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Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 14/88

STAMPED AMPHORAE FROM THE
COPPERGATE SITE, YORK.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Two stamped amphorae sherds of the Dressel 20 variety from southern Spain were identified. One of the stamps can be dated to shortly after the middle years of the mid third century A.D.

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STAMPED AMPHORAE FROM THE COPPERGATE SITE, YORK

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(HBMC Ceramic Petrology Project)

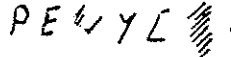
Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

1) 1981.7 31887 12547

Stamped handle and rim sherd of a Dressel 20 globular olive-oil amphora made in the area of the River Guadalquivir, between Seville and Cordoba, in the southern Spanish province of Baetica. An incomplete stamp appears in ansa, i.e. towards the summit of the handle, and reads  N N down the handle. The first letter appears to be a P, which would make a reading of PNN. This stamp is recorded at a number of sites by Callender, who suggested that the firm of P. N(onii or -umisii) N() may have come from near Arva, with a possible branch at Hispalis (1965, no. 1358). Callender's findings are partly borne out by the discovery in recent years of a kiln site at El Tejarillo, just to the west of Arva, where the PNN stamp is present (Remesal, 1983).

The rim form of the Coppergate vessel can be equated with Tejarillo type 1, which was produced around the middle years of the third century A.D. The stamp PNN seems to have been in use there just after c. A.D. 250, slightly later than the date-range mentioned by Callender (see also Martin-Kilcher et al, 1985).

2) 1981.7 36363 14020

Large bodysherd of a Dressel 20 amphora incompletely stamped . Unfortunately, it is difficult to be certain of a correct reading of this stamp,

which is only partly legible. Stamps on the body of Dressel 20 amphorae are not common.

References

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