

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
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IMPORTED ROMAN MARBLE FROM LINCOLN

D P S Peacock and D F Williams

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Summary

Fifty-four small fragments of Roman marble veneers were examined. These came from a wide variety of sources, including: Euboea, Phrygia, Sparta, Thessaly, Peloponnese, Egypt and perhaps northern Italy or the Pyrenees. Of particular interest were a small number of fine-grained pieces of limestone, strictly speaking not marbles at all, although all had taken a good polish. The Boulogne region is tentatively suggested as a possible source for the latter fragments, though more work is needed to tie down the source with any confidence.

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IMPORTED ROMAN MARBLE FROM LINCOLN

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INTRODUCTION

Fifty-four, on the whole quite small, fragments of marble were examined and the majority identified. Most of these pieces were probably used as decorative veneers for floors and walls, though no. [19] may instead be a palette and no. [3] may have come from a moulding or column. The types of marble present are quite varied and include material from many different sources: *cipollino* from Carystos, Euboea; *pavonazzetto* from Docium, Phrygia; *porfido verde* from Croceae, near Sparta; *verde antico* from Larissa, Thessaly; *rosso antico* from Cape Taenarum, Peloponnese; *occhio di pavone pavonazzo*; black porphyry from Mons Porphyrites, Egypt; pink veined marble from ?northern Italy [nos. 20 and 21]; and *marmor alabastrum* of unknown origin. The several pieces of white marble present are difficult to tie down, one veined fragment may possibly come from northern Italy [no. 23], while the other fragments could possibly originate from Carrara in Italy or perhaps St. B  at in the Pyrenees.

Five very dark grey pieces of fine-grained limestone are present [nos. 4, 12, 19, 43 and 44]. Strictly speaking these are not true marbles, but all have taken a good polish and should be included in the catalogue. Nos. [43] and [44] seems to have been obtained from a fine-textured shelly oolitic rock, while the other pieces are even finer-textured and appear to lack such inclusions. It is difficult to tie down a source, or sources, at present, though a possible source for these pieces may be the Jurassic formations in the Boulogne region. Also included in the group are two small pieces of stone with a British origin, again strictly speaking not really marbles although both have taken a polish. One is a fragment of Purbeck limestone from Dorset and the other a piece of micaceous sandstone from an as yet unknown origin, though most probably reasonably local.

CATALOGUE

BWE82: BRAYFORD WHARF EAST

[11]. 11 3 Late Saxon - late 10th/early mid 11th century
A.D.

Large fragment of white marble.

CL85: CHAPEL LANE

[2]. 36 50 Late 10th - late 11th century A.D.

Very small fragment of white marble.

[3]. 104 105 Late 10th - late 11th century A.D.

Very small fragment of Purbeck marble.

[4]. 105 35 Mediaeval - 12th-14th century A.D.

Fragment of very dark grey fine-textured limestone.

F72-6: FLAXENGATE

[5]. F73 M113 AJR Late Saxon - mid/late 11th century
A.D.

Small fragment of *porfido verde* with chamfered
corner edge.

[6]. F73 M197 YV Late Saxon - mid/late 11th century A.D.

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

[7]. F74 M44 AXC Late Saxon - mid 11th century A.D.

Fragment of burnt *porfido verde*.

[8]. F76 St59 BHV Late Roman-late Saxon - 4th-9th
centuries A.D.

Very small fragment of *cipollino*.

[9]. F76 St60 BDM Late Saxon - 9th century A.D.

Fragment of white marble.

H83-6: HUNGATE

[10]. 289 273 Late Saxon - 11th century A.D.

Small edged fragment of *porfido verde*.

[11]. 522 545 Mediaeval - mid 14th century A.D.

Fragment of black porphyry.

LIN73: SALTERGATE

[12]. Area DI 162 105 Roman.

Small fragment of very dark grey fine-textured limestone with chamfered edge.

[13]. Area EI 168 227 5288 Roman - Late Saxon.

Small polished fragment of corner edge of micaceous sandstone.

MCH84: MICHAELGATE (CHESTNUT HOUSE)

[14]. 385 214 Mediaeval - mid 12th century A.D. plus.

Small fragment of grey-green fine-textured limestone with chamfered corner edge. Unknown origin.

SM76-7: ST MARK'S CHURCH

[15]. M34 AUF Late Saxon.

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

[16]. M35 AQH Late Saxon - mediaeval.

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

[17]. M49 BAD Late Saxon - late 9th-late 10th/early 11th centuries A.D.

Edged fragment of *cipollino*.

[18]. St4 BNM Late Roman - early-mid 4th century A.D.

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

[19]. St16 BJS Roman - mid 3rd century A.D. plus.

Fragment of very dark grey fine-textured limestone
with chamfered edge.

SP79: ST PAUL'S CHURCH

[20]. St7 DCM Late Saxon - 11th century A.D.

Small fragment of pink veined marble.

[21]. St11 DPM Mediaeval.

Fragment of pink veined marble.

[22]. St13 DMK Late Saxon - 10th century A.D.

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

WB80: WEST BIGHT

[23]. St3 1013 Mediaeval-post-mediaeval - late 12th/mid
13th-mid 16th/17 centuries A.D.

Fragment of white marble.

[24]. St4 1041 Mediaeval - mid/late 12th-mid 13th
centuries A.D.

Small edged fragment of white marble.

WNW88: WATERSIDE NORTH WEST

[25]. 2079 414 Late Roman - 4th century A.D.

Large fragment of *rosso antico*.

Z86: ST MARK'S STATION

[26]. 810 602 Late Roman - very late 4th century A.D.

Large edged fragment of *verde antico*.

[27]. 936 214 Late Saxon-mediaeval - late 10th/11th-mid
13th/early 14th centuries A.D.

Large fragment of *occhio di pavone pavonazzo*.

COTTESFORD PLACE

[28]. CP Cellar 1 (301).

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

[29]. CP Cellar 1 (304).

Small fragment of *cipollino*.

[30]. CP Cellar 1 (306).

Fragment of *cipollino*.

[31]. CP Cellar 1 (307).

Small fragment of *marmor alabastrum*.

[32]. CP Cellar 1 (308).

Fragment of white marble.

[33]. CP Cellar 1 (309).

Fragment of white marble.

[34]. CP Cellar 1 (310).

Small fragment of white marble.

[35]. CP Cellar 1 (311).

Fragment of white marble.

[36]. CP Cellar 1 (312).

Fragment of *cipollino*.

[371. CP Cellar 1 (314).

Fragment of *cipollino*.

[381. CP Cellar 1 (315).

Large fragment of *cipollino*.

[391. CP Cellar 1 (316).

Fragment of *pavonazzetto*.

[401. CP Cellar 1 (317).

Very small fragment of *pavonazzetto*.

[411. CP Cellar 1 (318).

Fragment of white marble.

[421. CP Cellar 1 (319).

Large fragment of white marble.

[431. CP Cellar 1 (321).

Fragment of very dark grey fine-textured limestone.

[441. CP Cellar 1 (322).

Large fragment of very dark grey fine-textured
limestone.

[451. CP Cellar 1 (323).

Fragment of *rosso antico*.

[461. CP Cellar 1 south of wall (300).

Fragment of *pavonazzetto*.

[471. CP Cellar 1 south of wall (302).

Fragment of *verde antico*.

[481. CP Cellar 1 south of wall (303).

Fragment of *pavonazzetto*.

[49]. CP A8.40 (155).

Very small fragment of *verde antico*.

[50]. CP A8.9 (166).

Fragment of *verde antico*.

[51]. CP A8.11 (159).

Small fragment of *pavonazzetto*.

[52]. CP A10.6 (151).

Fragment of white marble.

[53]. CP D7 (147).

Large fragment of *marmor alabastrum*.

[54]. CP Cellar III (23).

Fragment of *marmor alabastrum*.