

Digital Chapter 3: The fort: the internal buildings

Part 1 : Summaries of the samian pottery

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(file name : Ch3DSamianSum)

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Features in the North-West corner of the Housing Scheme site

The maximum of 143 vessels was composed of 234 sherds. 3% of the total was S.G., 82% was C.G. and 15% was E.G. Of the E.G. vessels, one (No. 3) could have been a Heiligenberg product, three (including No. 16 and one mortarium) were probably Argonne ware. The remainder were the products of Rheinzabern and Trier in the late second- and third- centuries. Apart from the four S.G. pieces of Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic date, there was little obviously early material (No. 6 was one probably Hadrianic instance). The greater part of the C.G. material was dated within the later-second century, including a large number of Dr. 31s, 33s and mortaria. There were numerous instances of considerable use and re-use (e.g. Nos. 3, 11, 12, 14 and four other C.G. Dr. 31s of the later- second century which could also have been re-used inverted after breakage); only No. 7 had been re-worked into a large disc, and No. 10 had been repaired. There was one possible fragment of graffito, on a dish form 31R in context 1459.

The proportion of decorated ware was very low, at 12%, There were five stamps on plain vessels, four by C.G. potters of the later-second century (Nos. 1, 13-15) and one from late second- or early third- century Rheinzabern (No. 12). Amongst the decorated ware, five C.G. bowls were attributable to specific potters (Nos.4-6, 9, 10) and the two E.G. Dr. 37s were of Rheinzabern and, apparently, Argonne origin (Nos.2, 16).

The general condition of the material was good, displaying less abrasion than at many Piercebridge sites; three vessels retained their complete profiles. Around 13% of the sherds were burnt.

One item (No. 4) adjoined sherds from the Culvert and another (No. 16) was associated with pieces from the Berm.

TABLE of forms by fabric, from N-W corner and related contexts

Area	Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
NW corner	18	1			1
NW corner	18 or 18R	1			1
NW corner	18/31 or 31		1		1
NW corner	18/31R or 31R		1		1
NW corner	27		1		1
NW corner	30		1		1
NW corner	31		22		22
NW corner	31 or 31R		6		6
NW corner	31R		11		11
NW corner	31R group			7	7
NW corner	33		15	2	17
NW corner	36		2	1	3
NW corner	37	1	9	1	11
NW corner	38		5		5
NW corner	40			1	1
NW corner	45		4	3	7
NW corner	72		1		1
NW corner	79		1		1
NW corner	Flagon			1	1
NW corner	ind		20	5	25
NW corner	Knorr 78	1			1
NW corner/EW Road	18/31R		1		1
NW corner/EW Road	18/31R or 31R		1		1
NW corner/EW Road	31		1		1
NW corner/EW Road	31 or 31R		1		1
NW corner/EW Road	31R		2		2
NW corner/EW Road	32			1	1
NW corner/EW Road	33		3		3
NW corner/EW Road	37		2		2
NW corner/EW Road	80		1		1
NW corner/EW Road	beaker or inkwell		1		1
NW corner/EW Road	ind		3	1	4

Courtyard Building

The maximum of 171 vessels in this group was composed of 244 sherds. Of the total, 13% was S.G., 73% C.G. and 14% E.G. The great majority of the C.G. vessels represented in the collection was of late second-century date, including several instances of forms 31 and 33. All the E.G. products were from later second- or third-century workshops at Rheinzabern and Trier, except for two vessels from earlier centres (Nos. 5, 22). Only a few mortaria (a vessel type produced no earlier than c 170) were recovered, but these included an E.G. vessel (No. 20), whose life may have been further prolonged by repair. Other vessels displaying signs of use and re-use included Nos. 8 and 14, the repaired bowl and mortarium (Nos. 18, 20) and the counter No. 13; there was also one graffito (No. 6). In all, 14% of the collection had been worn in use or had been re-worked.

13% of the vessels but up to 20% by sherd count may have been burnt, but only two pieces to a high degree.

Discounting up to 49 vessels of indeterminate form (29% of the total), the proportion of moulded vessels in this collection was very high (30%). At no other area of these excavations at Piercebridge were moulded vessels so frequent. The plainware in this collection included the 'feeding cup' (No. 1, for another example and discussion, see – Inner Ditch (11) Database ID no. 15) and six C.G. stamps of Antonine date (Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16). Amongst the decorated samian, the S.G. vessels included one beaker of form Déch. 67 with moulded decoration (No. 7) and one Dr. 37 worthy of note (No. 9). The C.G. moulded bowls included two which perhaps represented the early style of Cinnamus (Nos. 10, 17), two fragments perhaps in his 'standard' style (including ovolo Rogers B231) not listed above, one probably of Paternus v (No. 19) and three other bowls of later second-century date (Nos. 11, 15, 18). The only decoration surviving on an E.G. bowl was no. 3, by a Rheinzabern potter of the later second- or earlier-third century. There was also an E.G. beaker with painted decoration (No. 23), a rare find on a British site, produced presumably at Rheinzabern or Trier in the third century. The latest vessel in the assemblage may have been a plain bowl from Trier, found in HS 76-8 Room R5, apparently Gose type 146 (see Bird 1993, fig 4), which requires a date of manufacture c. A.D. 230/240-260 in a British context.

TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos) from Courtyard Building

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18	1			1
18 or 18/31	1			1
18 or 18R	1			1
18/31 or 18/31R		1		1
18/31 or 31		3		3
18/31R		1	1	2
18/31R or 31R		5		5
18R	1			1
27	1	1		2
30		1		1
30 or 37		2		2
31		11	1	12
31 or 31R		4		4
31R		10	2	12
31R group			2	2
32			1	1
33		19	2	21
37	8	17	6	31
37 or 38			1	1
38		3	1	4
44		1		1
45		3	2	5
54			1	1
67	1			1
79		1		1
79 or 79R		1		1
beaker		1		1
Curle 15		1		1
enclosed		2		2
Feeding cup		2		2
flagon			1	1
Gose 146			1	1
Ind	8	38	3	49
Si			1	1

The Bath House

From these three sites excavated at the bathhouse between 1976 and 1979, a total of 157 sherds was recovered, many (particularly in the Glen View collection) being merely battered fragments. These represent in all a maximum of 117 vessels. Of these, the C.G. vessels formed approximately 83% and the E.G. vessels 17%; there were no S.G. sherds at all. Of the E.G. ware, no. 1 originated probably at Heiligenberg and No. 8 may have been manufactured in the Argonne region; the remaining E.G. products probably came from the late second- to third-century factories at Rheinzabern (e.g. No. 7) and Trier (e.g. No. 5).

Little, if any, of the samian collected from the bathhouse excavations needs necessarily to have been manufactured before c. A.D. 150, while the large quantity of late second- and third-century material was immediately apparent. The strikingly high percentage of E.G. wares noted above is influenced in particular by the large proportion in the Glen View collection (26%). The generally large number of vessels worn in use (19%), again reflects the very high percentage in the Glen View collection (24%); all the worn material was largely of late second- or third-century date of manufacture. The collection included one repaired piece (No. 12) and one possible counter (No. 18), both found at Tees View.

The proportion of moulded bowls was 13%, a fairly low figure (reaching 18% at Glen View). Much of the material from these small-scale excavations comprised scraps, presumably representing rubbish. Amongst the plain ware, there were stamps of three C.G. potters in the Glen View collection (Nos. 15-17). Of the decorated bowls, four were ascribed to the styles of specific potters (Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 14: Casurius, Albucius, Banuus and Advocisus respectively). There were also two mortaria with *appliqué* lion-heads (Nos. 5, 10) and one beaker with 'cut-glass' decoration (No. 11).

The evidence of the pottery may shed light on activities in different areas of the bathhouse: altogether, 13% of the samian sherds had been burnt. In the Tees

View collection the proportion was low (7%), while at Glen View the proportion reached 22%. In the small Bridge End sample of six vessels, four were burnt.

TABLE of forms by fabric from BE79 (maximum nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
31R		1		1
31R group			1	1
45		1		1
Ind		3		3

TABLE of forms by fabric from Glen View 76-77 (maximum nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total Nos of vessels
30 or 37		1		1
31R		8		8
31R group			3	3
33		4		4
37		5	1	6
38		4	1	5
44		1		1
45		2	2	4
Beaker		1		1
Ind		5	4	9

TABLE of forms by fabric from Tees View 78-79 (maximum nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total Nos of vessels
18/31R		1		1
30		1		1
31		3		3
31 or 31R		2		2
31R		11		11
31R group			4	4
33		9		9
36		1		1
37		2	1	3
38		1		1
40		1		1
44		1		1
45		4		4
72		2		2
79		1		1
beaker		1		1
beaker or inkwell		1		1
Ind		19	2	21
Inkwell		1		1
Lud Tg			1	1