

Digital Chapter 7 : The Villa

Part 2 : Summaries of the samian pottery

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(file name : Ch7SamianSum)

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Chapter 7: The Holme House Villa

Part II: Summary of the samian pottery

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The total collection of 74 vessels (maximum) was composed of 112 sherds, including the three C.G. vessels from the Well 1980 (Nos 14-16). The S.G. vessels represented as much as 37% of the total, the C.G. vessels formed 62% and there was only one apparently E.G. vessel (No. 11) that must have been produced in the later-second or conceivably the early third century.

In terms of date of manufacture, the samian recovered from this site must reflect a surge of activity on the site in the late first century continuing into the early Trajanic period. This was followed perhaps by a fairly steady occupation through the second century into the late Antonine period. Little, if any, of the material needs be given a date of manufacture after c. A.D. 180; the one possibly E.G. piece is not closely datable, while the late forms Dr. 45 and 31R are represented by only one and two vessels respectively. It is significant that there are fewer examples of form 31R (produced after c 160) than there are of its predecessor, form 18/31R. One stamped example of form 31R (No 3) had seen extensive wear in use; the stamp was dated to the mid- to late-Antonine period, but the developed form may suggest manufacture after c. 170. Two potters' stamps in the assemblage were given dates c. 140-170 and 150-180 (nos 7, 10); neither needs therefore to have originated after the 160s, but one cup survived in complete profile and had seen wear in use. (Another of this potter's dies was found in Tofts Field 1974, No. 166). The single instance of mortarium form 45 could not have been produced before c 170 and it had seen considerable life in use before deposition. Indeed, of eight vessels (8% of the collection) that display evidence of wear in use, two must be dated to the later second century (Nos 3-4), and one of these is likely to have seen renewed life, inverted, in a secondary function after breakage.

The proportion of moulded vessels in this collection when indeterminate sherds are discounted, reached 30%, a very high proportion compared with many of the Piercebridge sites, albeit in a small sample. Of the moulded vessels, attribution to the styles of specific C.G. potters could be attempted for only two bowls (Nos. 8 and 13, Cinnamus and Drusus ii respectively); these were dated c. 135-160 and 125-145 respectively. The Cinnamus bowl, in the style of his early group of associates, had survived in complete profile, showing little sign of use. A comparatively large number of stamps (all C.G.) survived amongst the plain ware: of the five extant, two were mere fragments (Nos. 9, 12) of which No. 12 was Hadrianic or early-Antonine and No. 9 was Antonine in origin; two (Nos. 7, 10) were early- to mid-Antonine, and one (No. 3) was probably mid- to late-Antonine.

There was no evidence of repairs or any re-working of the material, but this is admittedly a small sample.

The collection consisted largely of small battered fragments of rubbish, with the exception notably of four vessels, Nos. 7-9 and 14: of these Nos. 7 and 8 were recovered almost complete from the same context V13 (30). No more than 10% of the sherds showed definite evidence of burning - a relatively low proportion in comparison with various other areas of excavation at Piercebridge.

TABLE of forms by fabric (maximum nos), HH 1969-70 and 1980

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18	3			3
18/31		4		4
18/31 or 31		2		2
18/31R	1	3		4
27	1			1
30	1	1		2
30 or 37		1		1
31		5		5
31 or 31R		1		1
31R		2		2
33	5	9		14
37	6	6		12
37 or 38		1		1
40			1	1
42		1		1
67	1			1
Curle 11	1			1
Bowl or mortarium		1		1
Ind	8	9		17

Site	Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
Holme House Villa 80 well	18/31R		1		1
Holme House Villa 80 well	33		1		1
Holme House Villa 80 well	37		1		1