

SAMIAN POTTERY SHERD

By B. E. WILSON

This pottery sherd was found unstratified by Ian Garrett while fieldwalking at Ockbrook during November 1993. It was found in the extended area of the Romano-British farm complex at Littlehay Grange (SK 4237). Brenda Dickinson, University of Leeds, School of Classics, kindly provided the identification given below.

The sherd is from a well-moulded bowl of Dragendorff form 30, in the style of Germanus i, who worked at the South Gaulish factory of La Graufesenque in the 1st century AD. The decoration shows his ovolo with four-pronged tongue (Knorr 1919, Taf. 35, 80), and a wide panel with a lion's head (part of the figure-type shown on Knorr, *loc. cit.*, 27), in a small chevron arcade (*ibid.*, 70); this is presumably balanced by another arcade on the left. The lower half of the panel, separated from the upper by two wavy lines, contains a dolphin (*ibid.*, 42) and a rosette (*ibid.*, 81), in a wide chevron festoon. This festoon has no obvious published parallel, but is one of a series of chevron festoons of different sizes and thicknesses used by this potter. Each corner of the panel has a tendril, one, at least, ending in a striated spindle (*ibid.*, 72). The adjacent panel is divided across the middle by three wavy lines and has the same rosette in the lower half. The lion figure from which the head comes is on a cup of form Knorr 78 from Vindonissa (*ibid.*, Taf. 39W). The ovolo, spindle and the festoon used here as an arcade are on form Dr. 37, also from Vindonissa. The dolphin is on a mould from La Graufesenque (Hermet 1934, pl. 100, 20). All these vessels are from stamped moulds of Germanus c. AD 70–85.

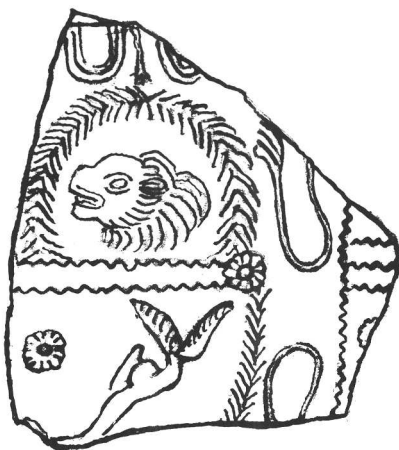


Fig. 1: Samian bowl, form 30. Actual size.

REFERENCES

- Hermet, F. (1934) *La Graufesenque*. Paris.
Knorr, R. (1919) *Töpfer und Fabriken verzierter Terra-sigillata des ersten Jahrhunderts*. Stuttgart.