

Metal stamp



Date	Probably first century AD
Material	Bronze
How was it made?	It was cast in a mould.
What is it for?	Marking things with the owner's name.
Where is it from?	Herculaneum.
What does it say?	Text C ° TEREN(TI) / MAXI[M](I) Translation 'Of Gaius Terentius Maximus'

More information:

- The stamp has a ring shaped handle on the back for easy use
- The letters are backwards on the stamp, so that they appear the right way around on the impression
- Stamps of initials or names were used to make impressions upon a whole range of products, from bricks, pottery, and lamps to bread.

Topics to investigate: Roman names and what they tell us about individuals' legal rights; What happened at Herculaneum; Why loaves of bread are found marked with stamps like this. What does this tell us about Roman food preparation? What other examples of stamps can you find on the AshLI catalogue? Do these all serve the same purpose?