

Roman Pottery from Burpham

At least two, and perhaps all four, of the vessels described below were found with Roman burials at Burpham *c* 1897.¹ The burials were apparently found in an area of sand and clay workings on the edge of the river Wey terrace, which were later disused and under pasture. Most of the pottery recovered seems to have remained in private hands, but a few vessels subsequently reached Guildford Museum. Nos 1 and 4 are certainly from the Burpham burials; they were acquired by the Museum in 1911, and have the accession numbers S2265/267 and S2314/268 respectively. No 3 has no accession number but was formerly on display as a Burpham find and is probably the 'small bowl for pins and ornaments' mentioned among the 19th century finds. No 2 also lacks an accession number but contains a separate label stating that it was found 'at Burpham, Worplesdon (Romano-British settlement)'. As no 2 is much earlier in date than the other vessels and has no further association with them than its Burpham provenance, it need not necessarily be regarded as coming from the cemetery. The remaining three pots suggest that the cemetery at Burpham was in use during or after the later 2nd century.

Recent rescue excavation in the same area of Burpham produced only prehistoric material, of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and showed also how badly the ground had been disturbed by the workings.²

The Pottery (fig 1)

1 Samian bowl, form Dr 37, made at Lezoux; the bowl is virtually complete, and any stamp or signature in the mould has been removed by the finishing. Those elements of the decoration which can be attributed suggest that it is the work of Illixo or perhaps of Carantinus II, neither of whom made very much decorated ware. Both potters shared figure-types with other workshops, including those associated with Quintilianus, Cinnamus and Paternus II. A date *c* AD 150–180 is likely.

The ovolo is Rogers B145,³ shared by Illixo and Carantinus II and used occasionally by Cinnamus. The bead-and-reel border (Rogers A10), was used by several potters, including Illixo and possibly Carantinus II; the beaded border (Rogers A2) is too common for attribution; and the beaded terminal has no precise parallel in Rogers. The main frieze is divided into eight panels:

A (panel 1; panel 5 is similar but has nine leaf-tips): panther, 0.1501/D.783,⁴ noted by Stanfield & Simpson as used by Illixo;⁵ pantheress, 0.1534/D.971; lion, 0.1425. The leaf-tip is probably part of a large leaf, Rogers H20, attributed to Carantinus II.

B (panels 2, 4, 6, 8): a double medallion containing a stag, 0.1781/D.874, which was regularly used by the Sacer-Cinnamus group, and a trifold motif similar to Rogers G169–172; small circles in the corners.

C (panel 3; panel 7 is similar but has six leaf-tips): lion, panther and leaf-tip as A; the third beast, a lion or leopard, is probably a small version of 0.1510/D.790.

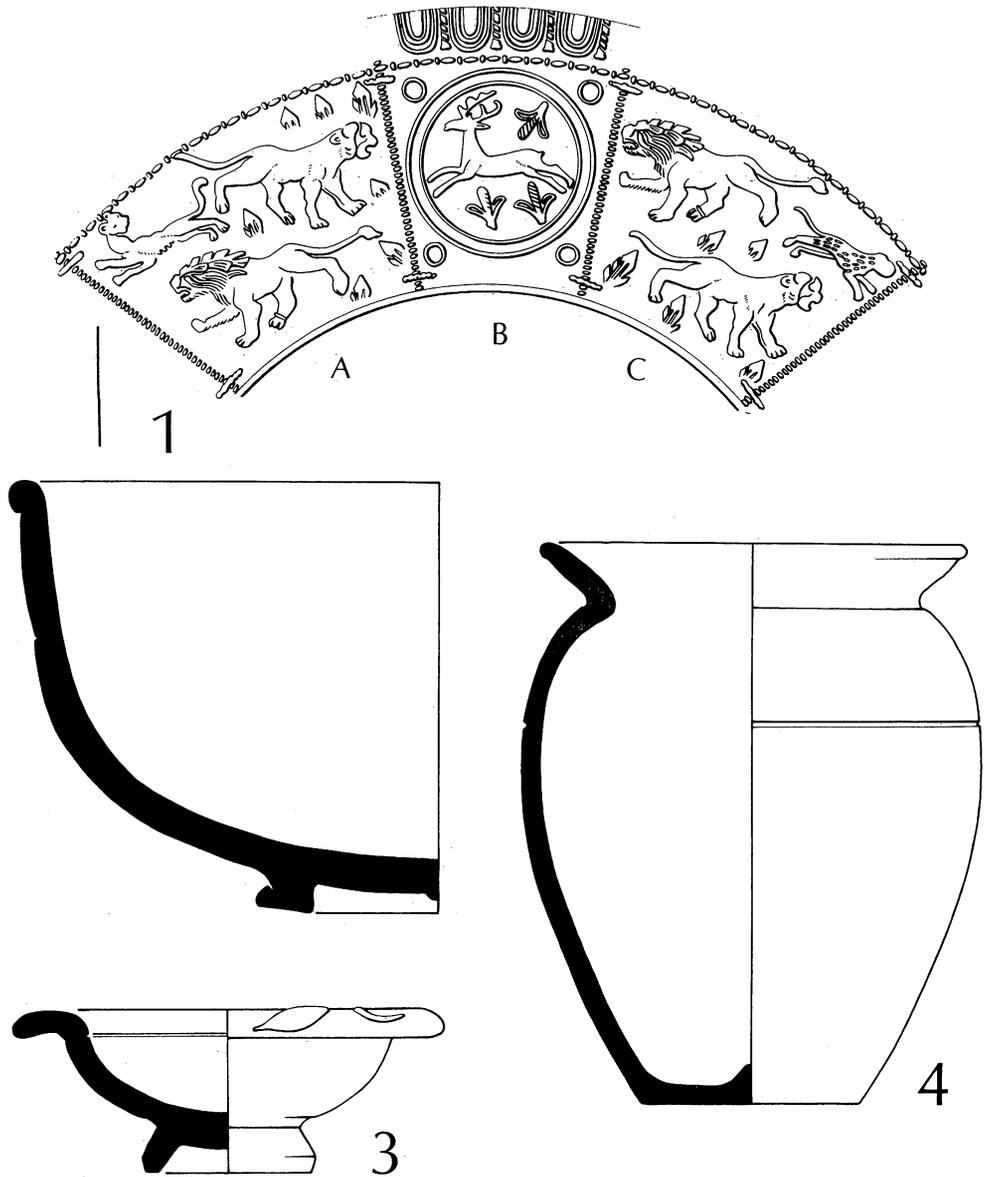


Fig 1. Roman pottery from Burpham (1/2).

2 (not illustrated) Samian cup, form Dr 27; the upper part has been roughly cut off to make a smaller vessel, and the whole is worn or abraded. Miss Brenda Dickinson and Mr B R Hartley have kindly commented on the stamp: 'Die 12b; Ardacus of La Graufesenque, reading ARDACI. This stamp is almost always found on cups, including Dr 24 and Ritt 9, but occurs once on Dr 29. There is not a lot of dating evidence, but it appears in Period I at Zwammerdam. Ardacus must have started work in the Claudian period because one of his stamps occurs at Velsen (before AD 47), while the decoration on Dr 29s stamped by him is clearly pre-Flavian and he occasionally stamped forms Dr 16 and Ritt 1. A date c AD 45–60 is likely.'

3 Samian cup, form Dr 35; the five barbotine leaves on the rim have mostly worn off and the surfaces are abraded and pitted. Central Gaulish, Hadrianic or Antonine in date.

4 Jar, probably a product of the Alice Holt/Farnham kilns. Wheel-thrown, in hard sandy grey ware with a silvery slip over the rim and down to the groove on the shoulder. Below the groove is a plain band 35mm deep, then rough burnishing to the base. The form lies between two of the types illustrated by Lyne & Jefferies:⁶ 3B8 (c AD 150–200) has a rounder body, 3B9 (c AD 200–300) has a more oversailing rim. A date in the late 2nd or early 3rd century is probable.

FOOTNOTES

1. SCC Sites & Monuments Record no 508 gives full details and references to other authorities.
2. M G O'Connell, Burpham: excavation in 1978, *SyAC*, 73 (1982), 97–100.
3. G.B. Rogers, *Poteries sigillées de la Gaule Centrale, 1: les motifs non figurés*, Gallia Supp 28, 1974.
4. Figure-types: 0. = F. Oswald, *Index of figure-types on terra sigillata*, 1936–7; D. = J. Déchelette, *Les vases céramiques ornés de la Gaule Romaine*, 2 fasc 1, 1904.
5. J A Stanfield & G Simpson, *Central Gaulish potters*, 1958, 290.
6. M A B Lyne & R S Jefferies, *The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman pottery industry*, *Counc Brit Archaeol Res Rep* 30, 1979.

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