

Herefordshire ceramics type fabric series (Romano-British pottery found in Herefordshire)

Arretine ware (terra sigillata)

Terra sigillata 'stamped clay' refers to plain and decorated tablewares made in Italy and in Gaul. The pots are in a hard fine-textured fabric and are 'slipwares' having a glossy surface slip - a matrix of mainly silicon and aluminium oxides. The clay for these pots was pressed against the inside of a mould which was then turned on a wheel. The stamp, usually the name of the potter (not the mould maker) appears on the base of these vessels.

Arretine ware originated in Arezzo in Tuscany in the 1st century BC and continued to be manufactured into the 1st century AD before being replaced by Samian. Apart from the Arezzo manufactory, workshops existed at Pisa and elsewhere in Italy as well as at Lyon and other places in southern Gaul.

The decoration on the pottery is similar to that found on contemporary silver tableware on which it must be based, and Arretine ware was a mass-produced though high quality product aimed at the somewhat less affluent consumer.

POTSHERD : [Atlas of Roman Pottery - Italian-type \(Arretine\) sigillata](#)

JRPS bibliography fabrics arr and others
Silchester fabric E1

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