
Report on Amphora Stamps in the Collections

The present report includes all the Roman amphora stamps from Winchester excavations up to 1961 and also stray finds. All of these stamps, except one, belong to Dressel 20. That type of amphora was produced along the Guadalquivir Valley (South Spain) in at least 70 different kiln centres (1). It was used to carry olive oil by ship to the whole Western Roman Empire (2). A high proportion of those amphorae had a stamp on the handle, and some of them carried painted inscriptions (tituli picti), which were fiscal controls (3).

The descriptions of the stamps are arranged in alphabetical order according to the Latin nomen. The following references are included:

Bosnor G. Bosnor (1931)
Callender M.H. Callender (1965)
CIL H. Dressel (1899)
Chic G. Chic (1985)

***

1. MASFGA (Ref.MBS53 561)
New Stamp or variant.

2. SFE (Ref.acc.no.1437)
Callender 1817. Remesal 102.

3. SFE (Ref.SLH57 L67a)

ST. S,(F?)E(?)

4. LIVNIMELISSIP (Ref.Hyde Abbey Motor Works)
Produced at Las Delicias
ST. (.)IVNI(?)M(?)E(?)SSIP(?)
Dating: Carpow AD c.209
London AD 160-190
Mt. Testaccio (Rome) 1st half 3rd Century AD

5. L. (Ref.MBS54 F14/3)
ST. L.

6. PNRFV (Ref.acc.no.2106)
CIL 2701. Callender 1280. Remesal 34.
Produced at La Catria.
ST. P(NR)F
Dating: Typological Flavian Trajanic

7. PASSERAR (Ref.BB59/13)
CIL 3084. Callender 1287. Ponsich II,228,236; 176,68.
Produced at Umbria de Moratalla and Almodovar del Río.
ST. PASSERAR
Dating: Typological Flavian Trajanic
Geneve 1st Century AD

8. P..VCC (Ref.acc.no.2105)
ST. (P?)V(C?)C

9. FIGILVMMSAV (Ref. MBS54)
It may have been produced at La Catria.
ST. F(I?)G(?)(L?)V(?)M(?)S(?)(?)M(?)(A?)V
Dating: Corbridge 3rd Century AD

10. FSCIMNIANO
(Ref.SMC59/V(22)F49/2)
CIL
F(?)S(C?)I(?)M(?)N(?)I(?)A(?)N(?)O
Dating: Mt. Testaccio Rome 3rd Century AD
London AD 160-190
Carpow AD c.209

11....CO (Ref.acc.no.1381.00.296)
ST (CO?)(?)

--------

page 8
There is also another stamp from a Gaulish amphora (4).

1. BIIV (Ref.acc.no.1381.00.291)
New Stamp
ST. Bi(l?)v(?)

General comments

Despite the fact that the sample of Dressel 20 stamps is very small, it can be compared to the overall picture of the pattern of distribution in Roman Britain. It seems that there were some differences in the 2nd half of the 2nd century AD and 3rd century AD. In Winchester, there are no stamps from the 2nd half of the second century AD, while there is a higher percentage of 3rd century AD stamps in relation to the overall province. However, it should be borne in mind that a sample of 12 stamps is too small to draw any further conclusions.

References in text:

(2) M.H.Callender (1965); S.Martin-Kilcher (1987)
(3) E.Rodriguez Almeida (1989)
(4) F.Laubenheimer (1985)

References:

G.CHIC GARCIA (1985) La Epigrafa Anforica de la Bética, Sevilla
F.LAUBENHEIMER (1985) La Production des Amphores en Gaule Narbonnaise, Paris
J.REMESAL RODRIGUEZ (1986) La Annona Militaris y la Exportacion de Aceite Bético a Germania, Madrid
E.RODRIGUEZ ALMEIDA (1989) Los Tituli Picti de las Anforas de la Bética, Madrid

http://www.ub.es/CEIPAC/ceipac.html