

Chapter 12. The Samian Ware

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The following report is based on an archive report by Hedley Pengelly, completed in 1980. The original identifications have been retained as far as possible although some updating has been necessary, particularly to the notes on the decorated ware, in the light of research over the past thirty years.

The excavations produced sherds from some 114 vessels, with a date-range from the Flavian period to the late 2nd century or, perhaps, the early 3rd. Nineteen vessels (17%) were from South Gaul, 89 (78%) from Central Gaul, of which eight (7%) were in the fabric of les Martres-de-Veyre, six (5%) were likely to be from East Gaul. Details of the forms, by origin, are given in Table 12.1.

Form	South Gaul	Central Gaul (Martres de Veyre)	Central Gaul (Lezoux)	East Gaul	Total
29	1				1
30	4		1		5
37	4	1	3		8
27	3	1		1	5
33			19		19
15/17	1				1
15/17 or 18	1				1
18	2	1			3
18 or 18/31	3				3
18/31		1	7		8
18/31 or 31			3		3
31			14		14
18/31R		2	1		3
18/31R,31R			2		2
31R			9	2	11
18/31,31orR			8		8
36		1	2		3
38			2	1	3
79 or R			2		2
Dish		1	3		4
Dish or bowl			5		5
Bowl				1	1
Jar/flagon				1	1
Total	19	8	81	6	114

Table 12.1 Samian forms by origin

The proportion of decorated ware, including undecorated rims and bases, was low (12%). Interestingly, although the bulk of the material was Antonine in date, the majority of decorated pieces were South Gaulish. Whether this was due to the greater availability of decorated ware in the late 1st-early 2nd century, or to the higher social connections of the area at this time is unclear. Also unusual is the high number of bowls of form 30 (five, of which four are from South Gaul) in comparison with the very much commoner form 37 (eight in total). Form 29 was represented by one rim scrap only, suggesting that samian ware was unlikely to have become common on the site before the AD 80s. Unfortunately, the early pieces were not stratified in such a way as to be particularly useful for dating the structures. Most of them were clearly residual in the contexts in which they were found.

Import of samian ware continued until the late 2nd century or possibly, in the case of the East Gaulish pieces, into the 3rd. Form 31R, which did not appear fully fledged until c. AD 160, is present in larger quantities than the earlier form 18/31R, though the boundary between the two forms is bound to be somewhat subjective. Of the other later 2nd century forms, two (38 and 79) are present, but in only small quantities. Samian mortaria are absent. The impression is gained from the material as a whole that the period of maximum import is likely to have been around the middle of the 2nd century, probably coinciding with construction of the main building G65.

Details of the samian ware by phase and group are set out at the end of the report. Only five sherds were present in Phase 1 groups, three of them from Lezoux, though none looked to post-date the Hadrianic-early Antonine period. Although Phase 2 Groups 10, 59 and 63 contained some of the earliest pieces, Groups 2 (enclosure ditches) and 62 (occupation above the early cobbles) produced sherds of mid- or late 2nd century date. In Phase 3, the sizable group of material from Groups 64 and 68, pre-dating the main building G65, appeared to contain nothing that was likely to date

later than the mid-2nd century. As in Phase 2, the enclosure ditches tended to produce later material as they filled, which is perhaps only to be expected.

I. The decorated ware (Fig. 12.1)

Figure types are quoted from Oswald 1936-37 (O.), Central Gaulish decorative details from Rogers 1974 (Rogers), parallels from Stanfield and Simpson 1958 (S&S). Numbers in lower case Roman numerals after a potter's name denote homonyms in the system used by Hartley and Dickinson (2008-2011).

Phase 2

D1. Form 37, South Gaulish. A fragment from the bottom of the decoration depicting massed leaf-tips and a tri-lobed basal wreath of a type commonly used by Mercator and other potters working in the late Flavian and Flavian-Trajanic times (cf Knorr 1919, Taf. 57B; Mees 1995, Taf. 134, 8). *c.* AD 85-110. (Group 2)

D2. Form 30, South Gaulish. Rim sherd showing the common trident-tongued ovolo used by the Mercator circle of La Graufesenque. Work in this style is extremely common in Britain, though in Scotland it seems to be known only from Newstead, where it presumably belongs to the Flavian II phase (*c.f.* Curle 1911, 207, 1 and 3, from the same bowl). Mercator must have been at work by AD 80 or so, since he made occasional use of form 29. This particular bowl is likely to be from the middle or later part of his career. *c.* AD 85-110. (Group 51)

D3. Form 30, South Gaulish. Two small pieces of the same bowl, with purplish-tinged fabric. The design is apparently a compound winding-scroll. A 'candelabrum' motif with upward thrusting narrow pointed leaves with frilled borders survives in one of the lower concavities. The smaller of the two pieces shows a hanging triple leaflet and more of the scroll. Not closely paralleled, but probably *c.* AD 65-80. (Group 63)

Phase 3

D4. Form 30, Central Gaulish. Eroded fragments, two joining, from a large thick-walled bowl with micaceous fabric and orangey gloss. Pronounced tooling is visible on the interior wall. A scheme of panels with beaded borders shows the Vulcan (O.66) and boar (O.1666) beneath a large cross-like arrangement consisting of four impressions of a stylized plant (Rogers G7). Partial impressions of a leaf motif (Rogers G233) tie in the side-arms of the cross. The bead rows with tiny rosettes (Rogers C122) masking the junctions recall the work of Advocisus and Divixtus, though there seems little else to suggest their style other than use of the Vulcan. The plant (G7), seen here in unusual detail, was used in a similar cross without the tying-in leaves on bowls in the style of Rogers' potter P6 (Rogers 1999, pl. 122, 10, 12), a Lezoux potter or potters dated by Rogers to the Trajanic period and characterized by untidy and badly-impressed decoration, but again there is nothing else in common with the present bowl. The acanthus tip space filler was a characteristic feature of Attianus, Criciro and, later, Paternus *v.* The Vulcan and boar were in common use at Lezoux from the Hadrianic period or earlier to the later 2nd century. The bowl cannot be attributed to a particular potter, but the general associations, combined with the light, micaceous fabric, suggest a Hadrianic or early Antonine date rather than one in the second half of the 2nd century AD. (Group 43; + 2 sherds U/S)

D5. Form 37, South Gaulish. A number of pieces, four joining, from a badly-made bowl, apparently smudged during removal from the mould, showing an ovolo with trident tongue inclined to the right over a scheme of panels with wavy-line borders of greatly varying thickness. The panels show: (i) a saltire with leaf (Hermet 1934, pl. 7, 43); (ii) a griffin (reduced version of O.878) over a straight wreath of leaves; (iii) a pair of gladiators (O.1013E and O.1013F). The ovolo was used on bowls in the Pompeii Hoard. On one (Dzwiza 2004, A76; Atkinson 1914, 76), it occurs on a panelled bowl with the same griffin. The bowl is unsigned, but may be associated with Mommo, who used the ovolo on a bowl of form 30 with the same gladiators (Mees 1995, Taf. 146, 1). The leaf in the saltire appears on bowls stamped by Cosius Rufinus (Knorr 1952, Taf. 16A) and Severus (*ibid.*, Taf. 83B), though does not seem to be attested for Mommo. These potters were all at work *c.* AD 70-90, though the large panels and careless workmanship of this piece suggest a date towards the end of this period. (Group 64)

D6. Form 37, Central Gaulish, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. A small fragment from the base of a panelled bowl with wavy-line borders ending in a seven-dot rosette (Rogers C280) on a plain, thin basal line. This is from a mould by one of the close-knit group of anonymous mould-makers working at Les Martres-de-Veyre and Lezoux under Trajan and Hadrian. The closest parallels are perhaps in the work of Rogers' potter X9 (S&S, pls 29-32). *c.* AD 120-135. (Group 64; not illustrated)

Unphased

D7. Form 37, Central Gaulish, by Cinnamus ii of Lezoux, with his intra-decorative advertisement stamp CIN[NAMI] ret. (Die 5b). The scheme of panels includes: (i) the mould-stamp and partial impression of a narrow pointed leaf (Rogers H101) over a lozenge (Rogers U33); (ii) double festoon with cock (O.2348) over astragalus (Rogers R70); (iii) panther (O.1521). For closely similar arrangements, with the same stamp, cf S&S, pl. 160, 46 and Karnitsch 1959, Taf. 68, 4. c. AD 150-175. (Phase 0)

D8. Form 30, South Gaulish, showing a small double-bordered ovolo with a narrow tongue with trident turned to the left and panels, including a saltire with 'bottle buds' and a panel with a corner tendril. There is no horizontal border between the ovolo and panels. The ovolo (Dannell *et al.* 1998, SE) was used by Memor, Tetlo and Mommo and occurs in the Pompeii Hoard (e.g. Dzwiza 2004, A74, signed by Memor). The trident terminal was clearly applied separately and, here, its impression is poor. It was, on occasions, used without a border, e.g. at Fishbourne (Dannell 1971, fig. 131, 53). c. AD 65-85. (unstratified)

D9. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Three pieces, including part of the base and footring, of a large panelled bowl with the coarse, wavy-line borders typical of Servus iv of Lezoux, Stanfield's Servus 2 (S&S, pl. 131). The stag (O.1720) occurs on a bowl in his style at Richborough (site museum, unpublished). c. AD 160-195. (unstratified)

The samian stamps

Details of the stamps were kindly provided at the time by Miss B.M. Dickinson. They have now been published in Hartley and Dickinson 2008-2011.

S1. CAMVLIXVS Form 18/31, Central Gaulish. Die 2a (the L with diagonal foot), of Camulixus of Lezoux, a minor potter whose work is relatively common in the Rhineland. Apart from Lezoux, this stamp also occurs at Melandra and on form 27. One of his other stamps comes from Catterick. c. AD 125-150. (Phase 3, Group 64)

S2. CRVCAR[OF] Form 31, Central Gaulish. Two joining sherds. Die 4a of Crucuro ii of Lezoux. This stamp, not in itself known from Lezoux, has been noted from Camelon. Crucuro ii's forms include 18/31, 18/31R, 27 and 38. c. AD 120-150. (Phase 3, Group 51)

S3. MACCIVS.I Form 33, Central Gaulish. Die 5a of Maccius ii of Lezoux. Apart from Lezoux, this stamp has been noted in a pit at Alcester dating to the AD 150s, and a decorated bowl with another of his stamps comes from the same group. His decorated ware has stylistic connections with Butrio and Ianuaris ii. c. AD 140-165. (Phase 3, Group 68)

II. Catalogue by Phase and Group

Phase I

Group 4: enclosure ditches

18, SG, probably Flavian and 33, CG, probably Hadrianic-early Antonine.

Group 13: structural gullies?

Probably form 18/31R, CG, possibly from Les Martres-de-Veyre and Hadrianic or early Antonine.

Group 22: post-built building

33 and 18/31 or 31 rim, both CG. Neither look later than Hadrianic-early Antonine.

Phase 2

Group 2: enclosure ditches

37, SG, c. AD 85-110 (D1), 15/17, SG, Neronian or Vespasianic, 33, CG, probably Hadrianic-Antonine and 31R, CG, mid- to late Antonine.

Group 10: line of post pits/post holes

15/17, SG. Small chip, possibly from the same dish as that in Group 2.

Group 59: first cobbled surface in Area 2

30, SG, c. AD 85-110 (D2).

Group 62: occupation deposits above early cobbles in Areas 4 & 5

33 and 31R, both CG and probably mid- to late Antonine.
Bowl rim, EG, late second or possibly 3rd century.

Group 63: occupation deposits in southern building G39
30, SG, *c.*AD 65-80 (D3).

Phase 3

Group 3: enclosure ditch

A CG group consisting of 79 or 79R, and a thick-walled dish or bowl, slightly burnt, both of late Antonine date, and a number of Hadrianic or Antonine scraps.

Group 43: enclosure ditch

18 or 18/31, SG, Flavian or Trajanic, and 33, CG, Antonine.

Group 45: enclosure ditch

30, CG, Hadrianic-early Antonine (D4)

31R, EG, probably Trier and late Antonine or 3rd century.

Group 32: line of post pits with stone packing

36, CG in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre, Trajanic to early Antonine.

33, CG, Antonine

Group 51: well

31, CG, with stamp of Crucuro ii, *c.*AD 120-150 (S2).

79 or 79R, CG, second half of the 2nd century AD.

38, EG, probably Rheinzabern. Antonine, not earlier than *c.*AD 160.

Group 64: occupation deposits in Area 2 predating main building G65

The group contained three South Gaulish vessels, one probably from East Gaul, and the rest Central Gaulish, including five from Les Martres-de-Veyre. The latest material is likely to be mid-Antonine, dating to shortly after the middle of the 2nd century AD.

From South Gaul: 37, *c.*AD 70-90 (D5), 30 base, probably Flavian and 18 or 18/31, Flavian-Trajanic.

From Les Martres-de-Veyre, probably all Trajanic or Hadrianic: 37, *c.* AD 120-135 (D6), 27, 18 (2) and 18/31R.

Other Central Gaulish pieces: 33, 18/31 (2, one with stamp of Camulixus, *c.*AD 125-150 S1), 18/31 or 31, 31 and a large bowl, probably 18/31R or 31R.

Of probable East Gaulish manufacture: part of the pedestal base and footring of an enclosed jar or flagon. The fabric suggests EG origin, probably Rheinzabern, though does not look particularly late.

Group 66: cobbled/paved surface mostly to S. and W. of main building G65

33, CG, Antonine

Group 68: make-up for main building G65

33, CG. Two examples, one stamped by Maccius, *c.* AD 140-165 (S3), the other probably mid-2nd century.

Phase 4

Group 8: enclosure ditch

18/31 or 31 and another fragment, both CG and Hadrianic or Antonine

Group 69: occupation deposits surrounding main building G65

A mainly CG group, though including two SG pieces, 27 and 15/17 or 18, likely to be Flavian or perhaps earlier. CG forms include: 33 (2 examples, one large), 18/31, 31, 36, a bowl rim, rouletted dish and a dish in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Nothing need be later than around the middle of the 2nd century AD.

Group 34: odds and ends in Area 2

29 rim, SG, Neronian or early Flavian, 18/31 and 18/31R or 31R, both CG and Hadrianic-Antonine or Antonine.

Group 52: pit

18/31R, CG, Hadrianic or early Antonine.

Group 57: ditch?

A CG group including material of mid- to late Antonine date. Forms include 33 (2 examples), 31, 36 rim and a fragment of a well-used dish or bowl with abraded interior.

Group 72: late occupation deposits in Area 5

18 or 18/31, SG, Flavian-Trajanic.

Phase 5

Group 73: destruction fill in hypocaust

33 and 31, both CG and Antonine, and a sherd from the same EG 31R as in the Phase 3 enclosure ditch, Group 45.

Group 75: destruction fill within main building G65

18/31, in fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic or Hadrianic.

Group 76: destruction layers in Area 4

31, CG, slightly burnt. Late 2nd century.

Group 77: destruction layers in Area 5

Scrap, CG, Antonine.

Group 79: robber trench in Area 2

33, CG, Hadrianic or Antonine.

2 sherds of the SG 37 (**D5**) in Group 64, *c.* AD 70-90.