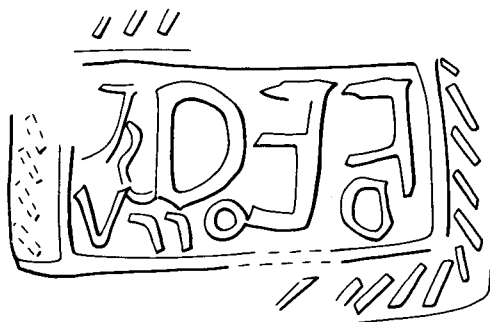


A MORTARIUM STAMP FROM BROCKLEY HILL, MIDDLESEX

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A mortarium fragment with potter's stamp was found by S. Castle in November 1975 during fieldwork¹ on the bank of the hospital tennis courts in the grounds of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital on the west side of Watling Street, Brockley Hill, London Borough of Harrow (CTQ.173941). The Hospital Authorities have kindly donated it to the Museum of London.

This flange fragment is from a mortarium in sandy, cream fabric with pinkish core and both fabric and form are typical of mortaria manufactured at Brockley Hill. The stamp reads FECIT retrograde in large letters but it is highly unusual in having a name within the stamp, in small letters, upside down. The name reads DOCCAS or DOLLAS with S reversed. Other stamps from the same die, recorded from Brockley Hill², and Leicester are either too fragmentary or faint to show the name clearly.



On this example the central letters may seem more likely to read L than C but the name must in fact be that recorded on many stamps from five other dies, the most commonly used being one already well-represented at Brockley Hill³. On stamps from all but one of his dies the letters may be interpreted as C or L but stamps from one die undoubtedly read C. There is no reason to doubt that the penultimate letter is intended to be A and not V. Names beginning DOCCA- are well-known while none is recorded beginning DOLLA⁴. The case for reading DOCCAS is therefore strong.

Eighteen of this potter's stamps have now been found at sites in England and Wales, on mortaria in Brockley Hill fabric (excluding the 13 found at Brockley Hill), but seven other stamps from three dies are on mortaria made in the Mancetter-Hartshill potteries in Warwickshire. Similarities in the stamps from the various dies and in the rim-forms make it clear that they are by the same potter.

There is no site-dating evidence for him but rim-profiles and the link with the Warwickshire potteries point with reasonable certainty to a date within the period A.D. 85-125. His work at Brockley Hill may be assumed to belong to the earlier part of his

working life c. A.D. 85-110. He was undoubtedly a contemporary of the much more prolific G. Attius Marinus who migrated from Radlett to Hartshill. So far as we know these are the only two potters to have moved from the Verulamium area to the Midlands.

NOTES

1. On behalf of the former Brockley Hill Excavation and Fieldwork Group.
2. See K. F. Hartley in S. Castle 'Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex . . . 1970' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol.*

Soc. 23 pt. 2 (1972) 157 Fig. 4, Ms6; *ibid* 24 (1973) 103 Fig. 7, M13.

3. Stephen Castle 'A kiln of the potter Doinus' *Archaeol. J.* 129 (1972) 79 Fig. 6, M1-2.
4. A. Holder *Alt Celtischer Sprachschatz* (Leipzig, 1904), *s. v.*