

Roman Middlewich Teachers' Pack

Contents of loans box (in detail)

Amphora

Storage vessels made of clay with two handles. They were made so they could be stacked easily for transporting foodstuffs, liquids etc on long sea voyages. They were also used for storage in a Roman kitchen. This is a replica of one for dried fruit but most *amphorae* were very much larger.

Mortarium

Bowl for grinding foods to make liquids or solids. They came in a variety of sizes. The *mortaria* had grit incorporated into the lining so that food could be ground down with a pestle. These must have broken quite frequently from constant use, as broken *mortaria* are common finds on Roman sites.

Money pot

Money was sometimes saved and hidden (buried) in times of crisis. The pot had to be broken to get to the coins.

Samian ware (either a shallow bowl or a cup)

Glossy red pottery which was very fashionable. It was used for tableware. It was imported from Gaul and was made so it could be stacked for transport. Samian ware was issued to the army and also used by civilians. Some of it was highly decorated.

Baby Feeder

This would have contained liquid and was used as a feeding bottle.

Black beaker

A large drinking vessel similar to those made in the Nene Valley. It had a black slip. Note the lack of handles.

Small beaker

A drinking vessel

Book: *Ancient Rome*

Although this book deals with Rome itself many of the artefacts in the photographs were found in Britain. The text and the photographs are of outstanding quality. Many of the replica items in the box are based on items similar to those originals shown in the book.

Also available for loan:

Caligae (replica)

These military sandals were very useful for fast marching (vital in war). They were strong and well ventilated. The iron hobnails were designed to take weight and also to stand up to many miles of marching. (These *caligae* were formerly worn by a member of the Ermine Street Guard, a re-enactment group.)