

AMPHORAE FROM MALTON, YORKSHIRE

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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 principally based on Dressel (1899), Pélisset (1946), the Camulodunum series (Hawkes and Hull, 1947), Fontes *et al* (1981) and Mañá (1951), supplemented by descriptive terms suggested by Peacock (1971). The types present are Dressel 20, by far the commonest amphorae recorded, with lesser amounts of Gallic amphorae, Camulodunum 186sp, Dressel 7-11, Southern Spanish, Carrot-type, Mañá C and a few unassigned sherds. Brief notes on the origins and chronological span of the amphorae types are given below.

Total weight of amphorae from the site as a whole	57,993gms
Total number of amphorae sherds from the site as a whole	264

% Total of each fabric from the site as a whole

	<u>% By weight</u>		<u>% By count</u>	
Dressel 20	49,184gms	84.8%	230	87.1%
Gallic	3,479gms	6.0%	18	6.8%
Camulodunum 186sp	4,379gms	7.6%	3	1.1%
Dressel 7-11	114gms	0.2%	1	0.4%
Southern Spanish	123gms	0.2%	2	0.8%
Carrot-type	78gms	0.1%	3	1.1%
Mañá C	80gms	0.1%	1	0.4%
Unassigned	556gms	1.0%	6	2.3%

Total weight of amphorae from site MA 70 32,010gms
Total number of amphorae sherds from site MA 70 126

% Total of each fabric from site MA 70

	<u>% By weight</u>		<u>% By count</u>	
Dressel 20	25,734gms	80.4%	109	86.5%
Gallic	2,688gms	8.4%	11	8.7%
Camulodunum 186sn	3,200gms	10.0%	1	0.8%
Southern Spanish	42gms	0.1%	1	0.8%
Unassigned	346gms	1.1%	4	3.2%

Total weight of amphorae from site LSM 69 19,290gms
 Total number of amphorae sherds from site LSM 69 98

% Total of each fabric from site LSM 69

	<u>% By weight</u>		<u>% By count</u>	
Dressel 20	16,771gms	87.0%	82	83.8%
Gallic	777gms	4.0%	6	6.1%
Camulodunum 186sp	1,179gms	6.1%	2	2.0%
Dressel 7-11	114gms	0.6%	1	1.0%
Southern Spanish	81gms	0.4%	1	1.0%
Carrot-type	78gms	0.4%	3	3.1%
Mañá C	80gms	0.4%	1	1.0%
Unassigned	210gms	1.1%	2	2.0%

Total weight of amphorae from sites MOC 68 & 69 6,693gms
 Total number of amphorae sherds from sites MOC 68 & 69 40

% Total of each fabric from sites MOC 68 & 69

	<u>% By weight</u>		<u>% By count</u>	
Dressel 20	6,679gms	99.8%	39	97.5%
Gallic	14gms	0.2%	1	2.5%

Comments

With the exception of the apparent lack of North African cylindrical amphorae at Malton, there^{are} broad similarities between the range of the more important types present at Malton and those recovered from the Minster excavations at nearby York. At both sites the Spanish olive-oil amphora Dressel 20 predominates, with lesser amounts of amphorae containing Gallic wine and Spanish fish products. It is interesting to note that an uncommon Gauloise amphora form is present at both sites, though there are some minor forms at the Minster excavations which are not present at Malton. The third most important amphora type by sherd numbers at York Minster, the North African cylindrical, does not appear to be present at Malton. The majority of these amphorae from York are likely to have arrived at the legionary fortress during the third and fourth centuries, but apart from the earlier Mañá C rim, there are no other North African amphorae sherds from Malton.

Comments on Individual Forms

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 possibly into the fourth (Manacorda, 1977).

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

MA 70

- Tr. 5, 58 Dated at Augst late first century A.D. to mid second century (ibid., no. 20 or 30).
- Tr. 3, west 10'-11" Dated at Augst second half of first century A.D. to mid second century A.D. (ibid., no. 17).
- Tr. 2, 50 Dated at Augst late first century A.D. to mid second century (ibid., no. 20 or 30).
- Tr. 6, top 6" Dated at Augst early second century A.D. to c. A.D. 175 (ibid., no. 29 or 32).
- Tr. 5, 59 Dated at Augst c. A.D. 50-75 (ibid., no. 15).
- Tr. 3, 5 (complete rim plus part handles) Dated at Augst mid second century A.D. to mid third century (ibid., nos. 36, 37 or more probably 39).

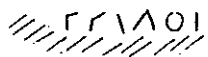
LSM 69

- Tr. 9, 6-9-69 Dated at Augst late first century A.D. to mid second century (ibid., no. 20 or 30).
- Tr. 7, 31-7-69 Dated at Augst first half of second century A.D. (ibid., no. 25).
- U/S Box 4 Dated at Augst mid second century A.D. (ibid., no. 27).

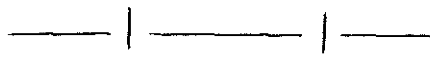





MOC 69

- Tr. 4 Dated at Augst mid second century A.D. (ibid., no. 27).

Four basal warts of the Dressel 20 form and twenty-two handles, or part handles, were also recovered, of which four handles were stamped:

- MA 70 103  The stamp in this case is too badly damaged to give a satisfactory reading.
- MA 70 300 CAOVET This is one of the forms of stamp of G. Antonius Quietus, whose stamps are widely distributed (cf. Callender, 1965, no. 243). Callender (ibid.) dates the period of operation of these stamps c. A.D. 70-120, while Martin-Kilcher et al (1985) would have the initial date set a little earlier.
- MA 70 249 O.....(?)A The middle letters are too faint to make out.
- LSM 69 Tr. 9, 118 GSP This stamp is recorded by Callender (ibid., no. 481), but the type of amphorae concerned is not mentioned or a date of activity suggested.

Several sherds had a graffito cut into the fabric of the sherd:

- LSM 69 Tr. 7 u/s (bodysherd) 
- Unmarked (bodysherd) 
- MA 70 332 (handle) 
- MA 70 5 59 (bodysherd) 
- LSM 116 (handle) 
- LSM 116 (bodysherd) 

One handle (MOC 69/8) was worn smooth at one end, possibly evidence that it was used as some form of tool ?

MA 70

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tr. 3 u/s top layers (4) | Tr. 2 above rampart (1) |
| Tr. 3 below limestone floor (1) | Tr. 2 between walls g & k (2) |
| Tr. 3 S'deen (7) | Trs. 3, 4 & Annex (1) |
| Tr. 2 rubble under hypocaust (1) | Tr. 2 Ash layer w. of wall (1) |

Tr. 3, 4 (1)
Tr. 3, 4 (1)
Tr. 3 east (1)
Tr. 2, 29 (3)
Tr. 2 (4)
Tr. 2 robber (1)
Walls D-E (1)
Tr. 3 below wall E (1)
Tr. 5, 58 (1)
Tr. 3, 1'-4" down (1 handle)
Tr. 4 Annex (1)
Tr. 3 (1)
Tr. 5 (1)
Tr. 3 10' (2 inc. 1 handle)
Tr. 2A 34 (1 basal wart)
Tr. ?, hard floor (1 handle)
Tr. 3 ch'coal layer (1)
Tr. 2A, 11 (2 inc. 1 handle)
Tr. 5, 59 (4 inc. 2 handles)
Tr. 3 ch'coal layer (1)

LSM 69

Tr. 2, 4'-6" (1 basal wart)
Tr. 7 (2)
Tr. 8 ch'coal layer (1 basal wart)
Tr. 4 u/s (1)
Tr. 7 u/s (2)
Tr. 7 hole in north side (8 inc. 2 handles)
Tr. 7 26.7.69 (1)
Tr. 7 30.8.69 (2)
Tr. 8 24.8.69 (2)

Tr. 4 dark soil below limestone (1)
Tr. 3, 21 (3)
Tr. 5 above frig. of bathhouse (15)
Tr. 4, 8'-10" deep (10)
Tr. 3, Annex Tr. 4 (1)
45/2 (1)
Tr. 3 (1 handle)
West of wall D 28.8.70 (1)
Tr. 2 (1)
Tr. 2 (1)
Tr. 4 24.10.70 (1)
Tr. 3 3'-10" (1)
Tr. 2 (2)
Tr. 2/2A (5 inc. 2 handle)
Tr. 2 15 (1 handle)
Tr. 3 ch'coal layer (1 handle)
Tr. 5 between walls (1 handle)
Tr. 2/2A, 38 (1)
Tr. 5 (1)
Tr. 8 N end (1 basal wart)
Tr. 8 29.7.69 (4 inc. 1 handle)
Tr. 9 (3)
Tr. 9 19.10.69 (3)
Tr. 4 u/s (2 inc. 1 handle)
Tr. 7 20.9.69 (1)
Tr. 1 5.7.69 (1)
Tr. 6A (1)
Tr. 6A dark soil (1)

Tr. 1 9.3.69 (1)
Tr. 9 fill of ditch (3)
Black soil of gulley (1)
Tr 4 2.11.69 (1)
Rampart w of hearth (2)
Tr. 7 (1)
21.9.69 (1)
Tr. 1 1.3.69 (1)
Tr. 9 5.10.69 (1)
Tr. 9 north end (1)
Tr. 9 (2)
Tr. 8 10.8.69 (1)

MOC 68 & 69

u/s (1)
u/s (2)
Tr. 4 (1)
Tr. 8 (1)
Tr. 1 M (1)
T1/&A u/s 1 (1)
IME (1)
Tr. 7X (3)
Tr. 8 bottom (1)
Tr. 7S (3)
Tr. 9 west (2)

Tr. 5 fill of 1st cen. ditch (6)
Tr. 9 12.10.69 (2)
Tr. 2 23.7.69 (1)
Tr. 9 17.7.69 (1)
Tr. 3 10.8.69 (2)
Tr. 9 old land surfaces (1)
Tr. 9 Pit (2)
Tr. 9 pit (3)
Tr. H north end (1)
Tr. 9 Pit (2)
Tr. 6 west end u/s 18.7.69 (1)

Tr. 4 (1)
Tr. 1, 1 u/s (2 inc. 1 handle)
Tr. 1 shrine (1)
Tr. 9 (2)
T. 11 (1)
4 1 u/s (1)
Tr. 8 (1)
Tr. 7 shrine (1)
Tr. 11 (2)
u/s (8)

Gallic Amphorae

These are mostly represented by bodysherds, but also present are some five rims, one handle and two feet. The most common type present is undoubtedly Pélíchet 47, and four of the above rims would all appear 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 (cf. Panella, 1973).

Pélíchet 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, Pélíchet 47 is not found in pre-Boudiccan levels (Peacock, 1973).

The only other recognizable type of Gallic amphora at Malton is Gauloise 1 form, represented by the ~~almost~~ complete top half of the vessel (MA 70 3 70). Like Pélíchet 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 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 it is also known from Worcester, Mucking 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).

MA 70

Tr. 3 3'-10" (1 rim)

Tr. 2/2A (1 base)

Tr. 4 6'-8" (1 handle)

Tr. 3 west (1)

Tr. 2A 34 (1)

Tr. 2/2A (1 rim)

Tr. 2 (1 base)

Tr. 3 21 (1)

Tr. 5 secondary rampart (1)

Tr. ? hard floor (1)

LSM 69

Trs. 9 & 6 (1 rim)

Tr. 3 u/s 2 (1)

Tr. 5 fill of 1st cent. ditch (1)

Tr. 5 Immed. above subsoil (1 rim)

Tr. 8 24.8.69 (1)

Tr. 8 u/s (1)

NOC 69

Tr. 7S (1)

Camulodunum 186sp /Dressel 7-11 /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).

MA 70 Tr. 5 rampart & below (Southern Spanish bodysherd)

MA 70 Tr. 3 5 (hollow foot of a Camulodunum 186 form, difficult to say if it belongs to the 186A or 186 C type).

LSM 69 Tr. 7 u/s (handle and body of a Camulodunum 186 form - as above)

LSM 69 Tr. 7 (Southern Spanish bodysherd).

LSM 69 Tr. 5 (Dressel 7-11 type of handle).

LSM Tr. 5 fill of 1st cent. ditch (Camulodunum 196 bodysherd - as above).

Carrot-type

There are three sherds at Malton, two bases and a ribbed bodysherd, that may possibly belong to what is commonly called the carrot amphora type. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows that all three sherds contain numerous well-rounded grains of quartz and some limestone, a similar fabric to that associated with carrot amphorae (Peacock and Williams, 1986). The origin of this form is uncertain, although scanning electron microscopy of the quartz inclusions in the fabric suggests an origin in a desert environment (Shackley, 1975). A Mediterranean source seems likely, but the dearth of finds from this area is curious. This form is commonly associated with early military sites in Britain and Germany (Reusch, 1970). Carrot amphorae occur at Wiesbaden and Vindonissa in early first century^{A.D.} contexts, and are common at Claudian Hofheim and Claudian-Neronian Colchester (ibid., Hawkes and Hull, 1947). They are found after A.D. 75 at Fishbourne (Cunliffe, 1971). The principal content carried is unknown, although dates have been suggested (Reusch, 1970).

LSM

Tr. 9 23.7.69 (1 ribbed bodysherd)

Tr. 7 20.9.69 (1 base)

Tr. 9 on rampart (1 base)

Mañá C

Small rim-shoulder of a late variant of Mañá C₁(1951), an amphora type characterized by a long cylindrical body, two small handles attached on the side and a widely flaring rim thickened on the underside. More recently van der Werff (1973) has divided the form into three categories, of which the Malton example appears to belong to his form 1. A kiln is known at Kouass in Morocco for van der Werff form 1, and this type was probably also made in the Carthage region, while Tunisia is also suggested for form 2 (ibid.). The date range for Mañá C is predominantly second and first centuries B.C., continuing into the early first century A.D. The contents carried are not known. Presumably the Malton vessel is a late variant of this form.

LSM 69 Tr. 5 immed. above subsoil (Mañá C rim).

Unassigned

MA 70

Tr. 3 21 (1)

Tr. 2 (2)

Tr. ch'coal layer (1)

LSM 69

U/S Box 4 (1 handle)

Tr. 3 u/s 2 (1)

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