

Death, Burial and Identity_Samian ware

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Bainesse Cemetery Area (F163C, F163E &159A)

Catalogue of pottery by grave

Inhumations F159A

Inhumation 13420, (13421), top fill over cist: two flakes of Central Gaulish samian from Lezoux (2g), AD120-200

Inhumation 13435, (13436), grave fill: four fragments of samian come from this grave fill ranging from the Trajanic period to the later 2nd c. AD to mid-3rd c. AD, the latest is a burnt East Gaulish dish fragment.

Inhumation 13494, (13495), possible grave fill 172: one base fragment from a Central Gaulish dish Dr.31 (16g), AD140-200

Inhumations F163C

Burial 11, (12290), primary fill of grave 12289: one Central Gaulish flake dated AD120-200

Burial 17, (13154), backfill of grave 13153: a Dr.18/31 dish fragment (5g) with a stamp by Lezoux potter *Paternus* iii dated AD130-160 (Hartley, Dickinson 2011, 53)

Burial 36, (12534), backfill of grave 12533, SF705: seven joining sherds making up a complete cup form Dr.46 from Lezoux (97g, RE=100%), internal surface worn from use, AD120-200, DRAW

Burial 156, (12607), backfill of grave 12605, sample AA: a flake of Central Gaulish samian from Lezoux, AD120-200

Burial 161, (12864), backfill of grave 12865, SF11217, a complete cup form Dr.33 from Lezoux in Central Gaul (145g, RE=100%) with a complete but illiterate stamp. DRAW

Burial 183, (12717), backfill of grave 12715: a body sherd from a Central Gaulish dish form Dr.36 (9g), AD120-200

Burial 184, (12492), coffin fill in grave 12490, sample AA: one South Gaulish flake (0.1g), AD45-100

Burial 194, (12428), top fill of coffin in grave 12373: a flake of Central Gaulish samian from Lezoux, AD120-200

F163C, other features

A single sherd of samian ware was recovered from group ditch **12500**, a dish Dr.18/31 from Les Martres-de-Veyre dated AD100-120 (tertiary fill of ring ditch 12323). It is small and un-burnt so unlikely to have been placed on the pyre.

Inhumations F163E

Burial 13586, (13593), coffin fill from around SK13592, sample AA: a flake of Central Gaulish samian from Lezoux, AD120-200

Samian and funerary rites at Bainesse (F159A, F163C and F163E)

Only two samian vessels were recovered as ancillary vessels, both with inhumations in F163C (burials 36 and 161). The vessels are Central Gaulish cups showing signs of use, especially the one recovered from grave 36. Both vessels were clearly old and much valued when deposited.

The use of samian vessels as grave goods with inhumations was a relatively rare occurrence in Britain (Willis 2005, 9.2; Cool and Leary 2012). While the explanation is partly chronological since samian ware had all but ceased to be imported when inhumation became the most current practice, a few examples of “old” samian vessels used as grave goods with inhumations are recorded for Britain (Wallace 2006, 262-3). In the region two examples are known from York, both flanged bowls showing extensive sign of wear and likely to have been old when deposited: one from Trentholme Drive cemetery (Simpson and Birley 1968, fig.17, no.5 with skeleton no.38) and one from Hungate (Monteil 2014, grave set 47757). The two vessels from Bainesse cemetery provide welcome additional examples of this relatively rare practice.

Samian vessels are often deliberately “mutilated” or altered before being placed in graves (Willis 2005, Biddulph 2006, Cool and Leary 2012) but here at Bainesse neither cup presents evidence of such practice.

None of the samian recovered from the grave fills at F163C is burnt and only one sherd shows evidence of burning at F159A (grave 13435). There is a little burnt samian material from the cemetery area at F163C though it is difficult to relate it to the cremation cemetery since out of four vessels showing signs of burning, two come from the subsoil (4959) and one from cleaning of the top fill of enclosure ditch 12286/12520. The last one was recovered from the lower middle fill of ditch 4965 and is a decorated bowl form Dr.37 from Les Martres-de-Veyre by Trajanic potter X-2. The bowl also presents evidence of repair. The form was rarely used as a pyre good (Cool and Leary 2012, 308) and it is likely to be the result of domestic activities.

Chronology

The samian material recovered from F163C dates from the Flavian period to the mid-2nd c. AD. Samian types more typical of the mid to late Antonine period (AD150-200) and East Gaulish vessels are completely absent. The samian recovered from the grave fills at F159 adds up to a smaller assemblage but includes later types than F163C and no South Gaulish vessels.

Burials at *Cataractonium* (F172-179)

Catalogue of samian ware by grave

F172

Cremation 6723, (6724), fill of pit 6723: two flakes of East Gaulish samian ware, probably from Rheinabern (2g). AD150-250

Cremation 6729, (6730), fill of pit 6729, sample AA: one flake of East Gaulish samian ware, too small to assign to a specific industry. AD150-250

Cremation 6785, (6786), fill of pit 6785: one Central Gaulish body sherd (2g), AD120-200

Cremation 6790, (6791), upper fill of pit 6790, sample AG: three flakes from an East Gaulish cup form Dr.33, possibly Blickweiler. AD150-250

F176FB

Burial 21162, (21150), deposit containing neonate skeleton (21155), sample AA: one East Gaulish body sherd (8g). AD150-250

F177

Burial 20571, (20572), fill of grave 20571: one Central Gaulish body sherd (1g), AD120-200

Burial 20616, (20613), fill of grave 20616, sample AC, one Central Gaulish flake (0.1g), AD120-200

Burial 20812, (20814), fill of grave 20812: one Central Gaulish body sherd (1g), AD120-200 and one South Gaulish flake (0,1g) from sample AD, AD45-100

F178

Burial 20159, (20158), lower fill of grave 20159: An East Gaulish flake broadly dated AD150-250, a body sherd from a Central Gaulish flanged bowl Dr.38 an Antonine form and a Central Gaulish flake from sample AA.

Burial 20430, (20431), fill of grave 20340: eight fragments were recovered from this fill (including two flakes from sample AA), they add up to only 6g and comprise two sherds of 1st c. AD South Gaulish samian ware including two burnt body sherds alongside five Central Gaulish sherds dating to AD120-200.

Burial 20417, (20415), fill of grave 20417: a base fragment from a dish form Dr.31 (4g) with a partial stamp by Central Gaulish potter *M. Dous* dated AD160-200 (uncertain 1, Hartley, Dickinson 2008, 321) and the rim of a Lezoux dish form Wa.79 (9g, RE=5%) dated AD160-200.

Burial 20474

(20429), upper fill of grave 20474:

five fragments of samian ware were recovered from the upper fill, the earliest is a South Gaulish cup form Dr.27 (AD45-100), the rest is Central Gaulish from Lezoux and 2nd c. AD: an Hadrianic cup form Dr.27, two decorated bowls Dr.37 (AD120-200) and a flake.

(20479), fill of grave 20474:

Two fragments were recovered from fill (20479), a Central Gaulish flake and a small body sherd from a decorated bowl form Dr.37 with a motif pointing to the work of Antonine potters *Laxtucissa* and *Paternus* v (AD150-185).

Burial 20476, (20478), fill of grave 20476: one plain sherd and three decorated bowls fragments from Lezoux in Central Gaul were recovered from the fill of grave 20476. The decorated pieces are small (14g in total) and difficult to assign to specific potters. The overall style of those pieces is Antonine.

Burial 20532, (20533), fill of grave 20532: nine fragments of samian ware adding up to 6g were recovered from the fill of grave 20532. Four of those are flakes from samples AB, AC and AE. The samian includes a little 1st c. AD probably Flavian material, two flakes and a decorated bowl form Dr.37. The rest is Central Gaulish and relatively un-diagnostic (AD120-200).

Burial 20601, (20602): all of the samian ware comes from samples (AA x 3 flakes, AC x 1 flake). It is mixed and includes a fragment from La Graufesenque in South Gaul probably Flavian, one from the Trajanic industry of Les Martres-de-Veyre and two from Lezoux in Central Gaul (AD120-200).

Burial 20621, (20622): two dishes were recovered from this burial, a Flavian South Gaulish form Dr.18/31 (RE=3%) and an Hadrianic Lezoux Dr.18/31 (RE=3%).

Burial 20662, (20663): a flake of Central Gaulish samian ware comes from this fill, it cannot be dated more precisely than AD120-200.

Chronology

The samian assemblage recovered from burial fills at *Cataractonium* includes a mixed range of fabrics and forms dating from the Flavian period to the 3rd c. AD.

With an average weight of 1.8g the samian ware shows little indication that it comes from vessels involved in grave side rituals, they are likely re-deposited domestic material.

Scotch Corner (F258) **Catalogue of pottery by grave**

Burial 15217, (15218): two South Gaulish vessels are represented, a dish form Dr.18 (AD45-90) and three flakes from a cup form Dr.27 (AD45-100).

Burial 15410, (15411): the rim of a South Gaulish dish form Dr.18 (RE=3%) is the only samian from fill 15411, it cannot be dated more precisely than AD45-90.

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