

## Elms Farm, Heybridge (HYEF94)

### ITALIAN-TYPE TERRA SIGILLATA

By Joanna Bird

The Italian-type sigillata from Elms Farm, Heybridge, consists of 25 sherds representing a maximum of twenty vessels: eighteen platters, including seven examples of *Conspectus* form 12, and two cups. The majority of the pieces, including the single stamped base, are in a fine fabric with some colourless mica flakes visible in the section; without analysis no certain source can be suggested for this fabric, which is a very pale brown or beige in colour, with a brownish tint to the slip. The material is mostly dated *c.* 15BC – AD10, with a few pieces which could date up to *c.* AD20.

- 4000 Platter, *Conspectus* form 12, and probably 12.3, but insufficient survives to be certain; diameter 30cm. Mid to late Augustan.
- 4497 Conical cup fragment, form not identifiable. probably later Augustan – Tiberian. (from sample 638.1)
- 5883 Bevelled cup foot, too fragmentary to identify certainly, but cf. *Conspectus* forms 13 and, particularly, 14. The fabric may be one produced at Pisa, but the sherd is burnt. Mid to late Augustan.
- 7134 Large (diameter approx. 46cm) platter, *Conspectus* form 12: cf. especially 12.1.3, though 12.1.2 is the only example illustrated of comparable size. Mid to late Augustan. (May be the same vessel as 7148 below).
- 7148 Floor sherd, large platter; may be same as 7134 above, and is certainly of the same date and origin.
- 7173 Platter base with bevelled foot and double groove on the floor, probably *Conspectus* form 12. Relatively dark reddish-orange fabric and slip, probably from an early Gaulish workshop. Mid to late Augustan.
- 7445 7453 Two sherds, probably the same vessel. Not terra sigillata but copying an Italian cup form with conical body and upright rim (cf. *Conspectus* form 23). The fabric is dark cream, with large inclusions of orange grog or haematite, and dense small mica flakes; the slip is thick, orange in colour but rather unevenly applied – perhaps deliberately, to give a marbled effect. The fabric suggests a Central Gaulish origin, the form a date in the early to mid 1st century AD.
- 7516 Platter, probably *Conspectus* form 12; diameter approx. 26cm. Mid to late Augustan.
- 8011 Large square foot from a platter (cf. *Conspectus* B1.6-10); the slip is almost completely lost. Augustan - Tiberian.

- 9011 Two small sherds, probably from one platter; the slip is mostly lost. Mid-Augustan – Tiberian.
- 9542 Platter floor sherd. Mid-Augustan – Tiberian.
- 9585 Two sherds: i) platter floor fragment; ii) platter wall/floor sherd, probably as *Conspectus* 12.3.1. Both mid- to late Augustan.
- 9704 Four sherds: i) two sherds, probably from one platter floor; ii) floor sherd with at least one groove, from a large platter; slightly burnt; iii) platter floor sherd, burnt. All Augustan – Tiberian.
- 10287 Platter, *Conspectus* form 12, in a fine chalk-filled fabric. Mid- to later Augustan.
- 11277 Two joining sherds, small (diameter 18cm) platter, *Conspectus* form 12.2. Relatively coarse fabric, very micaceous, probably early Gaulish; mid- to later Augustan.
- 14226 Floor sherd, large platter; burnt. Mid-Augustan – Tiberian.
- 20031 (marked 20030) Three joining sherds from the floor of a large platter with rouletted circle and two-line radial stamp. The upper line of the stamp is almost completely lost, but may include the letter R; the lower line is probably complete, and reads TITI. Dr Philip Kenrick comments:  
“The only such stamps for which I have radial examples are:

OCK 2224.2	LVCR/L.TIT	<i>Lucrion L. Titi</i> of Arezzo (?), c.20BC+
OCK 2251.1-3	SEX/TITI	<i>Sex. Titius</i> of Arezzo, c. 30-15BC

My only initial offering for the fragment of line 1 was ‘..R’ so *Lucrion* might be possible, but there is no facsimile for the type listed above for confirmation and I would be a little surprised if the stamp extended further to the left to accommodate the *praenomen*. The only other potential stamp with ‘..R’ would be ANTER/TITI (OCK 2204, location undefined, c.15BC+), but I do not have either a radial stamp for him or identical facsimile/reading. *Sex. Titius* has more radial stamps, and might perhaps be possible.”

- 20329 Large (diameter 36cm) platter, *Conspectus* form 12.2; the fabric is rather pinker in tone than most of the material from the site. Mid- to late Augustan.

Joanna Bird, FSA  
29 July 2000

### References

*Conspectus*: E. Ettliger *et al.*, *Conspectus formarum terrae sigillatae italico modo confectae*, *Materielen zur römisch-germanischen Keramik*, **10**, Bonn, 1990

OCK: second edition of the *Corpus vasorum arretinorum* (cited by potter); in press