

Digital Chapter 4 : The Fort : defences
Part 1 : Summaries of the samian pottery

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Summaries of the samian pottery D4.1

Chapter 4: The Fort : defences

Summary of the samian pottery

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The Fort Wall, Rampart, the East Gate and the Intervallum

For statistical purposes, it is more meaningful to consider the three groups separately though the numbers are small.

It was obvious amongst the **Fort Wall** material under consideration here that there was no early samian ware: of a total of 24 vessels (26 sherds), 83% was C.G. ware, perhaps all produced in the later second-century, and 17% was E.G. ware. All the E.G. sherds were merely battered fragments. However, only 17% of the collection as a whole were vessels of indeterminate forms. At least three vessels are likely to have been made in the third-century and the most closely datable sherd was No. 2, a bowl produced in the range c A.D. 210-240. 13% was burnt.

Amongst the maximum of 64 vessels (83 sherds) found in **Intervallum Road** contexts, 28% comprised vessels of indeterminate form. There were 7 S.G. vessels (all presumably secondary rubbish) forming 11% of the total, and the C.G. ware formed 80%. It is noteworthy that the E.G. material, being mere fragments of rubbish and none later than the earlier-third century, formed less than 10% of the total. It may be presumed that these small E.G. fragments represent secondary refuse (see Bradley and Fulford 1980, 85-6): two of the vessels are likely to have been produced in one of the earlier second-century centres of production. At least one E.G. sherd, from Intervallum Road context (16), belonged to a beaker which was represented by another fragment in a Fort Wall context, (5). 6% may have been burnt.

There was little or no early material amongst the 45 vessels (59 sherds) in the **Culvert**, there being no S.G. ware. 27% of the collection was of indeterminate form. Of the C.G. vessels comprising 84% of the whole, most were of later second-century origin. The E.G. samian (16%), was fragmentary: No. 10 above was not only the largest E.G. piece, but may have been the latest product and was the most obviously well-used. Amongst the C.G. ware, No. 8 had been repaired (and was burnt). Only one vessel (No. 13) was noted to be associated with pieces from another area (the North-West Corner).

Taking the three groups as a whole, there were only two stamps, both on C.G. Dr.31s (Nos. 3, 8). Amongst the decorated ware, only the eight bowls listed above were identifiable: three of these may perhaps have been the work of Paternus v (Nos. 1, 4, 5). Of the three E.G. bowls, Nos. 2 and 9 were by Rheinzabern potters of the late- second to

earlier-third centuries, while No.7 was of earlier origin at Heiligenberg or Rheinzabern. There was also one mortarium with an *appliqué* lion-head (No. 11).

TABLE of forms by fabric from Intervallum Road contexts (max nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
15/31		1		1
18/31 or 18/31R			1	1
18/31 or 31		1		1
18/31R		1		1
27	1			1
30 or 37		1		1
31		9		9
31 or 31R		1		1
31R		7		7
31R group			2	2
33		4		4
36		1		1
37	2	9		11
38		2		2
38 or 44		1		1
45		1		1
79		1		1
Curle 15		1		1
Ind	4	12	2	18

TABLE of forms by fabric from Fort Wall contexts (max nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total nos of vessels
18/31R or 31R		2		2
31		1	1	2
31 or 31R		2		2
31R		2		2
31R group			1	1
33		1		1
37		2	1	3
45		4		4
74		1		1
79		1		1
Ind		4		4
Vd			1	1

TABLE of forms by fabric from Culvert (max nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18/31R		1		1
27		1		1
31		6		6
31 or 31R		1		1
31R		1		1
31R group			1	1
33		5		5
36		2		2
37		4	4	8
38		3	1	4
45		1		1
79		1		1
Beaker		1		1
Ind		11	1	12

The outer ditch

A total of 657 sherds formed a maximum of 611 vessels, of which 3% was S.G., 81% was C.G. and 16% E.G. The E.G. wares were mostly of Rheinzabern or Trier origin: where closely datable, these vessels were largely dated to the second or early-third century, including instances of Hadrianic - early Antonine Trier ware (Nos. 2, 28). There were also at least two probable Heiligenberg products (including No. 34), one or two La Madeine products and seven or more from the Argonne (including Nos. 1, 19 and a mortarium form Dr. 45, all of which may be presumed to have been produced in the late second century or thereafter). In general, the dating of the collection is similar to that from the inner ditch, if slightly earlier: there was one datable 3rd-century product, No. 7, perhaps c. 240-255 and two flagons probably of 3rd-century origin. There were fewer instances of the late forms Dr. 31, 31R and Walt. 79/80 than in the Inner Ditch; however, the proportion of mortarium forms at 13% of the total (discounting indeterminate sherds) was exactly the same as in the Inner Ditch (8%).

Many vessels again showed evidence of use and re-use (over 8%), including at least three scoured bases (eg Nos. 5, 6), four spindle-whorls (Nos. 27, 39, 43, 44), two counters and a disc (see Nos. 8, 20, 31) and a rubber (No. 30). There was also at least one graffito (No.9) and up to seven repairs or attempts at repair (e.g. Nos. 4, 13, 33, 36).

The proportion of moulded bowls (22%) was slightly higher than in the Inner Ditch. The indeterminate scraps composed exactly the same percentage in both ditches (41%). Amongst the plain ware the quantity of the C.G. cup, Dr. 33, was particularly striking (20%, compared with 13% in the Inner Ditch). There were seven stamps in all (Nos. 10, 16, 17, 41, 42, 45 and the E.G. instance, no. 38), all dated after c. A.D. 150. Amongst the decorated ware, there were three or four vessels in the style of Cinnamus, two or three in the style of Albuçius, and of the vessels not listed above there were also single examples in the styles of Banuus and Paternus v. The E.G. instances included one by Ianu(s), possibly from Heiligenberg (No. 34), and if so, this would be contemporary with the two possible products of Trier's Werkstatt I (nos. 2, 28). The remainder with moulded decoration were Rheinzabern ware, not closely attributable to specific potters, but of later second- or (early) third century date. There were also three beakers with 'cut-glass' decoration (including nos. 11, 40), one vessel with barbotine decoration (no. 21) and two mortaria with evidence of *appliqué* heads (nos. 14, 19).

An extremely small proportion of the assemblage was recorded as burnt: 3%, compared with c. 16% in the inner ditch.

TABLE of forms by fabric (max nos) – Outer Ditch

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18/31			1	1
18/31 group			2	2
18/31 or 31		1		1
18/31 or 31 group			1	1
18/31R		5		5
18/31R or 31R		20		20
18R	2			2
27	2	1		3
30		4		4
30 or 37		3		3
31		10		10
31 or 31R		22		22
31R		28		28
31R group			21	21
32			1	1
33		66	10	76
35 or 36		1		1
36		6	3	9
37	6	39	14	59
37 or 38		1		1
38		20	1	21
38 or 44		1		1
38 or Curle 11		1		1
40			1	1
43 or 45			1	1
44		2		2
45		39	3	42
46		2		2
54			1	1
72		5	1	6
80			1	1
81		1	1	2
beaker		0		0
beaker or flagon			2	2
Beaker or inkwell			1	1
Curle 15		2	1	3

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Curle 21		1		1
Curle 21 or Dr 43		1	1	2
Curle 23		1	1	2
enclosed		3	3	6
Flagon			1	1
ind	7	197	26	230
SMb			1	1
Tg			1	1

The inner ditch

A total of 779 sherds formed a maximum of 673 vessels. Of these the S.G. vessels composed only 2%, the C.G. vessels 80% and the E.G. vessels 18%. The great majority of the E.G. ware was of Rheinzabern or Trier origin in the later-second and third century. Six were Argonne products, including No. 35 and one Dr. 45 which may be presumed to have been manufactured no earlier than the late-second century.

As might be expected of this collection, there is little samian of early date. At least six vessels were third century products. That the greater part of the assemblage was of late date is reflected in the late varieties represented on the Table of forms. Much of the assemblage, including late EG vessels, showed evidence of considerable use (over 11%) and re-use. These included nos. 3, 9 (?), 15, 18, 37, 39, and the three counters (Nos. 16, 35, 36), two spindle-whorls (No. 29, 42) and possibly two repairs (No. 40, 41). There were two or three graffiti (including No. 34, 49) and the standing surface of two footrings had been nicked (Nos. 3, 48). The bases of four vessels including two probably of 3rd-century manufacture had been scoured away (perhaps during a mixing process). There were 53 mortaria, eight of them from East Gaul; the gritted interiors of eleven vessels had been worn away completely; of these, four were late EG vessels.

Up to 16% of the sherds (14% of the vessels) showed burning to any degree, but little of it extreme.

The proportion of moulded bowls vessels was approximately 19%, excluding the particularly numerous indeterminate sherds. Here, indeterminate forms composed around 38% of the vessels in this scrappy collection of fragments of rubbish. On the other hand, two vessels had survived well enough as to display complete profiles; one was a cup stamped in the period c. 155-185, the other a bowl of Do(v)eccus, manufactured c 170-200.

There were eight stamps, six on plain vessels (Nos. 19, 20, 27, 28, 33, 34, 38), of which all except No. 33 (E.G.) were Central Gaulish and Antonine. Amongst the moulded bowls, there was one stamp (No. 31) probably by Casurius; the styles of Cinnamus (early

style, 2 bowls, Casurius (2-3 bowls) and Do(v)eccus (5-6 bowls) were most numerous. Also represented were the styles of Paternus v, Martio, lustus, Mercator iv, Servus iv and Banuus. Of the earlier Rheinzabern moulded bowls, one was probably in the style of Comitalis group and one was in that of Helenius (both operational mostly in the later Antonine period. The latest Rheinzabern bowl, a third-century product, was in the style of Iulius (II) – Iulianus (I), while two bowls at least were manufactured in the third century at Trier, possibly around its middle (see Nos. 18, 25). Amongst the vessels bearing non-moulded decoration, two beakers were decorated *en barbotine* (including No. 1) and five were 'cut-glass' (Nos. 4, 6, 11, 24, 32); there was also one *appliqué* lion-head on a mortarium (No. 9).

Of the plain vessels, the most interesting fragment was that of the so-called 'feeding-cup' (No. 13). The function of this form has been discussed in a recent paper in which it is suggested that these vessels were in some cases weaning-cups and in others invalid-cups (Webster 1981, 253). The following remarks may be added. It is certainly unlikely that vessels of similar form were used outside the production-centres as pipettes for barbotine decoration (see Bulmer 1980,11 and 44; Webster 1981, 251). It should also be noted that, presuming Roman salt not to be finer than its modern counterpart, these containers are unlikely to be the *salaria* of the La Graufesenque accounts (see Bulmer 1980,11); the nature of the *rostrati* mentioned there is unclear: the Latin term does not appear to be indicative of the direction of the 'beak'. Despite Mr. Webster's reservations, there remains the possibility that these containers were lamp-fillers (see Greene 1979,95): the consistency of Roman oil is uncertain and the bore of the spouts varies considerably from vessel to vessel. It may also be added that although no S.G. samian examples can be quoted, their apparent absence does not preclude their existence; some non-samian instances were certainly of first-century date (Webster 1981,253), and there is an obvious difficulty in recognising Webster's Form B, which lacks the constructed waist, when in sherd form without the spout. It may well be an accident of recognition that no S.G., or indeed E.G., examples can be quoted. This Piercebridge vessel, at any rate, was undoubtedly of second-century origin in Central Gaul. Without further evidence, its exact function must remain enigmatic. See also "Courtyard Building" No. 1.

Inner ditch - TABLE of forms by fabric (max nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18 or 18R	1			1
18/31 or 18/31R		1		1
18/31 or 31		1		1
18/31 or 31 group			1	1
18/31R		1		1
18/31R or 31R		10		10
18R	2			2
27	1	1		2
27g	1			1
29 or 37	2			2
30		6	1	7
30 or 37		3		3
31		21		21
31 or 31R		27		27
31R		56		56
31R group			23	23
32			1	1
33		44	10	54
33 or 46		1		1
35		1		1
36		10	2	12
37	5	50	15	70
38		16	2	18
40			2	2
42 or 46		1		1
43 or 45		2	2	4
44		5		5
45		45	6	51
46		8		8
54		2		2
72		4	2	6
79		7	2	9
81		1		1
beaker			2	2
beaker or flagon			2	2

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Curle 11	1			1
Curle 15		2		2
Curle 15 variant			1	1
Curle 21		1		1
enclosed		2	1	3
Feeding cup		1		1
Ind	1	208	46	255

The Berm

A total of 236 sherds from Berm-related contexts formed a maximum of 200 vessels. Of these, just over 1% was S.G., around 71% was C.G. and 28% was E.G. Of the very high proportion of material from East Gaul, almost all was of Rheinzabern and Trier origin in the later-second and third centuries. In addition, there were four vessels that could have come from the Argonne region, including Nos. 3, 11 and 12. Of these the two decorated vessels appear to be from Hadrianic or earlier-Antonine Lavoye, while the mortarium, No. 3, must have been produced after c. A.D. 170 whether or not of Argonne origin. Indeed, the greater part of the whole collection was made in the later-second and third centuries, as was indicated by the large proportion of late forms. Although many vessels showed signs of use (22% of the total, including four with scoured bases - see No. 14), unusually in the Piercebridge collections, there was no evidence of any repair work or re-used pieces.

Excluding the very large number of indeterminate fragments of rubbish (forming 42% of the collection), the proportion of moulded bowls was fairly low for Piercebridge (16%), but comparable with the material in both Ditches. There were only three stamps, all on plain C.G. vessels (Nos. 1, 8, 10), of which only No. 1 was identifiable, while No. 8 was an example of *Strichstempel*n (see Bird 1993, 3), and therefore third-century (perhaps the middle thereof). Amongst the decorated bowls, only the form 37s listed above were identifiable: of the four E.G. examples, two were from Lavoye and two Rheinzabern. Of the bowl form 37s in the collection, an unusually high proportion (over half) were East Gaulish products. There were fragments of mortaria which once bore *appliqué* heads: these included Nos. 3 and 7.

11% of the sherds from Berm-related contexts were burnt to some degree.

There were inter-connections between sherds from the Berm and sherds in the Inner Ditch and the North-West Corner (see Nos. 2, 6, 11, etc), as well as the relationships listed above (e.g. Berm/I.V. Road).

Berm - TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos)

Area	Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Berm	18/31 or 18/31R		1		1
Berm	18/31 or 31		1		1
Berm	18/31R or 31R		1		1
Berm	31		7		7
Berm	31 or 31R		3		3
Berm	31R		10		10
Berm	31R group			13	13
Berm	33		13	2	15
Berm	36		1		1
Berm	37		8	6	14
Berm	38		5		5
Berm	38 or 44		1		1
Berm	43		1		1
Berm	43 or 45			1	1
Berm	45		9	2	11
Berm	54			1	1
Berm	79		3		3
Berm	Curle 15		2		2
Berm	Curle 15 or 23			1	1
Berm	enclosed		1	1	2
Berm	Flagon/cantharos			1	1
Berm	ind	2	47	14	63
Berm/IV road	30		1		1
Berm/IV road	33		2		2
Berm/IV road	36/Curle 15 hybrid			1	1
Berm/IV road	37		1	1	2
Berm/IV road	ind		1	1	2
Berm/Main ditch	18/31R or 31R		2		2
Berm/Main ditch	37			1	1
Berm/Main ditch	ind		2		2
Pits on Berm	31 or 31R		1		1
Pits on Berm	31R group			2	2
Pits on Berm	33		1	1	2
Pits on Berm	37			1	1
Pits on Berm	38		1		1

Area	Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Pits on Berm	40			1	1
Pits on Berm	42		1		1
Pits on Berm	45		1		1
Pits on Berm	79R		1		1
Pits on Berm	bowl or mortarium		1		1
Pits on Berm	Curle 15		1		1
Pits on Berm	ind	1	11	4	16