

The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe

edited by

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XI. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century
Tyneside Tobacco Pipe Makers and
Tobacconists

Lloyd Edwards

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soever" (30). His inventory records a "Small p(ar)cell of pipes - 6s 8d." (31). The 1670 inventory of a Newcastle tobacconist, William Wilkinson, lists thirteen gross of pipes valued at £1. 0s. 6d. (32). This might suggest that Holme's "Small parcell" contained about three and half gross of pipes.

Bowl-Types

During the past twenty years the main bowl-typology used in the study of North East clay pipes has been that formulated by Parsons (33). His understanding of the industry led him to believe that the earliest pipes produced in the region were his Type 4, c.1650 - 1680. He believed that his Types 1 - 3, c.1630 - 1680, were imported from other areas, namely London between c.1600 and 1650, Bristol and the South West between c.1630 and 1670, and Hull and York between c.1650 and 1700. From c.1645 local pipe-making industries, particularly Gateshead, developed and eventually dominated the North East market (34).

The discovery of documentary evidence for a pipe-making industry in Newcastle from the early 1640s at the latest suggested that the majority of Parsons Types 1 - 3 were of local manufacture. Therefore, whilst pipes from London, Bristol etc. have been found in the North East, they are a minority. Those areas named by Parsons might more accurately be described as "sources of design-influence". That influence was provided not only by imported pipes, but probably also by pipemakers from those regions coming to Newcastle. It followed that some of those pipes discovered locally, but showing characteristics from elsewhere, might also be of local manufacture. Care is obviously necessary in order to distinguish between Tyneside-produced pipes and those imported from elsewhere.

Whilst working on clay pipes from the Blackgate excavations in Newcastle, Oswald noted a large number of pipes with "chinned bowls" and "heart-shaped bases". These were archaeologically dated between c.1635 and 1675. He pointed out that the "chinned bowl" occurs in London and Central Southern England by the end of the sixteenth century, and were common in Bristol between c.1650 and 1680. "Heart-shaped bases" are found in London and the Central South from c.1600, Lincolnshire between c.1640 and 1690, Hull between c.1660 and 1675, and York between c.1640 and 1670. The combination of "chinned bowl" and "heart-shaped base" first occurred in Wiltshire, Exeter, Salisbury and London between c.1590 and 1620. However, the vast majority are from Newcastle and the North East, clearly implying a local style and manufacture. (35). Oswald then proposed a typology comprising nine types from the Blackgate excavations. Apart from his Type 4 all could be considered to be of local manufacture. Types 5,6,7 and 9 were similar to Parsons Types 1,2,3/4 and 5 respectively. A new typology, based on those of Oswald and Parsons, named 'Tyneside' has been proposed (36), (Table 3).

Tyneside Types 1 - 3 have "heart-shaped" and round projecting bases in the proportion of more than 2 : 1. Their sub-types 'a' have the "chinned bowl", whilst sub-types 'b' have a more oval bowl. Type 4 is the spurred variety of Type 1, and Type 5 is the spurred variety of Type 2. Type 7 is the flat-based variety of Type 6.

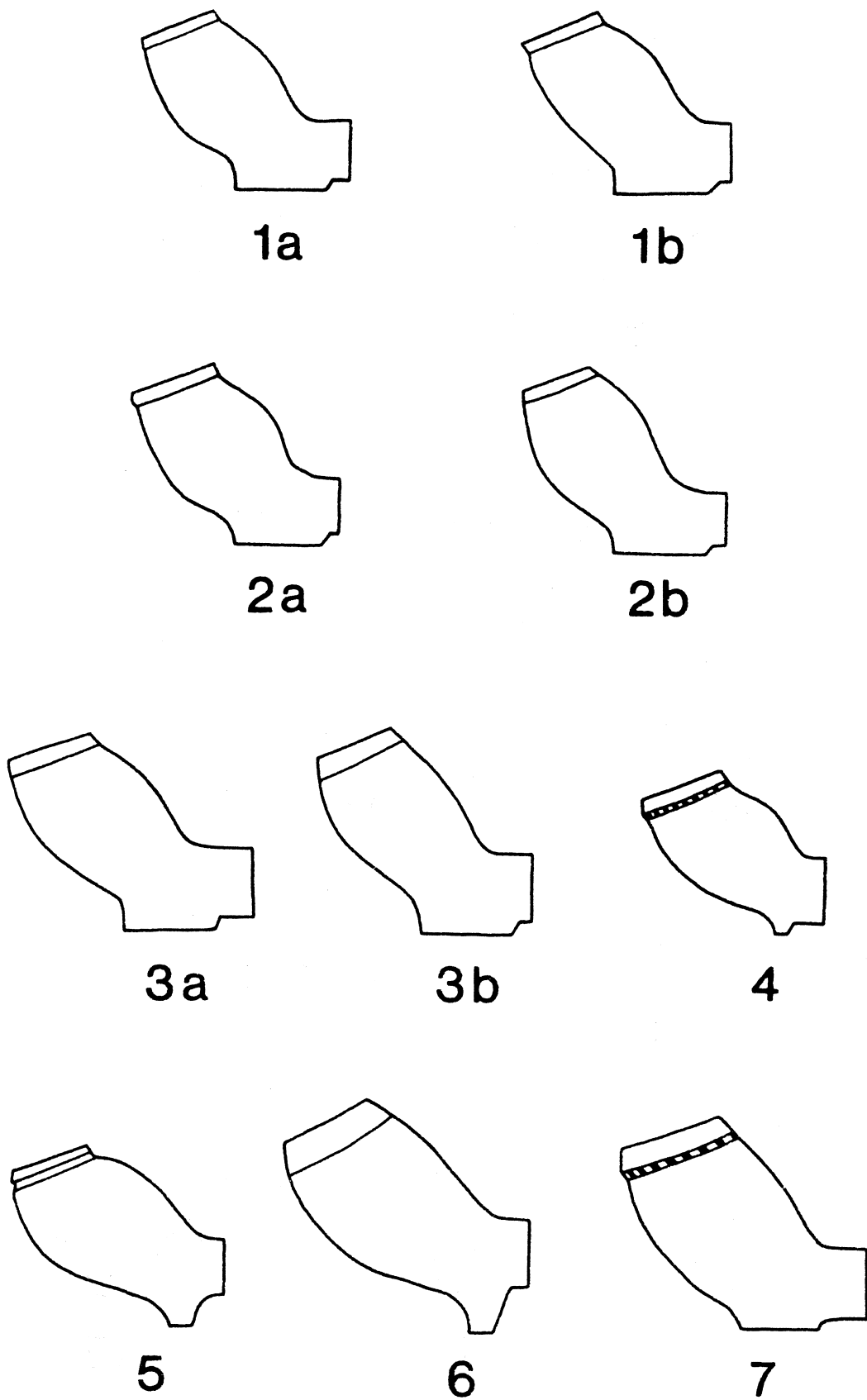
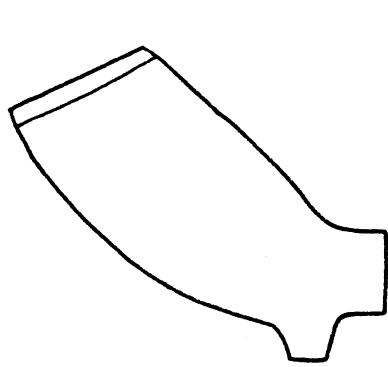
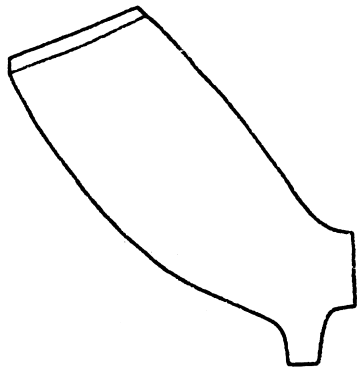


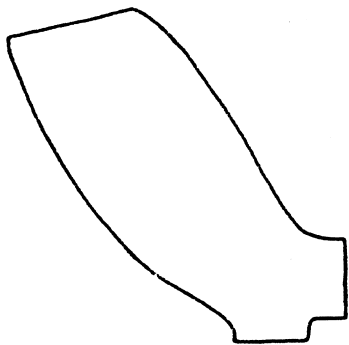
Fig. 5 Bowl-Types 1-7



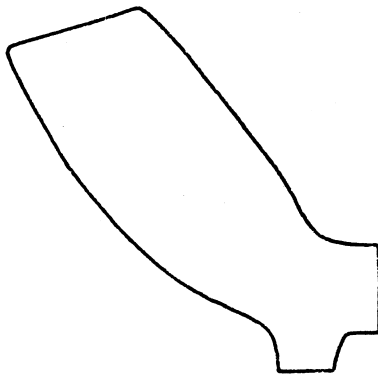
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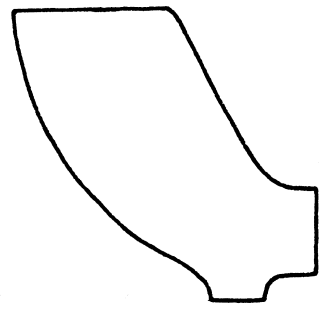
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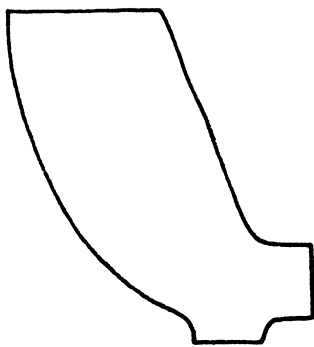
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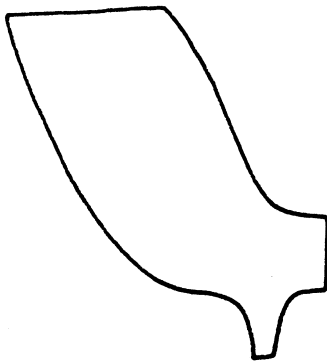
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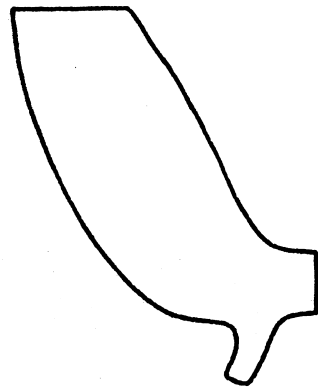
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Fig. 6 Bowl-Types 8-15

Types 10 - 13 have oval and round projecting bases, whilst Types 14 and 15 have spurred bases (Figures 5 and 6).

One hundred and forty pipemakers are recorded in Newcastle and Gateshead between the 1630s and c.1800. Of these, thirty two are known to have stamped their pipes. To date pipes manufactured by twenty six of these pipemakers are known to have survived with bowls and stamps intact. It is therefore possible to determine some of the bowl-types that individual pipemakers produced.

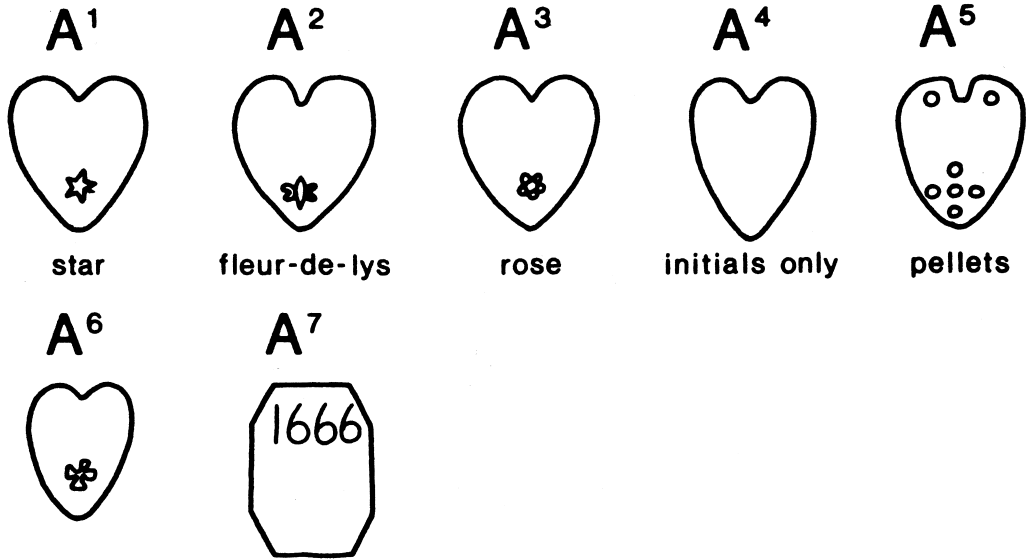
Stamp-Types

In 1964 Parsons identified three stamp-types that had been used in the North East between c.1675 and 1820. He referred to these as Types 'a', 'b' and 'c' (37). Oswald's identification of bowl-types produced at Newcastle and Gateshead at a date earlier than that considered by Parsons, made probable the identification of further stamp-types used by pipemakers in those towns. The examination of these earlier bowl-types from a number of North East sites revealed three stamp-types in addition to, and earlier than, those recognised by Parsons. A new Typology has therefore been formulated with individual Types identified by the letters A - F. Types A - C are the 'new' types, and Types D - F are Parsons Types 'a' - 'c' respectively. As with the bowl-types, the name 'Tyneside' has been adopted (Figures 7 and 8).

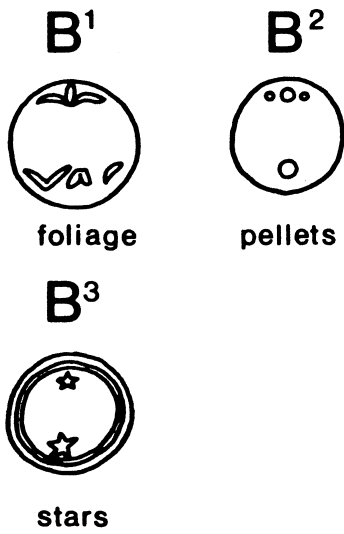
It was apparent that most stamp-types contained sub-types distinguishable by differences of design within the basic type-design. It was therefore necessary not only to determine the sequence and broad date-ranges of the main stamp-types, but also investigate the possibility that a chronological sequence of sub-types within each stamp-type might be detectable. This requires certain points to be established. Firstly, the bowl-types on which individual stamps are known to have been used. Secondly, the identification of stamps so similar that they may have been produced within a short period of time, perhaps even by a single person employed by a number of pipemakers to produce their stamps. Finally, the known working periods of stamp-using pipemakers, particularly their dates of death. Certain other factors must then be considered. How much of the total working period of any given pipemaker does the known working period comprise, and does the latter necessarily equal the period during which he stamped his pipes or that his stamps were used? Furthermore, do sub-types necessarily reflect specific "fashions", and do individual stamps within any given sub-type have a similar date of manufacture?

The stamps identified during this study are illustrated in Figures 9-19. Types A - D and F are drawn at a scale of 2 : 1. Type E stamps are drawn at 1 : 1.

Type A



Type B



Type C

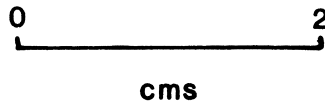
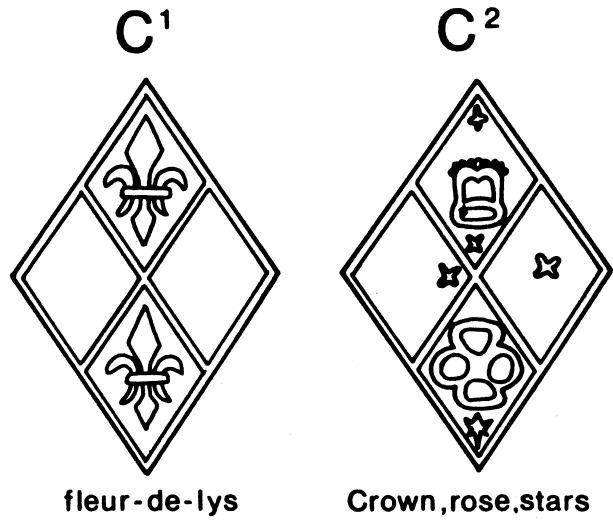
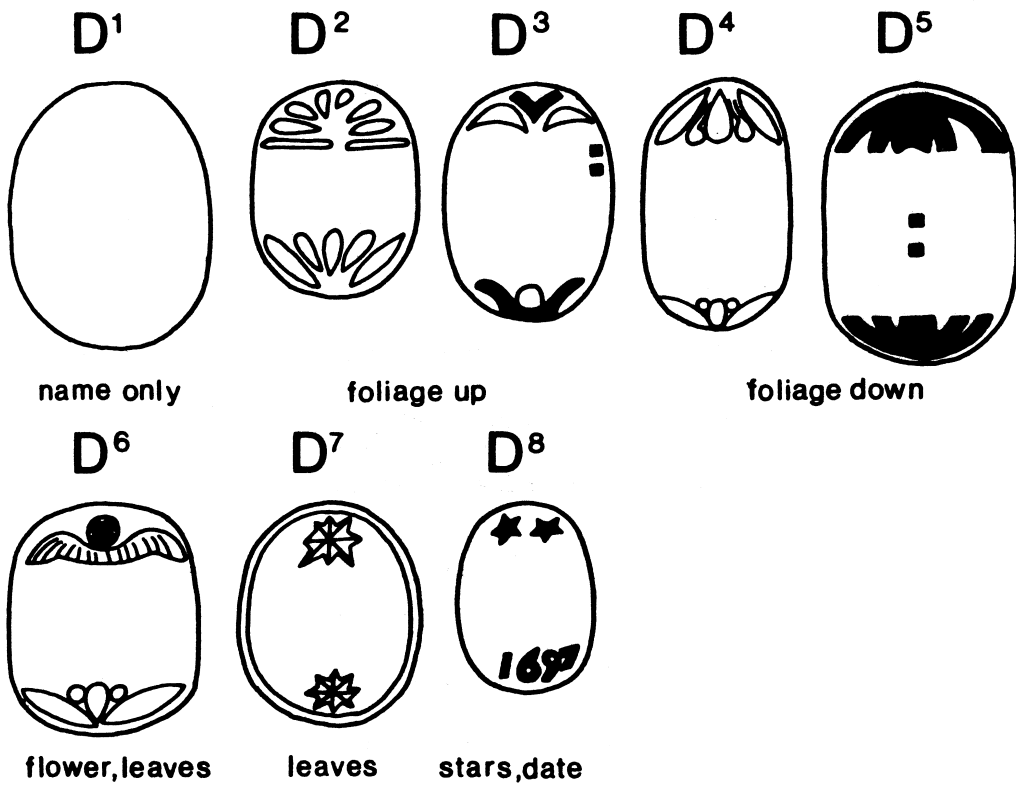
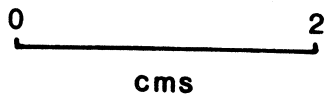
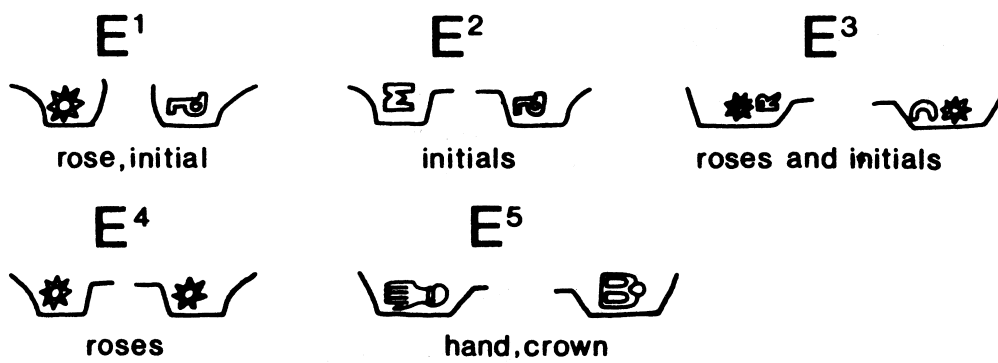


Fig. 7 Stamp-Types A-C

Type D



Type E



Note - Type E actual size

Type F

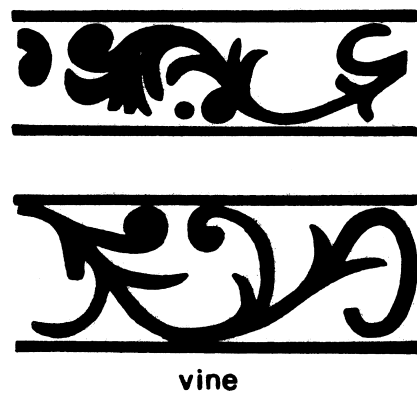


Fig. 8 Stamp-Types D-F