

mortaria of any type, are very uncommon in some areas. In addition to Britain, the only two regions with high numbers of stamped mortaria and, it is suggested, large numbers of unstamped vessels as well<sup>25</sup>, are 1) northern *Gallia Belgica* (Belgium and the border areas of France, near Bavay) and 2) parts of Upper Germany and eastern *Gallia Lugudunensis* (covering western Switzerland, the Upper Rhine valley and Burgundy).

These two areas might have been those from which potters were recruited during the Claudio-Neronian period for the new pottery workshops of Britain. In this context, the suggested origin of the Brockley Hill Field 410 potter might be of some

25. *Ibid* 209-214 and Fig. 8.

26. The mortarium stamps seem to be the only reference to a *Lugudunum* in the area of the Verulamium-region potteries, although there is an entry in the Ravenna Cosmography listing another site of this name, apparently located somewhere in the north of England (for which see A. L. F. Rivet and C. Smith *The place-names of Roman Britain* Batsford, London (1979) 401-2). As a name, *Lugudunum* has a respectable Celtic pedigree and might be considered alongside a series of other Romano-British place-names with the *-dunum* ending. A. L. F. Rivet 'Celtic Names and Roman Places' *Britannia* 11 (1980) 9-18.

27. The possibility that the stamps refer to something other than the place of manufacture might also be considered. The series is quite varied, and includes stamps reading FLVGV DV, FEC LVGD, LVGD.F and LVGV DV/FACTVS, where the abbreviated LVGV DV.. element is usually interpreted as '[made] at *Lugudunum*'.

However, an unrelated mortarium stamp from Saintes (in Aquitaine) reading LVGV DVNENSIS (published by M.-H. Santrot and J. Santrot *Céramiques commune gallo-romaines d'Aquitaine* CNRS, Paris (1979) form 196) does illustrate one alternative expansion, perhaps 'made by the potters from *Lugudunum*', rather than at a place of that name.

relevance, for he seems to have been familiar with some of the traditions of the second of these areas -- Switzerland, the Rhine valley and Burgundy -- at least judging by the forms produced.

The final part of the jigsaw may be the use of the *Lug[u]dunum* counter-stamp itself<sup>26</sup>. It might be coincidence that the mortarium potters seem to have operated from a site in Britain that bore the same name as the capital of Gaul, Lyon, that was itself located in one of the few areas in the western Empire with a strong tradition of mortarium use. However, it does seem that at least one potter had moved to Britain from somewhere in this area to work in the new pottery industry at Brockley Hill<sup>27</sup>.

This information would make rather more sense for potters to proclaim on their vessels if *Lugudunum* had some reputation as a producer of mortaria, and indeed it is now becoming clear that mortaria made in the Rhône valley, perhaps not far from Lyon, are widely distributed across Gaul and Britain during the Neronian-Flavian period (for summary of Rhône valley mortaria see P. A. Tyers *Roman Pottery in Britain* Batsford, London (1996) 130-1). This may have been enough to make a 'Lyon-type mortarium', even one made in Britain or by a potter from Lyon, worth marking as such.

If *Lugudunum* did exist in the Verulamium-region potteries, it may have been so named as a deliberate allusion by the potters working there, rather as Josiah Wedgwood chose Etruria as the title of his pottery factory at Stoke-on-Trent in the 1760s. However, given the evident contrasts between Lyon, the great capital of the Three Gauls perched above the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, and a collection of clay pits and kilns somewhere in the Middlesex forests it may have been intended rather more playfully.

I am indebted to Mark Hassall and Mrs Kay Hartley for discussions on the interpretation of the *Lugudunum* stamps, although they are not responsible for the suggestions made above.

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