ROMAN AMPHORA FROM ? TOWGESTER

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N'ants Museum accession no. 0 ?AL 1523 (Drawing attached)

An Egyptian amphora with a short neck, two small handles from top of shoulder to the rim, a long tapering body with ridging below the shoulder and above the solid spike (the bottom part of which is missing). The very small sample submitted for thin section analysis under the petrological microscope was in a rough sandy slightly micaceous fabric with occasional fragments of white limestone, dull brown (Munsell 10YR 4/4) in colour. Thin sectioning shows frequent grains of subangular quartz, a few voids which might possibly have contained chaff, muscovite and biotite mica, a scatter of pyroxene, a little plagioclase felspar, opaque oxides and occasional pieces of limestone.

This amphora appears to be a variety of Egloff form 177 (1977), the fabric being identical to samples attributed to the Nile region of Egypt (Peacock and Williams, 1986, Class 52). This form probably contained wine and can be dated from the late fourth century A.D. to the sixth and seventh centuries (<u>ibid</u>.). To the best of the writer's knowledge this amphora type has yet to be found securely stratified on a British site.

References

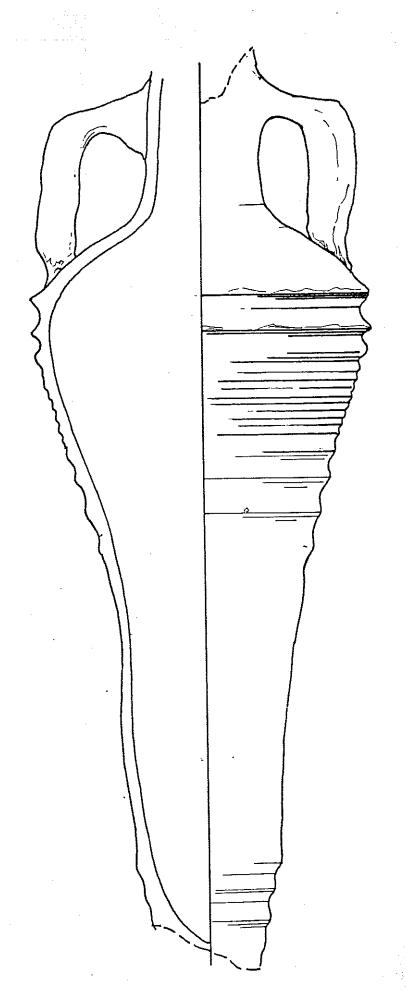
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