

ARK Report 11/29

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AMPHORAE FROM STAPLE GARDENS, WINCHESTER

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Introduction

The amphorae were classified by fabric and form, and in order to consider the material quantitatively were then weighed and counted. The classification of types is based on Dressel (1899) and Pélichet (1946), other types being referred to by numbers assigned in well-known publications or descriptive terms suggested by Peacock (1971) and Riley (1975). The commonest types present are the southern Spanish olive-oil amphora Dressel 20, which dominates the assemblage, and the flat-bottomed southern Gaulish wine amphora Pélichet 47. Single sherds were noted of the following forms: Dressel 2-4, Richborough 527, southern Spanish and Gaza-type. The latter find illustrates the vast distances which amphorae might travel in the ancient world. A small number of unassigned types are also present. Brief notes on the origins and chronological span of the amphorae are given below.

Total weight of amphorae	11,134gms
Total number of amphorae sherds	160

% Total of each fabric

	<u>% by weight</u>		<u>% by count</u>	
Dressel 20	9,566gms	85.9%	107	66.9%
Pélichet 47	972gms	8.7%	41	25.7%
Dressel 2-4	262gms	2.4%	1	0.6%
Richborough 527	62gms	0.6%	1	0.6%
Gaza-type	49gms	0.4%	1	0.6%
Southern Spanish	29gms	0.3%	1	0.6%
Undesignated	194gms	1.7%	8	5.0%

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 up to the late third century A.D. (Zevi, 1967) and possibly into the fourth (Manacorda, 1977).

There is only one featured sherd amongst the Dressel 20 material from Staple Gardens, a rim sherd of third century A.D. type (Ph. 29 1198, 5019 - Martin-Kilcher, 1984, nos. 40 and 41). In addition, the fabric of several of the

bodysherds suggests a date late in the series, i.e. u/s 6401; Ph. 29, 1198, 6208; Ph. 17, 7B, 4887; Ph. 19, 1314, 5071; Ph. 26, 1525, 5274.

Ph. 28, 1428; Ph. 20, 546, 5003; Ph. 20, 779, 6359; Ph. 26, 1469, 5026; Ph. 26, 1489, 6117; Ph. 20, 546, 5004; Ph. 26, 1484, 5040; Ph. 20, 546, 6267; Ph. 20, 546, 6268; Ph. 20, 546, 6269; Ph. 26, 1469, 5027; Ph. 28, 1412, 5080; Ph. 26, 1488, 4987; Ph. 33, 1698, 6055; Ph. 19, 1054, 5012; Ph. 19, 1232, 5062; Ph. 19, 1232, 5060; Ph. 33, 1696, 6271; Ph. 32, 1502, 5145; Ph. 29, 1198, 6209; Ph. 20, 546, 5005; Ph. 26, 1525, 5274; Ph. 26, 1509, 4861; Ph. 26, 1469, 5025; Ph. 32, 1557, 5151; Ph. 26, 1574, 6313; Ph. 26, 1488, 4986; Ph. 19, 1314, 5071; Ph. 19, 1241, 5020; Ph. 17, 7D, 4956; Ph. 17, 7D, 5277; Ph. 17, 5276; Ph. 17, 7D, 4957; Ph. 17, 7A, 4910; Ph. 17, 7B, 4885; Ph. 17, 7A, 4900; Ph. 10, 1400, 4989; Ph. 10, 1400, 6073; Ph. 17, 7C, 4914; Ph. 17, 7B, 4893; Ph. 17, 7A, 4897; Ph. 17, 7A, 4901; Ph. 17, 7A, 4906; Ph. 8, 1312, 4980; Ph. 17, 7A, 4898; Ph. 17, 7A, 4905; Ph. 17, 7A, 4899; Ph. 11, 1503, 4630; Ph. 14, 321, 4935; Ph. 17, 7B, 4890; Ph. 17, 7B, 4892; Ph. 14, 321, 5763; Ph. 14, 321, 4932; Ph. 14, 321, 4939; Ph. 10, 1311, 5021; Ph. 17, 7D, 5275; Ph. 10, 1157, 4970; Ph. 14, 321, 4938; Ph. 17, 7D, 4958; Ph. 17, 1637, 5150; Ph. 14, 321, 5766; Ph. 17, 7D, 4954; Ph. 17, 7C, 4917; Ph. 17, 1554, 5022; Ph. 17, 7C, 4918, Ph. 17, 7B, 4888; Ph. 14, 321, 4941; Ph. 10, 1400, 6075; Ph. 17, 7A, 4903; Ph. 10, 1400, 6076; Ph. 14, 321, 5765; Ph. 17, 7C, 4916; Ph. 14, 321, 5764; Ph. 17, 7D, 4953; Ph. 10, 1400, 4988; Ph. 8, 1312, 6079; Ph. 14, 321, 4929; Ph. 17, 7B, 4912; Ph. 15, 1250, 4976; Ph. 10, 1311, 6080; Ph. 10, 1158, 4974; Ph. 14, 321, 4927; Ph. 17, 1531, 5053; Ph. 26, 1106, 5013; Ph. 29, 1198, 6208; Ph. 17, 7B, 4887; Ph. 17, 7A, 4902; Ph. 29, 1198, 5019; ? , 1506, 6459; ? , 1457, 6458; Ph. 32, 1502, 6460; Ph. 36, 759, 6440; Ph. 36, 759, 6439; Ph. 36, 759, 6442; ? , 197, 6384; Ph. 36, 759, 6441; Ph. 36, 798, 6449; Ph. 26, 1480, 6402; Ph. 36, 759, 6445; Ph. 36, 759, 6444; Ph. 26, 1480, 6403; Ph. 26, 1469, 6381; Ph. 36, 759, 6443; ? , u/s, 6401; Ph. 26, 759, 6446.

Pélichet 47

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 Cruzilles, 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).

One handle was found at Staple Gardens (Ph. 17, 1643, 5921), the remainder of the material consists of bodysherds.

Ph. 26, 1492, 5059; Ph. 19, 1232, 5061; Ph. 26, 1480, 5078; Ph. 26, 1489, 4880; Ph. 26, 1489, 4879; Ph. 19, 1314, 5072; Ph. 20, 546, 6266; Ph. 20, 546, 5006; Ph. 17, 1643, 5921; Ph. 17, 7A, 4909; Ph. 14, 321, 4940; Ph. 17, 7A, 4907; Ph. 17, 7B, 4891; Ph. 8, 1388, 5423; Ph. 17, 7B, 4894; Ph. 14, 321, 4934; Ph. 14, 321, 4936; Ph. 17, 7A, 4896; Ph. 17, 7D, 5278; Ph. 14, 321, 4933; Ph. 14, 321, 4928; Ph. 17, 7C, 4919; Ph. 14, 321, 4926; Ph. 17, 773, 4968; Ph. 17, 7B, 4886; Ph. 8, 1312, 4979; Ph. 17, 7A, 4908; Ph. 1531, 5054; Ph. 14, 321, 4931; Ph. 17, 774, 4969; Ph. 26, 1480, 5086; Ph. 14, 321, 4930; ? , 1492, 6456; Ph. 36, 798, 6447; Ph. 36, 798, 6448; Ph. 36, 798, 6450; Ph. 36, 798, 6452; Ph. 36, 798, 6451; ? , 650, 6385; ? , u/s, 6399.

Dressel 2-4

A bodysherd with the beginnings of a bifid handle in a micaceous fabric (? , u/s, 6400). This amphora type was made over a wide area, e.g. Italy, France, Spain, the Aegean, as well as Britain (Castle, 1978), during the period from the late first century B.C. to the mid second century A.D. However, quantitative trends suggest that it was in decline by the later first century A.D. (Panella, 1973). Tituli picti indicate that the principal content carried was wine (Zevi,

1966).

Richborough 527

A bodysherd in the distinctive coarse rough greyish-green fabric which characterizes this form (Ph. 32, 1502, 5023). Richborough 527 has been recognized on a number of southern British sites (Peacock, 1977; Green, 1980), as well as occurring in Switzerland (Roth-Rubi, 1975) and especially in France (Sanquer, 1979; Galliou, 1984). The evidence suggests that this form was in use during the first century A.D., possibly continuing into the early second century. The origin is uncertain. A source in the volcanic regions of the western Mediterranean has been suggested (Peacock, 1977), though recent research has possibly narrowed this down to the Puy de Dome region of France (Peacock and Williams, 1986). The contents carried are unknown.

Gaza-type

A bodysherd in a hard, rough fabric with accretions of clay clearly visible, buff (Munsell 7.5YR 7/4) in colour and with a slight ribbing (Ph. 26, 1469, 5057). Visual appearance and petrological examination suggests that this sherd either belongs to or is allied to the distinctive 'cigar-shaped' series of amphorae thought to have originated from Gaza (Riley, 1975; 1979). This amphora form is common throughout the south-eastern Mediterranean from the fourth to the sixth centuries A.D., also reaching Britain (Thomas, 1981) and western Europe among other places. If a Gaza origin is correct, then this form may well have carried the famous wine of the region. However, recent contents analysis research has suggested that olive-oil and sesame oil was carried in this form, though this remains to be substantiated (Rothschild-Boros, 1981; Passi et al, 1981).

Southern Spanish

A bodysherd (Ph. 26, 1477, 6455) from an amphora which probably derives from the coastal regions of southern Spain, between Cadiz and Malaga, and may have carried fish-based products (Peacock, 1971; 1974). Late first century B.C. to the second century A.D.

Undesignated

Ph. 17, 7A, 4895; Ph. 28, 1433, 6326; Ph. 11, 1503, 6146; ? , 1664, 6102; Ph. 28, 1431, 6327; Ph. 8, 1312, 4981; ? , 1249, 6358; ? , 1574, 6457.

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