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NORTHERN SUBURB, WINCHESTER.

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Summary

Identification of a large group of Roman amphorae from the recent excavations at the Northern Suburb, Winchester (2,580 sherds). By far the most common form present is the southern Spanish Dressel 20 which carried olive-oil, followed by lesser amounts of Gallic types (mainly Pélichet 47), Dressel 2-4, Normandy type, ?eastern Mediterranean, southern Spanish, ?African cylindrical, Camulodonum 185A and Camulodonum 186sp. Some of these types are early in date and it is likely that much of this material may be residual in the Late Roman levels at Northern Suburbs.

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AMPHORAE FROM THE LATE ROMAN NORTHERN SUBURB, WINCHESTER

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Introduction

The amphorae were classified by fabric and form and the sherds were then weighed and counted. The southern Spanish Dressel 20 amphora was by far the most common form in the assemblage, with the next frequent type Pélíchet 47 a long way behind. Small amounts were also noted of Dressel 2-4, Normandy type, Gauloise 3, Gauloise 5, Gallic, ?Eastern Mediterranean, Southern Spanish, ?African cylindrical, Camulodunum 185A, Camulodunum 186sp and a few unassigned types.

Total weight of amphorae: 140,028gms

Total number of amphorae sherds: 2,580

% Total of each fabric

	<u>% By weight</u>		<u>% By count</u>	
Dressel 20	125,647gms	89.3%	2065	80.1%
Pélichet 47	8,794gms	6.3%	286	11.1%
Dressel 2-4	320gms	0.2%	12	0.5%
Normandy type	2,692gms	1.9%	69	2.7%
Gallic	260gms	0.2%	5	0.2%
Gauloise 3	39gms	0.1%	1	0.1%
Gauloise 5	26gms	0.1%	1	0.1%
?Eastern Med.	5gms	0.1%	1	0.1%
Southern Spanish	201gms	0.2%	13	0.1%
?Africana	35gms	0.1%	1	0.1%
Cam. 185A	62gms	0.1%	2	0.1%
Cam. 186sp	128gms	0.1%	8	0.3%
Unassigned	1,819gms	1.3%	116	4.5%

This represents a larger quantity of amphorae and a wider variety of forms than was found in the early Roman Northern Suburb, which produced only 453 sherds weighing 18,951gms (Williams, forthcoming).

Comments on Individual Forms

Dressel 20

This amphora form was produced in the Guadalquivir region of southern Spain between Seville and Cordoba and was the most common amphora type imported

into Roman Britain, being used for the transportation of olive-oil (Ponsich, 1974; 1979). It was already present in Britain in the Late Iron Age (Williams and Peacock, 1983) and continued in use until at least the late third century A.D. (Zevi, 1967).

The majority of the Northern Suburbs material consisted of featureless bodysherds, some of which made up larger parts of vessels and accounted for a considerable proportion of the total weight, e.g. one partial Dressel 20 vessel of only 8 sherds weighed 8,327gms (VR ph 311 L3361). A few sherds suggest a date late in the series (VR ph L2418; ph 348A L4119; ph 433 L4121; HA72 ph 10 L78; HA74 ph 75 L240).

Several featured sherds were found though most were thought to be residual. The following rim sherds can be paralleled with examples from Augst illustrated by Martin-Kilcher (1983) in her scheme for the development of the Dressel 20 rim:

- (1) VR ph 389 L2538 Dated at Augst second half of first century A.D. to the beginning of the second century (ibid., no. 16).
- (2) VR V ph 955 Dated at Augst late first century A.D. to early second century (ibid., nos. 18 & 23).
- (3) HA74 ph 64 L386 Dated at Augst second half of the second century A.D. (ibid., no. 34).
- (4) VR ph 348A 4209 Dated at Augst second half of the second century A.D. to the beginning of the third century (ibid., nos. 36 & 37)
- (5) HA74 ph 75 260 As for no. (4).
- (6) HA74 ph 60 403 As for no. (4).
- (7) VR ph 195 494 As for no. (4).
- (8) HA72 ph 4 20 As for no. (4).
- (9) VR ph 393 L2486 As for no. (4).
- (10) VR V ph 949 L190 As for no. (4).
- (11) HA72 ph 4 L20 Dated at Augst first half of the third century A.D. (ibid., no. 39).

There were several examples of cases where rims had been broken off the vessel and the shoulder deliberately smoothed over. This may have been done to enable the amphora to be put to some alternative use after the original contents were removed, e.g. some Dressel 20 amphorae were used as burial urns (Callender, 1965). HA74 ph 68 266, HA ph 60 L403, VR ph 471 L4113, VR Tr V ph 931 L22, VR V ph 920 L32, HA74 ph 75 L261, ph 68 L266, HA72 ph 40 L20.

One basal wart (VR ph 393 L2486) and fifteen handles were recovered, including two which had been stamped:

(1) Handle stamped QMS, with a triangular stop after the S. This stamp appears in Callender, where a mid second century A.D. date is suggested (1965, 229 Cat. no. 1462). It is also quoted by Remesal where it is dated to the second half of the second century A.D. (1982, 50, no. 45).

(2) Handle stamped QVCVIR. This stamp is in Callender (1965, 233 Cat. no. 1515). The VIR of the stamp probably expands to Virginensia, a southern Spanish figlina, with examples of the stamp appearing at Cantillana and Villar de Brenes. One Virginensia stamp was dated by tituli pictus to A.D. 149 (ibid.). This stamp also occurs in Ponsich with a date range of A.D. 120-160 from Villar de Brenes (1974, 101, fig. 27, no. 324).

Two joining bodysherds contain an internal retrograde stamp, COMS or SMOC (VR ph 262 508). This stamp does not appear either in Callender (1965) or Ponsich (1974; 1979). Presumably this was stamped accidentally during the forming of the vessel. Such internal stamps are not common, unpublished examples are known from York and Vindonissa (info. D.P.S. Peacock).

One bodysherd contains a graffito IGRIN, in cursive script cut before firing. It may be part of the name N)igrin(us or N)igrin(a (M. Hassal pers. comm.).

Five bodysherds had rivet holes (VR ph 337 L698, ph 386 L2538, ph 387 L2508, HA 74 ph 68 L269, ph 75 L259).

Pélichet 47

Sherds from the Gallic series of amphora were common amongst this assemblage. The majority of the featureless bodysherds probably came from the Pélichet 47 form and have been included under this heading.

This flat bottomed amphora was made predominantly in southern Gaul and carried wine. It has a wide date range from the middle of the first century A.D. to at least the early fourth century (Panell, 1973; Laubenheimer, 1985). In Britain, Pélichet 47 does not appear to be present in pre-Boudican levels (Peacock, 1978).

Two rims were found, one appeared to have the beginnings of a handle (VR V ph 956 410).

Gauloise 3

This form is similar to Gauloise 1 and 4, but has a thickened rim and neck. It was made in southern France and may have carried wine during the first century A.D. (Laubenheimer, 1985).

VR V ph 919 411.

Gauloise 5

This form is similar to the more common Gallic amphora Pélichet 47, but it has a distinctive flat rim. A kiln producing this form is known at Pauvadou a Frejus in the Provence area of southern France (Fontes et al, 1981). This amphora probably carried wine and seems to have had a relatively short life from the second half of the first century A.D. to the beginning of the second century. The form is rare in Britain, other examples occur at Leicester and York (Peacock and Williams, 1986).

VR ph 276 433.

Gallic

These are undesignated Gallic amphorae bodysherds:

VR ph 313 L3357, ph 940 grave 106, VR ph 465 31, VR ph 348A L4119, VR ph 465 L31.

Dressel 2-4

This amphorae form was made in many areas, including Italy, Spain, France and the Aegean and predominantly carried wine. It seems to have been in use from the latter half of the first century B.C. to the mid second century A.D. (Peacock and Williams, 1986).

Two sherds were probably Italian (VR V ph 930 L81, ph 932 L387) and another two were in the typical 'black sand' fabric associated with the Bay of Naples region (VR ph 195 L494, VR V ph 946 L258) (Peacock and Williams, 1986).

VR ph 195 L494, VR ph 229 L702 G423, VR ph 303 L3233, VR ph 306L4231, VR ph 348A L4119, VR v ph 930 L81, VR v ph 932 L387, VR V ph 946 L258.

Normandy type

A small globular vessel with a flat base and rim with multiple grooving on top, the handles often being furrowed. This form is common in Normandy (Deniaux, 1982) and it is likely that it originated there. The contents carried are unknown. The date range is second half of the first century A.D. to the second century (E. Deniaux pers. comm.; see also Deniaux, 1980).

One near complete vessel including both handles and a complete rim was found (VR V 917 395). This accounted for 61 sherds weighing 1640gms. As some sherds from the same vessel occurred in early Roman layers (Williams, forthcoming), it was thought to be residual in these late Roman phases.

Two distinctive grooved rims of this form were also found, both with handles still attached (VR V ph 945 312, VR V ph 927 105). One base was found, thought possibly to come from this type (VR Tr V ph 947 L213), otherwise the remaining material consisted of bodysherds, two of which were decorated with wavy lines (HA74 ph 68 269).

VR V ph 917 L395 + L402 + L411, VR V ph 919 L285, VR V ph 923 L394, VR V ph 927 L105, VR V ph 945 L312, VR V ph 947 L213, HA74 ph 68 L269, HA74 ph 74 L301, HA74 ph 75 L240.

?Eastern Mediterranean

This sherd is particularly micaceous and reminiscent of the Biv series, it may possibly be eastern Mediterranean in origin.

VR V ph 968 L34.

Southern Spanish

This material probably comes 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).

VR ph 164 L644, VR ph 195 L494, VR ph 348A L4119, VR ph 389 L2538, VR ph 393 L2486, VR ph 398 L2471, VR ph 443 L2398, VR ph 960 L331, HA74 ph 66 L346, VR ph 324 L3319.

?African cylindrical

This sherd may come from a cylindrical amphora of North African origin. The form started arriving in Britain from about the mid second century A.D. and importation may have continued into the fifth century (Peacock and Williams, 1986). These vessels are generally thought to have carried olive-oil, though

fish-products may also have been carried to some extent.

VR ph 480 L3262.

Camulodunum 185A

This form was probably made in the Guadalquivir region of southern Spain and dates from the mid first century B.C. to the mid first century A.D. (Colls et al, 1977; Tchernia, 1980). These sherds are thought to be residual in this assemblage.

VR ph L485 268, VR ph 276 L416.

Camulodunum 186sp

This amphora was made along the southern Spanish coast and probably carried fish-based products (Peacock, 1974). It has a date range of late first century B.C. to early second century A.D. Here the sherds are thought to be residual.

VR V ph 965A L3444.

Undesignated

Apart from one handle (VR ph 348A L4119), all were bodysherds, one with a rivet hole (HA74 ph 75 L351).

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