

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 69/86

AMPHORAE FROM THE 1984 EXCAVATIONS
AT STAPLE GARDENS, WINCHESTER.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Identification of a group of amphorae from Staple Gardens, Winchester. These are Spanish olive-oil form Dressel 20, Dressel 2-4, Gallic types and some sherds of North African cylindrical amphorae.

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Dressel 20

Tr. 1 246-7938

" 234-7952

" 374-7951

" 303-7948

" 332-7947

" 502-7958

" 580-7954

" 502-7956

FPH 37 PPh 78 1014-7925

FPH 38 PPh 75 790-7924

FPH 38 PPh 75 1116-7937

FP30 PPh 60 1295-7751

FPH 36 PPh 61 1443-7844

FP 24 PPh 52 1422-7742

FPH 37 PPh 62 533-7843

FP 44 PPh 148 255-7741

FPH 37 PPh 78 1013-7927 Rim sherd

All the above material except the rim sherd is in the form of featureless bodysherds of the Dressel 20 form. This is the most common amphora type imported into Roman Britain, though it had started to arrive in small numbers during the

late Iron Age (Williams and Peacock, 1983). Dressel 20 amphorae were made in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba, and carried olive-oil (Ponsich, 1974; 1979). This type of amphora has a wide date-range, and with some typological variation was in use at least up to the late third century A.D. (Zevi, 1967). There is only one featured sherd amongst the Dressel 20 material from Staple Gardens, a rim sherd of the second half of the first century A.D. (FPH 37 PPh 78 1013-7927 - Martin-Kilcher, 1983, no. 15).

Gallic

FP 30 PPh 72 1288-7745

FPH 35 PPh 60 1249-6438

FP 24 PPh 52 1414-7744

Three featureless bodysherds which probably belong to the Pélisset 47 flat-bottomed wine amphora form that was predominantly made in southern France, more particularly around the mouth of the Rhône in Languedoc, where a growing number of kilns have been discovered in recent years (Laubenheimer, 1985). This amphora form had a relatively long life from about the middle of the first century A.D. to at least the early fourth century A.D. (Panella, 1973; Laubenheimer, 1985). In Britain, Pélisset 47 does not appear to be present in pre-Boudiccan levels (Peacock, 1978).

? Dressel 2-4

Tr. 1 375-7944

Featureless bodysherd which might possibly belong to a Dressel 2-4 amphora. This form usually carried wine, dates from the latter part of the first century B.C. to the mid second century A.D., and was made at a variety of places (Peacock and Williams, 1986).

North African

Tr. 1 972-7945

FPH 35 PPh 60 1243-7846

Two featureless bodysherds which belong to cylindrical amphorae of North African origin. This form probably started arriving in Britain from about the mid second century A.D. and importation may have continued into the fifth century (Peacock and Williams, 1986). These vessels are generally thought to have carried olive-oil, though fish-products may also have been carried to some extent (Beltrán, 1978).

Undesignated

Tr. 1 502-7957

" 161-7942

" 235-7940

" 374-7950

" 280-7939

" 1030-7941 single rod handle

FPH 47 PPh 80 1132-7848

FPH 37 PPh 62 897-7850

Non Amphorae

Tr. 1 594-7762

" 374-7949

" 299-7943

" 288-7946 possible mortarium

" 1083-7955

" 580-7953

FPH 26 PPh 14 1484-4267 mortarium
FPH 37 PPh 78 625-7852 ? tile
FP 30 PPh 72 1288-7743

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