

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 143/88

A NOTE ON THE PETROLOGICAL
EXAMINATION OF A FORM 33 SAMIAN
SHERD FROM THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
SITE, CHICHESTER, SUSSEX.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Petrological examination of this vessel and comparison with the main samian production centres during the first and early second centuries A.D. failed to achieve a good enough match to attribute it to a particular centre.

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FROM THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE SITE, CHICHESTER

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Part of the side wall of the samian form Drag. 33, with a single groove half-way down the outer surface. This sherd was submitted for thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope as part of a current programme of petrological analysis of arretine and samian ware. An examination under the microscope shows a fairly fine-textured clay matrix containing subangular quartz grains under 0.10mm in size together with flecks of muscovite mica. A comparison of the range and texture of the non-plastic inclusions in the fabric of the samian sherd from Theological College with material attributable to the main terra sigillata production centres that operated during the first and early second centuries A.D. failed to achieve a good match (Williams, 1978; plus additional material currently being studied). It may be that this vessel was made at one of the smaller branches of the samian industry or was produced later in the second century A.D.

Reference

- Williams, D.F. (1978) 'Petrological analysis of arretine and early samian: a preliminary report', in P. Arthur and G. Marsh (eds.), Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain, BAR 57, 5-12.