Vindolanda’s Mortaria Stamps

by

Robin Birley

&

Catherine Sheehan-Finn
Vindolanda’s Mortaria Stamps
By Robin Birley & Catherine Sheehan-Finn

Abbreviations (for fuller details see Bibliography at the end of this report).

AA4 Archaeologia Aeliana, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, fourth series
Balmuildy (1922) see Miller, 1922
Bidwell (1985) see Hartley, K F in Bidwell, 1985
Birrens (1936-1937) see Birley, E B, 1938
Castleford (2000) see Rush, P and Hartley, K F in Rush et al., 2000
Corbridge (1938) see Birley, E B & Richmond I A, 1938
Corbridge (1948) see Birley, E B & Gillam, J P, 1948
EB Eric Birley
Gillam (1970)
Gloucester (1946-48) see Birley, E B, 1949
Hardknott (1999) see Hartley, K F and Croom, A T in Bidwell, Snape & Croom, 1999
JRPS Journal of Roman Pottery Studies
KH Katherine F Hartley
Newstead (1911) see Curle, 1911
Richborough (1968) see Hartley, K F in Cunliffe, 1968
South Shields (1979) see Hartley, K F in Doré & Gillam, 1979
Strageath (1989) see Frere, S S and Hartley, K F in Frere & Wilkes, 1989
Tyers (2009a), Tyers (2009b), Tyers (2009c), Tyers (2009d) see Tyers, P. 2009a-d
Vindolanda (1938) see Birley, E B & Birley, M I 1938
Warrington (1992) see Webster, P V and Hartley, K F in Hinchcliffe & Williams 1992
Wroxeter (1912), Wroxeter (1913), Wroxeter (1914) see Bushe-Fox 1912, 1913, 1914

Introduction

Eric Birley’s acquisition of the Codley Gate estate at the Chesters Sale in 1929 allowed him to conduct small scale excavations on the Vindolanda site between 1930 and 1937, and a series of short reports in Archaeologia Aeliana, the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, brought his discoveries to a wide audience. Unfortunately the outbreak of World War II disrupted his research on the majority of the finds, and the bulk of the pottery remained unpublished. Limited excavation was resumed by the first-named of the authors of this Report between 1959 and 1969, and since 1970, under the auspices of the newly created Vindolanda Trust, excavation has been almost continuous. A great deal is now known about the history of the site, and its nine or ten phases of
occupation have been closely dated without reference to pottery studies. Excavation Reports since 1970 have included some details of the samian and amphora stamps, but very few of the near 200 mortaria stamps have been reported.

Eric Birley had immersed himself in the study of all forms of Roman ceramics when he joined F.G. Simpson’s Birdoswald excavations in 1928, and although his principal interests lay with samian ware, he also devoted attention to the study of mortaria, to take forward the pioneering work of J.P. Bushe-Fox’s Wroxeter Reports (1913-1916). He published two of his Vindolanda mortaria stamps (in Vindolanda 1938), and, in collaboration with John Gillam after the war, four more were mentioned but not commented upon in the major Corbridge 1948 report. A further three stamps from later excavations were included in the Louise Hird 1977 report on pre-Hadrianic pottery, and Paul Bidwell’s 1985 report included the comments of Kay Hartley on four more stamps. Since then no mortaria stamps have been illustrated in the excavation reports, although some of the potters’ names have been recorded. This report adds a further 174 stamps to the records, but it should be emphasised that some of the vessels bore two stamps (on either side of the spouts), and one complete vessel had three stamps.

The majority of these stamps have been recovered from contexts dated by a combination of inscriptions, writing tablets and coins, as well as by their stratification in the multiple layers of the Vindolanda occupation sequence. The dates attributed to the potters stamps by specialists and archaeologists elsewhere have not been taken into account when calculating the Vindolanda occupation periods, although in almost every case the perceived dates for the potters’ periods of activity falls within those periods or modifies them only very slightly.

The value of closely dated mortaria stamps in archaeological contexts is as important as those on samian vessels and amphorae, and on the Northern Frontier only the Corbridge excavations have produced an equally valuable collection. At Vindolanda the combination of the stamped vessels and the very considerable collection of unstamped examples has been especially valuable for defining areas of food preparation (excluding the examples from rubbish deposits in fort ditches), and it has been no surprise to discover that military bath-houses, temples and administrative buildings like the headquarters rarely produce any mortaria.

In the main mortaria catalogue below, the stamps are listed in alphabetical order (as far as is possible), with their archive numbers (e.g. SF 1551, etc), their location in periods of occupation (e.g period VI), and the names of the potters. A description of the fabric of the vessel and the reading of the stamp, is followed by clear parallels with finds from elsewhere when possible. Each stamp is illustrated, at a scale of ½, by its number in Figures 1 to 8. No attempt is made to provide an exhaustive list of parallels from other sites or to attempt identification of the potter’s workshop(s), which can only be undertaken in a meaningful manner by a dedicated specialist such as Kay (Katherine) Hartley. It is hoped that this publication will be of value to archaeologists working on other sites, especially on and near the Northern Frontier, and the Vindolanda Trust would welcome suggested improvements to the readings given here.
The periods of occupation at Vindolanda

The current dating of the Vindolanda periods of occupation is as follows:

I. Mid to late AD 80’s to the early AD 90’s, based on the hoard of unworn La Graufesenque samian dumped in the innermost western fort ditch, and its position below the period II construction.

II. Early to mid AD 90’s to circa AD 100, on the evidence of writing tablets, dendrochronology, and its position below the period III construction.

III. Circa AD 100 to AD 104 or 105, based on plentiful dated writing tablet evidence and its position below the period IV construction.

IV. Circa AD 105 to circa AD 120, on the evidence of coins, writing tablets and its position below period V construction.

V. Circa AD 120 to circa AD 140, on the evidence of coins and its position below the period VI remains.

VI. This is the most complicated of the periods of occupation, between c.AD 140 and the construction of the stone fort for the Fourth Cohort of Gauls circa AD 213. It started with a turf rampart fort and at least two western ditches, whose defences later, circa AD 160, received a stone perimeter wall and a new western gateway, before the western ditches were back-filled and sealed, circa AD 180, to accommodate a series of timber annexe buildings. The fort and annexe were demolished circa AD 208 and replaced by an unorthodox stone fort to the west, with the old fort platform given over to hundreds of circular huts. The stone walled fort of circa AD 160 is recorded as Stone Fort 1, with the annexe period as VIA, and the unorthodox fort with the circular huts as VIB. This latter period is firmly dated by plentiful unworn issues of Severus and his family.

VII. From circa AD 213 to the end of the third century (perhaps only to the late AD 270’s), the fort of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls is recorded as period VII.

VIII. Early in the fourth century the fort was reconstructed, as period VIII, presumably with the Fourth Cohort of Gauls still in residence, and with heavy coin evidence for activity up to the early AD 360’s.

IX. Period IX saw a substantial alteration to the orthodox military buildings, in the early 370’s, with occupation on coin evidence extending to a few years after AD 400.

X. Period X was the badly damaged series of structures built over the ruins of the period IX remains, perhaps enduring for many years after the early fifth century, with occupation by a warrior band or even one of the many primitive Northumbrian monastic establishments taking advantage of the site’s position on the Stanegate road.

The earliest periods of occupation have produced few stamped mortaria, with just one each from period I (no. 71) and II or III (no.9b), but from period IV onwards they have been frequent, with period IV dominated by Iotta, Sullon(ius) and Matugenus. The period VI ditch, sealed around AD 180, contained the largest number of stamps, being used as a dumping place for rubbish from both fort and vicus.

By far the most prolific of the stamps at Vindolanda are those of Sullon(ius), who is generally believed to have worked at Corbridge, where between 26 and 46 of his vessels have been identified (KH in Corbridge 1980). According to Eric Birley (Corbridge 1938) the name Sullonius was of Celtic origin. That publication reported on 27 mortarium stamps of the potter and divided them into 8 types (Corbridge 1938 Fig 22). He also noted that the
The mortaria stamps

Stamps already published and not included in the main catalogue below:

1. Vindolanda (1938) report, no. 56, illustrated: **BRUCIVS**
   - Whitish buff, hard ware; grit is all worn smooth; on the rim is the stamp (reproduced half-size) **BRUCIF** (retrograde). There are two similar stamps in the Corbridge collection, both on mortaria of the same rim section, Wroxeter type 38, assigned there to A.D. 80-110. Probably now in Durham.
2. Corbridge (1948) report, no. 13: probably **Crico**
   - Hard white clay, with thin sprinkling of flinty grit. Context not recorded, but dated to A.D. 180-200. Probably in Durham.
3. Corbridge (1948) report, no. 30: **Mar**
   - Red ware with thick white slip; large multi-coloured grit. Context not recorded. Probably in Durham.
4. Corbridge (1948) report, no. 46: **RVCCIVS**
   - Sandy buff fabric. Context not recorded, but dated to A.D. 70-120. Probably in Durham. (This stamp is more likely to read BRVCCIVS.)
   - Two stamps of Cudrenus. Context not recorded, but dated to A.D. 160-200. Dirty yellowish buff clay, with rust coloured slip; large sparse multi-coloured grit. Probably in Durham.
   - Identified by KH from the surviving initial letter S, found in a context dated to c.A.D. 223-5.
   - Fragmentary stamp interpreted by KH as [...]TVLI[...], with a suggested Hadrianic date.

The Main Catalogue

*Figure 1 shows the Vindolanda mortaria stamps Nos. 1-11*

1a. SF 1551 period VI: **ANAVS**
   - Fragment of rim of vessel. Smooth, fawn fabric with fawn core; no grit. One damaged stamp: [...]AVS[.]; probably ANAVS.
1b. SF 4858 period VI: **ANAVS**
   - Fragment of rim and body of vessel; partially burnt, probably after breaking. Smooth red/orange fabric with grey core and cream slip; brown and white grit. Damaged and worn stamp: [...]NAV[.]; probably ANAVS. Nos. 1a & 1b are similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 1D.
1c. SF 10807 period VI: **ANAVS**
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged stamp: AN[...]. Probably ANAVS. No. 1c is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 1Bi.

1d. SF 10868 period VI/ VII: ANAVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; white and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged double stamp: 10868 (a) ANAV[.] (retrograde); 10868 (b) [.NAV[.]S; probably ANAVS. Compare no. 1d with Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 1C; see also Gillam (1970) no. 244.

2a. SF 9725 period VII: AVSTINVS
Almost half of vessel with parts of rim, body and base. Coarse red/orange fabric with red/orange core; white quartz and small brown grit; worn smooth. One worn two-line stamp: AVSTIN/MA[.].

2b. SF 10789 period IV: AVSTINVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with red core and cream slip; white and brown grit; partly worn. One damaged stamp: AVSTIN/M[.]. Nos. 2a & 2b are similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 4; Corbridge (1988) fig.120, no. 124 (A.D. 120-65) (printed upside down); Birdoswald (1997) fig.176, no. 257-258 (A.D. 115-165); Balmuildy (1922) Plate XL B, no. 17; and Birrens (1936-1937) fig. 34, no. 1. See also Gillam (1970) nos. 246-252 & 251-252 and Tyers (2009b). Tyers stated that mortaria stamped with this type of stamp were first manufactured at Wilderspool before production moved to Carlisle.

3. SF 4861 period VI BRVCCIVS
Fragment of rim of vessel; damaged spout. Smooth sandy/cream fabric; black and white grit; worn smooth. One stamp: BRVCCI[.]. No. 3 is similar to Wroxeter (1914) fig.3, no. 54 (A.D. 80-120), interpreted as RVCCI, but probably BRVCCI if compared to the more complete Vindolanda example; see also Wroxeter (1912) fig.16, no. 2 (stamp BRVCI retrograde; A.D. 80-110) and Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 7 (stamp BRVCIF retrograde). Tyers (2009a) noted that the potter BRVCCIVS worked in the Verulamium region A.D. 80-120.

4a. SF 5396 period VI: CAMVLVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; partially burnt. Hard buff/yellowish fabric with pale grey core and pale brown slip; brown and black grit; worn smooth. One stamp; CAMVL/VS FEC[.].

4b. SF 6208 period VI: CAMVLVS
Fragment of vessel rim and body; no spout. Hard yellowish/cream fabric pale with grey core and pale brown slip; black/dark brown grit; worn smooth. One stamp: CAMVL/VS FECI[.]. Nos. 4a & 4b are similar to Baldock (1986) fig.97, no. 4, (Upper Nene Valley, A.D. 130-180). Neither stamps are like Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 43 and they are also distinct from Wroxeter (1912) fig.16, no. 3; Wroxeter (1913) fig.17, nos. 31 & 34.

5. SF 12607/12619 period VII: CNFS
Two fragments of rim of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with grey core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged stamp, broken down the middle: probably CNFS. Compare no. 5 with Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 11 (A.D. 140-200) and Newstead (1911) fig.35, no. 15. Both stamps were interpreted as CAIHS (retrograde). The Vindolanda stamp resembles the Corbridge example more than the Newstead one. The condition of the Vindolanda stamp renders definitive interpretation difficult.
6. SF 10805 period VI/VII: **COERTINVS**
Fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse pale orange fabric with cream core and cream slip; no grit. One stamp: COERTINVS (retrograde).
No. 6 is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 12 (A.D. 140-200); see also Gillam (1970) no. 239 (A.D. 80-110).

7. SF 9512 period IV-VI: **CPE or CRE**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; heavily burnt. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One complete stamp: CPE or CRE (the second letter is damaged which renders definitive interpretation difficult).

8a. SF 14553 period VIII: **CVDRENVS**
Tiny fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and red paint/slip on the stamp; no grit. One damaged double stamp: probably reads [.].R/.R[.] (retrograde); probably CVDRENVS.

8b. SF 15535 period VII: **CVDRENVS**
Fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and red slip; no grit. One damaged double stamp: [...]DR/[..DR] (retrograde); probably CVDRENVS.
Nos. 8a & 8b are similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 14.

9a. SF 8901 period V: **DOCCIVS**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse beige fabric with beige core; fine black and white grit; worn smooth. One stamp: chevron border; DOCCI[...]. (The last three letters are badly stamped and difficult to read.)

9b. SF 8282 period II/III: **DOCCIVS**
Fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse sandy/cream fabric with cream core and cream slip. One damaged, worn stamp: chevron border: DOCCIVS. (The last three letters are badly stamped and difficult to read).

9c. SF 9377 period IV: **DOCCIVS**
Very small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse granular cream fabric with cream core; no grit. One stamp: DOCC[...]; probably DOCCIVS.
Nos. 9a, 9b & 9c are all similar to Richborough (1968) no. 15, p. 176 (A.D. 80-120). Tyers (2009b) stated that DOCCIVS mortaria were first manufactured in the Wilderspool region before production moved to Carlisle.

10a. SF 8948 period V: **DOCIELIS** (not illustrated)
Fragment of rim of vessel. Pale cream fabric with red/orange core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged stamp: DOCIELIŠ (C is wrapped around O; LEI ligatured and partial S) (KH read DOCILIS, but the stamp is very difficult to read).

10b. SF 9217 period IV/V: **DOCILIS**
Fragment of rim and base of vessel. Coarse sandy/buff fabric with reddish core and brown slip; variegated white, brown, grey and black grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: reads DO[...].L[...]; probably DOCILS-F.
No. 10b is similar (but not identical) to Wroxeter (1914) fig.3, no. 47 (late first/early second century).
10c. SF 10847 period V: **DOCIELIS**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with red/orange core and cream slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: DOC[E[...]]; probably DOCIELIS.
No. 10c is similar to Birdoswald (1997) fig.176, no. 259 (A.D. 120-155).

10d. SF 10315 period VIA: **DOCILIS**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse red/orange fabric with red/orange core and cream slip; grey/brown and white quartz grit; worn, but not smooth. One imperfectly impressed and worn stamp overlapping the vessel lip: DOC[...]; (C damaged by large inclusion running horizontally across stamp).

10e. SF 10324 period VII: **DOCILIS**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse red/orange fabric with red/orange core and cream slip; ubiquitous variegated white, brown and grey/black grit; partially worn. One imperfectly impressed and worn stamp overlapping the vessel lip: DOC[...].
Nos. 10d & 10e are similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 18.

11. SF 10390 period IV/V: **DVROSF**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; partially burnt. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; variegated white, brown and black grit; worn smooth. One worn stamp: chevron border; DVROSF (VR ligatured).
There is no similar stamp in the available literature.

*Figure 2 shows Vindolanda mortaria stamps, Nos. 12-25.*

12. SF 10313 period VIB: **EXSI**
Two fragments of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Coarse red/orange fabric with red/orange core and cream slip; white grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; decorative border: EXS[.].

13a. SF 9639 period V: **FECIT**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel with part of spout. Coarse red/orange fabric with grey core and brown slip; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. One stamp; lined border: FECIT; probably a counter-stamp.

13b. SF 14290 period VIII: **FECIT**
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse buff fabric with orange core; no grit. Damaged stamp: [.]ECIT; probably FECIT; presumably a counter-stamp.
Tyers (2009a) stated that FECIT was a common counter-stamp used on mortaria manufactured at Verulamium. However, the fabric of nos. 13a & 13b is significantly different from mortaria made at Verulamium. The FECIT stamped on G. Attius Marinus vessels from Warrington (1992) nos. 369-370 is distinct from those stamped on nos. 13a & 13b (as is the fabric). Compare nos. 13a & 13b with Balmuildy (1922) Plate XL B, No. 5 (retrograde), which again is distinct from the Vindolanda examples. The stamps illustrated in Carlisle (2009) fig.298, no. 4; Wroxeter (1912) fig.16, no.
24; and Richborough (1968) Plate LXXXVIII, no. 18 (A.D. 80-110) and no. 39, are similar to the Vindolanda examples. It is not clear at this stage which potter(s) produced these Vindolanda stamps.

14a. SF 8982 period VII: FELICIOLES
Approx. two thirds of rim and body of vessel (dimensions: external 258 mm; internal 166 mm). Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; large variegated white, reddish brown, black and grey grit; worn smooth. One complete stamp; letters flanked by herringbone patterns to top and bottom: FELICIOLES (S is retrograde).

14b. SF 9412 u/s period IV-VI: FELICIOLES
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with orange core; no grit. One damaged stamp; letters flanked by herringbone patterns to top and bottom; [...]ELIO[...]; probably FELICIOLES.

14c. SF 15435 period VII: FELICIOLES
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse fawn fabric with orange core; no grit. One partial stamp; herringbone pattern above letters; [...]ELICI[....]; probably FELICIOLES.

14d. SF 15694 period VI: FELICIOLES
Approx. one third of rim and body of vessel (repaired). Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; variegated white, grey and brown grit; worn smooth. One worn stamp; letters flanked by herringbone patterns to top and bottom: FELICIO[...]; probably FELICIOLES

Nos. 14a-d are similar to South Shields (1979) fig. 47, no. 11 (A.D. 117-190); see also Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 20. The Corbridge example may have been a stamp of the potter FELICIOLES.

15. SF 9777 period VI/VIA: GENIALISF
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; partially burnt. Fine cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; white grit. One double stamp: GENIALISF/GENIALISF.
No. 15 is similar to Warrington (1992) no. 61 (A.D. 100-140).

16. SF 2999 period VII: [ICO].......
Tiny fragment of rim of vessel. Cream fabric with cream core and orange slip; no grit. One damaged stamp: [ICO]...; possibly ICOTSAGVS.
No. 16 was originally reported in Bidwell (1985) p. 184 and fig.76, no. 4 and interpreted as CO[...]. However, comparison with Corbridge (1988) fig.120, no. 126 (A.D. 100-140) (possibly printed upside down) reveals that the more damaged Vindolanda stamp is very similar to it. The Corbridge stamp was interpreted by KH as COR[-] (retrograde) (1989, p.265), but despite the similarity it is possible to interpret the Vindolanda stamp as reading ICOTSAGVS (see Castleford (2000) fig.97, no. 35 (A.D. 130-160) (retrograde) and Warrington (1992) no. 40 (A.D. 130-165)). The damage on the Vindolanda stamp makes definitive interpretation difficult.

17a. SF 4896 period V/VI: IOTTA
Fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse pale grey fabric with slightly paler grey core; two white quartz fragments of grit; partially worn. One damaged stamp: IOTTA.

17b. SF 9071 period IV: IOTTA
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse dark grey fabric with grey core; one white and one grey grit particle. One complete stamp with line decoration border: IOTTA.

17c. SF 9117 period IV: IOTTA
Fragment of rim and body of vessel with damaged spout; partially burnt and coated in iron pan. Coarse yellow/cream fabric with yellow/cream core; white quartz grit. One damaged stamp: IOTTA.

18. SF 10672 period X: IVARIATVS (unique in the Vindolanda collection)
Two fragments of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Smooth pale cream fabric with pale cream core; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One unusual stamp: (stamped along the length of the rim) IVARIATUS; presumably I. VARIATVS. There is no similar stamp in the available literature.

19a. SF 1439 period VI: IVNIVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core; no grit. Two stamps; 1439 (i) possibly IVNIV[.]; 1439 (ii) IVNIV[.]) (NIV ligatured); probably IVNIVS.

19b. SF 9887 period VII: IVNIVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse orange/buff fabric with grey core and cream slip; brown and white quartz grit; unworn. One damaged stamp: IVNIV[S] (NIV ligatured); probably IVNIVS.

19c. SF 11014 period VI: IVNIVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth pale cream fabric with cream core; grey/black grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: IVN[.]; probably IVNIVS. Nos. 19a, 19b are similar to Wroxeter (1913) fig.17, no. 44; Castleford (2000) fig.97, no. 4 (A.D. 150-180); and Corbridge (1948) fig.1, no. 25 (A.D. 140-200). No. 19c is more like Corbridge (1988) fig.120, no. 128 (A.D. 155-185) (printed upside down) and Gloucester (1946-48) fig.2, no. 2 (although it is retrograde). See also Tyers (2009a) for more information on the potter IVNIVS where he stated that the work of this potter originated in the Verulamium region.

20. SF 9764 period IV/V: MA[...] or AM[...]
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse beige fabric with pale grey core and traces of brown slip; variegated white quartz, brown and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: reads MA[...] or AM[...]. No. 20 is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 29. The Vindolanda stamp also resembles (but is not identical to) Corbridge (1988) fig.120, no. 129 (MA[...] dated to the mid-second century), which is later than this example. An alternative interpretation for no. 20 is AM[...] or AMENVS. It is very similar to Warrington (1992) no. 366, (A.D. 110-155). This latter interpretation is more likely. See also no. 22 below in this catalogue.

21a. SF 15348 period VII: FECIT/MADVI
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; no spout. Fine grey fabric with grey core and buff slip; white grit; worn smooth. One stamp: (grid square) FECIT/MADVI.

21b. SF 15464 period VIII: FECIT/MADVI
Fragment of vessel rim only with part of spout. Coarse orange fabric with grey core; no grit. One damaged stamp: (grid square) FECIT/MADV[.].

22. SF 13827 period IV: AM[...]
Tiny fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with grey core and cream slip; no grit. One imperfectly impressed stamp: AM[.]; probably AMENVS.
No. 22 is similar to Warrington (1992) no. 366, (A.D. 110-155). See also no. 20 above in this catalogue.

23. SF 10600 period VI: MARF
Two small fragments of rim of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with pale grey core; no grit. One damaged and worn stamp: MAR[.]; probably MARF.
No. 23 is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 30 (A.D. 160-180) and Strageath (1989) fig.115, no. 8.

24. SF 5581 period III+: MAR·M
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth pale cream fabric with pale cream core; very rounded rim; variegated white, brown, grey, red/brown and black grit; worn smooth. One damaged double stamp: 5581 (a) damaged; probably MAR·M (retrograde); 5581 (b) MAR·M (retrograde). There appears to be a second M on a lower line in 5581 (b), but this is probably a result of impressing the stamp badly several times in roughly the same spot.

25. SF 9408 period u/s: MATTIRVS
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged, misshapen spout (could be interpreted as a waster, or in modern parlance a ‘second’). Coarse grey fabric with reddish core; white grit; not worn. One double stamp: MATTIRV/MATTIRV (R retrograde).

Figure 3 shows Vindolanda mortaria stamps, Nos. 26-40.

26a. SF 9584 period IV/V: MATVGENVS
Large fragment of rim of vessel with part of spout. Coarse pale buff fabric with pale orange core; small white and reddish-brown grit. One damaged stamp: chevron border; MATVGEN[.] (MA ligatured).

26b. SF 14688 period IV: MATVGENVS
Approx. one quarter of rim and body of vessel with spout. Coarse fawn fabric with fawn core; white grit; worn smooth. One broken stamp: chevron border; MATVGENV (AM ligatured); MATVGENVS.

26c. SF 10052 period VII: MATVGENVS
Fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with a grey core; grey/black grit on the rim. One damaged stamp: chevron border; MATV[...] (possibly TV ligatured); probably MATVGENVS.
Nos. 26a-26c are similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 38 (A.D. 70-100, Lugudunum); Wroxeter (1912) fig.16, nos. 8 & 14; and Baldock (1986) fig.97 no. 12. Tyers (2009a) noted that this stamp may have come from a family of potters because mortaria stamps indicate that MATVGENVS was the son of ALBINVS and worked between c. A.D. 80-125. See also Gillam (1970) no. 240 (dated A.D. 80-110).
27. SF 7179 period VII: **MESSORIVS MARTIVS**
Almost complete vessel; part of rim, body and spout missing or damaged; repaired in antiquity with lead plugs. Dimensions: external 285 mm; internal 195 mm. Smooth orange fabric with reddish/orange core and cream slip; white quartz grit; worn smooth. One stamp: MESSORI[..]/MARTIV[..]; MESSORIVS MARTIVS F. No. 27 is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 40B i-ii (A.D. 140-160). See also Gillam (1970) no. 245 (Milecastle 50, no. 96) (A.D. 110-160).

28a. SF 8947 period III/IV: [...]/NAV[...]
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged two-line stamp: [.....]/NAV[...] (NAV ligatured).

28b. SF 9980 period VI: N[...]/N[...]
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with grey core and cream slip; grey/brown grit. One damaged two-line stamp; N[...]/N[...]; alternatively M[...]/M[...].

28c. SF 13853 period VII: NAV[...]/[...]
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and pale orange slip; coarse variegated black, white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged two-line stamp; reads NAV[...]; (AV ligatured). Nos. 28a-28c are all similar (but not identical) to Newstead (1911) fig.35, no. 20. Nos. 28a-28c are all distinct from the ANAVS stamps (1a-d above) because they are all two-line stamps.

29a. SF 10799 period VI/VII: **OENV**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; OSENV[.].

29b. SF 14470 u/s: OSENV
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse pale orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged and worn stamp: [.]SENV; probably OSENV. Nos. 30a & 30b are both similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 52 (A.D. 140-200).

30. SF 10155 period VI/VIA:[..]/ATR
Two large fragments of rim, body and base of vessel; complete spout; partially burnt. Coarse cream fabric with cream core; variegated brown, red/brown, grey and white quartz grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: [.]ATVR (VR ligatured). Similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 49 (SATVRNIVS II, A.D. 160-200).

31a. SF7146 period VII: **QAA[.]**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; partially burnt. Coarse pink/buff fabric with grey core and cream slip; white quartz grit.

31b. SF 8504 period IV: **QAAF**
Three fragments of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Coarse pinkish fabric with pinkish core and cream slip; variegated brown, grey and white grit; worn smooth. Two damaged stamps: 8504 (a) QAA[.]; 8504 (b) QAAF.

31c. SF 11650 period VI: **QAAF**
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core; brown grit; worn smooth. One stamp: QAAF.
Nos. 31a-31c are all similar to Hardknott (1999) fig. 42, no. 7 (probably Hadrianic-Antonine), p. 97. However, note that KH stated that MA or AMA may have been the intended lettering. She also noted that the Hardknott example was made in an unidentified northern workshop. These three Vindolanda stamps are also similar to Newstead (1911) fig.35, nos. 21-22.

32. SF 15888 period VII: R[...]
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Smooth beige fabric with traces of cream slip and beige core; no grit. One damaged stamp: R[...]; possibly RBIVS.
No. 32 is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 45.

33. SF15506 period VI/VII: RC[...]
Fragment of rim of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse pale orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged, worn, iron-pan-encrusted stamp: RC[...].

34. SF 9242 period IV/V: RE[...]
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale grey fabric with pale grey core; variegated white, brown, grey and black grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: RE[...].

35. SF 7676 u/s: REGALIS
Fragment of vessel rim with part of the spout. Smooth and hard pale buff fabric with grey core; no grit. One partially worn stamp: REGALISF (S is retrograde).
No. 35 is similar (but not identical) to South Shields (1979) fig.47, no. 10 (REGALIS retrograde). The authors reported that REGALIS worked at Colchester and Ellingham, Norfolk, in the period A.D. 160-200.

36. SF 9745 u/s: RIICIMVS
Tiny fragment of rim of vessel; burnt. Coarse orange fabric with orange core; no grit. One stamp: RIICIMVS (MV ligatured; S is retrograde).

37a. SF 7775 period VIII: ? RIVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; no spout. Coarse cream/fawn fabric with cream core; brown and white quartz grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: possibly RIVS.

37b. SF 11829 period IX: ? RIVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; no spout. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core and brown slip; white grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: possibly RIVS.
Nos. 37a & 37b are both similar to Newstead (1911) fig. 35, no. 4.

38. SF 10053 period VII: SARRIVS
Fragment of body and rim of vessel. Smooth cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; black grit. One damaged stamp: SARRI, for SARRIVS.
No. 38 is similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 47 (A.D. 140-180); Newstead (1911) fig.35, no. 28; Balmuildy (1922) Plate XL B, no. 11; Birrens (1937-1937) fig.34, no. 3; Strageath (1989) fig.115, nos. 10-11.

39. SF 4838 period V: SATVRNIVS
Complete mortarium with a hole worn through the base; partially burnt. Dimensions: external 260 mm; internal 171 mm. Coarse beige/fawn fabric with cream core; white
and black grit; worn smooth. Two identical stamps: 4838 (a) SATVRNI/NVS (symbol); 4838 (b) SATVRNI/NVS (symbol); (TV ligatured on both stamps; symbol is like an S on its side).

Tyers (2009c) dated SATURNINVS stamps found in the Corbridge region to A.D. 100-130. He also dated SATURNINVS i stamps found in the Verulamium region to A.D. 105-140 (2009a). Compare the Vindolanda example with Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 48 (A.D. 140-200), which is similar (but not identical) to no. 39. The Vindolanda vessel is not the same as Gillam (1970) no. 245 Saturninus (southern). The rim shape also differs from Gillam (1970) nos. 264 & 266 Saturninus (northern), although the fabric and grits are similar. Gillam dated him on the Corbridge examples to A.D. 180-200 – but the Vindolanda example must be earlier than that. EB in Gloucester (1946-1948) commented in note 5 that an example of a SATVRNINVS stamp was found at Newstead, but there was no mention of this stamp in Newstead (1911). On balance, it is likely that the Vindolanda vessel is from the Verulamium region.

40a. SF 5280 period VI: SENNIVS
Single fragment of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Smooth cream fabric with cream core; dense black and brown grit; worn almost smooth. One stamp; reads S[...].NIVS.

40b. SF 6187 period V/VIA: SENNIVS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth cream fabric with cream core; dark grey/black grit; worn smooth. One stamp: [...]NIVS.

Nos. 40a & 40b are both similar to Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 51 (A.D. 160-180); Wroxeter (1912) fig.16, no. 23; Carlisle (2009) fig.299, nos. 15-16. Compare nos. 40a & 40b with to Gillam (1970) no. 253 (Birrens, fig.34, no. 4, A.D. 140-180). KH stated, in Carlisle (2009) p. 589, that two mortaria were stamped SENNIVS and noted that the potter SENNIVS worked at Mancetter from c. A.D. 160-180. She obtained this date from the evidence of a deposit from a Wroxeter gutter that comprised of seventeen SENNIVS mortaria and samian ware of this date. Worn coins from this deposit were dated A.D. 155. According to KH Sennivs was one of the latest group of potters to stamp their mortaria at Mancetter (2009, p. 589).

Figures 4 & 5 show Vindolanda mortaria stamps 41a-z.

41a. SF 150 u/s: SVLLON
More than half of vessel; complete spout; three holes have been punched through the bottom of the vessel; vessel has been repaired. Dimensions: external 292 mm; internal 218 mm. Coarse orange fabric with grey core and cream slip; white quartz grit; worn smooth. Two stamps; one damaged; SF 150 (a) SVLLOṈ; SF 150 (b) SVLLOṈ; both SVLLON.

41b. SF 4854 period IV: SVLLON
Almost complete vessel. Dimensions: overall 300 mm; internal 235 mm. Hard, smooth cream fabric with grey core; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. Two damaged stamps: 4854(a) [ ...]VLLO; 4854 (b) SV[...]; both SVLLON.

41c. SF 4897 period VIA: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; burnt to a dark grey colour; probably smooth cream/fawn fabric with fawn core; brown grit. One stamp: SVLLON.

41d. SF 5268 period V: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; burnt. Coarse orange/buff fabric with orange/buff core; white quartz, brown and grey grit; worn smooth. One stamp: SVLLON.

41e. SF 5310 period VI: SVLLON
Five fragments of rim and body of vessel with complete spout. Smooth cream fabric with cream core and with whitish/cream slip; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. Two worn stamps: 5310 (a) SVLLO[.]; 5310 (b) SVLLON.

41f. SF 5559 period V/VI: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale cream/fawn fabric and core; small white and brown coarse grit; not worn. One stamp: SVLLON.

41g. SF 6225 period VI: SVLLON
Two fragments of rim of vessel with complete spout. Smooth fawn/cream fabric with variable core (reddish to grey); white quartz, brown and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: [ ...]VLLO.

41h. SF 8966 period V: SJVLLON
More than half of vessel with complete spout; partially burnt. Dimensions: external: rim damaged; internal 203 mm. Coarse beige/sandy fabric with beige/sandy core; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. Two worn stamps, one on each side of the spout: 8966 (a) SVLLON; 8966 (b) [...],LON; both SVLLON.

41i. SF 9085 period IV/V: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel, with complete spout. Coarse beige fabric with grey core; white grit; worn. Two stamps: 9085 (a) SVLLON; 9085 (b) SVLLON.

41j. SF 9149 period VIB: SVLLON
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel, with complete spout; partially burnt. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. Two stamps: 9149 (a) SVLLON; 9149 (b) SVLLON.

41k. SF 15889 period VIB: SVLLON
Four fragments of rim and body of vessel; complete spout; Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core; large white quartz grit; partially worn. Two damaged worn stamps: 15889 (a) [...L][.]O[.]; 15889 (b) [...LO[.]; probably SVLLON.

41l. SF 15890 period VI-VII: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth buff/orange fabric with grey core; white quartz grit; worn. One stamp: SVLLON.

41a to 41l are all similar to Corbridge (1948) Fig. 2, No. 55.

41m. SF 4864 period IV/V: SVLLON
Two fragments of vessel rim and body (now glued together), with complete spout. Coarse buff fabric with orange slip and buff core; white and grey/black grit; worn smooth. Two damaged stamps: 4864 (a) SVL[...][O][N] (repaired across the diagonal and worn almost smooth); 4864 (b) [...]LLON; both SVLLON.

41n. SF 5846 period V/VI: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; reads [...]VLLON; SVLLON.

41o. SF 8376 period IV: SVLLON
Almost complete vessel; part of rim missing; found lying inverted on a floor of the period IV schola. Dimensions: overall 390 mm; internal 282 mm. Smooth orange/beige fabric with orange/beige core and cream slip; grey/black and white grit; worn. Three stamps (one either side of the spout, and one on the rim opposite): 8376 (a) SVLLON; (b) SVLLON; (c) SV[...]N (very worn); all SVLLON. See Gillam (1970) no. 243 (also stamped SVLLON); Gillam dated these stamps to A.D. 100-140, and this well-worn example was probably dumped at the end of the schola’s occupation, within a year or two of AD 120.

41p. SF 8902 u/s: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel, with part of spout. Coarse beige fabric with grey core and light brown slip; white quartz grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: SVLL[..]; SVLLON.

41q. SF 9109 period VI: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel with part of spout. Coarse cream/buff fabric with cream/buff core and cream slip; variegated white quartz, grey and brown grit; worn smooth. One worn stamp: [...]LLON; SVLLON.

41r. SF15891 period IV: SVLLON
Almost complete vessel, missing part of rim and spout. Dimensions: external 261 mm; internal 181 mm. Smooth yellow/beige fabric with yellow/beige core and creamy/yellow slip; variegated white, grey/black and brown grit. Two stamps: 15891 (a) SVLLON; 15891(b) SVLLON.

41s. SF 5459 period VI: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse reddish fabric with grey core; white grit; worn. One damaged stamp: herringbone stamp on top and bottom; SVL[...]; SVLLON.

41t. SF 10802 period IV: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; white and brown grit particles; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: herringbone stamp on top and bottom; SVL[..]; SVLLON.

41u. SF 15448 period VIII: SVLLON
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse reddish/orange fabric with grey core and cream slip; coarse white quartz grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: [...]ON; probably SVLLON.

41v. SF 10110 period VII: SVLLON (?)
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with orange/buff slip and grey core; brown grit; well worn. One worn stamp: $VLONI; (L and N are retrograde); probably SVLLON.

41w. SF 10321 period VI: SVLLON MARTIALISF
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel, with complete spout. Coarse orange/buff fabric with orange core; brown and white grit; worn smooth. Two different damaged stamps: 10321 (a) SVLLON (retrograde); 10321 (b) MARTIALISF/SVLLON (retrograde). Martialis was presumably an employee or associate of Sullonius.

41x. SF 9136 period IV/V: SVLLON
Fragment of rim and body of vessel, with complete spout. Smooth cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; brown and grey/black grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; reads [..]ON (N is retrograde); probably SVLLON.

41y. SF 9477 period IV/V: SVLLON (?)
Tiny fragment of vessel rim. Coarse pale cream fabric with pale cream core; no grit. One damaged and worn stamp: possibly $V[...] (top-line is retrograde); almost illegible; possibly SVLLON.

41z. SF 9569 period VI/ VIA: SVLLON (?) (not illustrated)
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel; complete spout; encrusted with iron pan. Dimensions: external 325 mm; internal 242 mm. Pale cream fabric with pale cream core and cream slip; white and brown grit; well worn. Two very worn stamps, one on either side of the spout: 9569 (a) totally obscured; 9569 (b) very worn double stamp possibly $V...N/SVL[...] (top-line is retrograde).

See Gillam (1970) no. 242 (A.D. 90-130), no. 243, which was Corbridge (1951), No. 44 (A.D. 100-140) and no. 244, which was Corbridge (1937) fig.11, lower, no. 4 (A.D. 110-150). Tyers (2009c) stated that SVLLONIVS or SVLLONIACVS was making stamped mortaria at Corbridge between A.D. 100 and A.D. 140. This is consistent with the Vindolanda evidence. For more information consult the introduction above.

Figure 6 shows Vindolanda mortaria stamps, Nos. 42-57.

42a. SF 15349 period VII: VIIDIAC
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core and fawn slip; no grit. One stamp: VIIDIAC/FIICIT.

42b. SF 15537 u/s: VIIDIAC
Fragments of rim, body and base of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and fawn coloured slip; variegated brown, black and white grit; worn smooth. Two stamps, separated by 30 mm: 15537 (a): VIIDIAC/FIICIT; 15537 (b): VIIDIAC/FIICIT. Note that (b) is worn and difficult to read, but is nevertheless identical to (a). Nos. 42a & 42b are both similar to Baldock (1986) fig.97, no. 17, and see also no. 16, p. 238 (A.D. 130/140-190).

43. SF 11660 period IV/V: VITA
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Coarse fawn fabric with fawn core and brown slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One complete stamp: VITA; probably VITALIS.

No. 44 is not like the Vitalis stamp recorded as Warrington (1992) no. 371. Compare with Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 58A-D. These Vitalis stamps are distinct from the Vindolanda stamp. Compare also with No. 44 below, which is very different.

44. SF 9552 u/s: VITALIS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth pale cream fabric with pale cream core and cream slip; white quartz and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged two-line stamp: III[.]AM[.]; probably VITALIS.

Compare with Warrington (1992) no. 371 (A.D. 120-145), which is identical to our stamp. The Warrington stamp is on a vessel of the potter VITALIS IV. Compare the Vindolanda stamp also with Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 58 (A.D. 100-120), especially type A. See also Gillam (1970) no. 242 (A.D. 90-110).

45a. SF 9247 period VII: VOROLAS
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Coarse pale cream fabric with grey core; white quartz and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp (stamped over the inner rim and iron-pan encrusted): possibly VO Ṣ릇 Ṣstitución. Compare with Corbridge (1948) fig.2, no. 59 (A.D. 180-200).

45b. SF 10954 period VI: Illiterate
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; iron pan encrustation. Pink/cream fabric with cream core; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; not certain of reading: possibly SSFLVNVS; probably illiterate.

46. SF 15892 period II/III: VII or IIII
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth cream/fawn coloured fabric with cream/fawn core; no grit (interior worn smooth). One damaged stamp: grooved line decorated edge; VI or IIII.

47. SF 15893 period V/VI: XI
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Coarse buff fabric with grey core; brown and white quartz grit; not worn. One stamp: XI or II XI II or I XI I.

48. SF 10788 period VI: XIXIXIXIX
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core; variegated white, brown, grey and black grit; worn smooth. One illiterate stamp: XIXIXIXIX.

49a. SF 10522 period VII/IX: XX/XX
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Orange/buff fabric with orange/buff core and cream slip; variegated white quartz, light brown, dark brown grit; worn smooth.

49b. SF 14517 period VII/IX: XX/XX
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Orange/buff fabric with orange/buff core and cream slip; variegated white quartz, light brown and dark brown grit; worn smooth.
49a & 49b are part of the same vessel.

50a. SF 8994 period V: **Herringbone**
Fragment of vessel rim; partially burnt. Coarse cream fabric with cream core; white quartz and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: herringbone pattern.

50b. SF 9168 period VIB: **Herringbone**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; tiny edge of spout. Hard, coarse, pale cream fabric with hard pale cream core; black, grey and white quartz grit; worn smooth. One stamp: herringbone pattern.

50c. SF 15282 period VII: **Herringbone**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse cream fabric with pale pink core; white grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; herringbone pattern.

See Gillam (1970) nos. 260 & 266. Nos. 50a-c are similar to Balmuildy Plate XL B. nos. 1-3 described as Herringbone stamps. The authors noted that similar second century stamps were found at Silchester, Bar Hill, Newstead, Poltross Burn and Ardoch. To these can be added South Shields (1979) fig.47, nos. 17-18. These were described as a herringbone stamp from a die type used in Colchester potteries during the second century.

51. SF 8830 period IV: **Illegible**
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel; partially burnt. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged and worn stamp; part of border survives with worn letters that are illegible at present.

52. SF 9029 period VI/VIA: **Iliterate (?)**
Two large fragments of rim and body of vessel; complete spout. Dimensions: external 215 mm; internal 160 mm. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core; white quartz grit; worn smooth. Two stamps, one on either side of the spout: 9029 (a), two lines; possibly \Y/VS[...]; 9029 (b) is too worn to make out; probably illiterate (9029(b) is not illustrated).

53. SF 9703 period III+: **Iliterate**
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; variegated white, brown and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged two-line stamp: illiterate.

54. SF 9747 period VII: **DOCIELIS**
Very small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; no grit. One partial and worn stamp: [...][ELI[.]; probably DOCIELIS. This stamp is very like no. 10a above.


55. SF 11367 period VI/VIB: **Iliterate**
Four fragments of rim and body of vessel; complete spout; repaired. Pale orange fabric with grey core and cream slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp, broken across the middle: abstract scrawl; probably illiterate.

56a. SF 3136 period VII/VIII: **Leaf Pattern 1**
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Very pale cream fabric with pale cream core; dark brown/black grit; worn smooth. One worn stamp: leaf pattern.

56b. SF 4714 period VI: **Leaf Pattern 1**
Fragment of rim of vessel; complete spout. Smooth cream fabric cream core and hard cream slip; Brown, grey and white grit; worn smooth. One stamp: leaf pattern.

56c. SF 8993 period VII/VIII: (?) **Leaf Pattern 1 and Letters**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Pale cream fabric with orange core and cream slip; white quartz grit; worn smooth. At least two stamps next to each other (possibly a third, which is broken off): 8993 (a) leaf pattern; 8993 (b) very difficult to make out, probably leaf pattern too, but may have been a name.

56d. SF 9849 period VII: **Leaf Pattern 1**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse creamy/buff fabric with creamy/buff core; grey and white quartz grit; partially worn. One worn stamp: leaf pattern.

56e. SF 10322 period VII: **Leaf Pattern 1**
Fragment of rim of vessel. Friable orange/buff fabric with cream core and brown slip; grey and brown grit on the rim. One damaged worn stamp: leaf pattern.

56f. SF 15183 early period VII: **Leaf Pattern 1**
Almost half of vessel; complete spout; repaired. Coarse pale orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; variegated brown, grey and white grit; worn smooth. One stamp: leaf pattern. 
Compare nos. 56a-56f with Newstead (1911) fig. 35, nos. 29 & 30. See also Gillam (1970) nos. 260 and 266. These Vindolanda stamps differ from those described as Herringbone pattern (Nos. 50a-50c above). It may be that a closer study of these stamps together with fabric and grit could be revealing about the origins of the vessels stamped by these potter(s).

57. SF 15870 period VII: **Leaf Pattern 2**
Two pieces of rim of large vessel; damaged spout. Pale orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; variegated white, brown and black grit; worn smooth. One stamp, broken across the middle: leaf pattern. 
Compare no. 57 with Newstead (1911) fig.35, nos. 29 & 30 which are leaf pattern type 1 and therefore differ from this Vindolanda stamp. Gillam (1970) no. 66 is similar to this Vindolanda vessel.

*Figure 7 shows Vindolanda mortaria stamps 58-82.*

58. EB 1938 report, no. 57 period unknown: **Abstract Lattice Pattern**
Complete mortarium. Dimensions: external 273 mm; internal 192 mm. Smooth red/orange fabric with cream slip; variegated black, white, brown and grey grit; worn smooth. Two stamps on either side of the spout: (a) lattice pattern; (b) too worn to be read.

59. SF 9066 period VIB: **Eight Petal Flower or Star**
Tiny fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse pale cream fabric with pale cream core; no
grit. One abstract stamp: four or eight petal flower or star.

60. SF 12608 period VII: Cross-hatch graffito (not illustrated)
Fragment of rim (the rim is quite flat) and body of vessel. Smooth, hard, pale cream
(or pipe-clay fabric) with cream core; black grit; worn smooth. No stamp; series of
crude cross-hatched lines forming a lattice pattern.

61. SF 13847/SF 13881 period VI: Abstract Line Pattern
Two fragments of vessel rim with spout, and body. Coarse pale orange fabric with
grey core and cream slip; variegated brown, white and grey grit; worn smooth. One
stamp with abstract line pattern.

62. SF 15869 period VII: Two Rosettes in Herringbone Border
Very small fragment of vessel rim only. Coarse pale orange fabric with grey core and
cream slip; no grit. One damaged worn stamp; possibly two rosettes within a
herringbone/chevron border.

**Damaged Stamps/Uncertain Reading**

63. SF 1520 period VI: ? [.]RAVS/VRAVS
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Smooth pale cream fabric with cream core; no grit.
One damaged double stamp: possibly [.]RAVS/VRAVS (VR ligatured; AV ligatured
on both lines; S retrograde on both lines.

64. SF 1540 period VI: Illegible
Large fragment of rim, body and base of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with pink/red
core and cream slip; variegated grey, white, black and red/brown grit. One damaged
stamp: illegible; probably letters.

65. SF 1550 period VI: ? VN[...] or [...]NV
Fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core; no grit. One
damaged stamp: possibly VN[...] or [...]NV.

66. SF 4860 u/s: QVS[..]
Two fragments of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse fawn fabric with
yellowish core; variegated white, red/brown and grey grit; worn smooth. One
damaged stamp; reads QVS[..] (QV ligatured) (retrograde); probably Quintus
Valerius Secundus or alternatively Quintus Valerius Suriacus.
See Gillam (1970) nos. 238 & 245 (Milecastle 50, no. 96, A.D. 110-160). See also
Tyers (2009d), who noted that these potters’ stamps have been found in northern
France, western Belgium and in Britain. In Britain they are most often found in Kent
in the area of the Thames estuary (Richborough, London, Colchester). However
Tyers’ distribution map shows that the North Gaulish potters’ stamps have been found
throughout England and in Scotland, particularly along the Antonine Wall region. He
dated mortaria stamped with Quintus Valerius Secundus and Quintus Valerius
Suriacus to A.D. 55-85 and A.D. 65-100 respectively (2009d). The Vindolanda
example is more likely to be a pot of Quintus Valerius Secundus because its form
conforms to the Type 1(strongly hooked rim) typical of this potter. Note, however,
that the Vindolanda stamp was unstratified and therefore is not dated firmly and the
stamp is distinct from those found at Richborough (1968) Plate LXXXVIII, nos. 58-60.

67. SF 4856 period VI/VII: Illegible
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth pale cream fabric with pale cream core and fawn slip; no grit. One damaged stamp: part of one rounded letter; possibly O or Q; illegible at present.

68. SF 8990 period VIII: Illegible
Small fragment of rim of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse reddish/orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged and worn stamp: possibly ṢAV[.]. (S is retrograde).

69. SF 9321 period VI/VII: Q[...]
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core; black and white grit; worn smooth. One damaged and worn stamp: herringbone pattern flanking letters; possibly Q[...] (retrograde).

70. SF 9393 period 1 (early ditch): ? G ATT[IVS MARINVS
Small fragment of rim of vessel. Fine beige fabric with beige core and brown paint on the stamp. One damaged stamp; chevron border: C[...]MA[...] (retrograde) (MA ligatured with the A inverted); possibly G. Attius Marinus. Compare no. 70 with Castleford (2000) fig. 97, no. 34, which is Mancetter-Hartshill pottery.

71. SF 9399 period IV: [...]TVR
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout. Coarse orange fabric with pale grey core; variegated white quartz, black and brown grit; worn smooth. One worn stamp: [...]TVR.

72. SF 9513 period IV/V: Iliterate
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; damaged spout; partially iron-pan encrusted. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; variegated white, brown and grey/black grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: possibly CO[...] (C is retrograde); but probably illiterate. The reading is very uncertain (iron pan and no single letter is intact).

73. SF 10077 period VI/VIA: [...]ATR[.]
Three large fragments of rim, body and base of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; variegated brown, white and red grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: possibly ATR[...].

74. SF 10320 period VI/VIA: VSSO or OSSA
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Smooth fawn/beige fabric with fawn/beige core; variegated brown, white quartz and grey grit; worn smooth. One damaged and worn stamp: possibly VSSO or OSSA.

75. SF 10944 period VII: Illegible
Very small fragment of rim of vessel. Coarse cream fabric with pinkish core; no grit. One damaged and very worn stamp; illegible at present.

76. SF 11570 period VI/VIA: [...]AP or PA[...]

21
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse yellow-cream fabric with grey core; variegated white, brown, red-brown, grey and black grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp; imperfectly impressed: [...]AP or PA[...].

77. SF 11982 period IX: [:]ENI
Fragment of rim of vessel. Smooth orange/buff fabric with grey core and brown slip; no grit. One worn stamp: possibly [:]ENI.

78. SF 13742 period VIB: Illegible
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core; variegated white, brown and black grit; partially worn. Small part of damaged double-stamp; illegible at present.

79. SF 15662 period VII: ?] RIF
Small fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale orange/pink fabric with pale orange/pink core; brown and white grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: probably [...]RIF

80. SF 15880 period VII: ?[.]ED·RO[..]
Fragment of rim of vessel. Pale orange fabric with pale orange core and cream slip; large variegated white, reddish-brown and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged and worn stamp: chevron border; possibly [..]ED·RO[..].

81. SF 15894 period V/VI: ? OŚ[...]/VOTINV
Large fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse pale cream/pink fabric with pink core and cream slip; brown/red grit (also on rim); well worn. One worn two-line stamp: possibly OŚ[....]/VOTINV (N retrograde; NV ligatured).

82. SF 12136 period IV/V: ? AIPSQ[..]/AFRĘ
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange/buff fabric with orange/buff core; brown and white grit; worn smooth. One damaged two-line stamp: possibly AIPSQ[..]/AFRĘQ (SO ligatured on top line; REO ligatured on bottom line); probably illiterate.

Addendum: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps 2011
(April to June 2011)

Figure 8 shows Vindolanda mortaria stamps, Nos. 83-91.

83a. SF 14742 period VII/VIII: OSENV
Fragment of vessel rim only. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged stamp: OSE[..]; probably OSENV.

83b. SF 16033 period VII/VIII: OSENV
Large fragment of vessel rim and body. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; variegated white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: QSENV; probably OSENV.
Nos. 84a & 84b are both similar to nos. 29a & 29b in the Vindolanda catalogue.

84. SF 14792 period VII: NAT[..] or[..]TAN
Fragment of vessel rim only. Coarse cream fabric with orange core; white and black grit inside the rim; worn smooth. One incomplete stamp: either [..]TAN or NAT[..] (retrograde).

85. SF 15919 period VII: **Leaf Pattern Type 1**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel. Coarse orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; white and brown grit; worn smooth. One damaged stamp: leaf pattern Type 1. Compare no. 85 with no. 56 in the Vindolanda catalogue.

86. SF 15996 period VII: **LIIA[..] or SIIA[..]**
Fragment of vessel rim. Coarse pale cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; no grit. One damaged stamp: LIIA[..] or SIIA[..] (S is retrograde).

87. SF 16021 period VII/VIII: **Grid/Lattice Pattern**
Small fragment of vessel rim. Sandy buff fabric with buff core; no slip. No grit. One damaged stamp: grid or lattice pattern.

88. SF 16023 period VI/VIB: ? **Illiterate**
Two fragments of vessel rim. Coarse pale orange fabric with orange core and cream slip; no grit. Two stamps: 16023 (a) is incomplete and worn; possibly [..]SMAR; 16023 (b) is worn, possibly [..]VSSVN$ (VN ligatured and N is retrograde); probably illiterate. Note that both readings are tentative at present due to the poor condition of both of these stamps.

89. SF 16029 period VII: **SARRVS**
Two fragments of vessel rim. Smooth cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; black grit; worn smooth. One incomplete stamp: SARRI..
No. 89 is similar to no. 38 in the Vindolanda catalogue.

90. SF 16040 period VI/VIB: **GENIALISF**
Fragment of vessel rim. Coarse cream fabric with cream core and cream slip; no grit. One incomplete and worn two-line stamp [..]A[..]/GENIAL·F; probably GENIAL·F/GENIAL·F.
No. 90 is similar (but not identical) to no. 15 in the Vindolanda catalogue.

91. SF 16141 period VII: **FECIT/MADVI**
Fragment of rim and body of vessel; incomplete spout. Coarse pale orange fabric with pale grey core; white grit; worn smooth. One incomplete stamp: [..]EC[T/MADVI; originally (grid square) FECIT/MADVI.
No. 91 is the same as nos. 21a & 21b in the Vindolanda catalogue.
Figure 1: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps nos. 1-11; scale ½.
Figure 2: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps nos. 12-25; scale ½.
Figure 3: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps nos. 26-40; scale ½.
Figure 4: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps of the potter SVLLON; Type 1 (41a-l), Type 2 (41m-r); scale ½.
Figure 5: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps of the potter SVLLON; Type 3 (41s-t), Type 4 (41u); Type 5 (41v-w), Type 6 (41x), Type 7 (41y); scale ½.
Figure 6: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps nos. 42-57; scale ½.
Figure 7: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps nos. 58-82; scale ½.
Figure 8: Vindolanda Mortaria Stamps nos. 83-90; scale ½.

Bibliography


Bushe-Fox, J P, 1916 Third report on the excavations of the site of the Roman town at Wroxeter, Shropshire 1914, Rep Res Comm Soc Antiq London 4: ‘Mortaria stamps,’ 60-1, and Fig. 3.


Curle, J, 1911 A Roman Frontier Post and its people. The fort of Newstead, Glasgow: ‘Mortaria or Pelves, of both periods’, 263-6.


Miller, S N, 1922 The Roman Fort at Balmuildy (Summerston, near Glasgow) on the Antonine Wall, Glasgow Archaeological Society: 78-9.


