

Museum Object: Item Number GLAHM:F.1922.364



1) What do you think this is?

A piece of pottery... it's a neck and handles of buff coloured jug. Through the recovery and analysis of historic objects, we can find out about at the human behaviour surrounding this object.

2) What material do you think this was made from?

Terracotta. It is mostly smooth to touch (apart from the worn and damaged parts)

3) What do you think this could have been a part of?

A roman ceramic container for storing and pouring liquid such as wine, oil, fruit juice/serving liquid to Roman soldiers (probably officers).

4) Look at this drawing of different types of containers. Which type do you think this of item could have belonged to?

Amphora (for storing liquids).



5) If this was Roman, what could it have to do with Scotland?

The fragment was found in the Bar Hill Fort on the Antonine Wall in central Scotland. The purpose of the wall was apparently to defend a Scottish frontier from battles by Caledonians (northern Britons who had developed a habit of sending raiding parties south, in order to relieve their richer southern neighbours of some of their wealth). The wall was abandoned about 20 years after it was built and many items were buried and preserved in wells where they were later found by archaeologists.

6) What kind of foods do you think the Roman Soldiers ate?

The soldiers' diet was mainly vegetarian. The Romans did not have fridges and freezers, so they found it difficult to keep meat fresh. An important part of the soldiers' diet was wheat, which they made into porridge, soup and pasta. Archaeological digs have revealed the remains of walnut shells, hazelnuts, charred wheat and oyster shells. The discovery of a cheese press and weights tells us that Roman soldiers made cheese. One of the soldiers' favourite foods was called garum – this was a sauce that was made by leaving fish to rot in the sun.

7) Do you think Romans and local people ate and drank the same thing?

No. The Romans generally drank wine mixed with water, while the local servants preferred beer. In Rome, the poor often lived on a plain diet of bread and porridge. In contrast, rich citizens had extravagant banquets where they feasted on delicacies such as peacock and dormice. They often had dinner parties where they ate lying down on couches. Meals were cooked for them by slaves. As the commanding officers of the Roman legions came from rich families, they ate more luxurious foods than the soldiers under their command. They used expensive table ware such as Samian ware. There are some examples of this more expensive pottery in The Hunterian collection.

Challenge

Look up the object on The Hunterian's online database at <http://collections.gla.ac.uk/> using the **Item Number: GLAHM:F.1922.364**

There aren't many details on this object record, but can you find out how wide it is?
(hint: sometimes there is more information in pictures than in words)

Extra Challenge

Can you find some examples of Samian pottery fragments in our online collection?

Type "*samian*" into the **description** box.

Top Tip: click the box for "**Only Items with images**" (bottom right of search page) to get a more visual search result