

ROMAN POTTERY FROM BROCKLEY HILL, MIDDLESEX, 1966 and 1972-74

by
Stephen A. Castle

Archaeological excavations at Brockley Hill since 1937 have provided evidence of a flourishing coarse pottery industry there in the first and second centuries A.D. This report has two aims, firstly to describe the pottery and other artifacts found in the grounds of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, on the west side of modern Watling Street, in 1966 and 1972-74 and secondly, to summarize the present knowledge of Roman activity at the site.

Part 1. The Finds from the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital

Pottery found in 1966 (Figs. 1 and 2)

In 1966 Mr. J. A. Upton, the then hospital engineer, and his son Alan, discovered a quantity of first and second century coarse pottery in a flower bed between Brockley Hill House and the hospital tennis courts (N.G.R. *c.* TQ: 174941), immediately to the west of the large clay pit and hut (?) excavated by the late Mr. P. G. Suggett in 1953-54.¹ Included amongst this pottery are sherds of stamped mortaria of the potters Arentus (?), Driccius, Lallans or Lallaius, Melus I, Sollus and Videx (?), (Figs. 5, 6 and 8) and ring-necked flagon tops of short-expanding neck type (Fig. 5, 2-4).

Pottery and other artifacts found in 1972 and 1973-74 (Figs. 1 and 2)

In February, 1971, work was carried out on the rebuilding of the tennis courts which lie on an earthen bank immediately north of Brockley Hill House (*c.* TQ: 174941). Earth moving on the north-west corner of the bank in connection with gardening brought to light considerable quantities of waste coarse pottery including notably sherds of stamped mortaria of the potters Doccas, Doinus, Lallans or Lallaius, Marinus, Matugenus and Saturninus I.² The tennis courts were erected in *c.* 1909 and it is evident that the earth forming the bank was obtained from surrounding areas, in particular the south side of the courts, where pottery kilns, pits and waste dumps were situated.

Two further mortarium stamps, one of Matugenus and the other of Saturninus I (Fig. 8), were found on the surface of the bank in 1972.

In September-October, 1973 and March-April, 1974, excavations were conducted on the north-west corner of the modern bank in the hope of recovering further re-deposited mortarium stamps. As expected, many hundredweights of first and second century coarse pottery sherds were recovered, including mortarium stamps of Arentus(?), G. Attius Marinus, Bruccius, Castus, Doccas, Doinus, Driccius, Gissus, Lallans or Lallaius, Marinus, Matugenus, Melus I, Mertucus and Saturninus I (Figs. 5-8).

Other finds include samian ware, in particular sherds of a decorated flagon (Fig. 3), a bronze dolphin-type brooch, a child's bronze bracelet, a graffito (Fig. 4) and an *as* of Antoninus Pius, A.D. 138-161.

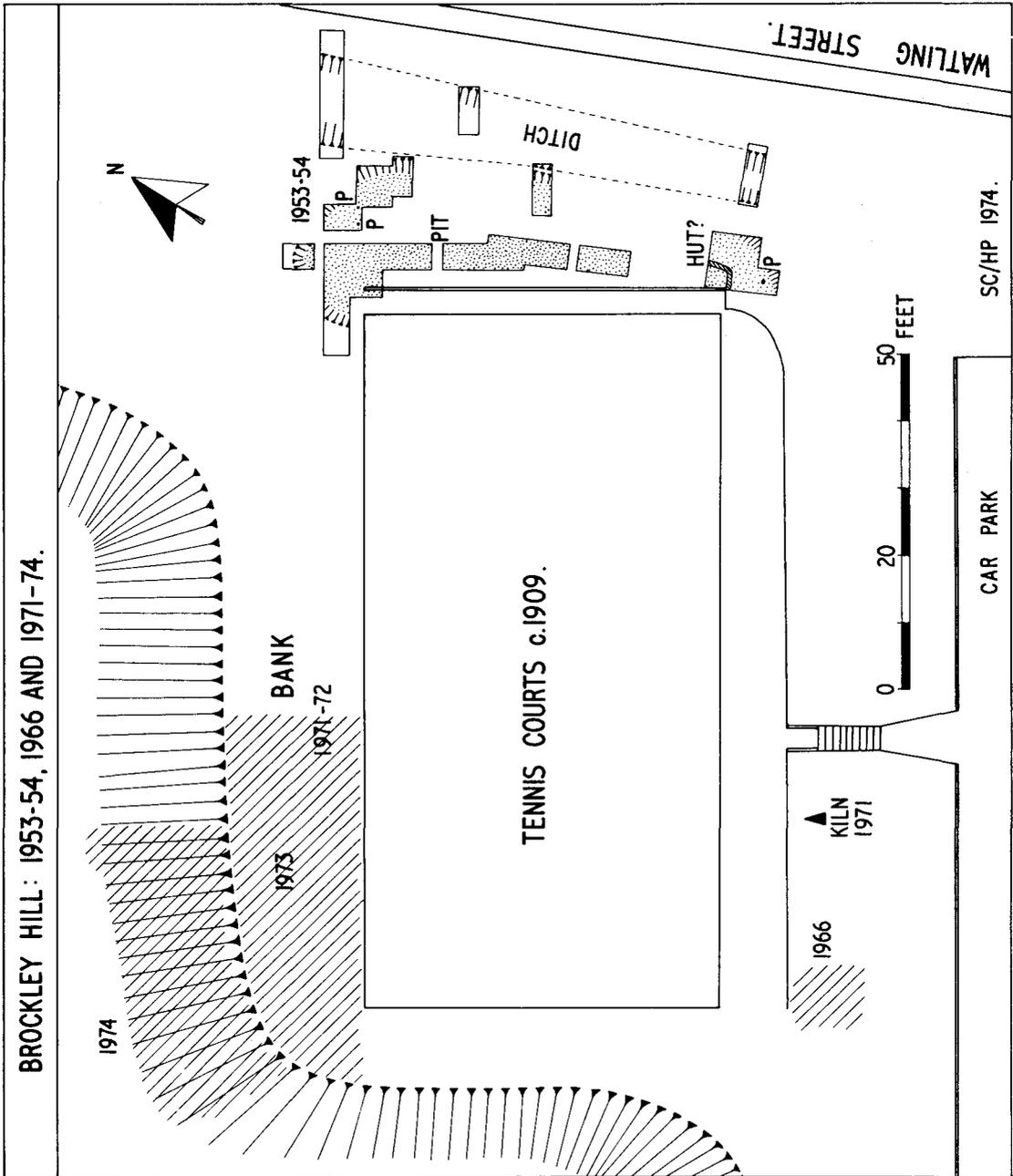


Fig. 2. Brockley Hill: Plan of the sites excavated in 1953-54 and 1971-74.

NOTES

¹ P. G. Suggett 'Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, August 1953 and 1954' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 19, pt. 1 (1956) 1-11.

² S. A. Castle 'A kiln of the potter Doinus' *Archaeol. J.* 129 (1972) 69-88.

THE SAMIAN WARE

by

Miss C. Johns

A quantity of samian ware was recovered from the tennis court bank in both 1973 and 1974. Dragendorff forms 18, 18/31, 27, 29, 30, 33, 35 and 37 are well represented, whilst there were also two examples of Curle 11, one of Déchelette 67 and fragments of a decorated flagon. Only the more important fragments are listed below.

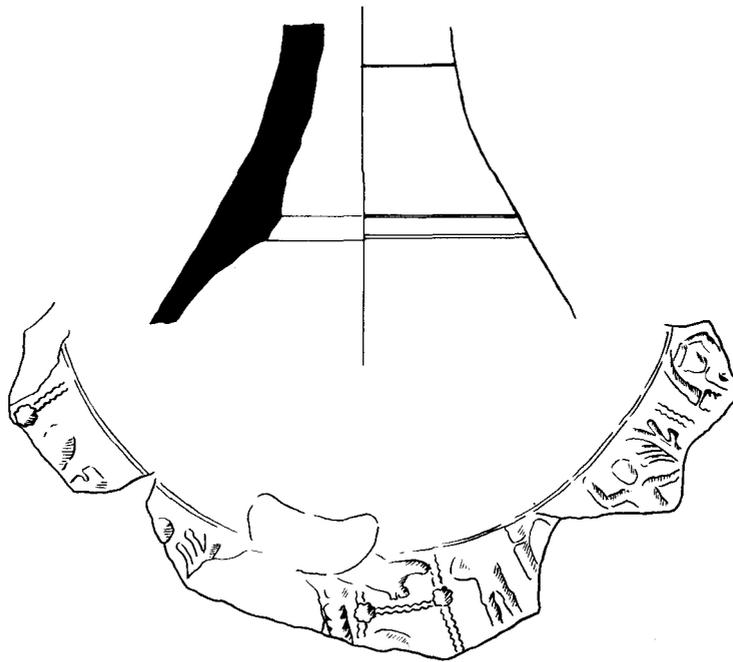


Fig. 3. Brockley Hill: Samian flagon from the Tennis Court Site, 1973 (1/2).

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

1. Curle 11, South Gaulish, probably early Flavian.
2. Curle 11, South Gaulish. Deep, curving flange. Probably Flavian.
3. The neck and upper part of a flagon (Fig. 3), with the broken remains of a handle attachment on the neck. The fabric is very thick on the neck (c. 11-15mm), thinning down to 6mm on the body. The fabric is fine, pink with some flecks of cream, and has a good red slip.

Little of the decoration remains. There is no special upper border, and the small panels are divided by thick wavy lines with large, blurred rosette junctions. Figure-types are blurred and incomplete, and therefore difficult to identify with any certainty. Badly damaged by the handle attachment is a bird figure-type in a small panel, possibly 0. 2293. The upper part of a human figure seems to be 0. 597, while another figure seems closest to 0. 94A, noted by Oswald as a Central Gaulish type.

Though the vessel appears to be South Gaulish, it does not resemble the large flagons already known from La Graufesenque. The decoration would suggest a very late date in South Gaulish production, probably Trajanic rather than late Flavian. The identification of the figure-types is too uncertain to base very much on them, though the copying of Central Gaulish figure-types in the second century at Banassac may be borne in mind.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

4. Déchelette 67; two sherds, one of which is a rim fragment. Thin light orange micaceous ware; Central Gaulish. Trajanic.
5. Dr. 30; Central Gaulish, Trajanic ware. The fabric is typical of the best products of Les-Martres-de-Veyre.

The panelled decoration is divided by fine wavy lines with 11-pointed rosettes, *C.G.P.* (1958, Fig. 10, 24) at the junctions. The ovolo is the small one commonly used by the IOENALIS and DONNAVCVS groups of potters, *C.G.P.* (Fig. 10, 1) and the basal wreath, the small stylized ram's-horn are also used by both groups, *C.G.P.* (Fig. 10, 3). One of the panels contains an arch (plain double lines) supported on latticed columns *C.G.P.* (Fig. 10, 44) and enclosing a nude female figure holding a narrow piece of drapery across her thighs. The figure appears to be missing from Oswald's Index, but occurs on IOENALIS-group sherds illustrated in *C.G.P.* (e.g. Pl. 36: 426, Pl. 37: 434 and Pl. 37: 433). This latter is close to our piece in its general decorative scheme. Another panel contains the tripod, *C.G.P.* (Fig. 10, 39). The remaining panel, which occurs twice on this sherd, flanking the panel with the figure-type, has an acanthus *C.G.P.* (Fig. 10, 45) surmounting a composite vine-scroll formed of three separate stems. The individual vine motifs are seen on *C.G.P.* (Pl. 37: 430), and are not quite the same as the type illustrated in *C.G.P.* as a DONNAVCVS-group detail. Though the composite scroll is not illustrated in the same form as it takes on our sherd, *C.G.P.* does have examples of it used as a scroll (e.g. Pl. 41: 482 and Pl. 39: 456; the latter is on form Dr. 29/37). The status of the potters IOENALIS and DONNAVCVS is still far from clear, but it is certain that one is dealing with groups of potters rather than individuals, and that there are points at which the styles cannot satisfactorily be defined and separated. As defined in Stanfield's book, the style of this vessel certainly accords better with IONEALIS, but it should be noted that wavy-line borders are infrequent in this style, and that Dr. 30 is not recorded among the forms made. The date of the piece is about A.D. 100–110.

THE GRAFFITO

by

M. Hassall

Tennis Court Bank, 1974 (Fig. 4)

- G1. A graffito, perhaps the number VII, inscribed on a sherd of a roll-rimmed, black-burnished bowl or pie-dish. Alternatively, it could be part of a name (in the genitive) that ended in VIVS. However, it is uncertain from this single sherd whether the graffito is complete. Such roll-rimmed pie-dishes or bowls date from the mid second to fourth centuries. Cf. Castle (1973a, 95, Nos. 14–15) and Castle (1972a, 155, Nos. 22–23 and 156, No. 36).

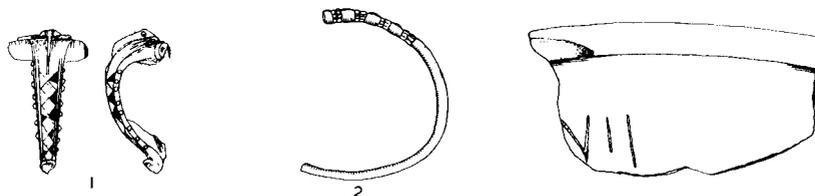


Fig. 4. Brockley Hill: Brooch, bracelet and graffito from the Tennis Court Site, 1973–74 (1/2).

THE SMALL FINDS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973 (Fig. 4)

1. A bronze dolphin-type brooch with red enamel inlay in the triangular panels and traces of orange enamel inlay in the diamond panels. The pin and catch-plate are broken. This type (Collingwood Group H) continued in use from the time of Nero to the mid second century. Cf. *London in Roman Times* (95, 21). Similar examples were found at Brockley Hill in 1968 and 1970 (see relevant reports).

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

2. A child's fragmentary bronze bracelet with ornate beaded decoration. First or second century date is suggested.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

3. A fragmentary *as* of Antoninus Pius, A.D. 138-161, with reverse depicting Britannia. The lettering on both the obverse and reverse sides is illegible.

THE COARSE POTTERY

Tennis Court Bank, 1973 (Fig. 5)

1. A miniature bowl, possibly a toy, in granular buff ware. First to second century.

Flower Bed to south of the Tennis Courts, 1966

2. Ring-necked flagon with short-expanding neck in granular greyish-buff ware.
3. Ring-necked flagon with short-expanding neck in fine-textured brownish-orange ware with grey core and cream slip. There is an open heat crack on the neck and it is clear that this vessel could not have been used.
4. Ring-necked flagon with short-expanding neck in fine-textured orange ware with cream slip. The top of the neck is buckled and part of the bottom ring is smudged.

Ring-necked flagons of short-expanding neck type, in both granular and fine-textured wares were being produced at Kilns 12-14, on the east side of Watling Street, in c. A.D. 110-160, Castle (1973b, 78-83).

THE MORTARIUM STAMPS

by

Mrs. K. F. Hartley

(Figs. 5-8)

Not all of the mortaria listed below are illustrated.

ARENTVS(?)

Flower Bed south of the Tennis Courts, 1966

MS1. Granular ware overfired to dark grey with black and white flint grit.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS2. Granular buff ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS3. Vessel stamped ARENTVS/ARENTVS in granular cream ware.

Four stamps reading ARIINT (?) followed by X as a space-filler, perhaps for Arentus. Nine of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill, whilst another stamp was found at Radlett in 1959. Clearly he had kilns at both potteries. The rims of his vessels point to activity in c. A.D. 110-140.

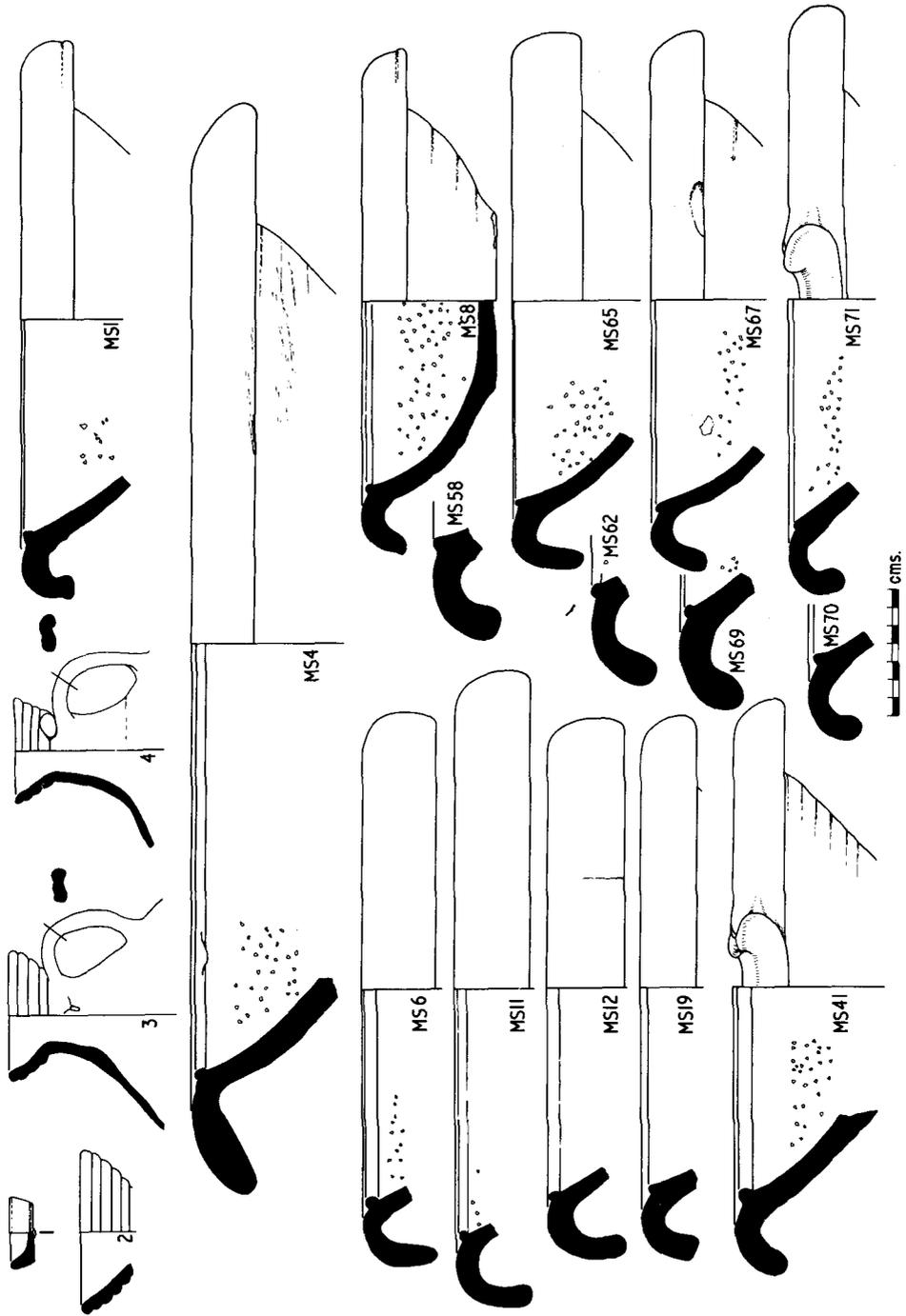


Fig. 5. Brockley Hill: Coarse pottery, including stamped mortaria, found in 1966 and 1973-74 (1/4).

G. ATTIVS MARINVS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS4. An exceptionally large, badly finished mortarium in granular buff ware overfired to light grey and presumably a waster. Black, grey and white flint grit.

This is the second mortarium of G. Attius Marinus to be recorded from Brockley Hill and it seems likely that he used kilns here as well as at Radlett during his brief activity in this region. Cf. Frere (1972, 373, No. 12) *c.* A.D. 95-105.

BRVCCIVS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS5. Granular cream ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS6. Granular cream ware with grey, red and white flint grits.

Two stamps of the potter Bruccius probably from the same vessel. Thirteen of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill. A date in the period *c.* A.D. 85-120 is indicated for his products.

CASTVS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS7. Granular cream ware.

MS8. Granular cream ware with black, grey and white flint grit.

Two stamps probably from the same die and possibly from the same vessel. These stamps can be attributed to Castus though they are probably from an unknown die. Twenty-two of his stamps have been found on a kiln-site at Radlett (Cf. *Proc. Soc. Ant. London* 2nd. ser. 17, 266). Three of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill. His career can be dated within the period A.D. 95-140 but he was probably not using this rim-profile before A.D. 110. Cf. Frere (1972, 374-75, Nos. 15-16).

DOCCAS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS9. Granular ware overfired to reddish-brown with grey and white flint grit.

MS10. Granular orange-buff ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS11. Granular buff ware slightly overfired to grey. A few grey and white flint grits.

MS12. Granular ware severely overfired to greyish-black with heat cracking.

Four stamps used by a potter whose name appears to be Doccas. Ten stamps from the same die have now been noted from Brockley Hill. A date in the period *c.* A.D. 85-110 is indicated for his activity at Brockley Hill.

DOINVS

Die A.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS13. Granular ware overfired to grey.

Die C.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS14. Granular ware severely overfired to dark bluish-grey.

MS15. Granular buff ware with grey and pink core. Black, grey, red and white flint grits.

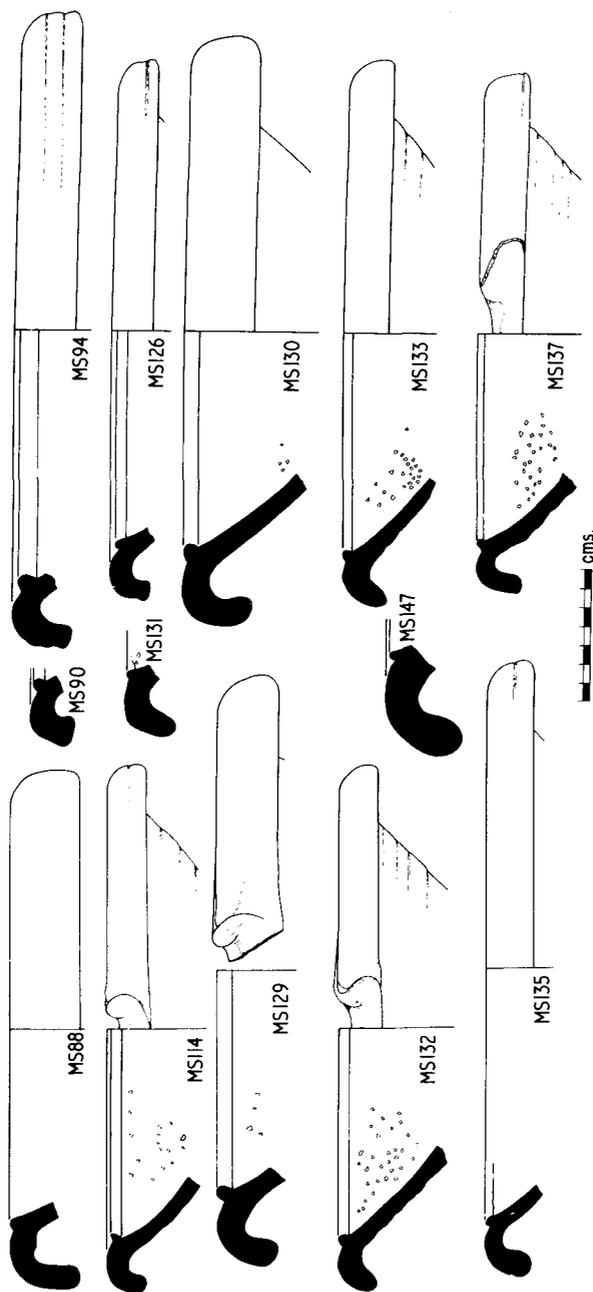


Fig. 6. Brockley Hill: Stamped mortaria found in 1966 and 1972-74 (1/4).

Die D.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS16. Granular cream ware with pink core.

MS17. Granular buff ware.

MS18. Granular buff ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS19. Granular buff ware partly overfired to grey.

MS20. Granular ware overfired to brown and grey.

MS21. Granular ware overfired to grey.

MS22. Granular ware overfired to grey.

MS23. Granular buff ware.

MS24. Granular buff ware partly overfired to dark grey.

MS25. Granular ware severely overfired to grey.

MS26. Granular cream ware.

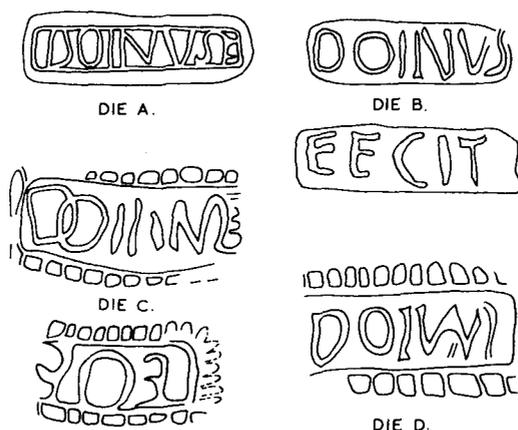


Fig. 7. Brockley Hill: The four namestamps and counterstamps used by the potter Doinus (1/2).

One stamp from Doinus's Die A, two from his Die C and eleven from his Die D. Doinus was working at the kiln excavated to the south of Brockley Hill House in 1971. His work has been dealt with in detail elsewhere, Castle (1972b, 69-88). Sixty-six (plus eight?) of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill.

It is noteworthy that Die C was the most rarely used of his four dies. Only one example of the namestamp has been recorded, appearing with its counterstamp on a mortarium from Malton (Norton) while the counterstamp alone has been noted from Brockley Hill; London; Margidunum; Slack and Southwark.

The mortarium from Slack is complete and has been stamped twice with the counterstamp only. As the two pieces from Southwark are in different parts of the country it is not possible to be certain if they are from the same vessel. However, when name and counterstamp are represented, as now, in the proportion of one to nine, it may be taken to suggest that there was a tendency for counterstamp C to be used alone, perhaps because the namestamp had got damaged. Doinus's career may be dated to c. A.D. 70-110 but Dies C and D are likely to belong to the second half of his period of activity.

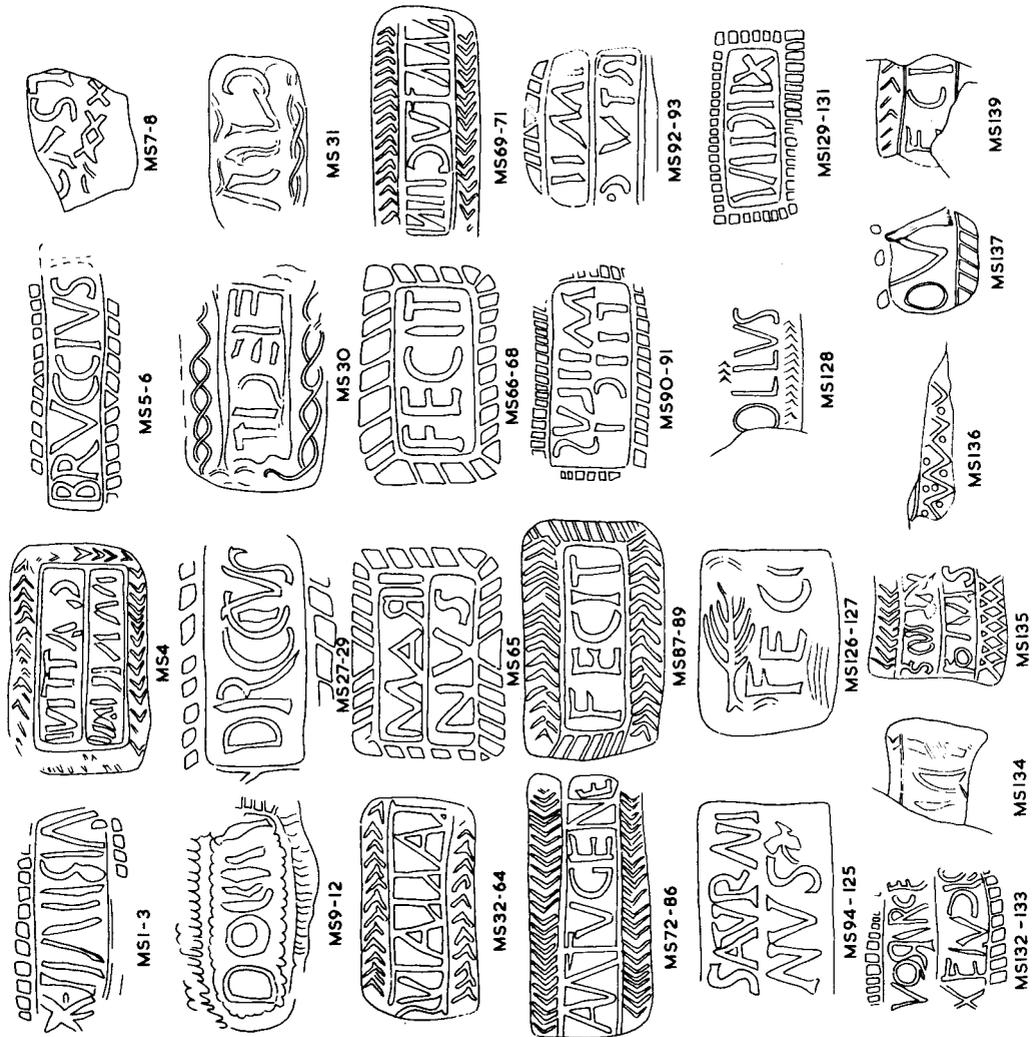


Fig. 8. Brockley Hill: Mortarium stamps used by other potters (1/2).

DRICCIUS

Flower Bed south of the Tennis Courts, 1966

MS27. Flange fragment in fine-textured red ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS28. Granular buff ware.

MS29. Granular white ware with grey and white flint grits.

Three stamps of the potter Driccius who was working at kilns on the east side of Watling Street, Brockley Hill. Cf. Castle (1973b, 78-83).

Twenty of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill and the rim-forms of his vessels point to activity in the period c. A.D. 110-150. Eleven stamps from the same die were found at Radlett in 1959 (*Hertfordshire Archaeology*, forthcoming) and it is clear that he was working at both potteries.

GISSVS

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

MS30. Granular white ware partly overfired to grey.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS31. Granular ware overfired to grey.

MS30 is a counterstamp of the potter Gissus whilst MS31 is an example of his namestamp. MS30, the retrograde *Fecit* counterstamp can be attributed on account of its cable borders to Gissus, the only potter ever to use this type of border. Recently, however, a mortarium of Lallaius or Lallans has been found in London, carrying the counterstamp attributed to Gissus. Lallaius or Lallans did not normally use a counterstamp but like many other potters stamped his name on both sides of the vessel. They were contemporary potters, both working at Brockley Hill and a possible explanation could be that they were both at sometime active in the same workshop. Thus, whilst most counterstamps from this die will belong to Gissus it must be remembered that Lallaius or Lallans used it on at least one occasion. A date in the period c. A.D. 100-135 is indicated for the mortaria of Gissus nine of whose stamps are now recorded from Brockley Hill.

LALLAIVS or LALLANS

Flower Bed south of the Tennis Court, 1966

MS32. Granular buff ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS33. Granular cream ware fired to light grey.

MS34. Granular ware severely overfired to dark bluish-grey.

MS35. Granular buff ware.

MS36. Granular cream ware.

MS37. Granular white ware.

MS38. Granular buff ware partly overfired to grey.

MS39. Granular ware overfired to dark grey.

MS40. Granular buff ware severely overfired to grey and black. Grey and white flint grit.

MS41. Granular buff ware overfired to grey in places, with grey, red and white flint grit.

MS42. Granular buff ware overfired to light grey.

MS43. Vessel stamped LALLAIVS/LALLAIVS in granular ware overfired to bluish-grey.

MS44. Granular light grey ware with grey and white flint grits.

MS45. Granular ware severely overfired to blue and purple.

MS46. Granular ware overfired to black and bluish-grey with black, grey and white grit.

MS47. Granular buff ware severely overfired to greyish-black with excess fired clay adhering to the body. Grey and white flint grit.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

- MS48. Granular buff ware partly overfired to grey, with grey and white flint grit.
 MS49. Granular ware severely overfired to dark bluish-grey with traces of heat glaze.
 MS50. Granular ware overfired to light grey.
 MS51. Granular cream ware.
 MS52. Granular buff ware.
 MS53. Granular buff ware.
 MS54. Granular buff ware.
 MS55. Granular ware severely overfired to grey with heat glaze.
 MS56. Granular ware overfired to brown and grey.
 MS57. Granular buff ware with grey and white flint grits.
 MS58. Granular buff ware severely overfired to greyish-black.
 MS59. Granular buff ware with black and grey flint grits.
 MS60. Granular buff ware overfired to grey with traces of heat glaze.
 MS61. Granular buff ware.
 MS62. Granular buff ware. A large vessel approximately 1 ft. 4 ins. in diameter.
 MS63. Granular cream ware, burnt grey on flange.
 MS64. Granular ware overfired to red and grey with white flint grit.

Thirty-three stamps of a potter whose name should perhaps be accepted as Lallaius rather than Lallans. Forty-seven plus one? of his stamps are now recorded from Brockley Hill. A stamp of Lallaius or Lallans was found at Verulamium, Frere (1972, 376, No. 24) in a deposit dated to c. A.D. 90–105. The rim-forms of his vessels would fit well with manufacture in the period A.D. 90–105.

MARINVS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

- MS65. Granular cream ware overfired in places to light grey. Grey and white flint grits.
 MS66. Granular ware severely overfired to grey.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

- MS67. Granular buff ware partly overfired to grey. Grey and white grits.
 MS68. Granular buff ware fired grey on the flange.

MS65 is the two-line namestamp of the potter Marinus whilst MS66–68 are examples of his *Fecit* counterstamp. Sixteen plus one? of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill where Marinus was working in the period c. A.D. 70–100.

MATVGENVS

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

- MS69. Vessel stamped MATVGIIN/MATVGIIN in granular buff ware overfired to grey and brown with grey and white flint grits.
 MS70. Granular cream ware overfired to buff in places. Black, grey and white flint grits.
 MS71. Granular cream-buff ware with grey and white flint grits.

Tennis Court Bank, 1972

- MS72. Granular buff ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

- MS73. Granular ware overfired to grey and purple with heat cracking and grey and white flint grit.
 MS74. Granular ware overfired to grey.

- MS75. Granular ware overfired to light grey with white flint grits.
- MS76. Granular cream ware.
- MS77. Granular buff ware.
- MS78. Granular ware severely overfired to grey.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

- MS79. Granular light grey ware.
- MS80. Granular buff ware.
- MS81. Granular orange-buff ware.
- MS82. Granular white ware.
- MS83. Granular buff ware.
- MS84. Granular ware overfired to dark grey.
- MS85. Vessel stamped MATVGEN/MATVGEN in granular ware.
- MS86. Granular buff ware.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

- MS87. Granular cream ware.
- MS88. Granular ware severely overfired to purple and dark grey.
- MS89. Granular buff ware with pink core and black, grey and white flint grit.

The stamps of Matugenus include four retrograde stamps (MS69-71) reading MATVGIIN; sixteen from a die reading MATVGEN (MS72-86) and three (MS87-89) *Fecit* counterstamps. Fifty-seven plus three? of his stamps are now recorded from Brockley Hill in addition to a die-stamp found in *c.* 1900. A date of *c.* A.D. 90-125 is indicated for his products.

MELVS I

Flower Bed south of the Tennis Court, 1966

- MS90. Granular reddish-brown ware slightly overfired to grey.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

- MS91. Granular buff ware with grey flint grits.

Two stamps of the potter Melus I who worked at Brockley Hill, where twenty-eight of his stamps have now been recorded. His activity can be dated to *c.* A.D. 95-130/135.

MERTVC (VS) (?)

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

- MS92. Vessel stamped MERTVC/MERTVC in granular cream ware with pink core.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

- MS93. Granular cream ware.

Three stamps of the potter Mertuc(us). MS92 permits the last letter, C, to be read with certainty and Mertucus (M11/RTVC retrograde) seems to be the name intended, though no example of its use is recorded. Four stamps were found at Radlett in 1959 and there is little doubt that, like Arentus, G. Attius Marinus, Castus and Driccius, he was working at both potteries. There is no site-dating evidence for his date but the rim-profiles he used belong to the first half of the second century, and these examples were probably made in *c.* A.D. 100-130.

SATVRNINVS I

Tennis Court Bank, 1972

- MS94. Granular ware overfired to dark grey with purple core and tiny white flint grits.

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

- MS95. Granular pink ware.

- MS96. Granular ware overfired to dark grey with red core. Grey and white flint grit.
- MS97. Granular buff ware overfired to bluish-grey. Grey flint grit.
- MS98. Granular cream ware.
- MS99. Granular grey ware.
- MS100. Granular ware overfired to grey with red core.
- MS101. Granular buff ware overfired to light grey in places and with heat cracking.
- MS102. Granular buff ware overfired to grey.
- MS103. Granular ware severely overfired to black and bluish-grey.

Tennis Court Bank, 1974

- MS104. Granular white ware.
- MS105. Granular buff ware with grey flint grit.
- MS106. Granular white ware.
- MS107. Granular cream ware with grey and black flint grit.
- MS108. Granular cream ware burnt grey at the spout.
- MS109. Granular ware overfired to dark grey with red core.
- MS110. Granular cream ware with pink core and grey flint grit.
- MS111. Granular cream ware.
- MS112. Granular ware overfired to bluish-grey.
- MS113. Granular buff ware.
- MS114. Granular buff ware, largely overfired to light grey with black, grey and white flint grit.
- MS115. Granular buff ware, partly overfired to grey.
- MS116. Granular grey ware with black and white flint grit.
- MS117. Granular cream ware with pink core.
- MS118. Granular buff ware with grey flint grit.
- MS119. Granular pink ware with grey, red and white flint grit.
- MS120. Granular light grey ware.
- MS121. Granular cream ware burnt grey on flange.
- MS122. Granular cream ware burnt grey.
- MS123. Granular ware overfired to grey.
- MS124. Granular cream ware.
- MS125. Granular ware severely overfired to grey with white and grey flint grit.
- MS126. Granular cream ware.
- MS127. Granular cream ware.

MS94–125 are namestamps of the potter Saturninus I, whilst MS126–127 are examples of his *Fecit* counterstamp. Forty-four of his stamps have now been recorded from Brockley Hill where Saturninus was active in the period *c.* A.D. 100–135.

SOLLVS

Flower Bed south of the Tennis Courts, 1966

- MS128. Flange fragment in granular cream ware.

An example of the stamp of Sollus. So far only four of his stamps are recorded from Brockley Hill but the fabric and forms of his mortaria and distribution are typical of the potteries south of Verulamium in the Flavian period and it is likely enough that he had kilns at Brockley Hill in *c.* A.D. 70–100.

VIDEX

Flower Bed south of the Tennis Courts, 1966

- MS129. Vessel stamped VIDIIX/VIDIIX in granular cream ware overfired to grey, with white flint grit.

MS130. Vessel stamped VIDIIX/VIDIIX in granular ware overfired to dark blue-grey, with grey and black grit.

MS131. Vessel stamped VIDIIX/VIDIIX in granular orange-brown ware.

MS129-131 are from three different mortaria and all of them have two stamps impressed close together. The stamps read VIDIIX, presumably VIDEX. Incomplete stamps of his have been noted from the Hambleton villa and Sandy, Bedfordshire. It may safely be assumed that Videx was working at Brockley Hill and though there is no site evidence for dating his work, his rim-forms would fit well within the period A.D. 85-140.

Unidentifiable Stamps

Tennis Court Bank, 1973

MS132. Granular orange-buff ware partly overfired to grey on flange. Black, grey and white flint grit.

MS133. Granular buff ware partly overfired to dark grey with black, grey and white flint grit.

These two stamps could well be from the same, somewhat overfired, vessel. Stamps from the same die have been found at Bignor and Verulamium. A certain amount of doubt remains about the potter's name but VORVRC/XENO seems to be most likely; the first R is reversed and the X could perhaps be a space-filler. All the mortaria are entirely consistent with manufacture at Brockley Hill or kilns in this area within the period A.D. 115-145.

MS134. Granular orange-buff ware.

A fragment of a stamp. No other stamp from the same die is known but the border is unusual and would be easy to recognize. The fabric is consistent with manufacture in the Brockley Hill area and a date in the late first or early second century is indicated.

MS135. Granular greyish-buff ware, somewhat overfired.

No other examples of this stamp are known and only further examples of this stamp will elucidate the reading. The unusual combination of borders, however, should make it readily recognizable. The fabric is consistent with manufacture at or near Brockley Hill and a date in the period c. A.D. 115-145 is indicated.

MS136. Granular buff ware.

A fragment of the border of a stamp. No other example of this stamp is known but the border is most unusual and should be readily identifiable. The mortarium is consistent with production in the Brockley Hill area in the late first or early second century.

MS137. Granular buff ware with black, grey and white flint grit.

A stamp on a vessel with detached spout. The stamp cannot at present be read but the rim-form suggests a date in the first half of the second century.

MS138. Granular buff ware.

Apparently from an unknown retrograde *Fecit* counterstamp. The rim-form is consistent with a date in the first half of the second century.

MS139. Granular cream ware partly overfired to grey.

Like MS138, apparently from an unknown *Fecit* counterstamp. A date in the first half of the second century is suggested.

MS140. Granular ware overfired to dark grey with white flint grit.

Border of an unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.

MS141. Granular buff ware with traces of heat cracking

Illegible stamp. First half of the second century.

- MS142. Granular ware overfired to grey.
Fragmentary unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS143. Granular cream ware.
Fragmentary unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS144. A spout fragment in granular cream ware with part of an unidentifiable stamp.
- MS145. Granular cream ware overfired to grey.
Fragment of the border of an unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS146. Granular buff ware overfired to grey.
Unidentifiable stamp. Probably first half of the second century.
- Tennis Court Bank, 1974**
- MS147. Granular greyish-white ware with pink core. A large vessel about 1 ft. 6 ins. in diameter.
Part of an unidentifiable stamp, impressed diagonally on the flange. The absence of border decoration is noteworthy. First century date seems indicated.
- MS148. Granular ware overfired to light grey.
Fragmentary stamp possibly of Junius I. First half of the second century.
- MS149. Granular cream ware.
Unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS150. A large mortarium in granular red ware with grey and white flint grit.
Part of the border of an unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS151. Granular buff ware with pink core.
A fragmentary stamp possibly reading *Fecit*. First half of the second century.
- MS152. Granular ware overfired to grey.
Unidentifiable fragmentary stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS153. Granular cream ware.
Unidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.
- MS154. Granular greyish-white ware.
Fragment of the border of an inidentifiable stamp. First half of the second century.

Comments

The growing number of potters (Arentus, G. Attius Marinus, Castus, Driccius and Mertucus) whose stamps have been found at both Brockley Hill and Radlett suggest that it was not uncommon for potters to have workshops at both sites. This practice is paralleled by some potters in Warwickshire who had kilns at both Mancetter and Hartshill.

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Part II. Summary of Results

Although re-deposited in c. 1909, the stamped mortaria recovered from the hospital grounds in 1966 and 1972-74 have provided additional valuable information about the pottery industry at Brockley Hill and the Verulamium region as a whole, in the first and second centuries A.D. In particular, there is now every likelihood that the potters G. Attius Marinus, Castus and Mertucus were working at Brockley Hill, as well as at Radlett, Hertfordshire. Mortarium wasters of the potters Arentus and Driccius are already attested at both potteries.¹

Excavations from 1937 onwards, have provided a wealth of evidence relating to the history of the site, which at this stage it is felt desirable to review. It is stressed, however, that conclusions are to some extent handicapped by the piecemeal nature of these excavations.

Trenches cut in 1951-52,² 1960-61,³ 1968⁴ and 1970⁵ have provided evidence of an early road on the west side of modern Watling Street, consisting of a gravel capped clay bank with irregular side-ditches, which in places contained first to second and fourth century artifacts in their infill. In Field 157, south of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (1968), its width was found to vary from 13 ft. at Site C to 25 ft. at Site F, over a distance of 250 yards. However, the evidence for its being Roman Watling Street is at present inconclusive. Between this road and modern Watling Street was found the remains of a later, hollow way, which was apparently in use during the middle ages, certainly in use during the eighteenth century but which had been supplanted by 1827 when the present road had come into being. There can be little doubt that Watling Street dates from shortly after the Claudian invasion of A.D. 43, indeed excavations at Verulamium in 1957-60 indicate that construction took place during the period c. A.D. 43-49.⁶ Excavations at Brockley Hill have provided no evidence of Belgic, pre-Roman activity and it is quite possible that Watling Street is the earliest feature on the site. A U-shaped ditch excavated at Site A in 1970,⁷ on the west side of the modern road, is clearly pre-Flavian and appears to represent the original west boundary ditch of the Roman road.

A clay pit disclosed at Site B in 1972, on the east side of Watling Street, contained quantities of waste pottery, potters' clay, kiln debris and other finds datable to c. A.D. 50-60⁸ There can be little doubt that at least one pottery kiln was situated fairly nearby, which was engaged in the production of flagons of Hofheim and ring-necked type, cordoned jars, bowls, mortaria and tazze. Kiln II, was clearly in use during the period c. A.D. 65-100 and was very likely used by the potter Secundus, a contemporary of Ripanus and Sollus, who were probably also working in this area. Doinus was working at Kiln 9, on the west side of Watling Street in c. A.D. 70-110, but it is clear that he also had an earlier kiln on the site. As will be seen from the table of mortarium stamps (Fig. 9), an appreciable number of potters were working at the site.

Pottery manufacture reached its peak during the Flavian-Trajanic period when Kilns 4-5, 8-9 and 11 were in action. Kilns 1-3, 7 and 10 are tentatively assigned to dates within

the period *c.* A.D. 90–160, whilst Kilns 6 and 12–14 date from sometime in the period *c.* A.D. 110–160 and are the latest known at the site. Indeed, there is at present no evidence to suggest pottery manufacture appreciably later than *c.* A.D. 160. Driccius was working at Kilns 12–14, where he appears to have been producing both stamped and unstamped mortaria in the conventional granular ware and a fine-textured red ware, the latter having been introduced in *c.* A.D. 110–120. Driccius, and Arentus, the latter probably his associate, appear to have been the last potters working at the site and it may well be that their activity at Radlett was later than that at Brockley Hill.

Only further excavations will show whether pottery manufacture continued at the site after *c.* A.D. 160. Decline in output by *c.* A.D. 120–130 is apparent and it is clear that the potters of this region were facing the fierce competition offered by those working at the Oxford and Warwickshire potteries. Indeed, two local potters, G. Attius Marinus and Doccas, are known to have moved to Warwickshire,⁹ the former having already migrated from the Colchester region.

Introduction of a new, somewhat inferior, fine-textured fabric in *c.* A.D. 110–120 may well imply that the clay used for the conventional granular wares was becoming scarce by this period. However, it should be stressed that at Kilns 12–14 there was no evidence to suggest that the former had supplanted the latter. Cessation due to a lack of suitable clay would, therefore, seem unlikely, as would a shortage of timber and brushwood for kiln fuel, in this region of heavy forest. Clearly, the clays of the Oxford and Warwickshire regions were considered more suitable for pottery manufacture than those of the Verulamium region, including Brockley Hill, and there became a preference for vessels produced at those potteries.

It seems likely that many more pottery kilns await discovery at Brockley Hill. To date excavations have been limited in size though they have been carried out at various parts of the site. The general picture of Brockley Hill from the mid first to mid second century is one of a hilltop clearing, with springs, and streams on the south-east and north-west sides,¹⁰ in which was a vast industrial complex, consisting of pottery kilns, workshops, hovels, puddling holes and clay pits, straggling an important highway. Moreover, observation and excavation shows that this industrial settlement was in the form of ribbon-development. Excavations carried out in the depth of winter and the height of summer have shown that the local clays, prepared or otherwise, are unworkable in frosty and dry conditions, and it is clear, therefore, that pottery manufacture was a seasonal occupation. Perhaps the potters required no more than temporary huts, hovels or tents during the suitable months, their way of life being not dissimilar to that of twentieth century charcoal-burners. Two second century cremation burials and a scatter of first to second century artifacts, discovered in the field to the north of Pipers Green Lane (*c.* TQ: 180933) in 1954–55, suggest habitation in that area.

Although there is at present no evidence of pottery manufacture after *c.* A.D. 160, it is clear that occupation of a more domestic nature continued into the late second, third and fourth centuries. Evidence of third century activity is meagre and is limited to quantities of black-burnished and colour-coated wares and two worn second century *sestertii* from the upper levels of the well excavated at Site B, in Field 157 during 1968. Levelling of waste dumps and the laying of cobbled floors during the late third to early fourth centuries is attested at the sites excavated in 1950–51, 1953–54 and 1970, on the west side of Watling Street. In addition, worn *sestertii* of Hadrian and Septimius Severus, two *antoniniani*, one of Claudius II, sherds of colour-coated ware and a mortarium sherd

1952.E.	1953-54.W.	1966.W.	1968.W.	1969.W.	1970.W.	1971.W.	19
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	6	—	1	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	4	—	—	—	—	—	32(+8?)
—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	3	1	1	—	1	—	1(+1?)
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	7	—	(1?)	—	—	—	—
18	8(?+3)	—	2	1	—	—	—
21	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	2	—	4	—	2	—	1
53	45	11	22	1	5	—	57

Fig. 9. Brockley Hill: Mortarium stamps 1937-1974.

from the Oxford region, were recovered from the upper Roman levels excavated at Site A, on the east side of Watling Street in 1972.¹¹

Evidence of fourth century activity includes notably, sherds of black-burnished and colour-coated wares and *folles* of Constantine I from Field 157. At the sites excavated in 1950-51 and 1970, the remains of a hut were excavated, together with a tile platform with rotary querns, post dating the cobbled floors laid down in the late third to early fourth century. Associated with the tile platform were quantities of colour-coated and black-burnished wares, coins of Constantine I, c. A.D. 330-335 and one of Constantius II, A.D. 341-346, a silver-plated brooch, a bronze pin and a disc-headed fastener.¹² A badly worn coin, apparently of Valentinian I, A.D. 364-375, was found resting on the cobbling near the hut in 1950, and implies activity in the third quarter of the fourth century.

A disappointing result of the piecemeal excavations from 1937-74 is that they have failed, firstly to provide evidence to indicate that Brockley Hill is the site of *Sulloniacae* and secondly, to disclose a civil settlement, substantial buildings or a posting station, as suggested by the inclusion of that place-name in the second journey of the British section of the Antonine Itinerary.¹³ *Sulloniacae* is recorded as lying twelve Roman miles from London and nine from Verulamium, which suggests that it was situated somewhere between Canons Corner (c. TQ: 183928) and Elstree Village (c. TQ: 172953), logically alongside Roman Watling Street. Further, large-scale, excavations are therefore clearly desirable, in particular at Field 410 and the enclosure of the now derelict Hilltop Cafe, on the east side of modern Watling Street. However, large-scale excavations on the west side of the road are complicated by the presence of the numerous hospital buildings, roads, sewers, car parks and a tennis court.

ROMAN POTTERY KILNS AT BROCKLEY HILL

(Fig. 1)

Kiln 1, 1950. c. A.D. 100-160.¹⁴

Kiln 2, 1951. Formerly Kiln 1. c. A.D. 90-150.¹⁵

Kiln 3, 1951. Formerly Kiln 2. c. A.D. 100-160.

Kiln 4, 1951. Formerly Kiln 2a, and earlier than Kiln 2. c. A.D. 70-100.

Kiln 5, 1952. c. A.D. 95-135. Probably a kiln of the potter Melus.¹⁶

Kiln 6, 1956. c. A.D. 110-150. Excavations by the late Mr. A.E. Ridley in the south bank of the pond disclosed part of a kiln furnace, constructed of burnt clay reinforced with pottery wasters.¹⁷ Associated with the kiln was a quantity of small jars, sherds of poppy-head beakers and other types of vessels and a multi-coloured glass ring. There are no further details and the finds are lost.

Kiln 7, 1965. A circular structure with walls of burnt clay was revealed during the excavation of a sewer trench immediately south-west of Green Cottage, in the hospital grounds. A quantity of Roman sherds and tile fragments was also found.¹⁸

Kiln 8, 1968. c. A.D. 70-120.¹⁹

Kiln 9, 1971. c. A.D. 70-110. A kiln of the potter Doinus.²⁰

Kiln 10, 1971. First to second century. The fragmentary base of a kiln furnace constructed of burnt clay was revealed on the south side of the hospital tennis courts.

Destroyed before any record could be made. Quantities of first and second century coarse pottery were found above it.²¹

Kiln 11, Site A, 1972. *c.* A.D. 65–100. Possibly a kiln of the potter Secundus.²²

Kiln 12, Site C, 1972. Formerly Kiln 1. *c.* A.D. 110–160.²³

Kiln 13, Site C, 1972. Formerly Kiln 2. *c.* A.D. 110–160.

Kiln 14, Site C, 1972. Formerly Kiln 3. *c.* A.D. 110–160.

A NOTE ON THE SULLONIA STAMPS AT CORBRIDGE

by

Mrs. K. F. Hartley

It has been suggested that a number of mortarium stamps found at Corbridge, Northumberland, record the place-name Sulloniacae and that the mortaria were made there.²⁴

At least forty stamps in this class have been found at Corbridge; these are from six different dies, five of which read SVLLON or SVLLONI, the sixth giving (S)VLLONIA. The only other stamps known from any of these dies are two examples at Carlisle (one of unknown provenance). The fabric is rather more like that used by Satu(rinus? III) whose die has been found at Corbridge, than the Brockley Hill fabric. Moreover, several of the Sullonia mortaria have a grey core which is very rare indeed in Brockley Hill mortaria. Furthermore, in over 440 stamps from Corbridge there is only a total of 13 stamped fragments made by potters like Doinus, Marinus, Matugenus etc., whose activity in the Brockley Hill, Radlett and Verulamium region is undoubted. There is also every reason to suppose that a number of kilns exist in the vicinity of Corbridge and the weight of evidence for Sullonia undoubtedly points to manufacture there. In fact, place-names stamped alone are very rare on mortaria and it is far more likely that Sullonia is the potter's name, perhaps complete or perhaps an abbreviation for Sullonianus or Sulloniacus. If the latter, it is still possible for there to be an indirect link with Sulloniacae, since peregrine names derived from place-names are not uncommon.

It is perhaps worth noting that a mortarium stamp of another potter, Sepetacus, found at Stoke Orchard,²⁵ almost certainly does record its place of manufacture as SVL?ON. This could be restored as SVLLON, but the fabric of the mortarium could not come from the Brockley Hill region and is likely to be Midland, perhaps from the South or South-West Midlands in the second century.

In effect, in such circumstances as the above it is essential to take every bit of available evidence into consideration before suggesting the place of origin; the more so as relatively few Romano-British place-names are known.

NOTES

¹ S. A. Castle 'Trial excavations at Brockley Hill, 1972, part 2' *London Archaeologist* (Autumn 1973) 78–83, and *Heris. Archaeol.* (forthcoming).

² P. G. Suggett 'Report on the excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, August–September 1951' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* II pt. 2 (1953) 173–188 and P. G. Suggett 'Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, 1952–53' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* II pt. 3 (1954) 259–276.

³ *Report of the Excavation carried out in Field 157 to the West of the modern A5 over Brockley Hill, 1960–61.* North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee (April 1961).

⁴ S. A. Castle and J. H. Warbis 'Excavations on Field No. 157, Brockley Hill (Sulloniacae?) Middlesex, February–August 1968' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 24 (1973) 87–90.

- ⁵ S. A. Castle 'Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, Sulloniaca, 1970' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 23 pt. 2 (1972) 149-150.
- ⁶ S. S. Frere *Verulamium Excavations Vol. I* (Oxford 1972) 13. Rep. Res. Com. Soc. Antiq. No. 28.
- ⁷ Castle *op. cit.* in note 5.
- ⁸ S. A. Castle 'Trial excavations in Field 410, Brockley Hill, 1972, pt. 1' *London Archaeologist* (Spring 1973) 36-39.
- ⁹ S. A. Castle 'A kiln of the potter Doinus' *Archaeol. J.* 129 (1972) 82.
- ¹⁰ Indeed there is every likelihood that the name Brockley Hill is derived from the Old English word *brōc-leah*, which with Hill, means a hilltop clearing in the wood with a stream. Doubtless the clearing corresponded with the Claygate Beds forming the hill. However, we find Brokeley Hill in 1593 and Brockley Hills in 1682. Perhaps the first element of the compound is identical with Brokholes 1277, Brokhole 1307 or le Brocholes by Eggeswere (Edgware) in 1354. This suggests the possibility of 'badger-holes'. Cf. J. E. B. Gover, A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton *The Place-names of Middlesex* (Cambridge 1942) 50.
- ¹¹ S. A. Castle 'Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, March-May 1972' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 25 (1974) 256, M6.
- ¹² Castle *op. cit.* in note 5, 149-158.
- ¹³ A. L. F. Rivet 'The British Section of the Antonine Itinerary (Appendix by K. Jackson)' *Britannia* 1 (1970) 79.
- ¹⁴ S. Applebaum 'Sulloniaca 1950: Excavations at Brockley Hill' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 10 (1951) 201-228.
- ¹⁵ Suggett *op. cit.* in note 2, 173-188.
- ¹⁶ Suggett *op. cit.* in note 2, 259-276.
- ¹⁷ North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee: Sundry Correspondence File and Minutes for 1958.
- ¹⁸ Information from Mr. J. A. Upton, formerly hospital engineer.
- ¹⁹ Castle and Warbis *op. cit.* in note 4, 85-110.
- ²⁰ Castle *op. cit.* in note 9, 69-88.
- ²¹ Information from Mr. R. Harris, hospital gardener.
- ²² Castle *op. cit.* in note 11, 251-263.
- ²³ Castle *op. cit.* in note 1.
- ²⁴ *Archaeologia Aeliana* 4th ser. 15 (1938) 278-282; *ibid.* 26 (1948) 191-192; *V.C.H. Middlesex I* (1969) 66.
- ²⁵ *Trans. Bristol Glos. Archaeol. Soc.* 90 (1971) 31, Fig. 3, Nos. 33 and 52.

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Last, but not least, I would like to express appreciation for the helpful advice given by Mr. Philip Suggett, shortly before his tragic death in a motoring accident in November, 1974. Philip Suggett was Director of Excavations of the North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee from 1951-1959 and was responsible for the excavations carried out at Brockley Hill, Pinner Green and Stanmore during that period. His work aroused considerable interest and encouraged others to foster an interest in the archaeology of Middlesex and elsewhere.

Mr. Ralph Merrifield, F.S.A., kindly read this report in typescript.