



Marsh, D. (2021): 'The Trade and Use of Roman Glass in Ancient Times'

Rosetta **Special Edition CAHA Colloquium 2021: 7**

<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/CAHAColloquium2021/Marsh.pdf>

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## **The Trade and Use of Roman Glass in Ancient Times**

***David Marsh***

As archaeology, using modern techniques and technologies, reveals more material evidence about the ancient world, so the interpretation of the material culture becomes a significant component in the quest to tell the story of life in the Roman world across a chronology that saw dramatic changes to society, commerce and the state itself. The Romans used more glass than any other previous civilisation. From 50 BCE, the glass industry rapidly expanded across the Empire with the spread of the Roman empire and using safe trade routes. Over this period, glass rapidly changed from just being luxury objects to also common domestic products just at the same time that a new glassblowing technology was introduced into the industry. Like pottery, glass can survive for long periods in the ground and can be a valuable source of archaeological dated data as it existed in many product forms, and so can reveal cultural insights at all levels of ancient societies through analysing, characterising, and interpreting the artefacts in particular contexts. This presentation focuses on particular aspects of consumerism, trading and the Roman economy to further our understanding of life in Roman times with a focus on the consumer culture of sites revealed by patterns of the consumption of different glass forms over time and space including the urban rural contexts.