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History of Clay Pipes

Part 1

by Christopher Baglee

It is of no surprise that clay pipe collecting is growing so rapidly in popularity. Clay pipes are easy to recover, are still fairly cheap to buy, and have much to attract the collector (ie immense variety, considerable history, and in some cases great rarity). Figural head pipes, such as those produced by Gambier can rise to the height of being small sculptured works of art.

Unlike many other collectables, however, very little written information is available on clay pipes. The several booklets produced—although an excellent introduction to the hobby—do not provide the in-depth information needed by the serious collector. It was of great good fortune therefore to learn of the work carried out on the subject by Christopher Baglee (well-known as author of the recently published book *Street Jewellery*).

Whilst carrying out archaeological digs in Southampton during the period 1962-67 Christopher wrote a dissertation on the manufacture and dating of clay pipes. The work won the Elsie Sandell Local History prize for 1965.

Christopher carried out his work specifically on Southampton clay pipes but the sources of material and the methods of research he describes can be used to gain information on the clay pipes of any area.

The findings made by Christopher also serve to prove the importance of preserving even pipe fragments or stems in order to build up a complete picture of the clay pipe manufacturers of a locality. The study of clay pipes is for the most part outside the purvey of normal archaeology and when attention is eventually turned towards these fascinating artefacts it may be too late. Our future knowledge of clay pipes could well rest almost totally on the work being done by treasure hunters today . . .

THE HABIT OF 'drinking' tobacco became fashionable in London society in the last decade of the 16th century.

In 1573, Harrison wrote his *Chronologie* in which he states:

In these daies, the taking-in of the Indian herbe called 'Tabaco', by an instrument formed like a little ladell, wherby it passeth from the mouth into the bed and stomach, is gretlie taken-up and used in England against Rewmes and some other diseases ingendred in the longes and inward partes, and not without effect. This herbe as yet is not so common, but that for want thereof divers do practize for the like purposes with the Nicetian, otherwise called in latine, 'Hyosciamus Luteus', or the yellow benbane, albeit, not without gret error; for, althoughe that herbe be a soverene healer of old ulcers and sores reputed incurable outwardly, yet is not the smoke or vapour thereof so profitable to be received inwardly. The herbe is comonly of the height of a man, garnished with great long leaves like the paciens, being seede, colloured, and of quantity like unto, or rather lesse than, the fine margeronie; the herbe itself yerely coming up also of the shaking of the seede. The collour of the



floure is carnation, resembling that of the lemmon in forme: the roote yellow, with many fillettes, and thereto very small in comparison, if you respect the substauns of the herbe.'

In 1598, Paul Heckner, visiting London remarked on the habit of smoking at all public places.

In 1599, Thomas Platter wrote in his book, *Travels in England*:

'In the ale-houses, tobacco or a species of wound-wort are also obtainable for one's money, and the powder is lit in a small pipe, the smoke sucked into the mouth, and the saliva is allowed to run freely, after which a good draught of Spanish wine follows. This they regard as a curious medecine for defluctions, and as a pleasure, and the habit is so common with them, that they always carry the instrument on them, and light up on all occasions. The herb is imported from the Indies in great quantities, and some types are much stronger than others, which difference one can immediately taste.'

SOCIAL ASSET

A class of professional smokers, or 'tobacconists' appeared who earned a living by giving instruction in the finer points of the game, such as inhaling, expelling the smoke through the nose, and blowing rings. Proficiency at such tricks became, in the early 17th century, a valuable social asset.

Until about 1616, tobacco was wholly supplied by Spain from her West Indian and South American colonies, and the price was excessively high, tobacco being literally worth its weight in silver. It was not until Virginia began to compete with Spain in supplying the European market that prices fell, but even after this, Spanish tobacco for a long time found greater favour with many English smokers notwithstanding its higher price.

John Rolfe produced his first successful crop of Virginian tobacco in 1612-13 and by 1616 tobacco was becoming the staple crop of the colony.

Thereafter Virginian exports increased rapidly, from 20,000 lbs in 1619 to 1,500,000lbs in 1629. By 1619, Virginian tobacco was selling at 6/- a lb—including 1/- duty.

When James I ascended the throne in 1603 he was determined to try to



A 17th century tobacco label—a collectable item of ephemera in itself

stamp out the practise of 'tobacco drinking', and he wrote a book called *A Counterblast to Tobacco*. He raised Elizabeth I's tobacco duty from 2d a pound to 6/10d a pound and ruined the Company of Virginian Traders by these measures. But even so, people still kept on smoking—especially in James' Court. In 1624 he gave London the exclusive privilege of importing tobacco and in 1638, Bristol obtained similar concessions.

In the reign of William and Mary, tobacco became much cheaper as smoking became so popular. It was reduced to 5/4d a pound and by 1780 this had a duty of only 6 1/3d a pound.

17th CENTURY

In 1614, Barnaby Rich wrote *The Honestie of this Age*, in which he says:

'7,000 houses live by the trade of tobacco-selling and if each of these takes but 2/6d a day—and probably it takes 5/—the sum amounts to £399,375 a year, all spent in smoake'.

In 1629, in the rules of a school: *'The master must be a man of . . . and no puffer of tobacco'.*

In 1642-1660, the Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum:

'On Sundays . . . Every person being in any Tobacco-House or sending for any Tobacco, shall for every offense forfeit the sum of ten sbillings.'

In Samuel Pepy's Diary, 7 June, 1665:

'In Drury Lane . . . I was forced to buy some roll-tobacco to smell and to chew.'

In the Southampton City Archives, there are several references to the buying and selling of tobacco, and for the first time, clay-pipes. One of the earliest sources of such transactions, are the Stockwell

Papers 1590-1611. In these are several correspondences ordering tobacco and pipes, as Thomas Stockwell was an important merchant or wholesaler. For example on 1 December 1602 a Mr Antony wrote to Captain Thomas Stockwell at his Southampton house:

'Sir, I thank you for remembering me for my pipes and Tobacco. If I had thought they had bene so deare I would not have sent me pipes from Winchester. I will not see you unsatisfied for them, and therefore charge you as you are a good husband to send me word what the Tobacco cost (which I have nowe tasted and finde it very good), and desire you if you can have a pounce of it for xxx shillings or thereabouts to buy me a pounce and send it to me; or if you come at Christmas to bring it with you when you shall not faile to receive your monie for this, the pipes and that too.'

ACTUAL RETAILERS

The Penshurst Papers show that Sir Henry Sidney, the Lord Deputy of Ireland, paid 3/- an ounce for tobacco in 1589, so that Antony's 30/- a pound is not excessive as compared with prices of the time.

The first records of actual retailers of tobacco in Southampton, that are found in the City Archives, are as follows.

The Book of Examinations, 1601-2. *'Richard Cornelius, a grocer and a tobacconist, is hereby . . .'* In 1639 Richard Cornelius became Sheriff.

The Book of Free Commoners, 1613 at sea. Thursday, August 16th 1672. *'Robert Vernon, sonne of Richard Vernon late grocer of this Towne & County of Southampton, haveng served his apprenticeship of seaven years, with his mother, widdow and relict of the sayd Richard, came to this house this daye & humbly prayeing to be admitted a Free Comoner of this Towne, to use the trade of selling earthen ware and Tobacco, as his mother now useth & haveing taken his oath of a Free Comoner is admitted accordingly.'*

In 1684 Robert Vernon became Sheriff and in 1695 was made Mayor of the town.

Clay tobacco pipes were just one of the several ways by which the fumes could be inhaled. As early as 1573, Harrison wrote in his *Chro-*

nonlogie that: *'In these daies, the taking-in of the Indian herbe called 'Tabacco', by an instrument formed like a little ladell...'*

In 1599, Thomas Platter wrote in his book, *Travels in England: 'In the ale-houses... and the powder is lit in a small pipe, ... and the habit is so common with them, that they always carry the instrument on them...'*

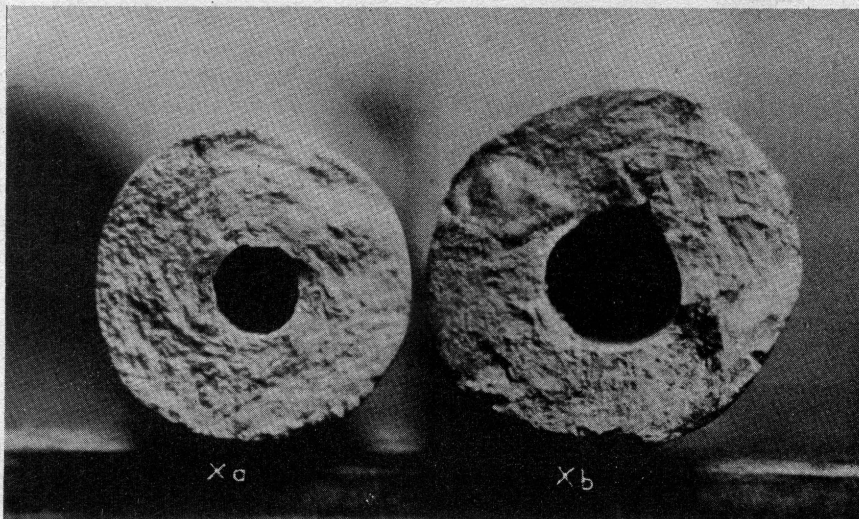
PIPE HAWKERS

In the early part of the 17th century, people known as 'pipe hawkers' became a very common sight in England. They made regular rounds of inns and shops, 'selling countless numbers'. At the same time as this, shops started up as specialised tobacconists, selling tobacco and the many instruments that went with it. The tobacco that was smoked in pipes came in many varieties, for example: 'Braziliano', 'Domingo', 'Pudding-cane', 'Orinoco', 'Virginian' and 'Cavendish' which was named after the famous Elizabethan Captain.

In the early 17th century, pipes were sold at four for a penny. For the poorer people, the innkeeper would pass a lighted pipe round amongst them, for which they paid a fraction of a penny as their share in a smoke. By 1670, one could buy five pipes for a penny, and in 1705 the price for thirty-six best pipes was 11d or 288 Dutch pipes for 2/-.

In the Southampton City Records, the mentions of clay pipes or pipe-makers in the 17th century are very few, the earliest mention of clay-pipes being made in 1602 in the Stockwell Papers (1590-1611).

Rough dating from stems—in the 18th and 19th century (a) the bore is central and narrow: in the 17th century (b) it is wider and off centre



In the Book of Examinations & Depositions 1634-1639 it states that on the 25 June 1638, John Smith, Town Clerk of Southampton, received a Deputation under the seal of the society of Tobacco-pipe makers of Westminster (founded 1619). In this it said that Peter Cornish, a warden of the company, together with Silvius Lambert and a Constable, were to seek out any imported pipes in houses, shops, warehouses and ships. This is because every clay tobacco-pipe had to be made in England or Wales, also they were not to be made by any person who was not a sworn freeman. As well as this, they had to seek out all those who baked tobacco pipes with wood or any other fuel but sea-coal or pit coal. Such people were to be detained and their pipes seized.

HISTORY OF CLAY PIPES

From the masses of records and documents that I searched in the City Archives, it is surprising the very small number of tobacco-pipe makers that are mentioned. In all only fifteen different names are recorded in two hundred and fifty years and these are very brief.

I have however, first hand information of other pipe makers that are unrecorded. As a member of the Southampton Archaeological Society from 1959 onwards, I have been able, in the course of general excavations in the city, ('Quilter's Vault', West St, and Gloucester Square, to mention a few), to unearth several clay pipes. Also I have found several interesting tobacco pipes in the mud banks at Hythe.

The reason for their presence, is probably that the ships were forced to anchor off Hythe to wait for the tide to take them to the quay. While they were waiting, they used to throw all their rubbish over the side.

Most of the marked specimens from these sites are in my collection and have greatly helped me in my search for actual makers' names or initials. The following are the names, and something of the information on each tobacco-pipe maker, that I have been able to trace in the Southampton area, in chronological order.

1. W Stone (c1612) He is one of the makers who is not recorded at all in the Archives, but in my collection I have a pipe stem found in West Street, in 1959, that has his stamp on it and also the date 1612. Therefore there is a possibility that he may be the earliest known tobacco pipe-maker in Southampton. The reason being that this particular stem was found in a hoard of pipes that each bore the marks of Southampton manufacturers.

2. Nathaniel Sidney (c1650-90) He is the first tobacco pipe maker that I was able to find mentioned in the records, not in a document relating purely to himself but his son Reuben. In the List of Enrolment of Apprentices, 1609-1705 for 10 February, 1687 it states:

'Ruben Sidny, son of Nathaniell Sidny, is put apprentice unto the said Nathaniell Sidny, his Father of this Towne, Tobacco-Pipe Maker...'

Of course, to have been able to take his son as an apprentice means that he himself must have been in the trade several years before his son was even born, so he probably started in the trade around the 1650s and more than likely was himself apprenticed before that.

I have in my collection a piece of pipe stem which has a very clear stamp on it, bearing the name of SIDNEY. Due to the size and position of the bore, and also to the thickness of the stem, it is an early one and certain to be Nathaniel's.

3. William Tiller (c1673). Although he is referred to in the City Archives, in an earlier document than Nathaniel Sidney, he certainly did not practice the trade of tobacco pipe making before him. In *The Book of Free Commoners, 1613* for 23 January 1673 mention is made:

'William Tiller Junior cominge this

day to this house having served his apprenticeship of seven years & praying to be admitted a free comoner to exercise the trade of a Tobacco-pipemaker within this town, was thereupon admitted and sworne accordingly'.

Amongst the pipes that I found in the mud-banks at Hythe, was one with a maker's stamp on the 'heel' of the pipe. This stamp bore the initials

W.T. and is more than likely to be of William Tiller.

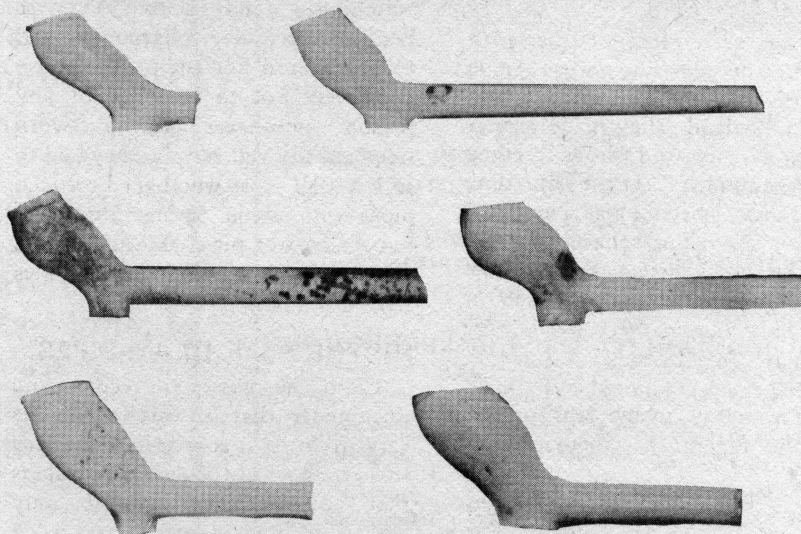
4. Reuben Sidney (c1687-1750). He is one of the few makers who appears several times in the records for varying reasons. In the List of Enrolment of Apprentices 1609-1705 for 10 February 1687, mention is made of the apprenticeship of Reuben Sidney to his father Nathaniel Sidney.

Also in the Quarter Session Records for 30 July 1715 it is stated that:

'Rubon Sidney of the Towne and County of Southampton, Pipe-maker, acknowledges himself indebted to his Majesty George in £20.

NEXT MONTH: Clay pipes from 17th century to Victorian times

Southampton clay pipes ranging in date from c1590-1700



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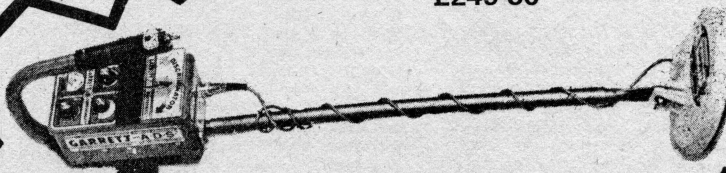
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History of Clay Pipes

Part 2

by Christopher Baglee

In Part 1, last month, Christopher Baglee examined the general beginnings of smoking and clay pipes in this country. He also indicated methods of local research into clay pipe manufacturers with early examples relating to the Southampton area. In this concluding part, Christopher examines Southampton pipe makers (and methods of research) from the early 18th century to 1900.

5. C Carter (c1720). The only trace of this pipe manufacturer was found in 1952 when, during building work at the bottom of the town, a large early 18th century rubbish pit was unearthed. The contents of this pit, about thirty cubic feet in volume, consisted mainly of the throw-outs and seconds from a pipe maker's factory, many of them being cracked or blemished, but this is one of the unfortunately few times when one can see a whole pipe!

On further investigation of these pipes, all the marked ones were found to have either a stamp on the stem with the name CARTER on it or just initials C.C. on the heel of the pipe. Therefore the maker's name was C Carter.

From 18th and 19th century Ordnance Survey maps, the position of the pit is at the rear of numbers 151-155 High Street. Probably Carter's actual pipe factory was in one of these buildings early in the 18th century. There are no references to C Carter that have been found so far in the Archives.

6. T.R. These are a maker's initials that were found on a pipe heel, recovered at West Gate in summer 1963. However, no maker's name so far found has fitted these initials. From the shape of the pipe bowl, the date is probably 1690-1710.

7. Roger Browne (c1730-1780). There are only two brief references to this pipe manufacturer that I was able to discover in the City Records and these give no additional information about the man except to mention his occupation. In the Quarter Session Records for 20 February 1753 appears:

'Roger Browne of this same Town

and County of Southampton, Pipemaker acknowledges himself indebted to his said Majesty in £10.'

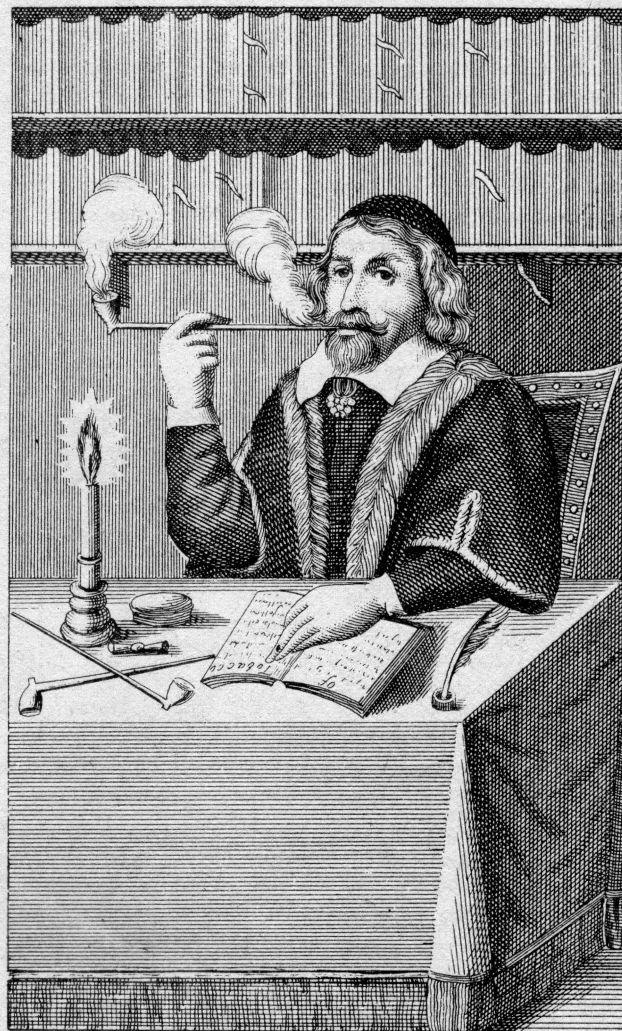
Similar mention appears in 1755.

In the Voters' List for October 1774 the entry appears 'Roger Browne, Pipemaker'.

8. William Browne (c1730-1790). He was almost certainly Roger's brother and, because one of his pipes in my collection is of a later type than Roger's, he was probably his younger brother.

Mention of William Browne appears in the Quarter Session Records for 12 July 1753 and in the title deeds of 51 Bugle Street on 1 December 1787.

One of the pipes that I own is probably one of William Browne's because of his initials on the 'heel'. This pipe is a wonderful specimen with a rich decoration of the royal coat of arms around the bowl. This is one of the earliest decorated pipes that I have seen, probably dating



Dr Giles Everard

Pub Aug 1, 1800 by W. Richardson, No 31 Strand.

about 1780. I also have two other pipes bearing William Browne's initials.

9. Richman (c1720-1760). The only trace of this maker in the Southampton area was found in the mud banks at Hythe. This was an almost whole pipe with Richman's stamp on the stem. By the shape and bore of the pipe, and with comparison to other pipes of known age, one can almost definitely classify this pipe as being made from 1730-1750. So Richman was almost certainly a contemporary of the 'Browne' brothers. It has been very difficult to trace Richman in the City Archives, and so far nothing has been found.

10. S.F. (c1700-1750). These are another set of makers' initials, stamped on the heel of a pipe found in the mud banks at Hythe. From the shape and size of the bowl, the nearest possible date that I can offer for this pipe is 1700-1730. Unfortunately it has been almost impossible to find a pipe-maker's name that fits these initials, from the hundreds of 17th century names that are available in the City Archives.

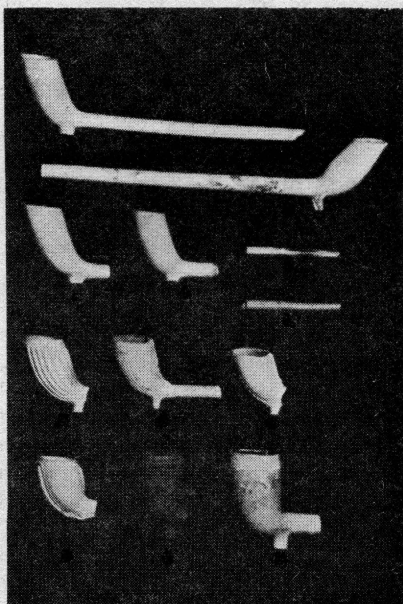
11. John Stephens (c1760-1810) The only trace of this pipe-maker that I have found in the Southampton Area was an almost whole pipe, recovered at Hythe in 1960 which had a very clear maker's stamp on the stem with the name JOHN STEPHENS. From the shape of this pipe-bowl the date is certainly of the late 1700s, probably 1770-90.

In 1962 I found a pipe with the initials J.S., at an excavation of the old Saxon town of Hanwich, near St Mary's Church. This pipe was also decorated and from its shape, this also was of the very late 1700s or early 1800s.

So far I have not been able to find any documented reference to John Stephens from the records available.

12. John Russel (c1770-1810). To my knowledge, this tobacco-pipe maker is one of those cases, where there is only a documentary record of his trade, as so far, none of his pipes have been discovered in the City. In the Poll for Election of Burgesses, 1794, appears the entry 'John Russel. Pipemaker.' Also in the Town Directory of Southampton for 1803, appears 'John Russel. Pipe-maker. French St.'

13. Thomas Frost (c1800-1850). He is the first known 19th century pipe-maker and is referred to mainly in the Southampton directories



Southampton pipes, 18th century to Victorian

between 1803 and 1843.

Altogether I have seen five pipes that were made by Thomas Frost, two of which are in my collection. Four of these pipes are very similar with rich decoration on the bowls—converging lines and dots—and Thomas Frost's initials on the heels. The other specimen is one of the most delicately detailed, decorated pipes. The decoration consists of the Royal Coat-of-Arms which occupies the whole surface area of the pipe. The pipe was probably made for a special occasion, and the most probable one that I can suggest, was the jubilee that celebrated George III's fifty years of reign in October 1809.

Thomas Frost started a long line of 19th century pipemakers, who copied many of his patterns for bowl decorations and developed his ideas for more elaborate bowl ornamentation.

14. George Harding (1840-1875). There are many references to this pipe-maker in the Southampton Directory, between 1843 and 1871.

To my knowledge, I possess the only three styles of clay-pipes that were made by George Harding. All of them have English roses on the 'first' side, and Scottish thistles on the 'second' side. Another has an embossed decoration of a wine bottle and leaves on the 'first' side and a wine glass on the 'second' side. The third pipe by George Harding, has a plainer decoration of leaves along the back and front mould joints.

He seems to have moved his

'pipe-factory' around a great deal, having occupied five different houses in Bell Street within twenty years, but I can see no obvious significance in this, except the possibility of leases expiring.

15. Edward Harding (c1853-1865). This pipe-maker is obviously the son of George Harding, because in 1853 the 'Directory' says George Harding & Son, and two years later the word 'Son' is dropped, and Edward Harding appears on the scene. Probably Edward did not like the idea of working for his father, and so decided to set up on his own, in opposition. The mysterious part of it is, that after 1855, only twelve years later, Edward Harding is not mentioned again. Perhaps he went bankrupt or else died very young, but certainly his father carried on until 1871. In the Southampton Directory, Edward Harding appears at intervals between 1859 and 1865.

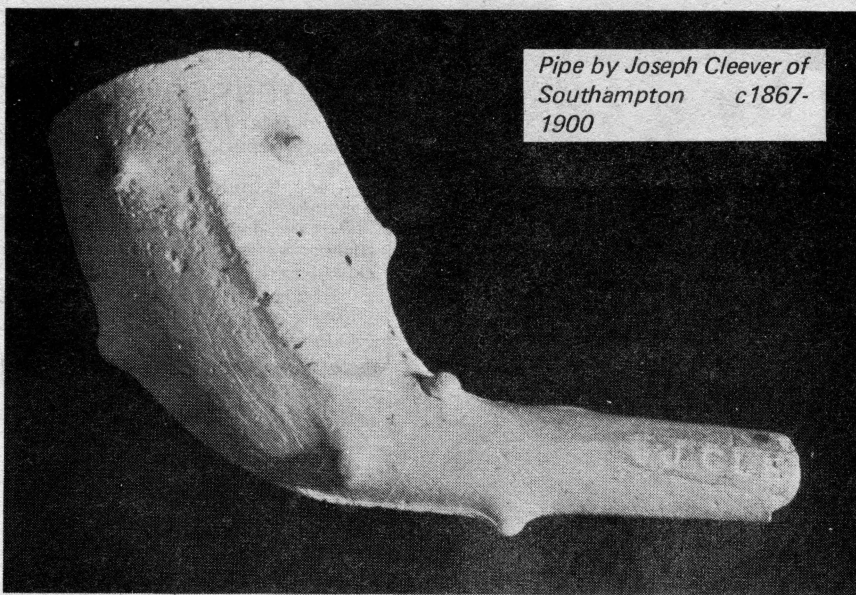
Unfortunately there are no known examples of Edward Harding's clay pipes in existence in Southampton. Perhaps one day, whilst an excavation is being carried out somewhere in the town, the situation may change.

16. I.R. Whilst on an excavation of the old Saxon Settlement of Hamwich in 1962, I unearthed a broken pipe bowl with these initials on it. I have spent literally hours trying to trace this actual maker's name, but so far in vain. But due to the decoration of some sort on the bowl, and because of the shape of the bowl, I would think that this maker was active in Southampton from about 1840 to 1870—a contemporary of George Harding.

17. Henry Baker & Co (c1861-1867). This is the first company of tobacco-pipe makers to appear in Southampton, but unfortunately it only remained in business for six years. In the Southampton Directory, entries for Henry Baker & Co appear at intervals between the years 1861 and 1871.

So far no pipes have been discovered in Southampton as being made by this company, only documentary evidence is available of its existence.

18. Ebenezer Steele. Hardly anything is known about this pipe-maker. To my knowledge, no pipes have ever been found bearing his mark or initials. There is only one piece of documentary evidence of his existence appearing in the Southampton



Pipe by Joseph Cleever of Southampton c1867-1900

Directory for 1861: 'Ebenezer Steele-2, Orchard Lane, Cross St., Pipemaker.'

19. Robert Ashford (c1860-1865). This is another maker of whom, also, there are only two small pieces of documentary evidence of his existence and this only covers two years. In the Southampton Directory, under the title of 'Pipemakers' he appears in the 1863 and 1865 editions: 'Robert Ashford-4, St George's Place'.

20. Joseph Cleever (c1867-1900). There is a great deal of evidence of this manufacturer's trade and existence, both from records and actual pipes. The documentary evidence is contained in the Southampton Directory between the years 1867 and 1899.

I have two pipes in my possession, that were made by Joseph Cleever and stamped with his initials and surname together with the word SOUTHAMPTON. On these two pipes, there are no 'heels'. Another pipe that was made by Joseph Cleever, is of a much earlier date owing to its shape, and this has a 'heel' on which are stamped the initials J.C.

There are several interesting points about Joseph Cleever, in particular as to the siting of his factories. In 1857 he took over the same house in Winchester Street, that Edward Harding had occupied a year or two earlier. Then in 1875 he took over the house that George Harding had used in 1865. Also in 1888 he moved to the same building in Cross Street that Ebenezer Steele had previously occupied in 1861. The only possible reason for this, was that when his lease ran out on the house he was

occupying, he moved to a house that had been used by another pipe-maker. This was probably due to the fact that the facilities for a kiln were usually still in them.

21. Joseph Oliver (c1870-1872). This is another pipe manufacturer of whom hardly any information is known. No pipes bearing his mark or initials have yet been found. The only piece of documentary evidence that exists, is one small entry in the Southampton Directory for 1871. Under the title of 'Pipemakers' appears 'Joseph Oliver-23, Bell Street.'

22. Louis Erm (c1880-1908). He too is one of the Southampton pipe makers whose existence has only been proved by two brief references in the 'Directory'. No pipes have been discovered with any marking to prove them made by Louis Erm.

In the Southampton Directory, under the title of 'Pipemakers', for 1880 appears the entry 'Louis Erm-Bevois Hill, Portswood.' and for 1907 the entry 'Louis Erm-164, Priory Road.'

23. J Godall (c1895-1900). This maker and Louis Erm are the last pipe manufacturers to be found anywhere in the City Records. Pipes were certainly still made in the town but the makers were no longer important in the 20th century. They were used less and less as wooden pipes became popular. So after the turn of the century, the individual pipe-maker disappeared, together with this old and fascinating trade. All that is known about J Godall is an entry in the Southampton Directory for 1895, under the title of 'Pipemakers'.

During the course of research in the City Records for Southampton pipe manufacturers, I discovered some interesting references to the export of clay pipes from Southampton. However, the earliest such reference was April 1729.

These references were in the Petty Customs and Excise Book 1720-1750. There are many entries referring to the export of pipes, all of them destined for Jersey, Guernsey or Gibraltar—probably for the British troops. All of them, in the hundred years they are mentioned, were valued at 6/8d for 10 gross—1d for 18.

During the three hundred years or more that clay tobacco pipes were being made in Southampton, there must have been many retail tobacconists in the town. For if this had not been so, the pipemakers could never have existed.

So far unfortunately, I have not been able to find any traces of such businesses in the City Records. The only certain way of finding such information would be to look through all the deeds of all the many buildings that existed in the High Street and its neighbourhood. But this is virtually impossible.

On one of the pipe stems that I possess, are stamped the words THE PLIMSOLL. This can either be the type of pipe, or the name of the tobacconist's shop that marketed it. The most likely answer is the latter, but there is no documentary proof of this. As I have been able to date all of the marked pipes that I have in my possession, through documentary sources over 250 years, I have a date for every type and shape of pipe that I know of. This means that I can now give a date within twenty years, for any marked or unmarked pipe that is found in the Southampton area.

As well as the shape, a pipe can be dated by several other methods, but these are less accurate. One method is by relating a contemporary picture on the bowl of the pipe, if there is one, to a known event in history illustrated by this picture. A pipe can also be dated roughly by several factors connected with the pipe stem. Pipes in the 17th century were not usually more than 3 or 4in long, and the bore was usually off centre and relatively wide. However, in late 18th century and 19th century pipes, the stems were about 9 or 10in long and the bore was central and narrower.

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Garrett Groundhog ADS

Searching Footpaths
and Fields

Finding Semi-
Precious
Gemstones

The one
with more
to read

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DETECTOR—WORTH £650!

FUN AND PROFIT FOR ALL THE FAMILY



for British Archaeology) and other archaeologists were allowed to hurl all sorts of accusations at treasure hunters without any of the damage they spoke of being actually shown on TV.

The whole tone of the programme gave one the (deliberate) impression that all metal detector users are looters of archaeological sites. This is false. It is true that like any other hobby we have a few idiots who get us a bad name, but there are just as many (if not more) looters among the archaeological fraternity and we always get blamed for their activities.

The closing shot of the news item showed what was obviously meant to be a 'typical' user of a metal detector. When this man received a signal from his machine he laid it down and began frantically hacking at the ground with an instrument similar to a pickaxe.

This was the most disgusting, insulting slander on our hobby I have ever seen and in no way was this man a 'typical' metal detecting enthusiast. It was obviously a put-up job—the only tools we use are small trowels and sheath knives.

Many items appear for sale on the open market which are made of stone, glass, wood or pottery. As they are not metallic, they are obviously not found with a metal detector, so where do they come from? The answer is obvious also. Quite a large number of artefacts 'disappear' from or are 'misaid' by museums. How is this? Where do they go? Into private collections no doubt.

All the above points could, and should, have been made on the programme, but no-one from the metal detecting fraternity was on it! This resulted in a grossly one-sided view of our activities which I found repulsive and unrepresentative of the integrity of the News at One programme.'

J Castle, Aldershot, Hants

Traditionally, August is the 'silly season' in the world of journalism, but that is hardly an excuse for the presentation of a comic act (based on an article in the *Guardian* 12 August) transmitted by ITN's 'News at One' on the 29 August which made rather ancient 'news'. It showed three puppeteers (disguised as archaeologists) performing their STOP rituals. At times one could see the strings going back to the newsroom.

It would probably have been more entertaining to see the puppets at work! BBC's 'Not the nine o'clock news' need fear no competition from 'real' news items such as this.

Seriously though, one wonders how much credibility can be attached to news which has been so obviously staged in this way.

R Sterling, Deal, Kent

MOTES AND BEAMS

We recently received this letter on the subject of the article 'History of Clay Pipes (part 1)' by Christopher Baglee.

I have seen your September issue of *Treasure Hunting* and an article by C Baglee. The arrogance of the opening remarks takes my breath away.

The last paragraph on p52 contains a blatant mis-statement 'the study of clay pipe manufacture is outside the purvey (*sic*) of normal archaeology' and an unbelievable assumption 'our future knowledge of clay pipes could well rest... on work being done by treasure hunters.'

The ignorance of many hundreds of *archaeological* reports on clay pipes in the various periodicals, national and county journals is total and the work of treasure hunters on any class of object is extremely unlikely to advance our serious knowledge of those objects.

Other than this his listing of the various documentary references to pipes and tobacco is quite useful and I wonder why he could not write it properly for publication in a proper journal.

I am a little worried however that he admits to keeping finds from excavations by the Southampton Archaeological Society! One does not make collections of archaeological material these days for mere personal curio cabinets.

I would be grateful for your/his comments.
S Nelson, Epsom, Surrey

Christopher Baglee has forwarded the following reply.

'Thank you for your letter to *Treasure Hunting* directed to the first part of my article on clay pipes in September's issue. The first page of your letter refers to the introduction to my article, which was not written by me but by the editor of the magazine. I suggest that you direct your criticisms of this being arrogant

to the editor and not to me.

'As to why I did not "write it properly for publication in a proper journal", I too find this an incredibly arrogant statement, but by you. I consider that I have written it "properly" for the use it was intended—that was to make local historians and archaeologists in the Southampton area in 1965 more aware of the importance of rescuing and appreciating clay pipes as an important part of local social and industrial history.

It was a fact that in all the excavations that I took part in during the period from 1962-1967, clay pipes were never considered worthy of keeping and were always destroyed by being tipped with all other soils and rubbish on the "spoil heaps".

It was this attitude that prompted me to rescue them from the spoil heaps with the city archaeologist's permission, and try to trace their history of manufacture and distribution in the Southampton area.

For your information, after being awarded the Elsie Sandell Local History Prize in 1965 I presented the whole collection to the City of Southampton Museums Service and as far as I am aware they can still be seen in the Gods House Museum.

I feel that the importance of rescuing and studying clay pipes should be stressed to amateur treasure hunters for their benefit during the exploration of non-archaeological sites such as rubbish tips etc, and this is why I have presented this paper to *Treasure Hunting*.'

BUTTONS

I write regarding your reply to H E Clarke of London in the 'Can We Help You' section of the September issue of *Treasure Hunting* under the heading 'Civil War Buttons'.

The items found by Mr Clarke are coins made into buttons. They are silver bants of Siam (commonly called bullet money).

The circular mark is the sign of the god Vishnu and is called the Chakra, the other symbol appears to be the mark of the Bale fruit tree.

These marks used together confirm that the coin was issued by the ruler Rama III and can be dated to the later part of his reign (1824-1851).

D Regan, Chairman, Ormskirk Numismatic Society