

STAMPED TILES OF THE 'CLASSIS BRITANNICA'

By GERALD BRODRIBB

It has long been recognised that Roman legionaries were men of diverse skills who built their own establishments with tiles of their own making; some of these tiles were impressed with a stamp. The recent finding of an increasing number of tiles bearing the letters 'C L B R' (Classis Britannica) has drawn attention to the fact that the same practice of stamping tiles was followed by personnel of the Romano-British fleet. It is here proposed to examine the subject and to make some tentative analysis of the variety of these stamped tiles with a hope that this will provide a basis for further research into the whole matter.

The first C L B R stamped tile to be recorded in Britain was that found at Dover in 1778 by the Revd. John Lyon when excavating in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin. This stamp had an obtuse-angled foot to the L, and being misled by this, Lyon read the lettering as C I B R, and thought that it might stand for 'Cohors Prima Britannica'.¹ The next mention of a C L B R tile comes in C. Roach Smith's reports of his excavations at Lympe in 1850.² He describes several such tiles, and refers to the one found at Dover in 1778. He comments on the tiles found in Britain which seem to have been stamped by the legionaries at their various stations, and he puts forward the suggestion that the letters C L B R might stand for 'Classiarii Britannici'—marines of the British fleet; he quotes examples from inscription on stone to support this.³ Though his suggestion was not quite correct, since 'Classis Britannica' would seem to be the true reading, the idea of connecting the tiles with the fleet was a brilliant one. Since 1778 nearly 180 stamps, complete or fragmentary, have been found and recorded at nine different sites in Britain.

THE PURPOSE OF STAMPING

It is known that both legionaries and marines included tile-making among their various activities, but it is not clear why some of these tiles carry stamps. The most likely reason is to show that the tiles belonged to the Roman authorities. Compare the present use of the War Department broad arrow on certain equipment. Official property was thus established and safeguarded. Apart from this type of stamping, certain municipalities also put stamps on their tiles to show their authority.⁴ Stamping seems to be a common

¹ J. Lyon, *Archaeologia*, vol. 5 (1779), p. 325.

² C. Roach Smith, *Richborough, Reculver and Lympe* (1850), p. 258.

³ C. Roach Smith, *Richborough, Reculver and Lympe* (1850), p. 258.

⁴ Mrs. Clifford, *J.R.S.*, vol. 45 (1955), p. 68-72.

practice among the Romans; consider also the name-stamps of the potters, though these were obviously for the different purpose of advertisement.

C L B R stamps seem always to be on the topside of the tile rather than on the rough underside, and thus the stamp would be invisible when the tile was employed for bonding in the building of walls, on box tiles or hypocaust *pilæ*. On roof tegulæ, imbrices, and floortiles the stamp would remain visible; some of the stamps found on the latter show signs of considerable wear.

It might be expected that if the stamping of tiles was an official custom there might be some standard type of stamp in use. Legion-made tiles might have carried different stamps according to the legion, but evidence suggests nothing so exact. If the British fleet could be regarded as more of an entity, then one stamp could have been used throughout, unless different stamps were to be used to represent different naval stations. There is however no evidence so far of any link between variety of stamp and unit, though as will be seen, the same stamp turns up at several different sites.

VARIETIES OF STAMP

Though the lettering is usually C L B R there are some unusual forms such as C L S B R, C L A B, Clasis Brit., and in all there seem to be some 25 different basic types of stamp; this seems a large number seeing that the total number of tiles found is about 180. It would be interesting to know who was responsible for the designs of the stamps. There must have been many skilled carvers and craftsmen capable of making a wooden die to produce clear lettering. All tiles yet found have the stamps with letters in relief unlike some of the municipal stamps found at Glevum which have hollow letters impressed, made it is said with a metal die.¹ In order to investigate the problems of making a wooden die, I had one cut out of oak, and experienced the difficulty of making the cutting in reverse. Perhaps though they were not cut like this, and there were other methods of overcoming the positive-negative problems, such as using the wooden die as a mould for casting a stamp of another substance.

Some of the stamps are very complicated, and it is not surprising that some tiles contain mistakes: these include the 'Clasis. Brit.' stamp from Folkestone (see type 23, Folkestone no. 1), which for all its mis-spelling makes it clear that the letters CL stand for 'fleet'; Boulogne type no. 5 has the letters C L H R, and type 22 has what seem to be the letters C T B R. These are probably simply the result of human error and reveal the wide range of individual craftsmanship and literacy.

Apart from these mistakes there are several varieties of style of lettering; these include the letter A which lacks the crosspiece

¹ Mrs. Clifford, *J.R.S.*, vol. 45 (1955), p. 69.

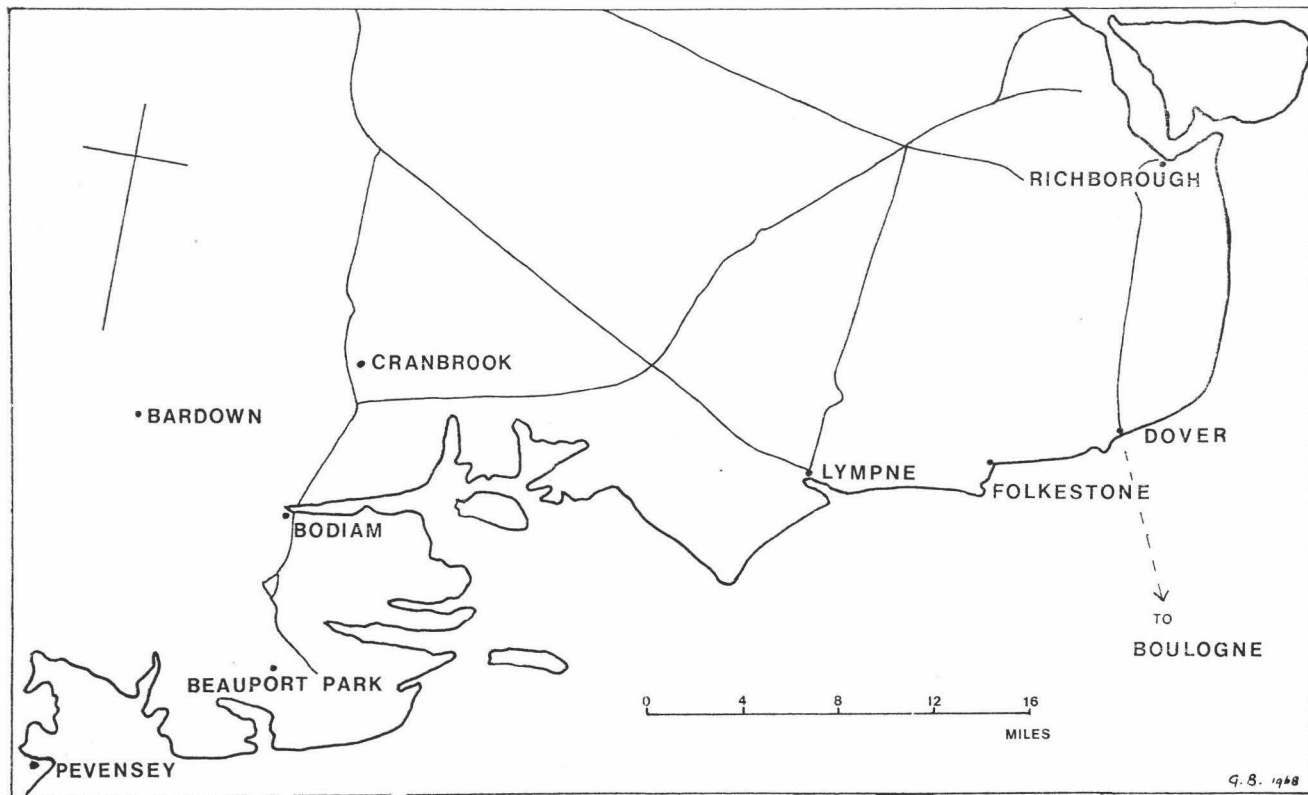


FIG. 1. Sites producing C L B R tiles

(see type 24), and the two oddly shaped letters L, one the obtuse-angled foot found in type 1, and the other the heeled L found in type 2. An examination of all the 2400 entries in R. P. Wright's *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, vol. 1, shows how frequently these three unusual letterings occurred on stone inscriptions. The obtuse-angled L was found in 33 inscriptions, the heeled L in only eight, and the type 24 letter A in 21. Seeing how rare these seem to be on stone, it is perhaps odd to find them at all on C L B R stamps.

C. Roach Smith¹ states that the heeled L first appears in inscriptions in Britain at about the time of Severus. He also says that the obtuse angled L would appear to be later in date, but R. P. Wright² says that all three forms mentioned appear on Pompeii graffiti which must antedate A.D.79, and that though they are found in use in the 1st and 2nd centuries, they are more likely in the 3rd and 4th. It seems then that the lettering style on C L B R stamps can provide little evidence on the matter of dating.

Apart from the actual style of the lettering the quality varies considerably, from the crudity of type Boulogne B.5 to the fineness of type 10 which approaches the elegance of the best lettering on stone. Though a clearly written stamp of the letters C L B R would seem to be perfectly adequate for the purpose, some stamps are extremely elaborate, such as type 20 with its divided panels and the most peculiar type 19 with its CL followed by BR in a reversed monogram. These complicated stamps suggest either a fanciful artist or a deliberate attempt to create a quite different stamp.

It seems that when the stamp is made upon the soft clay some care is needed if it is not to smudge or slip. On some of the tiles found the stamp has come out very clearly and evenly impressed, while on others it is considerably tilted. One or two are so deeply impressed that it is virtually impossible to make rubbings of them. There are two examples of double stamping. Dover no. 40 has one stamp crossing the other (see Fig. 6), while Lympne no. 7 has two stamps set close side by side. The positions of the stamps on the tiles are most haphazard; they are seldom placed neatly to line up with the tile edge, and some of those on imbrices are difficult to read since they come across the 'gable'; comb markings sometimes confuse the stamps on box tiles. In general the stamping seems to be positioned and impressed just as casually as date stamps put in a book from the public library.

DISTRIBUTION OF STAMPED TITLES

Perhaps the most interesting part of the research was the discovery that some stamp types appear on several different sites, type 1 indeed on no less than six of the nine British sites (see Fig. 1). There could

¹ C. Roach Smith, *The Roman Castrum at Lympne* (1852), p. 30.

² In correspondence with the writer.

be various reasons for this and here are a few of them: perhaps all tiles stamped with a type I stamp came from a tiliary which used such a stamp as its trade-mark; perhaps copies of type I stamp were issued to the stations from a central head-quarters which subsequently changed to a different type, and this might account for the small variations almost inevitable if one die was copied from another; another suggestion is that when the different units moved they took their own type of die with them.

All such theories as these await further evidence, and on the whole it seems that the business was in fact far less complicated, and subject to local usage, with all tiles made from local clay.

Certainly the nature of the fabric of the tiles tends to vary from site to site, and some analysis of the clays used might prove interesting.

THE RARENESS OF THE STAMPS

A great quantity of complete or fragmentary tiles have been found on the sites which have produced C L B R stamps, and it is strange that there are so few examples of tiles which carry a stamp. There are several possible reasons for this.

1. The actual stamp represents only a very small portion of the whole area, e.g. a tile measuring about 9 x 9 inches has an area of 81 square inches, but the stamp on it covers only three square inches, or one-twenty-seventh of the whole. Double this if the tile is split laterally. The bigger the tile the smaller the proportion of stamp area. But this reason does not account for the many tiles which carry no stamp at all.

2. Many stamped tiles may still be in situ, e.g. the bonding tiles in a wall, and such tiles cannot reveal their stamp. In fact there seem to be few stamped tiles which have been found in the position in which they were originally laid, and few even have mortar attached to them. Some of the ones found at Folkestone were said to have been 'not old material rebuilt into new walls, but built in as new while the British fleet was actually in being'.¹ On the other hand C. Roach Smith says of some tiles found at Lympe that they 'had been used for some buildings at a period anterior to that at which they had been worked into the buildings of the castrum'.² Not one stamped tile found at Lympe was in perfect condition, and not one of the many perfect tiles found there had a C L B R stamp.

3. Unless a tile is very carefully washed it is often impossible to see the stamp. Many stamped tiles must in the past have been overlooked and thrown away on excavators' spoil heaps, because they were not carefully enough examined or perhaps not even regarded as important.

¹ S. E. Winbolt, *Roman Folkestone* (1925), p. 112.

² C. Roach Smith, *The Roman Castrum at Lympe* (1852), p. 23.

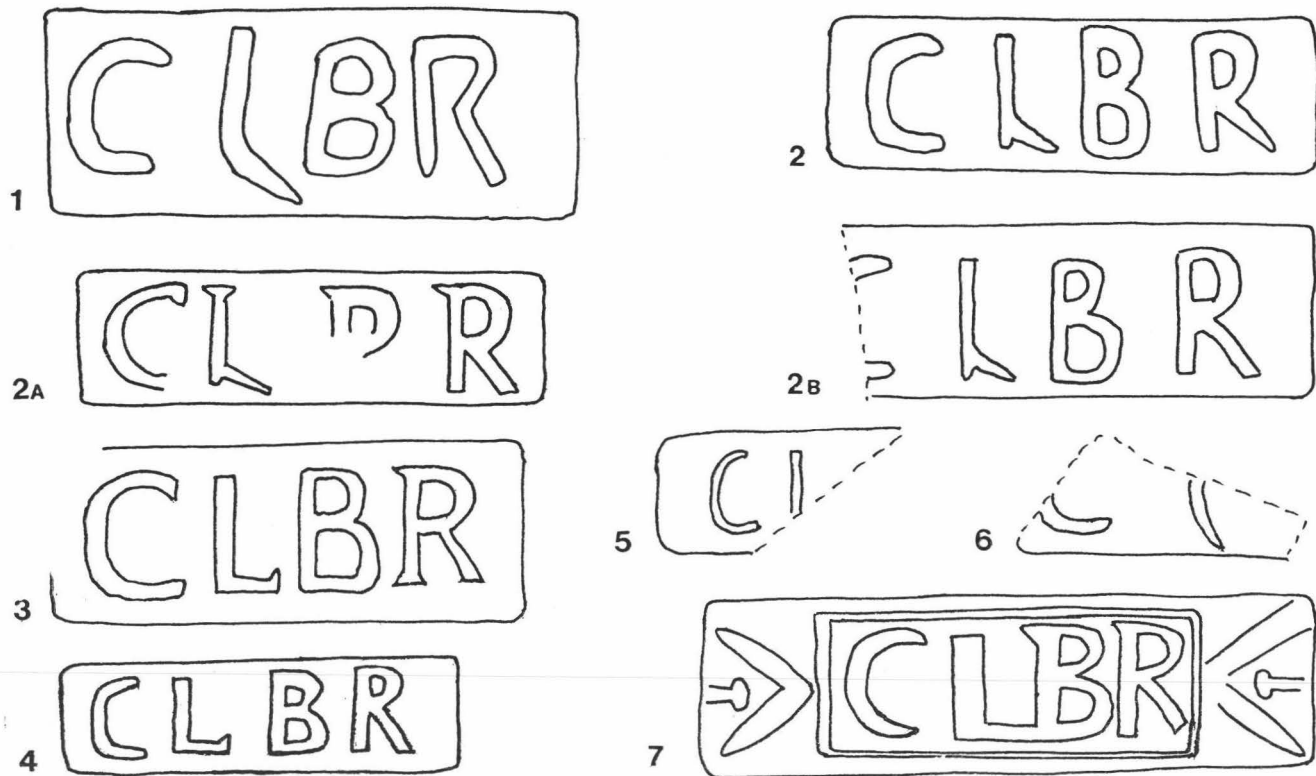


FIG. 2. C L B R Stamps, types 1 to 7. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$)

4. It is possible that for some reason only a small proportion of tiles were given a stamp. In the process of being made tiles were apparently left out to dry for some days (hence the many prints made by animal or bird), and perhaps each batch of tiles contained one tile stamped by an inspector to show that he approved the work done.

There must be many more stamped tiles to be found on sites where they have already been discovered or on new sites (such as inland iron workings). The discovery of a tilerly with stamped tiles would help to solve some of the many problems of variety and dating.

THE DATING OF STAMPS

The area in Britain in which C L B R tiles have been found is very limited—a mere 56 miles as the crow flies, from Pevensy to Richborough. The possible range in time is more considerable; from the Claudian invasion of A.D. 43 up to the probable disbanding of the British fleet some 250 years later. To quote Professor Barry Cunliffe: 'The duration of the technique of stamping is difficult to date with precision, but there is no evidence for the existence of stamped tiled before the early second century or after the mid third century.'¹ Tiles seldom seem to be associated with dateable material, but at Dover a tile was found in 1952 in floor makeup over late second century destruction,² at Bodiam a tile was found in association with two coins of Trajan, and the first C L B R tile to be found at Beauport Park lay within a few feet of a coin of Commodus. There is little other evidence.

THE NINE C L B R SITES

Here are some brief notes on the sites where C L B R tiles have been found; they are listed in the chronological order of discovery.

DOVER

The first tile was found in 1778, and the most recent in 1952. They have come mostly from the area of the Roman town, but a few have been found near the two lighthouses. We must be grateful to the late Mr. E. G. J. Amos who for many years saved and recorded a great number of tiles³.

LYMPNE

All the Lympe tiles were found during the Roach-Smith excavations of 1850. Some of those built into the walls of the Saxon Shore Fort would seem to have come from a naval base of much earlier times.

In 1893 and 1894 Sir Victor Horsley excavated along the southern wall of the castrum. His report for 1893 (now in the Ashmolean

¹ B. Cunliffe, *Richborough 5* (1968), p. 257.

² L. Murray Threipland, *Arch. Cant.*, vol. 71 (1957), p. 31.

³ E. G. J. Amos' file of photographs.

Museum) refers to the finding of at least two CL BR stamps (made on whitish-yellow tiles), but there are no illustrations or details of the type found, and the finds have been lost. No report survives for the 1894 excavations.

PEVENSEY

The first tile was that discovered by L. F. Salzman in 1906-7.¹ It was found among items most of which dated from the time when Pevensey was active as a Saxon Shore fort, and Donald Atkinson says that there seems to be no evidence of occupation of the site before this time.² The original no. 1 tile was destroyed when the museum at Eastbourne was bombed. It is believed that between 1907 and 1939 several other tiles were found and were on show in the custodian's hut. These vanished at the outbreak of the last War, and no record of them remains.

FOLKESTONE

In 1924-5 S. E. Winbolt found seven tiles when excavating the so-called naval station villa on East Cliff.³ Part of this can be dated to the time of the Saxon Shore defence system, but an earlier second century section contains complete tiles which may have been in their original position⁴.

RICHBOROUGH

Since this was an important base throughout the occupation, it is surprising that only one tile has been found, in 1932.⁵ To quote Donald Atkinson: 'though not found in a clearly stratified deposit, the tile was found in conditions not inconsistent with a late date.'⁶ This almost complete absence of tiles suggests that there may have been an earlier naval base outside the area at present excavated.⁷

BARDOWN

(TQ 663294). The first tile found on this inland iron-site was discovered by Brother Stephen Pepperell in 1951, and when identified by Mr. I. D. Margary created great interest as being the first C L B R tile to be found on a non-coastal site.⁸ Since 1965 Mr. Henry Cleere has brought to light 24 more tiles, and present evidence suggests that the site was in action from A.D. 140 to 220.

CRANBROOK

(TQ 802354). In 1955-7 excavation was undertaken by the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Local History Society (excavation secretary

¹ L. F. Salzman, *S.A.C.*, vol. 51 (1908), p. 112.

² D. Atkinson, *Historical Essays in honour of James Tait*, (1933), p. 10.

³ S. E. Winbolt, *Roman Folkestone* (1925), p. 104.

⁴ B. Cunliffe, *Richborough 5* (1968), p. 260.

⁵ *Richborough 4* (1949), p. 256.

⁶ D. Atkinson, *Historical Essays in honour of James Tait* (1933), p. 10.

⁷ B. Cunliffe, *Richborough 5* (1968), p. 258.

⁸ I. D. Margary, *Antiquaries Journal*, vol. 32 (1952), p. 73.

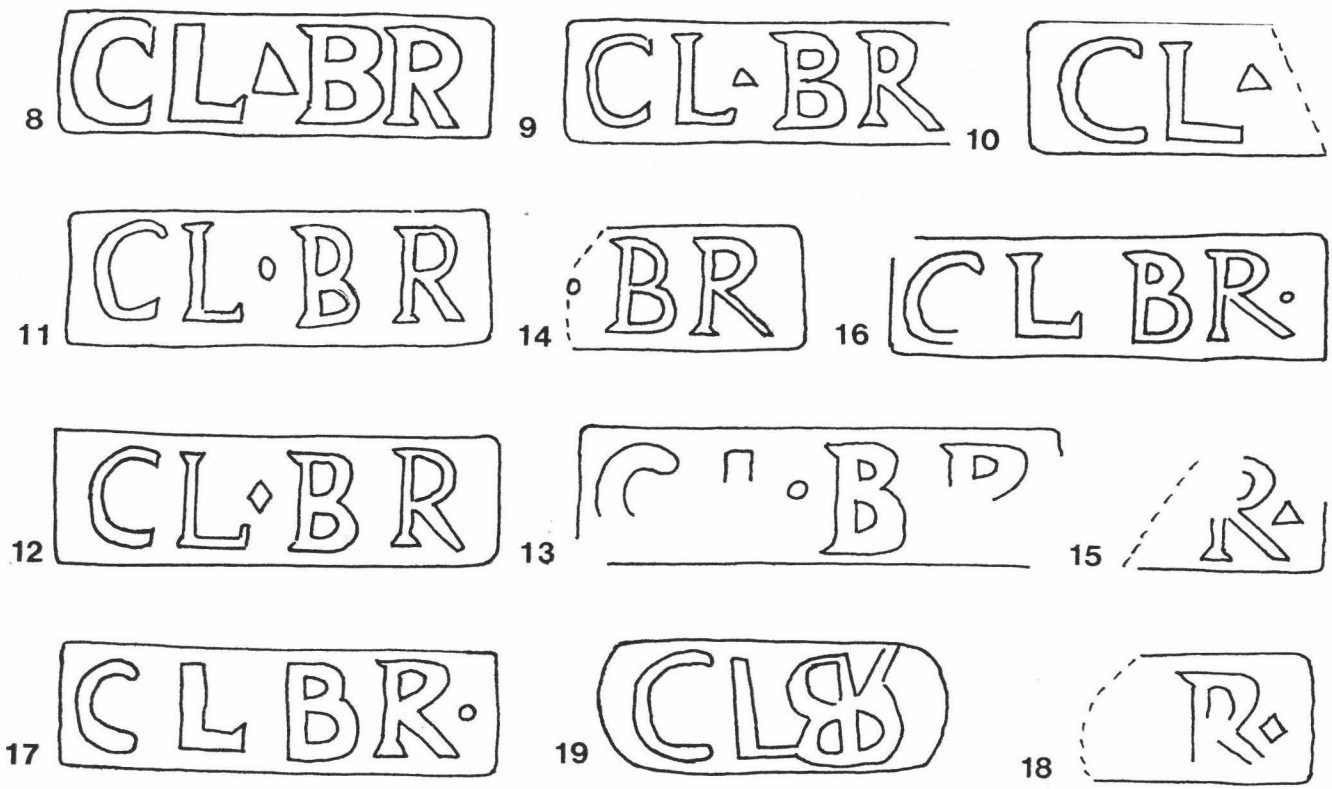


FIG. 3. C L B R Stamps, types 8 to 19. (Scale 1/2)

Mrs. M. C. Lebon) at Little Farningham Farm, a few yards off the Rochester-Hastings Roman road. The site is near a small stream but outside the Rother basin, and produced a 'hoard' of no less than 51 tiles, several of them in mint condition. Box tiles and *terræ mammatae* were included, but there is no positive evidence of a tiliary. There were clear signs of iron-working, and the site (not yet fully excavated) was probably part of a naval supply base in the first and second centuries.

BODIAM

(TQ 783251). In 1959 the Battle and District Historical Society under the direction of Col. C. H. Lemmon and Col. J. Darrell Hill made first excavation of the hop-fields bordering the river Rother.¹ There is evidence to show that this was a busy port with considerable habitation. Coin dating would suggest the end of activity by the closing years of the third century. The variety of types of C L B R tiles is greater than at any other site.

In April 1969, a complete imbrex bearing a type 4 CL BR stamp was discovered just below the surface of the Roman road some 1,700 yards north of the Bodiam site. This has been listed as Bodiam no. 30, and is the first stamped tile to be found in the make-up of a road.

BEAUPORT PARK

(TQ 787145). This iron site has the remains of what is probably the biggest of all Romano-British slag heaps. Five C L B R tiles were found by the present writer in 1968. This is the third non-coastal site to produce such tiles, and thus provides further evidence that certain iron sites came under the control of naval authorities. Limited coin evidence suggests a period of A.D. 120-190, but it has been said that these workings date back to before the Claudian invasion.

C L B R TILES FROM BOULOGNE

Any survey of C L B R stamped tiles must include mention of those found near Boulogne, which was the base for Claudius' successful invasion in A.D. 43. In the previous reign Caligula had built a great Pharos which was still standing in the mid seventeenth century and Boulogne (Gesoriacum) is generally considered to have been the Head Quarters of the British Fleet.

Writing some eighty years ago V. J. Vaillant states that there were then known to be about fifty stamped tiles either in the Boulogne Museum or in private collections.² The passage of time and warfare has led to the loss of most of these, but there are still nine tiles

¹ C. H. Lemmon & J. Darrell Hill, *S.A.C.*, vol. 104 (1966), p. 88-102.

² V. J. Vaillant, *Révue Archéologique*, vol. 12 (1888), p. 368.

to be seen in the museum. None of these or others drawn by V. J. Vaillant are exactly identical with any of those found in Britain, which is further evidence that the matter of design tended to be local. I have later given a full record of all Boulogne types yet recorded. The most interesting stamp mentioned by V. J. Vaillant is a fragmentary piece with the letters 'NNCAE' (see B.10, Fig. 6). Vaillant suggests that the letters C L B R really stood for 'Classis Britannicæ,' that is to say in the genitive case; the preceding word omitted was 'opus', showing that the tile was the 'work of the British fleet'. This tile is certainly evidence for his interesting suggestion.¹ Vaillant also gives some illustrated mention of tiles stamped 'CL SAM', which belonged to the 'Classis Sambrica (or Samarica)', a fleet which probably came into being soon after the end of the 'Classis Britannica'.

THE ANALYSIS OF TYPES AND LIST OF STAMPS

The purpose has been to record every available stamped tile either extant in Museums or private collections, or reported in print. It is sad to relate that many tiles once fully recorded have now been lost. It has been difficult sometimes to identify a tile from a drawing or report of it, especially where no measurements have been given, but every trace of a stamp, even from a small fragment, has been noted.

From the compiled list an analysis has been attempted of the various types of stamp, each type being given a number. Where there are variations of a basic type, the variation has been given as a sub-number. Type identification has not been easy, but it has seemed generally more useful to chance a suggestion in the hope of further evidence rather than to commit a fragment to the list of those too worn or damaged to be in any way decipherable. Many of the stamps match quite obviously, and careful measurement suggests that they may have come off the same die: slight variation might be due to a copy being made of the die, or the recutting of a die to sharpen up the letters when they became worn.

Apart from the type listing I have given a number to every tile which shows its site, the numbering being wherever possible according to the chronology of the find, e.g. the tile marked 'Dover no. 5' is a later find than that marked 'Dover no. 4'.

In the list of tiles I have given:—

1. A half-size contact tracing. (See Figs. 2 to 5 and 7).
2. The measurement of the stamp in millimetres, the width preceding the height.
3. A brief note on the characteristics of the type.

¹ V. J. Vaillant, *Notes Boulonnaises* (1890), p. 246, fig. 86.



20



21



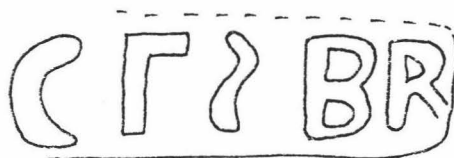
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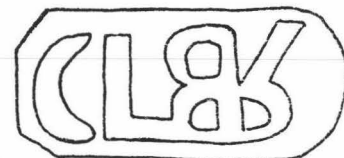
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19B



19c



19A

FIG. 4. C L B R Stamps, types 19a to 25. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$)

4. a. The number of the tile according to the site.
- b. The quantity of letters (or part letters) visible, i.e. the four letters C L B R mean that the stamp is complete or almost complete with all the letters.
- c. The date when it was found.
- d. Reference where possible to the original report.

An asterisk by the tile number shows that the tile has not been seen personally though report has proved its one-time existence.

Evidence for the assessment of these types has come sometimes from partial stamps which can be put together well enough to prove the whole, but more often from complete stamps, of which there are no less than 58 examples: 27 from Cranbrook, 12 from Dover, six from Folkestone, six from Bodiam, four from Lympne, and one each from Bardown, Beauport Park and Richborough.

Some of these complete stamps have been found on 20 complete or virtually complete tiles. Cranbrook had provided four perfect box tiles, four imbrices, and four large flat tiles, three smaller tiles of the pila type have come from Folkestone, and one each from Bodiam and Bardown; the road near Bodiam has produced one complete imbrex and Dover has produced one very large bonding tile and one very odd shaped angular tile.

Of the 177 tiles listed it has been possible to identify the nature of the tile in 134 examples: flat tiles (brick) of various sizes account for 66, tegulae for 43, imbrices for 16, and box tiles for nine (all from Cranbrook).

SOME NOTES ON THE TYPES

TYPE	SIZE (Millimetres)	
1	97 x 37	Obtuse angled foot to L; flat top to R, which has a gap between front and back, and a long tail. No serifs (Fig. 2).
2	93 x 30	Noticeable heel to obtuse-angled foot of L. R. leans slightly forward. No serifs (Fig. 2).
2a	85 x 24	Similar heel to L. Serifs. Big gap between L & B, but no stop (Fig. 2).
2b	? x 32	Similar heel to L. Bigger margin (Fig. 2).
3	85 x 33	Good lettering. Lip on toe of L, and large serif on front foot of R. (Fig. 2).
4	72 x 19	Similar lip on L as in type 3. Wide gap between L and B (Fig. 2).
5	? x 22	Rounded corners to stamp. Very thin lettering. (Fig. 2)
6	? x ?	Very obtuse angle to foot of L, similar to type 1, but with smaller lettering (Fig. 2).
7	111 x 32	Winged or handle pattern at each end of stamp. L & B join at base (Fig. 2).
8	78 x 22	Fat lettering almost filling stamp. Strong serifs. Large triangular medial stop (Fig. 3).
8a	81 x 24	Similar, but even fatter lettering. (Not illustrated).
9	? x 22	Similar to type 8, but smaller letters and smaller medial stop (Fig. 3).

TYPE	SIZE (Millimetres)	
10	? x 23	Elegant lettering. Triangular medial stop larger than in type 9, but smaller than in type 8 (Fig. 3).
11	77 x 24	Good lettering. Roughly oval medial stop (Fig. 3).
12	80 x 23	Similar to type 11, but with diamond shaped medial stop, and square hook to toe of L (Fig. 3).
13	88 x 25	Large letters. Round medial stop (Fig. 3).
14	? x 23	Fine lettering. Round medial stop (Fig. 3).
15	? x ?	Triangular final stop. Long shallow tail to R (Fig. 3).
16	77 x 23	Small round final stop (Fig. 3).
16a	? x 23	Similar lettering, but different spacing. Fatter letters than in type 16. (Not illustrated).
17	79 x 23	Small round final stop (Fig. 3).
18	? x ?	Diamond shaped final stop (Fig. 3)
19	63 x 24	The chief characteristic of all varieties is that the L is linked with the BR, which two letters are inverted and written as a monogram. All stamps with this characteristic are classed as type 19. The most frequent example has the L leaning back, and a stamp with very rounded corners (Fig. 3). There are many slight varieties, the most obviously different ones being listed as:—
19a	60 x 27	Fatter letters; upright L. Left-hand stamp angular, right-hand rounded (Fig. 4).
19b	56 x 24	Letters BR much larger than CL, touching edge of stamp. Left hand end of stamp rounded, right hand squared (Fig. 4).
19c	59 x 27	Tapered stamp. L. separate from B. Square medial stop (Fig. 4).
20	57 x 37	Letters CL & BR are set in separate oblong panels with patterned division in between. A line divides the C & L (Fig. 4).
21	40 x 45	Roughly round stamp. Close set letters (Fig. 4).
21a	? x ?	Similar round stamp, but rough lettering. (Not illustrated).
22	52 x 49	Round stamp which bulges out by the letter T, which is presumably a miswriting for L. Crude lettering (Fig. 4).
23	62 x 62	Perfectly round stamp with 'Clasis. Brit' round the edge and wheel type decoration in the centre (Fig. 4).
24	? x 46	Roughly oval stamp. The only letters visible are AB, but CL is presumed to stand in front. The A is of unusual type with no cross-piece, and the right hand leg vertical (Fig. 4).
25	84 x 25	Crude lettering C L S B R with the L & S inverted (Fig. 4).

LIST OF STAMPS

Type.	Stamp No.	Letters	Date	Reference
1. Bardown	3	R	1965	
"	18	CL	1968	
Beauport	3	C	1968	
"	4	C	1968	
Bodiam	9	CLB	1966	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol.57 (1967), p. 208
"	10	LBR	1966	" "
"	12	BR	1966	" "
"	18	BR	1967	" vol. 58 (1968), p. 211
"	23	BR	1967	" "
"	24	BR	1967	" "
"	26	BR	1967	" "

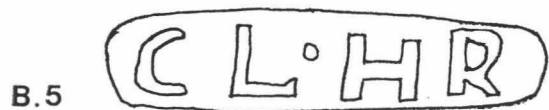
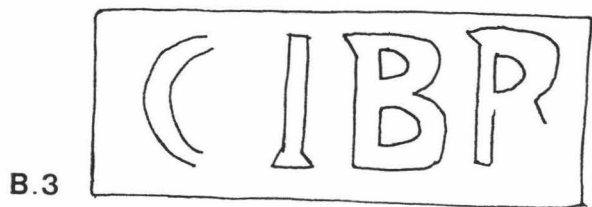
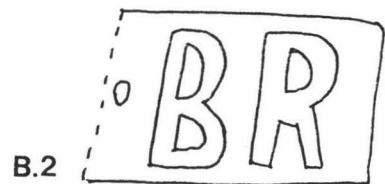
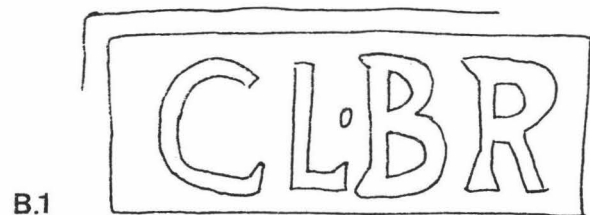
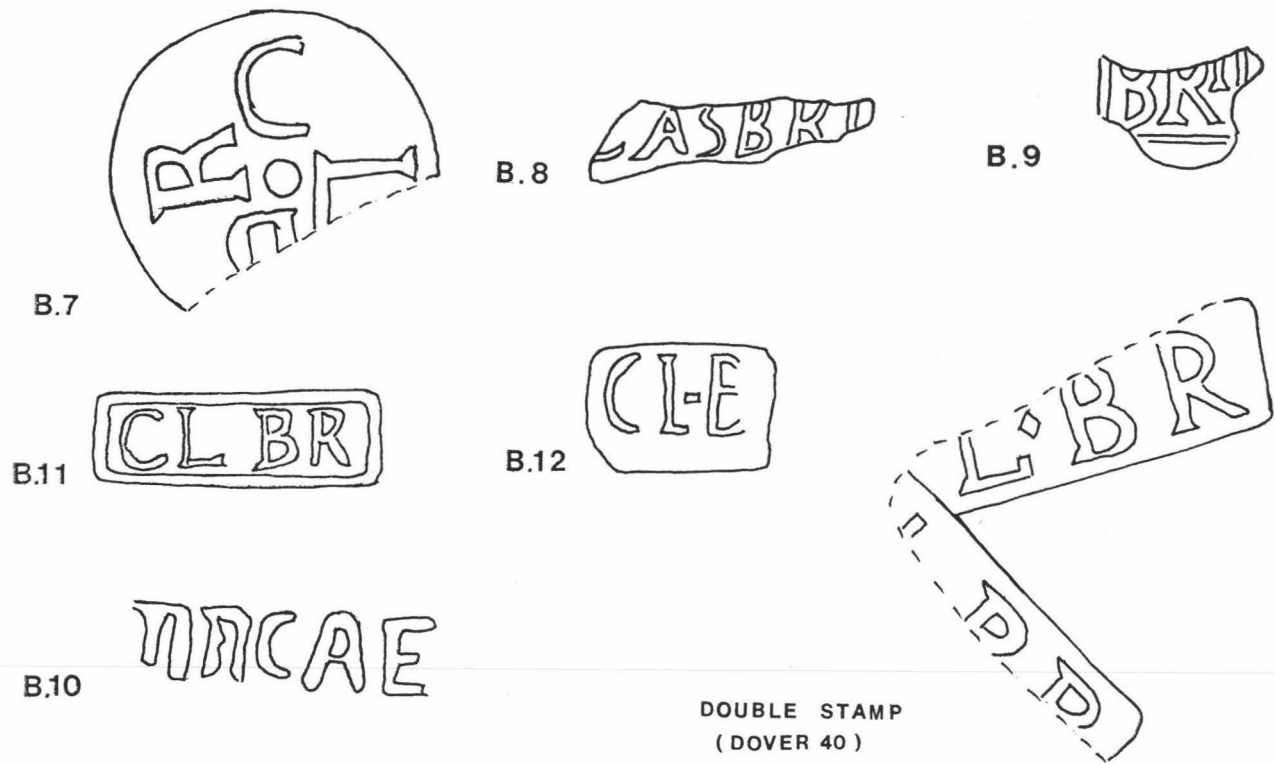


FIG. 5. Boulogne C L B R Stamps, types B.1 to B.6. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$)

Type.	Stamp No.	Letters	Date	Reference
Dover	1*	CLBR	1778	J. Lyon, <i>Archæologia</i> , vol. 5 (1779), p. 330
"	4*	BR	pre-1867	Joseph Mayer Collection (Liverpool M.)
"	10	CLBR	1913	Dover M. A/1 233
"	12*	LBR	1915	E. G. J. Amos File, Photo No. 10
"	13*	LBR	1920	Photo No. 7
"	19*	BR	1929	<i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 42 (1930), p. xlix
"	20*	CL	1929	" "
"	23*	CLBR	1929	" "
"	29*	L	1929	" "
"	38	BR	1952	L. M. Threipland, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 71 (1957), p. 31
"	41	CLBR	1952	" "
"	44	LBR	1952	" "
Lympne	2	CLBR	1850	C. Roach Smith, <i>The Roman Castrum at Lympne</i> (1852), pl. vi
"	10*	CLB	1850	C. Roach Smith, <i>Richborough, Reculver and Lympne</i> (1850), p. 258
Pevensy	2	BR	1907	L. F. Salzman, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 52 (1909), p. 87 and pl. 8
2. Dover	5*	BR	1859	<i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 5 (1862-3), p. xli
"	17	BR	1929	<i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 42 (1930), p. xlix
"	32*	LBR	1928	Dover M. A/1 225
"	35	LB	1945	L. M. Threipland & K. A. Steer, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 64 (1951), p. 131
"	37	CLB	1952	L. M. Threipland, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 71 (1957), p. 31
2a. Beauport	5	CLBR	1968	
2b. Dover	5*	CLB	pre-1867	Joseph Mayer Collection (Liverpool M.)
Lympne	4	CLBR	1850	C. Roach Smith, <i>The Roman Castrum at Lympne</i> (1852), p. vi.
3. Dover	15	CLBR	1922	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 11 (1921-2), p. 239 no. 13
4. Cranbrook	9	CLBR	1955-7	See note 1 below for this and all following Cranbrook tiles.
Bodiam	30	CLBR	1969	
5. Beauport	2	CL	1968	
6. Bardown	6	CL	1968	
7. Folkestone	3	CLBR	1924	S. E. Winbolt, <i>Roman Folkestone</i> (1925), p. 104
"	4	CLBR	1924	" "
"	6*	?	1924	" "
Richborough	1	CLBR	1932	Richborough Report, vol. 4 (1949), p. 256
8. Bodiam	6	CLB	1960	C. H. Lemmon & J. D. Hill, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 104 (1966), p. 99
Beauport	1	CLB	1968	
Cranbrook	4	CLBR	1955-7	
"	7	CLBR	1955-7	
"	12	BR	1955-7	
"	16	CL	1955-7	
"	21	CL	1955-7	
"	24	C	1955-7	
"	28	CL	1955-7	
"	45	CLBR	1955-7	
"	49	C	1955-7	
"	51	CLBR	1955-7	

Type.	Stamp No.	Letters	Date	Reference
8a. Cranbrook	11	BR	1955-7	
"	15	CLBR	1955-7	
"	25	BR	1955-7	
"	27	BR	1955-7	
"	30	CLB	1955-7	
"	47	BR	1955-7	
Dover	39	CLBR	1952	L. M. Threipland, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 71 (1957), p. 31
9. Bardown	8	CLBR	1968	
"	9	CL	1968	
Dover	6	CLBR	1908	J. Mothersole, <i>The Saxon Shore</i> (1924), p. 117
10. Bodiam	3	CL	1960	C. H. Lemmon & J. D. Hill, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 104 (1966), p. 99
"	4	CL	1960	" "
"	8*	CL	1960	" "
11. Cranbrook	10	CLBR	1955-7	
"	43	CLBR	1955-7	
12. Bardown	14	CLB	1968	
"	15	CLB	1968	
Dover	40	CLBR	1952	L. M. Threipland, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 71 (1957), p. 31
13. Bodiam	25	CLBR	1967	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 58 (1968), p.211
14. Bodiam	17	BR	1967	" " "
15. Bardown	16	R	1968	
Bodiam	16	BR	1967	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 58 (1968), p. 211
Dover	33	R	?	Dover M.
16. Cranbrook	40	CLBR	1955-7	
17. Bodiam	20	CLBR	1967	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 58 (1968), p. 211
18. Bardown	5	R	1968	
19. Bardown	13	R	1968	
"	22	CLBR	1968	
Bodiam	7	LBR	1960	C. H. Lemmon & J. D. Hill, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 104 (1966), p. 99
Cranbrook	1	CLBR	1955-7	
"	2	CLBR	1955-7	
"	3	CLBR	1955-7	
"	5	CLBR	1955-7	
"	6	CLBR	1955-7	
"	14	CLBR	1955-7	
"	17	CL	1955-7	
"	18	LBR	1955-7	
"	19	CLBR	1955-7	
"	20	CLB	1955-7	
"	22	LB	1955-7	
"	29	CLBR	1955-7	
"	31	CL	1955-7	
"	32	CLBR	1955-7	
"	35	CLBR	1955-7	
"	36	CLBR	1955-7	
"	37	CLB	1955-7	
"	41	CLBR	1955-7	
"	42*	?	1955-7	
"	44	CLBR	1955-7	
"	46	CLBR	1955-7	
"	48	CLB	1955-7	



STAMPED TILES

FIG. 6. Boulogne C L B R Stamps, types B.7 to B.12 (scale unknown);
also example of Double Stamp (Dover 40)

Type.	Stamp No.	Letters	Date	Reference
Dover	2*	CLBR	c.1850	R. E. M. Wheeler, <i>The Archaeological Journal</i> , vol. 86 (1929), p. 45
"	7*	C	1908	E. G. J. Amos File, Photo No. 5
"	9	CLBR	c.1913	E. G. J. Amos File, Photo No. 3
"	11*	CLBR	1913	E. G. J. Amos File, Photo No. 4
"	34	LB	1945	L. M. Threipland & K. A. Steer, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 64 (1951) p. 131 ff.
19a. Cranbrook	23	CLBR	1955-7	
"	33	CLBR	1955-7	
19b. Bardown	1	CLBR	1951	I. D. Margary, <i>Antiquaries Journal</i> , vol. 32 (1952), p. 73
Bodiam	2	CLBR	1960	C. H. Lemmon & J. D. Hill, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 104 (1966), p. 99
"	5	CLBR	1960	" "
Cranbrook	8	CLBR	1955-7	
"	34	CLBR	1955-7	
19c. Dover	8	CLBR	1930(?)	Ministry of Works
20. Bardown	2	BR	1965	
"	25	BR	1968	
Bodiam	1	CLBR	1959	C. H. Lemmon & J. D. Hill, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 104 (1966), p. 99
"	11	CL	1966	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 57 (1967), p. 208
Dover	16*	BR	pre-1925	E. G. J. Amos File, Photo No. 12
"	42	BR	1952	L. M. Threipland, <i>Arch. Cant.</i> , vol. 71 (1957), p. 31
"	43	BR	1952	" "
"	45	BR	1952	" "
Pevensey	1*	LBR	1906	L. F. Salzman, <i>S.A.C.</i> , vol. 51 (1908), p. 112
21. Folkestone	2	CLBR	1924	S. E. Winbolt, <i>Roman Folkestone</i> (1925), p. 104
"	7*	CLBR	1924	" "
21a. Pevensey	3*	?	?	" "
22. Dover	28*	B	1928	E. G. J. Amos File, Photo. No. 13
Lymne	7	CTBR	1850	C. Roach Smith, <i>The Roman Castrum at Lymne</i> (1852), pl. vi
23. Folkestone	1	CLBR	1924	S. E. Winbolt, <i>Roman Folkestone</i> (1925), p. 104
"	5*	CLBR	1924	" "
24. Bodiam	13	AB	1966	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 57 (1967), p. 208
"	27	B	1967	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 58 (1968), p. 211
25. Bodiam	22	LSB	1967	<i>J.R.S.</i> , vol. 58 (1968), p. 211
Lymne	1	CLSBR	1850	C. Roach Smith, <i>The Roman Castrum at Lymne</i> (1852), pl. vi

Notes to above list

1. There can be no individual reference for the Cranbrook tiles, but almost all of them are covered as a whole in: *Arch. Cant.*, vol. 70 (1956), p. 283, *Arch. Cant.*, vol. 71 (1957), p. 224, and Mrs. M. C. Lebon *Arch. Cant.*, vol. 72 (1958), p. lx-lxiii; and also in *J.R.S.*, vol. 49 (1959), p. 137.

2. The evidence for several Dover tiles comes from E. G. J. Amos' file of photographs (now in K.A.S. Library at Maidstone Museum), or from his scrapbook in the library of *The Dover Express*.
3. The following abbreviations have been used:
 S.A.C.: *Sussex Archaeological Collections*
 Arch. Cant. *Archaeologia Cantiana*
 J.R.S. *The Journal of Roman Studies*
4. The Beauport Park stamps and Bardown stamps Nos. 2-25 have not yet been published.

Apart from these 140 stamps listed here, there are 37 others which because of their very worn or fragmentary condition cannot at present be reasonably classified. These 37 stamps consist of 11 each from Bardown and Dover, six from Bodiam, five from Lympne, and 4 from Cranbrook.

PRESENT WHEREABOUTS

Though several recorded stamps have been known to have been lost for ever, and others are missing, it has been possible to discover the whereabouts of the majority of those listed. Here is a detailed note of these:—

Bardown	1: No. 1 in Barbican House, Lewes.
Bodiam	10: Nos. 1-7, 9-11 in Battle Museum.
Cranbrook	49: Nos. 1-7, 9-11, 13-34, 36-41, 44-51 in Cranbrook School Museum; Nos. 8 and 43 in Maidstone Museum; no. 35 in Roman Pavement Museum, Canterbury.
Dover	20: Nos. 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 33, 35, 37-45 in Dover Museum; Nos. 4 and 5 in Liverpool Museum; No. 9 in St. Mary's Church, Dover Castle; No. 8 with Ministry of Works.
Folkestone	4: Nos. 1-4 in Folkestone Museum.
Lympne	3: Nos. 1, 2, 7 in the British Museum.
Pevensey	1: No. 2 in Hastings Museum.
Richborough	1: No. 1 in Richborough Castle Museum.

Certain other tiles are at present in the care of The Wealden Iron Research Group.

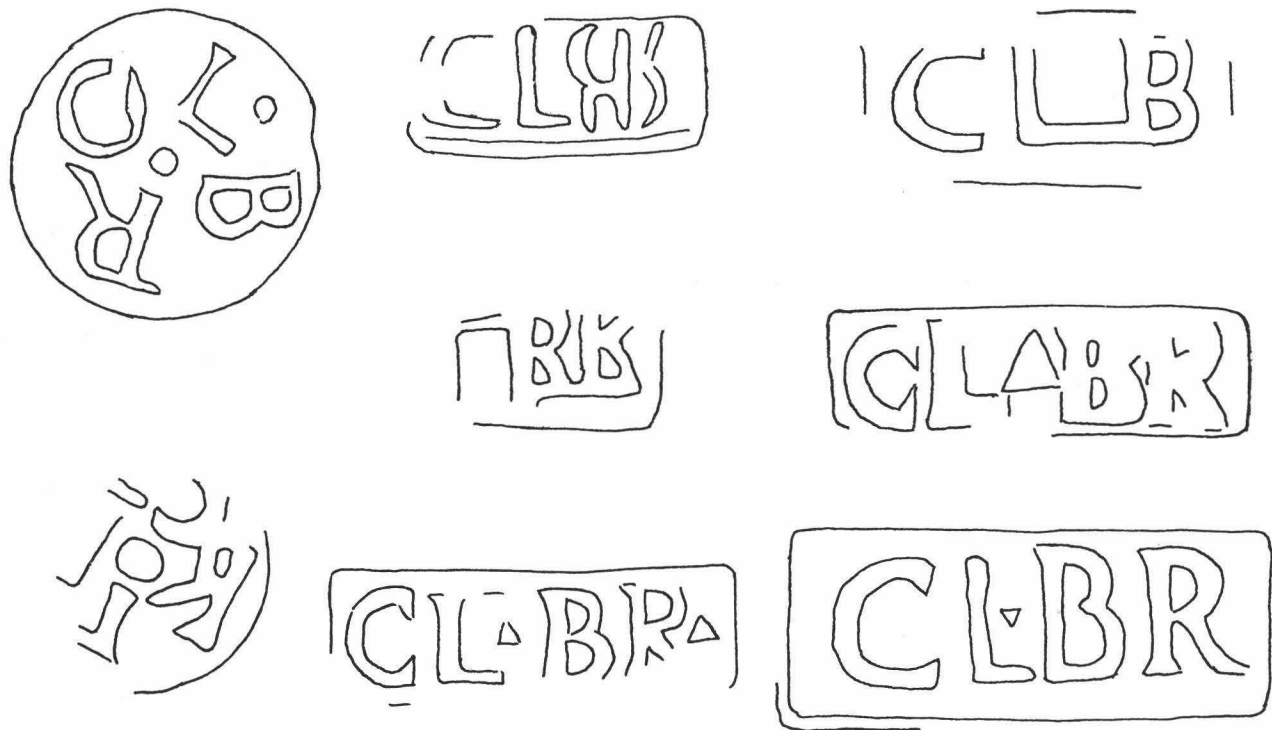


Fig. 7 Some new types found at Boulogne 1967-69 (scale $\frac{1}{2}$)

TABLE OF TYPES

Table showing which sites have produced which basic types of stamp.

Type Number	BARDOWN	BEAUPORT, PARK	BODIAM	CRANBROOK	DOVER	FOLKESTONE	LYMPNE	PEVENSEY	RICHBOROUGH	Total
1		2	7		12		2	1		26
2, 2a, 2b		1			6		1			8
3					1					1
4			1	1						2
5		1								1
6	1									1
7						3			1	4
8, 8a		1	1	16	1					19
9	2				1					3
10			3							3
11				2						2
12	2				1					3
13			1							1
14			1							1
15	1		1		1					3
16, 16a				2						2
17			1							1
18	1									1
19, 19a										
19b, 19c	3		3	26	6					38
20	2		2		4			1		9
21, 21a						2		1		3
22					1		1			2
23						2				2
24			2							2
25			1				1			2
Un-classified	11		6	4	11		5			37
Total Varieties of basic types	25	5	30	51	45	7	10	3	1	177
	8	4	12	5	10	3	4	3	1	

STAMPS FROM THE BOULOGNE AREA

The Boulogne types are based for the most part upon the evidence of (a) the nine tiles still to be seen in the museum at Boulogne (types B.1 to B.6 inclusive, all in Fig. 5), and (b) those described or drawn (without measurement) by Vaillant in various writings in 1882-1890 (Fig. 6). For the sake of convenience I have combined the notes on the types with the full list of stamps for which I can find evidence.

Type	Size (Millimetres)	
B.1	87 x 33	Close set large letters. Oval medial tops. -1. C L . B R (Found 1862) -2. C L . B R (Found 1886)
B.2	? x 31	Large letters leaning back. Medial stop. - B R (Found 1862)
B.3	90 x 35	Letter I instead of L. - C I B R (Found 1886)
B.4	? x 35	Good lettering. Medial stop with three blades. - C L . B (Found 1886)
B.5	81 x 18	Letter H instead of B. Very crude lettering. Round medial stop. Rounded ends to stamp. -1. C L . H R -2. C L . H R -3. C L H R (? stop)
B.6	62 x 24	Close set letters: poor lettering. -C L B R

I have not seen any of the following types, nor are measurements known. Nos. B.7 to B.12 appear on Fig. 6. Nos. B.13 to B.15 are not illustrated. All references B.7 to B.13 (inclusive) are to writings by Vaillant.

- B.7 Round stamp with large stop in centre. Stamp found in 1888. Letters C L B R arranged differently from types 21 and 22. (See 'L'Estampille Ronde' from *Révue Archéologique*, Third Series, vol. XII (1888), p. 367-71.)
- B.8 'LAS BRI' (See *Notes Boulonnaises* (1890), p. 245, fig. 84).
- B.9 'BRIT' (See *Notes Boulonnaises* (1890), p. 245, fig. 85).
- B.10 'NNCAE'. Found 1862. (See *Notes Boulonnaises* (1890), p. 246, fig. 86).
- B.11 -1. C L B R (Found at Desures, nr. Boulogne)
2. C L B R
(See *Notes Boulonnaises* (1890), p. 243-4, figs. 81, 82)
- B.12 C L - B (Hyphen-type stop)
(See fig. 12 of 'Estampilles' from *Classis Britannica*, etc. (1888))
- B.13 L B R
(See fig. 7 of 'Estampilles' from *Classis Britannica*, etc. (1888))
- B.14 C L . B (Found at Desures, near Boulogne)
- B.15 C L B R

Evidence of B.14 and B.15 comes from *Boulogne Romain* (1899) by E. T. Hamy, who later wrote more fully about CLBR stamps in 'Les sigles figulins de la Flotte de Bretagne' in *Bull. Soc. Acad. Boulogne-sur-Mer*, Tome V, (1904-1907), p. 531-562.

This article includes what was virtually a catalogue of all CLBR tiles found near Boulogne, and listed about 42 tiles, some of which are extant and are illustrated in figs. 5 and 6.

In recent correspondence M. Claude Seillier tells me that no CLBR tiles have been found at Boulogne between 1899 and present times, when in the course of excavation 1967-69 he found many more stamped tiles. The total of these recent discoveries comes to 39, covering some 18 different types. Though none of these would seem to be identical with those found in Britain, there are close

similarities to type 8 and type 19, and there are no less than 15 examples of a circular stamp very like type B.7. The full report on all these appears in *La Revue du Nord*, 202, October-December, 1969.

M. Seillier also mentions a tile (type B.5) which he found in the museum at St. Germain. (Not listed by Hamy).

This brings the full total of stamped tiles found in the Boulogne area to about 80, and these together with the British tiles, make a grand total of about 260 CLBR stamps so far discovered. There must be plenty more still to be found.

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