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Introduction

The amphorae consists mostly of bodysherds, with a few handles, and is classified by fabric and form. The proportions of the various forms have been assessed by sherd count in order to consider the material quantitatively (see Table). The classification of types is based on Dressel (1899), Pélíchet (1946) and descriptive terms in general use (Peacock and Williams, 1986). A small number of sherds are unassigned, some 12% of the total. The overwhelming majority of the sherds, some 84%, belong either to the Gallic wine amphora Pélíchet 47 or the Spanish olive-oil amphora Dressel 20. In this respect the assemblage is very similar to the amphorae recovered from the nearby sites of West Tenter Street and Claire Street, although some of the Dressel 20 sherds from Trinity Square suggest a fabric late in the series for this type. Brief notes on the origins and chronological span of the amphorae are given below.

Numbers of individual sherds for each amphora type:

Pélíchet 47	67	64.4%
Dressel 20	21	20.2%
Southern Spanish	2	1.9%
? North African	1	1.0%
Undesignated	13	12.5%
Total	<u>104</u>	

Pélichet 47

Bodysherds

101(5); 12(6); 77(3); 98(3); 128(2); 122(6); 67; 60(2); 83(2); 60(2); 127(9);
46(2); Ø 3/7; 97(2); 135; 76(2); 29(2); 141(3); 39(3); Ø G Pit; 127(6); 94;
64(2).

This 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). 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 usually found in pre-Boudiccan contexts (Peacock, 1978).

Dressel 20

Bodysherds

101; 12(2); 98(2); 14; 125; 75; 67; 78; 101(5); Ø 3/7; 95; 132; 97; 76; 141;

This is the most common amphora type imported into Roman Britain, and was made in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba (Williams and Peacock, 1983). Dressel 20 carried olive-oil and had a wide date-range, from the Augustan prototype (Oberaden 83) 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). The fabric of two of the sherds at Trinity Square suggests a date late in the series, i.e. nos. 67 and 141.

Southern Spanish

Bodysherds

127(2).

These two sherds probably come from the coastal regions of southern Spain, between Cadiz and Malaga, and **most likely represent** amphorae that were used to carry fish-based products from the late first century B.C. to the second century A.D. (Peacock, 1971; 1974).

? North African

Bodysherd

127.

Possibly part of a North African cylindrical amphora. This amphora type probably started arriving in Britain during the second century A.D. and importation may have continued into the fifth century (Peacock, 1977). These vessels are generally thought to have carried olive-oil, though fish-products may also have been transported to a lesser extent (Beltrán, 1978).

Undesignated

Handles

127(3); 64; 58.

Bodysherds

14; 125; 127(2); 3/7; Ø G Pit (3).

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