

Three bodysherds of Dressel 20 amphorae. This type of amphora was made along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba in the Roman southern Spanish province of Baetica, where they were used for the transportation of olive-oil. Dressel 20 amphorae have a wide date-range, from the Augustan prototype (Oberaden 83) to the well-known globular form which, with some typological variation, was in use up to the third/fourth centuries A.D. This is the most common amphora form to be found in Roman Britain (Williams and Peacock, 1983). The writer could make out no stamp on sherd SLB 57 Surface as suggested by Margaret Jones.

SLB 58 IV 78

Fairly thick rounded rim sherd in a hard granular fabric containing much quartz, white (Munsell 10YR 8/2) in colour with traces of a yellowish (10YR 8/6) slip. The fabric appears superficially similar to that characteristic of Dressel 2-4 amphora made at Brockley Hill (Castle, 1978), though in this case the rim form is not typical of Dressel 2-4. Thin sectioning of the sherd from Stanton Low Villa shows that apart from frequent quartz grains and fine-grained silica, limestone is also present. The latter does not appear to be present in Brockley Hill amphora sectioned by the writer or described in the excavation report (*ibid.*). A source at Brockley Hill thus seems unlikely, instead it is possible that this rim sherd is a variation of one of the Gauloise amphorae series (cf. Peacock and Williams, 1986).

References

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