

ELMS FARM PROJECT - Mortarium Analysis HYEF 93 and HYEF 94

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(Details of context, its date and phasing etc. should be included with any notes published. Fabric examined with hand lens at X20 magnification. NB When applied to mortarium stamps, ‘right facing’ and ‘left facing’ indicate the relation of the stamp to the spout looking at the mortarium from the outside.)

I have used my personal record numbers for the stamps in order to distinguish them easily– there are stickers on the pots.

FABRICS

(I have not put fabric descriptions in because I expect you already have them, but I have divided into fabrics. You may have separated Heybridge and Colchester fabrics – if so do just change my notes appropriately. Obviously you do have some whose fabric does seem different from Colchester fabric of the same period, but it isn't consistently so. If they came in a job lot from some other site, I might well think Essex outside Colchester was likely, but it would be difficult to be categorical and put them as a different fabric without form and stamp to help. It's the same with the Ellingham mortaria, there is a 'je ne sais quoi?' about the fabric that is different from Colchester, but you need form distribution and stamp to be really certain. Basically the fabrics are so similar. The fabrics for northern France are also similar because the geology is similar. When we were writing the Colchester report I had tremendous difficulty persuading Robin Symonds that Q.Valerius Veranius etc did not work at Colchester.

Q.V.V and Q.V.S almost certainly worked in different potteries but both or all are in northern France. You can see differences sometimes but the differences are not straightforward and consistent.)

Fabric 1 Heybridge and Colchester

If you have listed them separately continue to do so. I suspect David Williams would not spot any difference and I am sure I could not guarantee always to do so.

Fabric 2 Probably Heybridge

Fabric 3 Northern France + Noyon?

There are no Hartley Type I mortaria published from Noyon. Distribution for these potters and the fabric just indicate somewhere in Northern France. There may be some fabric differences, but they are minimal. Anyway there will be more than one pottery involved for both Hartley Type I and Hartley Type II (Gillam 238). The general area is reliable and I am sure that Noyon is for Gillam 238 (am hoping to see the pot this year).

Fabric 4 Verulamium region.

Kiln construction 1618 [Kiln 1]

Context 1615 Archive 3258 (construction of pedestal)

25K Fabric 1. 80g Diam. c.360mm. 6% Mortarium with deep collar; the damaged potter's stamp reads downward from the rim, CVIN(reversed)O[...]. The letter-panel has upper and lower borders, each composed of parallel diagonal bars.

NB Faint bead groove omitted on your drawing

26K Fabric 1. 105g Diam. 400mm. 8% A second mortarium of similar type. Enough of the borders survive to indicate that the stamp is from the same die as 25K, but only the last letter at the bottom of the collar can be deciphered; this could be M. Stamps 25K and 26K together show that there are plain zones at both ends of the letter panel. In fact, these two zones are part of the outer border which is just a plain panel surrounding the letter-panel and its upper and lower borders with diagonal bars. Collation of the two stamps shows that the entire stamp is 50mm long and 21mm wide with the letter-panel approximately 46mm long and 7mm wide. The length of the letter-panel would fit with M as the only letter following the incomplete letter, giving CVINO\].]M, (N reversed), as a possible complete reading.

29K Fabric 1. 160g 8% This fragment is probably part of the above mortarium (26K), carrying the complementary stamp. The right-facing stamp is too damaged for any part of it to be easily identified, but the tiny part of surviving border together with the similarity of the mortarium to 25K and 26K suggest that the stamp is from the same die; being found in the same context is also significant. (The edge of the spout is here with a modern break – if you have the rest of the spout **a**) you might be able to check if this and 26K join and **b**) you ought to draw the spout because it is a different and probably earlier type than those drawn.)

28K Fabric 1. 135g. Diam. 400mm. 7%. A different mortarium of similar type to 25K and 26K/29K. The left-facing stamp is too damaged to be read, but the borders are identical to those of the above stamps, showing it to be from the same die.

27K Fabric 1. 45g. 4% A mortarium of generally similar but not identical type to the above. The stamp is too damaged to be read; only O with the first stroke of the following letter survive, but the borders allow it to be attributed to the same die as the above stamps in context 1615.

16K Fabric 1. (Archive 3259) 170g. Diam. 320mm. 16% This could well be part of 27K, but I have treated it as a different vessel because of some very small differences which may not be significant. The letter-panel of the stamp is too damaged to be read, but the borders allow it to be attributed to the die used in stamps 25K-29K. (If you have regarded 27K and 16K as the same pot carry on doing so and adjust numbers. Again this is an example where finding the spout and seeing if you can join 27K and 16K would be worthwhile.)

NB If you can possibly do it, put in the very faint bead groove on section and profile.

Other contexts

Context 2929 (???) Please what is the context?

30K Fabric 1 with white deposit on most surfaces including one of the fractures. 45g.. A collared mortarium with incomplete rim-section, but of generally similar type to 27K. The borders of the damaged stamp permit it to be attributed to the same die as 25K etc; part of]NO[can be distinguished.

All of the stamps (including 30K, from context 2929), were impressed vertically down the ‘collar’ of the mortarium and in all examples the die has been applied in the same way with the name reading downward from the rim. In all, there are six to

seven mortaria impressed with this stamp. Five to six mortaria had been used in the construction of the pedestal, but the fabric of all 6-7 (including 30K), show crazing to some degree, presumably due to overfiring. It is interesting that similar fabrics made at Colchester and sold in quantity to Antonine sites in Scotland show crazing which looks similar, though in that instance it probably results from the acid soil conditions. (Is the soil acid? i.e. is there any other possible reason at Heybridge for the crazing than overfiring – 30K shows some as well as those from the pedestal.)

One possible reading of this potter's stamps could be CVINO[.]M, (N reversed), but the interpretation is unclear. No other stamps from the same die have been recorded. Names beginning CVNO-- are common enough and the only potter whose name, stamps and mortaria have any similarity to these, is Cunopectus, who worked at Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1998, 199, S28-S32). Cunopectus sometimes used Λ or Y for V and used a stamp border of generally similar type, a few of his mortaria can be matched among the above Heybridge mortaria. There are, however, difficulties in reading these stamps as any version of his name and the similarities are not close enough for us to assume that they are his. Any final decision about the reading must wait until a stamp is found which records the missing letter in full; it is were an upside down P, identification with Cunopectus would then be much more likely. If the stamps are not his, then they are the stamps of a hitherto unrecorded potter. In either case, the dearth of mortaria with stamps from the same die indicates that they represent a minor production. Sale was probably limited to local communities around Heybridge.

The discovery on a kiln-site of 6-7 mortaria stamped with the same unknown die is adequate reason to believe that they were made there. Moreover, they are in appropriate fabric and have appropriate rim-profiles for the area. The fragments of the 5-6 mortaria used in the construction of the pedestal of kiln 1 are clearly residual and pre-date the use of the kiln (assuming the construction of the pedestal to be contemporary with the building of the kiln). We may reasonably assume that they are wasters from the firing of an earlier kiln in the vicinity.

The potters at Elm Farm were making their mortaria in the Colchester tradition and their mortaria can be dated by comparison with Colchester products. The rim-profiles used by CVINO#M combine features of Hull types 498 and 499. All have the wide bead of type 498; 16K and 30K have its outward going flange, thinner at the distal end while the rest have the incurved flange of equal thickness demonstrated in type 499. Both types are among the latest types being stamped at Colchester (Hull 1963, and see 153, fig. 87, nos. 1-4 and 13) and both forms are likely to have continued in production after the practice of stamping ceased. A date in the late second century is most likely, perhaps around the period AD180/190. This estimation is based on those rim-profiles associated with stamps, which continued to be made after stamping ceased; also the complete absence from Scotland of potters like Cunopectus, Acceptus and the perhaps slightly earlier and much more common Martinus 2.

The fact that this die is not represented elsewhere indicates that the potter was serving a local market. Mortaria like 16K and 27K continued to be made after the practice of stamping ceased, so that his later work could be unstamped. The optimum date for his stamped mortaria is *c.*A.D.170-190.

(NB There is no reason to suppose that the above mortaria were stamped for a special reason)

The trademark stamp

Construction Kiln 1

HYEF 93 1213 (archive 3228) packing behind flue walls – kiln 1 (38K)

Fabric 1, with crazed surface. 120g. Diam. c.310mm. 8% Two joining sherds. Poor impression of trademark stamp.

(NB Your drawing of this stamp is incorrect – it is from the same die as the rest – NOT different as shown –you need only to erase the offending strokes.)

HYEF 93 1512 (archive 3233) packing behind flue walls – kiln 1 (32K)

Fabric 1 125g. 5% Incomplete rim-profile.. Broken, right-facing trademark stamp (good impression).

HYEF 93 1512 (33K)

Fabric 1, one sherd has a crazed surface. 355g Diam. 300mm. 21.5% Five joining sherds. Left-facing trademark stamp survives. The splayed sides of the spout are unusual and of similar type to those found at kiln 24 at Colchester (Hull 1963, fig. 87, 'Pottery from Kiln 24', nos. 2- 3). The mortaria associated with kiln 24 are among the latest ones stamped at Colchester. Hull dated Kiln 24 to AD220, but his evidence was often limited and where it can be checked his dating of kilns tends to be rather late for the associated mortaria.

NB If possible indicate bead groove in section

HYEF 93 1512 (40K)

Fabric 1. 155g. Diam. 290mm. 17% The position of the trademark stamp suggests that it is the right-facing one.

HYEF 93 1512 (42K)

Fabric 1. 135g. Diam. c.300mm. 15.5% The position of the trademark stamp suggests that it is the right-facing one.

HYEF 93 1532 kiln 1; construction (which part????) (34K)

Fabric 1. 600g. Diam. 270mm. 21% Diam. base 177mm. Seven joining sherds giving the full profile of the pot. No indication of use. The right-facing trademark stamp survives.

Kiln 2

HYEF 93 1502 stokehole of kiln 2 (43K)

Fabric 1, crazed. 150g. Diam. c.280mm. 13% Two joining sherds. Trademark stamp.

HYEF 93 1029 (on pot it says 1002); Archive 3201 - in filling of flue and kiln 2 after kiln had gone out of use = residual (31K)

Fabric 1, surface crazed. 45g 4% Could be part of 42K but treated as a different vessel. Trademark stamp

HYEF 93 1029 (35K)

Fabric 1, crumbly. 45g. Diam. 290mm. 6% Trademark stamp

HYEF 93 1029 (36K)

Fabric 1. 25g. Diam. c.280mm. 5% Trademark stamp.

HYEF 93 1029 (37K)

Fabric 1, discoloured to brown. 50g. Diam. c.270mm. 6% Trademark stamp.

HYEF 93 051 (4c+/Saxon = residual) (12K)

Fabric 1. 40g. 4%. Surface of sherd pitted. Trademark stamp.

HYEF 94 1211 kiln 2-stokehole (disuse) (39K)

Fabric 1, fired to greenish-cream. 112g. Diam. c.290mm 6% Two joining sherds. The edge of an impression of the trademark stamp survives; probably the left-facing stamp.

Thirteen trademarks (Fig. , no.) have survived, all are likely to be from different vessels. Two mortaria stamped with the same die have been recorded from earlier excavations at Heybridge (Wickenden 1987, 45, fig.24, no. 199), and one from Brampton, Norfolk (unpublished). This potter's distribution was clearly limited and it is perhaps surprising that his work should be recorded from Brampton. There is of course an outside chance that he came to Heybridge from Brampton, but this possibility can only be considered when further work is done on the pottery found at Brampton.

On all of his mortaria the stamp was impressed down the collar, all the same way round. Considering the nature of this trademark such consistency suggests that the die was either made or marked in such a way that it could always be picked up the right way round. The same is implied for the die used for the namestamp, CVINO\.[.JM? which was also impressed consistently. The trademark mortaria, including earlier finds, are more consistent in rim-profile than those of the named potter who shows slightly more variety in rim-profile and perhaps an earlier tendency. There is, however, a notable general similarity in their rim-forms and some of the named potter's profiles are identical with those of the trademark potter (namely 16K and 27K). Production about the same date is certainly indicated. The spout indicated by the stump on 29K (CVINO\.[.JM?) could be of the type in common use earlier, (Hull 1963, fig. 63, no. 9), while the spout of 33K (trademark), is especially indicative of late second-century production (Hull 1963, fig. 87, 'Pottery from Kiln 24', nos. 2- 3).

Comments on both potters

Fragments from six mortaria with the trademark stamp and five-six mortaria with the namestamp were used in the construction of kiln 1. Since there is no indication of refurbishment to kiln 1, all of these mortaria must pre-date the use of the kiln. All were clearly at hand when the kiln was built and none show signs of being weathered at that stage. The conclusion must have been that they were fired in an earlier kiln situated nearby and that they had not been lying around long enough to suffer much weathering. These factors and the similarity in the work of these two potters suggest that they were working in the same workshop at Heybridge.

The similarity of their work also points to activity at the same date though two of the named potter's rim-profiles and probably the spout on 29K are marginally the earliest typologically. All the mortaria, however, belong to the latest period when stamping

was being practised in this area; this is likely to have been AD170-190, probably ending well before AD190. Both potters could have continued making mortaria without stamping them. (The only way you could have any idea about this would be if you have identical mortaria which you know were not stamped because you have the spout and sufficient of the rim-profile to know they were not stamped or, massive numbers of sherds of the right rim-forms.)

Both were serving local markets and this is what one would expect. Even the production of mortaria at Colchester must have been diminishing by AD170-180 as there is no indication that the Colchester potters found another market to take the place of that in Scotland and the north-east of England. If the namestamp did prove to be a debased stamp of Cunopectus, a move on his part from Colchester to Heybridge would not necessarily have been the backward step one might at first think. Regalis of Colchester opened a workshop at Ellingham in Norfolk in exactly the same period either to leave Colchester or to increase a probably dwindling market (Hartley and Gurney 1997, 25-26).

HYEF 94 9336 (secondary fill of ditch 9325; mid-late 2nd c Area D) (48K)

Numerous tiny fragments in a very friable pale brownish version of Fabric 1. 140g. A broken stamp survives, but only one border of diagonal bars is clear. The fabric and its condition indicates a local product, but it is not from either of the two dies which are so far attributable to Heybridge (fig. , nos). If it is a local product, then mid-second-century is probably as early as it could be.

NB Stamp retained

HYEF 94 11000 Machining u/s (24K)

Fabric 2 65g Diam. 260mm. 9% In place of a potter's stamp, this sherd has two graffitos, one of herringbone form, the second close to it, a simple chevron motif. Although there are several examples of graffitos in place of stamps, they are, nevertheless, very uncommon. The trituration grit points to manufacture in the south-east and I would expect it to be a local product, perhaps mid-second century in date.

HYEF 94 7390 pit mid-late3 (9K)

Fabric 1. 155g (2 joining sherds); 195g with third non-joining sherd. Diam. 290mm. 18% Clear impressions of the faint left-facing stamp read DVBETAUS retrograde. This spelling is considered to be an alternative or corrupt form of DVBITATUS. This potter worked at Colchester, probably AD140-170. See Symonds and Wade 1999, 200, S39-S42 for further information, and fig. 4.25, no. 40;. Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 3 is a clearer and more complete illustration.

HYEF 94 4000 (?7123) u/s (45K)

Fabric 1. 1010g. Diam. c.340mm. 76% Many sherds (fractures modern) giving most of the rim of the mortarium. The retrograde, right-facing stamp reads MARTIN, probably followed by VS, the A may have a vertical bar. This stamp is from an unrecorded die of Martinus 2 who worked at Colchester. This brings the total of his known die-types to sixteen (one with at least three variants in length). The Heybridge stamp is similar in lay-out, lettering and motifs to one published in Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 15, but this example is undoubtedly from a different and longer die with larger letters.

His mortaria are now known from Braintree; Cambridge (2); Canterbury (2-3); Capel St Mary, Suffolk; Chelmsford; Colchester (upto 99); Corbridge (3-4); Gestingthorpe, Essex; Great Chesterford (3); Heybridge; North Ash, Kent; London/Southwark (6); Wallsend; Ware; York. Martinus 2 has the heaviest distribution outside Colchester of any of those Colchester potters who stamped names on their mortaria. He also has the heaviest distribution in north-eastern England of any of these potters and his absence from Scotland is noteworthy. His activity certainly lay within the period AD140-180, but the optimum date for his work is AD150-170. (See Symonds and Wade 1999, 200-201 for further details.)

HYEF 94 11246 (11th fill of pit 11316 – mid 1stc. Area N) (19K)

Fabric 1. 185g. Diam. 340mm. 10% The right-facing stamp reads TVTA retrograde or ATVT from left to right. He worked at Colchester in the first century AD and is unlikely to have had a long activity. All previous dating has been based on rim-profiles, a process which can be uncertain with mortaria made at Colchester within the period AD50-110. The context in which this sherd was found indicates that he was active in the mid-first century (see Symonds and Wade 1999, fig.4.26, nos.74-75 and p. 201).

*****NB Before using this note please check that your date for this context is correct and let me know.**

HYEF 94 5617 cleaning u/s (18K)

Fabric 1, powdery, brownish-cream version. 210g. Diam. 320mm. 18% A well-worn mortarium, slightly singed before fracture, with poorly impressed stamp which preserves parts of the following letters, VIATORS. The complete stamp reads VIATORS for Viatoris, the genitive form of Viator. Only one other stamp from the same die has been recorded, from Caistor by-Norwich (unpublished). His much more commonly used die gives VIATOR (Symonds and Wade 1999, fig.4.27, S123-124 and p.204). The similarity of rim-profile and fabric suggests that the two dies belonged to the same potter and his workshop can be attributed to Colchester, probably c.AD80-110. Mortaria stamped with the more common die are recorded from Brough-on-Humber; Caistor by Norwich; Colchester (5); Corbridge; Leicester (2); Rocester; Walton-le-Dale; and Winterton. He was one of the few first-century producers of mortaria at Colchester to distribute to a wide market. There are nine other die-types which give, or probably give, some form of Viator, but none of these were being used in East Anglia. The name is a common one and there is little doubt that more than one potter is involved. Workshops in the lower Nene valley, probably at Castleford and perhaps elsewhere were being used by one or more potters of this name. It is, therefore, better to treat these two East Anglian die-types as belonging to one potter active in East Anglia until or unless more definitive evidence appears.

HYEF 94 9407 gully early/mid3; strat early 3 (5K)

Fabric 1, with pink layer just below the surface 90g. Diam.370mm. 5% The faint impression of a triple chevron survives. This is likely to be from a roller-stamp die impressed down the collar of the mortarium. No other impressions from the same die are recorded, but impressions from other roller-stamp dies of similar type are recorded from Brough-on-Humber and Colchester (3). Two of the Colchester stamps are from one die, but the others are from different dies, all are based on slightly differing chevron/herringbone motifs. The Heybridge example is on a Hull type 498 mortarium and all are on Hull types 498 and 501. These are among the latest types to be stamped

at Colchester and their optimum date is AD 160-190. One of these can certainly be attributed to the Colchester workshops and all of them, including the Heybridge example, could have been made there. Worn.

(In the Wickenden publication p.46 Barbara Ford has a little note about roller-stamped pottery at Heybridge. You should just check out whether any of these are identical. I don't really understand her references. If she has published the paper which was in preparation and you know the reference I would be grateful for it.)

Herringbone stamps from same die as Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 30

HYEF 94 4470 F. 4426 Pit late 2/early3 (23K)

Fabric 1. 775g. Diam. 320mm. 37% Three joining sherds with right-facing herringbone stamp.

HYEF 94 7123 pit pot late 2/mid3; strat late 2/mid3 (7K)

Fabric 1, rather powdery. 65g. The sherd with incomplete rim-section is from a wall-sided (slightly diagonally inclined) mortarium similar to Hull 1963, fig. 64, no. 6, but with high bead. The broken herringbone stamp is from Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 30 and Symonds and Wade 1999, 208, fig. 4.27, nos. S136-138. Herringbone stamps were rarely impressed on true wall-sided mortaria and this inclined type with high bead is one of the latest forms ever stamped at Colchester. The optimum date for this example is *c.*AD160-170+.

HYEF 94 7123 pit pot late 2/mid3; strat late 2/mid3 (20K)

Fabric 1 545g. Diam.290mm. 36%. Four joining sherds from a mortarium with both left- and right-facing herringbone stamps surviving.

HYEF 94 8076 pit late 4 (44K)

Fabric 1. 683g. Diam. 320mm.10% A right-facing herringbone stamp survives.

23K, 7K, 20K and 44K are four different mortaria, all with herringbone stamps from the same die as Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 30 and Symonds and Wade 1999, 208, fig. 4.27, nos. S136-138. This was the most commonly used of the herringbone dies used in the Colchester workshops. An example was found in earlier excavations at Heybridge (Wickenden 1986, fig.24, no.200). AD130-170.

Herringbone stamps from same die as Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 33

HYEF 94 4243 (tertiary fill of pit 4211, mid-late 2nd c. area K) (10K)

Fabric 1 88g. Diam. 340mm. 17% Flange fragment with broken herringbone stamp.

HYEF 94 13810 (third filling gully 13827; mid1st – early 2nd c. Area I) (6K)

Fabric 135g.. A broken herringbone stamp.

HYEF 94 13813 ? (15K)

Fabric 1 35g. Flange fragment with herringbone stamp.

10K, 6K and 15K are three individual mortaria, each with herringbone stamps from the same die as Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 33 and Symonds and Wade 1999, 208, fig. 4.27, nos. S148-149. AD130-170.

HYEF 94 14667 (single filling of pit 14700; mid-late 2nd c. Area L) (14K)

Fabric 1, but fired almost to orange-brown except on parts of the under surface and in the core. 200g Diam. 360mm. 16% Two left-facing herringbone stamps survive, impressed close together; they are probably from the same die as Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 38 and Symonds and Wade 1999, 208, fig. 4.27, nos. S147. AD130-170.

HYEF 94 6118 pot mid 3rd/4; strat late 4 (13K)

Fabric 1. 105g Diam. 270mm. 12% A right-facing herringbone stamps survives; the die is unidentified. Colchester.

The herringbone stamps (23K-13K) are all on different mortaria, eight in all. All can be attributed to the workshops active at Colchester in the second half of the second century. Two other mortaria with this type of stamp, one from the same die as Hull 1963, fig. 60, no. 30 and the second from the same die as no. 29, were published from earlier excavations at Heybridge (Wickenden 1987, fig. 24, nos. 200 and 201). The best date available for their activity is AD130-170, though production could have started nearer to AD140. For detailed notes on the herringbone stamps produced at these workshops see Symonds and Wade 1999, 205 and 209; for basic illustrations see Hull 1963, figs. 60 and 61.

HYEF 94 4000 u/s (46K)

Fabric 1. 80g Diam. c.380mm. 6% There are at least three circular motifs impressed on the collar of this mortarium. Unfortunately none of the rosettes inside the circles has survived well enough to be seen with any clarity, but it is virtually certain that they will be the same as the rosette with four petals within the identical circle impressed on 11k (9245) below. See 11K for comments and date.

HYEF 94 9245 (Layer; mid-late 2nd c Area D) (11K)

Fabric 1. 45g. Diam. 360mm. 5.5% A circular motif survives on the right-facing side of the spout; the edge of the circle is broken and there were almost certainly other similar stamps close by. The incuse circle has a rosette with four petals inside and it is probably identical with the less well-preserved ones on 46K above (4000).

Both sherds (46K and 11K) have similar rim-profiles, but are from different vessels. A mortarium of similar type and fabric with three circular motifs was found at Gestingthorpe (Draper 1985, fig. 45, no. 574). The Heybridge mortaria were certainly made by a single potter and the Gestingthorpe mortarium could well have been made by the same man. All three mortaria would best fit the period AD170-200 and they could certainly have been made at Colchester though production at Heybridge cannot be ruled out.

There is not enough rim surviving in either of the Heybridge mortaria to prove that there were no namestamps associated, but they cannot be assigned to a named potter. The use of a cluster of rosette stamps probably indicates that no namestamp was used and probably also that these mortaria post-date the practice of stamping. However, it is worth mentioning that Cunopectus and one user of a chevron roller stamp did sometimes impress one rosette not far from their normal stamp. Both worked at Colchester. The Heybridge and Gestingthorpe rosettes are from die not used by either potter.

HYEF 94 13456 (Bottom filling of pit 11465; late Iron Age Area I) (47K)

Fabric 4 645g. Diam. 320mm. 31%. Three joining sherds. The broken, right-facing stamp survives, with parts of the letters VGVDV. When complete this stamp reads F·LVGVDV. This is a counterstamp of the potter Albinus; the namestamp appears on the flange near the spout with the counterstamp in a complementary position to the other side of the spout. Albinus used a number of counterstamps with similar readings, all meaning ‘made at *Lugudunum*’; this example is almost certainly from the same die-type as Frere 1972, fig. 145, no. 6.

Albinus worked at Colchester for a short time, probably early in his career, but, except for two or three of his mortaria, all are, like this example, in fabric characteristic of mortaria made in the Verulamium region. None of his kilns have been located, but counterstamps reading LVGD were being used in the period AD55-75 by Oastrius in a workshop at Little Munden Farm, Bricket Wood (Saunders and Havercroft 1977), and by Ripanus at Brockley Hill. Brockley Hill is known to have been called *Sulloniacae* so that Bricket Wood is still the best candidate for ‘*Lugudunum*’.

Albinus was the most prolific potter who ever stamped mortaria in Britain (more than 420 mortaria recorded). His activity can be dated AD60-90 and could perhaps have begun as early as AD55. For further details see Symonds and Wade 1999, 198, S15 and 195, S1-S10. There are traces of neat gritting and scoring on the interior of this example which suggests that it does not belong to the latter part of his career when this practice had been largely if not entirely abandoned. Worn.

******NB (Note difference in date of pot and your context date. The dating of Albinus is secure.)**

HYEF 94 13813 trench mid-late 2 strat mid 2 (8K)

Probably a second-century version of Fabric 4, produced in the Verulamium region. 55g. Diam.260mm. 10% The broken stamp is unidentified, but further examples should make a reading possible. The form together with the slight distal bead strongly indicates a date AD120-150.

NB Stamp retained

HYEF 94 5843 (Single filling of slot 5844; mid-late 1stcAD. Area J) (22K)

Fabric 3. 165g c.7% The stamp is left-facing, complete, but abraded and damaged; the mortarium would have had only one stamp. Stamps from the same die which are in good condition give Q.Valerius Veranius in two lines with several ligatures; between the two lines of letters the words DOGAERIA · FAC can be read in tiny capital letters. These presumably mean ‘made at Dogaeria’ and refer to the place where his workshop or one of his workshops was situated. The name is otherwise unknown. (for clearer examples see Symonds and Wade, 206, fig. 4.25, nos. 5-7). Impressions from this die-type can be divided into three groups according to slight, but noticeable differences in length, this example belongs to the middle group.

HYEF 94 20108 (Top filling of pit 20010, late 1st.c Area L) (21K)

Fabric 3, with concentric scoring surviving on the inside surface 422g. Diam. c.360mm. 14% The stamp is right-facing, worn and slightly damaged; the mortarium would have had only one stamp.. In good condition stamps from the same die give Q.Valerius Veranius in two lines with VAL ligatured (the best published drawing is Hartley 1968, Pl.LXXXIX, no. 85).

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Odd (Archive) notes on the unstamped sherds sent and on some of the drawings of mortaria which were not sent.

In construction of Kiln 1

HYEF 93 Context 1581 archive 3253 presumably part of a CVNO\[\.]M or trademark mortarium, but not any I have.

I have a drawing of **HYEF 93 C1029 A3200** this may be from same pot as my 31K – worth checking – is obviously trademark or, perhaps less likely, the named potter?

Ditto **C1615 A3260** different pot.

HYEF 93 context 1615 archive 3263 quite reminiscent of my 5K (with roller stamp impression), but a different pot.

HYEF 93 context 1619 archive 3266 this is a form which I think certainly post-dates stamping. A few of the earliest of this general type, but with more rounded flange were occasionally stamped – I think I have only one Colchester stamp on such a mortarium – a stamp attributable to Cunopectus. You will find a few examples of the form in both Hull 1963 and Symonds and Wade. This example could be later than the end of the 2nd century, but it does not have to be; it is I think certainly later than AD180.

I have drawing of **C1213 A3229** this has the spout drawn – if it has enough of rim to prove never stamped do make that clear in your text. If it is in the packing or pedestal it is useful. Check if the draughtsman has missed what is often almost invisible groove for bead in the section – if it is present it could associate it with your two stamping potters and show that unstamped mortaria were being produced in this form (ditto with **HYEF 93 C1619 A3267 and C1029 A3202** in all respects – to check if never stamped spout and check that bead grooves have been added).

I have a drawing of HYEF 93 C1620 A3268 wall-sided

The wall is unusually thin, the spout is unusual, especially on this wall-sided form; it is also in reduced fabric. In Wickenden fig.21, no.137 there another virtually identical one and it may be reduced in the same way ‘off-white to grey in colour’. I did not think it was from Colchester – is it possible as a local product? AD170-200 may be more likely than a later date, but this is guesswork based on the spout.

EB to KH 19/2/01: ‘Wall-sided mortarium in context 1620, archive 3268. I checked the fabric against Wickenden fig. 21, no. 137. The fabrics aren’t identical, though the forms are strikingly similar. I would so that they’re both local products, but not made at the same time/by the same potter (delete as appropriate)’.

KH to EB 26/2/01: ‘ Could we say “not from the same batch of clay” or “not fired at the same time” according to which you think is more appropriate? I think they are certainly from the same workshop and are likely to be made by the same potter. I would not expect there to be a long time between their manufacture because they are unusual’.

EB 12/2/01: We’ll go with “not fired at the same time”.

C8269? A1144 An early wall-sided mortarium. Probably imported; it could pre-date AD43. [N.B - in LIA typology]

Witham report Use this with care. I think they say that occupation continued through from the 1st century to the 4th. The usage of mortaria was, however, mainly in the period from AD180/200 into the 4th century. They had about six sherds, mostly miserable (i.e. flange fragments and incomplete rim sections and two were probably from one vessel) which were likely to be from the period AD140-180. This period, in fact the whole site, had only one stamp which was too weathered etc. to be identifiable. This suggests very little use, in the area excavated, of coarse ware mortaria at the period when stamping potters was the norm. But of course, geographically, Witham is well placed. How long did your pottery production go on and have you had any luck comparing the other wares?

Other (Archive) notes mostly made just to sort things out in my own mind and probably of no use!

Where is all the pottery found in the 19th century? Is it available?

Present excavations

1. 2 kilns using one stokehole with no obvious evidence to show whether one kiln is earlier than the other, or whether both are contemporary.
2. Only one kiln, Kiln 1, has pottery used in construction, mortaria and other coarseware including reduced flagon. What date is the other coarseware?
3. Mortaria found in construction:
All the stamped mortaria are in the pedestal and packing behind flue walls?
Some of the unstamped type are in the packing behind the flue.
How does coarseware fit with mortaria in date?
Has the pedestal been replaced i.e. is it secondary? Is the packing behind the flue secondary? I gather there is **no** evidence of refurbishment.

I have a note to say that at Heybridge, there are mortaria of the Acceptus type (no stamps) which might be associated with another kiln at Heybridge rather than coming from Colchester.

All are variants with grooves top and bottom and all look 3rd century. Most have type 8 spouts (bead broken and turned out over the flange). Anytime like 200-230+

4. There is no pottery in construction of Kiln 2? Could Kiln 2 be an earlier kiln?
5. Does Heybridge fabric really differ from Colchester fabric?
6. If pedestal and flue contemporary with building of kiln, all the mortaria in the construction pre-date the use of the kiln. If all the mortaria in construction of kiln are regarded as Period 1, the construction of the kiln could be in the period AD180-200/210 judging from the mortaria. Products fired in the kiln would be Period 2.
7. If I were looking at only the stamped mortaria (CVINO\#M and trademark) made at Heybridge I would say AD170-180 as an optimum date for their manufacture.

What was being fired in the kilns? No distinctive raking out layer, however thin? Any pottery in this is most likely to be the pottery being fired? Does the pottery from

Kiln 1 differ from the pottery from Kiln2? Do sherds of mortaria suddenly peter out when you get a metre or a metre and a half away from the kilns and stokehole?

Have you any evidence of any other kilns or have any been found earlier which are linked to mortarium production?

Are the rim-profiles associated with the stamps, specific to the stamps? Are there unstamped mortaria of same types?

The pottery in the kiln and stokehole fillings are mostly wasters from firings of the kilns?

The one thing that is clear is that the 'Cuno' and trademark mortaria, and even some post-dating stamping, had originally been fired in an earlier kiln somewhere on the site!

You may find a lot of relatively underfired sherds or relatively overfired sherds, but really wasted sherds of mortaria are very rare on kiln sites? Mortaria are too thick to waste in the same way as other coarseware, rather they distort radially. It is often possible to see that you have mortaria which are unusable because of being distorted, but to do this you have to join enough sherds to be able to check it.

The crazing and friability of the fabric may be indicative of wasting in this fabric, but the state of the ground is relevant; take advice if you can? Has it happened to mortaria away from the kilns, from earlier excavations etc.?

What is the overall date of pottery production on the site?