

Brickstamp



Date	AD 114
Material	Clay
How was it made?	The design was stamped onto the clay when it was wet, then the brick was fired in a kiln.
What is it for?	It is a building brick.
Where is it from?	Portus - a harbour town outside Rome.
What does it say?	<p>Text BRV[T] M R L ° HAST ° VOP COS Bru[t](iana) M(arci) R(utili) L(upi) ° Hast(a) ° Vop(isco) co(n)s(ulibus)</p> <p>Translation 'Brutian product of Marcus Rutilius Lupus. In the consulship of Hasta and Vopiscus.'</p>

More information:

- Marcus Rutilius Lupus was the owner of the Brutian brickyards where this brick was made. The stamp records when, where and by whom this brick was made.
- Roman bricks were large, flat and square, more like modern paving stones.
- The animal in the centre of the stamp looks like a dog but is probably meant to be a wolf. The owner of this brick factory was called Lupus, which means Wolf in Latin. The picture is a visual pun on his name.
- We know from other sources of a Marcus Rutilius Lupus who held the role of annonaprefect (overseeing food supplies for Rome AD 107-112) and then prefect of Egypt (AD 113-117).
- Stamps like this were unusual at this time. It may have helped Lupus keep track of production while he was away in Egypt.

Topics to investigate: Roman Egypt; What sort of buildings Romans made out of brick? Who were the consuls and why were their names on this brick? What does this tell us about it?