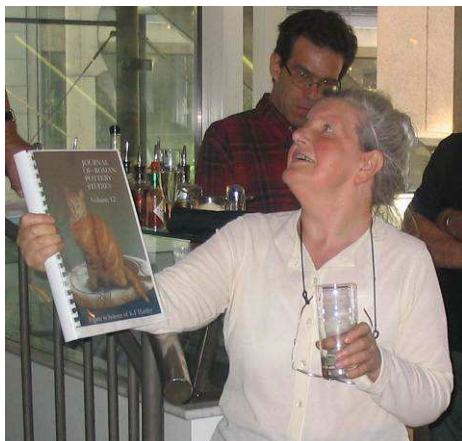
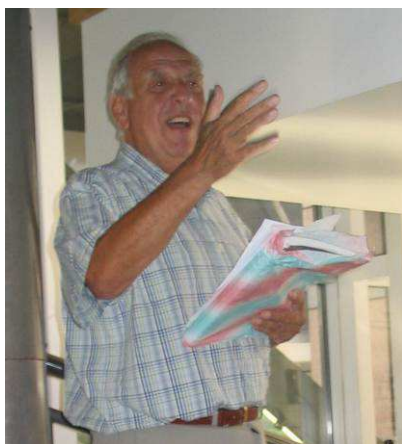


STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY

NEWSLETTER 38

December 2004



S.G.R.P. Website (www.sgrp.org)

Remember to use our website for information and queries. If you would like to add an item, or suggest how the website may be developed, please contact Ted Connell 01474 872763, ted.connell@btinternet.com

Secretary's news

Jane Evans writes: Welcome to the 38th edition of the SGRP Newsletter. All members should have received a hard copy of this. The aim remains, where possible, to distribute newsletters and other communications by email – those with email addresses will recently have received a copy of the up-to-date membership list and minutes from the 2003 and 2004 AGM. However, the committee are trying out the idea of distributing one hard copy of the newsletter each year. This will allow us to produce one 'special edition' with colour photos. Much of this newsletter is dedicated to the 2004 conference, held in London. This was a great success though marked by sadness, with news of the death of Bernard Barr, as well as pleasure, seeing Kay Hartley showered with praise, a draft copy of her festschrift (JRPS volume 12) and other gifts (see cover photos, kindly provided by Ray McBride). This edition also contains news of this year's conference, to be held in Worcester, and a letter, which I hope will provoke some debate. There is also an urgent call for papers, and session organisers, for this year's TRAC conference at the end of March. The committee has had another busy year. Pam Irving and Jude Plouviez have been working hard on the Journals – volume 11 is now out (you will be receiving it in the next week or so if it hasn't already arrived), volume 12 is imminent, and volume 13 well in hand. The new leaflet, discussed at the AGM, is moving ahead. Sub-committees are being established to review the Group's online publication strategy and to manage two newly established prizes: the 'John Gillam Prize, for an outstanding piece of work in the field of Roman pottery study' and the 'Graham Webster Memorial Grants, being subsidy grants to attend the annual conference.' Looking further ahead, the committee is liaising with Wim de Clercq, who has kindly offered to host the 2006 conference in Ghent.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2005 are now due (on the 1st January). Payment, of £15 (20 GBP for Overseas), can be made by cheque, made payable to 'The Study Group for Roman Pottery'. If you would like to arrange payment by Standing Order please download a form from the website or request one from Louise at the address below. Members who are in arrears for previous years will now have been contacted by Louise.

Louise Rayner, Flat 2, 121 Church Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8QH.
Email: l.rayner@bbk.ac.uk.

Committee News

Following elections at the AGM, the new committee is as follows:

President: Steve Willis
Membership secretary/Hon. Treasurer: Louise Rayner
Hon. Secretary: Jane Evans
Hon. Editor: Jude Plouviez
Ordinary Members: Andrew Peachey, Ed Biddulph, Roy Friendship Taylor, Geoff Dannell,
Charlotte Thompson, Fiona Seeley
Co-opted Member: Chris Lydamore

The following members also have active roles:

Production Manager: Pam Irving
Reviews Manager: Vivien Swan
Website Manager: Ted Connell
Bibliography: Colin Wallace
2005 conference: Laura Griffin

The Membership

The Group currently has 144 members. We would like to welcome the following new members: Peter Barker, Shaun Carter and Lucy Cramp. Robin Symonds has left the Museum of London to take up a post as director of Roman pottery studies for a large area of central and eastern France, including Franche-Comte, Burgundy and beyond. His new email address is: robin.symonds@wanadoo.fr. Once again, however, our thoughts turn particularly to members we have lost. Bernard Barr died just before the annual conference and is greatly missed. Kevin Greene wrote the following tribute to Bernard, to be read at his funeral.

Bernard Barr by Kevin Greene

I have an abiding memory of Bernard as the embodiment of enthusiasm, and the qualities that make the words 'professional' and 'amateur' irrelevant to our Study Group. Single-minded dedication is a wonderful thing to observe, and in my earlier days in the study group Bernard was a constant reminder of why I was doing archaeology as a professional. How could I possibly get jaded with Roman pottery when people with busy lives outside archaeology clearly derived so much stimulation and enjoyment from it? I last saw Bernard at the Carlisle meeting, and it was great to see that all the changes in archaeology had done nothing to dim his enthusiasm. The Study Group is a great leveller, and almost without exception academics, museum professionals, contract researchers and amateurs meet and interact on a basis of equality. Not many organisations can claim that.

Annual Conference 2005

The next SGRP conference will be held at **University College, Worcester** from **8th – 10th July 2005**, with accommodation in the University Halls. The conference is being organised by Laura Griffin of Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service. The theme will be 'Regional approaches to Roman pottery studies.' Offers of papers should be sent to Laura at Worcestershire Archaeology Service, Woodbury Hall, University College Worcester, Henwick Grove, WORCESTER, Worcestershire, WR2 6AJ, or by email to lgriffin@worcestershire.gov.uk. Laura is expecting a baby in February, so the committee will be supporting her with the conference organisation. Contributions from new/younger members of the group are particularly welcome; a session will be dedicated for such presentations.

Annual Conference 2004

Last year's conference, with the theme of 'Trade, Supply and Romanisation' was hosted by the Roman pottery team from the Museum of London Specialist Services and held at the London Archaeological Archive & Research Centre (LAARC). The conference included tours of the archive and the newly refurbished pot and glass store, and a tour of Roman London by Harvey Sheldon. It was all a great success, a credit to those involved in organising and contributing to it. Summaries not included in this newsletter will hopefully appear in the next.

List of Conference Papers and Summaries (in order of presentation)

Friends, Romans, countrymen lend me your pots! by Bruce Watson

The Romans have profoundly influenced our culture for centuries, ranging from models of government to architecture, and inspired drama, including many 'sword and sandal' cinema epics. My title is borrowed from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* (Act 3, scene 2) written c 1600.

Our part in this 'sword and sandal' epic begins in AD 43 when the Romans invaded south-east England. The implications of this invasion are worth considering:

1. We joined an empire which at its zenith extended some 3,500Km from Scotland to Syria and was run without mobile phones.
2. Only part of the UK was conquered and occupied, the Scots/Picts and Irish stayed out of the empire. So we were always a frontier province with forts and garrisons.
3. Britain was a reluctant partner in the Roman empire (as we are in the EU today) and starting with the Boudican revolt in AD 60, made various attempts to leave.
4. Rome was a Mediterranean power, so Britain being an Atlantic province was never going to be at the heart of their empire, even if we had been enthusiastic partners. It is this issue which is at the heart of the 'how Romanised was Britain' debate.

To me these four points sum up why the Roman archaeology as found in Italy is very different to the material found in England. This can be illustrated by comparing the destruction of the town of Pompeii by ash/pumice ejected by Vesuvius on 24th August AD 79, recorded in graphic detail by Pliny the Elder, with the destruction of *Londinium* by fire during the early 2nd century. This London conflagration was first identified by Gerald Dunning during 1929-31 as the 'Hadrianic Fire' and dated by associated pottery to *circa* AD 120-130 (Dunning 1945). As there is no documentary evidence for this disaster its precise date still eludes us.

How Romanised was East Kent? The area of East Kent around Richborough is believed to be where the Roman army landed in AD 43. Because of its nearness to the continent this area is a natural point of arrival. Today Dover, Folkestone and Ramsgate are important ferry ports. A local reminder of earlier arrivals is the replica Viking long ship at Pegwell Bay, rowed across the North Sea in 1949 to commemorate the legendary arrival of the Saxon brothers and future kings of Kent, Hengist and Horsa in AD 449. Nearby there is a wheel-headed stone cross (erected 1884) to commemorate the landing of St Augustine in AD 597. The geography of this area of Kent was quite different when the Romans arrived, Thanet was then an island, separated from the rest of the county by an marshy sea channel, known as the Wantsum Channel. During the invasion period (AD 45-85) the Romans established a port and a fort at the southern end of the Wantsum Channel, with road links to the rest of the county. *c* AD 85 a huge monumental arch was erected here as a sort of 'welcome to Britain symbol'. By the early 2nd century the army had moved north and fort was transformed into a town. During the mid 3rd century AD (*circa* AD 250) the Roman army returned to Richborough and established an earth and timber fort, replaced by a stone-built one *c* AD 275 (Johnson 1997).

Richborough's role as the gateway to early Roman Britain is reflected in the amount of imported ceramic found here including amphorae. One amphora had an ink inscription stating that its contents were (*lumpha*) wine, produced from grapes grown on the slopes of Vesuvius. Some 56,000 coins dating from *circa* AD 43-410 have recovered from Richborough (Johnson 1997). To the southwest of the Roman town was an amphitheatre.

Further local evidence of Romanisation (20km due west of Richborough along Watling Street) is provided by Canterbury (*Dyvrovernum Cantiacorum*), the tribal capital of the *Cantiaci* tribe established during the 1st century AD. This town possessed a classic style theatre, masonry houses with mosaics and hypocausts and its forum/basilica was adorned with imported marble veneers (Lyle 1994).

There is good evidence of Romanised rural life in the form of 18 villa farmsteads on the Isle of Thanet (Perkins 2002). The large masonry villa at Abbeywood on the Isle of Thanet was established during the 2nd century AD and abandoned during the 3rd century (Perkins 2004). This villa possessed a bathhouse, ceramic tiled roofs, glazed windows, painted plaster walls and mosaics, all of which confirm a picture of rural affluence and the adoption of a Roman life style. This picture of a rural and urban Roman style sophistication could be seen as natural progression of local late Iron Age society. For instance, East Kent was one of the first regions of England to start producing wheel-made pottery during the 1st century BC.

The puzzling thing about the archaeology of East Kent is that this pattern of Romanisation was very uneven, some local people despite getting a high degree of exposure to Roman culture simply chosen to ignore it. This lifestyle choice can be illustrated by the 2003 excavation of an enclosed farmstead within the modern village of Ash. This farmstead was established during the 1st century AD and occupied until the late 3rd or possibly the early 4th century AD (Watson 2004). The area of settlement was bounded by an east-west series of recut enclosure ditches and was surrounded by ditched field or paddocks. The relatively modest ceramic assemblage was dominated by unsourced, probably locally made, sand-tempered wares (32% by sherd count) and grog tempered wares (26% by sherd count), there were four low value Roman coins, very little ceramic building material and a tiny amount of imported wares such as samian and amphora. Despite living along the Roman road between Canterbury and Richborough and only being about 5km away from Richborough the inhabitants of Ash seem to have acquired very little Roman material culture judging by the excavated evidence.

Ash is not unique locally, a similar farmstead was excavated nearby at Each End on the Ash bypass in 1992 (Hicks 1998). At Each End some second-hand amphorae had been used as cinerary urns, but apart from this the excavated material culture was very similar to that recovered from Ash. Why were the inhabitants of Ash and Each End not joining their

neighbours and adopting more of the trappings of a Roman life style? It is hard to imagine that they were too poor to buy these things as this area had a high potential for agriculture and horticulture and they had excellent access to the local urban or garrison communities, who presumably would have wanted to purchase a wide range of foodstuffs with their imperial coinage. The Ash farmers could have even sold their produce from a roadside stall to travellers.

There are two possibilities why some elements of the rural community of East Kent were apparently ignoring all the Romanisation and villa building that was going on all around them.

1. The tenurial set-up of this region is unknown during the Roman period, but it is possible that it consisted of tenant farmers, who consequently had no interest in erecting villas and bath-houses on land they did not own.
2. Wealth can be stored in ways that may leave little archaeological trace. It is really a question of cultural preferences. For instance, African pastoralists count their wealth in terms of the size of their herds not the size of their houses.

In this paper I have raised questions to which I have no answers, but I think that on occasion when we review the excavated evidence we should ask ourselves the question of what is absent from the assemblage and then consider the reasons for its absence.

Acknowledgements: The excavations at Ash were sponsored by Ward Homes, and MoLAS would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMS Consulting for commissioning the evaluation and subsequent fieldwork. The Roman pottery from Ash was assessed by Charlotte Thompson of the Museum of London Specialist Services.

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A first century pottery kiln at The Grove, Watford, Herts. by Isobel Thompson

This kiln was one element of a 7-hectare multi-period site excavated by AOC in 2000 in the grounds of The Grove, beside the river Gade and Grand Union Canal on the north-west edge of Watford. It lay within an area of late Iron Age and early Roman ditched enclosures, and was a single-chambered double-flue updraught kiln measuring 2.4m by 1.2m, with fired clay sides and floor (but no furniture). The fills consisted of over 16.5kg of grog-tempered pottery and the broken-up remains of a fired clay dome. The small amount of early Roman pottery also present is consistent with the stylistic date of the grog-tempered kiln products, AD 50-80.

The kiln is interesting on two counts. Firstly, few of this type are known, and none from this period and area (the nearest comparable, Highgate I, is Flavian). This is the first known actual kiln structure which made native grog-tempered wares. Other early Roman and 2nd century pottery kilns in the Verulamium area made specialist Roman wares. Secondly, the forms made in the kiln are wider in range than those *used* at the site. The rubbish in the ditch fills consisted mainly of the standard domestic suite of plain everted-rim bowls, bead-rim jars, rilled jars and storage jars, with characteristics relating them to Verulamium. The kiln made all of these, and also a range of cordoned jars of types found in contemporary levels at Verulamium. It appears that these jars were being made at The Grove for use elsewhere.

Amphora traded into Norfolk during the Romano-British period by Alice Lyons

Amphora supply into Norfolk was extremely limited in the early Roman period with only a few Dr 2-4 known (e.g. at Saham Toney, Thetford). After the Boudican rebellion (AD 60-61), with the establishment of the *civitas Venta Icenorum* (c. AD 70) at Caistor St Edmund (just south of the present day city of Norwich) larger numbers of amphora came into the region. Although

the material is unpublished, eleven partial amphorae are curated in the museum stores, these are mostly of western Mediterranean origin wine (Dr 1 or 2-4) and oil amphorae (Dr 20).

With the establishment of the network of small market towns (such as those at Billingford, Brampton and Scole) amphorae became more common. Dr 20 oil amphora are frequently found on archaeological sites across Norfolk (Tyers 1996) with Gauloise 4 and 12 wine amphorae found in smaller numbers. This pattern continues until the later Roman period when a slightly more exotic assemblage of western Mediterranean (Dr 20 and Pelichet 47), eastern Mediterranean (Kapitan II, Gaza and B4), north African (?Mauretian Dressel 30 and North African cylindrical amphorae) and unsourced vessels (Chalk 6) can be seen at the Saxon Shore fort at Caister by Sea (Darling and Gurney 1993).

What is very exciting however, and has implications for how we interpret the Roman economy in Norfolk, is the presence of three unusual amphorae (one found at Weeting (Peacock and Williams 1986) and two at Caistor St. Edmund). These amphorae are a pale buff hybrid of Dr 20 and Gauloise 4 (Class 25 and 27) or Gauloise 12 types. They are unparalleled and it is possible that they were manufactured in Norfolk (probably south Norfolk – perhaps Caistor where it is known that they were producing large ring-neck flagons).

It is planned that these vessels be thin sectioned and their origin established. What they contained is presently unknown and although residue analysis will be attempted this procedure may not prove diagnostic for these are long excavated and heavily restored vessels.

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The Evolution of the Roman Pottery Reserve Collection in the Museum of London

by Jenny Hall

The Royal Commission volume on Roman London, published in 1928, drew together earlier reports by John Stow in the 16th century and Christopher Wren in the 17th century as well as antiquarian and archaeological reports of the 18th and 19th centuries. It showed that numbers of complete ceramic vessels had come from the Roman cemeteries, areas mainly redeveloped in the 19th century. These were to be found in museum collections, mainly the British Museum and the predecessors to the Museum of London, the Guildhall Museum based in the City of London and the London Museum at Kensington Palace. Excavations and discoveries during the first half of the 20th century added to the expanding picture of Roman London when Guildhall Museum staff conducted their own excavations or retrieved material during watching briefs. The more complete pieces were accessioned into the Museum's Reserve Collection, the rest were consigned to Excavation Register boxes where the material now forms an important part of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

A large proportion of the pottery in the Reserve Collection, therefore, consists of either complete vessels or large fragments that retain the original profile of the pot. There are examples of most types of regionally-traded pottery. The samian collection is perhaps the largest and, with the archive material, the most important assemblage in this country. Because the collection is so large, it has been used as a reference for charting fluctuations in samian production and supply and as a benchmark against which individual sites in London and beyond can be interpreted. As well as the samian, the Reserve Collection is an extensive and wide-ranging group of material and is particularly important for studying Romano-British culture in the period AD70-150, when London was the main port of entry into Britain. Examples in the collection have formed the basis of articles published in academic volumes relating to the many aspects of Roman pottery production, trade and use. They provide the complete specimens to illustrate the forms for material found on occupation sites. Many of the best examples can now be seen in the Roman Gallery (where over 200 pots are on display) alongside the best of the more-recently excavated material and it is hoped that the Museum's

new multi-period Ceramics and Glass Store and website will provide even better access for researchers.

Digital archiving and digital dissemination

by Phil Mills

This paper was the presentation of an introduction to a database developed as part of the English Heritage Roman pottery specialist trainee project. This database was primarily developed using the Oxford Archaeology and Warwick Museum system of pottery recording. Additional fields allow for its use in other data recording systems, based on the feedback from a number of specialists who attended a one day conference on digital data dissemination for Roman pottery held in Cambridge in April 2004. A number of copies of the database were distributed to conference delegates who asked for a copy. Currently it is undergoing final development based on feedback from those delegates (further feedback is requested, to be sent to Phil Mills at CBMPHIL@aol.com). It is intended that this database will be freely available to all interested professionals, and that its continued use alongside the digital archiving facilities at the Archaeological Data Service will provide a useful mechanism to aid the widespread dissemination of pottery data for all researchers.

The Londinium Project

by Angela Wardle

The publication of Roman finds from London has historically been on a site rather than a thematic base – there is nothing for the Roman period comparable to the *Medieval Finds from London Series*. Area studies of Roman London have been published with minimal finds discussion. For some sites only part of the sequence (and consequently only part of the finds assemblage) was published. Following the financial difficulties of the early 1990s many sites excavated in the late 1980s, for which the archives are now in the care of the LAARC, had little or no post-excavation analysis.

We are currently looking at the possibilities of producing thematic studies of Roman artefacts using current and archived material, and including finds from the MoL permanent collections. English Heritage is now funding a major assessment of these resources. The relevant stratigraphic archives are also being assessed and environmental material is included. Detailed multi-disciplinary publications are now being proposed, which will take into account current research priorities, focusing on the people of Roman London and the city's central role in the province, particularly as a centre for manufacture and supply. The paper outlined briefly some of the proposed themes, for example 'The Individual', 'The Household', 'The Workplace; craft and industry', which would be illustrated by selective catalogues of finds. A major difference from the medieval finds series is that we propose to make the full catalogues of supporting finds evidence, the research archive, available on line.

The decorated samian from the London amphitheatre

by Joanna Bird

The excavations at the Guildhall which revealed London's amphitheatre yielded some 324 decorated samian vessels, ranging in date from the middle of the first century to the middle of the third. Of particular interest for the amphitheatre were seventeen vessels decorated with arena motifs. These are not uncommon on samian, but eight such vessels were found clustered outside the eastern entrance, in the area of one of the arena drains. Three are South Gaulish, dating c 75-100, and five are Dr 37 bowls by Drusus II of Les Martres-de-Veyre, c 100-125; all would fit within the life of the first amphitheatre structure. Several reasons can be suggested for their presence: use by food sellers at the games; sale as souvenirs; use in the fighters' shrine; or, perhaps the most likely, use at the banquet served to the fighters the night before the games began. Such banquets may well have been held in the arena or in a structure nearby, as a mosaic from El Djem suggests.

One of the South Gaulish bowls was of interest for its iconography, which includes a bullfight combined with small figures of *damnati ad bestias*, prisoners condemned to be killed by the beasts in the amphitheatre. A small number of other South and East Gaulish bowls show comparable scenes involving bulls, and a bull skull was found in one of the arena drains, suggesting that they featured in the London spectacles. Another panel on the bowl shows Bacchus and Silenus, and reflects the links which are attested elsewhere between Bacchus, as a saviour god, and the games. A narrow third panel has three tall leaf stalks, and may

represent the millet stalks that appear on African mosaics showing the games and also other themes; these stalks seem to have had apotropaic and beneficent significance.

The Guildhall samian indicates that decorated samian may have been selected for its relevance to a particular site, and this is something we should look for more closely, especially perhaps in relation to ritual sites where the imagery may provide information about the cult. Samian is so often seen just as a tool for dating and for demonstrating trade links, while the enormous potential of the iconography is usually ignored.

Gresham Street Tazze

by Rupert Featherby

The excavations at Nos 13-29 Gresham Street (GSM97), by the Guildhall, in the city of London, have revealed a site which is important for a number of reasons:

- (i) for its size, since it has produced one of the largest assemblages excavated in London so far, specifically some 72,000 sherds
- (ii) for its homogenous nature which is basically domestic. (No industrial (in which I include shops) or civil buildings have been identified)
- (iii) for the range of vessels identified, which has included the highest quantity to date from London of what have been classed as ritual vessels, such as *tazza*

This site presents us then not only with a large homogenous assemblage but also with an opportunity to develop our picture of Roman home-life and to re-examine or test some of our theoretical constructs, for example, that of 'ritual vessel'. The over-use of general blanket terms, such as 'ritual vessel', has been detrimental to its use for understanding some actions in society. Objects become sidelined and debate halted as the descriptive term has safely pigeon-holed the vessel. The 'vessel' for this discussion is the *tazza*, the humble Roman 'air-freshener'. This vessel has become imbued with strong religious associations, mainly due to its archaeological context, i.e. it has been generally found within cemeteries, either within burials or within the areas where burial rituals are performed. Furthermore, the odd appearance of *tazza* around the city has done little to contradict this impression. The importance of the assemblage from GSM97 is that it has the highest recorded number of *tazze* from all sites in London. What then does this suggest? Does the ritual label restrict any discussion as to the purpose of these vessels? The purpose of the paper was to show that the blanket use of terms such as ritual can ultimately hide "true" or primary functions of vessels and possibly lead to misrepresentations of archaeological contexts and sites.

Pottery as proxy evidence for the Roman economy

by Kevin Greene

One view of history favoured by RG Collingwood and Post-modern theorists is that the past only exists as representations in the present. If that idea is accepted, then it is interesting to explore what is being said about the Roman economy and pottery, and to scrutinise the kinds of explanations that are presented. Some examples of writing that displayed signs of economic rationalism and Arts and Crafts Romanticism were used to demonstrate opposite poles. The paper emphasised that studying pottery and the economy did not consist of two independent discourses but that there was considerable overlap (in terms of preconceptions and essential knowledge) between them. This is important when pottery is used as a proxy for missing evidence about the economy. Despite the fears of some in the audience when papers published in the *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* were scrutinised, no attempt was made to impose a 'correct' interpretation; the basic point was a plea that we should recognise the sources of our ideas, and be aware of the implications of our vocabulary.

Dolia

by Chris Green

A volumetric survey of published large ceramics from Roman Britain, though not exhaustive, found no evidence of anything approaching in size the great ceramic storage vats or *dolia* of the Mediterranean. According to K. D. White, who has assembled all the literary evidence, these are of 270-1700 litres, and frequently around 1000 litres in capacity – a metric tonne.

The largest vessel so far recorded from Roman Britain is the great jar from New Fresh Wharf, City of London, c AD 200. It contained perhaps 400 litres but can be shown without doubt to be imported, probably from the Mediterranean.

The pots known to the ancients as *seriae* were moveable, and there is a contemporary record of a capacity of 180 litres. If they exist in the northern provinces they may be Forms 356-8 in Gose's typology of Roman pottery from the Rhineland. These are widely distributed along the Rhine and in North Gaul, but much rarer in Britain. There are very rare Augustan imports, but much the strongest concentration is in Trajanic Londinium, where they were made in London Coarse White-slipped Ware (alongside a mortarium form and even an amphora type). The London examples contain up to 200 litres, but continental counterparts can be rather larger.

Decapitated amphorae, probably to be identified with '*dolia curta*' constitute an important though neglected form of great jar. In Britain, most are Dressel 20. The overwhelming majority of great jars found in Britain probably have more local antecedents, although the idea of using very large pottery vessels may well be a classical one, adopted in Augustan times at sites like Skeleton Green (Herts). Only the products of industries using grog- or shell-tempering can be shown to much exceed 100 litres. It is suggested that the shell-tempered industries of North Kent and the South Midlands, and the grog-tempered traditions of Herts & Essex, the South Midlands (Towcester-type), and minor distributions such as Thundersbarrow Ware (East Sussex) must have been renowned for their ability to supply pots of 150 litres or occasionally more. It seems unlikely that goods were carried in such jars; which would have been traded as a commodity in their own right.

INTEGRATION AND INTERACTION: Traprain Law, Inveresk and Cramond, recent work on contexted mid and late Roman pottery from south-east Scotland

by Colin Wallace

Not so much Trade and Supply (as other papers in the session), more Integration and Interaction? It is over a decade since Prof. RFJ Jones of Bradford University published his research design for the Newstead Project, a paper boldly subtitled 'The Archaeological Search for Acculturation'. Colin Wallace (Edinburgh) offered some thoughts from 2004 on Roman pottery evidence for integration and interaction (and modern difficulties in approaching this) in that part of the territory between the two Walls, in what is now south-east Scotland. He drew on evidence from one Roman fort (**Cramond**, west of modern Edinburgh), the extensive military community at another (**Inveresk**, east of Edinburgh) and both the top of and the micro-region around, the major hilltop site of **Traprain Law** in East Lothian. The speaker contended that there need not have been a scene of 'islands of Romanization within a sea of indifference' (in Simon Clarke's words) – things are not so cut-and-dried - but instead our present state of knowledge lets us view under-explored dry land as far as the mind can see. Some of it is masked by our (more-or-less) honest mistakes (cf Cramond), some by unhelpful assumptions of uniformity (cf Inveresk) and some by the conditional nature of our knowledge and the lack of attention to context.

The Terra Sigillata of the Nijmegen Canabae

by Ester van der Linden

The Nijmegen *canabae* belonged to the legionary fortress of the Legio X Gemina, stationed in Nijmegen from 71 until 104 AD. After the departure of this legion the *canabae* was almost completely abandoned. Only a small part (ca. 3 ha.) of the *canabae*, excavated by the University of Nijmegen, is discussed here. Approx. 95% of the 30,000 fragments of samian ware, found during these excavations in the *canabae*, is South Gaulish. The dating of the approx. 1400 potters stamps shows a sudden rise of the number of stamps around 70 AD; after ca. 105 AD the stamps almost completely disappear.

Although the list of best represented potters from the *canabae* shows many similarities to the list of potters from other military sites in the western part of Germania Inferior, it resembles most closely to the list of potters in the Nijmegen *castra*. The percentage of fine wares, and more specific terra *sigillata*, is almost the same in both *canabae* and *castra*. In both places the same samian forms are found in very similar proportions. Samian was not just sold to the soldiers in the camp, but also very intensively used by the *canabenses* themselves, according to the even distribution of the pottery on the site.

When we think of the economy of the *Limes* we tend to think of the soldiers as the most important market. The data presented in this paper show that the inhabitants of the *canabae* are equally important, and should not be neglected.

An exceptional pottery lid from Mamer, Luxembourg by Franziska Dövenér

The paper was about a large pottery lid (diameter ca. 35 cm) made of light red fabric. It was found in March 2001, broken into several pieces, in a Roman cistern of the *vicus* at Mamer, Luxembourg. The knob is missing. The upper surface is decorated with two rows of stamped circles and a third row of double grooves in between, engraved with a tool. On the inside are two *post cocturam* graffiti, a crossed out square and the name ARTI. Names like *Artus* or *Artius* are derived from the Celtic word *artos* ("bear") and can be frequently found in the *Civitas Treverorum*. The form of the lid is shield-like, not like any of the smaller lids known from the 1st to the 4th c. (Gose 555-565 etc.): neither is there a prominent, clear-cut rim nor a hollow knob. The lid has to be dated through the other finds from the cistern, mostly pottery from the mid or late 2nd c. to the 2nd half of the 3rd c. Remaining questions are the following: What was the use of the lid? Did it cover a large storage pot or a *dolium*? Was it an everyday object at all?

Roman handmade pottery traditions on the continental coast and their connections with Roman Britain. Style, technology, influence and trade (1st-3rd centuries AD) by Wim de Clercq

The coastal region from Northern France to the Scheldt-Estuary in the North, demonstrates a strong but localised persistence of pre-Roman, hand-made pottery traditions. This continuation is also observed in other aspects of every-day life, such as the concept of the farm, the wooden outbuildings, the burial practices etc. Within this large area, the Northern part, covering the north of the Flemish coast and the Isle of Walcheren, south of the Scheldt mouth, has yielded 13 different well dated and reliable find complexes that allow better insight into the typological, chronological, quantitative and cultural aspects of this phenomenon. A trend showing a decline in the amount and the typological diversity of handmade pottery between the first and the end of the second century is well demonstrated, although we should be cautious before generalising conclusions. The comparison between ten small rural contemporaneous farmsteads of Ellewoutsdijk (ca. 50-130AD, with handmade wares dominating 60 to 90% of the total amount of pottery) on the one hand, and the contemporaneous salt-processing sites nearby at Koudekerke and at Tholen (proportion handmade wares between 10 and 15%) on the other, shows that the decline is not only a gradual and chronological process but also a very local one, differing from site to site. Apparently, contemporary but totally different patterns of pottery consumption do occur within a very small geographical area. This could signify that the choice to use specific types of wares and forms was made not so much by reason of availability, but more from a culturally determined point of view. In the third century, a small renaissance is observed, probably finding its origins in the first interruptions in the trading networks or in the regionalisation of pottery production. From the late first century onwards, fabrics seem to have been standardised and the introduction of the slow potter's wheel, used in the finishing of the vessels, can be observed. Typology is simplified but new forms are adopted and influences from abroad are incorporated. From the late third century onwards, new handmade pottery styles appear under Germanic influence and outside the castella, handmade wares resumed their dominance.

Letters/Noticeboard

Roman Pottery Specialists your Discipline is in peril! by Roy Stephenson

I write this in the period immediately after your annual Study Group conference, while the euphoria is still with us of moving the entire residential portion of the delegates around London on the 271 bus, a triumph of organisation - thank you Charlotte Thompson.

As the Head of a unit that employs over thirty finds and environmental specialists, including five involved with Roman pottery to different degrees, I have to point out your specialism is in jeopardy. I admit I did not sit through your entire conference, and therefore may not have heard any clarion or wake up calls. If somebody made this while I sloped off to order glue for the conservators I apologise.

Geoff Dannell made a number of important points about researching Roman pottery from a economy led point of view, to observe trade patterns across regions, provinces and the

empire. This cannot be done while the majority of Specialists have to exist in a commercial site led environment. For example people in Specialist Services get to record, assess and sometime analyse pottery from developer funded sites, but rarely can this pottery be compared and contrasted with the site next door or down the road, let alone the rest of the *Insulae* never mind the region or the province. The developer has had archaeology foisted on him by the planning process; they want the planning consent discharged and that does not include contributing to regional research agendas.

Our second problem is interconnected to the first; archaeology is a perilous profession to be in, our endeavours are largely driven by the commercial property sector. This leads to cyclical work famines, which leads to redundancy and loss of knowledge and experience. What other field of academic study relies on the vagaries of the building trade?

This perilous position, coupled to awful salary levels, leads to artefacts being an unpopular career choice. So there are no young people coming into the discipline, how many British people under the age of thirty attended the SGRP conference? Two to my knowledge. This is a demographic time bomb waiting to go off, people will want to retire in time, and who is going to replace them?

So what are we going to do? The Study Group has to adopt a new more central role, not just studying, but also lobbying and being an advocate for Roman pottery. Fiona Seeley, I believe mentioned a putative idea for training in decorated samian at the AGM, yes I know decorated samian is more than a skill it's a vocation, but equipping people with skills to adopt the vocation can not be wrong. This is only one idea, there has to be more, but the impetus to put the SGRP in a place where it can make the on line type series, that Geoff Dannell would like has to come from the membership. Ignore these matters at your peril.

News from our foreign correspondent: Robin Symonds

I am now regional ceramics specialist for Burgundy and the larger region called Grand-Est sud, comprising Burgundy, Franche-Comté and Alsace. I am employed by a body called INRAP (formerly AFAN), or the Institut National des Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (the new French description of rescue archaeology). Within the larger region INRAP has three centres, a large one at Dijon (divided into an administrative office section for the whole region and an archaeological base) plus two smaller centres at Besançon and Strasbourg. My first project involves the pottery from a large but not especially rich cemetery site at Autun, which was probably the most Roman town in the region. A cemetery site is ideal for a specialist who is new to a region, since each grave contains one or two or three pots. This makes fabric identification a little simpler than if each bag contained a mess of occupation sherds – plus there are some forms present, mostly Hofheim-type flagons. However, the soil was pretty acidic, so the surfaces are badly abraded and the pots are not really reconstructable. There are half a dozen or so other pottery specialists working in the region, but I am the only full-time specialist at Dijon. I am gradually introducing some British methods – I am being encouraged to establish a system – while respecting the body of work preceding my arrival. Here at Dijon there is a small but competent team, and a pretty good working atmosphere – so far it seems like a pretty good move! Best wishes for 2005 to all – see you all at the next SFECAG, at Blois, from the 5th to the 8th of May!

Smashing pots! By Colin Wallace

On an excavation in Herefordshire this past summer, student excavators from Cardiff University recovered evidence of the smashing of a BB1 pot (Exeter Type 16) and the deposition of token sherds (bodysherd of a Malvernian BB-copy cooking pot, rim of a CG samian f36, base of a colour-coated roughcast beaker) in a small rectangular pit within an enclosed site of early-mid Roman date.

Objects given to supernatural powers in Roman Britain have not been neglected by archaeologists, from those writing consciousness-raising pieces and general surveys, to studies of specific deposits, dedicatory and terminal. Colin would be grateful for pointers towards the cases of more small deposits like that at Cold Furrow, Lyonshall 2004 (he is more familiar with the several larger 'pot-smashing' events on some southern sites), in order to put the smashing of a single pot and the deposition of token sherds into better context and to help with the overall interpretation of the place of deposit. Colin can be contacted at: Colin.Wallace@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Conferences and Dayschools

Current Issues in Roman Pottery Studies,

A Dayschool on **Wednesday 13th April 2005** to be held at **Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford**. The course is designed for those currently working as pottery specialists and those who use their services. Speakers include Alan Vince, Fiona Seeley, Roberta Tomber, Paul Tyers and Steven Willis; the programme has been devised by Dr Alan Vince. The Dayschool is organised in association with the Archaeology Training Forum, English Heritage and the Oxford University Continuing Education Centre. The attendance costs are £114.15 with lunch, £105.00 not including lunch. For booking information please contact the Short Courses Administrator on 01865 270380; email: professional.arch@conted.ox.ac.uk

Roman Archaeology Conference (RACVI)

Thursday 31st March to Sunday 3rd April 2005 at the University of Birmingham

Organiser(s)

Ton Derks (Amsterdam)

Roman Roth (Cambridge) and
Andrew Gardner (Leicester)
Peter S. Wells (Minnesota)

Janet de Laine (Oxford)
Simon Esmonde-Cleary (Birmingham)
Mary Harlow (Birmingham) and
Ray Laurence (Reading)
Richard Hingley (Durham) and Bruce Hitchner
(Tufts)
Tony King (King Alfred's)

Roger White (Birmingham) and
Vince Gaffney (Birmingham)
Tony Wilmott (English Heritage) and
Pete Wilson (English Heritage)
Simon Esmonde-Cleary (Birmingham)

Topic

Roman Soldiers and material culture in the Lower Rhine region

Material Culture Studies in the Roman World: New Questions and Methods
[Material Culture of Social Dynamics on the Roman Frontiers](#)

New Approaches to Roman Buildings
Aquitaine
Archaeology of the Life Course

[Roman Imperialism in the Contemporary World](#)

Continuity and Innovation in Religion in the North-West Provinces
Virtual and Recreated Rome

Roman Britain

General Session

For any further information please see the website <http://www.arch.ant.bham.ac.uk/rac.htm>.

TRAC 2005

The 15th Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference will be held in conjunction with RAC.

CALL FOR TRAC SESSIONS

The organisers still (increasingly urgently) need TRAC session organisers. If you are interested in organising a session please email the conference address at TRAC-2005@bham.ac.uk (*There's an opportunity here to promote Roman pottery studies/The SGRP if any of you have ideas and energy to organise a session!*)

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Reconfiguring Late Iron Age tribal identities: LPRIA communities and the Roman conquest in North Western Europe: Organisers: Tom Moore (University of Newcastle) and Andy Wigley (Shropshire County Council).

TRAC General Session: Organiser: Helen Goodchild (University of Birmingham)

For any further information please email TRAC-2005@bham.ac.uk

RAC/TRAC 2005 Bursaries

There are a limited number of bursaries available. These are intended to cover the cost of conference fees and accommodation (funding is not available for travel expenses). Those wishing to receive one of the bursaries should apply to Ben Croxford by email: bc256@cam.ac.uk providing details of their current status (undergraduate, postgraduate, unwaged etc.) along with details of any other sources of funding that they have applied to (if any). Preference will be given to student applications.

STUDY DAYS: Finds in the Archive

This series of individual day courses on archaeological finds is offered in collaboration with the Museum of London and take place at the **London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre**. Each course will look at aspects of study and research through illustrated talks and demonstrations under the guidance of leading specialists. You will have the opportunity to handle artefacts and ecofacts from the archaeological collections and the courses will be of particular value if you are interested in artefact and environmental studies.

Leather by Liz Goodman, BSc and Jackie Keily, BA
Sat 19 Feb, 10.00am–4.00pm; £40 (£20)

Take a look at leather through the ages: from Roman tents and sandals to fashionable eighteenth century shoes. We will look at footwear, clothing and other leather artefacts from Roman to post-medieval times and discuss how best to present the evidence in publications, as well as looking at conservation techniques and hide identification.

FFAR006NACS CE, Non Credit-Bearing

Human Remains by Natasha Powers, BSc, MSc.
Sat 5 Mar, 10.00am–4.00pm; £40 (£20)

This day investigates what the study of human remains can tell us of past peoples. We will cover the methods used to estimate age and sex and how this provides demographic information on past populations. Using recent discoveries, diseases and injuries evident on skeletons will be explored.

FFAR007NACS CE; Non Credit-Bearing

A Thousand Years of Pottery: From Alfred to Victoria by Jacqui Pearce BA, FSA.
Sat 2 Apr, 10.00am–4.00pm; £40 (£20)

An opportunity to discover the wealth of ceramic wares and forms made and used by Londoners over 1000 years of their history. The day will include slide presentations, sorting and handling sessions and an introduction to recording and analysing archaeological ceramics.

FFAR008NACS CE; Non Credit-Bearing

To enrol contact: FCE Archaeology, 26 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DQ
Tel: 020 7631 6627/6631
Email: archaeology@fce.bbk.ac.uk

Please remember to keep your contact details up to date, including any new e-mail addresses. The secretary's contact details are as follows:

Jane Evans, Hon Secretary SGRP
194 West Malvern Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 4AZ
Tel: 01684 567131
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