

Zeichnungen fällt auf, dass die ansonsten üblichen Längsschnittzeichnungen kaum vertreten sind. Diese sind in diesem Fall allerdings auch nicht von entscheidender Bedeutung, da die aufgeführten Lampen nicht über diese typologisiert werden. Insofern erweisen sich die häufig anzutreffenden Umzeichnungen der Ober- und Unterseite (mit eventuellen Signaturen) in diesem Falle als nützlich. Am Ende des Katalogs befinden sich zwei Typentafeln für die Lampen in Wetterauer Ware.

Auch wenn es, wie erwähnt, nicht möglich ist zu erahnen, wie viel Information durch die schwierigen Umstände, unter denen das Buch zustande gekommen ist, tatsächlich verloren ging, so ist hier dennoch ein fundiertes Werk gelungen. Die erstmalige umfassende Vorlage der Wetterauer Lampen ist auch deshalb hoch zu bewerten, da hier nicht wie bei vielen anderen Katalogen „einfach“ der vorhandene Bestand eines Museums aufgearbeitet werden konnte, sondern die Stücke zunächst an verschiedenen Orten gefunden und gesichtet werden mussten. Dass man hierbei auf eine möglichst vollständige Aufnahme der Objekte bedacht war (S. 10), macht das Buch zweifellos zu einem bedeutenden Forschungsbeitrag. Dies wird zusätzlich dadurch unterstützt, dass man sich nicht auf die bloße Vorlage eines Katalogs beschränkte, sondern sich darüber hinaus in kurzen, aber prägnanten Kapiteln mit wichtigen Fragestellungen auseinandersetzte.

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DAVID HISSNAUER, Ein Werkstattbereich des 3. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. der römischen Sigillata-Töpfereien von Rheinzabern. Forschungen zur Pfälzischen Archäologie, volume 4, Forschungen in Tabernae / Rheinzabern, volume 2. Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe Rheinland-Pfalz, Direktion Landesarchäologie, Speyer 2014. € 49.90. ISBN 978-3-936113-04-4. 714 pages, 53 plates, 115 figures.

The publication of a report on a major Roman pottery-producing site is always a matter of interest, and even more so when the site was producing terra sigillata (TS). Perhaps because of the greater complexity of the manufacturing process and the special kilns needed for the high temperatures necessary to produce the pottery, such sites have tended to retain more substantial and coherent evidence than usual, much of which is relevant to the wider study of Roman pottery production in general. Two sites in particular have proved of outstanding importance. The first is La Graufesenque in southern Gaul, where a unique series of graffiti records the details of individual kiln-loads (R. MARICHAL, *Les graffites de La Graufesenque*. Gallia Suppl. 47 [Paris 1988]), and where there is also evidence, both structural and from the graffiti, to indicate the presence of religious and guild activity within the very heart of the production complex. The other site is Rheinzabern, where a number of kilns and other workshop features have survived in good condition, and where there is evidence to show that the TS production was part of a long-lived continuum. This began in the 1st century AD with the manufacture of tiles for the local legionary garrisons and also of pottery, including fine wares in the Gaulish tradition. The latest phase of tile manufacture apparently lasted until the early 5th century. The actual TS industry began around or shortly after the middle of the 2nd century AD and suffered a severe decline after the Alemannic invasion of AD 259/60; some production was resumed, but for a much more local market, until c. AD 352.

The report under review describes the features and finds excavated in the 1970s from the area now identified as Rheinzabern SW17, an area which includes a large kiln, the remains of three tanks for the preparation of clay, wells, pits and ditches, and the probable positions of a series of

potters' wheels. The wells, pits (including three identified as latrines) and boundary ditches are described in detail together with their finds and a discussion of their dating evidence. The kiln (Rheinzabern Ofen 11) was reasonably well preserved and included the same type of drainage channel, composed of *imbrices* and running the length of the central flue, which has been recorded from other kilns on the site. A second drainage channel, also formed of *imbrices* and set at a diagonal to the kiln structure, drained away from the stoke-hole. The three preparation tanks were floored and edged with tiles, resulting in rather better preservation than is normal for such ancillary structures, while a series of small post positions has been identified as the site of a group of potters' wheels (curiously these wheel positions and one of the clay tanks apparently sit across one of the boundary ditches). A small cylindrical clay object recovered from one of the latrines, illustrated on plate 18 but without caption, is interpreted in the finds catalogue as perhaps forming part of the axle from a potter's wheel. Other post-holes indicate the positions of three rectangular structures, perhaps work sheds used for such activities as drying the pottery before firing.

The decorated TS consisted of both bowls and moulds and indicates a general dating towards the middle of the 3rd century: the late Victor II style is heavily represented, with 207 bowls and 28 moulds, a far greater number than at any of the other workshops identified here. The Victor II moulds include the graffito IANVCO, always apparently cut before firing (and considered by B. R. Hartley and B. M. Dickinson to indicate a mould-maker working for Victor II, who is their Victor V [B. R. HARTLEY / B. M. DICKINSON, *Names on Terra Sigillata. An Index of Makers' Stamps & Signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware) 4* (London 2009)]); one mould has IANVCO graffiti on both surfaces with a graffito IVLIANVS on the underside, suggesting a previously unrecorded partnership. Other moulds carry the graffito M. IVLIANI, and previous finds of this graffito are assigned by Hartley and Dickinson to their Iulianus iii (Iulianus I). As the finds here also include several bowls in the styles of the Iulius II–Iulianus I group, it is tempting, but currently unprovable, to suggest a working connection between the two.

Hissnauer goes on to discuss the products of Ianu(arius) II, a potter who has long been regarded as problematic in terms of dating. Since there are several of his bowls here in such a predominantly 3rd-century assemblage, this could be taken as indicating that he was at work well into the 3rd century; perhaps he inherited motifs originally used by the much earlier Ianu(arius) I and we should now see him as disconnected from Ianu(arius) I chronologically. A short discussion follows which tabulates the rim heights of all the decorated Drag. 37 bowls, with the bowls attributed to the Victor II–Januco series also shown separately. This is data which is useful in dating bowls, especially in the absence of decoration, but without illustration its value is greatly diminished. It is not just the height of the rim which is an indicator of date but also its shaping; the bead at the lip, originally rounded and full, is often distinctively bevelled and flattened in the later period.

The section discussing the decorated TS is made much more difficult to follow by the absence of clear references to the illustrations on plates 12–51. As a reader who instinctively opens a book on pottery by looking first at the pictures, the present reviewer found it particularly exasperating, especially since the illustrations themselves have no captions and the individual pots are identified solely by their cumbersome museum inventory numbers. This means that it is only possible to follow up the decorative details of the illustrated sherds, and the attribution to potter, by hunting laboriously through the finds catalogue. A separate catalogue of the illustrated bowls and moulds would have enabled readers to find this information much more easily.

The author briefly considers the question of 'Spätausformung'. This is the suggestion, originally made by I. HULD-ZETSCHKE (*Trierer Reliefsigillata. Werkstatt I. Monogr. RGK 9* [Bonn 1972]), that potters working around the middle of the 3rd century reused much earlier moulds. It has polarised opinion on the dating of later TS ever since. It is unfortunate that Hissnauer has not

taken into account the British evidence; while not an archaeologically sealed group, the decorated Trier and Rheinzabern TS from the 3rd-century quay in London bore many of the characteristics which its proponents consider to be indicators of 'Spätausformung', in both the shapes of the rims and footrings and the quality of the fabrics and slips (J. BIRD, Samian wares. In: L. Miller / J. Schofield / M. Rhodes, *The Roman Quay at St Magnus House, London* [London 1986] 139–185). One approach that might help to resolve this question would be a programme of analysis of Trier and Rheinzabern wares from reasonably well dated contexts, including pots with a range of footring and rim styles and varying qualities of fabric and slip. In a contribution to I. HULD-ZETSCHE's study of *Trierer Reliefsigillata. Werkstatt II. Materialien zur römisch-germanischen Keramik 12* (Bonn 1993), G. Schneider demonstrated that the clays used for decorated Werkstatt II bowls found in assemblages of different dates varied widely, indicating that the potters were probably exploiting different clay sources at different periods. If this could be shown to be the case also at Rheinzabern, it would form a significant breakthrough in resolving this question.

The various plain forms recovered are listed according to the various typologies and their dating discussed. They are illustrated on plates 1–10, but while the text refers to the plates, the plates have no captions so that it requires some effort to find the section of the text where the pots are discussed. A particularly useful aspect of these plates lies in showing the variant forms found of, for example, Curle 23, the Drag. 18/31–31 series (inaccurately labelled only as Drag. 18/31), Drag. 36 and Drag. 32; they also include a number of forms absent from the standard typologies but identified from the excavations at Rheinzabern or from other works such as the Niederbieber report. The decorated form Drag. 37 appears on plates 5 (three rims) and 10 (two footrings) – a rather curious separation of the two elements – but to judge from the images of the decorated ware on plates 12–51 more complete profiles of this form were available and could usefully have been added to the plain ware profiles. This would also have been an appropriate place to discuss and illustrate the profiles of the Drag. 37 moulds, which are only shown as photographs on plates 12–51.

The potters' stamps are illustrated on plates 52–53, but again there is no caption to guide the reader to the relevant section of the text, and there appears to be no reference to the plates in the text. On the plates the stamps are organised alphabetically by name, accompanied either by the reference number from Ludowici's catalogue or by a note that it is a new stamp; the text is similarly arranged but also usefully includes a note of the form on which each stamp was impressed. It is unfortunate that the stamps were not identified from the Hartley and Dickinson Names volumes (2008–2012) noted above, rather than including references to Oswald's hopelessly out-of-date work of 1931. A rare find discussed in this part of the text (and illustrated on plate 17, again with no cross-reference in either direction) is a die for a potter's stamp, with the names of the potters *Fidelis* and *Virtus* cut retrograde on two edges.

A remarkable find on the site was the presence of burnt vessels, mostly cups of forms Drag. 33 and Drag. 40, which had never been slipped. These were concentrated in the fill of the firing chamber of the kiln and its stokehole. Various explanations are considered, including their use to make up a whole kiln load, but at present no convincing answer can be found. Their presence is all the more curious in view of the general absence of waster-pits or other evidence for the disposal of misfired pottery in the area studied. Following this section, the author considers the present evidence for the organisation of the TS industry and the reasons for such aspects as the use of stamps, a useful assessment of recent work on the subject.

The last section of the book consists mainly of comprehensive catalogues of the finds and of the excavated features. Both sections repeat in more detail material which is adequately described earlier in the text, and it is arguable that the finds catalogue could have been placed on an accompa-

nying CD. As published, it is extremely difficult to navigate: partly because of its sheer size, but mainly because the contents of some features run over several pages, and where this happens the feature number is not repeated on the subsequent pages. Such repetition would have been a great aid to the reader, as indeed would have been the use of different type-faces to mark feature and context numbers. Even more importantly, clear cross-references to the illustrated pottery and coins would have been helpful. The catalogue of the excavated features, which is similarly arranged, should probably have been treated as archive material rather than part of the final publication.

The coins recovered from the site were apparently in poor condition, and, as with the non-TS pottery and other objects, there is no separate catalogue or discussion of them: the information on them has to be extracted from the finds catalogue. Eleven coins are drawn on plate 11, but in the absence of a caption it takes some effort to realise that the rather uneven circular images are in fact the outlines of coins and not, as might initially appear, objects such as gaming counters cut from pottery sherds. This is not the way to illustrate coins, for which photography is much the best method: and for these worn coins, not all of which are identifiable, photographs would certainly have been of the most value to numismatists.

A further lengthy catalogue provides in tabular format the details of the TS sherds that have been identified from rim or base fragments. These are again listed by feature and context, and give the basic measurements of each piece. It includes the earlier South Gaulish forms, and it is not clear what the purpose of this table is, except as a simple record of dimensions which could simply have been incorporated in the finds catalogue. Any value the table might have for the TS specialist would have been greatly enhanced if the list had been initially arranged by form and then sub-divided into rims and bases, before being organised stratigraphically: this would enable the details of all the examples of each form to be studied and compared together, with the rim and base dimensions clearly differentiated. As it is, any attempt to use this data meaningfully must involve a considerable amount of effort on the part of the reader.

To sum up, the report is a useful, interesting and valuable addition to the bibliography on Rheinzabern in particular and on Roman pottery workshops in general, and the author is to be congratulated on extracting so much information from the excavations of others. It suffers, however, from a determination to include every possible item of information in great detail (perhaps reflecting its origin in a doctoral thesis) and a consequent failure to bring out or to emphasise those features of the site that are of the greatest interest and importance. These include the predominantly mid-3rd-century date of the TS from the area under consideration, and the high proportion of bowls in the Victor II–Januco style – a style which is late enough to be very rare, if not completely absent, at sites in Britain, for example. A much firmer and more thoughtful editorial hand would have made this book both shorter and a great deal more accessible to the reader, who often has to fight quite hard to retrieve the desired information.

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