

TERRA SIGILLATA POTERY AND ITS STAGE OF RESEARCH ON AN EUROPEAN LEVEL

Terra sigillata–Roman luxury pottery– represents one of the most important and complex categories of archaeological artefacts. Its diffusion throughout the entire Roman world offers precious information regarding the economic life and the complexity of trade relations established between production centres and distribution markets in the provinces of the Roman Empire where this type of pottery was demanded and consumed.

In recent years, the study of *terra sigillata* pottery has known a new impulse as a result of the update of Felix Oswald's 1931 „Index of Potters' Stamps on Terra Sigillata". Mainly based on more than four decades of effort made by Brian Hartley and Brenda Dickinson to collect over 400.000 of individual stamps belonging to more than 5000 potters that produced *terra sigillata* in the great pottery workshops from the Western provinces of the Roman Empire, the project initiated by the Universities of Leeds and Reading (UK) since 2006, in collaboration with Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz, resulted in the publishing of the nine volumes of "*Names on Terra Sigillata: An Index of Makers' Stamps and Signatures on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware)*" (2008-2013). Moreover, an European database was created and hosted by Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz (RGZM) – **Samian Research Database** (<https://www1.rgzm.de/samian/home/frames.htm>), meant to bring up to date and add up information revealed after the publication of the aforementioned work.