

AMPHORAE FROM USK

D.F. Williams, Ph.D., FSA

(HBMC Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Pélichet 47

no. 40 rim.

no. 50 rim.

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). 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 normally found in pre-Boudiccan levels (Peacock, 1978).

Camulodunum 185A

no. 49 rim plus handle.

no. 31 handle.

This form has its origin in Baetica (Tchernia, 1980), the similarity in fabric with the more common Dressel 20 suggesting a source in the region of the River Guadalquivir (Peacock, 1971). Amphorae of Camulodunum 185A form (Haltern 70) recovered from the Port Vendres II shipwreck carry inscriptions describing the contents as defrutum, a sweet liquid obtained from boiling down the must (Colls et al, 1977; Parker and Price, 1981). The date-range for this form is from about the mid first century B.C. to about the mid first century A.D. (Colls et al, 1977; Tchernia, 1980).

Camulodunum 186A

no. 32 rim.

no. 33 rim.

no. 34 rim.

no. 35 rim.

Camulodunum 186sn

no. 38 hollow foot.

no. 1B bodysherd (from hollow foot).

Southern Spanish

no. 39 foot.

The above material probably derives from the coastal regions of southern Spain, between Cadiz and Malaga where a number of kilns are known, 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; Peacock and Williams, 1986).

Dressel 2-4

no. 27 rim.

no. 30 foot.

no. 52 rim.

no. 29 foot.

no. 29A foot.

no. 25 rim.

This amphora type was made over a wide area, e.g. Italy, France, Spain, the Aegean, as well as Britain, 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; Peacock and Williams, 1986).

Inscriptions point to wine as the principal content carried (Zevi, 1966).

One of the Usk Dressel 2-4 feet is in a distinctive 'black sand' fabric, caused by inclusions of dark-coloured augite (Peacock, 1971). A Campanian origin, in particular the area around Pompeii and Herculaneum, has been argued by Peacock, since examples of bricks and tiles in the region are in an identical fabric (1977a; Peacock and Williams, 1986).

Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope suggests that nos. 27, 52, 29 and 29A may be Italian, while it is not possible to point to a likely source area in respect of no. 25.

? Dressel 28

no. 58 handle.

no. 59(8593) handle.

These two ribbed-handles may belong to the 'pulley-wheel' rimmed amphora Dressel 28 (cf. Colls et al, 1977, fig. 18). This form was made from the late Augustan period to the first half of the second century A.D. in both France and Spain (Peacock and Williams, 1986). The principal contents carried are uncertain. No. 59 appears to be in a fabric normally associated by the writer with amphorae from Baetica.

? Class 59 (Peacock and Williams, 1986)

no. 41 rim.

no. 42 rim.

These two sherds, characterized by a deepish groove just below the rim, may belong to an amphora form similar in shape to Camulodunum 185A. The source of this type is uncertain, although southern Spain seems likely. One of these vessels was

recently recovered from the Thames Estuary and contained a large number of olive-stones in a 'defrutum' syrup (information Dr. J. Evans). The date range appears to be second half of the first century A.D. into the early second century

Rhodian-style

no. 46^F handle.

no. 54 handle.

no. 44 handle.

no. 43 handle.

no. 55 handle.

no. 53 foot.

no. 37 foot.

no. 48^F handle.

no. 47^F handle

This is a wine amphora form from the eastern Mediterranean. Nos. 44, 43 and 47^F are in Peacock's fabric 1, which is particularly common on early military sites in Britain and probably comes from Rhodes itself, possibly by way of a tribute on the island imposed by Claudius (Peacock, 1977b). Of the remaining sherds, no. 48^F is Peacock's type sample for his fabric 5, precise origin unknown (ibid.). While no. 54 appears to be in a new fabric for this form, very micaceous and with frequent grains of quartz (fabric 5), and no. 46^F contains volcanic glass, which may suggest Peacock's fabric 4, though this is by no means certain.

Pseudo-Koan

no. 45 handle.

Only a small part of the handle remains, but it appears about to go 'bifid' as well as reaching a peak. This form probably comes from the eastern Mediterranean and seems to have been current during the first and second centuries A.D. (Peacock, and Williams, 1986).

Undesignated

no. 28 foot. Unlike the outer surface, the body is fairly fine-textured, with inclusions of fine-grained silica.

no. 56 bodysherd with horizontally positioned handle, possibly Italian in origin. Not an amphora.

no. 51 rim. The diameter seems quite wide, possibly not an amphora.

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