Mancetter-Hartshill Mortarium Type Series:

i) Explanation of how the present Type Series numbers were formulated.
ii) Some suggestions if the Type Series is to be published.

i) Explanation of how the present Type Series numbers were formulated.

The main division of mortaria, according to rim form shape, was defined as categories A to K.

A = Flanged rim with bead above the flange (includes bead on the same level)
B = Wall-sided (upright collar &/or sagging underneath)
C = Collar in 3 divisions
D = Reeded collar (4 or more reeds)
E = Smooth collar (includes incipient bead or reeds)
F = Flanged rim in 2 divisions (more upright than Type 'A')
G = Mancetter products copying other rim forms (i.e. Oxford)
H = Pre-Flavian rims, Mancetter products (red-brown fabrics)
I = Colour Coated/ red-brown slip (red-brown fabrics)
J = Non-Mancetter-Hartshill products
K = Flanged rim with bead below the flange (includes bead on the same level)

The present Type Series numbers were formulated as drawn material from each kiln/area became available. It took a period of five years before all the mortaria drawings were available for inclusion in the Type Series. The typological classification of each rim sherd and the inclusion of new drawn forms was done progressively over this period, as the archive record sheets were completed for each kiln/area. As new forms were identified these were incorporated into the Type Series, allocating the next whole consecutive number for each type (i.e. A33, A34). Examples of a particular type and its minor variations were incoporated using a decimal point (i.e A34.01, A34.02). A further sub-division of type numbers was introduced as related types and variants occurred (i.e A34.50, A34.70). In total, approximately 2800 rim forms have been incorporated in the Type Series and the present system displays fairly detailed minor variations of rim form that occur from the excavations at Mancetter-Hartshill, in addition to some Mancetter-Hartshill stamped products from other excavated sites.

Notes relating to the rim forms and the relationship with other types and variants are written on the Type Series Cards. They served as a personal aide-mémoire as the Type Series was being developed and for future work, and cannot be considered complete Type descriptions.

The wide variation in flanged rim forms presented a problem,

as initially all flanged rims were defined as category 'A'. This problem was overcome by dividing the flanges according to the position of the bead in relation the flange; Category 'A' for bead above the flange and Category 'K' for bead below the flange. Determining the position of the bead can be subjective, as it can vary according to how the mortarium is held. Variations in the bead position in a single mortarium may also occur, especially when near the spout. Those mortaria with bead on the same level as the flange, were grouped with their closest related flange forms either 'A' or 'K'. The substitution of the letter 'K' for 'A' for all bead below the flange rim forms has resulted in the Type Numbers in the 'K' sequence not being consecutive.

For the purposes of manipulating the large numbers of Type Series Cards the Category 'A' cards were grouped together according to rim form shape (i.e 'rounded' 'wide', 'stubby', 'out' etc.). The group numbers (i.e. S2) are written in green ink at the bottom left corner of the cards. This system was only used for the Category 'A' cards.

Group	Numbers
O = Out -one plane	O 1-14
- arc	O 15-21
- wedge distal end	O 22-39
S = Stubby	S 1-23
SCL = Semi-circle, large	SCL 1-18
SCS = Semi-circle, small	SCS 1-7
SOH = Stubby/out, hook	SOH 1-11
SOS = Stubby/out, shelf	SOS 1-10
SR = Shallow/rounded	SR 1-5
W = Wide -two planes	W 1-5
-rounded	W 6-13
-swelling distal end	W 14-22
U = Unusual	U 1-13

ii) Some suggestions if the Type Series is to be published.

For the purposes of publication the Type Series in its present format cannot be used. The method employed in allocating the Type Number identified 'types' and 'variants' at a fairly detailed level, but does not provide an overall 'Type Series' with a coherent numbering sequence. A review of the present system would seek to formulate a more logical numbering system and reduce the 2800 drawn examples to a more manageable format.

Previously published Roman pottery type series often adopt a chronological approach, allocating a strictly consecutive numbering sequence. This causes problems in accommodating new forms and dating evidence and presupposes the user of the system has a knowledge of mortarium forms and dating.

It is not proposed that the number sequence follows a chronological progression. Instead the proposed system is based

on grouping mortaria of similar rim profile shape, forming a hierarchical system, irrespective of their chronology. However the grouping of similar flanged rim forms such as 'rounded', 'wide', 'stubby' and 'out', does have chronological implications, as rounded types are likely to be stamped and of earlier date than 'out' forms. The series of divisions can be achieved by using a code combining a letter followed by a series of digits. This allows the mortaria to be identified at a series of levels of increasing detail (i.e. Class--Type--Sub - Type--Variant).

For example:
Rim Type: A142
Class: A = flanged rim
Type: A1 00 = bead below the flange
Sub-type: A14 0 = wide, shallow rim
Variant: A142 = inner distal end swells inwards

Each successive use of a digit signifies an explicit feature or combination of features of the rim form. The allocation of numbers is not necessarily consecutive, which allows for some flexibility in incorporating new forms. Broad date ranges or more specific dates can be applied as one progresses down the hierarchical sequence, but any revision of dating evidence does not affect the structure of the numbering sequence. The user of the system can follow a sequence of guidelines, progressing down the hierarchy by simply observing details of shape, using the actual mortaria sherd or a profile rim section drawing. It is possible to apply the system to incomplete and complete rim profiles and the level of application may depend on the objectives of the research.

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