

AMPHORAE FROM CAISTER-BY-NORWICH

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1) Verbal identification of Roman amphorae sherds brought to Southampton on 29th March 1985 by Maggie Darling of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, Norwich. These included the forms: Dressel 20, Pélíchet 47 and variations, Chalk 6, Biv and North African cylindricals.

2) AX (666) Sp 200

Bodysherd of a Dressel 20 amphora, possibly late in the series.

3) F VIII XY (3) (913) Fab. 202

In thin section this light-coloured sherd is seen to be highly micaceous, recalling the fabric of Biv amphora, though the latter are normally deep reddish-brown in colour (Williams, 1983).

4) D 7.5 (2720) Dwg. 825

'Hollow foot' (Kapitan II) amphora. This form, of unknown origin, has occurred in Britain in late third to early fourth century A.D. contexts (Peacock, 1977a).

5) D VI (420) Spill Amph. 204

Part of the handle from a Chalk 6 amphora (Peacock, 1977a). At Chalk this form, of unknown origin, was found in contexts deposited after c. A.D. 360, while another vessel from Caerleon came from a well

which produced pottery dating between A.D. 250-350 (ibid.).

6) A VI Plough

A X (666) Sp Amph. 204

Two handles from North African cylindrical amphorae. These type of amphorae probably started arriving in Britain during the third century A.D. and importation may have continued into the fifth century (Peacock, 1977b). These vessels are generally thought to have carried olive-oil, though fish-products may also have been carried to a lesser extent..

7) G VIII (1682) Amph. 201

Rilled bodysherd of a Gaza-type amphora. This amphora form is fairly common in the south-eastern Mediterranean area, but also reached North Africa and western Europe in small numbers (Peacock and Williams, 1986). If the attribution to Gaza is correct it is probable that the vessel contained the famous Gaza wine, though contents analysis have suggested that olive-oil and sesame oil may also have been carried (Passi et al., 1981). The date range of the form is from the fourth to the sixth centuries A.D.

8) F VI (735) F 205

Small bodysherd of unknown type with widely spaced ribbing in a hard sandy fabric with small white limestone grains in evidence, light red (between Munsell 2.5YR 6/8 and 5YR 7/6) throughout. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope showed grains of quartz, limestone and foraminifera, indicating an origin in an area of sedimentary rocks.

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