

# EXCAVATIONS AT MAGIOVINIUM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, 1978-80

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Section 9 of 11:

## THE DECORATED SAMIAN

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### EASY ON-LINE ACCESS TO FIGURES AND PLATES:

This report runs to a total of 137 printed pages, which makes it too large for publication on-line as a single digital file. The report has therefore been split into eleven separate sections. Each can be downloaded separately and saved locally.

The report contains 56 drawings ('figures') and 12 photographs ('plates'). For ease of access these have all been saved into a single file titled 'Magiovinium – figures and plates'. The reader should open (or download) this file when reading any of the report's 11 sections. Individual illustrations referenced in the text can then be found by searching for 'Figure XX' or 'Plate XX', where 'XX' is the number of the figure or plate you wish to view.

The full details for academic source references given in the text can be found in the 11<sup>th</sup> and last section of the report: 'A bibliography of Magiovinium'

Over 1000 samian sherds were recovered from the excavations of Site 17 alone. (This report does not include descriptions of samian found on Site 18. Identifications of samian in the burial groups appear on pp. 27-8). They have all been identified for form, date and kiln and the complete list appears in the site archive. Apart from a few exceptions most of the sherds were in horizons mixed with coarse pottery covering a wide date range, and perhaps dumped from the town. Decorated sherds of interest have been extracted and are described below. For comparative purposes the assemblage was divided into six groups and the percentages calculated; they are as follows:

	All sherds	%	Stamps	%
Pre-Flavian	67	6.3	4	8.2
Flavian	265	24.9	3	6.1
Trajanic	145	13.6	4	8.2
Hadrianic	92	8.6	5	10.2
Antonine	429	40.2	10	20.4
Late Antonine	68	6.4	23	46.9
	1066	100	49	100

*Descriptions*

- 17-224. Sherd 703. F.29. SG. The scroll in the upper zone is similar to ones used on bowls of MVRRANVS. There arc (wo which arc narrower, one from London (formerly Guildhall Museum: unpublished), the other from Colchester (Hull 1958. fig. 74.3). The four-pronged motif also occurs in bowls stamped by AQVITANVS, CELADVS, CRESTIO and PRIMVS (from the Cluzel 15 deposit: Haalebos 1979). The likely date for this piece is c.50-65.
- 17-1663. Sherd 38. F.29. SG. The tassel in the upper zone was used by MVRRANVS (Knorr 1952, Taf. 44C). The leaves occur on a CELADVS bowl from Topsham and the tassel is on bowls of CRESTIO. AQVITANVS. RVFINVS, FELIX i (Knorr 1919, Taf. 32A), and PASS(I)ENVVS (*ibid.*, Taf. 64H). The leaf-tips in the upper zone arc on a bowl of CRESTIO from Hitchin. With the exception of MVRRANVS, all the examples given are bowls stamped after moulding. The connections suggest a date c.50-65.
- 17-247, Sherd 668. F.37. CG. The ovolo (Rogers 1974, B31) and mask are on a bowl from Lancaster in the style of X-5 (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 67.8, where the mask is incompletely impressed). The use of an astragalus across a panel border is unusual, though not unparalleled, for him. The horseman is 0.245, c. 125-40.
- 17-965, Sherd 599. F.37. Ovolo Rogers B20 with festoon F76. Both of the motifs are associated with SECVNDINVS I Lezoux c. 125-45.
- 17-2123- Sherd 1705. F.37 in the style of SECVNDINVS I. His ovolo is Rogers B20, his fruit stand Q8, small compound stand Q78, beaded cup U57, leaf J91, leaf-wreath G2. The fabric is very similar to that of Les Martres-de-Veyre, c.125-45.
- 17-690. Sherds 361-4, 366, 370. F.37. Rogers ovolo B32 here used by Potter X6. The complete figures are a lion O.1566, a bear O.1595, a doe O.1815, a stag O.1822 P

*Continued on the following page...*

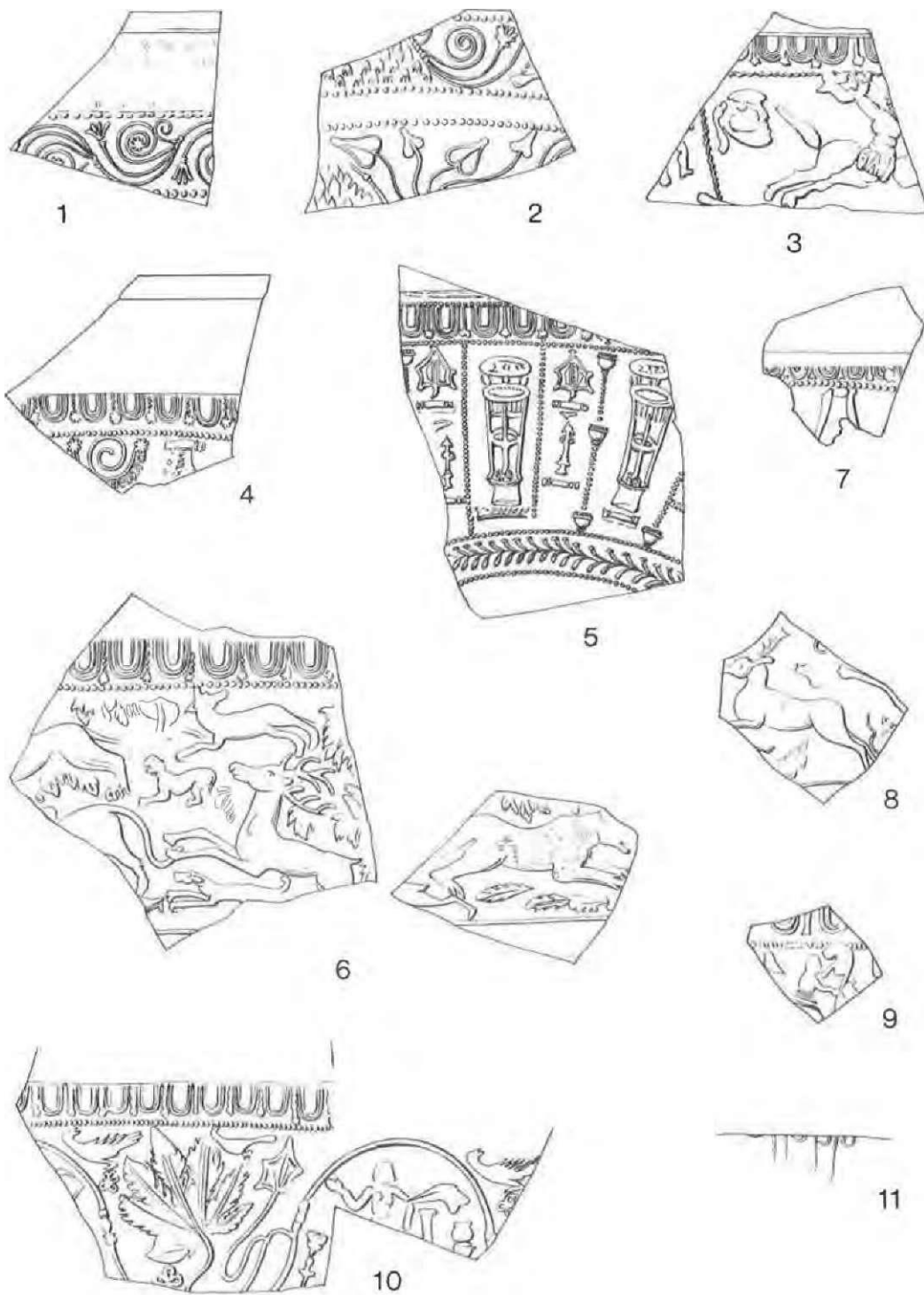


Fig. 52. The decorated samian; Nos. 1–11. Scale 2:3.

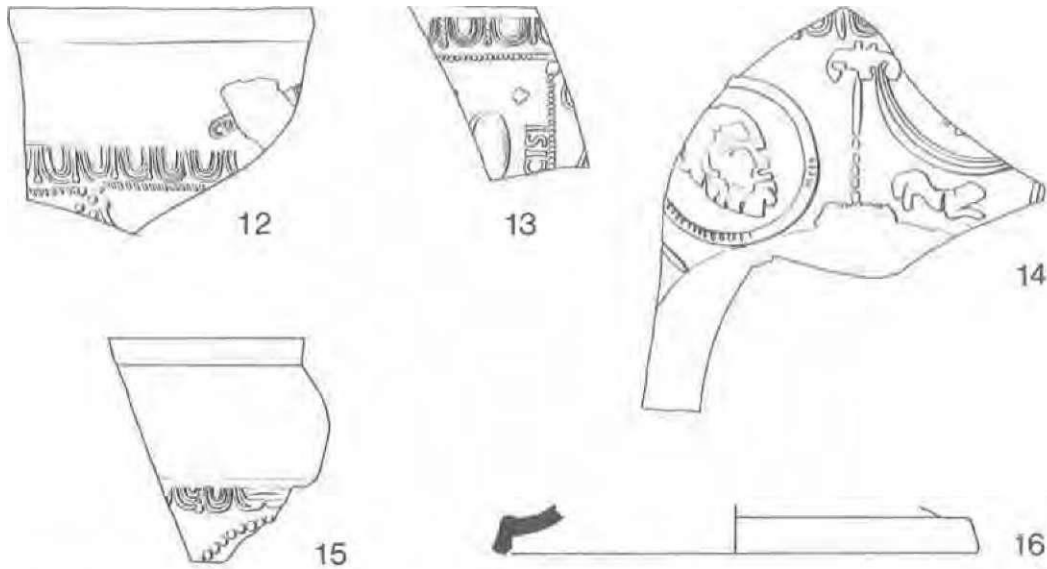


Fig. 53. The decorated samian; Nos. 12–16. Scale 2:3.

- (type) and a hound O.1989A. These were used by the group of potters associated with ATTIANVS and SACER. The large stag and hound are found on the piece with cursive signature reading ]LL1 (cf. Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 76.24) Lezoux c.125–150
7. 17-1. Sherd 1301. F.37 in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. The ovolo (Rogers B97) and single festoons joined by an astralagus are on a bowl in the style of CETTUS from Corbridge, probably with the same small figure (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 144.62). The bowl is grooved in two places for mending, c. 135–60.
  8. 17-1. Sherd 1125. F.37. Stag O.1768 (type). The fabric is orange-red and 'bricky'. The background motifs indicate the work of CRICIRO but the fabric and slip suggest an Antonine date c.140–60.
  9. 17-1. Sherd 1180. F.37. CINNAMVS ovolo (cf. Stanfield and Simpson 1958, fig. 47.3) with Amazon D.153. Lezoux c.145–65.
  10. 17-501. Sherds 922, 920. F.37. Ovolo Rogers B12. Below, a scroll with leaves H23 and J89. In the background there are two rosettes, C22 and C23, and a candelabrum similar to Q51. The figures are Venus D184 and two birds D1018 and D1030 (type). The potter is uncertain but the leaves and larger rosette appear in the work of ATTIANVS while the ovolo was used by SACER, CINNAMVS and CRICIRO. CINNAMVS also used the Venus. Lezoux c.145–65.
  11. 17-501. Sherd 993. F.37. Signature of CRICIRO. Part of a cross-motif (cf. Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 117.2). Lezoux c.145–65. See No. 14 in the potters' stamps below.
  12. 17-1344, Sherds 245, 249, 251. F.37. EG, with a rim-stamp CO[NSTAS].F. This stamp of Consta(n)s i is from a die (lc) used at both Heiligenberg and Rheinzabern. The bowl, in Rheinzabern fabric, is in the style of IANVS and has his commonest ovolo (Ricken and Fischer 1963, E19 striated border (*ibid.*, O242) and a rosette (*ibid.*, O41). c.155–75. See No. 12 in the potters' stamps below.
  13. 17-530. Sherd 315, F.37 stamped [ADVO]CISI; for his ovolo cf. Stanfield and Simpson 1958, fig. 33.1.1. CG. c.160–90. See No. 2 in the potters' stamps below.
  14. 17-90. Sherds 737–8. F.37. Ovolo of COMITALIS (cf. Ricken and Lüdowici 1948, VI, Taf. 261/2). The head is O.1336 and for the characteristic medallion cf. Lüdowici 1901–5, K114. The panther is O.1518. Rheinzabern. C.160–90.
  15. 17-1. Sherd 1101. F.37. REGVLINVS. Ovolo cf. Lüdowici 1901–5, R17. Rheinzabern, c.160–90.
  16. 17-1251, Sherd 294. Samian lid in bricky fabric with orange slip. Samian lids are rare and the origin of the piece is uncertain. 2nd century. CG?

#### Discussion

There is a significant quantity of pre-Flavian samian but the first decorated ware belongs to the period c.50–65 and this may well represent the termination date for military activity. That further activity on the site grew relatively slowly is indicated by the fact that the Flavian samian does not outweigh that of the Trajanic period as heavily as in a normal distribution. By contrast, activity from the middle of the second century onwards appears to have been more intense with a number of decorated bowls present from East Gaul. None is definitely of third-century date.

Supplies came from the normal kiln sites at La Graufesenque, Les Martres-de-Veyre, and Lezoux in the second century. Peripheral sources were the Lezoux first-century kilns and Montans but this evidence is limited to only a few sherds.

### *Samian Potters' Stamps*

by Brenda M. Dickinson

The superscript a, b, c indicate: (a) a stamp attested at the pottery in question; (b) not attested at the pottery in question, but the potter known to have worked there; (c) assigned to the pottery on the evidence of fabric, distribution, etc. The entries run: site, sherd number, potter (i, ii, etc.), die number, form, reading, pottery or origin, date,

1. 17-827, 412. L. Adn(atius?) Adgenus. 1a. 31. [L.ADN. AJDG3NI Lezoux.<sup>c</sup> c.160-90.
2. 17-530. 315. Advocisus. 8a. 37, [ADVO]CISI, Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-90. See No. 13 in the decorated ware.
3. 17-1. 1122. Albucianus. 6c. 79 or Lüdowici Tg. ALBV[CIANI]. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-200.
4. 17-1229. 502. Albucius ii. fia. 18/31R or 31R. ALBVCI, Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.150-80.
5. 17-1229. 487. Albucius ii. 6d. 33 (burnt), ALBVCI. Lezoux.<sup>3</sup> c. 150-80.
6. 17-87. 725. Albus iii. 1a. 31. [ALB1] MAI. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.150-80.
7. 17-520. 894. Andegenus. 1a, 18/31R. ANDEGENIM. Lezoux.<sup>c</sup> c.150-80.
8. 17-650. 360. Apolinaris. 1a, 27. [APOL1]NAR1S. Vichy,<sup>b</sup> Les Martres-de-Veyre.<sup>c</sup> Probably from Les Martres, though the fabric could belong to the Vichy range (at Terre-Franche). c.130-50.
9. 17-1488, 99. Aquitanus. 1c. 18. [FAQV]ITAMI]. La Graufesenque.<sup>a</sup> A stamp from a broken die. c.55-65.
10. 17-227. 1620. Balbinus. 2a. 18/31. IINI[BINI]M. Les Martres-de-Veyre.<sup>a</sup> A stamp from a worn die which, when new, gave BALBINI.M. c.100-20.
11. 17-220. 1576. Celsianus. 1a. 31R. CELSIANI.OF. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c. 170-200,
12. 17-1344. 245, 249, 251. Consta(n)s i. 1c. 37 rim. CO[NSTAS].F. Heiligenberg,<sup>a</sup> Rheinzabern.<sup>a</sup> c.155-75. See No. 12 in the decorated ware.
13. 17-169. 1511. Cosius Rufinus. 8a or 8a'. 18/31. [CONSI.[RV] or [OSI.[RV]]. La Graufesenque,<sup>a</sup> c.70-95.
14. 17-501. 993. Criciro. V. Cursive 37, below the decoration; retrograde. Decorated bowls with cursive signatures of Criciro are known from Lezoux. c.145-65. See No. 11 in the decorated ware.
15. 17-501. 990. Duppius. 1b. 80. DV[PIVSF]. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-80.
16. 17-101. 1377. Elvillus. 1a, 31 (burnt). ELV[ILLI]. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-90.
17. 17-1. 1288. Frontinus? 18a. 29. [?] or [RO]NI, La Graufesenque.<sup>b</sup> c.70-95.
18. 17-1. 1290. Habilis. 1a. 31. HAB[ILIS]M. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.150-80.
19. 17-926. 461. Lallus i. 2a. 33. LALLI.MA. Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.145-75.
20. 17-1511. 4. Logirinus. 10a. 15/17 or 18. [LOGIR]NM. La Graufesenque.<sup>a</sup> c.65-85.
21. 17-227, 1588, 1591. Magio i, 4a. 33. MAGIOF. Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.155-85,
22. 17-288. 763 Marcellinus ii, 2a. 31R. MARCELLI[?], Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-200.
23. 17-1. 1200. Marcellus iii. 6a. 33. MARCE[LLI]. Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.130-60.
24. 17-101. 1374. Masc(u)lus i, 7a, 24 (burnt). [OF]MAS. La Graufesenque.<sup>b</sup> c.50-65,
25. 17-1253. 513. Muxtullus, 1a, 38 or 44. MVXTVLLIM Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.155-75.
26. 17-1467. 105. Niger ii. 3b". 27. [FNGII]. La Graufesenque.<sup>a</sup> The die when new gave OFNGRI, but was modified several times in the period c.50-70.
27. 17-1. 1291. Paterclus ii. 10a. 18/31. PATERCLOSFE, Les Martres-de-Veyre.<sup>a</sup> Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.110-25.
28. 17-1344. 272. Peculiaris i. 2a. 33. 1. ?ECVLIARIS<F>. Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.160-70,
29. 17-510, 909. Priscus iii. 9a. 33. PRIZCVZ. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-90.
30. 17-501, 921. Pugnus ii. 2c. 38 or 44. PVGN1M, Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.130-50.
31. 17-101. 7416, Quintus v. 5a. 33. QV1NTIM. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-200.
32. 17-1 1289, Reburus ii. 3a. 33. [REBVR]RLOF. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.140-70.
33. 17-655. 377. Reburus ii. 4a. 33. REBVRRI.OI. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.140-70.
34. 17-501. 934. Reginus iv. 5f. 33. REG[INI.M]. Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.140-70,
35. 17-1351, 155. Sabinus viii. 3a. 27. SABINI<I. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.150-60.
36. 17-1815. 58. Sacerus ii. Uncertain 1. 79R or Lüdowici TgR. [SA]CERII. Lezoux.<sup>c</sup> c.170-90,
37. 17-1299. 485. Saturninus ii. 8c. 31 (burnt), [SA]-TVRNINI. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-200.
38. 17-73. 714. Scnnius 2a. 33. SENNIV[SF]. Lezoux.<sup>b</sup> c.150-80.
39. 17-827. 405, Victor iv. 1b. 31R. VIC[TORIM]. Lezoux.<sup>a</sup> c.160-200,
40. 17-277. 1674. Viducus ii. 5b. 18/31. VIDVCVSF. Les Martres-de-Veyre.<sup>b</sup> c.105-25.
41. 17-101. 1404. IABAS [or IVBVS] retrograde, on a flat base, with two broad grooves. The pale fabric and dull, orange-brown glaze suggest that this is one of the later products of Montans. Grooved for a rivet, c.110-45.
42. 17-501. 939. IAIHIIA on form 33. Central Gaulish. An illiterate stamp. Antonine.
43. 17-1, 1222. OFA, on form 15/17 or 18. South Gaulish. Pre-Flavian.
44. 17-223. 762. CO[ on form 27(?), slightly burnt, in the fabric of Les Martres-de-Veyre. c.100-50.
45. 17-1, 1221. JVMVS on form 27, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine.
46. 17-227. 1648. JIAIII[ on form 18/31 or 31. Central Gaulish, Probably an illiterate stamp. Hadrianic or Antonine.
47. 17-991. 531. ... INM on form 27, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine.
48. 17-949. 625. ]I.M on form 27. Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine.
49. 17-1. 1298, JMM on form 18/31R-31R. Central Gaulish. Early to mid Antonine

50. 17-227. 1584. An eight(?)-petalled rosette stamp, fragmentary, on form 46. Central Gaulish. Antonine.
51. 17-227. 1597. An eight-petalled rosette stamp on Form 46. Central Gaulish. Antonine.

**This article continues in [Section 10: The Human Bones and Animal Bones.](#)**