

Chapter 17. The Roman Glass

H.E.M. Cool

The Roman vessel glass is catalogued below. In general it dates to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. The most closely dateable item is no. 1, which is a wheel-cut colourless beaker with separately blown base. This is a relatively common form of the early to mid-2nd century (Price and Cottam 1998, 91-2). The body fragment no. 2 might come from a similar vessel. The features on the rim and handle fragments nos 3 and 4 are consistent with them coming from spouted globular jugs of the 2nd to 3rd centuries (Price and Cottam 1998, 157-60). Fragments of prismatic bottles (nos 8-12) were relatively common as they often are on rural sites. The form is commonest during the later 1st to 3rd centuries (Price and Cottam 1998, 194-200). Number 13 might possibly be an example of a cylindrical bottle in use in the later 1st to early 2nd century, but it is heat affected and so it is not possible to see whether there were any of the characteristic vertical scratch marks which would have confirmed the identification present. Blue/green fragments such as nos 5-7 and 14-5 are only dateable by their colour, and would have been in use sometime within the 1st to 3rd centuries.

There is one fragment (no.16) made in the typical bubbly glass of the 4th century and the colourless bubbly fragment no.17 might be contemporary.

All of the other glass from the site is of modern date with the possible exception of a green/blue (deep turquoise) fragment from (1-18) (not catalogued: sf 177 Phase 5 G73). This might be an unusual cast window glass fragment of Roman date but further information would be required before that could be confirmed.

Catalogue

- 1 Beaker; part of base and side in c. 120 small strain-cracked fragments. Colourless. Base formed of a separately blown paraison, edge cracked off and ground; part of base of vessel with lower body sloping up. Traces of wheel-cut lines on body fragment. Base diameter 40mm, wall thickness 1mm. (5a-62) sf 216 Phase 2 G20
- 2 Beaker (?); body fragments. Colourless. Straight side. Body diameter 60mm. (2-217) sf 184. Phase 4 G52
- 3 Jug (?); rim fragment. Blue/green. Funnel mouth, rim edge fire-rounded. Dimensions 18 x 15mm, wall thickness 2mm. (5a-9) sf 219. Phase 2 G21
- 4 Jug; handle fragment. Blue/green. Side of simple lower attachment retaining small fragment of convex-curved shoulder. Dimensions 28 x 19mm. (2-172) sf 24 Phase 3 G64
- 5 Base fragment. Blue/green. Tubular pushed-in base ring; base and side broken. Base diameter 70mm. (5c-20.03) sf 262. Phase 1 G4
- 6 Blue/green body fragment. (2-9) Phase 5 G79
- 7 Body fragment. Blue/green. (5c-60.01) sf 264 Phase 1 G4
- 8 Prismatic bottle, body fragment. Blue/green. (2-3) Phase 4 G69
- 9 Prismatic bottle, body fragment. Blue/green. (2-14) Phase 5 G73
- 10 Prismatic bottle, body fragment. Blue/green. (4f-26) Phase 2 G62
- 11 Prismatic bottle, body fragment. Blue/green. (5b-11A) Phase 4 G72
- 12 Square bottle, body fragment. Blue/green. (2-102) Phase 3 G64
- 13 Cylindrical bottle fragment (?) Blue/green. Heat affected. (4f-28) sf36. Phase 5 G76
- 14 Melted fragment; blue/green. Retaining two layers, possibly from handle attachment. (2-14). Phase 5 G73
- 15 Chip. Blue/green. (4f-26) Phase 2 G62
- 16 Body fragment; pale greenish colourless with many small bubbles. (5b-93) sf 258. Phase 2 G62
- 17 Body fragment. Colourless with many small bubbles. (2-14) sf 16. Phase 5 G73