gatesbury Track, so that importation of Baetican olive-oil into Britain may have begun as late as the last decade of the first century B.C. (Williams and Peacock, 1983).

Eight rims were recovered from the site, all of which can be paralleled with samples from Augst illustrated by Martin-Kilcher (1983) in her scheme for the development of the Dressel 20 rim:

DD Inner Ditch

151 881 740. Dated at Augst first half of second century A.D. (ibid., no.24).

157 246 801. Dated at Augst late first century A.D. to late second century (ibid., nos26-28.)

47 906 747 Dated at Augst c. A.D.25-75 (ibid., nos.12 and 14).

DD Outer Ditch

154 1345 583. Dated at Augst c.A.D.50-75 (ibid., no.15).

Well 4

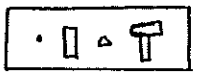
44 1051 642. Dated at Augst first half of the second century A.D. (ibid., 24)

45 1050 623. Dated at Augst c.110-160 (ibid., no.32).

40 1045 634. Dated at Augst second half of first century A.D. to first half of second century (ibid., no.30)

Margins

One unmarked rim. Dated at Augst mid 1st century A.D.-mid second century (ibid., no.30).

Four basal knobs were also recovered, and twenty handles, one of which is stamped  (170 246 791 from DD inner ditch). This stamp does not appear in Callender (1965) or Ponsich (1974; 1979).

A number of undistinguished bodysherds designated here as Dressel 20 are fairly thin-walled, and it is possible that some are in reality Camulodunum 185A. This

form has its origin in Baetica (Tchernia, 1980), the similarity in fabric with the more common Dressel 20 suggesting a source in the region of the River Guadalquivir (Peacock, 1971). Amphorae of Camulodunum 185A form (Haltern 70) recovered from the Port Vendres II shipwreck carry inscriptions describing the contents as defrutum, a sweet liquid obtained from boiling down the must (Colls et al, 1977; Parker and Price, 1981). The date-range for this form is from about the mid first century B.C. to the mid first century A.D. (Colls et al, 1977; Tchernia, 1980).

?Dressel 20/Camulodunum 185A

RB1

295 310

RB2

66 429

8995 346 447

145 350

Pits (Miscellaneous)

199 1036 503(2)

26 1172 652

DD Inner Ditch

178 938 787

Various Ditches

1025 624

D1A 445

380 605

11327 610

1052 864

1121 884(2)

Well 2

182 158 526

196 158 526

Well 4

8991 1050 622

124 1051 642

Dressel 20

RB1

159 360 336 (handle)

440 232 (2)

214 140 250

3025 320 330 (8)

218 285 310

354 334

99 380 340

330 130

11099 320 320 (4)

188 555 263

280 312

153 450 170 (handle)

212 376 334

153 140 250 (handle)

32 150 230 (4)

315 120

295 310

171 433 160 (handle)

4020 145

100 335 325

8150 230

371 338

4597 295 310

5119 405 320

269 370 145

5340 310 310 (4)

RB2

10014 210 390 (2)

394 489

230 280

66 429

8996 345 449

145 350

8995 346 447

181 100 335 (2)

206 156 354

145 350

352 453 (2)

210 380 10004

5335 234 454

8994 187 530

97 308 541

8974 240 400

15 85 320

15 85 320

183 192 520

5336 296 422

8975 130 340

37 200 370 (3) (1 handle)

Pits (Miscellaneous)

189 313 445

21 126 522

94 371 407

11103 467 417

13 494 513

192 506 430

506 430

540 473 (2)

128 518 449

23 540 473 (2)

184 657 375

107 751 430

91 920 814

988 323

130 963 837

132 880 710

140 957 652

125 897 283

199 1036 503 (2)

26 1172 652

Pit Grave Area 894

209 1036 502 (2)

86 1036 503 (20)

82 1036 503 (5)

DD Inner Ditch

49 1226 836

178 938 787

3024 1155 825

1888 888 740

201 910 752 (handle)

180 1250 794

213 858 733

104 1108 500 (handle)

842 681

151 881 740 (rim)

831 722

157 246 801 (rim)

169 1256 776 (handle)

165 1233 818 (handle)

916 518

842 698

216 1410 630

96 1266 751

17 906 747

190 1305 552

98 1256 776

161 1293 685 (handle)

209 1316 625

110 1240 555

108 1244 805 (2)

109 1328 597

47 906 747 (rim)

46 871 738

41 850 676 (basal knob)

170 246 791 (stamped handle)

DD Outer Ditch

990 430

85 1370 610 (8)

202 1410 630

911 770

892 765

915 772

875 570 (handle)

154 1345 583 (rim)

830 672

925 775

4608 1073 464

829 735 (handle)

1136 490 (3)

964 420 (handle)

158 1315 565

4596 977 425

Ditch B36

100 278 B36

Various Ditches

1128 590 AiA

933 437 A2B

1025 624 A3A

1163 832 A1A 215

1025 624 A3A 43

1045 613 A5A (2)

1047 612 8977

987 159 B5

955 306 B36 84 (8)

1003 2701 B36

810 210 B39 261

445 223 D1A

438 243 D1A (2)

90 264 4606

101 524 205

174 584 4609

242 610 11107

230 233

158 558 191 (4)

64 250 400 (2)

309 395 10012

323 282 174

42 377 506 (2) (basal knob)

390 470 176

180 550 52

380 605 11335

379 511

394 488 10018 (2)

400 495

211 398 572

375 490

520 500

530 500

302 430

345 120

10016 332 283

207 400 145

249 457.7 126.7

8997 531 610 (2)

162 545 331 (handle)

11876 550 400

4612 560 520

1133.3 564 625

11323 525 506

580 254 11326

600 470 11877

668 195

11332 625 532

204 796 666(3)

11324 600 578

4602 674 581

4604 861 206 (4)

11327 610 545

11336 616 541

11108 910 752

105 927 825 (3)

119 940 710 (2)

67 960 1000

30 940 720

87 940 828 (6)

104 957 838

39 971 843

210 984 849

63 1013 785 (3)

101 1000 846

89 1022 855 (2)

1025 857

90 1040 86

1036 861 (2) (handle)

78 1040 830 (2)

8976 1047 614

1052 864

222 1048 863

103 1046 612 (7)

120 1051 255

1052 864 (2)

1090 375

79 1120 800

1121 884 (2)

4607 1121 8841 (3)

1143 892

1136 889

7 1151 375

88 1158 897

51 1227 680

113 1243 808

246 1215 133

106 1166 899

1280 800

193 1255 915 (handle)

194 1283 919

1246 872 65

118 1450 970 (2)

198 1315 585

221 1481 634

177 1416 620 (2)

195 1444 417 (2)

95 1359 579

48 570 497 (rim)

Well 1

55 204 504 (5)

204 504 (5)

172 204 504

173 204 504

74 204 504 (2)

Well 2

182 158 526

196 158 526

Well 4

20 1063 637

137 1638 630 (6)

137 1051 637

44 1051 642 (rim)

28 1045 634 (2) (1 handle)

253 1050 622

138 1049 633

45 1050 623 (rim)

1045 634 (2)

1050 622

1063 637 (1 handle)

1050 622

1048 643

38 1052 638 (1 basal knob)

22 1046 626

276 1040 631

277 1038 630

1045 634

35 1053 624 (2)

282 1050 630

10068 1045 634

18 1043 640

36 1046 637 (handle)

83 1046 637

40 1045 634 (rim)

5337 1045 634

8983 1045 634

8980 1045 634

1050 630 8992

8991 1050 622

8988 1048 632

68 1055 635

8979 1045 634

73 1046 637

62 1046 637 (1 basal knob)

8986 1045 634

124 1051 642

118 1053 625

1050 622 (2)

136 1044 616 (3)

112 1050 622 (2)

1122 486 (3)

116 1045 634

121 1043 640 (2)

134 1050 622

1050 623

115 1050 622

149 1646 637

126 1050 622

147 1038 630

1045 524

131 1045 635

148 1050 630 (2)

11100 1043 635

Well 5

8990 670 693

Well 6

50 942 737

72 950 740

75 950 740

71 942 737 (2)

950 740 54

53 950 740

950 740

66 950 740

Dragline Area of 945x738

176 182

Corn Drier 1

251 411

Corn Drier 3

8987 55 465

Margins

1 rim (unmarked)

North Enclosure

217 802 800

11102 1833 1053

93 1674 778

Clearing

81 350 550

Kiln? Flue and Stoke Hole

8973 55 474

Kiln 1

10562 300 120

Kiln 2 Ditch

92 325 613 (4)

16 320 620

11 320 620

10015 350 450

27 322 610 (3)

24 325 613 (2)

Grubenhaus

11106 220 3901

11880 282 406

295 345 449

288 745 735

291 740 380

11334 80 461

4598 701 2701

Grubenhaus

31 1 Dr.20

41 1 Dr.20

78 1 Dr.20

80 1 Dr.20

110 1 Dr.20

?Timber Building

1330 640

Enigma 1

187 378 502

376 513 114

Gallic Amphorae

Together with Dressel 20, by far and away the most common amphorae at Mucking are those from southern France. These are again mostly represented by bodysherds, but also present are some eight rims, four handles and two bases (Some undesignated rims may also be Gallic, see below). The most common type present is undoubtedly Pélichet 47, and six of the above rims would all seem to broadly belong to this form. This amphora can probably be equated with form no.4 in the Gauloise type series (Laubenheimer et al, 1981), but until this is more precisely defined it is probably better to remain with the commonly accepted name for this particular type (e.g. Panella, 1973).

Pélichet 47 is a flat-bottomed wine amphora form predominantly made in southern France, more particularly around the mouth of the Rhône in Languedoc, where a number of kilns are known (Peacock, 1978; Widemann et al, 1979). It was also one of the amphorae types made at the recently excavated kilns at Crouzilles, Indre et Loire (information from Alain Férdiere), indicating that the form was also made in central Gaul as well. The type had a long life from about the middle of the first century A.D. to at least the early fourth century A.D. (Panella, 1973). In Britain, Pélichet 47 is not found in pre-Boudiccan levels (Peacock, 1978).

The only other recognizable type of Gallic amphora at Mucking is Gauloise 1 form, represented by two rim sherds, possibly from the same vessel (various Ditches 227 1074 354 and 1074 354). Like Pélichet 47, this is also a flat-bottomed form, but with a fairly thick, slightly convex expanded collar rim rather than the rounded rim associated with the former type. Kilns producing Gauloise 1 are known in southern France in Provence at Velaux, and in Languedoc at Eyrieux, Four and Boyas (Laubenheimer, 1977; Laubenheimer et al, 1979). The date range appears to be first century A.D., and the form is found mainly in France, particularly

along the Rhône valley, but is also known from Worcester and possibly London (Green, 1980, Fig.21, nos.38 and 39 - information Mme. Laubenheimer). Wine is thought to have been carried (Laubenheimer et al, 1979).

RB1

160 170 5339

160 170

6155 270

279 300

RB2

10005 110 330

Pits (Miscellaneous)

243 506 430

25 930 712 (3)

247 1053 624 (5)

1052 729

DD Inner Ditch

231 1246 801 (rim)

1252 784

265 850 696 (20)

1250 789

234 1261 763 (handle)

257 1252 984

254 938 757

Various Ditches

A3A 267 1029 625 (8)

A3A 270 1029 625 (2)

B6 1221 234

B36 1945 295

4611 347 475

241 340 450 (2)

934 754

1006 852

255 1118 881

1166 899

4601 1170 898

1254 781

227 1074 354 (rim)

1074 354 (rim)

Well 1

228 204 504 (12)

Well 4

133 1044 636

264 1050 622 (18)
(1 handle)

223 1050 622 (5)
(1 base)

137 1638 630

253 1050 622 (6)

1050 635

1045 634 (2)

1050 627

1050 622 (rim)

224 1050 622 (26) (rim)

1050 622 (6) (1 handle)

1063 632

274 1050 622 (55)

273 1050 622 (40)

263 1050 622 (25) (1 rim)

279 1052 622 (21)

278 1046 626 (2) (1 rim)

22 1046 626 (3)

266 1050 622 (5)

271 1050 623 (24)

281 1050 622

280 1050 622 (25)

1043 640

285 1046 626 (20)

59 1050 622

284 1050 622 (19)

35 1053 624 (3)

8982 1060 622

8993 1043 640

8981 1050 637

10010 1050 637

10011 1050 622

283 1050 622 (17)

8980 1045 634

8984 1050 633 (2)

77 1046 626 (2)

19 1050 622 (3)

272 1050 622 (7)
(1 handle; 1rim)

117 1050 622 (14)

29 1050 622 (56)

31 1050 622 (26)

122 1050 622 (21) (1 base)

135 1050 622 (7)

236 1049 633

251 1042 620 (2)

Well 6

11098 950 740

Circle

58 1227 680 (6)

Grubenhaus

57 (2)

Southern Spanish

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 from the late first century B.C. to the second century A.D. (Peacock, 1971; 1974).

DD Inner Ditch

226 12801 717

186 842 698 (5)

848 680 (3)

Grubenhaus

60 1094 374

Enigma 1

386 507 114

Various Ditches

5334 1060 200

North African Amphorae

RB1 (south) 5025 plus one other.

These sherds, not seen by the writer, have previously been identified by Dr. David Peacock as belonging to cylindrical amphorae of North African origin (1977, 271-272). One sherd, a handle, comes from a very late ditch, while the other was recovered from the fill of a fourth century well sealed by a fifth century Saxon building (ibid.). North African cylindrical amphorae probably started arriving in Britain during the third century A.D. and importation may have continued into the fifth century (ibid.). These vessels are generally thought to have carried olive-oil, though fish-products may also have been carried to a lesser extent (Beltrán, 1978).

Undesignated

RB2

4605 390 518

233 457

215 392

10006 120 330

8055 263 4001

8057 459 419

11097 20 360

8989 3541 453

Pits Ditch

57 358 529

4603 222 596

310 390

232 248 408

498 482

735 489

946 742

14 1008 675

1053 625

250 1110 806

1219 822

1131 201

1051 637
72 75
1045 634
} joining rim sherds with 4 lid securing holes. Possibly Gaulish?

DD Inner Ditch

231 1246 801

11101 840

1201 845

256 1155 825

239 881 740

325 120 (2)

5338 155 220 (2)

332 325

229 950 838 (handle)

1324 590 (rim)
(Possibly Gaulish?)

1261 763 (rim)
(Possibly Gaulish?)

DD Outer Ditch

945 780

933 437

230 900 770

225 1068 865

Various Ditches

A3A 270 1029 625 (2)

P5 200 1052 142

B27 252 1123 336/6

233 B36 999 285 (2)

B36 1001 265

D15 579 257 11328

PC65 1124 310

PG64 1147 375

80 120 413

11330 150 526

210 415 (2)

274 503 11338

394 489

242 440 232

330 325

4600 324 510

56 372 522

520 635 (2)

10 570 260

598 493

11329 590 575

244 676 423

770 374

8056 950 503

1052 864

123 1105 655 (2)

246 1215 133

141 1248 760

129 1243 808 (2)

1428 497 (2)

11325 475 550

Well 4

275 1049 633

148 1050 630

8985 1050 622 (2)

948 742

Well 6

268 942 737 (5) (Burnt)

Dragline Area of 945x738

244 x 183

East of Kiln 1

10562 300 120

Kiln 6

60 1094 374

Kiln 2 Ditch

92 325 613

Clearing

9 171 849 (handle)

Grubenhaus

289 54 480

280 399 11331

Grubenhaus

110

Enigma 1

275 504 114

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