



The Study Group for Roman Pottery

**NEWSLETTER
SPRING
2016**

S.G.R.P. Website - www.romanpotterystudy.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
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News from the Committee



✓ Newsletter note

Welcome to the Study Group for Roman Pottery Spring newsletter; which comes with the exciting confirmation of our next conference centred around the multi-faceted production centre of *Durobrivae* in the Lower Nene Valley (Peterborough). It is with great anticipation we return to a centre that exported products the length and breadth of Roman Britain, while also being able to see the scale of the economy and settlement that was situated there.

The wide-reaching influence of this pottery industry provides a neat analogy to our membership, who I would like to encourage to contribute to the newsletter and Journal of Roman Pottery Studies; people are often surprised just how many people are interested in their work, be it local, regional or national...no niche (or indeed vessel) is too small! The Journal may also provide an ideal outlet for significant or interesting pottery reports produced by commercial, society and community projects that may be otherwise restricted to grey literature otherwise, so don't hesitate to check with your project managers and the SGRP editor.

Many thanks to all contributors
Andrew Peachey

✓ Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2016. Annual subscription £15 (overseas £20). Cheques should be made payable to the Study Group for Roman pottery. Payments by Standing Order would be preferred, but if you would prefer to pay by direct bank payment (UK & International; BACS, digital/online banking) then please contact the treasurer for the relevant details. Derek Hurst (Hon Treasurer). Email: DHurst@worcestershire.gov.uk Address: 2 Barbel Crescent, Worcester WR5 3QU. Individuals who are not up to date will be removed from the circulation list. Please contact Derek if in doubt.

✓ The Committee and 2016 Elections

Following the 2015 AGM during the annual conference, the SGRP committee comprises the following members:

President:	Christopher Young
Treasurer:	Derek Hurst
Secretary:	Jane Timby
JRPS Editor:	Steve Willis
Ordinary Member (Newsletter Editor):	Andrew Peachey
Ordinary Members:	Rachael Seager-Smith, Ed Biddulph and Diana Briscoe, Stephen Wadson
Website:	Ed Biddulph

At the next Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11th June 2016, incorporated into the SGRP Conference in Peterborough (see below), Derek Hurst will be stepping down as Treasurer and Diana Briscoe will be stepping up to take his place. Arising will be two vacancies for Ordinary Members and therefore these positions will be open for nominations, with each post-holder

expected to serve a *term of 3 years*. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the SGRP and if any body has any queries, please feel free to informally contact the secretary or other committee members. Committee meetings are currently held in Oxford, but the potential for virtual attendance by Skype is now a possibility.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Committee, please complete one of the forms below, print and return, with the nominee's permission, to Jane Timby, Hon Secretary, Sister Mary's Cottage, High Street, Chalford, Gloucestershire, GL6 8DH before the 5th June 2015.

Ordinary Member

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

Ordinary Member

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

While we are focussed on recent nominations, the post of Secretary will also become vacant in 2016/7. If anyone is interested in undertaking these roles in the future or finding out more of what will be involved please contact the Secretary. We would welcome any interested individuals to our next AGM (June 11th, Peterborough) or Committee meeting (November 19th, Oxford). This will also hopefully ensure a smooth handover for these roles in a year's time.

✓ **The 2016 John Gillam Prize**

We are constantly looking for nominations of articles or reports for the 2016 John Gillam prize. Please send your nominations to the Gillam Committee, consisting of the President and Publication Committee at youngoakthorpe@btinternet.com. A wide range of work on pottery found in Roman Britain is eligible, so long as it was completed within the last two years. Nominations can include pottery reports (both published and grey literature), synthetic studies, websites, student dissertations, and theses etc. These contributions can range from day-to-day pottery or site reports to monographs and digital projects, as long as they highlight specific aspects of Roman pottery from a technological, regional or thematic perspective.



SGRP 2016 conference



Study Group for Roman Pottery Annual Conference

Saturday June 11th – Sunday June 12th 2016

This year the SGRP conference is being held in Peterborough and will be based at the Park Inn Hotel. There is a choice of week-end residential or day attendance only. On the Saturday there will be a full programme of papers focussing on pottery from the Nene Valley area as well as pottery from London and further afield. There will also be a visit to the museum (5 min away) during an extended lunch break. In the evening there will be a conference meal at the hotel. On Sunday morning a visit is being organised to visit Normangate Field (Castor) and a tour of the Praetorium and church led by Dr Stephen Upex. The Church community centre, which is on site is organised to provide morning coffee.

Saturday 11th June

Time	Activity	People
10.00am-10.25pm	Arrival and registration. Coffee will be available.	
	Session1: The Nene Valley pottery industry	Chair:
10.30-10.50am	The archaeological background to the Nene Valley sites	Stephen Upex
10.55-11.15 am	E.T. Artis - the first real archaeologist	Geoff Dannell
11.20pm-11.40 am	Nene Valley pottery on the Northern frontiers	Paul Bidwell
11.45-12.00 am	Some Nene Valley kilns of old acquaintance	John Peter Wild
12.05-13.40pm	Lunch / museum visit	
	Session 2: Site specific presentations	Chair:
13.45-14.05 pm	Godmanchester pottery	Alice Lyons
14.10-14.30 pm	Samian ware copies and imports from Piddington	Roy Friendship-Taylor
14.35-14.55 pm	Itter Crescent pottery, Peterborough	Alice Lyons
15.00-15.25pm	tea break	
15.30-15.50 pm	'Oh No, it's a Complete Pot'	Colin Wallace
15.55-16.15	Fine wares and lamps from the Middle Imperial contexts of the 'Terme di Elagabalo' in Rome. Stratigraphic dating and residuality.	Eduardo Radielli
16.20-16.40	Return to Closes Farm, Derbyshire : writing up a student training excavation and chemical analysis of Derbyshire ware jars as containers	Colin Wallace
16.45-17.05	A Pre-Flavian assemblage from Pudding Lane, London	Fiona Seeley
17.10-17.30	Your place or mine? Eating and drinking practices across Roman London in the 1st century AD	Amy Thorpe
17.30-18.30	AGM	
19.30	Conference dinner	
	Poster	
	Graffiti on Roman ceramics from Gaul	Morgane Andrieu (MOLA)

Sunday 12th June

Time	Activity	
9.30-12.30am	Visit to Normangate and 'Praetorium'	

Registration Form

General conference registration will close on May 27th. Space is limited to 50 so priority will be given to SGRP members.

Conference

	Member*		Student		Non-Member*	
Accommodation (see below)						
Saturday 11 th , conference at Park Inn Hotel with a visit to Peterborough museum including lunch	£35		£32		£40	
Including Conference dinner	£55		£52		£60	
Sunday 14 th , morning sites visits						

*It costs £15 (UK members)/£20 (non-UK) to join the SGRP for reduced conference rates and free bi-annual monograph publication. Joining fees can be submitted with conference registration, but please make it clear if you are including a membership subscription as well.

Accommodation – self book

Accommodation is **NOT** included in the standard fee. If individuals wish to stay at the Park Inn Hotel please quote the booking fee: **Booking ref no. 966723**

www.peterborough.parkinn.co.uk

Tel. no. **01733 353750**

(5 mins walk from rail and bus stations)

Accommodation costs: Double room with breakfast: £75.00

Single room with breakfast: £65.00

The hotel requests that bookings be made by FRIDAY 13th MAY

Car Parking

Parking is free of charge for all delegates but registration car number will need to be entered at the front desk. Cars may be parked until check-out on Sunday. Car park is available on first come first served basis.

Bursary

Bursary Details: Two Graham Webster bursaries are available for attending the conference.

These will cover 50% of the conference fee and 50% of return travel to the conference up to a maximum of £100 each. Please apply to Derek Hurst.

Booking Form

Name:	
Address:	
Email	
Phone	
Conference fee	
Membership subscription (new member)	
Total Payment:	
Special requirements (diet/access)	
Receipt required	Yes / No

Please make cheques payable to: SGRP

Post to: Derek Hurst, 2 Barbel Crescent, Worcester WR5 3QU



✓ Obituary

It was with great sadness that in December we learnt of the death of Hal Dalwood, a long-standing member of the SGRP, not only highly regarded for his knowledge of ceramics and archaeology, but also greatly liked for the warmth with which he conveyed his subject, and his willingness to engage with those of similar interests, be they academics, new students or converts to a local archaeology group. The following obituary was written by Hal's brother, Dexter Dalwood, and originally published in the Guardian (15th December 2015).

"My older brother, Hal Dalwood, who has died of cancer aged 58, was an archaeologist with a passion for communicating his subject to as many people as possible, be they other archaeologists, students, members of the public, or family members old and young. Son of Peter, an antiquarian bookseller, and Mary, Hal was born in Bristol. Our family moved to Penzance, Cornwall, in 1969. Interested in archaeology from childhood, Hal studied at Southampton University, under Professor Colin Renfrew, in the 1970s. He spent a year in Sudan teaching English before joining the archaeological digging circuit, working on excavations around Britain, at Hazleton North, Beckford, Amersham, Great Missenden, St Albans and Shetland.

In the mid-1980s he spent several years working for Buckinghamshire County Museum, in Aylesbury, digging and writing up excavations. During this time he was a member of CND as well as of Archaeologists for Peace. In 1988, he moved to Worcester to collaborate on a major urban excavation within the medieval and Roman town and his report on it was a highly regarded monograph.



Hal Dalwood (courtesy of Rachel Edwards)

Hal continued to work for Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, overseeing archaeological projects in the Midlands, until taking voluntary redundancy in 2013. His last major project was the excavation of the site in Worcester city centre where the Hive library and archive and archaeology centre was due to be built, and where he revealed a previously unknown Roman suburb.



Hal (far right) discussing pottery and ceramic ovens at an SGRP meeting in Worcester, shortly before enthusiastically demonstrating the link between such technology, modern tandoors and Indian cuisine.

Hal was a brilliant and inspiring team leader and worker, and a great believer in developing younger archaeologists. He was completely engaged in the world of professional archaeology: teaching, attending conferences and writing popular and academic publications, the last of which, on Anglo-Saxon towns, will be published in 2016. He was a stalwart supporter of what has become the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), from its origin in 1982. Hal was a loving, engaging, fun person, and a devoted uncle; he had an encyclopaedic mind for history and the ancient world, but was equally interested in politics and current affairs. He had a strong sense of social justice, and was an active member and steward of his union, Unison. In 1993 he married Rachel Edwards, also an archaeologist; they worked together as colleagues in Worcester for many years. She survives him, along with Mary and me.

✓ **Burial vessels from late 1st to 2nd century AD cemetery at Botchergate, Carlisle.**

Many thanks to Megan Stoakley for providing information and photos

Excavations on the site of Cumbria County Council's new £10.4 million building on Botchergate by Wardell Armstrong have revealed a cemetery that has forced archaeologists and historians to rethink the city's importance in the Roman world, and confirmed it was one of the most important Roman towns in the north-west of England.



About 50 graves were unearthed containing immaculately preserved pottery vessels that date to the late first century and second century. The findings indicate that Botchergate was an important military and civilian gateway into the town in Roman times rather than the 'shanty town' many historians and archaeologists had previously assumed existed there. Frank Giocco, technical director of Wardell Armstrong



Archaeology, said: "We were hoping to find something, but the quality of the finds were pretty spectacular. I have never found that sort of quality from working in Carlisle for 20 years; the Roman way of life and planning towns had become embedded here, and the Botchergate dig



has helped put another piece into that jigsaw puzzle. Under Roman law, the dead had to be buried outside the town so graves lined the old Roman road, where Botchergate and London Road are today."



Analysis is now commencing on the artefacts, along with findings from a 2001 excavation underneath 53-55 Botchergate, to find out more about Roman life in Carlisle in the first and second century. Archaeologists think the cemetery later became an industrial site with a couple of workshops, before being abandoned at the end of the second century and turned to some form of agricultural use.



They suspect the pottery was made locally specifically for use in burials, but that the people buried in the cemetery were immigrants who were associated with the soldiers, perhaps family members or camp followers. Richard Newman, post excavation manager at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, explained: "It was particularly surprising on this site, close to the modern street



frontage, because much of the site had been developed on a number of occasions from the medieval period onwards. In fact nothing survives of the medieval occupation because it's all been removed by later 18th and 19th century occupation." Cumbria County Council is now holding discussions with Carlisle's Tullie House Museum on how they can showcase these artefacts.

✓ **Sunken Haul of Roman Fish Sauce found off Italian Coast**

Patrick Browne

A Roman vessel laden with 3000 jars of delicious Roman fish sauce – or garum – has been discovered on the seabed off the coast of Italy. The find was presented in December by archaeologists, who spent almost two years searching for the 25-meter wreck in the deep blue waters five miles off the coast of Alassio, in the northeastern Liguria region. Dr. Simon Luca Trigona, who led the team, said "It's an exceptional find that dates to the first or second century AD; It's one of just five 'deep sea' Roman vessels ever to be found in the Mediterranean and the first one to be found off the coast of Liguria; it was carrying a large cargo of garum when it sank."

The presence of an ancient vessel on the seabed was signalled to archaeologists in 2012, when local fisherman dredged up fragments of some clay jars that had been part of the vessel's payload 2000 years ago. In spite of the presence of a ship being known, locating the actual wreck was the fruit of a painstaking search. The Roman cargo ship was buried at a depth of 200 meters and underwater archaeologists spent two



Photo by Carabinieri Subacquei

years scouring the seabed before they finally located it in October. In spite of the mystery that usually surrounds ancient shipwrecks, it is almost certain that the ship was sailing a route between Italy, Spain and Portugal in order to transport a precious cargo of Roman garum. The clue lies in the shape of the amphora (analysis will confirm form type), as the sauce itself has all since seeped into the sea. After the wreck was filmed, amphora fragments were brought back to the surface for analysis by a robotic craft, and it was realised the ship was carrying a huge quantity of fish sauce when it sank. Garum – a sauce made by fermenting salted fish intestines - was a mainstay of banqueting tables and street food stands across the Roman empire. The sauce was highly prized for its nutritional qualities and was also a rich source of monosodium glutamate - a compound widely used in the food industry today as a flavour enhancer.

In addition to the fish sauce, archaeologists also identified two types of jar which were only manufactured in the area around the river Tiber in Rome. It is thought they were probably being used to transport some of the area's excellent regional wines to the Iberian peninsula. The ship most likely sailed out of Rome along the Tiber and sank a couple of weeks later while making the return journey, weighed down by all that fish sauce. For now, no further analysis of the wreck is planned and Trigona called for vigilance in order to protect the sunken cargo from would-be looters. At 200 meters nobody will be able to dive it but that won't stop people trying to pull things up using deep sea fishing nets.

✓ New Questions Asked of Samian Ware

Astrid Van Oyen

AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY PRESS

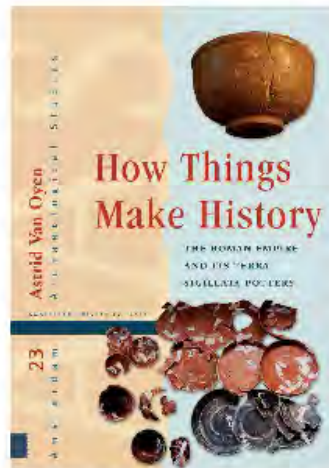


Astrid Van Oyen

How Things Make History

The Roman Empire and its terra sigillata Pottery

Bright red *terra sigillata* pots dating to the first three centuries CE can be found throughout the Western Roman provinces. The pots' widespread distribution and recognisability make them key evidence in the effort to reconstruct the Roman Empire's economy and society. Drawing on recent ideas in material culture, this book asks a radically new question: what was it about the pots themselves that allowed them to travel so widely and be integrated so quickly into a range of contexts and practices? To answer this question, Van Oyen offers a fresh analysis in which objects are no longer passive props, but rather they actively shape historical trajectories.



Astrid Van Oyen is a Research Fellow at Homerton College, University of Cambridge. She has written about material culture, postcolonialism, networks, and Roman archaeology, and is co-directing fieldwork at the site of Marzuolo (Italy).

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✓ Romano-British Pottery in the Fifth Century

James Gerrard

In 2012 the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefacts Studies (part of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology) at Newcastle University hosted a day conference on 'Roman Pottery in the Fifth Century AD'. The conference had its origins in the research of its organiser, James Gerrard, who has now overseen this important publication of eight articles on the evidence for the continuation, consumption and production of Roman pottery in the 5th century, of which six were originally read at the conference,

The papers have been published in the open access journal *Internet Archaeology*, Vol. 41, which can be found at <http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue41/intro.html>, and are summarised here:

Lyne, Bidwell and Gerrard all present surveys of our understanding about pottery in southern England during the 5th century. Lyne roams far and wide across the south-east looking at sites, many of which are unpublished or obscurely published, based on his exhaustive work on pottery in the area over many decades. His article offers a fascinating review rich in detail and site-specific information. Bidwell takes a similar approach, examining that most interesting of regions: the south-western peninsula. Here Rome's writ seems to have run weakly for much of the first four centuries AD and trajectories of development not seen elsewhere existed. Recent excavations and their associated assemblages of pottery are also shedding new light on the situation in the 5th century.

Gerrard takes a slightly different approach. Focused on Somerset and Dorset, he has reviewed the distribution and chronology of a particular type of vessel. New discoveries and associations with other types of object (metalwork, Anglo-Saxon pottery) have reinforced the 'lateness' of this vessel form. A similar angle is taken by Fitzpatrick-Matthews who is concerned with the identification of unusual pottery fabrics late in the Roman stratigraphic sequences at a small number of sites over a relatively small region. Both Lucy and Briscoe tackle the relationship of 'Roman' pottery with the 'Anglo-Saxon' period. Lucy's study of the important Roman and early medieval settlement at Mucking shows how nuanced the evidence for 5th-century activity may be. The recognition of what appears to be the latest Roman pottery in the fills of Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings suggests that early in the life of the Anglo-Saxon settlement its inhabitants had access to late Roman pottery. Briscoe's study, in contrast, looks in detail at the use of stamps to decorate vessels in the Roman and early Anglo-Saxon period. She questions whether any threads of continuity can be distinguished even if broadly similar motifs were being used.

Walton and Moorhead's discussion of late Roman coins and coin-use may appear a little out of place. The recent changes wrought on our understanding of the role of money in the late 4th and 5th centuries by PAS finds and new statistical methodologies are beginning to cascade through Romano-British studies. That said, numismatists and pottery specialists often occupy their own discrete 'silos' with one rarely reading the other's research. To this end Walton and Moorhead's article presents a useful review of how we think about Roman coins in the decades either side of AD 400. Finally, Duggan takes us to the Atlantic coasts of Europe in the search for imported Mediterranean pottery of 5th- and 6th-century date. This long-distance trade brought western Britain back into contact with the pottery of the Mediterranean and Duggan's research casts new light on the manner by which this material was imported.

✓ Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex

In 2015 the synthetic monograph presenting the archaeology, stratigraphy and interpretation of settlement at Elms Farm, Heybridge was published in *East Anglian Archaeology* (Vol.154); beginning with a late Iron Age shrine and settlement, which was remodeled in the early Roman period to include a metalled road network and a temple precinct, with an area to the north including burials and pyre sites. The finds and the layout of the settlement suggest a decline in its status, with the settlement acting as a large village or small town with a market and religious function. The late 2nd to mid 4th centuries saw occupation activity contracting towards the settlement nucleus, which is conjectured to lie to the west of the temple complex. Much of the remaining area was increasingly given over to peripheral, perhaps purely agricultural, uses and the side roads were gradually going out of use. However, the religious focus functioned into the late 4th century, when the precinct wall and adjacent monumental post were removed and a substantial building was placed over the former boundary. It is tentatively suggested that the new structure could have been an early Christian chapel. What remained of the former Roman settlement into the 5th century, and whether there was continuity of occupation into the early Saxon period, is unclear.

Therefore it is a great achievement that the extensive and highly significant specialist reports from Elms Farm, Heybridge have been published in full in *Internet Archaeology* (Vol.40), with the late Iron Age and Roman Pottery located at:

<http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue40/1/3-2.html>



The recording, analysis and reporting of the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was undertaken by a number of people over an extended period of time, including Colin Wallace, Scott Martin, Edward Biddulph, Joyce Compton and Anne Thompson. Additional study has been carried out on particular components of the assemblage by other specialists; including Gaulish and Gallo-Belgic imports, samian ware, mortaria and amphorae.

The Elms Farm excavations yielded more than 282,000 sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing a total of 6.4 tonnes, from 4986 contexts. This constitutes one of the largest single assemblages of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery to have been studied using modern quantification techniques in Essex and, indeed, in the region. The assemblage is comparable to the 5.7 tonnes of pottery used for detailed analysis at Colchester (Symonds & Wade 1999) and far in excess of the 1.6 tonnes from Chelmsford (Going 1987). Spanning the mid-1st century BC to late 4th century+, analysis of this assemblage has provided the opportunity to test critically and enhance current views of chronology and supply principally derived from studies of the pottery from *Camulodunum*/Colchester and Chelmsford. The exceptional quality of the assemblage provided an opportunity to investigate a range of aspects for the pottery at Heybridge. Determining a ceramic sequence for the site and the pattern of pottery supply to the settlement were fundamental to the project aims. The analysis, however, was able to go beyond aspects of chronology and supply to explore issues of site development and daily life in the settlement. Pottery was an intermittent part of the local economy, with the presence of kilns confirming that the settlement produced, as well as received, ceramic vessels. Various studies have shown that pottery was used in diverse ways, functional in both ritual and mundane settings.