

COARSEWARE STAMP CATALOGUE Compiled by Val Rigby

Edited by Jane Timby

Introduction

The coarse ware stamp catalogue presented here was a work in progress being compiled by Val Rigby as a personal research project over a number of years alongside her work on Gallo-Belgic potters' stamps. Sadly it was never seen to fruition. The recorded stamps are a mixture of new material sent to Val for reporting prior to publication, material she encountered in museum collections and stamps already published. In most cases she undertook rubbings of the stamps which are also included as a separate file. Each rubbing is uniquely numbered, the number relating to the database.

The method of recording, as acknowledged by Val herself, was a personal and highly idiosyncratic and the method of classifying stamps evolved over the years. An absolute numerical sequence could not be applied since new finds occurred randomly, as a result the recording was open-ended new stamps added as and when allowing the *Corpus* to grow as necessary without constant re-numbering. What is not clear is why some entries from the same publications are not sequential.

It is acknowledged that the corpus is far from comprehensive and by no means complete but it is archived here to act as a reference point and perhaps a springboard for someone else to take the baton and carry on with the work. The present author has worked through the corpus tidying up the entries and adding where possible published references which were not originally recorded with the catalogue. Unfortunately many are still elusive and for some it is unclear whether they are published or unpublished or, to which stamp the information relates and there undoubtedly a few errors trying to track sources.

There is some overlap with the Gallo-Belgic stamp database

(<http://gallobelgic.thehumanjourney.net/>) where the source of some wares could not be established with confidence or, stamps recorded as ITN or ITR (imitation *terra nigra* or *terra rubra*) were included for comparison so some stamps will appear in both databases. In the coarse-ware stamp catalogue where this happens those also in the GB corpus are prefixed GB. In addition, she added a few examples from continental sites for comparison. Unlike the names often encountered on the imported Gallo-Belgic stamps the stamps on the coarse wares largely comprise illegible marks or patterns perhaps masquerading as names.

The archive comprises three elements: a database recording the stamps in Vessel number (nos V1-V717); a bibliographical catalogue of published sources arranged geographically by findspot and rubbings of the stamps (nos 1-667).

In the following an explanation / key is given to the abbreviations used in the various fields in the database.

Explanation of database headings

VESSEL NUMBERS

Slightly confusingly Val used V (vessel) numbers starting with 1 (up to V704) which somewhat conflicts with the system used for the Gallo-Belgic corpus. For clarification it is recommended that, if used, these are pre-fixed with coarse ware or cw. Where the same stamp occurs in the Gallo-Belgic corpus it was because the identification with regard whether the vessel was an import or British copy was undecided. A stamp may thus have two numbers with that duplicated in the Gallo-Belgic corpus pre-fixed GB. There is no logical order to the V number sequence but new stamps added when encountered. Some of the V numbers will appear in published reports where VR wrote short reports on specific stamped finds.

CORPUS NO.

Each potter name was given a unique C number.

POTTER NAME

NAME: not an obvious name but recognisable letters

ZC: Cursive Name. An attempt to present a name but some letters so inexpertly shaped the name is difficult to interpret.

ZM: Mark. Two or more simple letters repeated and used as motifs rather than actual letters. Illiterate.

ZP: pattern mark. No attempt to produce a name.

ZC	Cursive Name, a 1-line die
ZZC	Cursive Name or Names, a 2-line die
ZM	Mark, a 1-line die
ZZM	Mark, a 2-line die
ZP	Pattern Mark, a 1-line die
ZZP	Pattern Mark, a 2-line die

READING

Interpretation of stamp if possible

DIE CODE

Many potters are represented by a single Die-Code i.e. 01A01; 01B01 etc.

Most Cursive Copies, Marks and Patterns are typically represented by just one die and because there is no way of deciding if closely similar dies were used by the same potter, from the beginning of the study, with a few exceptions, each of these dies has had to be treated as belonging to one potter.

The Die-code assigned by VR to the stamp based on the spelling and die-style.

3 components - number – letter - number

Initial number 01ff classifies the spelling of a name or the arrangement of motifs in Cursive Names and Pattern Marks.

Middle letter (A or B) classifies the style of the letters or motifs used, attempting to classify the 'die-style' of an individual die-cutter.

A: stamps with no visible border

B: stamps with a visible border

Final numbers 01-07 separates and counts dies sharing the same spelling and style

DEFINITIONS OF FRAME-TYPES

1-line rectangular

- 1** Good rectangle with square corners
- 2** Rectangle
- 3** Oval, no corners
- 4** Good rectangle with border
- 5** Rectangle with border top and bottom only
- 16** Rectangle with border at each end only

2-line rectangular

- 6** No central divide
- 7** Central divide
- 8** Central divide and border
- 9** Central divide with border top and bottom only
- Square
- 10** Plain square
- 11** Bordered square

Round

- 12** Plain circle
- 13** Circle divided into plain quadrants
- 14** Divided circle with spots in the quadrants
- 15** Circle with dividing lines radiating from a single central spot

Crescentic

- 17** Slightly curved with rounded ends
- 18** Half circle with squared ends

POSITION:

The position of a stamp on a vessel.

C = upper surface, central to the base of cups and platters

R = upper surface, multiple impressions placed radially on the base of a large diameter platter

U = underside of base

VESSEL FORM

Cam nos refer to *Camulodunum* (Hawkes, C .F. C. and Hull, M. R., 1947: *Camulodunum. First report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-1939*, Res Rep Soc Antiq London XIV, Oxford
Drag. = Dragendorff samian form types

f-r = footring

S – small version

L – large version

FABRIC

Abbreviations: B/B – blue/black surface

BBW – black burnished ware

B/G – blue/grey surfaces

ERMS – London fabric code

FMIC – London fabric code

G/B = grey/black surfaces

GTW – grog-tempered ware

ITN: imitation *terra nigra*

STW - ?sand-tempered ware

TN – *terra nigra*

Other colour combinations are written in full.

DECORATION

BC – burnished circle

BRW- bordered rouletted wreath

DBRW – double bordered rouletted wreath

DIC – double incised circle

IC – incised circle

PIC: pair incised circles 10 mm apart around stamp

RW – single rouletted wreath

TIC – tripled incised circle

FIRING

Kiln or clamp

COUNTY

FINDSPOT/SITE NAME/CONTEXT

SOURCE

Source of vessel if known

COMMENTS 1 & 2

Random additional information

VR No. the number assigned to a rubbing by VR when compiling the original assemblage catalogue

