

## **Assessment of the Pottery from the Marriott Hotel, Tadcaster Road, York (YMH07)**

*Alan Vince, Ian Rowlandson with Barbara Precious and Kate Steane*

An archaeological watching brief carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd at the Marriott Hotel, Tadcaster Road, York, produced a small quantity of pottery which was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment. The finds include three decorated Samian ware vessels which are the subject of a specialist report by Ian Rowlandson with Barbara Precious.

### Description

#### **Pottery**

A total of 57 sherds of pottery was recovered. These represent no more than 28 vessels and weigh in total 725 gm.

#### Roman

Fifty-one sherds of pottery could be dated to the Roman period. These represent no more than 22 vessels and weigh 575 gm. All were of types which are described by Monaghan (Monaghan 1997) and the codes used are listed in Appendix 1. The pottery is a mixture of locally-produced wares (Ebor 1 ware, Ebor white ware, local mortaria, Dales-type greyware), an unsourced whiteware sherd (YATP00), regional imports such as Nene Valley colour-coated ware, and continental imports such as Dressel 20 amphora and Samian ware.

The range of forms present in the assemblage is limited to common types such as storage/cooking vessels (jars), drinking vessels (beakers), tableware (bowls), a flagon, a mortarium and an amphora.

The collection includes no types which are definitely earlier in date than the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century and no types which need be later than the mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century and therefore is probably a collection of the later 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.

*The Decorated Samian by Ian Rowlandson with Barbara Precious*

*The Samian ware has been recorded according to the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) guidelines, using codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU)*

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW  
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*and correlated with the codes established by Jason Monaghan for the city of York (Monaghan 1997). The moulded decoration is described within the text. The full database in Appendix 2.*

Three decorated Samian vessels (10 sherds, weighing 121g) were presented for report by the authors. All the sherds were from context 1006 which was attributed to Roman pottery and glass retrieved from a spoil heap following excavation through ditch F4. An archive of the sherds was made with a brief discussion of the decoration presented in text below. Rubbings of the sherds are presented with this report at a scale of 1:1, record photos of the vessels taken by the author are also provided.

### Central Gaulish Samian (SAMCG=CGS)

1 Form 30, Central Gaulish (Lezoux), with DO(V)ECCVS stamp (S&S Pl.150.38-39). The square double bordered ovolo, set beneath three grooves, is one of the potter's less common ovolos (S&S Fig.40.2) also known from a 37 bowl found at Wellington Row, York (Dickinson 1998, Fig.375, 3420). The repeated panels contain hare sitting to the left (O.2117) and hare sitting to the right (O.2117) twice. Neither of these hares is listed by Oswald as being used by the potter but the design also contains his leaf (S&S Fig. 44.27) within a festoon (twice) and his leaf (S&S Fig. 44.32) within a clumsily finished double grooved medallion. The bowl is in the distinctive high crisp relief with large beaded borders and packed panel content typical of the potter. The medallion also appears to have been squeezed into the panel. The sherd is in good condition with no evidence of wear. (8 sherds, 7 joining, 67g). The date range given by Stanfield and Simpson for the potter is from AD150-190.



*Figure 1*



*Figure 2*

**2** Form 30, Central Gaulish (Lezoux), in the style of PATERNVS of Lezoux. The ovolo is a slightly squared, double-bordered ovolo with a straight plain tongue ending in a swollen tip with a central hole (S&S Fig 30.1). Two panthers in a double medallion, with panther springing to the right (O. 1518) and panther crouching to left (O.1566), are both known to have been used by the potter on form 37 bowls. The rosette (S&S Fig. 30.1) and the neat wavy line boarder (S&S border No. 1, Pl 104.4) are also used by the potter. The sherd is broken just below the rim and has slight finger marks internally. The sherd is in good condition with no signs of ware evident (1 sherd, 20g). The date range given for the potter by Stanfield and Simpson is AD150- 190.



*Figure 3*



*Figure 4*

**3** Form 37, Central Gaul, Rim and Ovolo fragment. The ovolo is short and squat, the closest parallel found by the authors is that of IANVARIS II (S&S Fig 34.2, p1119). Stanfield and Simpson also suggest mould makers AVITVS and VEGETVS ( S&S Pl. 63. 12 &14) but these further examples lack the broad spacing of this example. The identification of the potter is therefore not secure, but an Antonine date would fit with the broad plain band between rim and ovolo (Webster 1996, Fig. 70). A date of 150-180 is given for the potter IANVARIS (S&S p214).

The fabric does not have the mixed appearance of the typical Lezoux fabric, although it is granular in texture with noticeable large, irregular quartz inclusions ( $A < 1.2\text{mm}$ ). Although the fabric and slip is described as red in colour (2.5YR 5/8 and 2.5YR 4/6 respectively – Munsell 1969), it has a more orange appearance than Nos 1 and 2, above. The clay is poorly mixed with moderate amounts of rounded and elongated chalk inclusions (01 – 0.5mm), sparse red, iron ore (R, 01.-0.2mm) and moderate amounts of mica. The rubbing is presented below (1Sherd, 34g).

The sherd is noticeably worn on the inside of the rim and on the ovolo in contrast to the relatively good condition of the rest of the surfaces. Studies into wear patterns on Samian vessels are still in their infancy but Willis encountered few examples of wear on form 37 bowls during his Samian survey project finding basal wear on cup forms, due to stirring, or plain bowls such as the 38, perhaps from grinding (Willis 2005:8.7). It was noted that the surfaces of most Samian vessels were resilient to cutting, and wear is likely to have been caused by repeated contact with a hard, probably metal object. The wear shown on this 37 could perhaps have been caused by a metal ladle coming in contact with the inside of the rim when serving wine or resting against the rim when not in use. This sherd offers a good addition to the developing study of Samian use.



*Figure 5*



*Figure 6*

## Discussion

Monahan noted that Hadrianic and early Antonine Samian is only found in modest quantities on most sites, but Samian dating to after 160 is abundant at York (1998, 949). This is largely to do with the greatest period of Samian supply to the city being in the later second to third century, probably corresponding to one its most prosperous periods (Willis 2005). This small group of decorated Samian vessels represents this high point in Samian supply to York. The date of the deposit, on the basis of the decorated Samian alone, ought to be considered to be Antonine or later as vessels were often curated for some time before their deposition.

Vessels **1** and **2** are interesting in that they are both of the more unusual decorated bowl form 30 and that in colour of gloss and the use of medallion decoration schemes the two vessels could have formed a pair. Whilst it is difficult on the basis of such a small assemblage from a watching brief to be deemed to be a 'structured deposit' these three decorated Samian vessels certainly represent a significant deposit. The relative rarity of stamped bowls of form 30 makes vessel **1** an important find with vessel **2** also of significance as a good example of a decorative scheme. Vessel **3** provides an interesting example of how Samian may have been used in York.

## Abbreviations

**O.**= Oswald, F., 1936-7 *Index of Figure-Types on Terra Sigillata ('Samian Ware')*, University Press of Liverpool.

**O&P**= Oswald, F. and Pryce T.D., 1920 *An Introduction to the Study of Terra Sigillata*, Longmans, London.

**S&S**= Stanfield, J.A. and Simpson, G., 1958 *Central Gaulish Potters*, Oxford University Press, London.

## Late Medieval

Two sherds of Humberware were recovered. This ware dates to the later medieval and early post-medieval period and these particular sherds have no typological features which would allow a closer date.

## Early Modern

Three sherds of later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date were recovered. These consist of a sherd of Creamware plate; a London stoneware vessel and a Nottingham stoneware bowl. All three are common types in York.

## Assessment

The pottery comes from 5 contexts. The *termini post quem* for these assemblages is as follows:

1004 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century

1006 – late 2<sup>nd</sup> century

1009 – late medieval

1010 – late 2<sup>nd</sup> century

1013 – late 1<sup>st</sup> century

It should be noted, however, that the actual deposition date might be considerably later than the *terminus post quem*.

## Further Work

No further work is recommended on this collection

## Retention

All of the pottery was recovered from stratified deposits and therefore should be retained for future re-examination.



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*Appendix 1*

<b>cname</b>	<b>full name</b>	<b>period</b>	<b>earliest date</b>	<b>latest date</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Vessels</b>	<b>Wt(gm)</b>
CREA	Creamware	emod	1765	1830	1	1	13
HUM	Humberware	lmed	1250	1500	2	2	49
LONS	London Stoneware	pmed	1670	1800	1	1	43
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	pmed	1690	1900	1	1	9
PMTIL	Post-medieval ceramic building material	pmed	1550	2000	1	1	36
SAMCG	Central Gaulish Samian Ware	rom	100	200	10	3	121
YATAP25	DR20	rom	40	400	1	1	75
YATC01	NVCC	rom	40	400	1	1	2
YATE01	Ebor 1	rom	40	400	11	4	60
YATG01	Dales-type greyware	rom	40	400	18	10	271
YATM03	Eboracum and local mortaria	rom	40	400	2	1	28
YATP00	White	rom	40	400	7	1	13
YATW01	Ebor white	rom	40	400	1	1	5

*Appendix 2*

REFNO	Context	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use	DN ID
2	1004	POTTERY	CREA	MOULDED RIM DEC	PLATE	R	1	1	13			
2	1004	POTTERY	LONS	FLATTENED ROD HANDLE	JUG/DJ	H	1	1	43			
2	1004	POTTERY	NOTS		BOWL	BS	1	1	9			
3	1006	POTTERY	PMTIL		PANT	BS	1	1	36			
3	1006	POTTERY	SAMCG	RIM; OVLO; USE WEAR FROM LADLE?	37	BS	1	1	34	ABBR	WEAR INT RIM	RUB3; PHOTO 3
3	1006	POTTERY	SAMCG	NR RIM; OVOLO; PANTHER; MEDALION	30	BS	1	1	20			RUB2; PHOTO2
3	1006	POTTERY	SAMCG	RIM; OVOLO; HARE; LEAF; MEDALION; FESTOON; STAMP DOVCCI? RET; 7 JOIN 1 OVLO MATCH	30	BS	8	1	67			RUB1; PHOTO1

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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3	1006	POTTERY	YATE01		BOWL	R	1	1	14	SOOTED UNDER RIM
3	1006	POTTERY	YATE01		JAR	BS	8	1	38	
3	1006	POTTERY	YATE01	ROUNDED RIM, DEVOLVED CORNICE M2	BEAKER	R	1	1	7	
3	1006	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	B	1	1	175	
3	1006	POTTERY	YATG01	GROOVES EXT	JAR	BS	1	1	1	
3	1006	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	BS	1	1	13	
3	1006	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	BS	2	2	8	SOOTED EXT; WHITE DEP INT
3	1006	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	BS	9	1	34	SOOTED EXT
3	1006	POTTERY	YATM03		MORT	BS	2	1	28	
3	1006	POTTERY	YATP00		FLAGON	BS	7	1	13	FRESH BREAKS
3	1006	POTTERY	ZDATE	ANT DEPOSIT		BS				
3	1006	POTTERY	ZZZ	POSS STRUCTURED DEPOSIT? SMALL GROUP; OTHER POT?		BS				
4	1009	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	B	1	1	46	
4	1009	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	BS	1	1	3	

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5	1010	POTTERY	YATC01	BARBOTINE DEC	BEAKER	BS	1	1	2	
5	1010	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	BS	1	1	12	SOOTED EXT
5	1010	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	BS	1	1	11	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
5	1010	POTTERY	YATG01		JAR	BS	1	1	3	
6	1013	POTTERY	YATAP25		AMPH	BS	1	1	75	
6	1013	POTTERY	YATE01		JAR	BS	1	1	1	ABRA
6	1013	POTTERY	YATG01	ROUNDED INTO A GAMING COUNTER	JAR	BS	1	1	14	
6	1013	POTTERY	YATW01		JAR/FLAGON	BS	1	1	5	