

## **Digital Chapter 5 : the Northern *vicus***

### **Part 2: Summaries of the samian pottery**

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*(file name : Ch5DSamianSum)*

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Summary of the samian pottery

D5.6

## Chapter 5: the Northern vicus

### Part II : Summary of the samian pottery

Margaret (Bulmer) Ward

#### The East Road (outside the East Gate) and Associated Features

113 sherds, all in context (2004), represented up to 55 vessels. Only 8% of the assemblage comprised moulded bowls. There were no S.G. vessels; all were C.G. or E.G. products, mostly of Antonine origin and only one E.G vessel could possibly have been produced in the third-century. One Antonine product of Lezoux had been re-worked as a spindlewhorl (No. 1). 35% of the collection comprised sherds of indeterminate form; up to 16% of the total may have seen burning.

**TABLE of forms by fabric from East Road (maximum nos of vessel)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total nos of vessels
18/31 or 31			1	1
18/31R		1		1
18/31R or 31R		1		1
27		1		1
31		5		5
31 or 31R		3		3
31R		9		9
33		8		8
37		3		3
38		2		2
40			1	1
43 or 45		1		1
Ind		18	1	19

From the East-West Road, the 143 vessels (maximum) consisted of 168 sherds. Approximately 7% was S.G., 80% C.G. (largely of later second-century date) and 13% was E.G. in origin. Many of the E.G. fragments could well be Antonine products, including several sherds from the earlier centres. The latest vessel appears to be the third-century bowl, No. 5, which may also have seen repairwork. However, there was also one piece (coded WG2) that was not measured but could perhaps represent the large, flanged bowl Gose 146 (see Bird 1993, fig 4) rather than the dogbowl Ludowici form Nb. At any rate, the vessel may have been produced at Trier in the third century may have been the

latest vessel in this group, c 240-250, but without further inspection its identification is not certain.

It may be expected that, as in the Intervallum Road contexts, more or less all the samian in East-West Road contexts will represent secondary refuse; 27% of the total comprised vessels of indeterminate form. Only No. 14 (in a non-samian ware) could be related firmly to sherds from other areas (in this case, the Inner Ditch); No 13 may possibly have been associated with a sherd from the Intervallum Road.

The proportion of decorated ware was around 20%. Amongst the earlier decorated ware was one S.G. Dr. 30 (No. 11), one Hadrianic C.G. bowl (No. 9) and one fragment possibly by Criciro (No. 12). Three not listed above were in the style of Pugnus (Ovolo Rogers B233), c 135-165, and Cinnamus (ovolos B144 and 143), c 135-160 and c 145-165/170. Of the later Dr. 37s, two were in the style of Iullinus (ovolos B156 and 164), two perhaps represented the work of Paternus v (No. 3 and one with ovolo B106) and three were in the style of Do(v)eccus (including No. 3). There was only one E.G. sherd with moulded decoration (No. 5) and that was from third-century Rheinzabern. There was also one E.G. mortarium bearing evidence of a missing *appliqué* head (No. 7), one E.G. beaker with 'cut-glass' decoration (no. 8) and the unusually decorated mortarium, no. 10. Of this C.G. Dr. 45, it may be noted that, despite its barbarised expression on this vessel, the decorative arrangement of festoons is of classical origin (cf. for instance the relief on the interior of the enclosure wall of the Ara Pacis Augustae in Rome). 'Cut-glass' decoration is not unknown on other samian mortaria: see, for instance Stanfield 1929, Nos. 59,70; Mitard 1965, fig. IV from Vichy; Hartley 1954, fig.1 found at York; and Northern Nurseries No. 17. No parallel has been noted by the present writer for the impression of a rosette in the decoration.

**TABLE of forms by fabric from E-W Road contexts (max nos)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total nos of vessels
15/17R	1			1
18	1			1
18/31 or 18/31R		1		1
18/31R or 31R		5		5
18R	1			1
29 or 37	1			1
30		1		1
31		7		7
31 or 31R		8		8
31R		14		14

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total nos of vessels
31R group			5	5
33		14	2	16
35	1	1		2
37	1	17	1	19
38		4		4
40			2	2
44		1		1
45		6	1	7
46		1		1
72			1	1
79		2		2
79R		1		1
beaker or inkwell		0		0
Curle 15		1	1	2
Curle 21		1		1
Ind	4	30	5	39

### Carlbury Vale, West

The maximum of 100 vessels was composed of 113 sherds; only 1% was S.G., 87% was C.G., and 12% E.G. (including at least one Argonne vessel, a plain, flanged bowl form Curle 21).

The overall picture is, as elsewhere at Piercebridge, one of a high level of activity in the vicinity in the last years of the second century and very probably for a long period thereafter. Around 15% of the samian, all dating to the Antonine or later years, displayed a high degree of wear in use or re-use: one vessel (No. 3) had been repaired, the interiors of three (Nos. 6, 9, 10) had been completely scoured away, and at least one (No. 12) may have been re-used inverted in some secondary function after breakage.

The proportion of moulded bowls in this collection was 14% discounting all indeterminate sherds, this being a collection composed mostly of battered fragments of rubbish. Present were the battered remains of no more than 11 bowls of C.G. form 37: only one sherd was attributable to any specific potter (No. 2, lullinus). There were however, four plain vessels, which had been stamped by their potters (three C.G. and one E.G.).

As much as 25% of this collection, may have seen burning.

**TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total Nos of vessels
18/31		2		2
18/31 or 18/31R		1		1
18/31 or 31		8		8
18/31R		2		2
18/31R or 31R		2		2
27g	1			1
31		5		5
31 or 31R		1		1
31R		8		8
31R group			2	2
33		15	3	18
35 or 42		1		1
36		1		1
37		11		11
38		2		2
40		2	1	3
43			1	1
44		1		1
45		4	1	5
72		1		1
79		2		2
79 or 79R		1	1	2
79R		2		2
beaker		1		1
Curle 21			1	1
Curle 23		1		1
ind		13	2	15

**Tofts Field 1973**

The collection of 336 vessels (maximum) was composed of 423 sherds. The 52 S.G. vessels formed 15%, a high proportion for a Piercebridge site and considerably higher than 1% at Tofts Field 1974. Two vessels may have been Montans products of the period c A.D. 110-145; see for instance catalogue No. 9. The C.G. wares formed 67% and the E.G. products formed 18%. This high proportion of E.G. samian appeared largely of

Rheinabern origin, but included at least five vessels from Trier. Of earlier second-century date were between three and (less probably) eight vessels apparently in La Madeleine ware. There was also at least one possible Argonne product, a strange sherd of uncertain form (flat platter or lid?). It is clear from these figures that E.G. samian of both 2<sup>nd</sup>- and 3<sup>rd</sup>-century origin reached Tofts Field in considerable quantity.

The general spread of the collection suggests considerable activity on the site in the first century, probably beginning in the Flavian period. Only one of the earliest (Neronian-Flavian) sherds seemed certainly a Neronian product. All these earliest vessels could easily have been old stock when introduced to Piercebridge.

There were only eight likely products of Les Martres-de-Veyre. This apparent scarcity of Trajanic samian could reflect decreased occupation or low activity on the site at that period; however, it does not necessarily indicate a gap or a fall-off in occupation of the site; it is a feature of many collections both at Piercebridge and elsewhere and could reflect, rather, a decrease in the samian imports into Britain from the Gaulish kilns in that period.

The level of Hadrianic material was certainly higher; its ratio to the Flavian samian may be compared with that in the similarly dated collection from Castle Street/76, Lower Bridge Street, Chester (Bulmer 1979a, 88). However, it is in the amount of late-Antonine C.G. and of late E.G. samian that this, like other Piercebridge collections, is remarkable, reflecting an intensifying of activity on the site in the late-second, the third and even the fourth centuries, as it would seem. Several vessels appeared to be third-century products, including two possibly mid-third century forms (Gose 146, if not an example of the third-century form Ludowici Nb/Oelmann 1914, type 13).

The proportion of decorated vessels was 25%, as at Tofts Field 1974, slightly lower than that recorded at Holme House. Of the plain vessels, only five bases were stamped, a rather low figure (1.5%): two were by 'illiterate' S.G. potters (Nos. 7, 88) two were by identifiable C.G. potters (Nos. 20, 84), and were too fragmentary for identification (including No. 22). The decorated vessels included one beaker in 'cut-glass' style (No. 122), two or three beakers with barbotine decoration (Nos. 82, 99) and one Déch. 67 with moulded decoration surviving (No. 12). There were 42 Dr. 37s amongst the remaining sixty moulded bowls. It was possible to attempt attributions to potters or groups of potters for twenty-one of the twenty-seven bowls bearing recognisable decoration: nine were by C.G. potters who appear to have worked exclusively after c. A.D. 160 (including possibly three bowls of Iullinus) and five were by late second- or third-century potters at Trier (two? including Dexter) and Rheinabern (three, including Iulius/Iulianus). However, there were none of the bowls produced explicitly after c 170 by such potters as Banuus and Do(v)eccus that are so common elsewhere at Piercebridge. Of the earlier C.G. potters, Cinnamus was represented by at least two Dr. 37s, both bearing ovolo no. 2

(Rogers B231) of his standard period. There were no stamps extant on any of the decorated vessels.

The 23 mortaria comprised 9% of identifiable forms; nine vessels were E.G. products (39% of mortaria). This should be compared with Tofts Field 1974, where 8% of identifiable forms were mortaria (and 45% of those were E.G. products).

The quality of the samian despite its present fragmentary condition represented in the collection is high (compare for instance the similarly dated extra-mural group from Castle Street 1976 in Chester; see Bulmer 1979a, 87). There are relatively few instances of poor workmanship other than the occasional fingerprints inevitably left behind in the slipping, and the odd blurring or botching of the surface of a vessel. Indeed, the E.G. vessels in general in this collection seem to be of a very high quality in both fabric and form; the occupants of the late building may have enjoyed a certain degree of affluence, possessing an apparent wealth of fine imported tableware at that period. (For another possible explanation of the quantity represented, see below.)

That the samian stock was well-used and esteemed by the local residents is clear from the numerous specimens which exhibit evidence of long life in use, and re-use. There were eleven repaired vessels, including even a mortarium in Phase III (b) and two C.G. dishes of form Dr. 31R, the latter in topsoil and unstratified. Some had seen some secondary function, whether as counters (two) or inverted for some purpose (palettes? – at least three). Nine vessels had seen repairwork, including a mortarium. More than 11% of the assemblage showed some considerable wear from use, of which many were late second- or third-century in date of manufacture. Thirteen worn specimens of varying date were retrieved from Phase IIIA when samian was doubtless in very short supply, and twenty-five were found in IIIB when new samian can be presumed to have been unobtainable. Indeed it may be suggested that, together with the evidence of Tofts Field 1974, the number of vessels in Phases II and III (and especially in Phase IIIB) which display incomplete repairs, breakages at rivet-holes, and re-fashioned parts, could possibly indicate a tradition of handymen at work on the spot, or of professional menders with an increasing workload.

Of the burnt material, forming c. 22% of the total, it should be said that it is difficult to distinguish between those vessels burnt as a result of their proximity to the early kiln before their subsequent dispersal, those burnt and displaced in the levelling of the site for the buildings, and those burnt in association with the late hypocaust, not to mention those consequences of other, unrecorded, hazards – even at the production stage.

20% of the material comprised sherds of indeterminate form; only one vessel, a dish form 31 produced c. AD 160-200, survived in complete profile.

**TABLE** of forms by fabric (maximum nos)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
15/17 or 15/17R	1			1
18	4			4
18 or 18R	2			2
18/31		7		7
18/31 group			7	7
18/31 or 31		4		4
18/31R	1	9		10
18/31R or 31R		3		3
18R	7	1		8
18R or 18/31R	4			4
27	2	1		3
29	1			1
29 or 37	5			5
30	1	12	2	15
30 or 37	1	1	1	3
31		9		9
31 or 31R		2		2
31or 31R		1		1
31R		16		16
31R group			9	9
33	1	40	1	42
36		3		3
37	9	28	5	42
38		6		6
40			2	2
43 or 45		1	2	3
44			2	2
45		12	8	20
54			1	1
67	2	1		3
79		1	2	3
79 or 80		1		1
79R			1	1
80		1		1
beaker		1	3	4
bowl		1	1	2



Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Curle 15		7		7
Curle 23			1	1
dish or bowl			1	1
ind	9	54	4	68
inkwell	1			1
Nb or Gose 146			1	1
Oelmann 13 or Gose 146?			1	1
Oelmann 15			1	1
platter			1	1
Vd			1	1
VMa			1	1
VMa or VMc			1	1
VSc			1	1

#### Tofts Field 1974

The total collection of 1128 sherds represented 843 vessels. The 12 S.G. vessels formed only 1% of the total, the 749 C.G. vessels formed 83%, and the 131 E.G. vessels 16%. The S.G. proportion thus was strikingly low, particularly when compared with Tofts Field 1973 (15%). The E.G. proportion is similar to that at Tofts Field 1973 (18%); again, this consisted largely of Rheinzabern origin, but included at least six vessels possibly from the Trier workshops. These late products of Rheinzabern and Trier where more closely datable appear to suggest origin in the later-second and earlier-third century. There was here a small quantity representing earlier production in East Gaul at such centres as La Madeleine (2?), Heiligenberg (1?) and the Argonne potteries (3).

8% of the identifiable forms comprised mortaria (58 vessels), as at Tofts Field 1973 (9%). Here, however, 26 mortaria were E.G. products, comprising an even larger proportion of the mortaria at 45% than at Tofts Field 1973 (39%)

The proportion of decorated vessels was 25% as at Tofts Field 1973. Of the plain ware, 34 vessels were stamped, a higher proportion than in that collection (4%; cf 1.5%). Two were by illiterate Antonine C.G. potters; one was in the form of a rosette; two were too fragmentary for identification. Amongst the remainder, Martius iv and Potitianus ii both were represented by two stamps; five E.G. instances were all by Rheinzabern potters (Nos. 91, 128, 170, 171 and 188). The latter centre was also represented by the intra-decorative stamp of the potter B(elsus?) F Attoni (No. 91). Two C.G. potters, Sacer i and the later-second century worker, Paternus v, stamped one and two decorated bowls respectively (Nos. 8, 71, 133). Other, non-moulded decoration included at least four vessels with 'cut-glass' or barbotine decoration (Nos. 39, 66, 172, 193), six mortaria with *appliqué* heads at their spouts (Nos. 75, 125, 146, 160, 161, 191) and a rouletted bowl of C.G. form Dr. 37 (No. 175). Of the moulded bowl forms Dr. 30 and 37, 11 E.G.

instances bore recognisable decoration originating in the Argonne, Trier and Rheinzabern (which included two possibly by Cobnertus). All appeared to be of Antonine or early third-century date; it is noteworthy that none could be dated any later than that period. Amongst the other wares, none was closely datable (five were likely 3<sup>rd</sup>-century products). Of the C.G. bowls, the products of Cinnamus (10-11, 8 of them in the early style), Paternus v (8) and Do(v)eccus (7) were particularly numerous. Amongst the residual sherds not listed above, there were pieces in the styles of Potter X-6 (Rogers ovolo B2). Pugnus (B233), Secundus (B143) and Attianus.

Five vessels retained a complete profile (Nos. 38, 95, 61, 165, 188), but much of the remainder comprised sherds of indeterminate form (18%). This is a similar proportion to that at Tofts Field 1973. As in that collection also, the samian recovered from this site showed many signs of considerable use (c.15%). There were at least 27 repairs, or attempts at repairs, noted; 13 were on vessels produced after c 160 and, produced after c170/180, one C.G. mortarium and five E.G. mortaria had seen repairwork. There were also 5 counters, one perhaps unfinished; 2 spindle-whorls (one fashioned from a mortarium); 3 graffiti and 3 footrings that had been nicked, and a very large number of vessels displaying worn footrings, scoured and indeed polished interiors; some showed signs of having been 'sawn' or filed down. Of the mortaria, apart from repair-work, around 29 displayed notable wear internally, nine of them extreme wear; at least seven showed other signs of extended use, whether riveted, sawn off, or re-worked as spindle-whorls or for some other, uncertain purpose (including Nos. 158, 162, 164). In all, between 8 and 12 vessels of all forms appeared to have been used in some secondary function after breakage - perhaps inverted as palettes in some cases or as spinning-tops in others; all were of late manufacture, and all came from the later contexts: five or more were dishes of form 31 or 31R with a high basal 'kick', two were of form 33 and at least one was a mortarium.

As much as 20% of the collection may have seen burning.

**TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
15/17 or 15/17R		1		1
18	3			3
18 or 18/31	1			1
18/31		25		25
18/31 group			2	2
18/31 or 18/31R		4		4
18/31 or 31		24		24
18/31R		5		5
18/31R or 31R		22		22
18R	2	1		3
27		5		5

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
30		14	1	15
30 or 37	2	5	2	9
31		60		60
31 or 31R		14		14
31R		63		63
31R group			28	28
32			7	7
33		85	4	89
36		10		10
37	1	137	11	149
38		18	2	20
38 or 44		1		1

### Temple (?) (TF 75)

The total number of sherds recovered was 55, representing a maximum of 40 vessels. Of these, the single S.G. vessel formed 2%, the C.G. vessels formed 68% and the E.G. vessels formed as much as 30%. Apart from No. 11 (Argonne), all the wares appeared to be of Rheinzabern and Trier origin.

Although the size of the sample is fairly small, and its general spread from the late first century into the third is generally typical of the Piercebridge collections, nevertheless the proportion of E.G. samian is strikingly high. Of six mortaria (produced after c 170/180), four were E.G. products, suggestive of third-century date. Unless this was merely fortuitous, the samian assemblage may reflect increased activity in this particular area in the third century. Indeed, of eleven vessels showing clear signs of considerable wear in use, one E.G. mortarium (No. 9) could well have been manufactured in the third century and had been repaired thereafter to prolong its life in use.

Two vessels displayed complete profiles, stamped cups of form Dr. 33 that were probably contemporaneous (Nos. 3, 10); 15% of the collection comprised sherds of indeterminate form. Moulded bowls formed 21% of the total – a fairly high proportion for a Piercebridge site. There were three stamped vessels, all plain ware of Antonine origin in Central Gaul (Nos. 3, 10, 12). Fragments of three Dr. 37s bore decoration attributable to the potter Paternus v, Casurius and (at Rheinzabern) Belsus (nos. 2, 5, 6): the three bowls were probably contemporary products. There were also two decorated mortaria, one with an appliqué lion-head (no. 4) and one with decoration *en barbotine* (no. 7).

Only two sherds (4%) showed signs of burning.

**TABLE of forms (maximum nos)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18		1		1
30		1		1
31		1		1
31 or 31R		1		1
31R		2		2
31R group			1	1
33		9	1	10
36		1		1
37	1	3	2	6
40			1	1
43			1	1
45		2	3	5
79		1		1
Curle 23		1		1
ind		3	3	6
VMg			1	1

### **Vicus Building 1**

NB. This statistical analysis was based on identifications, phasing and details as provided in 1981. The overall conclusions remain valid. For statistical purposes, included here is the material from the Outer ditch/Vicus Building 1 contexts **811, 827, 841, 848** and the large body of material in **816**.

A total of 498 sherds formed a maximum of 403 vessels, of which 3% was S.G., 74% was C.G. and 23% was E.G. Thus the proportion of E.G. ware is interestingly high. Amongst the E.G. vessels, the majority was, as usual, of later second- or third-century origin at Rheinzabern and Trier. However, three vessels may have been manufactured in the Argonne workshops, including No. 6 and two mortaria, all of which must have been produced in the late-second century if not in the third. Looking at the forms represented here in general, there is a good selection of late types, including large numbers of dishes and mortaria (32). In the 'collapsed' context **816** was a third-century flagon. Again, many vessels displayed evidence of considerable use and re-use: twelve vessels including six mortaria had suffered extreme wear including 'scouring' of their basal interiors or under the base (see Nos. 15, 18, 20, 25) and three or four counters (e.g. Nos. 21 and 30), one spindle-whorl (No. 4), three repairs or attempts at repair (Nos. 2, 9 and 14) and also one possible graffito (No. 13) and one vessel whose footring may have been nicked.

The proportion of decorated ware was markedly low (12%). Amongst the plain ware there was fairly normal representation by potters' stamps, four of them by unidentified C.G. potters and four by C.G. potters of later second-century date (Nos. 1, 5, 17, 28). There was one E.G. stamp, whose derivation is problematic although certainly of late second- or early third-century date (No. 3). The decorated ware included two vessels in the early style of Cinnamus (Nos. 7, 19) and one probably in his standard style (No. 33), one each in the styles of Mercator i or a contemporary at La Graufesenque (No. 23), Casurius and Iullinus. Of the bowls not listed above there were single examples of Pugnus (ovolo Rogers B233), Albucius or Paternus v (ovolo B106) and two bowls in the style of Do(v)eccus. Only one or two E.G. vessels were attributable to workshops, both apparently that of Iulius (I) at Rheinzabern (Nos. 27, 32). The non-moulded ware included one or possibly three E.G. beakers with 'cut-glass' decoration (see No. 31), two decorated *en barbotine* (nos. 6,8) and two mortaria with appliqué heads (nos. 16, 22).

A late sherd in (1110), ZH may represent the large, flanged bowl Gose 146 (see Bird 1993, fig 4) rather than the dogbowl Ludowici form Nb (Oelmann 13). At any rate, the vessel was most probably produced at Trier in the third century and, if Gose form 146, then this would have been the latest vessel in this group (perhaps c 240-250). The form has been noted elsewhere at Piercebridge. However, without further inspection, this identification is not certain.

Approximately 12% of the material showed signs of burning to varying degrees.

The remains of a number of vessels in this collection may be associated with fragments not only in the outer ditch into which certain of the contexts had collapsed (see no. 6 above), but also in the N-E corner see nos. 23, 27, 31 above.

**TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
15/17	1			1
18/31		2		2
18/31 group			1	1
18/31 or 18/31R		2		2
18/31 or 31		2		2
18/31R		7		7
18/31R or 31R		9		9
18R	2			2
27	3			3
29	1			1

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
29 or 37	1			1
30		5	2	7
30 or 37		2		2
31		15		15
31 or 31R		10		10
31R		22		22
31R group			20	20
32			1	1
33		19	5	24
36		3		3
37	2	16	4	22
38		10	2	12
43		2		2
44		1		1
45		20	6	26
54			1	1
67		1		1
72			2	2
79		2	1	3
79R		1		1
beaker		2	4	6
beaker, flagon or cantharos			1	1
Curle 15		1		1
enclosed			1	1
ind	3	71	22	96

### Kilngarth Field 1974

The total collection was composed of 175 sherds, representing a maximum of 137 vessels. In this sample, there were no S.G sherds; the C.G. vessels formed 84% and the E.G. vessels 16% (consisting largely of late second- or third-century Rheinzabern origin). The scarcity of early forms is apparent on Table 1: there was, for instance, a total absence of the cup form 27, in contrast with the large number of Dr. 33s, while the late form Dr. 31R and the mortaria were particularly well represented. For such sites as Holme House 1971-2, it was suggested that a surge of activity in the late-second century was followed by continuity of occupation into the third century. This may be suggested again in the Kilngarth Field collection on the basis of the large proportion of late C.G. specimens and the high percentage of late second to third-century E.G. wares from Rheinzabern and Trier.

Excluding vessels of indeterminate form (which here comprised 24% of the whole), there was an unusually low proportion of moulded bowls, at 12%, and indeed there were as many bowls of form 30 as the usually predominant form 37. In all, there were six potters' stamps: of the five instances on plainware, one was a rosette-stamp (No. 6) and one was by an 'illiterate' C.G. potter (No. 11), while two C.G. stamps (Nos. 13 and 15) and one E.G. stamp (No. 1) were attributable to specific potters. Amongst the decorated vessels four styles were identifiable: Divixtus (No. 4), Paternus v (ovolo Rogers B105), lullinus and Cobnertus (No. 9). The latter, a Dr. 30, was stamped intra-decoratively by Cobnertus iv, a potter working at Rheinzabern in the Antonine period. There was also one mortarium with decoration *en barbotine* (No.7).

Despite the condition of many of the sherds, 23 vessels (mostly of the late-second century) showed definite signs of wear in use or re-use; these included at least two and possibly four counters (including Nos. 2 and 8), a spindle-whorl (No. 10) and three vessels with scoured interiors (nos. 3, 5, 12) included one cup base that may have been re-used inverted. There was no evidence of repair-work. The total number of burnt sherds recorded in this collection formed no more than 8%.

**TABLE of forms by fabric (max nos)**

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18/31 or 18/31R		1		1
18/31R		2		2
18/31R or 31R		5		5
30		5	1	6
30 or 37		1		1
31		8		8
31 or 31R		3		3
31R		10		10
31R group			4	4
32			1	1
33		24	1	25
36		6		6
37		6	1	7
38		5		5
43		1		1
43 or 45			1	1
44		2		2
45		12		12

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
46		3		3
79		1		1
beaker			1	1
Curle 15		1		1
Curle 23		1		1
ind		18	12	30

### Northern Nurseries 1975 – 1979

The total number of sherds recovered from excavations on the site between 1975 and 1979 was 470, representing a maximum of 277 vessels. Of these, the C.G. vessels formed 82%, and the E.G. vessels 18% (all from Rheinzabern and Trier).

The absence of early material (even amongst the E.G. wares) is particularly marked, there being no samian of first-century date at all and, indeed, only three items that needed to be dated within the first half of the second century (including a fragment of Trajanic Lezoux ware). This is borne out by examination of the forms: the earlier forms of dish (Dr. 18/31 group) and cup (Dr. 27) are clearly missing, while the later forms of dish (Dr. 31, 31R) and cup (Dr. 33) are represented in large numbers. The collection indicates a sudden surge of activity in the late second century, particularly after c. A.D. 170; this is supported by the large numbers of the rouletted deep dishes of form Dr. 31R, and the mortaria forms 43 and 45, together with the very high percentage of late E.G. wares noted above. The amount of this E.G. samian from the later centres of production at Rheinzabern and Trier, here dated to the late second- to third-century range, reflects increased activity in the third century in the vicinity of the Northern Nurseries site. Forty vessels of later second- or third-century date showed clear signs of considerable wear in use or re-use: there were at least three graffiti (Nos. 11, 18, 30) and four repairs (including Nos. 6, 8 and 21). One piece had been re-worked as a spindle-whorl (No. 12); at least two pieces had been re-used, apparently in an inverted position (Nos. 4, 20, 22, 23). Six vessels displayed a complete profile (Nos. 13, 21, 24, 25, 27, and 30), of which four were recovered from context (15) = 3915; all were manufactured after c. A.D. 160 and showing signs of considerable wear and indeed one (No. 21) had been extensively repaired - probably in the third century. The large portion surviving from each vessel may well indicate use and breakage actually on the site. This may have occurred in the third century; No. 21 could conceivably have survived in its repaired state into the fourth century. Three further vessels of late second- or third century date (Nos. 3, 29, 34) were represented by a large number of sherds: two of these vessels again were represented by large pieces in context (15) = 3915.

The proportion of moulded bowls in the collection is rather low at 14%. This may reflect 'lower-status' nature of occupation at this outlying civilian settlement, if it is not simply an accident of survival. In all, eleven stamped vessels, all plainware, were attributable to the same number of potters. Nine were by mid- to late-Antonine C.G. potters (Nos. 2, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 27, 30, 31) and contemporarily, two were from Rheinzabern (Nos. 23, 26). Amongst the remaining plain ware, two fragments represented vessels of unusual forms



(Nos. 32, 33); such handled platters and skillets are rarely found in Roman Britain and must have answered a specific need on this site. Of the decorated vessels, only four bowls were firmly attributed to specific potters: two to the Lezoux potter, Servus iv (Nos. 1, 7) and two to the probably contemporary Rheinzabern potter, Comitialis (Nos. 3, 29). Amongst the remainder, two vessels bore 'cut-glass' decoration: one a beaker (No 19) and one, unusually, a mortarium (No. 17). Another beaker (No 34) was decorated *en barbotine* and there was one C.G. mortarium with an *appliqué* lion-head (No. 14).

The total number of burnt sherds noted in this collection formed 9% of the total.

**TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos) from each Northern Nursery site**

Site	Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Northern Nursery A	18/31R or 31R		2		2
Northern Nursery A	30		1		1
Northern Nursery A	30 or 37		1		1
Northern Nursery A	31		8		8
Northern Nursery A	31 or 31R		3		3
Northern Nursery A	31R		14		14
Northern Nursery A	31R group			14	14
Northern Nursery A	33		13		13
Northern Nursery A	36		1		1
Northern Nursery A	37		15	7	22
Northern Nursery A	38		5		5
Northern Nursery A	43		1	1	2
Northern Nursery A	44		3		3
Northern Nursery A	45		13	1	14
Northern Nursery A	46		2		2
Northern Nursery A	72		2		2
Northern Nursery A	79		5	1	6
Northern Nursery A	enclosed			1	1
Northern Nursery A	ind		15	8	23
Northern Nursery A	Tg		1		1
Northern Nursery B	31R		2		2
Northern Nursery B	31R group			1	1
Northern Nursery B	33		3		3
Northern Nursery B	37		1		1
Northern Nursery B	ind		1		1
Northern Nursery C	18/31R or 31R		3		3

Site	Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Northern Nursery C	30			1	1
Northern Nursery C	31		5		5
Northern Nursery C	31R		22		22
Northern Nursery C	31R group			3	3
Northern Nursery C	32			1	1
Northern Nursery C	33		15	1	16
Northern Nursery C	35		1		1
Northern Nursery C	36		8		8
Northern Nursery C	37		5		5
Northern Nursery C	38		3		3
Northern Nursery C	39		1		1
Northern Nursery C	43		1		1
Northern Nursery C	44		1		1
Northern Nursery C	45		10		10
Northern Nursery C	46		2		2
Northern Nursery C	54			1	1
Northern Nursery C	79		2	1	3
Northern Nursery C	80		1		1
Northern Nursery C	beaker			3	3
Northern Nursery C	Curle 15			1	1
Northern Nursery C	dish			1	1
Northern Nursery C	enclosed			1	1
Northern Nursery C	ind		34	2	36
Northern Nursery C	patera		1		1